

Issue 33

EURA website: <http://www.eura.org>

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The aims of EURA

- To encourage international exchange and co-operation in relation to urban research
- To stimulate and encourage interdisciplinary and cross-border urban research
- To contribute to urban policy debates.

Editorial Team

Prof. Dr. Karsten Zimmermann
Dr. Sylvia Pannowitsch

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

We are all looking forward to the Urban Futures Conference that will take place in Paris next year. The local organizer received more than 450 papers covering broad themes and we expect a high academic quality and fruitful discussions during the conference.

The EURA secretariat has been successfully transferred to the Faculty of Spatial Planning of the Technical University of Dortmund. The Faculty will host the secretariat for the next 4 years and my secretary Eva Gehmann and me will be the contact person for all matters. Feel free to contact us using the established email address!

Again I would like to express our gratitude to the Darmstadt team, Sylvia Pannowitsch, Dorothee Harres and Hubert Heinelt, who have done a great job for the EURA-network during the last years.

I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). This will facilitate closer cooperation in the future between these two European associations in all fields including summer schools, joint workshops or session during our conferences.

Hope to meet you all in Paris next year,

sincerely,

Karsten Zimmermann
Technische Universität Dortmund
EURA President

Conference News and Information

This section provides news and information about international conferences in Europe and elsewhere.

If you have any material you would like to see in the next issue please send it to aura@pg.tu-darmstadt.de.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2014:

City Futures III: Cities as Strategic Places and Players in a Globalized World

18-20 June 2014, Paris, France

EUROPEAN EVENT

The European Urban Research Association (EURA) and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) will hold their third Joint Conference on City Futures in Paris. We extend an invitation to colleagues from Europe, North America and from across the world to join us in a major forward looking conference examining the future of cities and their role in shaping the world.



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The City Futures III conference is also hosted by the "Urban Research Pole", the laboratory of Excellence "Urban Futures" (Futurs Urbains) which brings together 2 universities, several graduate schools, more than 10 research centers and about 300 researchers in the urban domain.

The Paris conference will build on and take forward the international dialogue that started at the first City Futures Joint Conference held in Chicago in July 2004 and the second conference held in Madrid in June 2009. Both events were attended by several hundred of scholars from all over the world.

The intellectual case for furthering international exchange relating to urban studies is, if anything, much stronger than it was when we embarked on

the idea of joint conferences some ten years ago. The forces of globalisation have gathered pace, and a joint EURA/UAA conference in Paris in 2014 will play a valuable role in encouraging urban scholars, particularly younger scholars, to examine the changing role of cities in a comparative context.

To hold the third conference in Paris is also of a highly symbolic nature because it will be the first international event of the new Paris School of Planning, created in September 2013 by the joining of the two oldest and largest institute of urbanism (the French Institute of Urban Planning (IFU) and the Paris Institute of Urban Planning (IUP).

Streams

Cities have become ever more strategic in a globalizing world. Whilst they have always been at once social and cultural centers, key 'spatial fixes' for the reproduction of capitalist development, and loci of political control, their central role in a host of interlocking social, economic and political dynamics has been reinforced as they become the privileged sites of the actions of, and tussles between, national States, local authorities, firms, civil society and other actors.



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The purpose of this conference is to document, investigate and question this reinforced position and status of cities in a globalized world. Two ways of

looking at this are to consider cities as strategic places and as strategic players, and to analyse the interactions and possible tensions between these two dimensions.

As strategic places, cities are the locus of strategies and policies of major stakeholders: States when they choose cities as targets for their policies; firms when they decide to locate or to invest in these urban areas; local authorities when they try to cooperate to produce or when they conflict with each other; civil society when the issues of democracy and the 'right to the city' are put forward.



As strategic players, cities are competing in order to attract capital, firms and people. Strategic activities are very often presented as a key element of success in the competition between cities at the international level and many urban areas have embarked in the production and implemen-

tation of strategic activities (strategic plans, etc.) to respond to globalization and territorial competition. They do so either on a sectoral basis (e.g. economic development) or in more transversal forms (master plans, general strategic plans, etc.).

The forms of and interactions between these two dimensions of the 'strategicness' of cities will be explored and analysed through five main, but not exclusive, sub-topics.

1) Cities and spatial justice - more inclusive cities

Both income inequality and social polarization and social and functional diversity are increasing in cities. Cities can be strategic places of diverse opportunities for jobs and services for migrants, but they are also places of social and territorial differentiation in access to employment, education, culture, transport networks, and urban and social services. How do cities as strategic players

deal with diverse practices and changing demands from the elderly, young people, immigrants, men and women, etc.? How do cities play a key role in spatial justice and solidarity for a more equal access to urban amenities? What are the different challenges and opportunities all over the world for creating more inclusive cities?

