Policy Redaction Note: A positioning of the APRILAB research project in the European policy and research landscape.

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APRILab

Action Oriented Research
on Planning, Reglation and Investment Dilemmas
in a Living Lab Experience

URBAN EUROPE

Deliverable 1.1

EU POLICIES AND COMPLEXITY
EC Strategies Relevant for APRILab

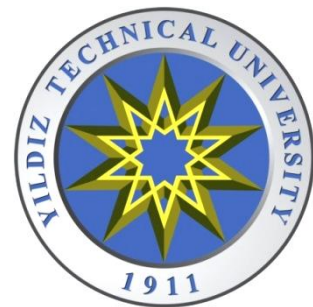Edited by
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NWO

EU POLICIES AND COMPLEXITY

EC Strategies Relevant for APRILab

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APRILab

APRILab is the acronym for the research project: 'Action oriented planning, regulation and investment dilemmas for innovative urban development in living lab experiences'. The research is funded by the Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe. The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) is a participant and key funder for this research.

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Contents

Summary

Purpose and content

The purpose of this working document is to locate the APRILab project within the EU research and policy landscape. The main content of the working document is an overview of EU research that is related to APRILab by being tied to urban development in the urban fringe. First I focus on research that relates to the theme of the periphery. In the second chapter I provide a brief analysis of the main EC papers with connections to the aims of APRILab.

Despite its exploratory character the working document finds (see section 1.2.1) that the most relevant projects are the ones being part of URBACT:

- Joining forces (ended 2010)[1]
- Net-Topic (New tools and approaches for managing urban transformation processes in intermediate cities, completed 2011)[2]
- SURF (Sustainable Fringes, ongoing)[3]
- CityRegion.Net[4]
- CSI Europe, JESSICA[5]
- LUMASEC (Land Use Management for Sustainable European Cities, completed)[6]
- M-SPICE[7] (Monitoring – sustainable and participatory initiatives for cities in Europe, Completed)
- NODUS (completed)[8]
- Smart cities[9]

In general, I find (see section 1.2.3) the FP7 programs only marginally relevant for APRILab with the exception of LUPUS and FUPOL.

In the working document, I make a brief analysis of the main papers of the European Commission with the purpose of establishing links to the mission of APRILab. I have been analysing relevant documents related to the background of the Joint Programming Initiatives[10][11]. Further, the Leipzig Charter has also been identified. In conclusion, I have identified that APRILab contributes knowledge relevant for ERA, the Lisbon Strategy, 'Europe 2020 — A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' (more specifically, 'Innovation Europe), and the Leipzig Charter.

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[1] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/joining-forces/homepage/
[2] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/net-topic/homepage/
[3] http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/home/home.asp
[4] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/crn/our-project/
[5] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/csi-europe/our-project/
[6] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/lumasec/our-project/
[7] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/m-spice/our-project/
[8] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/nodus/our-project/
[9] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/innovation-creativity/smart-cities/homepage/
[10] http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/joint-programming_en.html;
[11] http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu/

Acknowledgements

APRILab: Research landscape

The relationship between APRILab and ongoing European research

In this section I first describe and assess on-going or recently completed projects. First on research focusing on the theme of the periphery. In the next chapter I provide a brief analysis of the main EC papers with connections to the aims of APRILab.

Ongoing projects on the theme of the 'periphery'

The method for detecting ongoing, or recently ended, projects on the theme of the 'periphery' has been searching the webpage of URBACT, the FP7 program, and the JPI Urban Europe grants. Below I first list the programs located by means of URBACT, and I assess their relevance to the APRILab project. Next, I do the same with the programs located by means of the FP7 program and JPI grants. Recommendations for other websites and suggestions for unmentioned, related research projects are more than welcome. The descriptions below are copy-pastes from the websites of the respective project. This goes for headlines as well as content.

Due to the fact that APRILab is still in an explorative phase, the copy-pasted project descriptions below are somewhat extensive in order to enable the APRILab partners to assess the relevance of the projects. Many of the URBACT projects have already been completed, which is an advantage since these seems to be the most relevant; a great number of reports are therefore available for most of URBACT projects on their respective websites.

URBACT

The following projects have been located:

- Joining forces (ended 2010)[12]
- Net-Topic (New tools and approaches for managing urban transformation processes in intermediate cities, completed 2011)[13]
- SURF (Sustainable Fringes, ongoing)[14]
- CityRegion.Net[15]
- CSI Europe, JESSICA[16]
- LUMASEC (Land Use Management for Sustainable European Cities, completed)[17]

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[12] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/joining-forces/homepage/
[13] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/net-topic/homepage/
[14] http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/home/home.asp
[15] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/crn/our-project/
[16] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/csi-europe/our-project/

- M-SPICE[18] (Monitoring – sustainable and participatory initiatives for cities in Europe, Completed)
- NODUS (completed)[19]
- Smart cities[20]

Joining forces

JOINING FORCES is an Urbact Working Group that brings together 8 partners: Brno, Brussels-Capital Region, Burgas, Eindhoven, Florence, Krakow, Lille Metropole, and Seville.

