

 Content archived on 2024-05-28



Planning cultures in the USA and in Germany in comparison - the example of shrinking cities

Results in Brief

A comparative analysis of shrinking cities

How can planning help in adapting to urban shrinkage? An EU-funded project sought to answer this using an evidenced-based comparative approach leading to innovative methods in spatial research.



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Cities in Europe and the United States have had to face challenges of economic and long-term demographic shifts that have resulted in urban shrinkage. In turn, this has led to such negative impacts as housing vacancies and underused infrastructure.

Spatial planning systems that illustrate basic comparable features are in place. However, they are tailored for specific cultural, normative and spatial situations. An international point of

view on the subject of regional and urban planning was lacking. This is where the 'Planning cultures in the USA and in Germany in comparison - The example of shrinking cities'(PLANSHRINKING) project came into the picture.

It considered in-depth case studies between Germany and the United States. In so doing, specific cultural, social, economic, environmental and land-use issues were

considered. The project identified paradigm shifts and developed a toolset to examine planning strategies.

Journal articles have been published and seminars were conducted. Findings offer a comprehensive planning strategy to help guide future development, but also as serve as a basis for community building.

Keywords

Shrinking cities, urban shrinkage, spatial research, demographic shifts, planning cultures

Project Information

PLANSHRINKING

Grant agreement ID: 268296

Project closed

Start date

1 November 2010

End date

31 October 2014

Funded under

Specific programme "People" implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013)


Total cost

€ 100 000,00

EU contribution

€ 100 000,00

Coordinated by

RHEINLAND-PFALZISCHE
TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT
 Germany

Last update: 5 August 2015

Permalink: <https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/169432-a-comparative-analysis-of-shrinking-cities>

European Union, 2025