



shrink smart

Governance of Shrinkage within a European Context

2009-2012 Grant agreement no. 225193



Head of the Project:

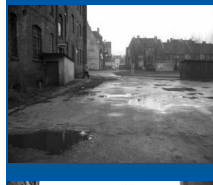
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Expected results

- comparable analyses of local pathways of shrinkage and its impact upon urban development in seven case studies and conurbations
- understanding of the interplay of urban shrinkage and local governance arrangements
- highlighting of the cross-cutting challenges that urban shrinkage creates for local governance
- knowledge for action: strategies, tools and policy recommendations

Policy Implications

- developing policy-recommendations for a more sustainable approach towards shrinkage that can be generalized and applied to other regions
- generating strategies for the improvement and adjustment of policies and planning instruments towards the situation in shrinking cities and their adjacent or functional urban regions
- establishing a network of experts on the phenomenon of shrinking urban regions
- discussing the findings with practitioners and policy-makers in order to improve transferability of knowledge into action



Idea and Innovation

It is the major goal of SHRINK SMART is to study the role of policies and governance systems in different types of shrinking urban regions. The project is based on comparative case studies from seven urban regions throughout Europe with a focus on disadvantaged urban regions in Eastern and Southern Europe.

SHRINK SMARTs potential for innovation lies particularly in the following areas

- a) tackling shrinkage as a “normal pathway” of urban and regional development;
- b) examining different (national and local) European pathways of shrinking urban regions and related challenges for local governance arrangements in a comparative manner;
- c) explicitly seeking practical solutions related to different types of shrinking cities and their needs.

Urban shrinkage is understood as an empirical phenomenon resulting from the specific interplay of different macro-processes at the local scale. Urban shrinkage occurs when the specific interplay of various factors leads to population decline, which is considered to be the main indicator. SHRINK SMART explores these causal relationships and underlying dynamics of shrinkage, as well as the impacts on different fields of urban development.

Urban governance is understood as an analytical term that draws attention to the interplay between a broad range of public and private actors in determining the common affairs of cities.

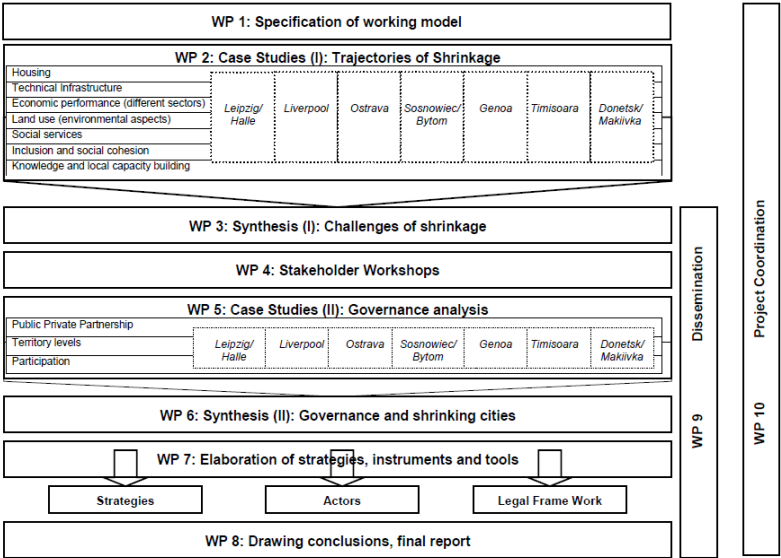


Project consortium

- Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Leipzig (Germany)
- John-Moores-University Liverpool (UK)
- Ostrava University (Czech Republic)
- Silesian University Katowice (Poland)
- University of Nottingham, School of Geography (UK)
- University La Sapienza, Roma (Italy)
- West University of Timisoara (Romania)
- Industrial Economics Institute Donetsk, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (Ukraine)



The SHRINK SMART project structure



The project is subdivided into four phases (I-IV).

Phase I comprises the theoretical and methodological preparation of the following case study analyses as well as in-depth work.

Phases II and III are allotted to the case studies. In Phase II, local pathways of shrinkage and resulting challenges for different fields of urban planning are to be identified. Phase III considers the governance analysis based on the findings from Phase II research.

Phase IV finishes the whole endeavour by drawing conclusions, writing the final research report as well as disseminating the project's results.