



The "Speakers' Corner" provides information regarding the progress of the research within the IP Urban Transformations. It informs about ongoing processes, decisions and events. Its content is the result of the close consultation of IP-Speaker, Manager and WP-Speakers.

IP News

New UBA-project NepoBok by Nadine Pannicke (ÖKON) starting in December 2019: The project will show pathways to utilise de-sealing potentials in Germany for restoration of soil functions to foster climate adaptation. Together with IÖR Dresden and Stadtland GmbH, land recycling potentials will be collated and governance recommendations for integrating de-sealing measures into region specific action programmes for e.g. flood prevention and creating green spaces and fresh air corridors will be elaborated.

The Kick-off meeting of the **EC-funded project REGREEN (Ellen Banzhaf/SUSOZ)** took place in Aarhus in October 2019: It involved intense exchanges between researchers and practitioners of the urban living labs. A first site excursion to potential nature-based solutions interventions in Aarhus, Denmark, exemplified the range of needs, their scales and approaches in different neighbourhoods.



Research on ecosystems under pressure in large urban Indian cities along the Himalayan Mountains started in October: Our new PhD candidate, **Anees Mangalasseril Mohammad** will investigate the human impact in ecologically fragile mountainous urban areas by exploring remote sensing techniques, GIS, social data sets and statistical tools. Delineating a pathway for strengthening resilience of the urban ecosystem in understudied Himalayan urban centres is an important goal of this study.

Annegret Haase attended the 10th conference of the international network **Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP)** in Hannover from 21-25 October 2019: Together with **Jörg Priess** (UFZ, CLE, IP Urban Transformations), Nina Schwarz (University of Twente) and other partners from the Biodiversa project Urban Gaia she chaired a two-slot session on "Urban Green Infrastructure: factors shaping urban ecosystem services and disservices". The 9 papers presented dealt with different factors influencing the provision of ecosystem (dis)services in cities; also ambivalence e.g. between provided and perceived services were discussed. All papers showed a close relationship between the provision of ES and EDS, local and supra-local context factors and the impacts of this interaction on health and well-being of urban populations.



As member of the JPI Urban Europe delegation **Sigrun Kabisch (SUSOZ)** took part in the **World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders (UCLG)** in Durban, South Africa, from 11-15 November 2019: A major focus of the conference was on urban resilience at local level towards extreme events (climate extremes, fire, volcano eruption, earth quakes, terrorist attacks) and urban crises (rising amount of people on the move) and how communities can be prepared adequately. JPI Urban Europe organised an interactive session on Urban Living Labs to strengthen participative approaches and mutual learning from Global North and Global South.

As part of the **Climate Impact and Vulnerability Assessment 2021**, **Reimund Schwarze (ÖKON)** participated in an expert workshop on „Industry and Trade“ that took place on 11 October 2019 at the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) in Berlin.

Upcoming events/ Save the date

IAPS 2020 "Running out of time: Setting the pace for future generations", 22-26 June 2020. The International Association for People-Environment Studies (IAPS) addresses in its conference time as slow and fast, as close and distant. Time as the seconds, days, months or years affecting the uses and representations of the built and natural environment at all scales. **Deadline for proposals is 15 December 2019** (all types of proposals except symposiums). Further information is available here: <https://iaps-association.org/blog/iaps-conference-2020/>



Scientific workshop and training event within the Training Network "RE-CITY. Reviving shrinking cities" from 20-24 January 2020

at the UFZ (KUBUS): On Monday 20 January 2020 a

workshop on "Urban Resilience in a complex and contested world: promises and challenges of cross-concept and multidisciplinary perspectives" will bring together about 25-30 scientists from across Europe including resilience experts from the UFZ. Erik Andersson from Stockholm Resilience Centre and Rüdiger Wink from HTWK Leipzig are invited as keynote speakers. During the training event 15 international PhD fellows will get insights into the research on urban transformations towards sustainability at the UFZ, which is involved as partner within the training network. If you would like to participate at the workshop or training event, please contact **Annegret Haase** or **Janine Pößneck** (SUSOZ; annegret.haase@ufz.de, janine.poessneck@ufz.de).



REVIVING SHRINKING CITIES

innovative paths and perspectives towards livability for shrinking cities in Europe

IP Urban Transformations Workshop on 26 February 2020 (13:00-17:00): We invite **all scientists within the IP Urban Transformations** to join for a workshop on future collaboration within the POF IV phase. We would like to discuss future research topics as well as appropriate forms and products of collaboration in order to strengthen our synergies. **Please save the date** – an invitation with further information will be sent out soon.

International Workshop „Resilient Cities: Promises and Paradoxes" from 25-26 May 2020 at the UFZ: The ambition of this workshop is to develop a shared understanding of the current state of the scientific engagement with "resilient cities" by focusing on some of its underlying assumptions and by unravelling potential implications. For further information contact [Mariana Madruga de Brito](mailto:Mariana.Madruga.de.Brito).



International conference "Sustainable & Resilient Urban-Rural Partnerships" under the auspices of BMBF Minister Anja Karliczek (25-27 November 2020, KUBUS Leipzig):

URP2020 aims at developing new urban-rural imaginaries integrating strategies and projects that explore present and future potentials in terms of sustainability and resilience. The conference connects scientific insights and enlightening projects in practice. The [Call for Sessions](https://www.urp2020.eu) is open till **17th January 2020**. For further information go to <http://www.urp2020.eu> or contact the conference chairs **St. Bartke** (OEKON, Federal Environment Agency/UBA) and **Sigrun Kabisch** (SUSOZ).

PhD defence

Maximilian Ueberham successfully defended his PhD-thesis entitled "Dynamic assessment of multifactorial exposures to urban environmental stressors" at the UFZ on 30 October 2019. It was submitted to the Faculty of Physics and Earth Sciences at University of Leipzig. His supervisors were Prof. Uwe Schlink and Prof. Ulrike Weiland. The commission was chaired by Prof. Sigrun Kabisch.

Conceptual Research on Urban Transformations

Since the start of our IP in 2014, IP members have continuously worked on the **conceptual framing** of urban transformations. Selected publications are presented in the following section. The full list of IP publications can be accessed on www.ufz.de/urban.

Selection of Special Issues and (peer-reviewed) Articles

Andreas Zehnsdorf (UBZ) and **Sonja Knapp** (BZF), together with Sebastian Schmauck (BfN) published a paper on the "Biodiversity Impact of Green Roofs and Constructed Wetlands as Progressive Eco-Technologies in Urban Areas" (*Sustainability* 11, 5846; doi:10.3390/su11205846). They provide an overview on the state of knowledge about the biodiversity of these increasingly important elements of urban green infrastructure and show how these elements can be designed in order to promote biodiversity best. [LINK](#)

Zehnsdorf, A.; Trabitzschn, R. (2019): Sumpfpflanzendächer – Stand der Anwendung und Forschung. PROJEKT Forschungsgründach. UFZ. [LINK](#)