2) Productive cities / Creative Cities

In a time of economic dematerialisation, cities as spaces of production are facing new challenges: on the one hand, they greatly benefit from the concentration of economic activities; on the other hand, they are threatened by the mobility of capital and investments. These issues raise many difficulties for cities to elaborate strategies for being attractive. What does it mean to be attractive in a knowledge-based economy? Increasingly, to attract firms means also to attract their professional staff, so how can cities achieve these goals and, at the same time, better integrate their workforce? Economic development is becoming very selective by targeting high value added sectors, high skilled workers... How are urban and metropolitan spaces differently impacted by these kinds of strategies, and what does it mean for the spatial organisation of cities?

3) Cities and environmental sustainability

The diverse forms, challenges and uneven outcomes of global environmental change (climate change, energy transitions, biodiversity, water scarcity...) can be analysed through the lens of the urban scale to explore how environmental issues are being differently interpreted, translated, experienced and grounded in/through context-specific responses, policies, practices and the repercussions of these in cities around the world. Within the confines and possibilities of multi-level governance, there is a potentially significant and growing role for urban actors in environmental change processes underway in various forms in different countries of the North and South.

The aim here is to analyse the extent to which cities are strategic places/players in the processes and politics of global environmental change by confronting and comparing the variety of lo-

cal/urban responses to ecological challenges across North and South, and the ways in which diverse forms of collective governance of these issues on a local/urban level have been concretely initiated, sustained, and managed, but also blocked and contested. We are particularly interested in exploring the various issues, tensions and conflicts at play in differing urban contexts. For example: tensions between localist discourses and generalised or global 'models'/ways of doing; tensions between different actors and social interests over the degree, form, financing and repercussions of local environmental action; tensions between local policy agendas and national/international policy objective.



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4) Cities, cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism

With globalization, cities have attracted a high diversity of populations from all around the world. The issues of the social, economic, political and cultural integration of these populations have been high on societal agendas and cities have responded with a variety of answers. In this respect, we can investigate the gap between the rhetoric and reality of the cosmopolitan city by questioning the role of public policies and private projects in the production (or not) of a cosmopolitan urban space. The social practices of space, place and territory and cultural expressions of multiculturalism in urban space (art, segregation, auto-exclusion, exchanges...) also deserve further investigation. Finally, we can question the possibility to bridge urban divides and the various forms of discrimination in investigating how norms and identities can be more intertwined and express themselves more fully in urban space.

5) Cities and democracy

Globalization and decentralization have strongly questioned cities as political territories. Access to power and the capacity of populations and civil society to have a say in political decision making are major issues to be addressed because they all refer to the capacity of cities to be or to remain the locus of democracy. The question of urban democracy can be investigated through various lenses, for instance that of scale in exploring the relationship between local/neighborhood democracy and the metropolitan level, or that of power relations and distributions between different actors.

The organizers received more than 450 abstracts on the call for papers. The selection process will be closed in early December 2013 and a **tentative program** will be ready by the **end of January 2014**.

Be aware that **EURA offers all participants of the conference free membership for one year!**

Find more information on:

<http://cityfutures2014.org>

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM METROPOLITAN AREAS AND REGIONS: From competition to complementarity? Converging views from France and Italy

9–11 April 2014, Paris, France

In a context marked by ever more discussions and reforms concerning metropolitan structures in Europe, this international symposium seeks to contribute to the contemporary debate on the relationships between regional and metropolitan tiers of government. Its aim is to combine and contrast the territorial standpoint with that of public policy, in particular through comparisons between France and Italy. Organized by the École Française de Rome, in partnership with the Géographie-Cités mixed research unit (Université Paris-7 Diderot, Université Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, CNRS) and Lab'Urba (Université Paris-Est), and with the collaboration of the Universities of Rome and Tu-

rin, this symposium will bring together lecturers and researchers from the fields of geography, urban planning, history, and the political and social sciences, as well as political leaders and technical experts in metropolitan and regional planning.

A structural question of renewed relevance in the light of financial crisis

The question of competition and complementarity between regions and cities is one that has arisen with renewed urgency over the last two decades within a dual context: globalization, which, in Europe as elsewhere, has accentuated competition between “winner” and “loser” territories; and decentralization, which has helped redefine forms of governance as part of a constantly evolving process. Since 2008, this process has experienced significant fluctuations as a result of the global financial crisis: throughout Europe, the crisis has made it necessary to rethink the methods and structures of local and regional government in the face of the harsh reality of public deficits and a need to make savings through economies of scale. The question of the relationship between cities and regions – addressed both in the social sciences (Luxembourg symposium, June 2011) and in the fields of political science and urban planning (symposium jointly organized by the Centre de Recherches sur l’Action Politique en Europe [CRAPE] and Sciences Po Rennes, October 2011; Paris symposium, November 2012) – is one that is also being raised directly by public stakeholders: municipal councils, regions, intermunicipal bodies, provinces/counties/*départements*, management structures and project structures are all seeking and developing new means of organizing and regulating the relationships between these two tiers of government. In parallel, legislative developments currently under way in Italy and France (French draft laws of 26 and 23 July 2013) have given a new urgency to the debate on the relationships between municipalities, intermunicipal bodies, emergent metropolitan structures, and regions. Against this backdrop, the objective of the symposium is to help stimulate this debate, on the one hand by comparing and contrasting the territorial

