

## APPLICATION FORM

Title of Event: Linking Research and Policy Towards Sustainability - Exploring Paths Towards a Synoptic Approach

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### CONTEXT

According to last year's State of the World Population report by the United Nations, as soon as 2030, the towns and cities of the developing world will make up 81 per cent of urban humanity. Consequently, all sorts of scholars and national/international development and trade organisations have shifted their attention to the future of cities.

As we are witnessing an increasingly accelerated, dynamic and complex growth of urban systems, it can be observed that the causes and effects in relation to the evolution of cities are becoming increasingly difficult to trace. Many misconceptions regarding the roles of reflection (science and theory), planning (planning, policy), and realisation (urban development and management) exist. The limitations of fragmented science and research disciplines are often undervalued, the necessity for the careful, local implementation of technological solutions underestimated, and the political and ideological aspects of urban management underrated.

### OBJECTIVE

This networking event seeks to delineate a joint collaborative framework between reflection (science and research) and action (the practice of sustainable and harmonious urban policy, planning and management) in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

### DELIVERABLES

The event will re-contextualise the role of science and research within sustainable urban management and planning, and deliver a dialogue which explores the role of science for the 6 thematic dialogues of WUF4. In addition to an open discussion, a small scenario workshop will serve as a special means for networking and engaging the audience. The proceedings of the workshop will be documented and it is planned to publish selected results in the media related to the organising institution (e.g. the TRIALOG-Journal, N-aerus website).

### STRUCTURE

The event will be structured in three sessions, each containing 2-3 brief keynotes as well a discussion. The first session seeks to elaborate the context and challenge common perceptions. A general framework will be established by presenting a set of decisive trends which drive the formation of contemporary human settlements, which are increasingly urban. Following this, the practices of scientific research, urban development and policy will be scrutinised.

(What is the structural logic of contemporary science, technology, urban management and politics respectively?) Science will be contextualised here in a wider knowledge framework. This will lead to the discussion of a synoptic framework combining research and practice.

The second session will present a selection of state of the art methodologies of science and research projects in relation to harmonious and sustainable urban development. Here, a series of best practice examples and model projects of integrated and synoptic scientific research will be presented. These will mainly relate to the 6 thematic dialogues of the WUF4: namely

planing and space, society and equality, economy and the commons, environment and sustainability, history and identity, and finally intergenerational and social justice. These issues will be examined from theoretical as well as applied positions. Specifically, it will be important to present the newest training and capacity-building concepts, monitoring, benchmarking and evaluation tools, as well as explorative planning and modelling instruments.

Finally, the third session will focus on the specific potentials of science networks, as well as the added value of a specifically European perspective. In conclusion, the audience will be engaged in a small scenario-building workshop.

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*Please list three key objectives of your event:*

Objective 1: To examine the capacities of science and research within the development of harmonious and sustainable cities

Objective 2: To explore the interrelationships between science, research (reflection) and urban management, planning and politics (action)

Objective 3: To debate the added value potentials of research networks and A European perspective on development

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*Please explain the substantive links between your event and one of the Dialogue sub-themes:*

The event will re-contextualise the role of science and research within sustainable urban management and planning, and deliver a dialogue which explores the role of science in the 6 thematic dialogues of WUF4. The examples and model projects will be selected according to their innovative potential in terms of a holistic approach and their relation to the 6 thematic dialogues of the WUF4: namely planning and space, society and equality, economy and the commons, environment and sustainability, history and identity, and intergenerational and social justice. These issues will be examined from both theoretical as well as applied positions. Moreover, it is planned to establish essential links to the round table on 'urban research' and to the UN-Habitat's Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

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Target audience:

National Government, Local Government / Municipality, Parliamentarians, The Private Sector, Foundations, United Nations, Non-Governmental Organisations, Media, Inter-Governmental Organizations, Academia / Research

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Number of participants funded by your organization to participate at the event:

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How many of those are from Least Developed Countries:

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*How do you plan to promote attendance for the event among your constituency:*

Promotion will be carried out utilising the dynamics of the large membership base of the organising Network. These come from academia, consulting, and both governmental and non-governmental organisations. Each individual member will serve to further disseminate information within his/her own institution.

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*Is the event conditional on funding from UN-Habitat for it to take place?:*

No

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*Do you require interpretation for your event?:*

Yes

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*Main language of presentation:*

English

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*If you require interpretation, can the event take place without such facilities (yes/no):*

Yes

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*Name of organisation:*

Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South (N-AERUS)

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*Description of organisation:*

The Network-Association of European Researchers on Urbanisation in the South (N-AERUS) is a pluridisciplinary network of researchers and experts working on urban issues in developing countries and emerging economies. It was created in March 1996 by a group of European researchers, with the objective to mobilise and develop institutional and individual research and training capacities. N-AERUS will work in association with researchers and institutions in developing countries and emerging economies. N-AERUS is based on the following three statements:

- 1) Since cities are increasingly contributing to the general development process, any intervention has to take into account the social dimension of urban development, the cultural diversity of the cities and the complexity of urban areas.
- 2) The management of urban growth is one of the most difficult tasks many countries have to face in the coming decades. European research capacities and experiences in the urban sector are presently under-utilised. Yet, European universities and institutions have been able to carry out a large array of individual and joint research projects and offer many training programmes on urban problems in developing countries.

3) As a network aiming to disseminate information, develop research and training capacities, mobilise and consolidate institutional and individual capacities and to support urban development projects, N-AERUS endeavours to be a key element in the implementation of new forms of cooperation between European, developing and emerging economies. (see also: [www.n-aerus.net](http://www.n-aerus.net))

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*Partner organisations directly involved in the event, and their roles:*

- 1) ILO - International Labour Organisation (Mr Edmundo Warno, Co-organiser, Moderator, Presenter),
- 2) gtz - German Development Cooperation (Mr. Alexander Jachnow, Co-organiser, Moderator, Presenter)
- 3) dpu - Development Planning Unit at the University College London (Eleni Kyrou, Co-organiser)
- 4) IHS - Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies Rotterdam  
(Dr Maartje van Eerd, Presenter)
- 5) Centre for Environment and Human Settlements Edinburgh (Harry Smith, Co-organiser)
- 6) GLORA Lab for Planning in a Global Context, Karlsruhe, Germany (Co-organiser, keynote)
- 7) Oxford Brooks University, Schools of the Built Environment (Dr Ramin Keivani, Presenter)
- 8) UIAV University of Venezia, Italy (Prof. Marcello Balbo, Support, Moderator)
- 9) ETH Lausanne, Switzerland (Professeur Jean-Claude Bolay, UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development, Support, Moderator)
- 10) Housing Development & Management, Lund University (Graciela Landaeta, Co-organisation, Presentation)
- 11) National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris (Alain Durand-Lasserre, Senior Researcher, Support, Organisation)
- 12) University of Amritsar, India (Kiran Sandhu, Senior researcher, Organisation, Support)
- 13) Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Dimitra Adamantidou, Organisation, Support)
- 14) Mbarara University Uganda (Moses Tukwasibwe, Organisation, Support)
- 15) TRIALOG, Association for the Scientific Research on Planning and Building in Developing Countries, Darmstadt, Germany (Prof. Dr. Kosta Mathey, Support, Publication of Results)

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