

Research Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe: How to Jointly Address the Global Challenge of Urbanisation

**Meeting of Coordinators – Urban Issues, Soil Biodiversity,
Desertification and Land Degradation
22 – 23 October 2012 Brussels**

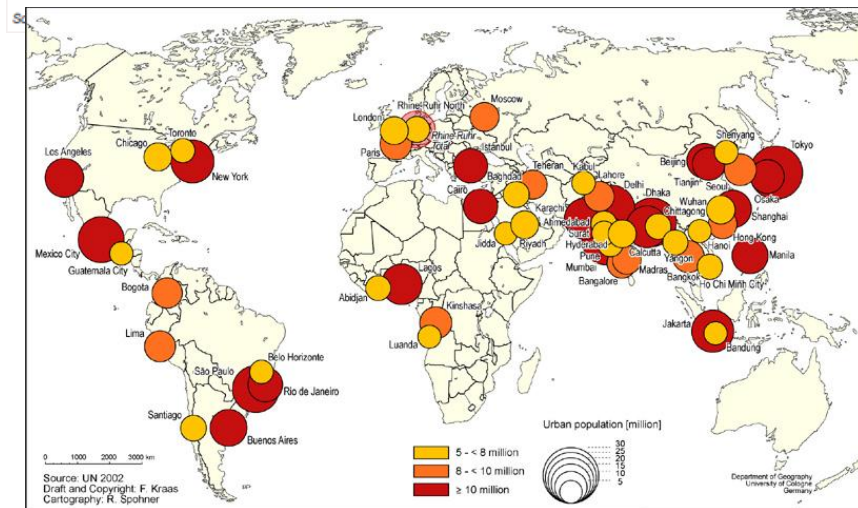
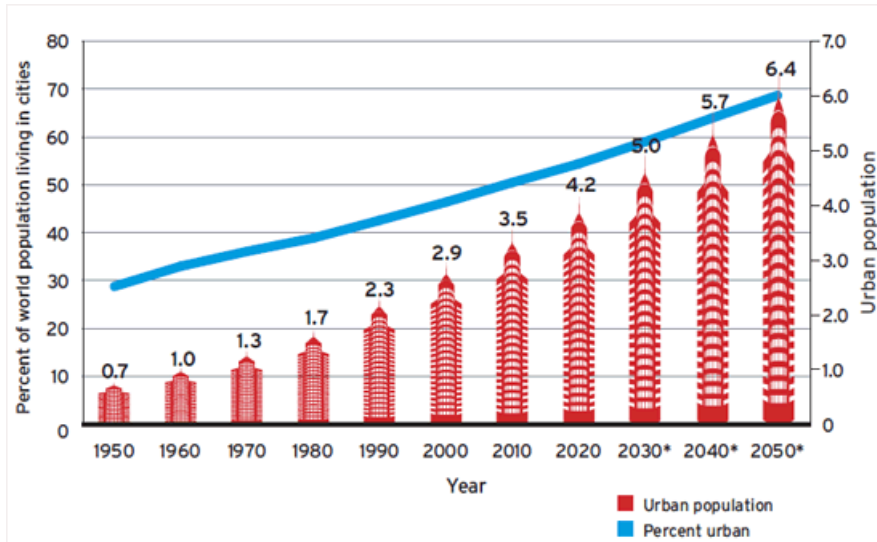
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*The powerpoint presentation is based on material provided by the Management
Board of the JPI Urban Europe*

What is Joint Programming?

- "Towards joint programming in research: Working together to tackle common challenges more effectively" (Commission Communication of 15 July 2008)
- Member States expected to pool resources in creating **joint transnational R&D programmes** (Council decision of 2 December 2008 establishing a scheme of Joint Programming Initiatives)
- Focus on **grand challenges** which cannot be solved on level of individual countries
- **JPI Urban Europe** accepted as one of ten such *Joint Programming Initiatives* since December 2011
- JPI Urban Europe is striving to establish a large-scale, long-term, international research and development programme dedicated to urban development

The world keeps urbanising



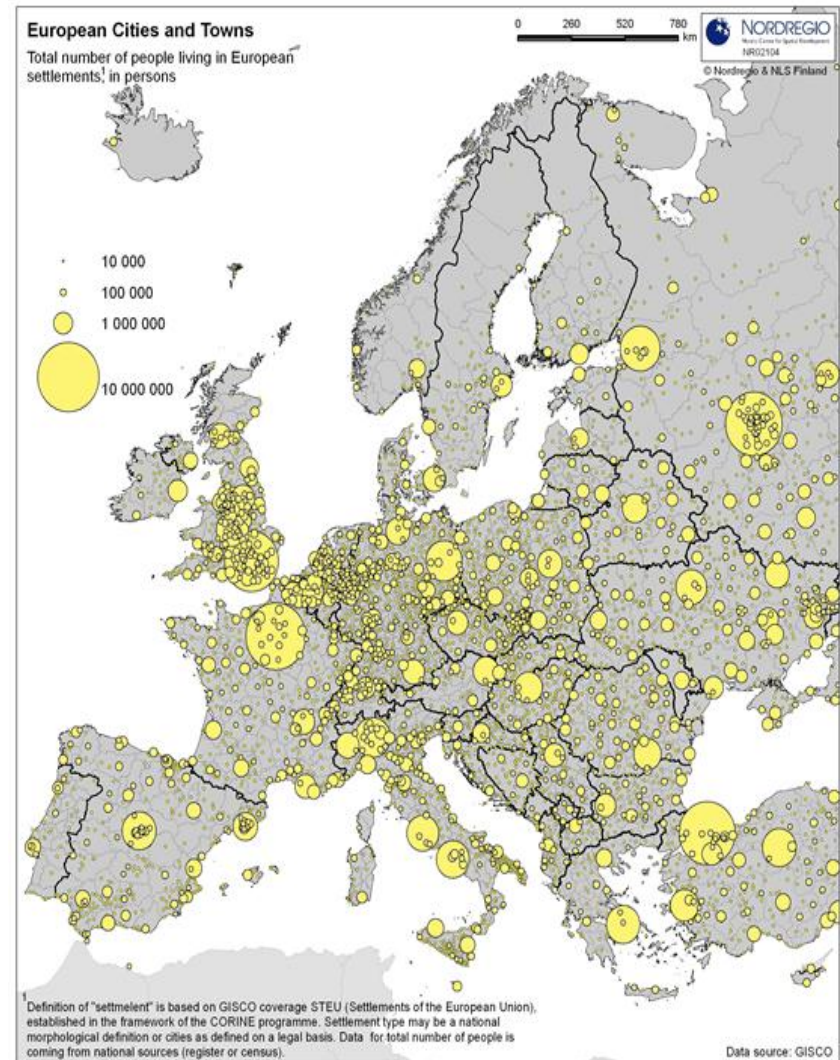
- The world is increasingly urban
- More than half of the world population, and two thirds of the Europeans, live in cities
- An even greater share of the economic output come from cities
- The city has become the de facto standard organisation of life and economies

