



## Metropolitan Region Urban Research and Cooperation Program 2010-2014 (KATUMETRO)

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## **Metropolitan Region Urban Research and Cooperation Program 2010-2014**

### **Introduction**

Metropolitan Region Urban Research and Cooperation Program 2010-2014 (acronym: KATUMETRO) is a project based on horizontal and multi-nodal cooperation network, which develops and funds urban research and related development activities as well as applying scientific research data, results and knowledge as the basis of decision-making, creates best-practices and new innovative operation models. The program and the cooperation model on which it is built upon, is based on strengthening interaction and partnership between universities, universities of applied science and the cities of Helsinki Metropolitan Region. The program is recognized as having certain unique characteristics on the international level. In the implementation of the model both basic research and on-demand -based applied research activities, long-term as well as international perspectives are all reconciled in the program.

The main aim of the program is to promote and fund multi-disciplinary, level high quality urban research with the starting point that takes into consideration the special characteristics of the Helsinki Metropolitan Region. In addition the program funds related innovative applied research and development activities. Second and no-less important goal of the program is to deepen and broaden the multi-nodal cooperation in the field of urban research and related development activities. Special attention is paid on the improving usability and dissemination of research data and knowledge in developing of the Helsinki metropolitan region.

### **Background of the Program**

Metropolitan Region Urban Studies Network, Region's University Rectors Forum as well as Rectors Forum and City Helsinki and University of Helsinki Advisory Board had been discussing and negotiating about intensifying and strengthening urban science and research in relation to Finnish government's new Metropolitan Policy and its themes. Metropolitan Policy is a policy package started in the current governments' term of office (19.4.2007 - ...) which focuses on specific issues of the Helsinki metropolitan region. The policy package focuses on questions of metropolitan region's land-use, housing and traffic, trade, industry and international competitiveness, multiculturalism, in-migration and bilingualism as well as social integration. In this context urban studies and urban research are regarded as necessary means in supporting the aims of the Metropolitan Policy. Urban Science is also seen as a central element of the innovation system of the metropolitan region.

Metropolitan Region Urban Research and Cooperation Program 2010-2014 proposal was compiled in cooperation between number of universities, universities of applied science and cities of the Helsinki metropolitan region. In addition to those, a number of state research institutes and representatives of other organizations involved in developing the metropolitan region participated actively in defining the themes and contents of the program.

After an extensive process involving a series of workshops and as the result of the ensuing discussions, insightful opinions and views of the organizations and persons involved with and working within the developing the metropolitan region concerning what should be considered as focal research themes and how the already broad and high-quality research and knowledge generated in the area could be utilized better in developing of the metropolitan region and improvement of its inhabitants' wellbeing were collected.



The program was prepared in a workshop process in which the goal was to find central urban research themes and development objects for the metropolitan region. In addition development actions were defined in order to better diffuse urban studies research results, knowledge and collected data to the experts as well as urban researchers. It was also considered as highly important that the parties involved in different metropolitan region development actions should be brought together to think over the ways and means of exploiting and using better research data and scientific knowledge in developing the metropolitan region.

Besides the workshop process described above, the project has been based on study briefing the State of The Art in Urban Studies in Finland (Jauhiainen & Harvio 2008). According to the study urban regions and comparisons of those, also in the international scale, should be taken much more into consideration in the research and development in Finland. The societal effectiveness of urban studies should be strengthened. This would be accomplished most easily by increasing interaction between the producers and providers of research data and knowledge and the users (cities, municipalities, public administration, private and the third sector). Furthermore, the urban research conducted in the Helsinki metropolitan region, diffusion of the data and knowledge produced and implementation of the applicable results should be promoted and endorsed on a long-term basis.

In certain ways the Metropolitan Region Urban Research and Cooperation Program 2010-2014 is both continuation as well as outcome of the Metropolitan Region Urban Studies Network 1998-2010. The basic network and main partners are the same but strengthened with a number of new and new type partners in order to further develop the urban studies, dissemination and utilization of the results of current state of the art urban research in the metropolitan region.

