

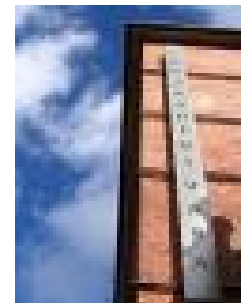
# Informed Cities: Universities and Cities Opportunities and Obstacles for Fruitful Cooperation

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# Content

- Background: University – City Relationship
- Informed Cities Project
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- Remedies
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Towards a Fruitful Cooperation
- Informed Cities Project Partners

# Background 1 – A Changing University – City Relationship?

- University and residence city/region: Important for...
  1. Basic recruitment region of students (city elite education),
  2. Economic benefits for universities (especially during the era of private universities), and
  3. Some comparative level of prestige for the residence city
- University – city relationship less important during the increasing role of state funding
- Direct budget steering does NOT enhance

cooperation and innovativeness

# Background 2 – A Changing University – City Relationship?

- New forms of funding and new forms of steering:
- **Towards an activated cooperation profile**
- Changing city needs:
  1. Need for advanced knowledge within the administration,
  2. Need for well educated officials, and
  3. Need for marketing value
- Changing university needs:
  1. Need for new cooperation partners for external funding
  2. Need AGAIN for the support from the local community (...our University...)
  3. Third mission – public and regional engagement among criteria for funding
- **Opportunities and obstacles** in city – university cooperation: Selected evidence from **Informed Cities Project**



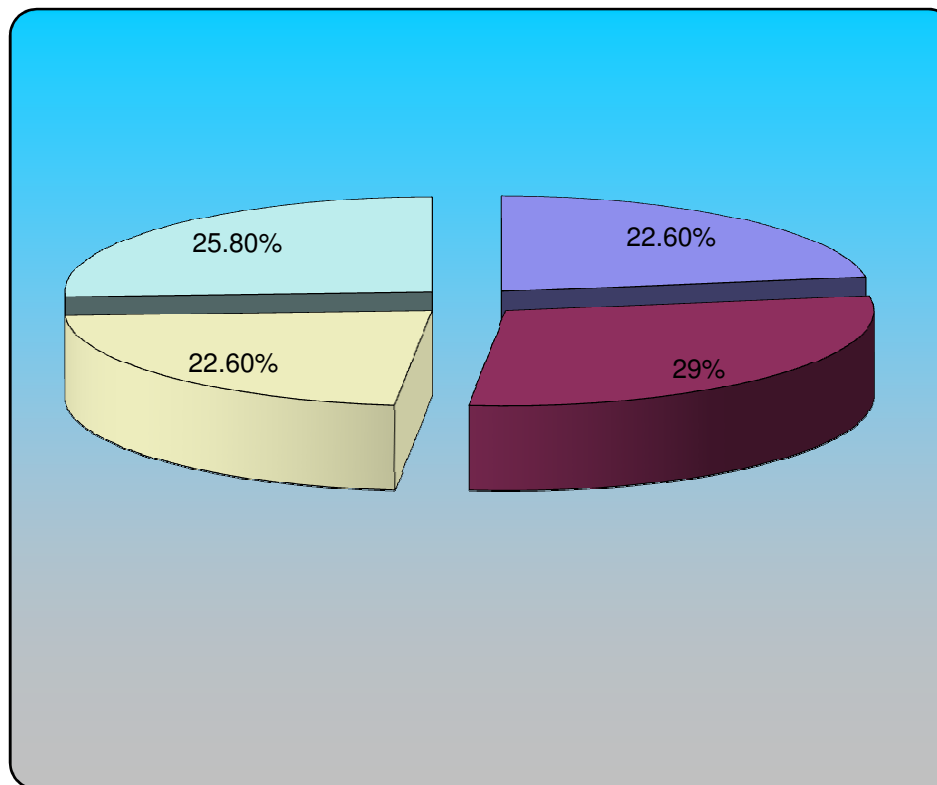
# Informed Cities Project 1

- A FP7 project that aims at...**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**
  - Establishing dialogue between European researchers and policy-makers on local sustainable development
  - Examining and evaluating the process of knowledge brokerage
  - Explorative application of 2 research-based urban management tools by local governments across Europe
  - Demonstrating the potential of a strengthened connectivity between research and policy-making
  - Engaging with key stakeholders on national and European level to mobilize support for the brokerage process and dissemination of results to a wider audience
- Selected results from the **First Informed Cities Forum**, Newcastle, April 2010:

