



REVIVING SHRINKING CITIES

innovative paths and perspectives towards livability for shrinking cities

Final Conference

17-18th March 2022

TU Kaiserslautern: online and on-site













Welcome to Shrinking Cities Revived! – the final conference of the RE-CITY project.

Crises often and repeatedly confront urban development.

While structural and demographic change remain important triggers most recently we observe the COVID 19 pandemic as a global force posing new challenges for urban development.

In particular, cities that lost population due to structural change over a longer period of decline might be even more vulnerable. Nevertheless, cities worldwide react differently to

short term and long-term crisis, are eager to discover best practices and learn from errors. Some scholars argue that such a crisis offers room for creativity and experiments and result in 'out of the box' strategies for shrinking cities.

This Conference provides a space to discuss the most recent findings in the field of shrinking cities both from within the project and the work of the thirteen RE-CITY PhD students and the broader academic field setting the focus on international developments.

The panel discussion - "Shrinking cities – emerging from crises on the way to resilience?" - aims to build on the knowledge of research and policy implementation generated at different

levels on shrinking cities and their revitalization. It intends to engage both practitioners and policymakers in a debate on approaches, strategies, practices on different scales, and their limitations with the goal of becoming resilient at the end of the tunnel.

We hope you enjoy the experience here in Kaiserslautern and look forward to a fruitful discussion.

RE-CITY project office Karina Pallagst, René Fleschurz, Patricia Hammer

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Programme: Thursday 17 March

Venue: TU Kaiserslautern, building 42 (Audimax 42-115 and adjacent rooms 42-110)

8:15 – 9:00	Registration (Foyer 42)		
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome from Werner R. Thiel, University Vice-President for Research and Technology, TU Kaiserslautern (Room 42-115)		
9:10 – 9:20	Welcome from Sascha Henninger, Dean, Faculty of Spatial and Environmental Planning, TU Kaiserslautern (Room 42-115)		
9:20 - 10:00	Welcome and Introduction to the RE-CITY ITN Karina Pallagst, TU Kaiserslautern (Room 42-115)		
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break (Foyer 42)		
10:30 – 12:30	 Parallel Sessions Track 1 – Conceptualising and governing Shrinking Cities (Room 42-115) Track 2 – Greening and rightsizing Shrinking Cities (Room 42-110) 		
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch (Restaurant Unique, on campus)		
	Panel Discussion: Shrinking cities – emerging from crises on the way to resilience? (Room 42-115)		
14:30 – 15:30	Panel Discussion: Shrinking cities – emerging from crises on the way to resilience? (Room 42-115)		
14:30 – 15:30	Panel Discussion: Shrinking cities – emerging from crises on the way to resilience? (Room 42-115) Panellists: Mart Grisel, European Urban Knowledge Network Chiara Lucchini, Urban Lab Torino Horacio Terraza, World Bank Oliver Weigel, German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building		
14:30 – 15:30	Panellists: • Mart Grisel, European Urban Knowledge Network • Chiara Lucchini, Urban Lab Torino • Horacio Terraza, World Bank		
14:30 - 15:30 15:30 - 15:45	Panellists: • Mart Grisel, European Urban Knowledge Network • Chiara Lucchini, Urban Lab Torino • Horacio Terraza, World Bank • Oliver Weigel, German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building		
	 Panellists: Mart Grisel, European Urban Knowledge Network Chiara Lucchini, Urban Lab Torino Horacio Terraza, World Bank Oliver Weigel, German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building Moderator: Helen Mulligan, Cambridge Architectual Research Ltd. 		



Programme: Friday 18 March

Venue: TU Kaiserslautern, building 42 (Audimax 42-115 and adjacent rooms 42-110)

8:15 – 9:00	Registration (Foyer 42)			
9:00 – 9:45	Key note speech: Chung-Tong Wu, Prof. emeritus University of Western Sydney 'Shrinking cities at the crossroads – reflections from an international perspective' (working title) (Room 42-115)			
9:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break (Foyer 42)			
10:00 – 12:00	Parallel Sessions Track 1 – Conceptualising and governing Shrinking Cities (Room 42-115) Track 2 – Greening and rightsizing Shrinking Cities (Room 42-110)			
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch (Restaurant Unique, on campus)			
	 Parallel Sessions Track 3 – Social factors of reviving Shrinking Cities (Room 42-110) Track 4 – Frontiers of Shrinking Cities research (Room 42-115) 			
16:00 – 17:00	Fishbowl Discussion: "Shrinking Cities Revived! – Lessons learned and future perspectives", facilitated by the RE-CITY Early Stage Researchers (Room 42-110)			
17:00 – 17:15	Closing Thoughts, Thorsten Wiechmann, TU Dortmund (Room 42-115)			



