

JPI UE Projects meeting May 31 Brussels

11.00-12.00h Support activities and training sessions

How to approach cities – Johannes Riegler (moderator) & Melanie Neijts (minutes)

What characterizes the cities?

- city planning, city owned development countries
- authorities, citizens (2 levels: users and policy/planning)
- residual areas
- marketing organization (part of city administration)
- infrastructure is important: there are different levels: streets, city, support infrastructure of the cities

What typifies the work environment of the cities?

- working with inhabitants
- political cycles: for many cities, long term planning is a difficult issues.
- A challenge for scientists is that cities have various administrative entities for different scopes/purposes. The challenge is to link people across administrative silos.
- There has to be a link between the cities strategy and the project in order to get the cities' commitment.
- Legislation is rules at the regional and national level (legislation)
- Due to administrative organization it is often not very clear who in the city administration actually owns a problem. Identifying the right department/person is often a challenge.

What would be a typical reaction of cities on a request for participation?

- 'we gonna be best.. if you benchmark'
- 'ask somebody else'
- 'sorry we already closed the budget'
- 'we already have a project on this topic'
- 'we don't have enough human resources to do that'
- Cities often ask for cases where the product/solution has been tested successfully already which is a challenge in the case of pilot projects.

What kind of attitude do cities have regarding participation in research?

- they 'passively' support research: they want to be involved in research but it should not cost much effort
- competition between cities and researchers about money
- Cities are sometimes afraid that the results of the project do not support their policy and perspective.
- A city can give you as a scientist a lot of freedom to do what you want, you can approach whoever you want a solution quickly and are willing to cooperate and accommodate to your needs
- For cities, participation in projects is easier if the problems addressed are on a bigger scale (national, international, global)

- In many cases, cities determine their participation in research project on the fact who the other cities in the project are
- Cities often see a project as a chance for outsourcing research
- Research can be an important bridge between partners and administrative silos in a city
- Visibility on an international scale is especially beneficial for smaller cities

What is important for cities in the process of deciding whether to participate in a research project?

- The risk that the research project might not turn out successful
- Existing experience with participation in research projects makes it more likely that a given city participates in the future as well
- Name of other cities in the project
- reliability of partners in consortium
- level of bureaucracy
- the attitude of the city towards change
- that a certain problem is tackled
- learning from the good/bad practices from other cities
- alignment of project with political agenda

What would be demanded conditions for cooperation in a research project?

- Cities should express their topics/themes which they see that research might help tackling challenges/problems
- feasible and useful results
- Cities are interested in the processes, not just the emerging of new technology, they want to get/have more people on board, so research is needed to establish processes which widen the participation of urban stakeholders.