All over Europe, metropolitan areas / city-regions are increasingly recognised, even by local authorities, as the "real city" level, the right one for developing more effective governance and strategy developments. Achieving successful cooperation between cities and their surrounding areas is obviously crucial to improve local cohesion, but even more to increase territorial competitiveness and sustainability.

The project aims at describing and analysing partners' situations in order to propose conclusions and suitable recommendations to the local, regional, national and/or European authorities on governance at city-region level. This theme will be considered through different aspects:

- Strategy and spatial planning;
- Mobility management and transport;
- Main environmental issues: water supply, waste disposal, etc;
- Knowledge economy (creativity, research and education);
- Governance (public/public & public/private arrangements);
- Social inclusion, participation, empowerment;
- Attractiveness & Competitiveness (including promotion/marketing);

Challenges

City-regions gain in importance with the emergence of the economic development agenda. The city region, i.e. the "economic city", is much larger and thus more influential than the "administrative city". City-regions, especially around large cities, are key to driving national economies:

- They have the greatest density of economic assets: higher education institutions, R&D facilities, companies' headquarters and other profit centres.
- They are national and international gateways and meeting places, possessing airports, sea or river ports, rail links, conference, exhibition and trade centres.
- They tend to have the youngest, most dynamic - and diverse - population.
- They have higher populations, offering much bigger opportunities (for entrepreneurs, researchers, stake holders, job seekers) as co-operating urban areas than the cities alone.

To make the most of these assets, an effective co-operation process is needed with the double aim of:

- Reducing sterile competitions between institutions; avoiding the useless duplication of public facilities, and therefore making the most of public resources is one of the competitive challenges to be dealt with at the city-region level.

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[17] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/lumasec/our-project/
[18] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/m-spice/our-project/
[19] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/metropolitan-governance/nodus/our-project/
[20] http://urbact.eu/en/projects/innovation-creativity/smart-cities/homepage/

• Increasing the synergy between players in fields such as higher education, research, innovation and more generally economic development (for example by developing competitive clusters); this is another condition for competitiveness that can best be achieved at city region level.

At the same time metropolitan areas also provide a better level for tackling some of the major challenges urban Europe is to face:

• More successful urban regeneration policies can be developed at this level as city-regions gather at the same time the most affluent people and successful areas and the most vulnerable people and deprived neighbourhoods.
• The issues of urban mobility and urban sprawl (travel to work, travel to shops, etc), which plays an important role in the carbon emission can only be tackled at that level.
• Other crucial issues, such as waste management, water supply, etc. can be dealt with in a more effective way at this level.

For all these reasons there is a common aim to achieve real co-operation between the cities and their surrounding areas, not only in order to improve local situations (to contribute to provide better services, opportunities and quality of life for the urban population), but also because this is a key factor towards a more competitive and more sustainable European development.

Based on existing local experiences, the work of "Joining forces" aims at helping to define the relevant scales for such co-operations to be likely to achieve greater territorial competitiveness and sustainability, helping thus to develop successful metropolitan cooperation in Europe.

Key point of focus

The only topic on which the group is working is "governance at city-region level". A clear trend towards a revival of governance initiatives at city-region level can be seen in recent times in many European countries. This trend is mainly due to the worldwide increased competition between the different cities and the creation of urban "megalopolis". However political reasons for creating such arrangements can actually differ from one city to another, as it can be understood when reading the baseline study.

In order to effectively exchange experiences and thus be able to draw relevant conclusions, we had to work on the basis of practical examples (case studies) and therefore to consider the unique theme through different aspects.

After in in-depth common review and discussion we decided during our meeting in Lille (July 2008) for the phase 1 that the most important and shared aspects of the 8 different partners were:

• Strategy making and Spatial Planning;
• Mobility management and Transport;
• Environmental issues: air and noise pollution, waste disposal, water supply, etc;
• Knowledge economy (Creativity, Research & Education);
• Attractiveness & competitiveness (including Promotion/ Marketing);
• Social inclusion, participation, empowerment at metropolitan level;
• New Governance mechanisms (public/public & public/private arrangements);

The objective is to observe the tools and mechanisms of governance through these different concrete subjects.

Net-Topic (completed 2011)

According to the "State of World Population 2007" of United Nations, 76% of the European population lives in medium and small cities, with less than half million inhabitants. This is a reality that has not been analysed enough, because the large cities have been normally the studies target.

NeT-TOPIC is addressed to medium sized (intermediate) cities located close to a major city within a metropolitan area. As a result of their location, these cities face today some common challenges, such as territorial fragmentation or the need to adapt to the new demands for uses and activities in the process of post-industrialisation and of new tertiary activities.