and public-policy viewpoints as closely as possible, and on the other by focusing on France and Italy from a comparative perspective. While Italy has long been considered as being midway between French-style political and institutional models based on a centralized matrix and German-style federal models, it has, over the last two decades, become a test bed for advanced but conflictual decentralization, at both regional level and local level. In this “country of a hundred cities”, decentralization has therefore raised questions regarding the role and remit of regionalization and its relationship with metropolitan realities. The Italian situation can also be considered a precursor to the situation in France in certain respects, as Italy has had something of a head start, its debate on these matters being built on two decades of reforms. Some of these reforms are profound, modifying the very nature of the state – such as the constitutional reforms of 2001 and 2009 – while others, theoretically much more superficial, have remodelled territorial powers in favour of municipalities and regions, and while others still have repeatedly featured on the political agenda, yet without producing any concrete results to date, such as the 1990 law on “metropolitan areas”.

In France, the debate on the country’s largest cities has emerged above all since the late 2000s, within the context of the recently revived “territorial reform”. However, questions relating to the creation of metropolitan structures and of their relationships with the regional tier of government have been raised from the 1990s onwards, and have sometimes resulted in conflict, as illustrated by the recurrent debate on Greater Paris, for example.

Adopting a comparative point of view also fulfils the aim of encouraging discussion and exchanges, if not in operational terms then at the very least by interacting with the social and political demand expressed in both countries.

Key Themes

- **Lived space, institutional boundaries and questions of identity: a geographical history of regional and metropolitan structures**

- **Metropolitan governance, planning and development**
- **What are the roles of the capital city regions?**

Locations: Université Paris-7 Diderot and the École d'Urbanisme de Paris (Université Paris-Est)

Working languages: French and English (exceptionally Italian with electronic documentation in French or English).

Further information on [here](#).

44th CONFERENCE OF THE URBAN AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION: Borders and Boundaries in an Age of Global Urbanization

19-22 March 2014, San Antonio, USA

Urban areas have grown at an unprecedented rate in the last decade. More of the world's population now lives in cities than in any other context. International trade, capital investment and divestment, migration, and porous economic, social and political boundaries fuel this global urbanization. Enormous governance challenges result for megacities and fast-growing urban centers due to in-migration and other trends, particularly in the global south. The conference site, San Antonio, is a global city with a population of approximately 1.3 million, in a significant border region with boundaries that defy simple conceptualizations. It is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, and one of its most ethnically diverse, with almost 70 percent of its native and immigrant residents being of Hispanic descent. It provides a particularly apt setting to explore borders and boundaries and how they shape urban affairs in the 21st Century.

Subtopics

- GLOBAL URBANIZATION
- BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES
- GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES FOR MEGACITIES AND FAST GROWING URBAN CENTERS

- INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Special Conference Tracks

- URBAN ISSUES IN CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Central America, South America, and Caribbean region has been marked by urbanization, governance/political challenges, poverty, income equality, growth of low-income settlements, as well as political, fiscal, social and cultural barriers to interventions. In response to these challenges, innovative policies and experiments have been launched in metropolitan governance, coordinated urban-rural development, regional planning, new town development, sustainable and carbon-neutral urbanization, and other proposed solutions to urban problems.

What have been the lessons and outcomes of these mixed initiatives and experiments?

How have nations and regions sought to create sustainable and equitable urban development in the Central & South American and Caribbean region?

Registration

Early registration deadline: 6.01.2014

Late registration deadline: 2.02.2014

Find more information [here](#)!

REAL CORP 2014: Plan it Smart – Clever Solutions for Smart Cities

21-23 May 2014, Vienna, Austria

19th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society.

“Smart Cities” has become a widely used term for the implementation of information and communication technologies (ICT) into the processes of cities and the built environment, aiming to improve

the integration of the physical assets as well as social and environmental capital. Fired by several rankings there seems to be a competition for the title of the “Smartest City”.

This kind of hype raises a lot of questions that REAL CORP 2014 will deal with.

- What does “Smart City” mean in terms of quality of life?
- How does it influence the economic perspectives?
- Are the concepts of sustainability and resilience part of “Smart Cities”?
- What about politics and administration, policies and governance?
- How do “Smart Solutions” influence the “hardware” of a city, the urban fabric?
- Last but not least: what is the role of urban/spatial planning in and for “Smart Cities”?