## **The Program**

Metropolitan Region Urban Research and Cooperation Program 2010-2014 is currently funded on yearly basis co-jointly by two universities, four universities of applied science, four cities of Helsinki Metropolitan Region, and three ministries of the Finnish state. Research funding within the program is allocated four selected thematic projects of different types and lengths according to the program document drawn together by the partners involved in the project.

Main partners of the program in 2010 are: University of Helsinki, Aalto University (Helsinki University of Technology and Helsinki School of Economics), Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (DIAK), HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, LAUREA University of Applied Sciences, City of Helsinki, City of Espoo, City of Vantaa, City of Lahti, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Employment and the Economy and Ministry of Environment.

Program is open for new partners and is actively looking for new organizations to join-in. In order to join the program the prospective partners will have to fit the profile of the program and to provide certain amount of funding for program's research activities.



## Themes of the Program

The Metropolitan Region Urban Research and Cooperation Program 2010-2014 consist of four thematic areas:

1. **Living Environment and Urban Structure** (including themes of: transforming urban structure and its effects, sustainable structures and infrastructures, planning of living environment, managing urban transformation, diversity of urban nature and ecosystem services in developing of urban living environment)
2. **Multiculturalism and Migration** (including themes of: integration of migrants in Finland and elsewhere, migrants' housing, functionality of municipal public services in the multicultural society and foreigners cultural events)
3. **Welfare Policies and Services** (including themes of: urban spatial segregation of the metropolitan area and its effects, guaranteeing welfare services and service needs, housing and housing policies)
4. **Economy and Competitiveness** (including themes of: economic competitiveness of the metropolitan area, predicting needs for education and labor markets, in-migration and ethnic diversity as resources, consumption and users of culture, cultural services and events)

The themes are not meant to be exclusionary but rather set the framework for research and developing activities funded within the program. All of the four themes of the program include urban governance and international perspective as horizontal dimensions.

During the year 2010 the program is executed in five appointed home base universities, all of whom are also partners of the program contract. Thematic areas of the home base universities are as follows:

1. **Living Environment and Urban Structure:**  
Aalto University (Helsinki University of Technology)
2. **Multiculturalism and Migration:**  
Diaconia University of Applied Sciences
3. **Welfare Policies and Services:**  
University of Helsinki (basic research) &  
Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (applied research)
4. **Economy and Competitiveness:**  
HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences

Home base universities all have their own selected Cutting Edge research and/or development projects which are described more in detail in the annexes of this document.



## The Steering Group

Implementation and execution of the program is supervised by the Steering Group of the program. Places in the Steering Group are divided according to the amount of funding provided for the program, in 2010 the minimum cost of participation was set at 30 000€. The program is being coordinated by coordinator mr. Jussi Kulonpalo at the University of Helsinki's Faculty of Social Sciences.

The Steering Group for 2010 consists of the following persons representing their respective organizations participating in the program:

Prof. Hannu Niemi, University of Helsinki (Chair of the Group)  
Asta Manninen, City of Helsinki (Vice-Chair)  
Timo Cantell, City of Helsinki  
Teuvo Savikko, City of Espoo  
Kristiina Tikkala, City of Vantaa  
Sari Alm, City of Lahti  
Raine Mäntysalo, Aalto University (Helsinki University of Technology)  
Elina Eriksson, Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences  
Annukka Jyrämä, Aalto University (Helsinki School of Economics)  
Sakari Kainulainen, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences  
Lauri Tuomi, HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences  
Janne Antikainen, Ministry of Employment and The Economy  
Aulis Tynkkynen, Ministry of Environment.  
Saara Jääskeläinen, Ministry of Transport and Communications

The program is currently set for five year period and program's research activities started in May 2010 when all current partners involved signed the contract for 2010. The continuation contract is currently at the final stages of negotiations for the period 2011 through to 2014. While the cooperation contract of the program is being currently made for four years, the program and its funding of the research activities will be budgeted on annual basis.

