



URBACHINA

Sustainable Urbanisation in China:
Historical and Comparative Perspectives,
Mega-trends towards 2050



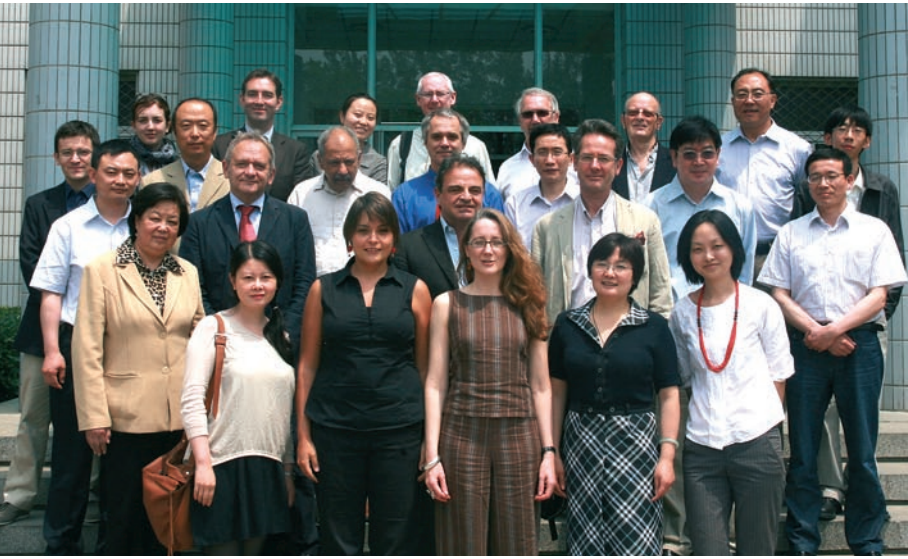
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
European Research Area



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

Funded under
Socio-economic
Sciences & Humanities

<http://www.urbachina.eu/index.php/en/>



INTRODUCTION

Funded under the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme, URBACHINA is a collaborative project managed by a consortium of **11 leading Chinese and European research institutions**. Coordinated by the **CNRS** (France's National Centre for Scientific Research), URBACHINA will analyse China's urbanisation trends for the next 40 years and define **possible future scenarios** with reference to concepts of sustainability.

Urbachina consortium at the Kick-Off meeting in Beijing, May 2011,

Photograph taken by the Urbachina consortium.

EUROPEAN UNION - CHINA COOPERATION

URBACHINA is a research project, which places a strong emphasis on **the cooperation between the EU and China**. Although Europe and China have followed different urbanisation paths, there is nonetheless room for mutual **learning**. One of the main objectives of this project is to **strengthen the collaboration** between Chinese and EU researchers and policy-makers driven by the common goal of building sustainable cities.



A view of a residential area in Shanghai.

Photograph taken by the Urbachina consortium.

SUSTAINABILITY

Urbanisation has been a consequence of the accelerated pace of economic development triggered by a sequence of policies to open up and reform the Chinese economy at the end of 1978. Given the significant impact that recent rapid urbanisation trends have had on the environment, resources, and health, the expected growth of China's cities poses a **unique challenge to sustainability**.

URBACHINA specifically addresses **four aspects of sustainability**:

- institutional foundations and policies;
- land, property and the urban-rural divide;
- infrastructure and services for sustainable urbanisation;
- traditions and modern lifestyles in cities.

OBJECTIVES

URBACHINA ultimately aims to:

- 1- enhance the **common understanding of urbanisation trends** in both China and Europe,
- 2- identify the **main aspects of urban sustainability**,
- 3- influence policy-makers and society on sustainability issues, through strong **dissemination strategies** i.e. publications, events, media involvement and its website.



IMPACT ON POLICY MAKING

Overall assessment of current policies

An understanding of past and current urbanisation trends includes analysis of policy drivers and their effects on urbanisation. Identifying relationships linking (i) general socio-economic indicators with (ii) urban policy drivers, (iii) urban residents' responses and (iv) the nature, speed and characteristics of the development of Chinese cities, will provide useful insight into the implications of current urbanisation policies. Policy assessment will also address the issue of whether current urbanisation policies are likely to contribute to achieving the overall targets that China has officially set in areas such as the reduction of GHG emissions and the de-carbonisation of the economy, the overall improvement of energy efficiency, the re-balancing of regional development (*notably through the role assigned to cities*), or the reduction of the urban/rural divide and social inequalities in general.

