



POPSU

OBSERVATION PLATFORM
ON URBAN PROJECTS AND STRATEGIES

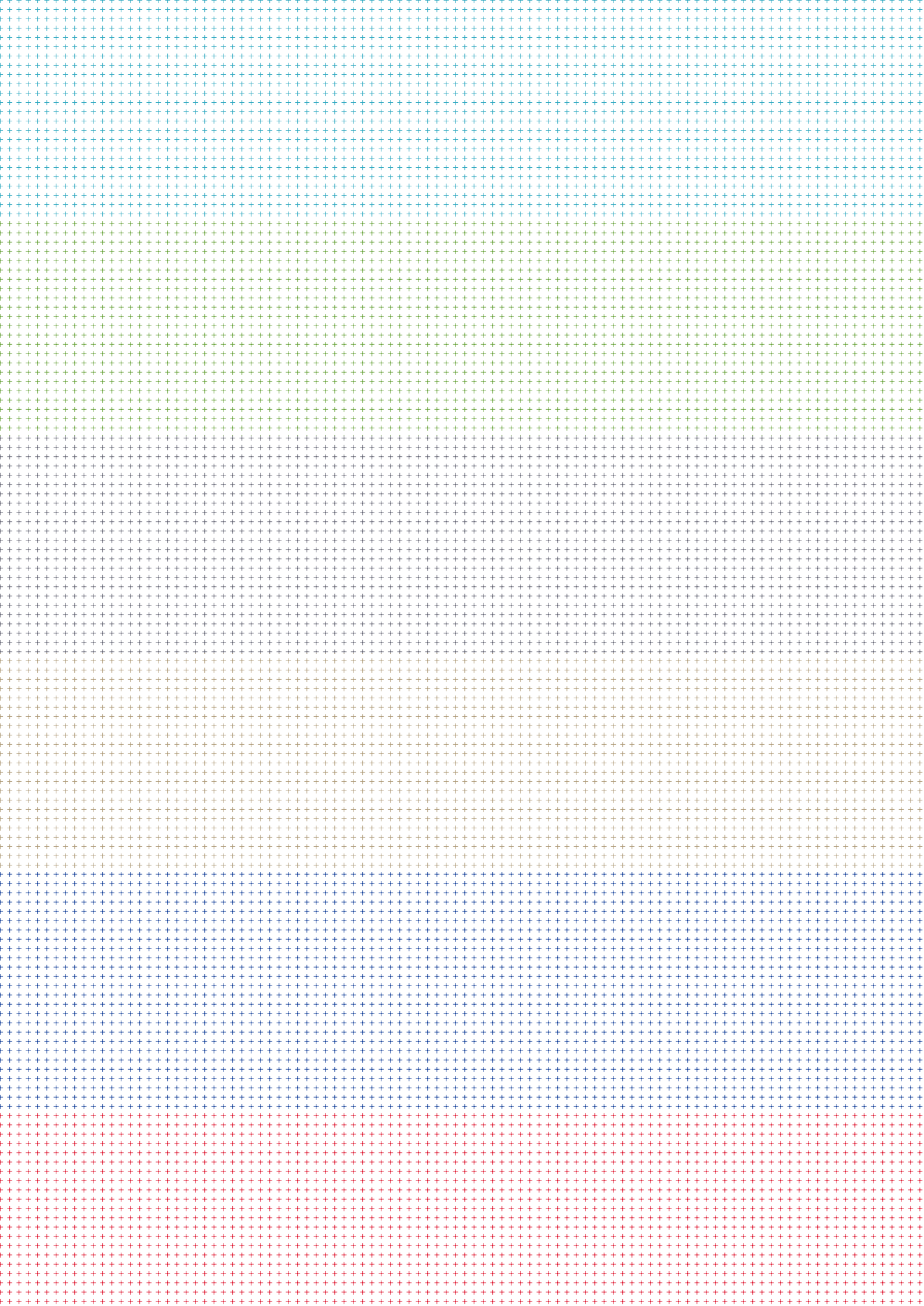


MINISTÈRE
DE LA TRANSITION
ÉCOLOGIQUE
ET SOLIDAIRE

MINISTÈRE
DE LA COHÉSION
DES TERRITOIRES

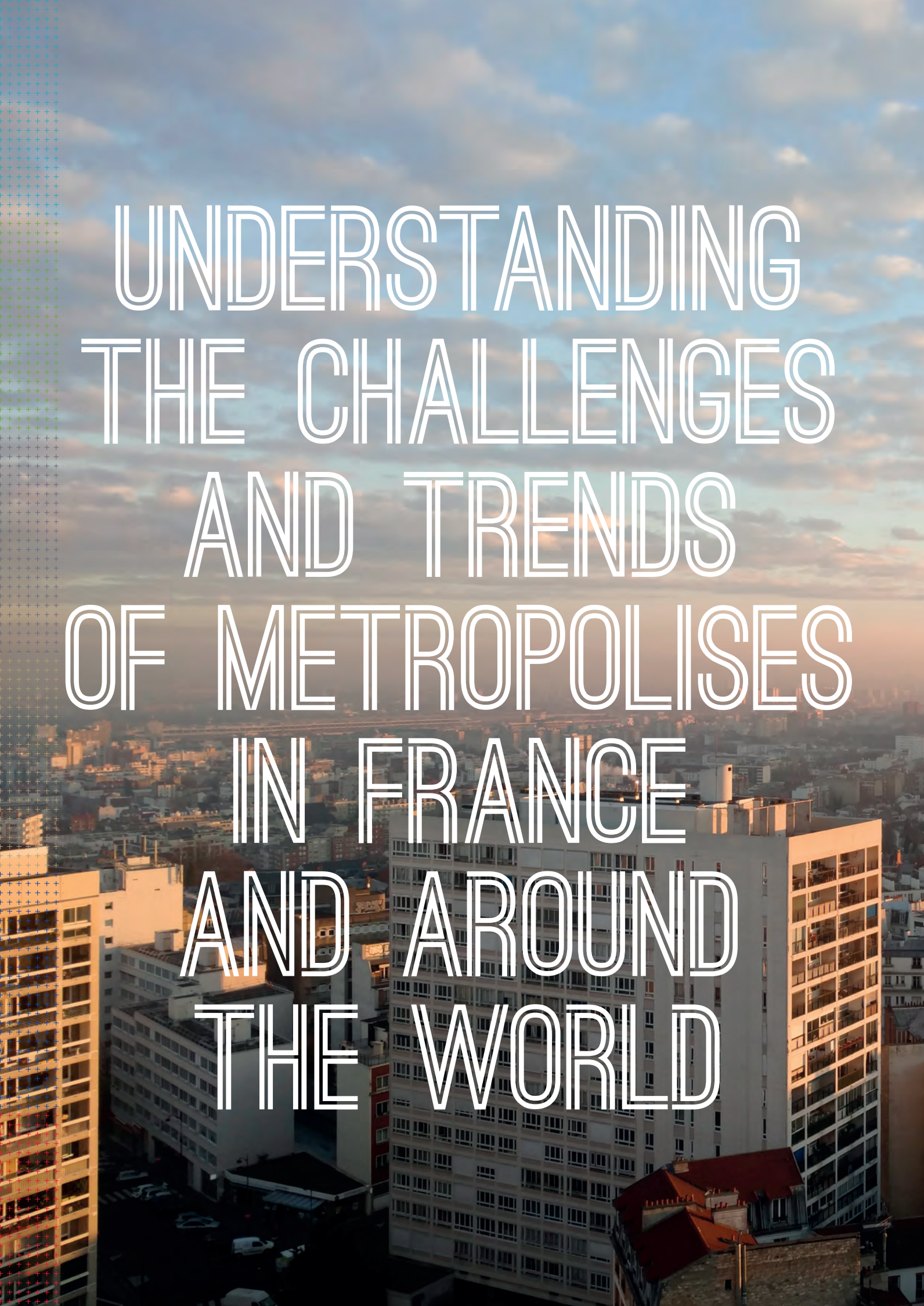
PUCA

plan
urbanisme
construction
architecture

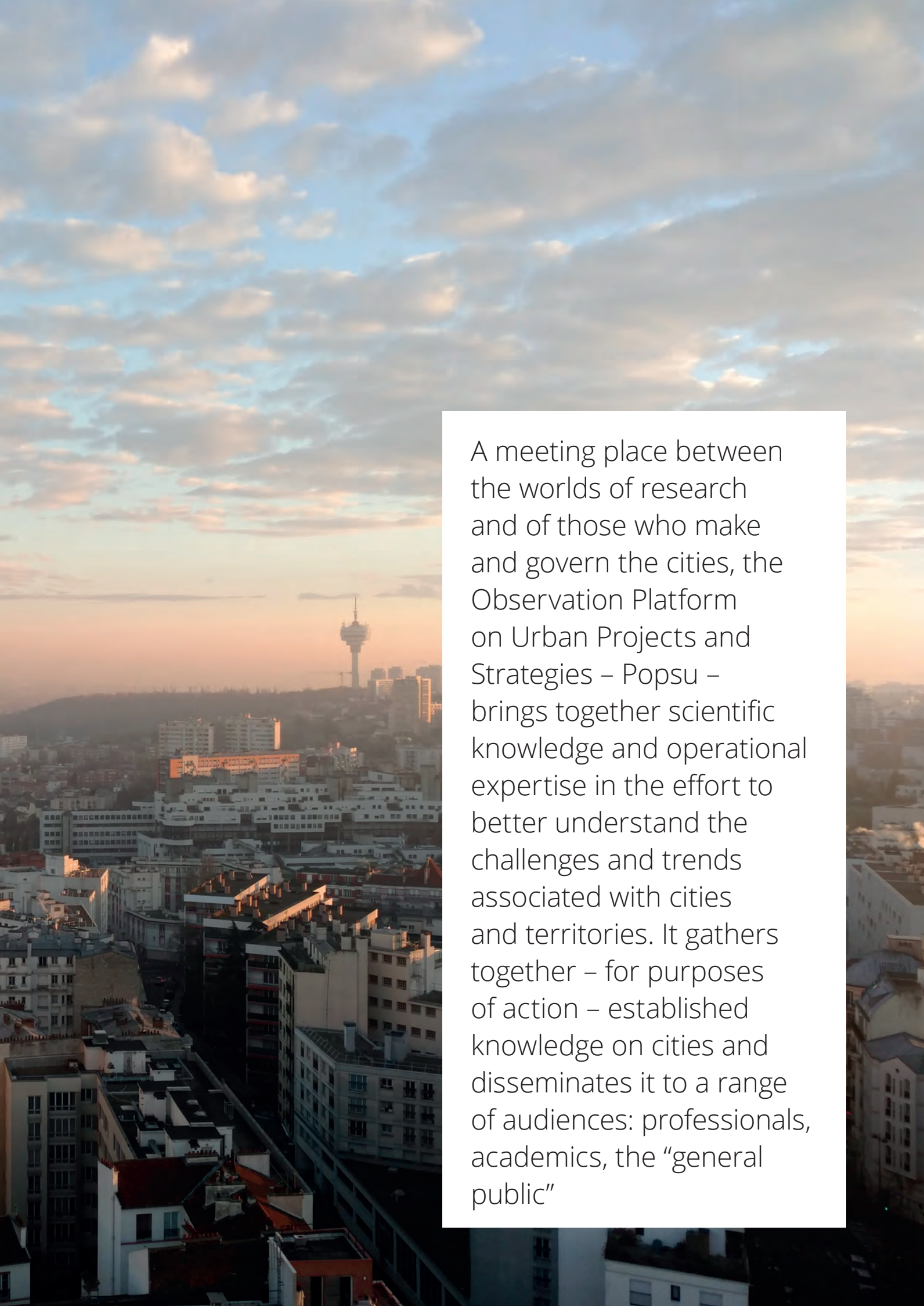




Exploring research through action,
illuminating action through research

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Paris, taken during the 'golden hour' of sunset. The sky is a mix of soft orange, pink, and blue, with scattered white clouds. The city below is densely packed with buildings, many of which are illuminated by the warm light of the setting sun. In the foreground, several tall apartment buildings with many windows are visible. A vertical grid pattern, composed of small squares in shades of blue and green, runs down the left side of the image. Overlaid on the center of the image is a large, white, outlined text that reads: UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES AND TRENDS OF METROPOLISES IN FRANCE AND AROUND THE WORLD.

UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES AND TRENDS OF METROPOLISES IN FRANCE AND AROUND THE WORLD



