

Vision

Against the backdrop of an increasingly interconnected network of European and international cities, the future of Urban Europe lies in facing urban challenges head-on and subsequently generating European solutions by means of coordinated research. The aim is to create attractive, sustainable and economically viable urban areas, in which European citizens, communities and their surroundings can thrive.

Global trends, such as (rapidly) increasing urbanisation, put pressure on the urban system, giving way to negative externalities such as pollution, congestion, security issues, and social degradation. Demographic and climate change further impact the system, making it a necessity for scientists and policy makers alike, to look at effective ways in dealing with a fast-changing societal, economic and environmental reality.

At the same time our urban areas are also innovation hubs themselves, where knowledge, policy and practice come together to create innovative ideas, employ new technology and benefit from fresh insights into challenges, drivers of urban development as well as into solutions. Traditional roles of cities are constantly being redefined as demands for high-quality amenities and public services change. A thriving urban area must be able to ensure the sustainable accessibility and mobility of urban systems (including logistics) and simultaneously develop effective measures to minimise its ecological footprint.

The competitiveness of European urban areas in a globalised world depends largely on how fast innovative knowledge can be created, deployed and implemented. Addressing the whole innovation cycle, from the creation of ideas to the actual deployment of these initiatives into relevant and feasible products and (policy) tools, will boost the speed of innovation. In this way European urban areas can continue to be the motors of Europe's economic growth and vitality.

European urban areas are diverse and distinctive in their history and cultural heritage as well as in their ways in dealing with economic, social and environmental challenges. A focus on social participation is key, when facing urban challenges. The coordination of individual research actions in the urban field will ensure that European urban areas are not only aware of their own strengths and weaknesses, but are also confident, able to adapt and prosper in the international setting. It is crucial not only to understand the urban future, but to help shape it by making research on the European level more efficient and comprehensive.

Mission

The Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Urban Europe is a research and innovation initiative of EU Member States and Associated Countries. It was established in 2010 within the concept and framework of Joint Programming which was proposed by the European Commission and established by the Council of the European Union in 2008.

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.

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.
- 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.