Mechanisms that support policy-making

URBACHINA will devise a set of scenarios, illustrating the possible future of urbanisation. Although such scenarios will be described and discussed in a qualitative form, they will allow the critical policy options associated with each scenario to be identified, together with a discussion of their feasibility and the preconditions to implement

*Shanghai city: an illustration of urbanisation
Photograph taken by the Urbachina consortium*

them. Sustainability indicators will also be investigated as a further tool for supporting the policy process, and for monitoring policy implementation.

Sectoral and intersectoral policies

Within each of the four themes, specific policy challenges will be addressed in relation to institutional and governance reforms, land use policies, investment programmes and priorities (*energy, transport, health*), and market-based and other economic policy instruments. URBACHINA's approach will allow important interrelationships between sectoral policies and requirements to be identified, so as to achieve better integrated urban governance.

Research policy

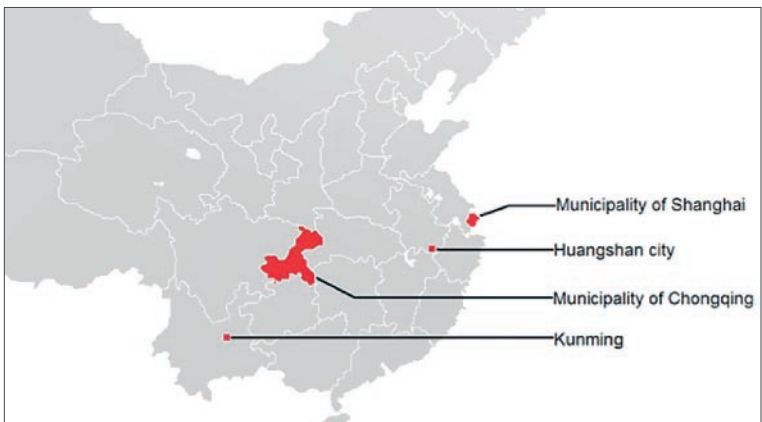
Priorities, such as the availability of necessary data and information platforms or the need to explore urbanisation issues in a cross-city cooperative manner will be discussed; this will build on the concrete experience gathered within the project and which will be relayed as part of its recommendations.

METHODOLOGY

URBACHINA will use a multi-level and multi-disciplinary framework to analyse the impact and future implications of urbanisation. Different methods and data will be deployed: statistical data collection and processing; case studies; extensive interviews with officials, policy-makers, business associates and researchers from a range of disciplines, including economic geography, urban economies, environmental studies, sociology, anthropology and history. The collaborative aspect of this project will ensure that both European and Chinese participants will be involved in all tasks.

Alongside a cross national analysis of urbanisation and sustainability, the project will include four detailed case studies of **four contrasting Chinese cities** that all face the same challenges in relation to sustainable development: Shanghai, Chongqing, Kunming and Huangshan.

Four cities under study



MILESTONES

A kick-off meeting, validating the various steps of the programme has already taken place in May 2011. The monitoring of progress and the dissemination of the findings of the URBACHINA project will include:

- three **annual conferences**, held alternately in Europe and in China, presenting, discussing and disseminating the project's findings to stakeholders,
- two **scientific advisory committee meetings** monitoring the project progress, assessing the project's scientific values and innovative contents,
- two **stakeholders committee meetings** fostering dialogue among academics and policy-makers,
- a **final international conference** presenting URBACHINA's results to key players of urbanisation in China and Europe.

IMPACT ON SOCIETY

Ultimately, the research and policy advances in relation to urbanisation are expected to be reflected in society through an improvement in basic measurable indicators such as per capita income, access to services, environmental quality, reduction of inequalities, the preservation of cultural assets and traditions, and the general well-being and quality of life of Chinese urban residents. Our emphasis will not only be on governmental delivery, but also on residents' responses and self-organisation.



Broadening the context of research collaborations

China has established and developed bilateral agreements with various countries, both in Europe and elsewhere. URBACHINA will allow the benefits of RTD (*research and technological development*) joint ventures to be explored beyond the common bilateral agreements between individual academic institutions.

The project will bring its participants together in a collaboration beyond mutual interest; it will also improve the ways of overcoming the barriers and difficulties that will inevitably arise during the course of such ventures.

Promoting exchanges of research staff

By bringing these outcomes together, URBACHINA will therefore build a solid platform establishing a lasting network of collaboration in the field of social sciences and humanities.



A view of the Oriental Pearl Tower in the Pudong area of Shanghai.

Photograph taken by the Urbachina consortium.

The 'natural' recipients of the URBACHINA deliverables and reports include: the scientific community, the institutions that are directly or indirectly involved in the project, the cities (*both in China and in the EU*) that will be involved in the project's activities, the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee and those of the Stakeholders Committee.

