Urbanisation patterns and its impact on quality of place in Europe

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European policies involving cities

• Lisbon Strategy
• Sustainable Development Strategy
• Leipzig Charter
• Territorial Cohesion Agenda
• Thematic strategy on the urban environment
## European policies

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<th>Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities</th>
<th>Territorial Agenda of the European Union</th>
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1. Give equal weight to economic prosperity, social balance and sustainable development policy goals.
2. Make more use of vision-based integrated urban development policies.
3. Pay attention to both city and neighbourhood level and both public and private actors.
4. Promote high quality public spaces, modern infrastructure and energy efficiency and efficient and affordable urban transport.
5. Give deprived neighbourhoods special attention.

1. Strengthen Territorial Cohesion involving various actors and stakeholders (territorial governance).
2. Strengthen regional identities and exploit territorial diversity.
3. Build on the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP): balanced polycentric system, new urban-rural partnership, parity access to infrastructure and knowledge, sustainable development, prudent management and protection of nature and cultural heritage.
The EURBANIS Project

- Gain more insight into European spatial processes and their impact on environment, ecology and Quality of Life/Place
- Apply this knowledge to the simulation of urbanisation
Case Study Cities

- archetypical characteristics of urbanisation cluster
- presence in Urban Audit database
- representation of European regions

Cluster 1 Stagnating: Reims
Cluster 2 Compact: Aarhus
Cluster 3 Leisure: Südburgenland
Cluster 4 Shrinking: Vilnius
Cluster 5 Sprawling: Erfurt
Cluster 6 Average: Rotterdam, Bologna
Cluster 7 Booming: Madrid

Link to Quality of Life/Quality of Place on base of Urban Audit data on a local level: economic, social, environmental, housing, land use variables.
Definition of quality of place and quality of life used for the Eurbanis-project

- **Overall quality of life**
  - Here and now
  - Environment-related:
    - Objective quality of place:
      - Characteristics of environmental factors
    - Subjective quality of place:
      - Satisfaction with environmental factors
    - Other factors
  - Non-environmental:
    - Individual perspective
  - Collective perspective

- Elsewhere and later
  - Sustainability
    - Economic environment
    - Physical environment
    - Social environment
Case study Erfurt

• Urban land use:
  – high increase built-up area on farmland due to economic growth, transition and residential preferences

• Urban densities:
  – large decrease because of single-family housing and depopulation/migration

• Urban green:
  – older inner city districts low rates of green areas, new residential development in lower densities with more urban green

• Air quality:
  – new road infrastructure, decrease of noise and air pollution in inner city,

• Social Cohesion:
  – more polarisation due to suburbanisation, accumulation of problems in some districts, decrease of service level due to depopulation
Case study Erfurt
Quality of place in European cities: different aspects

Probleemindicatie

1 Transport
2 Woonwens/segregatie
3 Economie
4 Stedelijk groen
5 Governance
Conclusions Eurbanis

- Shift in focus from region to city and vital role cities in environmental and sustainability goals in European policies
- In general deconcentration, but large differences in Europe
- Polarisation on different levels
- Nevertheless comparable problems in cities: transport, air quality, brownfields, segregation, lack of urban green, support of facilities
- Large differences in possible solutions depending upon planning systems: governance, budgets
- Lack of harmonised data and time series major obstacle for change detection and benchmarking
- A clear practical framework to assess urbanisation is still needed for balanced and sustainable urban development