## GREEN-BLUE SPACES QUANTITATIVE ASPECTS: RATIOS IN URBAN AREAS

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM

General **densification of the urban structure** and exerted **building pressure on urban green space**; Increase of **degraded/polluted/abandoned urban areas** that need to be reconquered (**brownfields** to be turned into green areas, etc.).
The type of projects concerned **-** *Development Plans/Schemes.*

The problem of the **decreasing percentage of urban green space** is related to the process of **densification of the urban structure in the compact city or the sprawl at the urban fringe**. Although there are no such case studies presented within PETUS project, several of the reviewed frameworks discuss this problem (COST C11, The Green Poster, etc.). They assess its social, environmental and economic impacts over the quality of life in the city.

The increase of degraded urban areas is a result of changes occurring in the city functions (e.g. ex-industrial areas). The task of reconquering the abandoned urban land is linked to the transformation of brownfields or polluted ex-industrial areas into green/blue spaces. PETUS case studies: Harbour bathing (Copenhagen, DK), Millennium costal park (Llanelli, UK). Recently the solution of the environmental problem in brownfields is closely related to integrating social and economic benefits. Providing transparency of the process should be regarded an important factor for increasing its effectiveness. The accessibility of information about the sources and the total amount of funding contributes for enhancing public involvement and support. Local business participation through social friendly activities should be considered an important prerequisite for sustainable urban and regional development.

The elaboration of Development Plans concerning problems related to **quantity changes** in green areas is part of the general policy for urban development and land-use planning.
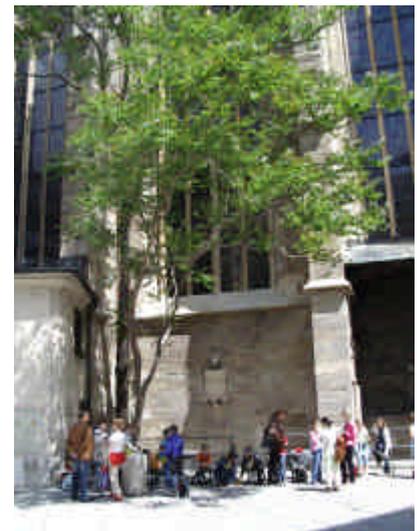
TIME AND SPACE SCALE CHARACTERISTICS

The projects cover **city and regional scales** and include all life-cycle stages.

Stage(s) concerned						
	Inception of project idea	Design	Design assessment	Construction	Operation	Demolition
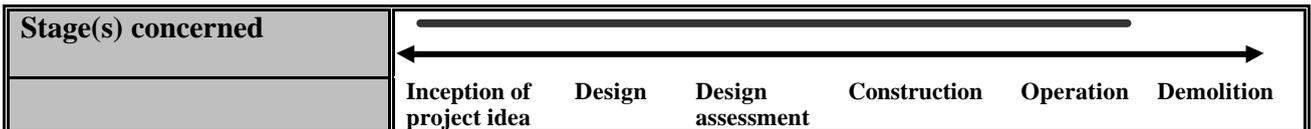
Scale investigated	Component	Building	Neighbourhood	City	Region
				X	X

CONFLICTING AREAS

Conflicting areas could be expected to arise when large newly developed or reconquered green/blue areas are supposed to attract considerable tourist flows from outside the city and region. These could comprise two potential types of conflict:

- Striving for greater and faster tourism development (maximizing economic benefits) vs. the estimation of the long-term pressure on the environment (the capacity of the urban technical infrastructure will have to meet fluctuating demand);
- Continuing local reliance on economic benefits from tourism development vs. the attitude of the local community to tourists changing from positive to negative.

The evaluation should stress in more detail on the particular **economic benefits** achieved by the implementation of projects - both direct and indirect, and concerning different social groups. **The promotion of socio-economic and environmental self-support mechanisms and of relevant monitoring tools is needed.** Of all the frameworks proposed, **URGE project** could provide a most useful basis for further development in this direction.

CASE STUDIES LINKED TO THIS ISSUE

Harbour bathing (Copenhagen, DK)
Millennium costal park (Llanelli, UK)

WHAT COULD BE ENHANCED TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY

The procedures used up to date still focus on environmental and social aspects more than on **economic** benefits of project implementation. **Considerable external investments** are often needed at the initial stage of the process and the potential **contribution, benefits and losses of local business (SME in particular)** are not fully considered.

The use of newly reconquered green areas is also related to the development of other sectors of the urban infrastructure. Therefore, an impact evaluation of the other sectors and further investigation on horizontal links between sectors are also recommended.