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<b>Institutional contact details</b>	<p>German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu)          Straße des 17. Juni 112          10623 Berlin          GERMANY</p> <p>Tel: +49 (0)30/39001-214          Fax: +49 (0)30/39001-216          Email: <a href="mailto:maeding@difu.de">maeding@difu.de</a>          Web: <a href="http://www.difu.de">http://www.difu.de</a></p> <p>Difu is the biggest urban research centre in the German-speaking world (approx. 100 employees) and is supported by well over 100 German cities. It provides policymakers and civil servants with an up-to-date and reliable basis for decision-making and action. The institute has extensive knowledge and experience in implementing academic projects, in evaluating and supporting policies, in running competitions and project simulations and in organizing comprehensive knowledge transfer. Interdisciplinarity is an important feature of the Difu. Its researchers have backgrounds in law, economics, social sciences, urban planning, geography, architecture, information sciences and engineering.</p>
<b>Research interests and expertise</b>	<p><b>Urban development, urban planning and housing:</b>          e.g. urban planning legislation; municipal law; metropolitan areas; Local Agenda 21; sustainable urban development; neighbourhood revitalization; urban redevelopment; housing policy</p> <p><b>Economics, technology, infrastructure and public finance:</b>          e.g. labour market policy, business recruitment and development; public utilities; business development for telecommunication sector; business promotion and city marketing; facility management; municipal budget consolidation; municipal tax policies; capital investment estimation; public sector reform; virtual town hall</p> <p><b>Social policy and culture:</b>          e.g. youth welfare; family policy; senior citizens policy; migration policy; cultural policy; historic and cultural preservation; educational policy</p> <p><b>Environment and transportation:</b>          e.g. environmental law; energy supply and waste disposal; climate and soil protection; landscape planning; integrated multi-modal transportation planning; municipal traffic management; reorganization of local public transport</p>
<b>Consultancy work</b>	<p>European Commission (e.g. FP 5, FP 6, Interreg, Urbact)</p> <p>Federal Ministries (e.g. Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing; Ministry of Education and Research)</p> <p>German States (e.g. State of Berlin)</p> <p>German Cities (Institute is supported by over 100 cities)</p> <p>Many public and private foundations</p>

<p><b>Funded projects</b></p>	<p>About 40 current projects; among others:</p> <p><b>Socially Integrative City (Bundes-Transferstelle “Soziale Stadt”)</b>  National information centre for the programme "Districts With Special Development Needs – the Socially Integrative City" (or Socially Integrative City for short) (jointly financed by federal and state level). Goal of the programme is to counteract the widening socio-spatial rifts in the cities. The programme fosters participation and cooperation and represents a new integrative political approach to urban district development  Funding: Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing  Duration: 1998-2005  Key Partners: German cities  Website: <a href="http://www.soziale-stadt.de">http://www.soziale-stadt.de</a> (also in English)</p> <p><b>MEDIA@Komm</b>  Project support of the federal programme MEDIA@Komm, an initiative aiming at the development and application of multimedia in cities, towns and local communities.  Funding: Federal Ministry of Economics and Labor  Duration: 1999-2004  Key Partners: German cities, other research institutions  Website: <a href="http://www.mediakomm.net">http://www.mediakomm.net</a> (also in English)</p> <p><b>PlanNet Europe - European Planning Law Network</b>  Network fostering European knowledge exchange on environmental impact assessment in urban planning.  Funding: Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing  Duration: 2001-2002  Key Partners: Ministeries and cities from 15 European Countries  Website: <a href="http://www.difu.de/projektforen/plannet/eng/index.shtml">http://www.difu.de/projektforen/plannet/eng/index.shtml</a></p> <p><b>netWORKS: Sustainable Development of Network-Related Infrastructure Systems</b>  Project studying the current socio-ecological transformation in utility industries. Particular attention is paid to the transformation process in water management. Proposals are being developed on how change can be shaped and guided along a corridor of sustainable development.  Funding: Federal Ministry of Education and Research  Key Partners: Five research institutions, various German cities and regions  Website: <a href="http://www.networks-group.de">http://www.networks-group.de</a> (also in English)</p> <p><b>INTERACT – Intergrated Urban Governance for the City of Tomorrow</b>  INTERACT's goal is to help European cities put their sustainable development strategies to work by describing and understanding the mechanisms and basic principles that can be applied to local contexts. One result is a guide to Integrated Urban Governance.  Duration: 2002-2004  Funding: European Commission  Key Partners: Cities from 13 European countries  Website: <a href="http://www.interact-network.org">http://www.interact-network.org</a> (English)</p>
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<b>Other projects</b>	<p><b>Urbandata</b>  The URBANDATA Association is a consortium of urban information providers in European Union countries. It aims to improve the international exchange and dissemination of information about urban issues and to develop new products and services which will aid those processes.  Duration: Ongoing project  Geography: Urban research institutions from France, Hungary, Italy, Spain, UK  Website: <a href="http://www.urbandata.org">http://www.urbandata.org</a> (English)</p> <p><b>German Journal of Urban Studies</b>  Edited by the Difu, the “German Journal of Urban Studies” is a forum for all disciplines related to urban studies. English full-text available online (free of charge).  Website: <a href="http://www.difu.de/index.shtml?publikationen/dfk/en/">http://www.difu.de/index.shtml?publikationen/dfk/en/</a></p>
<b>Languages</b>	There is a broad variety of language skills within the Difu.
<b>Key words</b>	Interdisciplinary, comparative research on all issues regarding urban development and governance

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