NeT-TOPIC Thematic Network is composed of European peripheral cities in transformation, with shared problems including industrial decline, territorial fragmentation and social polarisation. Located near to major cities, they are transforming to more attractive urban areas: focusing on developing their own urban identity, offering a greater quality of life, improving citizen integration and social cohesion to fulfil a new role within their metropolitan areas. One of the biggest challenges faced by these cities is the use and promotion of new tools and approaches relating to territorial governance and urban planning processes at local, regional and national level to improve urban transformation processes. The network provides these cities with a platform to reflect on changes in the city model to increase the strategic value of its territory.

NeT-TOPIC's network aims to foster the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices among its partners. The project seeks to enhance the role of peripheral cities in territorial governance and urban planning processes to achieve their desired new city model. As a result from their location and the urban and territorial systems in which these cities are nestled, the land of the intermediate cities has often been used for the industrial sector (sectors which are now in recession/decline), for infrastructures (which slipped up the city) and for residential functions (which need integrated rehabilitation). Faced with this situation, these cities need to adequate the land uses with their socio-economic and territorial area trends, and therefore to develop a city model change process. This means, that they are transforming from peripheral cities to central cities, from residential to daytime cities (university, administrative or business centres), from industrial cities to technological/knowledge/services cities, from monofunctional to multifunctional cities.

These cities are considering the common challenge of managing a city change that increases the strategic value of their territory in order to

transform them into more attractive cities which offer greater quality of life and better citizen coexistence.

An important challenge of these cities concerns with their territorial governance and urban planning processes, throughout the promotion of new tools and approaches among their local governments in order to improve their urban transformation processes. In other words, the traditional forms or urban management and planning of peripheral monofunctional cities is not relevant or efficient anymore to govern cities experimenting important transformations and to plan strategies for an urban change.

Key point of focus
Considering the common contexts & challenges of all network cities, some topics have been identified:

Core Theme:
● Building new models of urban development in peripheral cities in metropolitan areas.

Sub Themes:
● Development and consolidation of an urban identity.
● Enhancement of new forms of urban and metropolitan governance.
● Tackling urban fragmentation caused by roads and communication infrastructures.
● Recovering and conditioning abandoned and obsolete industrial areas.
● The planning and management of the transformation from a monofunctional to a multifunctional city.

SURF (Sustainable Fringes)
The Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) project brought together partners and experts from across the North Sea Region to exchange information and develop a common approach towards the sustainability of urban fringe areas.

The project has recognised the value these areas between urban and rural landscape can bring to local communities, creating places where people want to live, work and do business. This can be through strengthening local economies; delivering social benefits and by creating a space for nature.

Key initiatives examined by the project have included a review of urban fringe policies and the development of a set of policy guidelines to tackle issues of governance and spatial planning.
To informing the research, project partners developed their own urban fringe initiatives to establish best practices and share their experiences.

Urban fringe challenges
The project aims to address the challenges facing our urban fringes including:

● spatial planning and sustainable development;
● complex issues of ownership and administration;
● fragmented spaces;
● declining biodiversity;
● deteriorating water quality;

- low green space value;
- poor access and lack of engagement with local communities;
- changing demographics and their impact on the urban fringe;
- inconsistent planning policy;

CityRegion.Net

The role of cities in integrated regional development. Urban sprawl continues to be a predominant trend in European spatial development. Cities function as motors for social and economic development and are vital for common integrated planning. They are also basic service providers for the whole region. It is essential that urban development and planning goes hand in hand with integrated development of the hinterland. Discussions and moderated processes need to take place about duties and functions that could be shared between towns and their surrounding municipalities. Cooperations should be formed to guarantee the best use of public and private investments. By identifying best practices and by adapting these models to particular local needs the network aims to improve multilevel governance and counteract urban sprawl.

Challenges

These special challenges have been clustered:

1. Elaboration of common land use policies and instruments to avoid urban sprawl.
2. Definition of new financial instruments to meet the multiple tasks and projects of general interest.
3. The involvement of relevant key actors by (re-)defining the criteria for integrated regional development.

Key point of focus

The focus will be on two subthemes:

1. Planning tools and financing instruments for a sustainable city-hinterland development with the focus on:
- Tools for efficient land use and against suburbanisation;
- Tools for an efficient public transport system between city and its region;
- Tools for a sustainable economic development and the revitalisation of the city-centres;
- Tools for efficient environmental development;
- Definition of criteria for projects of common interest and possibilities of financing them;

2. Regional structures as basis for a successful cooperation with the focus on:
- Necessary regional structures for a successful city-hinterland (region) cooperation and methods of financing them;
- Shared functions and tasks;
- Special methodologies for cooperation between big city and smaller municipalities;
- Strategies on the involvement of key players and key investors;
- Legal preconditions for city-hinterland (region) cooperations;

CSI Europe, JESSICA (Making Financial instruments work for cities)
Our Project

The aim of the JESSICA initiative is to support "sustainable investment in cities". Through the implementation of the initiative, Urban Development Funds are emerging as potentially powerful tools to pursue sustainable urban transformation. CSI Europe will build upon the achievements to date to improve the effectiveness of current delivery and future potential.

