

Promoting Urban health across disciplines & sectors

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A multitude of urban factors influences human health determinants. For modern urban planning & development, health plays a crucial role but is only one concern among many.

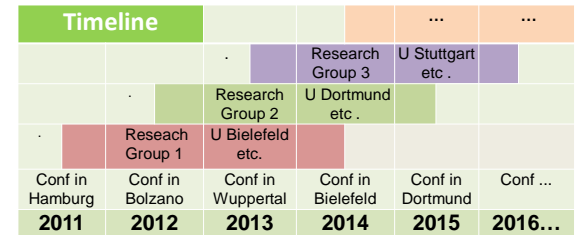
Urban governance needs to react to profound, ongoing changes and to multiple interests. Societal sectors and scientific disciplines are challenged regarding communication, prioritization, and balancing of interests.

In order to strengthen health concerns in urban planning and development, an initiative was launched in 2011, with a focus on improving cooperation between disciplines and sectors. Funded by the Fritz and Hildegard Berg Foundation [A], the initiative includes a series of conferences and dedicated research groups.

Thus, a considerable network on Urban Health is emerging. Annual conferences bring together researchers and practitioners from relevant disciplines and sectors. Research groups, selected in a criteria-based procedure [B], involve doctoral students, post-docs, senior researchers. Each group includes 5 scholarship holders and is funded for 3 years.

Preliminary conclusions

- There is strong and sustained interest in Urban health; multiple disciplines and sectors have demonstrated their willingness and ability to cooperate
- Not only concepts, terminologies, methods and tools differ between disciplines / sectors, but (unsurprisingly) also values & interests
- While a transdisciplinary understanding of urban complexity seems already evolving, the "litmus" test of success refers to demonstrable improvements in urban practice.



Topic	Current dynamics
Humans Individuals, Populations, diversity	• Demographic change • Migrations
Sustainability Ecologic / Economic / Social	• Variable priorities • Growing "Social divide"
Environment Physical / Social; (Mega-)Cities	• Climate change • Technological change
Health Determinants / consequences	• Epidemiologic transition • (Multiple) Interactions
Policy & Planning Policy cycle, Actors, Participation	• Co-benefits paradigm • Renaissance of "Commons"

Conferences	Hamburg 2011 HafenCity University / City Planning & Regional Development	City of the Future: Green & healthy? Sustainable & health-promoting development of urban areas in the 21st century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health, health gaps, determinants, stressors, risks, patho- / salutogenesis • City & Regional Planning incl. development concepts, services of public interest • Environment Sciences, neobiota, urban farming, microclimate, material fluxes • Economy, sustainability, "commons", incentive schemes, market, cooperatives • Urban green & blue, prevention, population subgroups, inclusion, equity, aging 	Excursion: Guided tour of HafenCity [C] [D] [E]
	Bolzano 2012 Free University of Bozen-Bolzano / Faculty of Science & Technology	City of the Future: Green, healthy & worth to live in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity, ecosystem services, carbon metabolism, Building exhibition, multiple values • Climate protection, trend scenarios, low carbon city, modal shift, ecosystem assessment • Green buildings, innovations, vertical farming, zero emission lifecycle, vulnerability • Megacities, developing countries, slums, life expectancy; Planning law / tools • Healthy communities, Public Health service, participation, project cycle 	Excursion: Guided tour of Bolzano Old town [F] [G] [H]
	Wuppertal 2013 Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment & Energy	Urban change – Opportunities for Climate, Environment, Health, & Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrinking cities; Urban actors, instruments, simulations, experiments • Climate protection: energy, transport • Urban health: resources, stresses • Transdisciplinarity 	Excursion by Aerial tramway [I] [J] [K]



Hamburg 2011 [D]



London Jubilee line, Westminster to Canning Town: 8 stops --- Δ life expectancy 5 yrs [L]



Bolzano 2012 [H]



Wuppertal 2013 [K]

Research groups	2011-2014: Consortium of 3 in D (lead = Bielefeld)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U Bielefeld / Department of Public Health (Envir.&Health; PopMed) • U Bonn / Institute of Hygiene and Public Health • Technical U Aachen (RWTH) / Department of Architecture 	Topic: CityLandscape and health ; Key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What contributions for human health from urban green and urban blue? • How to protect and optimize urban green and blue? 	Comparative study in 2 cities Bielefeld and Gelsenkirchen, both of which feature urban green and blue, and wide social differences [M], [N], [O]
	2012-2015: Consortium of 4 in D & NL (lead = Dortmund)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TU Dortmund University / Faculty of Spatial Planning • Fulda U of Applied Sciences / Public Health Institute • U Bremen / Institute of Public Health • U Twente, Enschede, NL / Faculty of Geo-Information Science 	Topic: City as a healthy place, independent of social inequality ; Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined analysis of saluto- / pathogenic influences • Innovative decision-support system 	International review of policy approaches; tool development; simulation game to be tested in Dortmund and Munich [P] [Q]
	2013-2016: Consortium of 4 in D (lead = Stuttgart)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U Stuttgart / Chair Exercise & Health Science; Institute for Landscape Planning and Ecology • Goethe U Frankfurt/Main / Department of Education • Robert Bosch Hospital Stuttgart / Geriatric Rehabilitation • Research Institute for Regional & Urban Development Dortmund 	Topic: The age-friendly city – Autonomy and sustainable mobility in times of climate change	Project currently being launched.

Thanks to Prof. Schlicht, U Stuttgart, for kindly permitting to include information on the 3rd research group.
Contact: rainer.fehr@uni-bielefeld.de – For geographic reference and URLs: see reverse side of poster handout.