

susta-info



global knowledge for local sustainability

www.susta-info.net

Global Knowledge for Local Sustainability



Susta-Info is an EU DG Research supported project in the context of the Sixth Framework Programme, under thematic sub priority 1.1.6.3: Global Change and Ecosystems.



Susta-Info

Susta-Info is an online resource of 'case studies and publications on sustainable development' worldwide, selected and validated by experts.

Susta-Info:

- focuses on local projects and local research,
- focuses on cross-sectoral partnerships and community support,
- focuses on capacity building and training activities,
- supports local authorities and experts in attaining sustainable development,
- makes knowledge on local sustainable development easily accessible,
- can be accessed in English, French, German and Spanish

Susta-Info provides:

- optimised formats and advanced search methodologies;
- access to research projects on sustainable urban development funded under the Key Action *City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage* of FP5 (European Commission),
- access to a focused selection of the current EU FP6 and INCO projects on similar topics,
- access to publications supported by UN-HABITAT and case studies from the UN-HABITAT best practices database,
- links to information of the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)

Susta-Info stimulates

Susta-Info stimulates international co-operation among UN-HABITAT and the European Commission on the one hand and among local practitioners, researchers, experts on the other. Susta-Info invites research programs and institutes to suggest opportunities for co-operation.

Susta-Info will be launched November 2007.



ABOUT SUSTA - INFO

Combining EU and UN-Habitat research and practices

Susta-Info supports local authorities and experts in attaining sustainable development, by establishing a portal and web based database. Susta-Info gives practitioners world wide unconstrained access to specific information and validated knowledge on sustainable development, from the urban research programs supported by both UN-HABITAT and the European Commission.

Growing Data Base of Research Projects & Case Studies

Susta-Info provides access to research projects funded under Key Action *City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage* of the 5th Framework Programme, and the current 6th Framework Programme projects on urban management, sustainable land use, water treatment and management, and urban mobility (including INCO projects). The EU funded projects are combined with urban research projects supported by UN-Habitat and case studies from the UN-HABITAT best practices database. Also the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) projects is accessible from Susta-Info.

Using state-of-the art information technology to reach practitioners

Projects are abstracted and categorized, so that they can be searched and accessed in a standard and comparable way. State-of-the-art information retrieval technology guarantees both good search results and access for all types of computer users.

Stimulating international co-operation

The project stimulates international co-operation among UN-HABITAT and the European Commission on the one hand and among local practitioners on the other.

THEMES FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Susta-Info addresses 9 themes:

- Building Sustainable Cities
- Transport and Mobility
- Urban Governance
- Water Management and Sanitation
- Waste Management
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Poverty Reduction
- Culture

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Building sustainable cities is a theme that addresses a wide range of challenges, from what to do about urban sprawl to encouraging the use of sustainable construction techniques to dealing with issues of inner city decline and the regeneration of distressed neighborhoods'. The theme incorporates well-known disciplines: urban planning - which focuses on the physical, social and economic development of metropolitan regions, municipalities and neighborhoods; land use - which concentrates on the ways in which different patterns of land use can cause different stresses, what the consequences of these stresses are and how they can be managed or corrected and the built environment - management of which has shifted towards a more sustainable approach in the construction industry, and which requires input from various actors - local and regional planners, individual construction firms, city councils, architects and engineers and the residents that occupy the urban space.



TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

Transport and Mobility are themes that cover infrastructure and communications as well as transport and travel patterns. The importance of promoting environmentally sustainable transport is illustrated in the many synergies it has with other aspects of development - improvements in sustainable transport can lead to improvements in human health through reduction of urban air pollution, as well as reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, road deaths and injuries and the reduction of traffic congestion levels. In developed regions such as across Europe, meeting Kyoto emission targets as well as domestic renewable energy targets, is helping to drive policies that encourage towns and cities to implement sustainable urban transport. Cities are moving towards alternative fuels such as hydrogen for public transport, as well as aiming to reduce car use where possible. Developing nations are actively finding ways to promote urban productivity and to improve living standards in urban areas by meeting transport needs in a sustainable manner to address the challenges of rapid motorization, insufficient investment in urban transport planning and poor traffic management.



URBAN GOVERNANCE

Urban Governance is characterised by principles of sustainability, equity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, security, civic engagement and citizenship. Increasing the capacity of local governments, cities and regions to practice good urban governance, promote transparency and fight crime and corruption are all central to creating and implementing good governance strategies for urban development.

WATER MANAGEMENT AND SANITATION

Water Management and Sanitation are heavily important issues given the worldwide explosion of urban populations in the last fifty years. The growing trend of more urbanised societies and increasing concentration of population and economic activities in large cities has major implications for freshwater use and wastewater management. Water demands from city enterprises have become more and more significant, with many major cities drawing freshwater from increasingly distant watersheds as local surface and groundwater sources become yet more depleted or polluted. Between a quarter and a half of the urban population in low and middle-income countries lacks provision for water and sanitation of a quality that greatly reduces risk of human contamination from fecal-oral pathogens, and with provision for water and sanitation expanding at a much slower rate than population growth in most low and middle-income countries, this is a theme that requires serious attention.

