

USING THE POTENTIAL OF LAND-BASED SOLUTIONS IN URBAN MANAGEMENT

Knowledge co-creation on integrated urban land management that connects disciplines and sectors in demonstration projects at the local and regional level, will contribute to innovative solutions to urban challenges as addressed in the UN and EU Urban Agendas

Why we need to act?

Cities are both the source of and solution to many of today's economic, environmental and social challenges. The New Urban Agenda of the UN, Habitat III, addresses how cities should be planned and managed to best promote sustainable urbanization. This includes protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, building urban resilience and a stewardship focused use of land and resources for urban development. The EU Urban Agenda prioritised sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions to improve quality of life in cities by focusing on land regeneration, constraining urban sprawl and encouraging brownfield reuse. INSPIRATION policymakers, local and regional authorities and companies identified climate change, greening of cities, the transition in housing stock and adaptation of infrastructure, urban sprawl, and reusing brownfields as major areas of research and innovation related to the availability of land. This perfectly matches the UN and EU urban agendas and is in line with the JPI Urban Europe research initiative to encourage the capacity for urban transition. Growing complexity and rapid technological and societal changes, make it increasingly important to have real-time and flexible responses to emerging problems and opportunities with respect to land. Environmental and societal objectives should be identified at an early stage of the planning process and balanced against purely profit driven economic targets. Spatial planning should reorient towards integrated land use management.

What we will gain?

Research and innovation is needed if urban land management in cities and regions is to support sustainable development. Continual regeneration of the built environment based on "circular land use" will ensure urban regeneration, brownfield renewal and energy efficiency in infrastructure and buildings. Land related adaptation and resilience to climatic and demographic change requires green infrastructure connected to Nature Based Solutions and multifunctional housing areas that transform cities into attractive and liveable places for the many not just the few. Research will help create new funding mechanisms through land acquisition funds addressing land for housing in growing Metropolitan areas. Local and regional development and land management agencies, could be supported to provide public stewardship that allows for greater impact in urban interventions, e.g. in brownfield regeneration. European regional development funds (ERDF) after 2020 as well as the orientations of national and regional regeneration programs are invited to support strongly needed urban investments by public and private sector. Both engagement and motivations are required. Research reveals the mechanisms of behaviour and interdependencies of public and private actors active in land-related policy areas. Existing conflicts including marked failures will be addressed based on scientific evidence to secure balanced decisions and appropriate solutions. Community-based developments will be a major driving force for urban transformations. The transdisciplinary approach, open laboratories and demonstration projects by researchers and urban practitioners ensures the support of public and private stakeholder as well as citizen engagement.

Key research areas

The INSPIRATION approach to focusing national research and innovation needs at an European perspective shows an impressive variety of innovative local and regional solutions for sustainable land management. Research is needed to understand and systemize these experiences to stimulate a stronger response to global economic mechanisms that threaten land functions.

How to become active

Local and regional authorities willing to implement demonstration projects on urban (and peri-urban) land management, co-funded by the EU, to direct regional development in a globalized economy, harmonized planning systems. CEMR Council of European Metropolitan Regions should take the initiative. JPI Urban Europe with initiatives on urban transformation capacities.



INSPIRATION acknowledges funding from Horizon2020 Framework Programme under grant agreement no 642372

Contact your INSPIRATION national contact at www.inspiration-agenda.eu for further information on this topic.