## The Cutting Edge Projects in 2010

During the year 2010 the program is executed in the appointed home base universities by carrying out five selected Cutting Edge projects following the themes of the program (see Annex for detailed descriptions of the projects, as provided by the project teams). Some of the projects act as umbrella projects for a number of sub projects, others are complete academic basic research projects or shorter term projects addressing a specific issue. Working language of all projects in Finnish, the project titles are freely translated for the purpose of this document only.

- 1. Living Environment and Urban Structure:** Aalto University (Helsinki University of Technology) Homebase: Aalto University / Centre for Urban and Regional Studies  
Cutting edge project: "Integrated and Dense Urban structure"  
*Project coordinator: Mervi Ilmonen*
- 2. Multiculturalism and Migration:** Diaconia University of Applied Sciences  
Homebase: Diaconia University of Applied Sciences  
Cutting edge project: "Development project of the user-friendly data collection and production for supporting the field of migrant- and multicultural fieldwork"  
Project coordinator: Elina Ekholm



**3. Welfare Policies and Services:** University of Helsinki & Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences

Project 3a

Homebase: University of Helsinki

Cutting edge project: "*Helsinki region development and differences in wellbeing between 2001-2011: Survey*"

Researchers in charge: Prof. Mari Vaattovaara and prof. Matti Kortteinen

Project 3b

Homebase: Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Health Care and Nursing

Cutting edge project: "*Interventions Promoting and Reducing their Differences Regarding Health and Wellbeing - Performing a Meta-analysis of Development Projects*"

Project leader in charge: Elina Eriksson, Adjunct Professor, Directors

**4. Economy and Competitiveness:** HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences

Homebase: HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences

Cutting edge project: "*Brand and Attractiveness of Metropolis Area, Finland: International Students' and Researchers' points of view*"

Project coordinator: Tarja Koskinen-Nisula

Public call for new Cutting Edge Project proposals for year 2011 was published in the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. The list of the themes of the program was slightly expanded for this purpose to include new issues such as municipal public economy. The program steering Group will choose the new projects to be funded in December and the new projects will start in January 2011.

### **Funding Structure of the Program**

Total budget of the Metropolitan Region Urban Research and Cooperation Program for year 2010 is 595 000 €. It should be noted that unfortunately the full original proposed budget of the project was not achieved for year 2010 due to some partners opting out of the project for the time being. Due to this the program started in 2010 with approximately 50% of the nominal budget, with most partners contributing half of their full intended share of funding for the project. In addition to those, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Employment and The Economy and Ministry of Environment all joined the project at a later stage during 2010. However, according to the current plan the annual budget for the period 2010-2014 will be brought up to full scale with each partner in the network contributing their 100% share. In addition to this, negotiations concerning the Ministry of Education as well as some other new partners joining the program in 2011 are currently underway. While the new cooperation contract of the program is being currently written for four years period starting in January 2011, the program and its funding of the research activities will be budgeted on annual basis in the future.



## LINKS

Metropolitan Region Research and Cooperation Program 2010-2014 homepage (currently only in Finnish): <http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/blogs/kaupunkitutkimus/index.htm>

### Homepages of all the partners of the project (in English)

#### City of Helsinki

<http://www.hel.fi/hki/Helsinki/en/Etusivu>

#### City of Espoo

<http://english.espoo.fi/>

#### City of Vantaa

[http://www.vantaa.fi/en/i\\_etusivu.asp?path=110](http://www.vantaa.fi/en/i_etusivu.asp?path=110)

#### City of Lahti

<http://lahti.fi/www/cms.nsf/pages/indexeng>

#### University of Helsinki

<http://www.helsinki.fi/university/>

#### Aalto University (Helsinki University of Technology)

<http://www.tkk.fi/en/>

#### Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (presents Aalto/HUT in the project)