The Network will focus on the involvement of cities in Urban Development Fund (UDF) structures and the way these instruments can be more effectively embedded in future city planning and governance. It will also strive to demonstrate the role that financial instruments can play in efficiently planning, progressing and administering urban development priorities, particularly in the context of the current economic and financial crisis.

Challenges

The starting situation is different for each of the partners but all see the potential benefits in using Financial Instruments to develop their cities and promote regeneration and economic development. All partners, however, have been frustrated by issues such as:

● unclear regulation from the European Commission;
● State Aid issues which make implementing JESSICA programmes difficult and affect the competitiveness of the funds;
● limited ERDF funding availability for operations;
● the difficulty of interesting private fund managers and investors;

In a number of cases, these are issues which one or more of the partners in the proposed network has already experienced and addressed and will therefore be able to provide first hand advice and support to other partners through the learning and exchange proposals put forward.

Key point of focus

● To better articulate the potential role of cities and city planning and governance with respect to financial instruments, by developing practical case studies.
● To highlight the merit of financially self-sustaining public intervention through revolving financial instruments and their role in addressing financial constraints and supporting city development plans and growth objectives.
● To explore and identify mechanisms to build on existing UDF's so as to ensure they are able to take advantage of new funding opportunities presented in the 2014 -2020 Structural Funds programming period.
● To provide practical feedback into the development of the Structural and Cohesion Fund Regulations and the preparation of the next programming documents in relation to sustainable urban development and financial instruments, to ensure that these reflect experience to date, lessons learnt and opportunities identified during the JESSICA implementation process.

LUMASEC (Land Use Management for Sustainable European Cities, completed 2010)
Our Project

LUMASEC deals with strategic land use management, as it is one of the most important topics for competitiveness, attractiveness and sustainability of European city-regions. Today, a definition of strategies of land use implementation is limited, and therefore the recycling processes of urban brownfields are inefficient. Strategic planning is mostly unable to manage land use.

Challenges

LUMASEC deals with strategic land use management, as it is one of the most important topics for competitiveness, attractiveness and sustainability of European city-regions. Today, a definition of strategies of land use implementation is limited, and therefore the recycling processes of urban brownfields are inefficient. Strategic planning is mostly unable to manage land use.

Key point of focus

LUMASEC focuses on both the strategic level (strategic planning methods, process of cooperation between public and private bodies, fiscal measures and observation tools) and the operational level (actions plans related to case studies) of land use management. Furthermore, LUMASEC will elaborate strategies, methods, tools and practical recommendations.

M-SPICE
Our Project

Development, implementation and dissemination of joint framework for spatial monitoring of strategic city plans to engage citizens and other stakeholders in local development.
M-Spice aims to develop and implement a joint framework to monitor local strategic plans to engage stakeholders/citizens in an integrated and sustainable approach. The aim is to disseminate the project results at strategic events during the course of the project. One starting point for the project will be the Monitoring progress tool, developed within the EU Reference framework for sustainable cities as a local contribution to relevant EU 2020 objectives.

NODUS (Linking urban renewal and regional spatial planning, completed 2010)
Our Project

Nodus is a project for a working group focused on the links between urban regeneration and spatial planning elements that influence regional development and spatial segregation. The working group is studying how spatial planning reckons with urban regeneration policies and projects - when it does - considering that spatial planning, related sectorial policies and urban regeneration policies are often determined by different administrative agencies or levels.

Challenges

The Working Group will have as its main objective to develop a series of recommendations for the improvement of the coordination of area-based urban regeneration policies and regional or metropolitan planning. It will have to take into account two major elements. On the one hand the importance of the relationships between urban regeneration and these sectoral policies with a spatial impact designed at a regional or metropolitan level, such as housing or transport infrastructures. On the other hand the difficulty that these distinct policy elements are defined by several agencies often belonging to different administrative levels, and thus lacking of connection and interaction.

The Nodus Working Group wants to tackle the issue of how urban regeneration projects are taken into account in the regional spatial planning processes and how do the latter determine urban regeneration and related sectorial policies.

Key point of focus

● Are spatial planners taking into account local urban regeneration policies as an input in their work?

● Which are the feedback effects between strategic/spatial planning and the definition or the impact of local urban renewal projects?

Smart cities (Citizen Innovation in Smart Cities, 1 May 2012- May 2015)
Our Project

Improving public services through an open innovation process.

In line with the EU Strategy 2020, the project intends to foster smart cities (and communities) that promotes social innovation and inclusiveness together with economic innovation and environmental sustainability. The main objective of the project is to develop a different picture of how public services could be organised through an open innovation process. The citizens are in the core of the system and the local authorities support their ideas to create new tools for improving their well-being.