Cities in Europe are different

- Typically smaller than in US & China
- A larger share of our population lives in small and medium sized cities
- Slow or stagnant growth
- The smallest cities get smaller
- The wealthiest are mid sized
- Migration mainly city-city
- Cultural heritage important

Still, most research on cities is based on US cities.

Closer connections are needed between urban policy developments and urban research.



Cities are complex organisms



- A city cannot be understood by only looking at its buildings, or its transportation system, or its energy distribution, or even its people.
- A city is made up of the intricate interactions and exchanges of all its people, information, money, systems, and infrastructure.
- The high complexity of this interdependence is complemented by a slow pace of change in demography and infrastructure, making it hard to discern causes and effects.
- To understand how a city functions is therefore a complex task. Learning how its development can be influenced by policy, investment, or technology even more so.

Grand challenges



- Urbanisation is tightly connected to many other societal challenges
- Cities are in many cases simultaneously the cause of, the first victim of, and the source of the solution to these challenges

Crossing academic boundaries

Architecture
Statistics
Demography
Economics
Sociology
Urban Geography
Psychology
Political Science
Engineering
Planning

















- Interdisciplinarity is **not** a virtue in itself.
- **But** many academic disciplines are involved in different aspects when trying to understand cities.
- To move forward, it is often necessary to cross academic boundaries.
- This may require an external push to overcome business as usual at research organisations

Crossing national borders



- European research on urban issues is not only fragmented across disciplines, but also between countries
- By integrating European urban research
 - more financial resources are made available for large scale projects,
 - projects can access a wider set of cities as research subjects,
 - results are more likely to reach a wider audience,
 - critical mass of top talent is assembled, and
 - research can more easily address strategic questions at the European level
- The JPI Urban Europe focuses on research where the sometimes high cost of international cooperation is likely to yield even larger benefits

Country		Ministry / Authority / Administration	Funding Agency / Council / Foundation
	AT	Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology Federal Ministry for Science and Research	FFG
	BE	Innoviris (Brussels Region),	VITO, FWO (Flanders)
	CY		Research Promotion Foundation
	DE	Ministry of education and research	FONA, PTJ
	DK		Council for Strategic Research
	FI		Tekes
	FR	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transportation and Housing	Iffstar, ANR
	IE		Science Foundation Ireland
	IT	Ministry for Education, Universities and Research	
	MT	Integrated Transport Strategy Directorate	Malta Council for Science & Technology
	NL	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment	Dinalog, NWO
	NO	Ministry of the Environment	The Research Council of Norway
	SE		Vinnova, Formas
	TK		Tübitak

Principles for JPI Urban Europe

1. Relate to the grand challenges, both in their role of external influence and as something to be addressed
2. Connect research, policy making, and practice, to maximise user take-up and societal impact
3. Embrace complexity and cross sectorial interdependence
4. Capture the European aspects of cities
5. Promote inter-disciplinarity when called for
6. Take a long term perspective – 20-50 years into the future
7. Build on the tangible benefits of European cooperation
8. Complement –not duplicate– existing programmes
9. Promote research that has the potential of becoming evidence based policy advice

Axes of Strategic Research Framework

A: Urban Megatrends

What are the prominent demographic, economic and technological megatrends that are decisive for a promising future of urban systems?

B: Urban Networks and Connectivity

What are new mobility, logistic and land use developments and policies that are needed to create vital and attractive cities – and networks of cities – in the decades to come?

C: Socio-ecological Sustainability of City Systems

Which ecological and social constellations have to be met and implemented in order to shape sustainable and balanced long-run urban development patterns (including energy systems) in Europe?

What the JPI Urban Europe is doing right now

- Conducting a study of **Urban Megatrends**, due in early 2013
- Evaluating results from the **first Call for Proposals** (call closed September 2012)
- Preparing the **second Call for proposals** (Call open 2013)
- Helping funding agencies to identify **opportunities for synergies** in their upcoming programmes
- Initiating an **Urban Europe Research Alliance** (2013)
- Hosting **scientific workshops** (on-going)
- Preparing a **Scientific Research Agenda**, and developing funding instruments for the future calls (on-going)

Thank you for your attention!

<http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu/>