<http://ytk.tkk.fi/en/>

#### Aalto University (Helsinki School of Economics)

<http://www.hse.fi/EN/>

#### Diaconia University of Applied Sciences

<http://english.diak.fi/>

#### HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences

<http://www.haaga-helia.fi/en>

#### Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences

<http://www.metropolia.fi/en/>

#### LAUREA University of Applied Sciences

<http://www.laurea.fi/internet/en/index.jsp>

#### Ministry of Transport and Communications

<http://www.lvm.fi/web/en/home>

#### Ministry of Employment and the Economy

<http://www.tem.fi/?l=en>

#### Ministry of Environment

<http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?lan=en>



## ANNEX

### 2010 Cutting Edge Project Descriptions (as provided by the projects)

#### Theme 1.

**Living Environment and Urban Structure:** Aalto University (Helsinki University of Technology) Home-base: Aalto University / Centre for Urban and Regional Studies  
Cutting edge project: *"Integrated and Dense Urban Structure"*

Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (YTK) at Aalto University School of Science and Technology acts as home base for theme 1: Urban Structure and Living Environment within the programme of Urban studies and Metropolitan Policy. Theme 1 focuses on the living environment and urban structure of the metropolitan area in order to improve its international competitiveness and balanced development.

In 2010, the home base has initiated a one year spearhead project "Integrated and dense urban structure in the metropolitan area" within the programme. The research group consists of experienced researchers from Aalto University's Department of Real Estate and Surveying and Department of Civil- and Environmental engineering; Helsinki University's Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences and Metropolia University of Applied Sciences' field of culture. Their research builds on three different pursuits: drawing from previous and existing research, carrying out state of the art- preliminary studies and seeking synergy with other projects within the same subject field. The spearhead project also organizes dissemination seminars targeted to practitioners and politicians of the Metropolitan Area. State of the art- preliminary studies examine the current state of research in densifying cities and the possibilities of using existing data and methods. The effects and people's experiences of a dense and integrated urban structure are studied critically and multidisciplinarily from ecological and user-based perspectives. The user's everyday choices, experiences, ecological demands and commuting in the metropolitan area are the central focus of this research.

As a whole the Integrated and dense urban structure in the metropolitan area – project aims to provide research results that take a stand on the profitability and reasonableness of the urban densification and secondly to the integration policy and its influences on the urban structure and living environment. Thus the project also creates bases and insights for future research and planning.

#### ***Short introduction to the projects of each researcher in the spearhead project of Theme 1:***

**Vesa Yli-Pelkonen**, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, concentrates on how a dense and integrated urban structure affects the ecosystem services (the greenery and water areas) and the living environment as a whole.

**Suvi Aho**, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, field of culture, investigates how children and adolescents travel and wish to travel to cultural amenities in the city. This is carried out by using participatory creative methods in order to attain experiential knowledge on children's movements in their living environment.

**Pasi Laitala**, Aalto University, Department of Real Estate and Surveying, is looking at how municipalities aim to more ecological solutions regarding urban density as an important goal. Laitala is interested to find out whether the ecological strategies are in line with the land use decisions and implementations.



**Antero Alku, Virpi Ojala and Jari Kurri** at Aalto University, Department of Civil- and Environmental Engineering, focus on the effects that a functionally and socially interactive traffic-planning could have to the integration and densification of urban structure and the overall living environment. The aim is to move beyond normative traffic planning and regard it more as a part of a system where different actors and networks all contribute to the living environment. Their focus is particularly on public transport and light rail (tram) traffic.



## Theme 2.

**Multiculturalism and Migration:** Diaconia University of Applied Sciences

Homebase: Diaconia University of Applied Sciences

Cutting edge project: *“Development project of the user-friendly data collection and production for supporting the field of migrant- and multicultural fieldwork”*

Diaconia University of Applied Sciences is responsible for the Homebase Immigration and Intercultural City. Diaconia University offers degree programmes in health and social services and it also carries out research and development work closely related to working life.

In recent years both the research and practical knowledge on multicultural issues have increased in Finland. One of the basic ideas of KatuMetro programme is to generate research projects, which would help developing the municipal service systems. Therefore it was necessary when starting up the Intercultural City –programme to find out the opinions of practitioners about the usability and accessibility of the existing research and their wishes concerning new research needs. Webropol-questionnaire was sent to municipal civil servants and third sector stakeholders working with multicultural issues in the cities of Espoo, Helsinki, Vantaa and Lahti.

