



GREENCLUSTER

Integration and Joint Dissemination of European Research on Urban Green Spaces

Sigrun Farcher • Sandra Wohlleber • Hans Dieter Kasperidus • Kathleen Thiele • Department of Urban Regions
UFZ Centre for Environmental Research Leipzig-Halle • Permoserstraße 15 • D - 04318 Leipzig • urges.project@ufz.de • www.urge-project.org

Green open spaces in urban areas are essential for the citizens' quality of life and urban sustainability. As these areas tend to be used as a freely accessible public good, their full value is often under-appreciated, which leads to lack of investments and maintenance. Within the accompanying measure **GREENCLUSTER**, five ongoing EU-funded research projects are addressing, from different perspectives, the various functional values of green urban space: the economic, social and ecological values. They develop options and criteria for the development and maintenance of urban green. Rather than presenting the results of these individual projects to relevant stakeholders in a fragmented way, a co-ordinated presentation of the consolidated findings of the five projects should enhance their impact. www.greencluster.org



The objective of **BUGS** is to develop a methodology to assess the impact of green space and settlement patterns on urban environmental quality (traffic congestion, air quality, noise) and social well-being, and to formulate recommendations regarding the use of green space as a design tool in urban planning strategies. Particular care has been taken to obtaining feedback from the potential end-users, and to the efficient dissemination of the results.
Co-ordinator: Vito (Mol, B)
www.vito.be/bugs



URGE develops strategies for planning and management of urban green spaces. It combines aspects from the disciplines ecology, economy, sociology and planning into an interdisciplinary catalogue of criteria (ICC). The city partners play an important role by giving their feedback about the ICC to the scientific partners. This ensures the practical applicability of the elaborated criteria. The main output of the project will be a handbook, which gives guidelines for the planning of urban green.
Co-ordinator: UFZ Leipzig-Halle (D)
www.urge-project.org



Conference 1 „Approaches and Findings“

In the first conference the participants analysed and compared the different approaches taken in the five projects and inventorised their main findings. The conference took place at UFZ on 13/14 May 2003.

Review Report 1

The results of the first conference will be published in a Comparative Review Report.

Conference 2 „Tools“

A second conference will take the review a bit further by discussing the scientific achievements in these combined projects on the one hand and the practical toolkits to be derived from them on the other. Practitioners from the research sites will be invited to take part in this conference.

Review Report 2

This conference will result in a second Comparative Review Report.

Conference 3 „Consolidation“

A third conference, which will be open to outside researchers, practitioners and policy makers will be organised towards the end of the two years runtime. This is where a consolidated presentation of the common findings will be undertaken.

C O R D I N A T I O N

D I S S E M I N A T I O N



The special focus of **GREENSCOM** is on the underlying ways of communication and participation in decision making and the governance of the balance between urban open spaces and built up areas, a balance that should contribute to quality of urban life and the conditions for urban nature. In 14 case studies they analyse and assess existing instruments. Their main output is a toolkit for urban planners: for action, interaction and transition through the planning and management processes of urban growth and green. The city partners selected the following three main themes for the case studies: densification, urban fringe and management and maintenance.
Co-ord.: Alterra (Wageningen UR, NL)
www.greenscom.com



GREENSPACE looks at the various types of public open space in urban areas and tries to assess the different values attached to them and means to maximise the valued functions. To this end they combine qualitative and quantitative techniques, including visualisation, for an appropriate decision support system. The project brings together visualisation and GIS expertise from some institutes with decision support expertise of others and the urban ecological expertise from yet another partner.
Co-ordinator: UCD (Dublin, IRL) www.ucd.ie/~greenspace

R U R O S

RUROS develops a methodology for mapping the actual comfort conditions (thermal, visual and acoustic) of various public open spaces in different cities. This results in design guidelines to target the development of open spaces in new areas as well as the improvement of existing situations or interventions to the existing urban fabric. The design guidelines will have the form of "best practice guides" for municipalities and urban designers. This project will also identify a series of indicators for evaluating socio-economic implications of development of outdoor spaces for the area, applicable across Europe.
Co-ordinator: CRES (Pikermi, GR)
<http://alpha.cres.gr/ruros>

The **Interdisciplinary Department of Urban Landscapes at UFZ** as the co-ordinator of the URGE-Project is a member in the **GREENCLUSTER**, funded in the 5th Framework Programme of the European Commission, which started in February 2003 with a runtime of 24 months. The **GREENCLUSTER** is managed by a steering committee, consisting of the co-ordinators of the five participating projects and the senior advisor Prof. Dr. J. Breuste, University of Salzburg, and by the cluster co-ordinator Alterra (Wageningen UR, NL).