

Joint Programming Initiative

URBAN EUROPE: Global Challenges – Local Solutions

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Summary

Urban Europe - A Lens for Global Challenges

The background of this Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) is the ongoing transformation of society, economy and environment. Globally, this is a transformation towards urbanisation. Hence, the future of Europe will largely be shaped in urban areas. It is here, where a series of global challenges and their impact on the social, economic and ecologic subsystems become concrete and must be managed. Major challenges to cope with are social deprivation and segregation, urban sprawl and congestion, environmental degradation and effects of climate change. European countries, wanting to be attractive places to live and work in a global village, should exploit the advantages of urbanised space.

Urban Europe – A Systemic and Innovative Approach

The JPI Urban Europe aims to develop innovative approaches to adequately address these challenges and create urban places of vitality, liveability and accessibility. Urban Europe aims to advance research on the *understanding of the complex urban system* to develop comprehensive *urban policies implications* taking utmost advantage of *emerging technologies and governance solutions* to help developing *prospering European areas*. Building on existing research and policy initiatives, for which it aims to function as a co-ordination platform and a ‘clearing house’, it brings together strands of thoughts and develops applicable and feasible tools and instruments. Urban Europe addresses research issues on different levels starting from urban scenarios and foresight activities for policy-oriented roadmaps and planning concepts over demonstration and pilot projects to finally monitoring and benchmarking. It will complement major ongoing initiatives for development of new technologies in energy, transport, construction and communication. In doing so, Urban Europe offers an operational contribution to the implementation of Europe 2020.

The JPI will bring together and support the various stakeholders in urban development working on

- urban areas as hubs of innovations and living labs,
- places of social cohesion and integration,
- intelligent intra- and inter-urban transport, logistic and communication systems and
- sustainability and minimisation of ecological footprint of urban areas.

Urban Europe - Added Value

Research efforts and findings aim to achieve a wide range of hitherto unexploited benefits for urban areas in Europe by

- enhancing the attractiveness of European places for living and working significantly,
- reinforcing European competitiveness by focusing on the great advantages of urban agglomerations and the quality of networks linking these urban areas,
- adding value to European knowledge infrastructure through the development of demand oriented shared knowledge and pooled human capital as urban frontline initiatives in Europe and
- supporting various European networks of stakeholders and acting as a clearing house for professionals on urban issues.

Urban Europe – Supporting Countries and Initiatives

Proposers: Austria, Netherlands, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey

Interested countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Malta, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Germany, Israel, Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic

Supporting Initiatives: ERA-net “urban-net”, European Energy Research Alliance (EERA), Trans European Transport Networks (TEN-T), ERA-net “transport”, The Freight Logistics Package 2007, POLIS, European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP)

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