According to the respondents (N=89) shortage of time was the biggest obstacle in following current research. However, research was greatly appreciated: the respondents felt that research helped them to analyze and structure their work and to understand causal relationships of complex phenomena. It also gives new angles and perspectives and it can have an empowering effect. In order to better follow up new research results respondents would prefer to receive electronic Newsletters with research summaries and to take part in expert seminars, where researchers and practitioners could discuss together themes important to both groups. Respondents have also many ideas how to arrange the follow-up of the latest research at their workplaces and how to disseminate information and practical knowledge between workplaces with the help of seminars, peer support, staff exchange and different learning platforms.

One of the main targets in the questionnaire was to find out which research themes would benefit intercultural work at the grass-root and administrative level. The respondents would like to have more information especially about the issues concerning immigrant families, second generation, social networks and peer support, regional differentiation, integration training, attitudes, inclusion and two-way integration. The questionnaire dealt also with the participation of immigrants and ethnic minorities in the research projects. The respondents emphasized the role of the immigrants in the planning and implementation of research as active and paid co-researchers instead of being research objects.

On the basis of the questionnaire results more detailed research programme for Intercultural City Homebase will be drafted. Students of Diaconia University (and later on also students and post-graduates of other universities) will be encouraged to select research topics concerning multicultural issues. As a concrete measure Diaconia University starts to publish a Newsletter with research summaries of national and international research. Workshops and expert meeting will also be arranged in order to increase interaction and mutual learning between researchers and practitioners. The first theme of the research workshops will be prevention and reconciliation of ethnic conflicts.



### **Theme 3.**

#### **Welfare Policies and Services:** University of Helsinki & Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences **Project 3a**

Homebase: University of Helsinki

Cutting edge project: "*Helsinki region development and differences in wellbeing 2001-2011: Survey*"

Helsinki and its surrounding municipalities have over the past two decades developed into a single employment area, which is an internal spatial segregation through the recall of other European metropolitan regions. We desperately need more research data on segregation and the fact this kind of patterns of segregation effects are those living near people's lives. Such information is essential to achieving area's full development potential, damage prevention and mitigation.

In end of 2001 the Academy of Finland funded Syreeni - project (exclusion, inequality and social relations project) carried out an extensive survey of research on this theme. Although regional differences were at that time by international comparison relatively small, the survey data analysis indicated that applied to these differences may be correlated to the manner in which people in the region in different regions of their own territory to find and the neighborhood thrive, and how social networks regionally structured and how individuals choose their place of the residence.

The previous survey's framework - social exclusion, inequality and ethnic relations - is now even more topical. In 2008, the economic downturn brought back those same issues created by the early 1990s economic recession. It is feared that with the current recession and its effects spatial differences will again grow further. These events bring their own perspective on the metropolitan region's population growth, with a strong emphasis on immigration.

The new survey aims to replicate as strictly as possible, the survey collected in 2001 in order to enable direct comparisons and analysis with the previous data set. The dataset can be eventually used to analyze the differences in welfare, and to follow its development from different perspectives. The exploitation of research material to provide the data for reasons of social segregation, spatial structuring of social relations, residential comfort and safety, the residence of factors affecting the choice and allow the area investigating the effects of welfare differentials background factors. At the same time the new survey will provide a new view to the new conditions of the research area. Furthermore, the research area will be expanded to allow a wider regional sample so that the survey covers the entire functional Helsinki region. In addition the questionnaire will be also adjusted to be used in City of Lahti. As described above, with the original data from 2001 the new survey will generate extensive dataset about the metropolitan area's population welfare disparities in development between 2001 and 2011.

The survey is conducted under the supervision professor Matti Kortteinen (University of Helsinki, Social Studies) and professor Mari Vaattovaara (University of Helsinki, Department of Geography and Geosciences). Project team includes also researcher Ari Jaakola (Helsinki City Center), researcher Henrik Lönnqvist (Helsinki City Center), Leena Pääkkönen-Tarvainen (City of Vantaa) as well as researcher Martti Tuominen (Helsinki Urban Facts).



