

3S RECIPE

Urban shrinkage has become the new normal across Europe: one in five cities in the EU today is experiencing population loss; in eastern Europe this figure reaches 70%. Though appearance of shrinkage is fairly universal—empty city centre shops, falling property values, reduced town-centre vibrancy—causes for urban shrinkage can vary. They might include the removal of business and jobs from the city core to cheaper land on the periphery, out-migration and disinvestment of capital, an aging population, a dwindling tax-base, cuts in social and infrastructure services, a perception of better opportunities elsewhere – or a combination of all of these.

By learning from the experience of the cities that once were on the edge of an abyss but have bounced back to life and by sharing the key ingredients of their success, this project enables as many shrinking cities as possible to adapt, transform, and thrive in the face of continuously and often dramatically changing circumstances.



Transforming a Soviet-style block of flats into terraced single-story houses: Dessau, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, May 2010.

Aim/objective

- Identify what works in a shrinking city context
- Explore how the underlying forces of urban shrinkage can be reversed in order to convert these cities into sustainable, liveable, and resilient urban environments.

Approaches/methods

- Future Performance Framework - Urban Futures methodology (FPF-UF)
- Scenario workshops
- Stakeholder interviews
- Statistical modelling

Expected results and impacts

- Tackling the key socio-economic causes of urban shrinkage
- Future-proofing sustainability actions in urban re-development and regeneration
- Enhancing the role of long-term strategic planning
- Emboldening civic leaders to embrace the best smart shrinkage practices and apply the most forward-looking urban resilience solutions

Involved cities

- Le Havre
- Maastricht
- Łódź
- Porto
- Timișoara
- Zonguldak
- Stoke-on-Trent

3S RECIPE – Smart shrinkage solutions: fostering resilient cities in inner peripheries of Europe

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Partners: University of Oxford, École Normale Supérieure, University of Amsterdam, University of Lodz, University of Porto, West University of Timisoara, B Arts Ltd., Intercultural Institute Timisoara, University of Birmingham

About JPI Urban Europe

JPI Urban Europe is a transnational research and innovation programme on urban transition. With the ambition to develop and validate new solutions for sustainable and liveable cities, a cooperation platform and programme is provided to connect urban stakeholders, researchers, cities, business and society

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