In addition to the general topics mentioned before here are some more potential topics:

- Smart Cities/Smart Citizens – Who Needs What?
- Does “Smart” mean High-Tech?
- Existing/Evolving/Foreseen Technologies
- Business Models for Smart Solutions
- Long-Term Strategies and Plans vs. Short-Term (Re-)Actions and Tactics – the Role of Strategic and Spatial Planning for Smart Cities
- Density Matters – the Urban Fabric of „Smart Cities“ in the Light of Quality of Life, Sustainability and Resilience
- Smart Mobility – Smart Energy – Smart Environmental Technologies
- This Town ain’t Smart Enough for the Both of Us – Integration and Segregation in Smart Cities
- Data/Information/Knowledge Infrastructures – the Backbone of Smart Cities
- (Smart) City Rankings – why, how, by whom for whom, who cares?

Further information on: www.corp.at

Deadlines

- Abstract submission Deadline: March 3 2014
- Abstracts approval: March 31 2014
- Early registration fee: May 30 2014
- Full paper/presentation submission: July 28 2014
- Regular registration fee: August 11 2014

Conference language: Abstracts and other proposals may be submitted in English, Spanish or Portuguese.

UPE 11: Steering urban transformations. A debate on directions, orientations, strategies and policies that shape (our) next cities

16-19 September 2014, La Plata, Argentina

UPE11 is the first IUPEA Symposium to take place in Latin America. It is planned as a venue to share and debate different regional and local approaches to socio-territorial and environmental crises, trends and choices, and to explore and contrast different strategies, instruments, and policies for guiding urbanization processes in diverse national settings.

Spanish, Portuguese and English will serve as official Symposium languages, and UPE11 will include researchers, public officials, planners, educators and representatives of civil society organizations involved in dealing with urban growth and environmental planning in a variety of socio-political and cultural settings.

UPE 11 attempts to discern what answers- similar and divergent - we may give to the questions that we share and - not less significant - what issues and what enquiries differentiate our contexts and our approaches.

Central Themes

1. Sustainability challenges in socio-territorial development and urban/regional planning
2. Urban form and structure: organizing territories, guiding growth patterns

3. Changing perceptions and approaches to the "Right to the City"
4. Building new socio-environmental agendas to steer and manage urban transitions and transformations

We invite you to make proposals for presentations in track sessions, or for the poster sessions. The **deadline for abstracts is March 13, 2014.**

For guidelines, registration fees, and other information, please visit www.UPE11.org

UPE11 is hosted by the Universidad Nacional de La Plata.

Please send abstracts to expo@upe11.org.

INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE CONFERENCE: Shopping districts in transformation. Facing new paradigms

10-11 April 2014, Amsterdam and Utrecht, The Netherlands

The conference "Shopping districts in transformation | Facing new paradigms" is interesting for local and regional managers, policy makers and officials, directors of entrepreneurial collectives, retail property owners, scientists, chambers of commerce, advisers in urban economy and all other parties interested in the transformation of shopping districts.

Programme

The conference starts on Thursday morning in Amsterdam. A variety of guest speakers from Dutch universities, local governments and enterprises will then introduce their strategies, methods, collaborations and success and failure experiences. There will be a substantial amount of time before and after the presentations for discussion, elaboration and knowledge exchange. On Thurs-

day afternoon, participants will visit the Fashion & Museum District and the Wallen in Amsterdam, accompanied and led by local professionals.

The conference will continue on Friday in Utrecht, interspersed with practical stories packed full of useful experiences and findings. In the afternoon participants will visit the Amsterdamsestraatweg in Utrecht. The conference concludes with a final debate, in which the chairman summarises the main content and decides together with the participants whether to plan a sequel.

It goes without saying that there will be ample opportunity between the various elements of the programme and during the evening for sharing best practices and formal and informal networking.

The complete programme will be announced by the beginning of 2014.

Excursions

During the afternoon excursions you will learn about the experiences of entrepreneurs, policy makers, real estate owners and scientists in transforming the shopping districts. They will also present their vision of their own role and contribution.

- 10 April 2014: Fashion & Museum District, Amsterdam
- 10 April 2014: Wallen, Amsterdam
- 11 April 2014: Amsterdamsestraatweg, Utrecht

Registration for the conference is possible until 1 March 2014. The maximum number of participants is one hundred (100).

Find more information on: www.sdit.eu

EURA Conference-Report 2013

CITIES AS SEEDBEDS OF INNOVATION 4-6 July 2013, Enschede, The Netherlands

A total of 130 registered participants from 24 countries took part in the EURA conference 2013 held in Enschede, The Netherlands.

The theme of this conference “Cities as Seedbeds for Innovation” was at the heart of the mission of the University of Twente and its Institute for Innovation and Governance Studies (IGS). Therefore the conference was organized by IGS and the School of Management and Governance as EURA’s Annual Conference for 2013.

