Action C20
Urban Knowledge Arena

Participating countries: AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HU, IL, IT, MK, NL, NO, PL, PT, SE, UK

Chair of the Action: Henrik Nolmark, SE, henrik.nolmark@nodeonline.se
COST Science Officer: Thierry Goger, tgoger@cost.esf.org

www.u-k-a.eu

Objectives:

- To identify, explore and exchange experience on theories, methods and tools, which can facilitate urban knowledge.
- To identify, give feedback to and disseminate innovative initiatives in urban research, urban leadership and urban projects.
- To contribute to the structuring of a European arena of organizations, individuals and activities for Urban Knowledge.

Main Achievements and findings:

- Urban knowledge cannot be dissected isolated from matter - concepts must be related to specific circumstances to make sense. Thus, urban knowledge is action-oriented, multidisciplinary and contextually defined. Moreover, it deals with a moving target: the topic is in constant change as the rest of society.
- There is a distinction between arenas for more general production and exchange of urban knowledge and those more action oriented, often directly set-up to support a specific urban development project/process.
- Development of a methodology to identify, and categorize, innovative initiatives in urban knowledge and practice.
- The organization of case study workshops based on interesting examples of urban development in Liège, Oeiras, Gothenburg, Madrid, Vienna and Brno.

Working Group 1 - Characterization of existing and future urban knowledge
Identify, explore and exchange experience on theories, methods and tools, which can facilitate urban knowledge.

Working Group 2 - Facilitating arenas for urban knowledge
How to set up a knowledge arena? Characteristics, and success/failure factors etc, supported by a comparative analysis of some interesting examples of urban knowledge arenas in the participating countries.

Working Group 3 - Innovative initiatives in research, policy and practice
Identify, give feedback and disseminate innovative initiatives in urban research, urban leadership and urban projects.

Junior Network
Direct involvement in the action by a network of young researchers, students and professionals. Exploring the potential for urban knowledge arenas in the workshop case studies and bridging the gaps between working groups.

Urban Built Heritage Liaison Group
Cultural heritage aspects in urban development and their relation to theories on urban knowledge arenas.