# Obstacles 1

- From a university point of view:
  - Lack of theoretical interest
  - Low quality of data
  - Different levels of expectations what can be achieved
  
- From a city point of view:
  - Lack of practical results
  - Usability of results/empirical data
  - Time lag between input and output in a research process

# Obstacles 2: Researcher Opinions



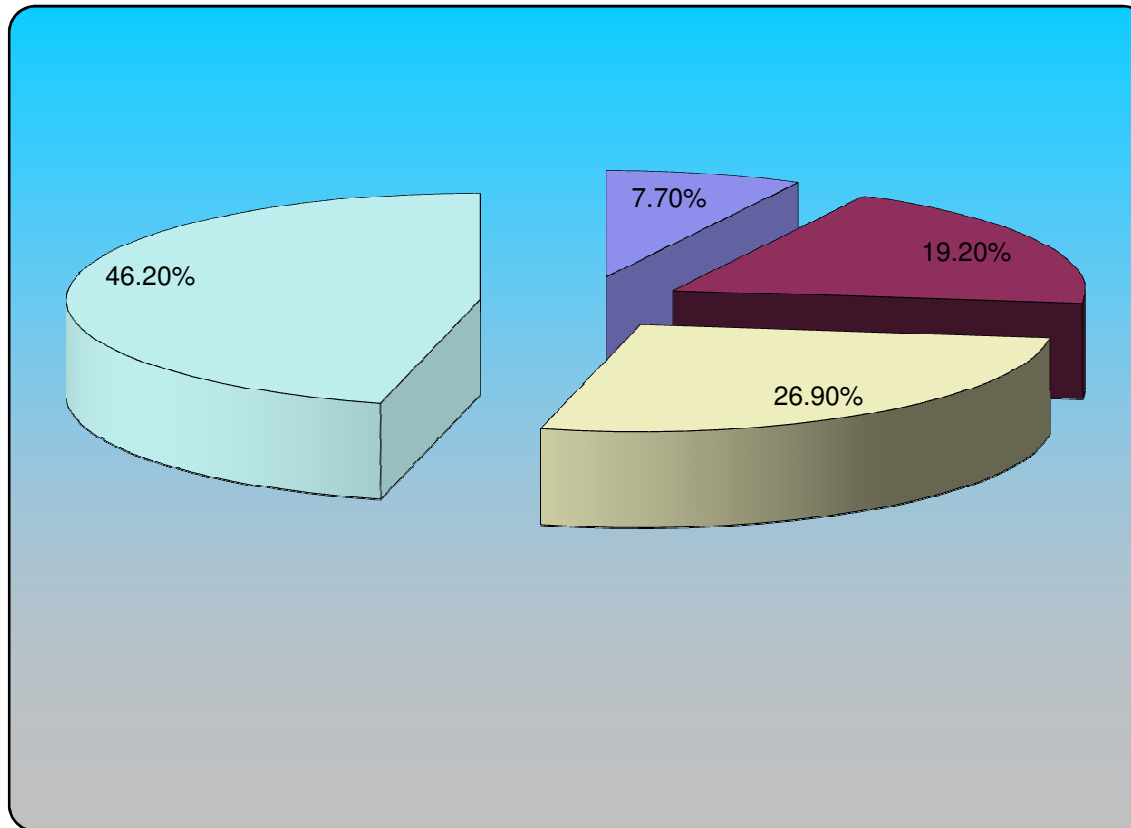
- A. Time lag** between dissemination of results and impact on policy; 23%
- B. Funding streams** that do not encourage collaboration; 29%
- C. Ineffective communication** means; 23%
- D. Politicians' need** for simple and quick solutions, 26.

