



# First Announcement

## Conference on the Role of Urban Research in the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme

### BRUSSELS, 12 January 2005

Almost 80% of Europeans live in urban areas. Around one fifth of them are hosted by larger urban agglomerations of more than 250,000 inhabitants, a further fifth by medium sized cities and 40% by towns of 10-50,000 inhabitants.

Therefore, quality of life and working conditions in cities will affect to 80% of European citizen, and that is why urban planning and the care for sustainability are essential to assure and improve the living conditions and future of the great majority of Europeans. Urban research therefore is one of the most important needs for Europe, for Europeans and for the future.

Urban agglomerations and metropolitan regions are focal points of economic strengths and weaknesses in Europe, for example in the fields of economic development, labour market, social conflicts, environmental concerns or traffic problems. Thus cities are driving forces for European economic development and its competitiveness in a global context.

The effective network of the 50 leading European experts on the field of sustainable urban development - scientists, decision makers, local and regional authorities, planners, consultants - have worked on the creation of new ideas, concepts and strategies

for welfare and life quality of the next European generations in a cluster project SUPER, funded under the fifth framework. The network came to the following conclusions:

- **To avoid forthcoming disasters or collapses, prospective urban planning has to be sustainable and directed to future urban functionality in an ecological, economical and social context.**
- **Urban research must play a key role in European scientific strategies for the next decades.**
- **Research and application of its results must be funded by the European Community and must be structured in joint approaches of scientists and practitioners.**

Based on a broad consultation of scientists and practitioners in Europe, we have identified five areas of special attention for future urban research, where we see necessity for fundamental research to increase our understanding, applied research to transform scientific knowledge in practical management tools and strategies to share knowledge on best practices and involving the citizens. The key areas are:

## Post-urbanisation and Urban/suburban relations

- Location of functions, role of SME's
- Diffuse city and architecture of cities
- Fragmentation and segmentation
- Land use conflict

## Environmental impacts and Industrial ecology

- Air quality, water management
- Management and use of materials
- Energy management, renewable energies, ...
- Governance, transparency

## Labour market and Quality of life

- Social safety
- Social cohesion: integration, communities, ...
- Elderly people
- Knowledge society: work at home, ict, ...

## Integrated approach and decision making

- Flexibility of norms and regulations
- Integrated assessment tools

## Regional cooperation and competition

- Clustering of economic activities
- Regional cooperation and location of activities

## The role of Urban Research in the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme 2006 - 2010

12 January 2005, we will organize a conference in Brussels (Venue European Association Of Research And Technology Organisations, 3 rue du Luxembourg, B-1000 Brussels. Phone +32 (0)2 502 86 98, Fax +32 (0)2 502 86 93, 5 min walk from the parliament) to discuss with you the role of Europe in urban research.

Invited are top scientists in the area of urban research, Members of European Parliament, Representatives of the European Commission, national, regional and local governments and interest groups.

## Preliminary programme

- 12.30 Press Conference
- 13.00 Opening and Keynote presentations
- 13.30 Round Table Discussions on the key research areas and the role of Urban Research in the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme
- 17.00 Closing discussions and conclusions

The conference is **free** of costs for all participants. Participants will receive a free copy of the report "The Kaleidoscopic City. Issues in urban research". We can host approximately 75 participants. **Registrare early!**

## Registration

Mr Maarten van Loon (project secretary):  
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René Korenromp (co-ordinator) and the SUPER team: Axel Borsdorf, Marian Ibarondo, Andreas Wolf, Karl Martin Born, Paul van Dommelen, Harry Geerlings, Georg Kluczka, José Luis Luzón Benedicto, Alcino Pascoal, Roger Puff, Iñaki Susaeta, Alex Urraca, Jordi Vila Carrasco, Hannes Wimmer and Maarten van Loon

