

URBAN CATALYST

strategies for temporary use



URBAN CATALYST is an EU research project on new strategies for the development of urban residual areas in European metropolises

Centrally located residual areas are increasingly important to the urban development of European cities. Revitalising these wastelands is often economically and politically difficult. Yet numerous unplanned uses emerge in these areas which often evolve into intensively used public and semi-public spaces, and become the starting point for new service and media enterprises. These unplanned uses are based on informal economies outside of traditional city planning and project development. Even though they offer great potential for urban and economic development as well as social integration and stabilisation, they are often displaced after a short period of time. The aim of **URBAN CATALYST** is to examine strategies for temporary use and to develop instruments and methods that absorb its potential into contemporary city management and urban design.

ANALYSIS

In the first phase of the research project the partners will examine the causes and characteristics of residual spaces as well as qualities and developments of existing temporary uses in five test areas in Naples, Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam and Helsinki.



POTENTIALS

The research project will speculate upon the potentials of temporary uses for long-term development of residual urban spaces. It will also identify existing obstacles in the development process and conflicts between different parties involved.



TOOLS

Based on this analysis the partners will propose a catalogue of new measures and tools for activating residual areas and for applying temporary uses as a basis for lasting urban development. This catalogue of means will consist of infrastructural, architectural, city-planning related, legal, economic, and city management-related measures.



SCENARIO

The developed tools will be applied to urban development scenarios for the five sites. Through the involvement of real estate owners, potential users and city administrations prototypical measures will be tested.



APPLICATION

The application of the research results will permit communities, city planners, project developers, and citizens to activate unused urban areas by optimising existing resources. New forms of project development make citizens into initiators and urban developers. As a result social structures are strengthened, creating active public spaces as well as a platform for long-term economic growth.



CONTACT

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Project idea and concept:

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Budget:

1,5 mill. Euro

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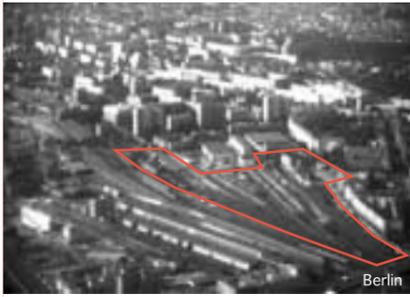
URBAN CATALYST is a research project of Key Action 4 "City of Tomorrow & Cultural Heritage" from the programme "Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development" within the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Union.



NETWORK



As part of the project the internet-based communication platform Urban-Os will be developed as a software tool to activate urban wastelands by means of temporary activities. As a development tool it will help cities to exploit the potential of temporary use by providing a transparent on-line platform for users, real-estate owners and municipalities. Users will be able to exchange and collect information as well as conduct transactions associated with urban space. Urban-Os will also be a publishing forum for the **URBAN CATALYST** project. The interactive database system behind Urban-Os will facilitate communication between researchers and the public, and provide a forum for issues relating to temporary use.



Berlin



Helsinki



Naples

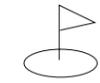


Vienna



Amsterdam

RESEARCH SITES



Berlin Germany

The Berlin test area is a disused railway site adjacent to Berlin Ostbahnhof, a huge railway station in the Eastern part of the city. The site includes a large number of vacant buildings of different types as well as large open areas, that have developed into a temporary platform for a highly diversity of entrepreneurs and emerging cultural and social programs.

Helsinki Finland

The research area is located in the immediate surroundings of the Helsinki main railway station and the main railway zone north of it. Despite its vast potential (central location, available open spaces etc.) the area has remained rather unexplored. The research will focus on a variety of temporary uses such as a flea market, open-air concerts, art exhibitions and leisure activities that have emerged there in the recent years.

Naples Italy

The Flegreian Fields outside Naples have become a melting pot of illegal settlement, uncontrolled urban growth, military use and a wide range of temporary uses. At the same time the area is a famous archeological site.

Vienna Austria

Based on the analysis of rather established temporary uses around a cable factory that is awaiting commercial development, the local project team will evaluate strategies to transfer these uses to other centrally located residual areas.

Amsterdam The Netherlands

Over several years, the former docklands to the north of Amsterdam, have transformed into a breeding-ground for temporary uses.

PARTNERS



11 Partners from 6 European countries create an international research team

- Co-ordinator**
Studio UC Technical University of Berlin, Germany
- Comparison of the 5 local studies**
Nexus Institute for Co-operation Management and Interdisciplinary Research, Germany
- Software tool Urban-Os**
Deadline United Kingdom
- Helsinki Study**
Helsinki University of Technology Finland
- Amsterdam Study**
Universiteit Nyenrode Chair for Strategy and Transformation Management, Netherlands
City Administration Amsterdam-Noord Netherlands
- Berlin Study**
Studio UC Technical University of Berlin, Germany
City Administration of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Germany
- Vienna Study**
Municipal Council Vienna Austria
Haydn -Pirker Architects with Rudi Kohoutek Austria
- Naples Study**
Galotta & Tischer Architects and Planners, Italy
City - Landscape - Archeology Cultural Association, Italy
- Steering Committee**
Prof. Margaret Crawford Harvard University, Cambridge (urbanism)
Mag. Michaela Mischek Domizil Baurträger GmbH / Mischek Gruppe Vienna (real estate)
Robert Mull Head of School of Architecture and Interior Design, University of North London (architecture)
Prof. Saskia Sassen University of Chicago (sociology)
Joost Schrijnen City of Rotterdam (city administration)