Session Programme

Venue: TU Kaiserslautern, building 42 (Foyer 42, Audimax 42-115 and adjacent room 42-110)

Thursday 17 March,	Thursday 17 March,	Friday 18 March,	Friday 18 March,
10.30-12.30	16.00-18.00	10.00-12.00	13.30-15.30
Track 1, Session 1	Track 1, Session 2	Track 1, Session 3	Track 4
(Room 42-115)	(Room 42-115)	(Room 42-115)	(Room 42-115)
Track 2, Session 1	Track 2, Session 2	Track 3, Session 1	Track 3, Session 2
(Room 42-110)	(Room 42-110)	(Room 42-110)	(Room 42-110)

Track 1: Conceptualising and governing Shrinking Cities

Session 1 – Thursday 17 March 10.30-12.30 (Room 42-115)

Moderator: Emmanuèle Cunningham-Sabot, École Normale Supérieure Paris

Bozhidar Ivanov (TU Kaiserslautern)

Shrinking Smart as a new planning concept: Benchmarking planning and policy responses to urban shrinkage and depopulation

Ruiying Liu (TU Dortmund)

Strategic planning for sustainability in shrinking cities

Geoffrey Vanderstraeten (Department of Environment and Spatial Development Flanders) Towards an anticipatory policy for re-use of space

Claudia Cassatella and Federica Bonavero (Politecnico di Torino) Planning shrinking cities in a shrinking country. The case of Italy

Session 2 – Thursday 17 March 16.00-18.00 (Room 42-115)

Moderator: Letizia Imbres, TU Dortmund

Przemysław Ciesiółka (Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan)

In search of urban resilience: Regeneration strategies for shrinking medium-sized cities in Poland

Anastasiya Matyushkina (TU Dortmund)

"Force Majeure": the transformation of cultural strategy as a result of urban shrinkage and economic crisis. The case of Riga, Latvia

Alix de la Gaignonnière (Ecole Normale Superieure Paris)

A Game of zones : shrinkage long term process of historical centres in France

Elena Batunova, Albina Davletshina and Carola Neugebauer (RWTH Aachen)

The institutional context for residential heritage management in Russian shrinking cities





Venue: TU Kaiserslautern, building 42 (Foyer 42, Audimax 42-115 and adjacent room 42-110)

Session 3 – Friday 18 March 10.00-12.00 (Room 42-115)

Moderator: Krzysztof Stachowiak, Adam Mickiewicz University

Victoria Pinoncely (Ecole Normale Superieure Paris)

Insights from the past? Applying path dependence theory to historical planning processes in SaintEtienne and Sheffield

Federico Camerin (Universidad UVA de Valladolid / Universidad Politécnica UPM de Madrid), Isabel González García (Universidad Politécnica UPM de Madrid) and Alejandro Tamayo Palacios (Universidad Politécnica UPM de Madrid)

Neoliberal governance in shrinking waterfronts. A comparison between Bilbao (Spain) and Genoa (Italy)

Gintarė Pociūtė-Sereikienė (Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences)

Changing the "course" of shrinking city: from industrial towards green and comfortable city for families.

The case of Šiauliai in Lithuania

Petya Slavova and Rosalina Todorova (Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski)

Place-based strategies to mitigate shrinking processes in a globalized context: two cases of postsocialist towns in Bulgaria

Track 2: Greening and rightsizing Shrinking Cities

Session 1: Thursday 17 March 10.30-12.30 (Room 42-110)

Tadeusz Stryjakiewicz, Adam Mickiewicz University

Fanny Augis (University of Porto)

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Olivia Lewis (University of Porto)

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Session 2: Thursday 17 March 16.00-18.00 (Room 42-110)

Moderator: Tobias Bürger, Bertelsmann Foundation

Simone di Pietro (TU Kaiserslautern)

The role of green economy in revitalising shrinking cities. A case study analysis in France and Mexico

Faeeza Mackay (Cambridge Architectural Research)

Shrinking cities in the longer term: Changing patterns of urbanisation and resilience to floods



Venue: TU Kaiserslautern, building 42 (Foyer 42, Audimax 42-115 and adjacent room 42-110)

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David Huntington (Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan) The shrinking city and spatial justice