There were tracks on:

Track 1	Designing Cities of the Future: Towards smart, safe & liveable cities!
Track 2	Local Agenda 21: What has been achieved, and what’s next?
Track 3	Innovations of Governance in Cities and Urban regions
Track 4	Integration and Social Inclusion: Europe’s Youth and the City of Tomorrow
Track 5	Cities And Innovation In The Knowledge Society
Track 6	JPI Urban Europe: Urban Research & Practice

There were interesting opportunities for field excursions, including a trip to the prize-winning

(7th European Urban and Regional Planning Awards) new neighborhood development in Roombeek. And an excursion to the newly built stadium and the training facilities of FC Twente (including a presentation of the community outreach program of FC Twente).

Keynote Speakers

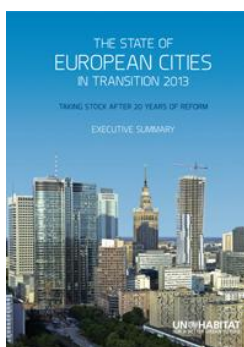
- Prof.dr. Karen Mossberger, Arizona State University
- Prof.dr. Gert-Jan Hospers, University of Twente
- Dr. Peter Scholten, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Dr.ir. Mark Huijben, University of Twente
- Drs. Mark



Dijksman, ADG Dienstengroep

Recent Publications

This section provides news and information about recent publications on urban issues. If you have any material you would like to see in the next issue please forward it to aura@pg.tu-darmstadt.de.



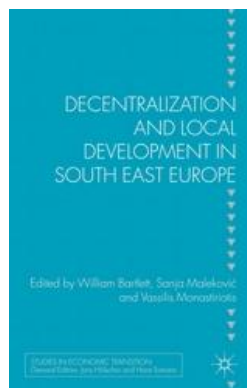
The State of European Cities in Transition 2013 – Taking Stock After 20 Years of Reforms

Published by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), 2013

The first issue of The State of European Cities in Transition report is part of a series of regional reports on the state of cities. It covers 23 countries,

divided into territories of western, eastern, southern sub region and south Caucasus. Each European country chose its own particular way of transition and they are now at different stages of transition. This report highlights similarities and differences among and within cities and countries, with a specific focus on following topics: population and urbanization, the economic role of cities, social and housing issues, urban environmental challenges, urban governance systems and emerging issues.

You can download the report via the site:
<http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3493>;



Decentralization and Local Development in South East Europe

Edited by Will Bartlett, Sanja Malekovic and Vassilis Monastitiotis

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan 2013

The book analyzes the character and effectiveness of decentralization policies and regional development in the post-communist states of South East Europe (SEE). It identifies the impact of decentralization and regional development on spatial inequalities, and evaluates the policy responses in different political and institutional settings. In order to investigate these issues the research unit on South East Europe – LSEE – initiated a research project on “Decentralization and Regionalization in SEE: Political, Economic, Social, and International Relations Aspects. The project was implemented in period 2009-2011. As part of the project, LSEE co-organized a conference in Zagreb, Croatia in May 2010 in collaboration with the Institute for International Relations (IRMO). The Conference on “Regional Policy and Decentralization in SEE” brought together the latest research on this topic by leading scholars from the whole region. 15 articles are presented in this book and divided in 4 broad areas: *Decentralization and Local Development*, *Decentralization in Ethnically Divided Societies*, *Implementation Deficits – Case Studies* and *Spatial Inequalities*.

Additional information are available on the link <http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=539620>.



Special Issue: Special Issue on the Role Perception and Behaviour of Municipal Councillors in the Changing Context of Local Democracy
Guest Editor: Hubert Heinelt
Routledge, 2013

Political leadership at the local level has attracted growing attention in recent years in parallel with reforms of local government and of municipal administration, as well as the debate on a shift from government to governance. But this debate has been mainly focused on individual leaders, i.e. mayors or executive officers. Taking into account the power triangle of (i) mayor, (ii) municipal administration (executive officers) and (iii) council, it is surprising that councillors have so far received little by way of attention. It is amazing that case studies like the one carried out in the 1960s by Eulau and Prewitt (1973) on the 82 city councils in the San Francisco Bay area have not been replicated in recent years. The aim of this special issue is to reflect on the role and task perception, as well as the behaviour, of councillors in the changing context of local democracy.