- Informed Cities Forum: What factors hinder collaboration between researchers and local government policymakers? (N = 31, Theobald/Fitzgerald)

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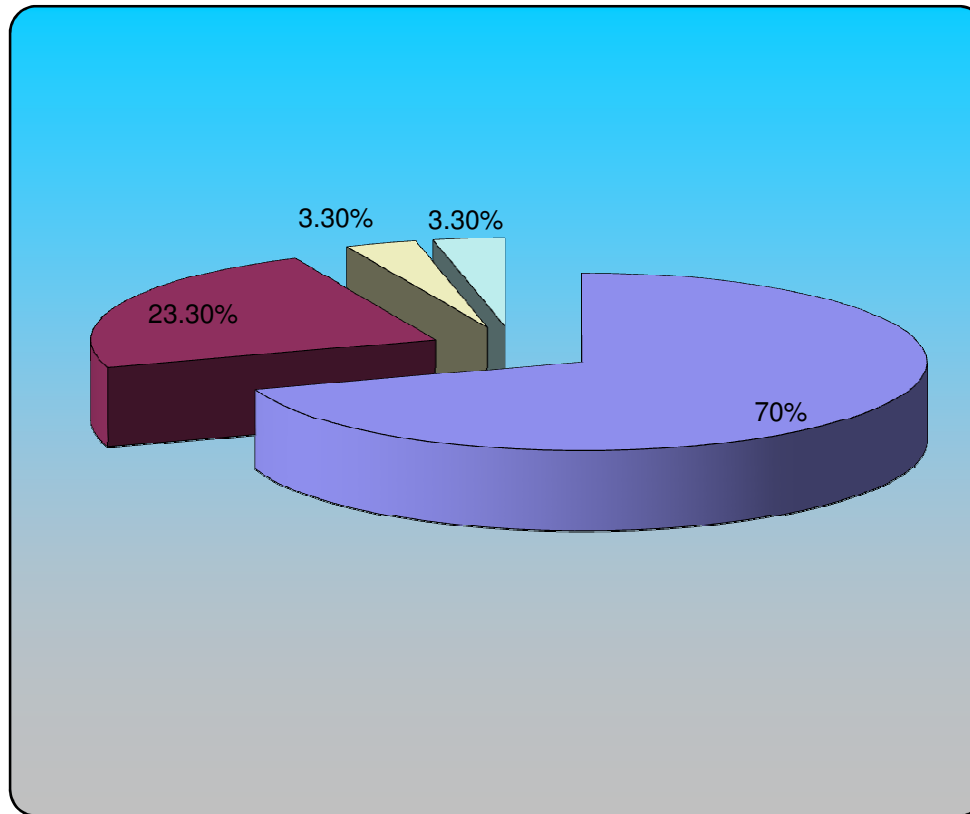
# Obstacles 3: Local Government Opinions



- A.** **Time lag** between dissemination of results and impact on policy; 8%
- B.** **Funding streams** that do not encourage collaboration; 19%
- C.** **Ineffective communication** means; 27%
- D.** **Researchers' poor** comprehension of policy process, 46%

- Informed Cities Forum: What factors hinder collaboration between researchers and local government policymakers? (N = 26, Theobald/Fitzgerald)

