

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Work Package 5



THE CASE FOR SOCIAL CAPITAL

The concept of social capital is gaining increasing recognition as a concomitant for social and economic development. From its early usage in the 1920s when it was used to describe the intangible substances that count most in people's lives (the cultivation of goodwill, fellowship, sympathy and social intercourse among the individuals that constitute a social unit), the term has grown to reflect a diversity of social, economic and political goals. There is also a growing realisation that the design and form of cities, neighbourhoods and individual buildings have significant implications on social capital as they can affect the way people interact and bond with each other. The fundamental premise is that some urban designs encourage social ties and informal contacts while others do not.

Human capital



and

Social capital



Some designs have proved to work in terms of encouraging emergence of social capital

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RESEARCH AIM

It is the aim of this Work Package to provide operational constructs of the concept of social capital within the context of urban developments and to provide methods for its prediction, measurement and assessment.

KEY TASKS OF THE RESEARCH

Identify the components and determinants of social capital within the urban environment context

Develop a mechanism for measuring social capital based on the physical characteristics and features of the urban environment

Develop a process to assess the marginal effects on social capital of changes in the design of developments