The articles collected for this special issue use a common conceptual framework sketched out in Figure 1. We start from the hypothesis that the role perception and behaviour of councillors, as well as their attitudes towards reforms at the local level, cannot be seen as being determined directly by (i) both formal and informal institutional structures and/or by (ii) personal characteristics. Instead, we argue (in line with Fishbein and Ajzen 1975 and Ajzen and Fishbein 1980) that councillors' role perceptions and behaviour depend on their notion of democracy as an expression of their basic beliefs about appropriate behaviour and subjective norms. Relating the role perceptions and behaviour of councillors to their basic beliefs about appropriate behaviour and subjective norms still follows the basic assumption of role theory that ‘a social role is [...] de-

defined as a set of expectations oriented towards people who occupy a certain “position” in a social system or group’ (Gouldner 1957, p. 282). Those holding the ‘position’ of councillor may be reflected in their basic beliefs about appropriate behaviour and the expectations oriented towards those occupying this ‘position’. However, expectations oriented towards the ‘position’ of a councillor vary according to the different concepts of democracy discussed below. Furthermore, by emphasising basic beliefs about appropriate behaviour and subjective norms, patterns of latent identities among councillors are addressed (like the more general latent identities of ‘cosmopolitans’ and ‘locals’, identified by Gouldner 1957 and 1958) which are determined by a particular understanding of democracy. In other words, we see notions of democracy as causal mechanisms between formal and informal institutional structures and the role perception and behaviour of councillors. However, it is an open question whether (and how far) the understanding of democracy is affected by institutional structures which offer councillors particular options to perform a specific role, thereby making it attractive for certain actors to become councillors in order to perform this specific role. Such institutional structures, and particularly horizontal power relations between the mayor, the municipal administration and the council, are determined by local government systems which differ between countries (and sometimes within countries). In this respect the question is raised of whether or not differences in the notion of democracy can be detected between countries with different local government systems. Furthermore, it is necessary to test whether the understanding of democracy depends on the personal characteristics of councillors – and not on institutional settings – as the particular options offered to councillors by the formal competences of a council may not affect (or filter out) the recruitment of actors with a specific understanding of democracy. Nevertheless, in some of the articles presented here the hypothesis will be tested empirically as to whether

or not the role perception and behaviour of councillors depends directly on institutional structures as well as on personal characteristics.

All the contributions to this issue are based on the results of a survey of municipal councillors (the so-called MAELG [Municipal Assemblies in European Local Governance] survey) carried out in 2007 and 2008 in fifteen European countries and Israel. The data set collected by this survey includes responses from about 12,000 councillors from approximately 1,400 municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants selected by stratified sampling.

Articles

Hubert Heinelt: Introduction: The Role Perception and Behaviour of Municipal Councillors in the Changing Context of Local Democracy

Hubert Heinelt: Councillors' Notions of Democracy, and their Role Perception and Behaviour in the Changing Context of Local Democracy

Bas Denters & Pieter-Jan Klok: Citizen Democracy and the Responsiveness of Councillors: The Effects of Democratic Institutionalisation on the Role Orientations and Role Behaviour of Councillors

David Karlsson: The Hidden Constitutions: How Informal Political Institutions Affect the Representation Style of Local Councils

Signy Irene Vabo & Jacob Aars: New Public Management Reforms and Democratic Legitimacy: Notions of Democratic Legitimacy among West European Local Councillors

Larissa Plüss: Urban Governance and its Impact on the Role Perception and Behaviour of European City Councillors

Local Government Studies. Vol. 39. No. 5. October 2013

Further information [here](#).

Network Activities

In this section we publish two calls for the building of research networks on topics of urban research.

POLCITCLIM - Organizing for resilience.

A comparative study on institutional capacity, governance, and climate change adaptation in Polish and Norwegian cities.

POLCITCLIM is a social science-based research that will study the relationship between institutional capacity and climate change adaptation in Poland and Norway. The project will be carried out by the **University of Warsaw and Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR)**. The two institutions have long-standing experience of joint research; therefore the two teams will be operational from the very start of the project due to prior knowledge of each other's profiles. An ongoing NIBR research project on local adaptation to climate change in Norway will form the basis of the project. Through a replication and expansion of the study in Norway on Polish cities we will be able to do a comparison of the factors that enable local communities to adapt to future climate changes. As the consequences of climate change are predicted with ever greater certainty, the necessity of adapting to the expected impacts is increasingly acknowledged by decision makers. Since climate change has local variations and the local level has the best knowledge of local needs, much of the adaptation work is presumed to be best handled locally. The aim of this study is to gain knowledge of how local communities can better prepare to meet related challenges. Ability to respond to climate variability and climate change is often referred to as the community's adaptive capacity, which is associated with economic and human resources. Studies show that equally important is how adaptation work is organized and coordinated, i.e. the institutional capacity of responding adequately to the challenges. The project will explore the relationship between the adaptive capacity and the institutional capacity at local level of governance in Poland and Norway. It will develop applicable knowledge on how or-

ganizational and institutional structures can contribute to make local communities more resilient to the consequences of climate change (to reduce negative impacts and realize potential benefits of climate change).

