



Dear Friends

URBAN RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

The half-way point in URBAN-NET was marked with publication of our latest report - "A comparative analysis of national and regional urban research programmes in Europe".

The report presents analysis of over 70 research programmes from across participating countries to establish similarities, differences and gaps in European urban sustainability research. A more subjective analysis of national programmes established success criteria (e.g. examining the quality of programme outcomes, multidisciplinary and flexibility to adapt to future challenges in urban sustainability).

Download the full report at <http://www.urban-net.org/aims/index.html> (N.B. pdf file size >7MB, for a copy on disc please email info@urban-net.org)

An online database of recently completed and current European national urban research programmes will be available very soon on the [URBAN-NET website](#). If you have involvement in or knowledge of programmes you would like to be included in this database, please email Marije.Breukelman@nicis.nl.

The NICIS Institute leads this area of work for the project.

<http://www.nicis.nl/nicis/international/index.html>

PILOT CALL

All 24 eligible applications received for the URBAN-NET pilot call have now been evaluated by the panel of 7 experts from each call participating country except for Cyprus. A total of 12 applications including 5 pre-research proposals will be funded, subject to finalisation of budgetary details. Research areas include climate change, diversity, functional networks, ecosystem services, sustainable land-use policies and urban regeneration.

Lessons learnt from the pilot call process will help inform preparations for the full call in 2009 and will be the subject of the next Steering Group Meeting (4) in

Paris 9th/10th December. It is proposed that various organisations outside URBAN-NET will be invited to participate in the full call.

More information is available via the Formas website at http://www.formas.se/formas_templates/Page_3790.aspx.

Formas is The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, and is the secretariat for this call.

EUROPEAN THEMATIC URBAN RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

Proceedings of last summer's Berlin workshop on "shared urban research needs and priorities for new work across Europe" are now available from the URBAN-NET website at <http://www.urban-net.org/eventsandconferences/stakeholderworkshop2/index.html>

The workshop and proceedings have proved invaluable in helping to formulate the European Thematic Urban Research Framework to be published early next year.

TÜV, the project's German partner, leads this area of work.

<http://www.tuv.com/global/en/index.html>

NEW COLLEAGUES

As some you might know, Sanne Mohr will leave Nicis Institute by mid November. She has done a marvellous job during her time working on URBAN-NET and we wish her all the best for the future - please keep in touch Sanne!

In order to ensure a smooth transition of work, Marije Breukelman, who joined the Nicis International team this Spring and will take over from Sanne, has begun working with Sanne on developing the next phase of transnational activities for the project. Marije has been involved in European research through the European Urban Knowledge Network. Welcome Marije!

Lastly - I should introduce myself as Project Manager for URBAN-NET, taking over from Paul Sizeland. Paul will continue to provide support to the project in his new role as SNIFFER Programme Manager for Sustainable Places, which provides a very good fit with his role as mentor to the "Public spaces, health and well being" research area of the strategic research framework.

I hope that my knowledge, skills and experience in research coordination, policy development and strategy for water, climate change and energy with UK environmental regulators will bring benefits to the

project and look forward to working and meeting with all URBAN-NET colleagues over the coming months.

Please email any contributions or suggestions for improvements to the bi-monthly bulletin to june@sniffer.org.uk.

If you do not wish to receive further bulletins please reply to the sender of this message. This message might have been forwarded to you - to receive it directly please send a request to info@urban-net.org. Apologies for any cross-postings.

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The **URBAN-NET** project addresses issues of urban sustainability in Europe. Its overall aim is to increase the cooperation and coordination between European Member and Associated States through networking and the collaboration on joint research activities. URBAN-NET is funded by the European Commission's Framework 6 Programme under the European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) initiative.

SNIFFER is a charitable company which aims to improve knowledge to help protect our environment. We target our activities towards policy makers and implementers as well as other organisations with whom we work in partnership at a UK level.

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