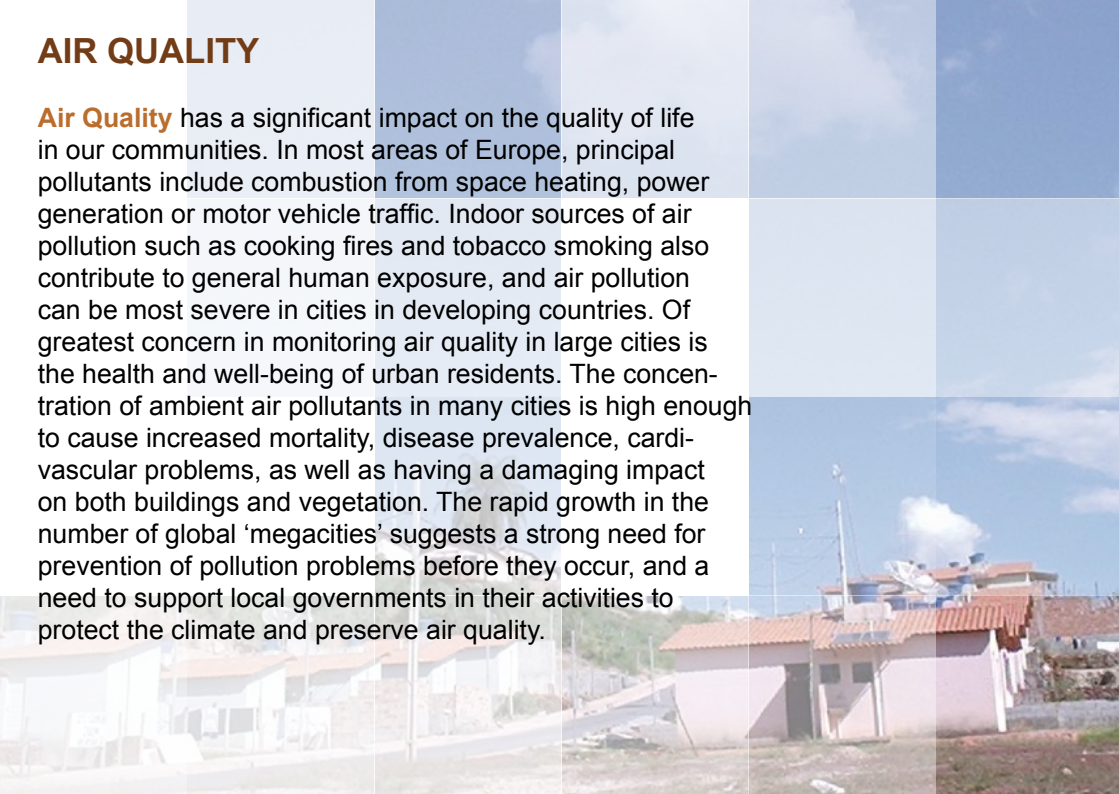
WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management. Under present production and consumption patterns, societies which become wealthier and more urbanised, tend to create more rubbish. The majority of our waste still ends up in incinerators or being dumped in landfill sites, both of which create severe environmental damage. A shift to more sustainable consumption patterns and a different approach to waste management are required, with emphasis on waste prevention, recycling and reuse and improving final disposal and monitoring of waste.



AIR QUALITY

Air Quality has a significant impact on the quality of life in our communities. In most areas of Europe, principal pollutants include combustion from space heating, power generation or motor vehicle traffic. Indoor sources of air pollution such as cooking fires and tobacco smoking also contribute to general human exposure, and air pollution can be most severe in cities in developing countries. Of greatest concern in monitoring air quality in large cities is the health and well-being of urban residents. The concentration of ambient air pollutants in many cities is high enough to cause increased mortality, disease prevalence, cardiovascular problems, as well as having a damaging impact on both buildings and vegetation. The rapid growth in the number of global 'megacities' suggests a strong need for prevention of pollution problems before they occur, and a need to support local governments in their activities to protect the climate and preserve air quality.





ENERGY

Energy is essential to meeting basic human needs, stimulating and supporting economic growth and enhancing quality of life in human settlements. Current levels of energy services are failing to meet the needs of the poor, and a third of the world remains dependent on traditional biomass fuels for cooking, while almost as many people lack access to electricity, a situation which entrenches poverty. Access to energy services is therefore essential to supporting overall development, and problems such as limited access to appropriate financing schemes for purchasing cleaner energy devices and harmful indoor air pollution within informal settlements need to be addressed.



POVERTY, POVERTY REDUCTION

Poverty and Income Disparities, Poverty Reduction particularly in urban areas, are multidimensional phenomena. The urban poor face many challenges in their everyday life, such as limited access to employment opportunities, inadequate and insecure housing, violent and unhealthy environments, limited access to health and education and little or no social protection. In order to reduce urban poverty, policy responses and programs need to be structured around labor, productive assets, education and health and social capital. Eradication of poverty requires not only the participation of those who are living in poverty, but other actors such as local organisations, agencies, institutions and social movements.



CULTURE, CULTURE ASSETS

Culture, Cultural Assets and cultural diversity can bring a renewed value to life, as well as act as a positive force in support of dialogue, mutual understanding, reconciliation, social stability and reconstruction. Cultural industries are an important source of revenue and jobs, and preserving cultural treasures ensures their long-term contribution to tourism and regional economic development, allowing future generations to benefit from them as well. Cultural assets are at particular risk in urban areas from high pollution levels and other related effects, and a growing number of research projects are focusing on creating innovative techniques to repair and conserve them.

HOW TO SEARCH



Susta-Info offers two methods of searching:

- Pre-defined Search
- Refined Search

The Pre-defined Search

The Pre-defined Search can be accessed through the themes on the home page of the website. All nine themes will generate relevant documents, to give you an idea of what the database offers. For general information purposes this will very often suffice.

The Refined Search

The Refined search in the knowledge base is possible by entering your query in the search box. You can do that in English, French, German and Spanish. You can enter words or sentences in the search box or copy/paste to it entire documents that you are already working with. You will be provided with the most relevant documents in the database. Then you will be given the opportunity to refine the search result, by giving stronger or lighter 'weight' to certain elements in your search. This will reorganize the order in your query, or alter the documents involved. It is also possible to search within an already done search.

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