EUROLOC and EURA Summer School in Local Government and Governance Studies

This year the EURA and EUROLOC Summer School in Leicester had to be cancelled because of the small number of applications. At the same time the summer school offered by the COST Action 'Local Public Sector reforms: An International Comparison (LocRef)' with grants for participants had more than 60 applications. Against this background EUROLOC and EURA agreed with LocRef (see <http://www.uni-potsdam.de/lsh-kuhlmann/cost/cost.html>) to organize a common summer school until 2017 (then the Cost funding will end). Like before the summer schools will be organized by a local organizer and cover broad themes such as local democratic renewal, local territorial reforms, and NPM reforms. The local organizer for 2014 will be probably Prof. Mussari from Siena. We agreed that EURA will support the summer schools by

- adding knowledge and support with regard to the planning of the academic program (e.g. methodology or special topics in the field of local government and governance),
- contacting lecturers (in cooperation with COST) and organizing special lectures,
- advertising the event through the EURA mailing-lists and homepage and
- helping in the process of selecting the applications and the grants.

On behalf of EURA Hubert Heinelt will be responsible for communication and contact with Kristof Steyvers (EUROLOC) and Angelika Vetter (COST Action LocRef).

Institutional Member Profile

In this section we present the profile of the OTB – Research for the Built Environment, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands)

OTB was founded in 1985 as an interfaculty research institute within the Delft University of Technology. Since June 2013 it is a department within the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment. Its mission is to make a visible contribution to society by helping to solve social problems in the field of the built environment. The emphasis lies on scientific impact and social relevance. Around 100 people work at OTB, of which 80 (68 fte) academic staff.

OTB distinguishes itself by virtue of its combination of pure and applied research. Scientific



knowledge is translated into solutions to social and policy issues.

Conversely, practical studies enable new scientific questions to be formulated and addressed. In addition to this, OTB – as

part of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment – devotes much of its energies to knowledge transfer in the form of publications, courses, seminars, schooling and training.

The policy areas of OTB are centred around various aspects of the built environment. Research is carried out by multidisciplinary teams of experts in housing, systems engineering, policy analysis, management, architecture, social geography, town and country planning, economics, sociology, civil engineering, law, geodesy and GIS technology. OTB's research draws on the knowledge and skills of various disciplines: public administration, architectural engineering, social geog-

raphy, planning, economics, sociology, computer science and civil engineering.

OTB covers three research programmes:

- Urban and Regional Studies
- Housing
- Geo-information Technology and Governance

The Urban and Regional Studies programme is at the very heart of EURA and has four sub programmes:

- *Territorial governance* is concerned with the relationships between the polity and politics of territorial development and critical issues related to the competitiveness of cities and regions, sustainable development and resilience.
- *Urban and neighbourhood change* investigates neighbourhoods and cities as changing social sites and as sites of governance and civic action, including the effects of neighbourhoods on residents and how residents affect neighbourhood stratification.
- *Urban systems and transport studies* looks at how the built environment interacts with spatial and transport behaviour, how this influences urban performance, and how these interactions can contribute to more competitive, sustainable and liveable cities.
- *Governance of land development* is about the interaction between planning, property rights and property markets, the governance of the relationship between private interests of landowners and common societal goals.

PhD research at OTB

At OTB a doctoral degree can be taken by doing one's PhD research within one of the three research programmes. Research is often multidisciplinary and is being performed by scientists from both the technical and social sciences. PhD students have various backgrounds such as building

engineering, civil engineering, geodesy, social geography, sociology, psychology, and economics. Doctoral candidates of OTB will join the Graduate School of Architecture and Built Environment.



Internationally funded research

A large share of contract research is internationally funded by programmes as ESPON, FP7 and Interreg. Examples of recent projects include:

- ESPON EATIA (Territorial Impact Assessment)
- ESPON RISE (Identifying and Exchanging Best Practices in Developing Regional Integrated Strategies in Europe)

- ESPON TANGO (Territorial Approaches to New Governance)
- InCompass (Interreg IVC) (Regional policy improvement for financially sustainable creative incubator units)
- Creative City Challenge (Interreg IVB North Sea Region) (transnational knowledge transfer with the help of methods from the Creative Industries and Science in order to support businesses to develop innovative ideas, services and products in order to stay competitive)
- E-mobility (Interreg IVB North Sea Region) (increase of accessibility by fostering the diffusion of e-mobility and stimulating the use of public and private electric car transport as well as freight across the North Sea Region)
- PLEEC (FP7) (Planning for Energy Efficient Cities)
- TENLAW (FP7) (Tenancy Law and Housing Policy in Multi-level Europe).

