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# EU Urban Sustainability Research

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# Content of presentation

- ➔ **Past activities: FP5 - Key Action “City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage”**
- ➔ **Current: FP6 – No urban research programme or chapter**
- ➔ **Future: content of FP 7**
- ➔ **Conclusions**





# The City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage

**Objective** to provide the means for local and regional stakeholders to implement sustainable development practices in their own local circumstances.

## Four interrelated themes

- Urban management and planning
- Cultural Heritage
- Sustainable built environment
- Sustainable Transport





# The original approach of the Key Action

- ➔ **Holistic approach and integration** as absolute requirements at the proposal evaluation stage
- ➔ Strong emphasis on the development of **affordable, effective and accessible tools** for the application of SD in urban areas
- ➔ **Involvement of all stakeholders** within the research-demonstration-dissemination phases
- ➔ Aims to improve **decision-making process towards local sustainable development**



# Decision-making process for sustainable development strategies





# The diverse outcomes of the Key Action

## → Content and objectives:

<http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/ka4/home.html>

## → Projects and clusters:

<http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/ka4/library.htm> (see directory of FP5 projects)

## → News and documents:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/environment/themes/article\\_1354\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/environment/themes/article_1354_en.htm)

## → Available deliverables: <http://www.sud-lab.com/> (see solutions)





# Urban research in FP6

- ➔ **No “urban research” programme as such**
- ➔ **Scattered efforts with a lower emphasis on the holistic approach**
- ➔ **Main support programmes:**
  - **Priority on “Global Change and Ecosystems” as the main focal point**
  - **Scientific Support to Policy**
  - **Coordination of national/regional research activities**
  - **Priority on “Citizens and governance in a knowledge based society”**





# Future prospects: FP7 (2007-2013)

- April 05 Communication on “*Building the Europe of knowledge*”
- 10 themes in total; Urban sustainability in the theme on « Environment » (€2.535 billions)
- Main policy objectives: Lisbon Strategy (competitiveness), 3%, Göteborg Strategy (SD), Environmental Technology Action Plan, Environment and Health Action Plan
- Core research aspect: integrated management and planning, using the conceptual framework developed in FP5 (see slide n°5)
- Focus on emerging problems such as sustainable growth (Lisbon), tourism, environment and health, increasing vulnerability of urban and coastal areas (vs. natural/man-made risks, oil price), population changes, globalisation
- More economic (e.g. external costs) approach
- Need for more demonstration





# Conclusions

- ➔ **Outcome of Key Action: Move from “SD theory to reality” made possible for the first time**
- ➔ **New range of tools/measures/ technologies is becoming available**
- ➔ **New conceptual framework for addressing urban R&D in an integrated way**
- ➔ **Prospects for FP7 look promising**
- ➔ **Need for more international cooperation**

