

Governing Urban Diversity: Creating Social Cohesion, Social Mobility and Economic Performance in Today's Hyper-diversified Cities

Results in Brief



Urban diversity boosts social and economic resilience

EU-funded researchers explored whether there is evidence of positive aspects of urban diversity for social cohesion, social mobility and economic performance in European cities and how they can be enhanced.



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With the current economic situation in Europe, better social cohesion, higher economic performance and increased opportunities for social mobility are all ways to improve cities and make them more competitive. However, urban policies currently in place do not always consider urban diversity in a positive light. As such, new policies are called for as well as an assessment of successful policies.

The **DIVERCITIES** project sought out innovative policy instruments and government arrangements to help view urban diversity in a positive light, increase interaction between urban groups and expand participation. The research team conducted a comparative study in 13 European cities as well as in Toronto, Canada. Case studies were utilised in diverse neighbourhoods. The project also sought ways to improve the

knowledge base for policymakers on different levels.

Researchers aimed to understand hyper-diversity in contemporary European cities. They also examined relationships between hyper-diversity, social polarisation and geographical variability related to inequality. Looking at core relationships between diversity and contemporary forms of urban governance revealed that cities tend to have a more pragmatic and positive approach to diversity than nation-states. This is particularly important in the wake of an influx of refugees to Europe.

Six comparative themes resulted from the analysis. There is a shift from multiculturalism to assimilation and integration. Individual responsibility and equal opportunity is becoming widespread. There is also a growing awareness of the importance of age and lifestyle differences that is going into city planning.

After discovering the themes, DIVERCITIES made suggestions for policy interventions. The areas for intervention include mainstreaming diversity, supporting local projects and initiatives, and promoting diversity awareness and recognition. Research shows that diversity operates as a background element of urban life, and that it requires an aesthetic value and is appreciated within certain limits. The findings helped define policy implications and provide recommendations.

Dissemination of the results took place through widespread communication means. These included the creation of a project website and leaflet, policy briefs, digital newsletters, social media site activation, master classes and a final conference. The work has already had an impact on both science and policymaking.

Keywords

Urban diversity, social cohesion, social mobility, economic performance, DIVERCITIES

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DIVERCITIES

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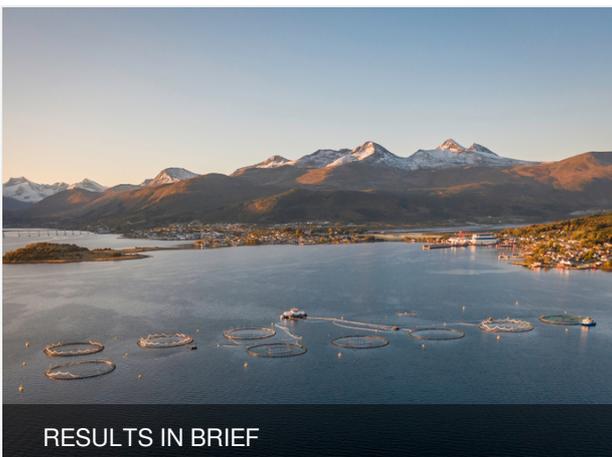


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