

## 6<sup>th</sup> Urban Research and Knowledge Symposium 2012

**Cities of Tomorrow: Framing the Future**  
Barcelona, Spain | October 8-10, 2012

### Call for Papers

#### 1. Context

*Cities of Tomorrow: Framing the Future* has been selected as the focal topic for the 6th Urban Research and Knowledge Symposium to be held in Barcelona, Spain from October 8-10, 2012. The Symposium is being organized by the World Bank as part of the activities under the Urbanization Knowledge Platform in conjunction with the City of Barcelona, and some key partners.

The Symposium is looking for papers that address identified analytic clusters (see next section). The overall objectives of these papers are to elucidate:

- (1) *State of the art research*: investigate current applied and frontier urban research and practice, especially in developing and transitioning economies; and identify knowledge gaps in research;
- (2) *Knowledge sharing*: understand how policymakers and practitioners from the public and private sectors address decision-making in the face of uncertainty; and identify urban innovations for upscaling; and
- (3) *Interplay of research, policy and practice for decision-making*: contribute to a focused urban knowledge agenda that will help policymakers in developing countries manage potential economic efficiency, environmental sustainability and social equity trade-offs associated with urban decision-making under uncertain conditions; and learn lessons from Barcelona and other innovative cities' transformative change.

URKS6 is part of a broader analytic and evidence-based research program conducted by the World Bank and its network of partners. Previous Urban Research Symposia have been designed to stimulate the production and dissemination of urban-city research with emphasis on practical application that can help policy-making in developing countries.

Launched in 2002, the Symposium provides a global forum for researchers from developed and developing countries to share research and results, as well as to identify and discuss urban themes that are most pertinent from both research and policymaking perspectives. While following the traditional Symposia format, URKS6 features several innovations:

- it will initiate a process to inform policy choices that can help policymakers manage potential economic efficiency, environmental sustainability and social equity trade-offs associated with rapid urbanization;
- it will attract ongoing evidence-based analytic work from developing and developed countries to highlight (if and) how urbanization challenges and feasible policy options vary across levels of development and institutional capacities;
- it will showcase practitioner-led innovations that have helped in economic and social transformation of cities;
- it will develop an evidence-based longer term research program to identify new urbanization challenges and strategies over the horizon.

The Concept Note of the 6<sup>th</sup> Urban Research and Knowledge Symposium (available at [www.urbanknowledge.org/urks6](http://www.urbanknowledge.org/urks6)) provides further background on the Symposium's objectives and modalities. The URKS6 is expected to attract over 1,000 participants.

## 2. Analytic Clusters

The URKS6 is aimed at discussing current and frontier research on topics that address city growth opportunities and challenges within the complexity and dynamics of urban systems. The research questions under each Analytic Cluster should be approached in an inter-disciplinary manner to illuminate the three knowledge dimensions of,

- I. **Research** - urban knowledge/research gaps and frontier research;
- II. **Policy** – current public policy debates, gaps and innovations; and/or
- III. **Practice** – transformative practices, gaps and evidence-based approaches adaptable to various contexts.

The 3 Analytic Clusters are,

- 1) **Economic Structure**: how to effectively understand the opportunities and threats of the systems of cities, and maximize cities' comparative advantages in a positive sum game that contributes to local and national objectives of job creation, innovation and entrepreneurship;
- 2) **Social Structure**: how to effectively address the social dimensions of cities in the face of uncertainty, and reduce persistent inefficiency, and social exclusion associated with demography, migration, and social mobility, among others;
- 3) **Spatial Structure**: how to maximize national and local benefits of urbanization and mitigate its negative impacts in the context of a city's physical structure, considering elements such as urban planning (form, density, optimum size, etc.), transportation systems, energy and resource efficiency, among others.

Two crosscutting Clusters,

- 4) **Governance:** how to define the most effective and efficient allocation of functional responsibilities and partnerships among various levels of government and stakeholders in different political economies; how can metropolitan management be made more effective for sustainable urban development in the face of uncertainty;
- 5) **Sustainability:** how to enable environmental sustainability, and effectively plan, develop and manage livable, productive and inclusive cities in the face of climate change and other unexpected challenges; and what are the key urban policies and lessons from cities that could help inform rapidly urbanizing cities in developing countries to achieve sustainability.

Papers on each of the 3 Analytic Clusters will include contributions on:

- (a) diagnosis of specific issues and their components;
- (b) hypothesis, methodology, data and findings;
- (c) experiences and concrete case studies of current policies and practices in cities, and reasons for success/failure;
- (d) lessons, conditions for transferability and scaling-up, and action plan to deal with decision-making for uncertain futures.

Researchers are encouraged to examine cities as integrated systems, and to mention how their proposals, while focused on a given Cluster, would interact with themes in other clusters, particularly with the two crosscutting sub-themes.

### **3. Procedures for Participation**

The participation fee per person for this event is €400. The World Bank has the right to waive this fee on a need-based basis, with preference given to participants from developing countries.

Interested participants should submit a 300-word abstract of their proposed paper in English, along with the attached paper submittal form, by **30 April, 2012**.

The abstract should clearly indicate the Cluster (see Section 2) for which the paper is submitted. The paper abstract should outline the objective of the paper, methodology, integration with and/or connection to other Clusters, data sources (if applicable), and state what the author(s) asserts to be the main contribution of the paper to the body of literature on the subject. The abstract submission should be accompanied by a 1 page CV of each author/speaker and co-authors. We recommend that you read the Concept Note prior to submitting a proposal (available at [www.urbanknowledge.org/urks6](http://www.urbanknowledge.org/urks6)).

Submittal form, abstract, and CVs should be sent by email to: [urks6@worldbank.org](mailto:urks6@worldbank.org). Comments and suggestions are also welcome at this email address.

Selections will be made by **20 May, 2012**. The authors of accepted abstracts - papers and posters will be notified no later than **30 May, 2012** (where proposals list multiple authors, the first author listed on the submittal form will be notified). Upon acceptance of submitted proposals, researchers will receive instructions on the format suggested for the papers.

A full draft of the accepted paper is due by **20 July, 2012**. The final version is due no later than **1 September, 2012** to enable distribution to discussants. The same submission timeline applies to poster presentations.

All accepted papers, posters and presentations will be published online and widely disseminated as part of the Symposium proceedings. In addition, a sub-set of the papers accepted for presentation may be included in a book publication following the Symposium. Other publication outlets are encouraged, with attribution.

*Note: In order to be considered for publication, the paper should not have been published, or currently be considered for publication elsewhere.*

#### **4. Travel Funding and Awards**

Limited travel funding is available for participants from developing countries on a case-by-case basis. All other participants are responsible for their own travel expenses and all other costs related to their participation at the Symposium.

Researchers who are selected for poster presentations-only are welcome to attend the Symposium, but are not eligible for receiving travel funding.

Research and innovation awards will be given to outstanding contributions on *the Symposium's focal themes*.

For further information, visit [www.urbanknowledge.org/urks6](http://www.urbanknowledge.org/urks6).