

[\[Home\]](#)

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

AND SOCIAL POLARISATION

URSPIC

(Urban Redevelopment and Social Polarisation in the City)

Following a call for proposals by the European Community for its programme of Targeted Socio-Economic Research (DG XII, Framework IV), IFRESI co-ordinates a research at the European scale on the theme:

Urban Redevelopment and Social Polarisation

URSPIC

The purpose of this programme is the analysis of the mechanisms of social polarisation in urban Europe. The investigation of thirteen big projects of urban development must enable to study the different forms of social exclusion /integration, to determine its causes, to examine the impact of social, economic and spatial policies and to suggest innovations in the field of urban policy.

Objectives

Common theoretical perspectives and methodological procedures have been adopted by the research teams participating in the project, in view of meeting the four following objectives:

- 1) to analyse 13 large scale urban regeneration projects and their factors of polarisation, exclusion and integration;
- 2) to study the relations between the global mechanisms of economic restructuring and the process of integration /exclusion at the local level;
- 3) to evaluate the impact of the institutional and political environment and of public policies , for each spatial scale (local , regional and national) as well as their interactions;
- 4) to develop a methodology enabling a transversal analysis of these dynamics for the different members states of the European Union.

Thirteen large scale projects

The thirteen selected cities belong to urban regions significantly affected by the processes of globalisation, and characterised by important mechanisms of social polarisation (figure 1).

Figure 1: Main features of selected case studies

Type of towns	Stage of the project		
	Design	Construction	Commercialisation
World cities		ROTTERDAM (RANDTAD HOLLAND) KOP VAN ZUID LONDON THE SOUTH BANK PROJECT	
Euro-City	BERLIN ADLERSHOF		BRUSSELS Espace LEOPOLD
Big town	COPENHAGEN	LISBON EXPO 98	

	ORESTADEN DUBLIN INTERN.FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRE ATHENS OLYMPIC VILLAGE	VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTER	
Secondary Town		BILBAO ABANDOBARRA BIRMINGHAM CBD	NAPLES CENTRO DIREZIONALE LILLE EURALILLE

Stages of the research programme and methodological procedure

- 1) Development of a theoretical and conceptual framework;
- 2) Analysis of each stage of development in; the different projects
- 3) Comparative analysis of the Large Scale Urban Development projects (UDPs) and of the influence of European and national policies;
- 4) Proposals in terms of socio- economic policy and synthesis of the research.

For each UDP, we will demonstrate the importance of the spatial dimension of the mechanisms of exclusion/integration by showing the local repercussions of the "mundialisation"

(figure 2).

Picture 2. **The different orientations of the program**

State of the literature

- Synthesis of recent work on exclusion, integration, social polarisation, globalisation and local development
- Evaluation of the socio-economic restructuring in the European Union

Elaboration of a common methodology based on a holistic procedure

- multidimensional approach
- dynamic approach
- community approach
- qualitative analysis

Dynamics of the mechanisms of exclusion and integration

- Fragmentation of the local labour market
- Incidences on local public expenditures
- Destruction and restructuring of housing
- Functional transformations

Institutional dynamics

- Local socio-economic culture
- Nature and role of different local actors
- Relations between private and public sectors
- Powers and competencies of the various authorities, from the local to the European scale.

Spatial dynamics

-Interactions of the different levels: local , regional , national and European.

-Interdependence of the markets : production , labour, finance...

Comparative analysis and European policy

- Lessons from comparative research

- Identification of the articulations between the European Union policy

and the mechanisms of exclusion / integration at the European scale

- Recommendations for socio- economic policy

Actors

The participants in the programme are distinguished academic university researchers, specialists in spatial economy and particularly in urban socio-economics .Most of them have already taken part in international research devoted to urban and regional social exclusion.

Coordinator and partners :

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[\[Home\]](#)