

URBAN MATRIX

AT A GLANCE

Title: Targeted Knowledge Exchange on Urban Sustainability

Instrument: Coordination Action (ie: Integrated Project, Coordination Action, SSA) FP6

Total Cost: 535.978 €

EC Contribution: 407.978 €

Duration: 48 months

Start Date: 1/02/2006

Consortium: 12 partners from 7 countries

Project Coordinator: EUROCITIES (Belgium)

Project Web Site: <http://www.urban-matrix.net>

Key Words: Knowledge exchange, Sustainable Urban Development, scientific support to policies, cities



THE CHALLENGE

Local governments play an important role in implementing sustainable urban development policies. Ideally, decision-makers in city authorities should be fully aware of the latest research findings, the range of available solutions, and current legislation and best practices in this field. However, this information is not always accessible or disseminated in a timely and appropriate format. Therefore, there is a need for cross-checking the supply of information and the demand for solutions on Sustainable Urban Development policies and practices, so city practitioners can benefit from this “knowledge and know how” and contribute to a greater urban sustainability.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

URBAN MATRIX aims to create a knowledge transfer platform designed to support European cities in addressing Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) in all its complexity and many dimensions. The project's objectives consist of charting the demand for know-how on urban sustainability coming from European cities and organising the supply of existing information offer (mainly best practices and research findings). Additionally, URBAN MATRIX aims at developing a methodology and implementing a set of mechanisms to match supply with demand. Finally, the project will evaluate the demand-driven methodology designed to exchange information and know-how on Sustainable Urban Development requirements and solutions with a final goal of producing recommendations to the European Commission on dissemination of research results.

METHODOLOGY

Through three annual surveys (2007, 2008, 2009), URBAN MATRIX builds up a picture of the knowledge demand of European cities on sustainable urban



development issues. Based on the surveys' results, the project selects, for each year, four thematic priorities on which to increase knowledge exchange.

The project organises a collection of tested practices and research outcomes on the basis of those priority themes. The knowledge gathered is publicly available in the URBAN MATRIX e-library which is based on standard templates that all cities can easily fill in and access on-line. Furthermore, according to the interest expressed by the cities, two of those themes provide the thematic focus of the two yearly workshops. The aim of Urban Matrix workshops is to facilitate mutual learning through face-to-face contact between city practitioners and researchers, combining knowledge demand with research and best practice offer.

EXPECTED RESULTS

By improving the accessibility of information on sustainable urban development issues, URBAN MATRIX will support the implementation and monitoring of EU environmental legislation in European Cities in particular and of the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment, within the wider context of the 6th Environment Action Program. Even though the number of partner cities is limited, the project benefits to a wider group of local authorities who are able to take part in the project activities, by responding to the survey on cities' needs, accessing the e-library and participating at the workshops. The URBAN MATRIX partners together with the EUROCITIES members are the core group of this knowledge exchange community. Finally, through the production of recommendations on how to improve dissemination of future research results and the feedback on cities' demand of information and support, the project aims to impact on EU urban policy and how it is implemented in cities.

PROJECT PARTNERS	
EUROCITIES, BE	City of Malmö, SE
Univ. of the West of England, Bristol, GB	Belfast City Council, GB
GHK Consulting, GB	Fomento de San Sebastian, ES
City of Amsterdam, NL	City of Palermo, IT
City of Helsinki, FI	City Planning Administration of Stockholm, SE
City of Seville, ES	Sheffield City Council, GB