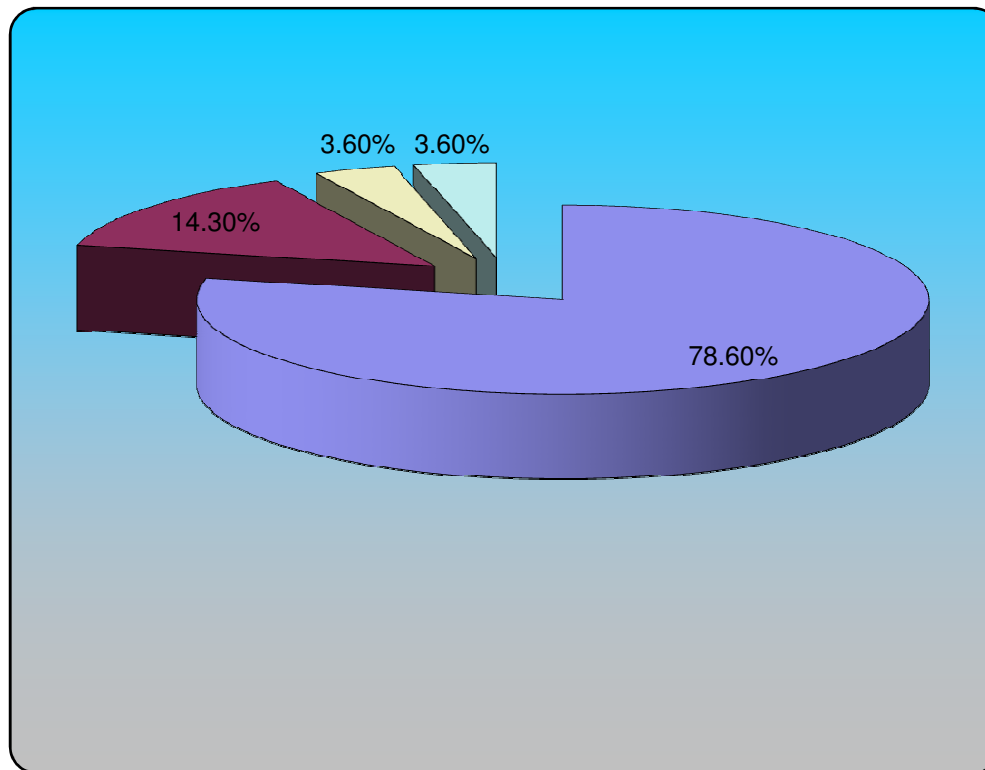
# Remedy: A Researcher View



- A. From development stage** of the research proposal; 70 %
- B. When proposal is developed** and local governments are required as case studies; 23%
- C. To test tools** they are developing (i.e. once the project is underway); 3%
- D. At the end of the project** (i.e. to disseminate the findings of Tools), 3 %

- Informed Cities Forum: At what stage should researchers involve local governments in their research? (N = 30, Theobald/Fitzgerald)

# Remedy: A Local Government View



- Informed Cities Forum: At what stage should researchers involve local governments in their research? (N = 28, Theobald/Fitzgerald)

- A. From development stage** of the research proposal; 79%
- B. When proposal is developed** and local governments are required as case studies; 14%
- C. To test tools** they are developing (i.e. once the project is underway); 4%
- D. At the end of the project** (i.e. to disseminate the findings of Tools), 4%

# Opportunities / Conclusions

- ## Towards a Fruitful Cooperation!
- From a university point of view.
    - Insight into real life – normative/theoretical research does NOT meet the reality of (local) societal and political processes
    - Clear extension of research network and funding opportunities – stakeholder involvement guaranteed
    - Data collection opportunities into areas/questions that can otherwise be difficult to access

# Opportunities / Conclusions

- ## Towards a Fruitful Cooperation!
- From a city point of view:
    - New and better quality knowledge for individual administrators and whole organizations, leading for new insights (interaction needed)
    - Image build up within and outside the city
    - Consultancy and research different roles; products vs knowledge; easier to reach results in innovative and problematic areas/questions where no standard solution exist
    - Extended funding opportunities also for cities, research does only seldom reach for



<http://www.iclei-europe.org/informed-cities>

# Informed Cities Project Partners

- Informed Cities **PROJECT PARTNERS:**
  - ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (project coordinator)
  - Ambiente Italia S.r.l. – Research Institute
  - Åbo Akademi University - Department of Political Science
  - Northumbria University Sustainable Cities Research Institute
- 
- **FUNDING:** EU FP7 Coordination Action 2009-2011



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!