

The "Speakers' Corner" is a quarterly newsletter to provide information regarding the progress of the IP-work. It informs about ongoing processes, decisions and events. Its content is the result of the close consultation of IP-Speaker, Manager and WP-Speakers. In the event of queries or requests for additional information please do not hesitate to contact us.

WP-Research

In [WP 1](#) (Concepts/Synthesis) the first posters for the exhibition "[The change of Leipzig, reflected by UFZ urban research](#)" were finalized. The opening ceremony with the UFZ's executive management and the city authorities takes place on November 2nd at 6pm. Scientists from [WP 2](#) (Urban Land Use & UES) and WP4 organized the panel "The challenge for nature-based solutions: to be socially inclusive" at the [ALTER-Net conference](#) in Ghent, Belgium in May. Additionally, WP2 organized an international workshop on "Socio-environmental change in cities - governance challenges and potentials for transformation towards more sustainability" at UFZ with 20 experts. [WP 3](#) (Sustain. Water Infrastructures) further meetings with Leipzig's water supply company about possible cooperation took place. In [WP 4](#) (Env. Risks & Vuln.), two colleagues from Chile visited the UFZ in June and continued the cooperation on Climate change adaptation in Santiago de Chile. Daniel Hertel started in August his PhD thesis, financed through the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt. His work deals with climate modeling in urban areas.



Annual meeting of the entire IP UrbTrans consortium



During this year's annual meeting on July 6 several focal points of our IP research in Leipzig were visited. The IP-members were informed about flood risk areas and the demonstration center for decentralized waste water management in Leutzsch, the restructured large housing estate in Grünau and a brownfield re-use area in Plagwitz. A number of discussions with stakeholders to illustrate the collaboration between science and practice took place. The excursion also included a boat trip to discover the green and blue infrastructures of Leipzig's inner-city from a new perspective. Thanks to all the participants for the interesting discussions and the insights to your research!

International networks

This category of our Newsletter introduces some of the international networks of members of our IP:

- [PEER](#) is a partnership of eight of the largest European environmental centers. Since 2014 an own Working Group on Sustainable Urbanization exists; our IP is represented through K. Krellenberg.
- In this function she attended the Scoping Workshop of the [Belmont Forum on Food, Water & Energy for Sustainable Global Urbanization](#) (Boulder/Colorado, June 29 – July 02). During the event, future concepts for funding urban research collaborations were discussed.
- The [Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe \(JPI UE\)](#) is a European network on urban research, financed by the member states of this initiative. It aims to coordinate research on urban transformations towards sustainability. S. Kabisch was appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board.
- UFZ will be the German representative of the recently funded [Urban European Research Alliance \(UERA\)](#).

Call for Contributions for our IP-Book

Springer Editorial offered us the possibility to publish an edited book in their [Future City series](#). Our idea is to make this book a truly interdisciplinary volume, which reflects the work of our IP Urban Transformations: Sustainable development towards quality of life, resource efficiency and resilience. With this call we cordially invite you to contribute articles. Deadline for the submission of abstracts is August 31, 2015. [Further information](#)

GCITY_4D – „Heat Transformation in Urban Areas“



An [interdisciplinary workshop](#) on the use of geothermal energy in cities took place in the framework of the HGF urban research initiative. Participants came from our IP, the [IP EnergyLandUse](#), KIT Karlsruhe and GfZ Potsdam.

IP-Flashlights:

- IP-Member Nathalie Jean Baptiste received a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship to research unregulated growth, urban infrastructure and climate hazards in peri-urban areas in Tansania. She will remain as guest scientist at the UFZ.
- The consortium meeting of the EU-Project "[Divercities](#)" with 14 European partner institutions was held in June at UFZ. The project analyses how urban diversity can contribute to social cohesion, social mobility and economic performance.
- IP-Manager F. Koch participated in the [Future Earth Networking Conference](#) on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Results were published [here](#).