Challenges

Within this framework, the present project will be centred on the co-production of socially innovative solutions to urban problems with a strong involvement of citizens and non-governmental associations - the so-called open innovation paradigm.

In an era of economic crisis, the co-creation of public services could improve service quality and reduce governmental spending. ICT enables stakeholders to involve themselves directly in how cities are run, through, for example, the development of citizen-designed applications (civic apps).

According to Siemens (2010) "*innovations to improve urban quality of life are no longer just top-down affairs (...) the unique power of ICT is that it enables citizens to get involved directly in designing solutions to the challenges of urbanization*". Moreover, "*cities are recognizing that armed with government databases, video and other information,*

individual citizens are coming up with applications for smart phones and other mobile devices that make living in and navigating their city easier and enjoyable".

Key point of focus

The objective of the project is to promote the exchange, dissemination and transfer of experiences and good practices among city authorities and practitioners on new models and tools for the co-production of public services in smart cities within the paradigm of citizen-innovation. It also aims to assist policy-makers and local stakeholders in the cities and managers of operational programmes under the Convergence and Competitiveness objectives to define action plans on sustainable urban development in this field, which may be selected for Structural Funds.

To create a European network of smart cities oriented to the co-creation of smart responses to societal challenges in the area of public services provision is the final objective of the project. The empowerment of citizens and communities in the governance process and the diffusion of innovative models of cooperation and social relationships are essential in an era where traditional mechanisms such as the State and the Market are no more adequate.

Summary: Assessment of URBACT projects

Joining forces has similarities to APRILab, in that it focuses on the inter-connected governance levels of the city and the region. It focuses on reducing competition between institutions, instead focusing on collaboration, and how to make the most out of public resources. It focuses on bringing together stakeholders from different sectors of society. It focuses on reducing urban sprawl in order to improve sustainability. And importantly, it focuses on defining the relevant scales for such inter-city cooperation. In this respect, the case cities may to some extent resemble some of the challenges of the APRILab fringe areas, in which inter-municipal collaboration often is necessary in order to deal with challenges. Finally, the objective is to observe the tools and mechanisms of governance through the concrete subjects.

Net-Topic has similarities to APRILab, in that it focuses on cities in the periphery, located close to a major city within a metropolitan area. It focuses on territorial fragmentation and post-industrialisation. It focuses on how these cities need to transform their governance when becoming more attractive urban areas, in that *", that they are transforming from peripheral cities to central cities, from residential to daytime cities (university, administrative or business centres), from industrial cities to technological/knowledge/services cities, from monofunctional to multifunctional cities.*" As such, these cities undergo much of the same transition as the fringe areas in APRILab

SURF is not an URBACT project, but it does focus on the urban fringe and the connection with sustainability. SURF also focuses on mixed land uses, especially issues of ownership and administration. And it focus on how to engage local communities.

CityRegion.Net has similarities to APRILab in that it focuses on urban sprawl, and how towns of their surrounding municipalities can cooperate and share duties and functions. The project also focuses on multi-level governance, especially when it comes to investigate what regional structures that are necessary in order to create a successful city-'hinterland'. The project further focuses on land use policies and new financial instruments.

CSI EUROPE, JESSICA focuses narrowly on how EU financial instruments can be better taken advantage of in cities in order to improve sustainability, especially experiences with Urban Development Funds as a financial instrument in the UK. As such, the project may be relevant for APRILab, in that it focuses on how cities can get access and exploit existing financial tools better.

LUMASEC (Land Use Management for Sustainable European Cities, completed 2010) has similarities to APRILab in that it focuses narrowly on strategic land use management in Europe, especially the recycling of urban brownfields. A book has been published that focuses on urban sprawl, brownfield and the need for integrated actions (http://urbact.eu/fileadmin/Projects/LUMASEC/events_media/final_products/LUMASEC_Book_final_short.pdf). As such, this project is relevant for especially APRILab's post-industrialisation cases.

M-Spice could have been relevant to APRILab (in that it focuses on engaging stakeholders in a strategic approach), but seems to have been cancelled already in the development phase in October 2012.

NODUS (Linking urban renewal and regional spatial planning, completed 2010) is relevant for APRILab, in that it focuses on how urban regeneration and the relation to spatial planning often is characterised by fragmentation, and thus lacks coordination. Further, NODUS focuses implicitly on multilevel governance, in that it links spatial planning practice with local governmental urban regeneration policies as well as regional policies such as housing or transport infrastructures.

Smart Cities (Citizen Innovation in Smart Cities, 1 May 2012- May 2015) focuses narrowly on how to innovate public services through open innovation processes. In this respect, the project has relevance for the APRILab project in that it focuses on tailored solutions to specific areas, and of co-production of these services. As such, it has similarities to the APRILab partner, AALTO University's, experiences with ICT in developing a sort of Urban Living Lab. The project also focuses on the involvement and empowerment of communities and citizens.