### **Project 3b**

Homebase: Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Health Care and Nursing

Cutting edge project: *“Interventions Promoting and Reducing their Differences Regarding Health and Wellbeing - Performing a Meta-analysis of Development Projects”*

The aim of theme 3 for 2010 is to describe and evaluate service innovations promoting and reducing

differences in health and wellbeing. These innovations have been developed by the municipalities and universities in the metropolitan area. Service innovations are defined as innovations, new functional models or innovative operational practices. The starting point for the project is that operators in the area have no overall view of the projects that have been conducted and implemented throughout the area. Those projects meeting the certain predetermined criteria will be included in the analysis. These criteria requisite that the project ends or is about to end in 2009-2010; it is largely related to health and wellbeing; it focuses on the development of client services and/or enforcing the participation of clients; and the focus of attention is on the wellbeing of residents of municipalities. In addition, the project is implemented by municipalities, universities or as a result of their cooperation. Based on the abovementioned inclusion criteria, 30 projects have been chosen. They will be evaluated using a measurement scale developed for this project. This major project includes Metropolia and Laurea Universities of Applied Sciences as active actors as well as the cities of Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa and Lahti. A steering group of the participants has been nominated for the project. Their task is to guide the actions of researchers and make decisions concerning the progress of the project.

In 2011-2014, the aim is to form a model based on the projects included in the meta-analysis developing service innovations and their implementation and guiding process as well as methods of introduction, implementation and distribution. By means of substance projects and their results, the model will be piloted and its appropriateness, applicability and effectiveness will be evaluated.



#### **Theme 4.**

**Economy and Competitiveness:** HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences

Homebase: HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences

Cutting edge project: *“Brand and Attractiveness of Metropolis Area, Finland: International Students’ and Researchers’ points of view”*

In order to enhance their attractiveness, cities and higher education institutes in the metropolis, i.e. capital area should know what experiences and opinions international students and researchers have. Furthermore, it is as important to be aware of future the perspectives of international students and researchers, and especially how potential they place Finland’s capital area is as a place to live and work in the future.

In export of education Finnish higher education institutes act in the market of most intensive competition. In this market quality of education services is extremely important. Nevertheless it is as important for the institutes and cities to be aware of how competitive their other features are, like services during and after studies or even their brand.

Furthermore, cities and higher education institutes must notice that a creative and attractive metropolis area offers not only education, but also cultural services, leisure time activities and for instance, innovative and attractive housing solutions. Possible obstacles like bureaucracy with working permissions and visas should be noted, even if they certainly decrease the attractiveness of the capital area.

#### **Research objectives**

The main objective of the research program is to shed light to facts which create, increase on one hand and hinder and decrease on the other hand the attractiveness of Finnish metropolis area. Research will give an opportunity to representatives of higher education institutes and municipalities to see their metropolis from the points of view of international students, researchers and executives.

The results of the research program will be applied in the development work of new innovative solutions to improve attractiveness of metropolis area.

#### **Work plan**

In the first phase the appropriate existing research data was collected in spring summer 2010. The research is organized in August-November 2010. The process includes qualitative and quantitative parts. In the qualitative part interviews will be conducted in Shanghai, China; St. Petersburg, Russia and in the metropolis area, Finland. The quantitative research will be conducted in Finland.

The first results will be processed in workshops which will be organized in co-operation with cities and higher education institutes of the metropolis area. The process will guarantee the proper practical application of the project results for further development.

