

Request for proposal

Study on the relationship between environmental policy instruments and the buildings sector in a comparative perspective.

About the Urban School and the CITIES, HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE CHAIR

Founded in 2015, the Urban School deals with all the challenges of contemporary societies intersect in the city: growing inequality, economic development, conflict, cultural hybridisation, relations between government and the governed, democracy and collective choices, accumulation of data and technologies, pollution, police, mobility, financialisation, etc... The purpose is to educate those who will transform the world through the city, using a structured, professionally-focused, critical and comparative approach.

The aim of the "Cities, Housing and Real Estate Chair" is to contribute to analysis of changes within the real estate sector, from the unique perspective of an approach rooted in the theoretical and methodological tools of the social sciences.

Many of the major developments affecting members of the real estate sector today fall within this scope of analysis: examples include changes to public housing policies (national and local), the dynamics of metropolisation, the impact of climate change on cities, or socio-demographic shifts within cities and regions.

The health crisis (Covid-19) reinforces a number of questions and opens up research perspectives on the nature of real estate production, its financing, and its geography for years to come.

Finally, at a time when French property developers are increasingly involved in the production of urban spaces and when large-scale metropolitan projects (such as France's Grand Paris Express rail network or consultations like the "Inventons la Métropole du Grand Paris" initiative) are redefining our ways of thinking about real estate projects and public/private sector interaction, a more systematic analysis of property challenges through the prism of contemporary urban dynamics seems more essential than ever.

Four sponsors have agreed to support the chair over the course of a three-year partnership: CDC Habitat, FPI France, Gecina and Eiffage Aménagement

Study background

Since the first international discussions on sustainable development in the end 80s - early 90s, the formulation and implementation of environmental regulations and other policy instruments has accelerated its pace. Along with increasing governmental interventions, there has

been a growing scholarly concern to categorize and understand the way these devices work in their attempt to cope with the environmental problem (Harrison, 1998, Pacheco-Vega, 2020). Due to the transversal nature of the environmental problem, a stream of this literature focuses on analyzing the coherence and contradictions with other policy domains, as well as the ways to develop holistic strategies aiming to prioritize sustainability objectives. Yet, these "other" domains have their own dynamics, actors, and objectives, experiencing disruptions caused by the implementation of the abovementioned instruments.

According to the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), the buildings sector consumes 35% of the world's total energy, turning it into the main source of CO₂ emissions (38% global). Therefore, a wide range of policy instruments are directed towards that sector in order to mitigate their climatic impact. At the same time, the domain faces pressures of its own. According to the World Bank, there is a global housing shortage is expected to affect 1.6 billion people by 2025. Considering that more half of the world's population is urban (70% for 2050) and cities are the world's largest energy consumer (78 % of total), generating over 70 % of global CO₂ emissions (UNEP, 2021; UN 2021), there is a need to reconcile housing needs with transitions to sustainability at the city level.

Analytical scope

The study should contribute to answering the following question: To what extent the need to mitigate emissions from energy consumption in buildings reconciles or contradicts with the housing shortage in cities?

Study should notably take into account within its scope the following questions:

- How can we assess the interdependencies of environmental policy instruments into one sector?
- How does regulations affect different types of target population (developers, homeowners, landlords, tenants, real state brokers, etc.)?
- What can we learn from other sectors?
- How does the multi-level governance dynamics affect this relationship?

Answers to the above questions should address the issue from both a scholarly and policy perspective.

Methodology requirements

The study should aim at analyzing the relationship between environmental policy instruments and the buildings sector in a comparative perspective.

Applications from individuals or groups of researchers are accepted

It should be written in English to reach a wider audience.

The format of the deliverable is :

- a collective book
- a communication document, for a wide audience, of 5 to 6 pages
- a working paper containing the main elements of the work

Study timeline

Task	Duration
0. Kick-off meeting	1st week of january
1. Definition of scope and methodology	3rd week of january
2. Validation of methodology and steering framework	4th week of january
3. Research	April 30 th
4. First Report drafting	May 20 th
5. Review	May 30 th
6. Validation	June 15th
7. Final drafting	June 20th
8. Review	June 25th
9. Validation	June 30th
10. Paiement	30% at the time of signing the contract (December 2022) 70% upon validation of 9 th step ("validation")

Elements of proposal

Proposal should include the following elements:

- Timeline and deliverables
- We kindly ask to limit the size of the proposal to approximately 6 pages.
- A motivation letter (from the project coordinator): project presentation and methodology proposal
- A CV and a complete list of publications (of all those involved in the project)
- 3 major publications (of all those involved in the project)
- **A provisional budget, detailing the nature of the expenses, and the distribution of the remuneration in case of application of a group of researchers**

Please submit the proposal by 20th November 2022 by sending an email to nordine.kireche@sciencespo.fr

Funding

The budget allocated to the project is €39,000

Selection Committee

All applications will be examined by the Selection Committee. The selection committee may ask for a zoom interview for clarifying elements of the proposal and its timing.

The president of the selection committee is **Prof. Tommaso Vitale, Dean, Sciences Po Urban School**. The selection committee is also composed by:

- Dr. Nordine Kireche, Chair Director
- Sciences Po Permanent Faculty Members