In addition, particular emphasis will be given to the dissemination of the URBACHINA findings to Chinese government bodies, institutions, corporations and media, using policy briefs and other relevant policy documents.

Organisation			Country
CNRS		Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris	France
HUADA		Huadong Shifan Daxue (East China Normal University), Shanghai	China
DRC		Development Research Center of the State Council, Beijing	China
SERU (UOB)		University of Birmingham/Services and Enterprises Research Unit, Birmingham	United Kingdom
CASS (IFTE)		Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Finance and Trade Economics, Beijing	China
LSE		London School of Economics & Political Science, London	United Kingdom
CAS (IGSNRR)		Institute of Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing	China
ISIS		Istituto di Studi per l'Integrazione dei Sistemi, Rome	Italy
ICS		University of Lisbon, Instituto de Ciencias Sociais, Lisbon	Portugal
RENDA		People's University, School of Environment and Natural Resources, Beijing	China
AAESR		Anhui Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, Anhui	China

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Graphic design: Valérie Lecoutey - www.creapicture.com

Photos by: Istockphoto (unless otherwise stated)

Printing: Scriptlaser

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推动科研人员的交流

通过汇聚与整合研究成果，城镇化中国项目将在社会科学与人文科学领域内建立一个可持续发展的科研合作网络，并由此而建立一个长期的网络。

城镇化中国项目科研成果及科研报告将直接受益者包括新科技研发人员群体，直接或间接参与项目的科研机构以及本项目所涉及的欧洲和中国的各个城市，还有学术咨询委员会成员和项目合作参与方委员会成员。

城镇化中国项目的研究成果将以简报或其它有针对性的报告形式优先提供给中国政府相关部门，学术研究机构，企业与媒体。

*A view of the
Oriental Pearl
Tower in the
Pudong area of
Shanghai.
Photograph taken
by the Urbachina
consortium.*



工作任务进度安排

城镇化中国项目的进度管理与诸项目目标的逐一实现将包含下列步骤：

- 举行一次项目前期启动会议，批准本工作规划的各项实施步骤，明确每一合作伙伴方所承担的角色及所担负的责任。
- 举行三次年度会议，轮流在欧盟与中国举行，项目各参与讨论和介绍项目各实施阶段研究发现。

- 举行两次学术咨询委员会会议，监督项目实施进度，评估项目的学术价值与研究内容的创新性。

- 举行两次合作伙伴全体会议，推动学者与政府决策者之间的对话。
- 在项目终结之时举行一次国际会议，向中国及欧盟的主要相关负责人介绍城镇化中国项目的最终成果。

对社会产生的影响

本项目与城镇化相关的学术研究及决策支持工作对社会产生的影响最终体现在可测度的指标上，主要包括人均GDP，服务的可获得性，环境质量，社会不平等现象的减少，对传统及文化遗产的保护，总体社会福利水平，中国城市居民的生活质量等。我们不仅重视对政府决策提供支持，而且强调城市居民对新的城市化政策的反应以及自我组织实施能力。

拓宽科学研究合作的领域

中国已与欧洲与世界其它国家在科学研究方面签署了双边合作协议。而城镇化中国项目将使各国研究机构之间在科学研究方面的双边合作获得的成果得以广泛运用而不仅限于双边合作范畴。本项目将使项目参与各方一起进行多边合作，超越双边的利益，并更有效地克服合作研发过程中产生的各种障碍与困难。



行业政策与跨行业政策

针对项目所涉及的四大主题，我们将分别阐述和讨论政府机构改革，政府治理方式改革，土地使用政策，投资规划与有关能源，交通与公共健康等领域的优先投资规划，市场手段和政策手段。城镇化中国项目的研究方法将在行业政策与其所需明确的要求之间建立起重要的相互联系，有助于实现综合的城镇治理。