FP7 program research
Keywords: periphery; urban planning

The following FP7 programs have been located (see below). Characteristic of the program descriptions is that they contain less information than the URBACT programme. In order to obtain further information, direct contact to the programme coordinator is necessary. In the assessment of the FP7 programs I have only used the information on available websites. However, when digging deeper into the programs, only LUPUS and FUPOL have some sort of relevance, and only marginally:

- LUPUS
- Chance2sustain
- Shrinksmart
- FUPOL
- Sprawlescapes
- Urbliv
- Hombre
- Planshrinking

LUPUS[21]
Land Use Processes and Urban Sprawl. From 2011-08-01 to 2013-07-31 (LUPUS website).

Objective
Urban sprawl is a remarkable socioeconomic phenomenon that continues to generate attention across Europe and beyond. In its broadest sense, urban sprawl may be defined as the spreading out of a city and its suburbs over increasingly large areas of rural land at the periphery of an urban area and the consequent conversion of open space into developed land.

The research project described in this proposal explores the economic processes underpinning the phenomenon of urban sprawl. Its objective is to describe and explain urban spatial structure and its evolution. In particular, the project will investigate the role of the spatial distribution of environmental amenities in urban sprawl and the influence of future land development on agricultural land values.

The originality of this project is to consider urban sprawl as a simultaneous result of two mechanisms. On the one hand, the effects of the behaviour of households and firms and the development patterns that they engender in peri-urban areas, while on the other hand the influence of evolving land values and of developing agricultural and land use policies. This project will consider the literatures on these mechanisms and seek to identify new approaches to understand and limit urban sprawl.

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[21] http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/99633_en.html;

FUPOL[22]
FUPOL: Future Policy Modeling. From 2011-10-01 to 2015-09-30.

Objective

The FUPOL project proposes a comprehensive new governance model to support the policy design and implementation lifecycle. The innovations are driven by the demand of citizens and political decision makers to support the policy domains in urban regions with appropriate ICT technologies. It will specifically target domains such as sustainable development, land use, urban planning, urban segregation and migration. The scientific approach is based on complexity science. It aims at reducing the complexity through a comprehensive policy spiral design lifecycle approach deemed appropriate for complex societal problems. The outcomes of the project, designed in line with the ICT work program, include a new governance model to engage all stakeholders in the whole policy design lifecycle, a policy knowledge database, a cloud computing based comprehensive ICT Framework, multilingual training, piloting in Europe and China, large scale dissemination and a sustainable exploitation strategy.

The FUPOL framework to support the policy lifecycle contains major innovations, namely multichannel social computing, policy topic sensing and extraction, advanced visualization including integration with GIS, multilingual semantic analysis, advanced policy modelling and model repository, dynamic agent based simulation, cloud computing and IMS supported crowd sourcing.

FUPOL will lead to better policy decisions, more efficient implementation of government policies as well as better identification of consequences for citizens and businesses. The FUPOL consortium comprises innovative multinational companies, leading research institutes, high-level political organizations and strong pilot partners. It has a good balance and all the capabilities to achieve the ambitious tasks envisaged in the work plan. The strong involvement of the IT-industry ensures the exploitation of the results on top of the overall open-source strategy. It has potential to generate a huge impact in Europe and beyond.

Summary: Assessment of FP7 programs

In general, I find the FP7 programs only marginally relevant for APRILab:

LUPUS focuses on urban sprawl, and thus has some similarities with APRILab in its focus periphery, with an emphasis on economy. The project also focuses on evolving land values and parallel processes of behaviour of households and companies. The project may be relevant when considering the economic elements of mixed land use.

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[22] http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/100737_en.html

FUPOL is relevant to APRILab concerning its focus on how to involve stakeholders from various societal sectors in order to model policies. The project is perhaps theoretically relevant in that the ambitious project builds on complexity sciences. A handful of detailed documents is to be found on the website.

JPI-Urban Europe grants
(Source : JPI CALL 2012 Project Summaries Grants)

The following Urban Europe projects receiving grants may be relevant to contact in terms of their combination of citizen involvement in urban planning, using the Urban Living Lab method. However, little information is still available on these programs, but contact to these programs later on may be relevant in order to exchange experiences with the Urban Living Lab method.

b-Part: Building Pervasive Participation

Main applicant
- Dr. M. Baldauf FTW Telecommunications Research Centre Vienna

Co-applicants
- Dr. J. Åström Örebro University
- Dr. S. Ruoppila University of Turku

Title: *b-Part: Building Pervasive Participation*

Abstract
b-Part will investigate novel concepts and solutions for citizen e-participation utilizing latest mobile device technology and appliances embedded in today's urban environments. The proposed pervasive participation approach will consider each level of e-participation by enabling, engaging, and empowering citizens with the ultimate aim of encouraging a continuous dialogue between a city and citizens by using contemporary technology. In a highly interdisciplinary approach, involving end-users through Urban Living Labs, b-Part will combine user-centred pervasive interaction research with social studies to explore engagement and activation, and research on democratic innovations to ensure integration into the overall political decision making process. The research project aims to support development of pervasive participation in European cities and to strengthen the citizens' involvement in governance. Due to the steadily increasing penetration of smart mobile devices, on-going instrumentation of urban environments, as well as citizens' growing interest in e-democracy, b-Part represents a highly relevant and timely research endeavour.