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Terry Schwarz (Kent State University)
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Track 4: Frontiers of Shrinking Cities research

Friday 18 March 13.30-16.00 (Room 42-115)

Moderator: Marco Bontje, University of Amsterdam

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Potential policy impacts in light of pressing pandemic, environmental and institutional challenges

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Justin B. Hollander (Tufts University) and Michael P. Johnson (University of Massachusetts) Supporting shrinkage: Applying community-based operations research in U.S. cities

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Manuel Wolff (Humboldt University Berlin) and Vlad Mykhnenko (University of Oxford) COVID19 as game-changer? The impact of the pandemic on urban trajectories



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Neoliberal governance in shrinking waterfronts. A comparison between Bilbao (Spain) and Genoa (Italy)

Keywords: port cities; socio-spatial segregation; urban entrepreneurialism; profit-driven spaces; public-private partnership; star-architecture

This work interprets the path dependency of neoliberal policy responses and planning strategies used by the Spanish and Italian port cities of Bilbao and Genoa to revitalize their declining industrial waterfronts in the Post-Fordism. Bilbao and Genoa represent two of the most relevant cases of urban shrinkage in Spain and Italy that happened to have embarked on ambitious neoliberal paths for revitalization, whose expectations were to turn them into prosperous hubs of business, cultural and touristic economies. This work specifically focuses on the most emblematic revitalizing actions carried out so far in Bilbao's Ria riverfront (the Abandoibarra's abandoned shipyards) and Genoa's seafront (the Ancient Port) to discuss the path dependency of these projects in two derelict areas severely hit by urban shrinkage that nowadays are facing regeneration: Bilbao's Zorratzaurre and Genoa's Eastern seafront.

The methodology relies on the authors' intention to demonstrate that the current urban policies of both cities follow the same neoliberal patterns of the interventions carried out to face urban shrinkage in the late 1980s: the creation of new areas of centrality that attract luxury and tourist functions to put the two cities on the map but put other regeneration issues on the back burner (Fol, 2012). In order to do so, this work comprises two ways to obtain the

information. First, archival research in Bilbao's and Genoa's City Councils archives and on-site visits to the case studies. Second, the search for international scientific literature using JSTOR and Scopus bibliographic database along with grey literature (mostly local administration's urban and territorial documents).

By screening the main features of the urban and territorial planning tools of the cities (such as the 1997 and 2008 Bilbao's strategic plans and 1987-to-2017 Renzo-Pianodesigned Genoa's masterplans) and the four large-scale flagship urban regeneration projects (i.e., intervention area; involvement of citizens in the decision-making process; management of existing urban environment, i.e. conservative reuse and demolition/reconstruction; building of exceptional architecture projects; ownership; public-private partnership; population displacement; and so on), three path dependencies have been found between the cases of Abandoibarra-Ancient Port and Zorratzaurre-Genoa's Eastern seafront. First, the prominent role assigned to 'star architects' to foster complex urban processes of regeneration, competitiveness and reimaging on the basis of spectacular architectural projects (Alaily-Mattar, Ponzini and Thierstein, 2020). While Genoa has strongly relied on Renzo Piano's ideas since 1987 for the revitalization of the whole waterfront on the basis of the 1992, 2001 and 2004 mega-events as accelerators of urban revitalizations, Bilbao has entrusted to several well-known architectural studios the building of spectacular buildings (i.e. Frank Ghery's Guggenheim) and large urban projects (Zaha Hadid's Zorratzaurre). Second, the transformations provoked by Abandoibarra and Ancient Port led to the gentrification of both Bilbao's and Genoa's urban centers (Vicario and Martínez Monje, 2003; Gastaldi, 2013), phenomena that is likely to happen in the cases of Zorratzaurre and Genoa's Eastern seafront. Eventually, no matter these relevant revitalization projects, but both cities have continuously lost population throughout the 1990s and experienced unsolved issues of decline and abandonment in Bilbao's and Genoa's waterfronts (Sudupe Zabalo, 2015; Valenti, 2017).

In conclusion, the inquiry demonstrates evident similarities over time between different large urban projects in Bilbao's and Genoa's shrinking waterfronts. The historical and contemporary perspectives of two kinds of large urban projects (i.e., already finished and currently ongoing) enable a better understanding of emerging patterns of city-making process towards increasing socio-spatial disparities. The



research findings show that the revitalization of these two shrinking cities was planned under the patterns of urban entrepreneurialism, displacing residents from the intervention areas, so not guaranteeing the right to the city for everyone.

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