

## **'LEARNING CITIES IN A KNOWLEDGE-BASED SOCIETY'**

9th-11th October 2008, **Politecnico Di Milano**, Italy

European cities are engaged in difficult and challenging processes of social, economical, institutional and territorial change. Contemporary cities can be considered as learning places under different points of view:

- as central nodes of a knowledge based economy, where concentration and exchange of information and innovation generated by people and firms produce new forms of economy, welfare and richness, but also new forms of poverty and exclusion.
- as social laboratories, places which exposes continuously their citizens to the effects of social transformation: laboratories in which the notion of citizenship is questioned and people have to learn to deal with change and the multiplication of differences generated by a mobile, multicultural society
- as settings for institutional and political innovation: where major transformations compel institutions to face with new emerging problems of contemporary society and to develop new learning skills and experience new forms of governance, leadership, democracy, policies and politics.

The conference will focus its attention on the exploration of these major challenges and will foster a lively exchange and debate among researchers in the field of urban studies, particularly pointing at interactions among forms of knowledge and forms of urban governance.

EURA brings together an inter-disciplinary network of urban researchers from across Europe and beyond. It provides a forum for cross-national debate on urban policy and acts as a bridge between research and policy in this rapidly urbanising world.

### **Call for paper and parallel sessions**

The call for papers is structured around four axes, which will constitute the base for the organisation of the main tracks of the conference. Further interpretation of the four tracks will be provided on the conference websites by the track Chairs.

1. planning > papers addressed to this track will explore new emerging forms of planning tackling with innovative and problematic issues in contemporary cities (fostering urban and regional cultural policies, promoting creativity and developing new capacity of attraction, the treatment of social differences and change...), focussing in particular on processes of learning developed in planning experiences;
2. economic development > papers addressed to this track will explore the new fields of urban competition and economical specialisation fostered by a knowledge based economy: in particular this could lead to discuss innovative ways for cities to develop the coupling of competition and liveability, competitiveness and sustainability.
3. governance > papers addressed to this track will explore learning processes which institutions are compelled to face in contemporary cities: the focus on the coupling of knowledge forms and forms of governance could be central, as well as major innovations in policies, politics, leadership, democracy...
4. social issues > papers addressed to this track will explore the relationship among the logic of competitiveness in a knowledge based economy and the issue of social cohesion, examining for example the effects of diffusion of forms of free lance creative -as well as- precarious work, in the light of processes of social frailty, social fragmentation, individualisation, mobility and continuous re-territorialisation...

### **Provisional programme**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> October (Thursday)**

Morning – registration

Noon – opening session with key lectures

Afternoon – Parallel workshop session

## 10<sup>th</sup> October (Friday)

Morning and noon– Parallel workshop sessions  
Late afternoon – Study tours  
General Assembly of EURA  
Evening– Social Event

## 11<sup>th</sup> October (Saturday)

Morning – parallel workshop sessions  
Noon – closing session

### Location and conference organisers

The conference will take place on the main campus of the Politecnico di Milano, in the Faculty of Architecture and Society and will be organised by the Department of Architecture and Planning, in collaboration with the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the Faculty of Sociology, University Milano-Bicocca and the Department of Planning, Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia.

### Study tours

Study tours will be organised of the city of Milan and its urban region aiming at illustrating major occurring transformations and providing participants examples of planning processes dealing with the challenging environment of this urban region.

### How to submit an abstract

Abstracts are invited by **15th February 2008**. Abstracts should be completed on the template and according to the instructions provided on the conference website and submitted by email to: [euraconference2008@polimi.it](mailto:euraconference2008@polimi.it). All abstracts will be refereed prior to acceptance.

### Registration fees

	Before 1 <sup>st</sup> of July 2008	After 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2008
Non-members	300 euros	350 euros
EURA members	250 euros	300 euros
Non-members from Central-Eastern Europe	175 euros	225 euros
EURA members from Central-Eastern Europe and research students	125 euros	175 euros
Accompanying persons	75 euros	125 euros

### Contact and information

[euraconference2008@polimi.it](mailto:euraconference2008@polimi.it)

### Key dates

Launch of call for papers:	<b>15<sup>th</sup> November 2007</b>
Submission of abstracts:	<b>15<sup>th</sup> February 2008</b>
Information on accepting papers:	<b>15<sup>th</sup> May 2008</b>
For registration and paying conference fee:	<b>1<sup>st</sup> July 2008</b>
For cancelling registrations:	<b>15<sup>th</sup> July 2008</b>



I  
---  
U  
---  
A  
---  
V