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Urban Research and Practice

Journal of the European Urban Research Association (EURA)

This section presents the general scope and targets of the journal
and the contents of Volume 6, Issue 3, 2013

Urban Research & Practice is published in association with EURA and focuses on urban policy. The journal includes papers that:

- provide a systematic description of :
 - urban issues
 - urban developments
 - urban policies or
 - urban policy-making and policy implementation
- seek to explain variations in urban policies or urban governance cross-sectorally or cross-nationally or that seek to explain such variations over time

- analyse and/or evaluate the effects of urban policies or process of urban governance
- analyse European-wide factors that impact on urban areas, urban policies and urban governance

As well as traditional academic papers, the journal includes a policy section, a project report section and book reviews. The policy section focuses on new policies launched at the European, national and regional levels that are of relevance to a wider audience. The project report section focuses on innovative projects being carried out at a local level (in cities or regions).

One of the key aims of the journal is to seek to bridge the intellectual and geographical 'divides' that currently exist in the field of urban affairs - specifically the North/South divide and the East/West divide and also the divides between distinct academic disciplines.

Since the journal was launched in 2008 it has gone from strength to strength. Now about to enter its fourth volume, the journal has been selected for coverage by SCOPUS, is receiving significant citations in the journals indexed by the social science citation index and has seen high levels of downloads.

We present **Vol. 6, No.3, 2013: Special Issue on North American Urban Politics**

ARTICLES

Annika Hinze and James M. Smith: *Introduction to the Special Issue*

Joshua Sapotichne, Megan Johnson, and Young Shin Park: *Stability and Change in US City Policymaking: Evidence and a Path Forward*

Janet L. Smith: *The End of US Public Housing as We Knew It*

Margaret Kohn: *What is Wrong with Gentrification?*

Martin Horak: *State Rescaling in Practice: Understanding the Shifting Landscape of Urban Governance in Contemporary Toronto*

Lindsay Morgia and Thomas J. Vicino: *Waterfront Politics: Revisiting the Case of Camden, New Jersey's Redevelopment*

Jill Simone Gross: *Business Improvement Districts in New York: The Private Sector in Public Service or the Public Sector Privatized?*

POLICY ARTICLE

Ilona Pálné Kovács: *Pécs, as the victim of multi-level governance: the case of the project "European Capital of Culture" in 2010*

PRACTICE ARTICLE

Veena Aggarwal, Bibhu Prasad Nayak and Christine Werthmann: *Harnessing Social Capital to Achieve Social Development Goals: Collective Action for Fuel Transition among Urban Poor in India*

BOOK REVIEWS (3)

For further information on subscriptions and submissions or to view a free sample copy, please visit: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rurp>

Please remember, that individual members of EURA qualify for a reduced individual journal subscription of 42 Euros per year (the normal individual subscription rate is 62 Euros per year).

EURA DEVELOPMENTS

New EURA President

In October 2013 Professor Hubert Heinelt, Technical University of Darmstadt, stepped down as President of EURA. Hubert has served as President since 2010. At the EURA General Assembly meeting, held in Enschede in July 2013 at the EURA annual conference, Hubert was thanked for his active and successful work as President. In particular, he was thanked for all his work in registering EURA as an official non-profit organisation. This provides a sound legal basis for our

association. The EURA Governing Board also expressed its gratitude to Hubert for his effective leadership of EURA.



In July 2013 the EURA Governing Board elected Karsten Zimmermann, Technical University of Dortmund, as President. Karsten will serve as President from October 2013 until 2017.

Karsten Zimmermann is Professor at the Faculty of Spatial Planning at Technical University of Dortmund where he holds the chair for European Planning Cultures. He was educated as a political scientist and dedicated most of his work to the study of cities and regions. From 2005 to 2012 he was part of the interdisciplinary research centre Intrinsic Logic of Cites (Eigenlogik der Städte) at Technical University of Darmstadt. He is currently involved in a larger research project about knowledge generation in local climate politics. Further research topics include metropolitan governance, planning theory and planning practices in Europe.

New EURA Members

EURA welcomes as new members:

Esther Veen

Flavia Curvelo Magdaniel

Ioan Bondrea

Jan Elco Jansma

Kay Saville-Smith

María Jesús Rodríguez García

Sara-Marie Wiechmann

Stefan Luft

Benefits for members

The EURA-board is currently discussing several new benefits for members. This may include financial support for summer schools, EURA-Workshops and many other offers. The board will report about this in a separate newsletter in early next year.

EURA Membership fee

We do hope you enjoy EURA services: newest information in the Newsletter, reduced congress fee for all academics and students affiliated to the member institutions, reduced subscription of Urban Research & Practice, and Summer Schools. This all can happen only if our members pay required membership fee.

The Executive Board has not changed the level of the fee for years being aware of the financial problems of the universities and research institu-

tions in the times of crisis. EURA is very concerned to keep administration costs on the very low level: work at the Executive Board is voluntary.

This year our invoices at many institutions have not been paid yet. Please check whether your institution has paid already EURA membership fee. If you are not sure whether your institution is a EURA member please contact the secretariat.

Thank you very much for your help.

EURA

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