Potentials for inter-municipal co-operations in functional urban areas

Executive Master in Cities LSE _ Urban Consultancy Project / Draft

Proposal

Polycentric urban clusters, patterns of intermediate density (Dijkstra, 2014) in functional metropolitan areas or chains of medium sized individual towns along transport corridors are typical urbanization patterns across Europe. Land-use or mobility patterns have already been subject to research (i.e. Diener et al, 2006, Reicher et al, 2011, WGBU, 2016). Concrete possibilities of co-operation and co-ordination across municipal boundaries, however, have only recently entered planning discussions (ESPON, 2017). This is where this research proposal intends to make a contribution.

The proposal is made to the EUROCITIES’ working group on metropolitan areas. It suggests to identify potential benefits and beneficiaries of a co-ordinated approach to land-use in a series of concrete case studies in four selected stakeholder areas of the SPIMA study (or other locations of working group members’ interest). The study will be based on the methodologies and results of the ESPON report. Complementary to the report, which draws the “large picture”, the four pilot studies will focus on specific areas in a much smaller scale. The main objective will be to pin point concrete potentials for bi- or multilateral gains of co-operation and co-ordination. On one side, actual spatial patterns and uses, built form, left over spaces and regeneration needs will be analysed to describe incentives and triggers for co-ordinated planning. On the other, existing or developing governance structures will be taken into account. As a result, a project-scheme will be defined for each case study, that has the potential for real implementation. It helps to break down the long-term effort of European policies to local needs of stakeholders and function as a catalyst and anchor for identification.

The analysis will address spatial, social and economic characteristics alike. It will use the mixed method approach refined in the last decade in the LSE Cities Urban Age program (Burdett et al, 2013), which comprises elements of mapping, visualisation of data sets, qualitative interviews as well as literature research. In addition, the six-month study will draw upon international precedents of development projects, that have experimented with or applied co-ordinated planning across jurisdictional boundaries (i.e. The Brussel Canal Vision, Emscher Park Ruhr, Glattal Stadt in Switzerland or Rebuild by design in the NYC Bay). It will summarize their inputs, outputs and outcomes and test their applicability to the case studies.

The proposal is part of the Executive Master in Cities program at the LSE and therefore doesn’t require any financial involvement of the external partners. We would hope to present
the general approach of the project in the working group’s meeting in September 2018 to get feedback from the experienced assembly on the approach and early findings. Subsequently the pilot locations should be identified and agreed upon. Any advice on areas of particular disposition for the research or special interest from members would be very much appreciated before or during the meeting. Individual local support by stakeholders in the project areas to facilitate access to existing research and availability for a few key interviews would be essential for the success of the proposal. In December, intermediate results can be discussed, the final report will be delivered at the end of the first quarter of 2019.
**Background _ LSE Executive MSc. in Cities**

The Executive MSc in Cities is designed for public, private and third sector leaders to deliver large-scale change in cities. The programme provides interdisciplinary courses focused on applied research, and brings together leading professionals from international, national and metropolitan organisations as well as companies and corporations involved in shaping the urban world. The participants work across complex and connected issues and analyse urban projects and policies from rigorous economic, social and environmental perspectives. They execute consultancies for C40 and RC100 during the course, and offer their research work at the disposal of an international organisation in a six-months final consultancy project. This setting guarantees the relevance of the research issue in practical terms. On the other hand, it offers leading institutions a stake in the LSE’s approach to foster innovation and resilient development, consequently integrating physical, economic and social aspects of urbanization.

**Background _ Participant**

Ute Margarete Meyer comes from the background of architecture and urban planning (Universities of Stuttgart, Rome and Columbia NYC) with twenty years of working experience. Apart from being the founder and director of a planning and consultancy practice in Stuttgart (bueroschneidermeyer) she is a Professor for Urbanism and Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Applied Sciences Biberach (since 2007). Lately, her research has focussed on the polycentric urban patterns in the Southwest of Germany between Stuttgart, Munich and Zurich. Apart from an ongoing academic research in the field, she succeeded to bring together majors from some of the cities in that area to approach concrete inter-municipal projects in land-use under the umbrella of a transfer-research project.
References


