

## Project details

Project Name: DIVERCITIES  
Full Title: Governing Urban Diversity: Creating Social Cohesion, Social Mobility and Economic Performance in Today's Hyper-diversified Cities  
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Creating social cohesion, social mobility  
and economic performance in today's  
hyper-diversified cities



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## Urban diversity can positively affect social cohesion, social mobility and economic performance in European cities

Today, cities in Europe are more diverse than ever before. Immigration, socio-economic inequalities, spatial segregation, a diversity of identities, activities, mobilities and lifestyles, are all contributing factors. This hyper-diversity poses significant challenges for urban policymakers and institutions.

The principal aim of DIVERCITIES is to examine how Europe can benefit from the diversity of its population. The project's central hypothesis is that urban diversity is an asset. It can inspire innovation and creativity. Create cities that are more liveable and harmonious. Stimulate local and national economies and make European cities more competitive. But a re-think of public policies and governance arrangements is needed to make more intelligent use of diversity's potential.

Case studies will be examined where diversity was leveraged to achieve social and socio-economic benefits. The role of urban policies and governance arrangements in stimulating social and economic progress will also be critically analysed.

Comparative field research, educational programmes, cross-evaluation sessions and an international policy conference are the key components of this four-year project.

### Key research questions

- What evidence can we find of the positive aspects of urban diversity for social cohesion, social mobility and economic performance in European cities?
- How can these positive arrangements be enhanced by participatory policies and governance arrangements?

### Key objectives are

- to understand the positive and negative effects of diversity for society, the city and the urban economy;
- to provide convincing evidence on the positive contribution of diversity to the crucial outcomes of social cohesion, economic performance and social mobility;
- to analyse the role of existing policies and governance arrangements in promoting beneficial aspects of urban diversity; and
- to improve the knowledge base for policy makers on different levels (EU, national, local) by translating the results of this project into innovative instruments and arrangements.

### Field research will be conducted in 14 cities



### Project coordinator

#### Utrecht University, Netherlands

Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning  
Faculty of Geosciences

**Principal investigator: Prof. Ronald van Kempen**

### Participating partners

#### University of Antwerp, Belgium

Centre on Inequality, Poverty, Social Exclusion and the City (OASes)

#### Aalborg University, Denmark

Danish Building Research Institute (SBI)

#### University of Tartu, Estonia

Department of Geography

#### University Paris-Est Créteil, France

Paris Institute of Urban Planning

#### Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Germany

Department Urban and Environmental Sociology

#### National Centre for Social Research (EKKE), Greece

#### Szeged University, Hungary

Department of Economic and Social Geography

#### University of Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy

Department of Economics, Society and Politics

#### Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Netherlands

Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment  
Department OTB – Research for the Built Environment

#### Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Stanisław Leszczycki Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization (IGSO PAS)

#### synergo Mobility-Politics-Space GmbH, Switzerland

#### Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey

Urban and Regional Planning Department

#### University College London, United Kingdom

Bartlett School of Planning