

Abstract Template

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Presentation title: B10 – Informed Cities: Universities and Cities – Opportunities and Obstacles for Fruitful Cooperation

Executive Summary of your Abstract:

City – University cooperation is a prerequisite both for leading cities as well as research oriented universities. In an increasing number of cases this cooperation is acknowledged with common goals and priorities. Despite this development the opportunities are not always seen as the only outcome and obstacles for fruitful cooperation can be traced.

Abstract:

Universities and leading cities have existed in a fruitful cooperation in centuries in Europe. Strong and independent cities have always been favourable sites for highest research.

This dynamic co-existence has gradually turned into cooperation. The reasons for this development are many. This development can be traced back to the needs of cities and local governments. The political and administrative environment for local governments is very demanding and requires expert knowledge in much higher degree than just two, three decades ago. This demand has partly been met by increasing internal resources, partly by use of consultancy, and partly by cooperation with universities. But, at the same time, this development can also be traced back to the needs of research and universities. An increasing part of the total amount of research funding is based on external, often demand oriented, sources. This funding requires cooperation with end users, often public bodies within the state or city administrations. Stakeholder and end-user involvement are considered as highly beneficial for research.

The two-fold development described above has initiated university – city cooperation in many cities all over Europe. In some cases the needs of both parties are developed into city – university research programmes/plans. The possibilities and obstacles for this is presented with evidence from Informed Cities project as well as with the case of Turku City – Universities Research Programme.

Resumé: Marko Joas, Professor in Public Administration, Head of department (Department of Political Science, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland). Research in environmental and sustainability governance in European cities and local governments. Part of the planning process of City of Turku Research Programme as well as a member of the research group for Informed Cities-project.

Recommended reading: Informed Cities website: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=7570>