CASUAL: Co-creating Attractive and Sustainable Urban Areas and Lifestyle - Exploring new forms of inclusive urban governance

Main applicant
- Prof. dr. P. Schmitt Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

Co-applicants
- Mr. B.S. Schuh Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning
- Dr. D. Stead Delft University of Technology

Title: *CASUAL: Co-creating Attractive and Sustainable Urban Areas and Lifestyle - Exploring new forms of inclusive urban governance*

Abstract

The project CASUAL intends to deliver robust and scientifically sound evidence regarding the question of how to promote sustainable living and consumption patterns by including citizen and consumer perspectives in the governance of urban areas. The project will develop new forms of inclusive urban planning in complex urban governance systems by exploring the urban living lab concept to assess its scope, feasibility and robustness regarding the mobilisation and integration of various stakeholders. The major goal of the project is to create and manage two '*Urban Living Labs*' at the neighbourhood level in Vienna ('In der Wiesen Ost') and Stockholm (Årsta and Östberga) to generate innovative ideas and scenarios as well as new trade-offs for sustainable urban development. This will be systematically explored and evaluated. In order to inform the work conducted in the urban living labs, three background case studies will be carried out to examine three closely related topics: (1) transit-oriented development and travel behaviour (The Netherlands); (2) mobility patterns and lifestyles (Austria); and (3) housing re-development and preferences (Sweden). The findings and derived 'good practices' from this project shall be analysed regarding their transferability to other social, institutional and issue-based contexts.

Social uplifting and modernization of suburban areas with Urban Living Lab approach

Main applicant
- R.J. Holopainen VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

Co-applicants
- G. Isgren City of Botkyrka
- P. Thörn MSc Swedish Environmental Research Institute
- Väkevä-Harjula MSc City of Riihimäki

Title: *Social uplifting and modernization of suburban areas with Urban Living Lab approach*

Abstract

The overall aim of the project is to examine how suburbs in less valued areas can be modernised and socially uplifted together with the residents and other stakeholders in order to turn these suburbs into more attractive, sustainable and economically viable urban areas. The project sets up Urban Living Labs in two less valued suburbs in Sweden and Finland as a mean to develop new forms of involving the residents and stakeholders in an urban context. The aim is to examine how the residents can participate in developing the innovations that are needed, how they respond to new technologies and what is the effect of resident and stakeholder involvement on increasing the social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The expected outcomes of the project are:

• New knowledge about how to utilize different Living Lab methods and approaches in modernization and social upgrading projects - Urban Living Lab approaches consisting of Living Lab methods and approaches, which have been proven to efficiently involve the residents as active co-creators in modernization and social upgrading projects of challenging suburban areas. The potential of the approach for up-scaling across Europe has been assessed. Solutions for modernisation and social uplifting of a specific problem in six case studies, through Urban Living Labs

The impacts of the research project are:

• Higher efficiency rate of modernization and social upgrading actions leading to, for example, higher energy savings and increased social cohesion in less valued suburbs - Increased interdisciplinary co-operation and information exchange between different fields of expertise, contributing to the development of Urban Living Labs

• Improved participation and engagement of users and stakeholders in Alby and Peltosaari - New knowledge about how participatory processes in suburban areas can be carried out in a rewarding manner

• Knowledge transfer between the City of Riihimäki and the Municipality of Botkyrka

Brief analysis of main papers of the EC

In this section, I make a brief analysis of the main papers of the European Commission with the purpose of establishing links to the mission of APRILab. I have been analysing relevant documents related to the background of the Joint Programming Initiatives[23][24]. Further, the Leipzig Charter has also been identified. In conclusion, I have identified that APRILab contributes knowledge relevant for ERA, the Lisbon Strategy, 'Europe 2020 — A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, more specifically, 'Innovation Europe', and the Leipzig Charter.