#### **Qualitative research in 2010:**

1. International students in Helsinki
2. Potential international students (Shanghai, Harbin)



3. International executives in higher education and business (St. Petersburg, Russia; Shanghai, China)

### **Project organization**

1. Steering Group:

o Chair: Dr. Lauri Tuomi, vice-president, HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences

o Dr. Annukka Jyrämä, professor, Aalto University

o Dr. Sammy Toyoki, Aalto University

o Ms. Iina Oilinki, specialist, City of Helsinki

o Ms. Tarja Koskinen-Nisula, project manager

2. Research supervisor: Dr. Sammy Toyoki, Aalto University

3. Expertise: Dr. Teemu Moilanen, HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences

4. Two field researchers preparing their Master's degrees

For further information, please contact:

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**Call for Research Project Proposals:  
Metropolitan Region Urban Research and Cooperation Program  
is looking for proposals for projects to be funded in 2011.**

'Urban Studies and Metropolitan Policy' Metropolitan Region Research and Cooperation Program 2010-2014 is a project based on partnership between universities, polytechnic schools, cities of Helsinki Metropolitan Region and three ministries of the Finnish state. The program develops and funds urban research and related development activities. Its goal is to improve use of scientific research data and results as the basis of decision-making as well as seek best-practices and new innovative operations models between cities and universities.

The program steering Group requests research teams to provide preparatory research as well as development project proposals for projects to be funded during the year 2011. The project will have to be linked with the program's themes and as well as focus on issues and phenomena located on metropolitan region (see attachment for list of themes).

Project proposals should include research plan, budget, duration of the project and the main applicant's CV. Projects can apply funding for research costs and researchers' and assistants' salaries, to be hired at a university participating in the program. Funding will be granted first and foremost to projects which produce new research and data as well as related development activities. Metropolitan Region Research and Cooperation Program will not fund activities that can be regarded as universities basic activities. Funding can be granted for a year at a time at the maximum.

The program steering Group will review the proposals and chooses the projects to be funded. In the selection of the projects to be funded the following criteria will be emphasized: relevancy with regards to the programs themes and subjects, questions stemming from the metropolitan region's special features, cooperation between several actors and institutions, multidisciplinary approaches, international and comparative perspectives. High scientific quality is the requirement for basic research projects. Other important factors are the publicity of the results and data as well as applicability as a basis of the public decision-making in the metropolitan region.

Project proposals with all attachments should be sent to the coordinator Jussi Kulonpalo ([jussi.kulonpalo@helsinki.fi](mailto:jussi.kulonpalo@helsinki.fi)) by email. **Deadline for submitting proposals is Friday November 26<sup>th</sup>, 16.00 hours.** *Proposals arriving after the deadline will not be accepted.*

Metropolitan Region Research and Cooperation Program homepage:  
<http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/blogs/kaupunkitutkimus/>



## **Metropolitan Region Research and Cooperation Program Universities with their specified thematic research areas:**

### **1. Living Environment and Urban Structure:**

Aalto University (Helsinki University of Technology)

### **2. Multiculturalism and Migration:**

Diaconia University of Applied Sciences

### **3. Welfare Policies and Services:**

University of Helsinki (basic research) &  
Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences (applied research)

### **4. Economy and Competitiveness:**

HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences

*The program steering Group welcomes in particular the proposals focusing on the following:*

#### **Living Environment and urban structure**

- Transforming urban structure and its effects
- Sustainable urban structures and infrastructure
- Planning the living environment, controlling the change and participation
- Diversity of urban nature and ecosystem services
- Ways and means of encountering climate and environmental change

#### **Multiculturalism and migration**

- Cultural diversity and its effects in the metropolitan area
- Migrants' integration into Finnish society
- Migrants' housing issues and housing careers
- Functioning of the public service provision in a multicultural society
- Migrants' cultural events and services

#### **Welfare policies and services**

- Spatial differentiation of the metropolitan region and its effects
- Welfare services, development and ensuring the availability of those, future of public services
- Special needs of public service provision and spatial division of public services
- Housing issues and housing policy
- Wellbeing factors of the metropolitan area

#### **Economy and competitiveness**

- Economic competitiveness of the metropolitan area, innovation activities and Metropolitan brand
- Municipal economy and development of municipal economy
- Anticipating the future education needs and the functioning of labor market on the metropolitan region
- Immigration and ethnic diversity as a resource
- Consumers of culture, cultural services and events