

SHRINK SMART: Governance of Shrinkage within a European Context

7 FP Project, May 2009-April 2012, grant agreement no. 225193

Policy Informing Workshop Brussels, 26 March 2012

In recent decades, urban shrinkage (depopulation) has affected a large number of European cities. Indeed, in the post-industrial age of demographic change shrinkage has become a normal path for many European cities. Across the continent *cities and regions have experienced economic downturns, out-migration and demographic imbalances*. Shrinkage has impacted upon cities in a variety of ways, and it is often certain districts of a city or arenas of urban development which are especially affected. As a result of the increasing impact of demographic change, shrinkage is likely to continue into the future, and population loss can have an impact upon many fields of urban development - such as housing, job market, technical and social infrastructure, the municipal budget, land use and environment. Thus, in the coming decades urban shrinkage represents one of the major challenges for urban Europe, and especially in regards to governance and policy responses. Despite this, shrinkage is still under-researched as both a phenomenon and its implications for urban development and governance solutions. Shrinkage lacks of a sufficient body of comparable knowledge – academically, but also for *appropriate action*.

Given this background, the EU 7 FP funded project SHRINK SMART. It studies how the challenge of shrinkage is met by policies and governance systems in different types of shrinking urban regions. The project is based upon comparative case studies from seven urban regions throughout Europe. Different trajectories of shrinkage have been analyzed, the main challenges for urban policy identified and alternatives for planning and urban governance elaborated. This has involved the evaluation of strategies, instruments and tools to cope with shrinkage and its impacts.

It is the aim of the Policy Informing Workshop to present the gathered knowledge to the political and academic public and to discuss the main findings. In doing so, shrinkage shall be highlighted as being an *important challenge on the political agenda of Europe*. Together with experts and representatives from the European Commission, relevant directorate-Generals, institutions and organisations it will be discussed how shrinking cities could be supported by various EU policies, programmes and initiatives like Europe 2020, the European Reference Framework for sustainable cities, the JPI Urban Europe, Social Polis etc.

The target audience of the workshop are governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, EU-politicians, urban researchers and officials interested in the topic of urban affairs.

The workshop will take place at the Fondation Universitaire in Brussels. Please address questions to Dieter Rink (dieter.rink@ufz.de) or Annegret Haase (annegret.haase@ufz.de).

Policy Informing Workshop

Shrink Smart

The governance of shrinkage in Europe
Challenges and Prospects

Monday, 26 March 2012, 9 am to 12.30 pm
Fondation Universitaire, rue d'Egmont 11, 1000, Brussels

Draft programme

- 9.00 am **Welcome**
- 9.05 am **Talk 1 Prof. Dieter Rink**, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, UFZ, Leipzig
Addressing urban shrinkage across Europe. Key results of the Shrink Smart project
- 9.30 am **Statement Fritjof Mothes**, Urban planner, Leipzig
- 9.45 am **Spotlights from SHRINK SMART case studies**
- Dr. Robert Krzysztofik**, University of Silesia, Sosnowiec
Breaking the taboo: Bringing shrinkage into the agenda in Bytom
- Dr. Caterina Cortese**, La Sapienza University, Rome
Demographic change, cohesion and urban regeneration: The case of Genoa
- Dr. Matthew Cocks**, John-Moores-University, Liverpool
From long-term shrinkage to re-growth: Experiences from Liverpool
- 10.30 am Discussion
- 10.45 am Coffee Break
- 11.00 am **Talk 2 Prof. Chris Couch**, John-Moores-University, Liverpool
Strategic planning and shrinkage: Lessons learned
- 11.20 am **Talk 3 Dr. Annegret Haase**, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research UFZ, Leipzig
Urban shrinkage – an issue for European involvement
- 11.45 am **Statement Dr. Dirk Gebhardt**, response from the perspective of EURO CITIES Network, Brussels
- 12.00 Discussion
- 12.30 pm **Conclusion Dr. Heiko Prange-Gstöhl**, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation
- 12.45 pm Eat, Drink and Meet