Joint Programming Initiatives: Urban Europe – Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions

JPI is a part of ERA, [25]European Research Area. In 2012, EC decided that ERA should "lead to a significant improvement in Europe's research performance to promote growth and job creation… This requires more cooperation so that the brightest minds work together to make greater impact on grand challenges (e.g. demographic-ageing, energy security, mobility, environmental degradation), and to avoid unnecessary duplication of research and infrastructure investment at national level. It also requires more competition to ensure that the best researchers and research teams receive funding - those able to compete in the increasingly-globalised and competitive research landscape". The ERA reform agenda focuses on six key priorities:

1. More effective national research systems;
2. Optimal transnational co-operation and competition;
3. An open labour market for researchers;
4. Gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research;
5. Optimal circulation and transfer of scientific knowledge;
6. Videos and Photos;

JPI contributes to the second priority: optimal transnational co-operation and competition. JPI states its mission as: "*The overall aim of the Joint Programming process is to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of Europe's precious public R&D resources and to tackle common European challenges more effectively in a few key areas*". It is a structured and strategic process whereby Member States agree, on a voluntary basis and in a partnership approach, on common visions and Strategic Research Agendas (SRA) to address major societal challenges. On a variable geometry basis, Member States commit to Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) where they implement together joint

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[23] http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/joint-programming_en.html;
[24] http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu/
[25] http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/era_communication_en.htm

Strategic Research Agendas. This overall mission was stated in July 2008 in a communication entitled "TOWARDS JOINT PROGRAMMING IN RESEARCH : Working together to tackle common challenges more effectively" [26]. In the communication, the Joint Programming in Research is part of the **Lisbon strategy**, having "*as its most urgent objective the transition to a knowledge-based society - with science, technology and innovation at its heart - and by calling for more and better investment in research. Europe must renew its efforts if it is to succeed. Above all, it must be prepared to think courageously and innovatively about how it organises its research.*" (p. 2).

The importance of jointly addressing global challenges has, according to the document '*Voluntary Guidelines on FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS FOR JOINT PROGRAMMING IN RESEARCH 2010*' been reiterated in the EC communication of 3 March 2010 '*Europe 2020 — A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*' [27], endorsed in the Council conclusions of 17 June 2010. As such, JPI is part of 'Europe 2020', EU's ten year growth strategy. In the communication 'Europe 2020', 'Joint Programming' is part of the flagship initiative 'Innovation Union'; one of the aims of this initiative is joint programming, stated as:

"*At EU level, the Commission will work: – To complete the European Research Area, to develop a strategic research agenda focused on challenges such as energy security, transport, climate change and resource efficiency, health and ageing, environmentally-friendly production methods and land management, and to enhance joint programming with Member States and regions*"

JPI-Urban Europe, has as its aim to "*coordinate research and make better use of Europe's public funds in order to:*
- *Transform urban areas to centres of innovation and technology;*
- *Realise eco-friendly and intelligent intra- en interurban transport and logistic systems;*
- *Ensure social cohesion and integration;*
- *Reduce the ecological footprint and enhance climate neutrality*" [28];

The mission of JPI is to as follows: "*Urban Europe aims to rethink and manage the increasing urban orientation and concentration in Europe in order to create and exploit synergy in an urbanised Europe, from an economic, social, environmental and transport-related perspective, leading to a strengthened global position of Europe.*"

And further: "*Urban Europe:*
- *represents a forward-thinking and long-term oriented, coordinated research initiative to shape urban development in times of global shift.*
- *is an integrative, interdisciplinary and horizontal approach across the interfaces of economy, society, mobility, and ecology, serving society by raising public awareness and acceptance, and consequently putting expertise into practice.*
- *promotes intensive interactions between researchers, policy makers, business and civil society, resulting in an innovative and impact-oriented approach.*

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[26] http://ec.europa.eu/research/press/2008/pdf/com_2008_468_en.pdf
[27] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:2020:FIN:EN:PDF
[28] http://www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu/About/What_is_JPI_Urban_Europe

● endeavours to become recognisable as the EU entry point open to all relevant stakeholders with an interest in urban development, in order to access, generate and share innovative knowledge, to provide pilot initiatives for innovations and link resources to regional and structural funds."

"The Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities"[29] (Final Draft on 2 May 2007) also has some similarities to the APRILab project. Despite the fact that the Leipzig charter, like the Covenant of Mayors[30], is mainly focused on sustainability, the Leipzig charter seems to focus on various aspects of sustainable cities. Here, the Ministers responsible for urban development in the member states, recommend that the member states make greater use of:

● integrated urban development policy approaches;
● pay special attention to deprived neighbourhoods within the context of the city as a whole;

Especially the first recommendation is relevant for APRILab, in that "*Integrated urban development policy is a process in which the spatial, sectorial and temporal aspects of key areas of urban policy are co-ordinated. The involvement of economic actors, stakeholders and the general public is essential (…)The reconciliation of interests facilitated by an integrated urban development policy forms a viable basis for a consensus between the state, regions, cities, citizens and economic actors. By pooling knowledge and financial resources, scarce public funds can be more effectively used. Public and private investments will be better coordinated. Integrated urban development policy involves actors outside the administration and enables citizens to play an active role in shaping their immediate living environment. At the same time, these measures can provide more planning and investment certainty.*"(p. 2) Here, concepts such as coordination, multi-stakeholder involvement, multi-level governance and public austerity is emphasized, concepts which are also fundamental to the APRILab project.

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[29] http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/archive/themes/urban/leipzig_charter.pdf
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APRILab

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