

Network of LUDA Project

Reference Cities

LUDA
PROJECT

Improving the Quality of Life in
Large Urban Distressed Areas



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Urban redevelopment projects in european cities

Most european cities have large urban areas, suffering environmental, economical and social distress, that result in a high level of political pressure to make rapid improvements to the quality of life.

Especially in the take-off phase of urban rehabilitation, this often leads to an uneconomic use of resources and narrows options for development.

Face to their impotence, the leading question for the cities is to integrate a strategic approach of sustainable rehabilitation and redevelopment of these distressed areas.



Introduction to the Large Urban Distressed Areas project

In order to improve the success of such urban redevelopments in terms, the European Community has started in 1998 on the 5th programme, which thematic is « energy, environment and sustainable development ». The LUDA project is a research project of key action 4 « City tomorrow and cultural heritage ». The project started on februar 2003 and will end on january 2006.

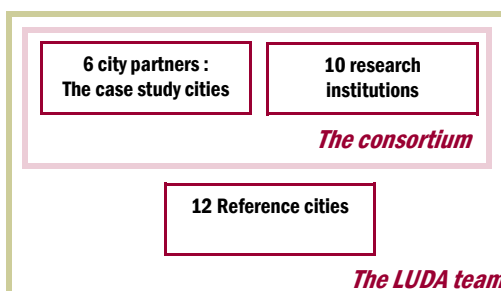
The LUDA project seeks to tackle the challenge by providing tools and methods for more strategic approach towards urban rehabilitation, and by supporting cities in initiating and managing such an approach in early stages.

The project main goal is to understand better the LUDA phenomenon and to provide inventory tools to support public management and administration in problem analysis and development options for LUDA areas.

The LUDA's team joins together six cities as well

as ten research institutions from eight different european countries in an interdisciplinary way.

During the next three years, the 6 city partners will identify the specific problems of their LUDA area and will elaborate a work-plan and protocol to develop a strategy on the LUDA area. To ensure a continuous monitoring of the further progress in their LUDA, the city partners are asked to establish feed-back structures. This case study cities rae : Dresden, Bratislava, Lisbon, Florence, Edinburgh and Valenciennes Metropole.





Large Urban Distressed Areas : first definition

Large Urban Distressed Area means a considerable part of a city with mixed land use, bigger than a neighbourhood or an ordinary rehabilitation area, which is characterised by a quality of life beyond the average standard within its urban region and plays a strategic role in the functioning of the city.

A LUDA area suffers from multiple deprivations such as degraded housing, inadequate or improper facilities (e.g. infrastructure and transport), rundown or derelict industrial sites, environmental risks and problems, unattractive and disconnected urban structures, unemployment and weaknesses in social cohesion,...

Large Urban Distressed Areas are characterised by failures of public intervention, private invest-

ment, and local community involvement. The mix of environmental, social and economic circumstances has led to discourage investment and job creation and to encourage social alienation and exclusion, producing cycles of economic decline, social exclusion and environmental deterioration.

Interventions on these areas have to take into consideration this facts during the whole process of rehabilitation.

« The presence of 12 additional Reference cities in the project will provide a wider overview to the partners. »

Why do the consortium need reference cities in the project?

The presence of 12 additional Reference cities in the project will provide a wider overview to the partners.

The reference cities should contribute towards their experiences in handling with Large Urban Distressed Areas.

The role of the cities should be supporting LUDA research with experiences and knowledge of practical successes and failures of recognition, search for solutions and implementation of re-development projects.

Data collected during the examination of Reference cities is supposed to implement information from the first « circle » of the 6 case study cities.

They are also supposed to act as a consultative group during the project, evaluating practical quality of the research.

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Why joining the LUDA project?

The objectives of the network is to build up a group of institutions and persons from practice and research who are engaged in the sustainable rehabilitation and urban development of LUDA areas.

In this sense, the main aims of the project are :

- To obtain an overview over LUDA in european cities as well as policies and promotional programmes directed towards the improvements of the quality of life in LUDA

areas.

- To improve general experience about methods, tools and approaches in improving the quality of life in LUDA areas.
- To access and exchange informations about the know-how and the practice in urban rehabilitation.
- To get contacts throughout a virtual community about the LUDA's themes.





The selection of the 12 reference cities

The Reference cities network will be composed by cities from EU members states and from other european countries, including accession countries.

The first step of selection of Reference cities will be based on literature preview, general practice and knowledge of the consortium's partners and ability of the cities to cooperate.

For the second step of the selection, the main criterias are :

- The LUDA of the city should have a signifiant mining for the whole city structure, influencing the functions of the city.
- The rehabilitation process should have to be finished or in progress.
- Specific experiences have to be tested on the LUDA by the city.
- The city have to point a correspondant for the LUDA's team.



Contributions of reference cities

- The reference city shall assist the scientists in the collect of datas to elaborate its city profile : general data, geographical data and historical overview on the LUDA area , economic parameters and information on the characteristic problems.
- The reference city is required to provide the consortium reports on its experience : reports on the problems encountered in the implementation of rehabilitation projects, strategies and examples of successfully implemented programmes, maps, graphics

and cartographic material to illustrate the research.

- The reference city will participate in discussions concerning the project's outcomes, presentation of the city's opinion regarding outcomes (via internet discussions)
- The reference city shall organize a visit for the scientists in the city, to collect additional datas and practical informations. The costs of the visit will be covered by the LUDA project.

« The reference cities shall assist the scientists in the collect of datas and will participate in discussions concerning the project's outcomes. »

Benefits for Reference Cities

- The LUDA project will be an opportunity to develop a promotion of the city : the city profile will be presented on the LUDA website, with a direct link to the official homepage of the city. Integration and incorporation of the reference cities into the LUDA project.
- The LUDA's team will provide the reference cities a special access to the LUDA intranet and thematic forums. The cities will be informed about intermediary results and final results at a comparatively early stage.
- The LUDA's team will integrate the reference cities into the project. The reference cities will take part in current discussions on best practice and negative experiences

in handling urban distressed areas. The reference cities will be in contact with other cities, and with scientific and practical experts from the disciplines of administration, management, economics, development, sociology, landscape and urban planning.

- The LUDA's team will invite the reference cities to workshop and public conference of LUDA in Salzburg, December 2004, devoted to the cities experiences The travel expenses covered by LUDA project.
- The LUDA's team will provide assistance and information about opportunities of further cooperation in european projects within the competence of consortium members.

« The LUDA project will be an opportunity to develop a promotion of the city. The LUDA's team will provide assistance and information about opportunities of further cooperation in european projects »

At the early stage on our research, we would like to invite interest representatives of municipalities of European cities to concern the benefits and possibilities, connected to participation in LUDA project. We are sure that the opportunity of cooperation is a great chance –both for LUDA team and for municipal partners—to gain new experiences and interesting professional contacts.

All the cities interested in joining the network and finding the idea of network beneficial are cordially welcomed to participate.

*If you have any questions about the LUDA reference cities and would like to join our network, please contact the leader for the work on the reference cities, **DGGS**.*

We have already a LUDA website :
<http://www.luda-project.org>

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