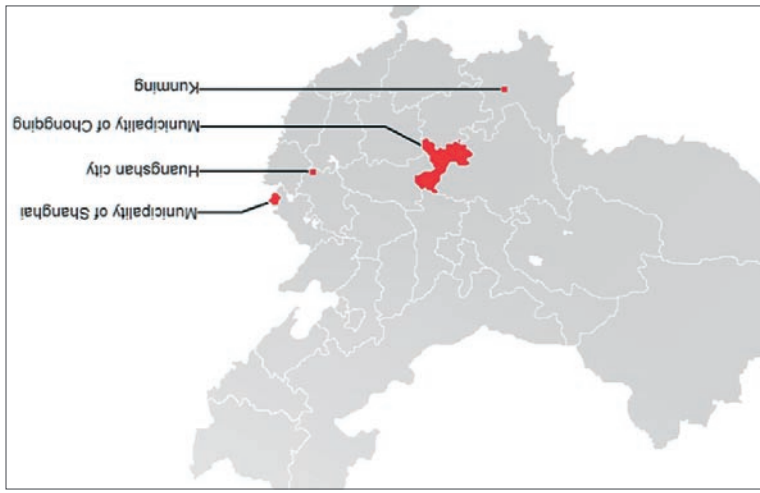
新科技研发政策

数据的可获得性，信息平台的建立，城市间通过合作的方式探讨城镇化问题等将是项目优先讨论的内容。这将建立在本项目框架范围内所积累的具体经验，而这些经验也将成为本项目所提建议的组成部分。

方法

城镇化中国项目将采用多层次与跨学科的研究框架，分析现行城镇化的影响以及对未来城镇化所产生的启迪。我们将采用不同的方法与不同的数据库：例如统计数据的采集与统计学计算；案例研究；对政府官员，决策者，企业家及学者展开范围广泛的，多学科的采访与问卷调查，其中包括经济地理科学，城市经济学，环境研究，社会学，人类化学和历史学等。本项目所秉承的合作研究方式将确保欧盟与中国学者能积极参与项目所涉及的各项任务。在进行城市化以及建设可持续发展城市的跨国研究分析的过程中，本项目将选取四个反差很大的，然而面临着与可持续发展相关的共同挑战的案例城市。这四个城市分别为上海，重庆，昆明和黄山。

Four cities under study



对政策制定者产生影响

对现行政策进行整体评估

对城镇化发展的历史与未来趋势深层次理解，应包含对政策驱动因素及其对城镇化产生影响的深入分析。

为此，我们需要识别 (1)
总体社会发展指标 (2)
城镇化政策动因 (3)

中国城镇发展的本质，速度及特征之间的联系，这将有助于我们对当前的城镇化政策的认识。

对现行政策的评估还将帮助理解现行城镇化政策是否有助于推动中国政府降低温室气体排放，发展低碳经济，

提高能效，平衡地区发展，缩小城乡差别和减少社会不公平等方面所设定的总体目标的实现。

决策支持机制

城镇化中国项目将设计发展前景，描绘未来城镇化的发展前景等。虽然这些情景需通过具体描述来进行讨论，但它们将为决策者提供跟每一个情景相对应的几个关键的政策选择方案，供他们探讨其可行性及识别实施这些方案所需的先决条件。为此，建立一些可持续发展的指标，将成为支持决策过程和检测政策实施的重要工具。



Shanghai city: an illustration of urbanisation
Photograph taken by the Urbachina consortium



A view of a residential area in Shanghai.
Photograph taken by the Urbachina consortium.

可持续发展

在1978年底采取的一系列改革开放政策的有力推动下，中国城镇化进程发展迅速。由于近年来快速发展的城镇化对环境、资源与人民的健康产生了显著影响，可以预见，中国城镇的快速扩张过程将对中国可持续发展构成前所未有的挑战。

城镇化中国项目特别强调可持续发展概念的四个主要方面。

- 政府决策依据与出台的政策；
- 土地，产权与城乡差别；
- 可持续发展的城镇基础设施服务；
- 城镇中传统与现代生活方式。

目标

城镇化中国项目设定的最终目标为：加深欧盟与中国对城镇化发展趋势的共理解识别可持续发展城镇的主要方面通过书籍出版，大型活动的组织，媒体与网络宣传等强有力的和多样化的传播策提高决策者和大众对可持续发展的问题的认识

城镇化的共同目标。
实现建设可持续发展型城
镇的共同目标。
研究人员与决策者之间的合作，
目的便是加强双方研究人员之间、
领域的领域。该项目的个主要
双方依然有诸多相互可学习与借
历了不同的城镇化发展道路，
虽然欧盟与中国各自经
重点强调欧盟与中国之间的合作。
城镇化中国是一项学术项目，

欧盟与中国的合作

七个框架性国际合作项目，
由在中国和欧盟处领先地位的
11家研究机构共同实施，
法国国家科学研究中心组织协调。
城市中国项目将分析研究未来
40年间中国城市化发展趋势，
并根据可持续发展的概念制定未
来可能实现的发展蓝图。

导言

Urbachina
consortium at the
Kick-Off meeting
in Beijing,
May 2011,
Photograph taken
by the Urbachina
consortium.



城镇化中国

URBACHINA

城镇化中国

中国城镇的可持续发展：
历史沿革与前景比较分析，
2050年宏观发展趋势展望



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