



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) an article on "[Urban Sustainability Transformations in lights of resource efficiency and resilient city concepts](#)" has been recently published in Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability. Furthermore, the Future Earth working group on [Urban Transformation - integrative urban research](#), which is organized by IP-members, has started its work. **WP 2** (Urban Land Use & UES): The EU-project EnRoute will be "Enhancing Resilience of Urban Ecosystems through Green Infrastructure" and supports our city networking strategy on the European level (D. Rink & E. Banzhaf). An inspiring perspective is introduced by J. Priess through the new Biodiversa project [UrbanGaia - Managing urban Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure to increase city resilience](#), in which we welcome our new team member and PhD student J. Palliwoda. In May, E. Gawel talked about "Financing ecosystem services of urban green infrastructure" at an annual meeting of German municipality representatives in Osnabrück. As member of the scientific advisory board, A. Haase co-organized the 2017 ALTER-Net conference on Nature & Society: Synergies, conflicts, trade-offs from May, 2-4, in Ghent, Belgium, and chaired a double session on Nature-society interactions in cities: a specific challenge in the 'Urban age'. Together with a group of international colleagues, several members of WP2 published a [positioning paper](#) on the interlinkages between greening in cities and social inclusiveness in Habitat International. In **WP 3** (Sustainable Water Infrastructures) E. Gawel published an innovative tariff model for sustainably pricing waste water services in "Korrespondenz Abwasser" together with business experts from "Hochschule Ruhr-West" based on empirical studies in the field. Furthermore, the 1st Urban Catchment Management & Economy - Workshop took place on 17th-18th May 2017 in Peking as part of the BMBF project SIGN. Related to this, the volume "Urban water management for future cities" (Edited by M. Reese, S. Köster and J. Zuo) will be published in spring 2018 by Springer. In **WP 4** (Environmental Risks & Vulnerability), the project [DE-US.net](#) a network of young and senior professionals interested in the "Zukunftsstadt – Future City" has started. The network facilitates the exchange of ideas as well as the access to expert knowledge and markets in Germany and the USA. Members pursue exchange in this network, because they want to provide solutions for sustainable and better living in the city of tomorrow. DE-US.net is coordinated by S. Bartke (project leader) and R. Schwarze. Current central topics include integrated re-/development in the urban context, smart cities and neighborhoods, stakeholder engagement and a forum for urban development. Members of WP 4 have successfully applied for a project funded by the "European Research Area for Climate Services" ([ClimAlert](#)). Recently, the European Commission published the report on [Science for Disaster Risk Management 2017](#). WP4 Member C. Kuhlicke was involved in the topic "risk perception".



IP Book Urban Transformations



Our [IP Book](#), a joint synthesis product with contributions from all IP Urban Trans Working packages as well as other urban-related UFZ work, will be published in August 2017. The book contains work on technical and social and environmental solutions for implementing urban transformations. A benefit for the audience is easy access to research which has been realized in a broad array of disciplines and to widen the view on possible paths for sustainable urban transformations.

Cities and the future of the Energiewende

[CLE-Interview with R. Schwarze](#): Cities is where the future of the Energiewende and Germany's compliance with the Paris Agreement will be decided. With the next big phase of energy transition being heating, mobility, and buildings, cities are becoming central as these fields are less influenced by federal framework legislation. The cities hold the key levers there. A problem could be their constitutional autonomy. As the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement are binding internationally, they must become binding as federal framework legislation to all localities, cities should at least receive the economic incentives to implement them, Schwarze argues.

IP Flashlights

- On 15th of June, 1 pm- 2.30 pm, R. 255, P. Cabrera Barona, (University Salzburg) will give a talk on: "From The 'Good Living' to The 'Common Good' An economic-spatial perspective to analyzing urban social-ecological systems".
- From July to September 2017, Chihyu Chen from National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan will visit our IP. She gained a DAAD funded scholarship and will work in WP4 on micro climate modelling and urban planning.
- Our new IP Pool Doc, Juliane Schicketanz will start her work at UFZ on the 1st of July. The focus of her work will be on assessing socio-spatial impacts on health of children in urban areas.