

◇ Germany

SURE – Sustainable Development of Urban Regions

Bringing research for sustainability and resilience directly into application – that is the core task of the SURE funding priority.

The SURE funding priority creates fundamental conditions to manage energy efficiently, to close material cycles and to balance ecosystem services in Southeast Asia and China. SURE shows that economically competitive, environmentally friendly and socially integrated urbanisation is possible.

Within the framework of SURE, ten collaborative projects develop strategies for the sustainable use of resources and an improved quality of life in urban regions in Southeast Asia and China. The focus is on the development and testing of concepts for the sustainable transformation of fast-growing urban regions. The concepts lead both to the strengthening of ecological factors and to greater resilience in face of natural disasters and other consequences of climate change. Above all, the permanent anchoring of solutions on site as well as their transferability to other urban regions in Southeast Asia and China are important concerns of the SURE projects.

SURE addresses the challenges arising from the intertwining of urbanisation, the overexploitation of natural resources and climate change. 70 % of the world's population will live in cities by 2050. Currently, more than 50 % of the world's population already lives in cities. The urbanisation dynamic continues unabatedly, especially in developing and emerging countries. The pace of growth, the densification of the population and the use of resources are historically unique, ushering the 21st century into the »urban millennium«.

An essential part of the SURE funding priority are common focus topics providing a basis for cross-project exchange on case studies and approaches. These focus topics are illustrated on the next page.

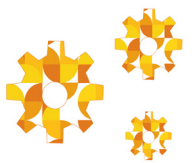


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The SURE focus topics support the cross-project exchange and give impetus to implementable solutions for more sustainability and resilience in Southeast Asia and China.

Integrated Planning & Development



Integrated Planning and Development

Integrated Planning and Development refers to collective organizational efforts across local contexts and governmental divisions and is thereby a key factor for the strengthening of sustainable and resilient settlements.

Resource Efficiency & Mitigation



Resource Efficiency and Mitigation

A more thoughtful use of the earth's resources as well as the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, through new technologies, renewable energies or changing consumer behaviour, supports the overall transition-to-sustainability.

Ecosystems Services & Natural Solutions



Ecosystem Services and Natural Solutions

Ecosystems are increasingly threatened by climate change. Nature-based solutions minimise negative impacts, aim to regenerate ecosystems and thereby maintain and enhance both human well-being and biodiversity.

Risk Management & Risk Reduction



Risk Management and Risk Reduction

The active participation of communities in the identification, analysis and assessment of risks contributes to successful risk management as well as the reduction of vulnerabilities and capacity-building in case of natural disasters.

Sustainable Behaviour & Practices



Sustainable Behaviour and Practices

Sustainable behaviour and practices support minimising adverse effects on natural environment, while also taking social and economic factors into account.

Urban-Rural-Nexus



Urban-Rural Nexus

The urban-rural nexus refers to the reciprocal flows between cities and surrounding areas. Considering these interrelationships in the planning of programmes and strategies is of great importance for the overall urban and rural development.