A meeting place between the worlds of research and of those who make and govern the cities, the Observation Platform on Urban Projects and Strategies – Popsu – brings together scientific knowledge and operational expertise in the effort to better understand the challenges and trends associated with cities and territories. It gathers together – for purposes of action – established knowledge on cities and disseminates it to a range of audiences: professionals, academics, the “general public”



TO BUILD SPACES OF DIALOGUE

Politicians, scholars,
practitioners:
innovating together

At a time when urban issues are constantly growing in importance, when the biggest cities are turning into megacities, with consequences for the future of every territory, the collaborations between urban researchers and actors are becoming increasingly salient. The ever-rising number of urban challenges, their complexity, the strategic data they require or the issues that they raise, demand input from research to elucidate and equip public decision-making. Conversely, the scale of the questions facing the makers of the city encourages scholars to tackle new objects of investigation and to provide responses that reflect the need for action. To build and sustain this space of encounter is the goal of the Observation Platform on Urban Projects and Strategies.

Co-constructed, co-managed and co-financed equally by the state – through PUCA (Plan Urbanisme Construction Architecture) – and by the cities, the research programmes initiated by the platform seek to contribute to an understanding of the systems of action, the urban strategies and the architectural and urban projects being developed by metropolises, in France and around the world.

+ + + + +
+ PUCA is an interministerial research and experimentation service set +
+ up in 1998 in order to advance knowledge on the regions and cities, +
+ and to feed into public action. Attached to the General Directorate +
+ of Spatial Planning, Housing and Nature at the Ministries of Hous- +
+ ing and of the Environment, it instigates public-private research, +
+ research-action and experimentation, and backs innovation and +
+ education in the field of spatial planning, urbanism, housing, archi- +
+ tecture and construction. +
+ + + +



FOUR GUIDELINES

Research-based methodologies
for the production and
application of knowledge

01

Producing knowledge on cities, their systems and their projects

The objective is to understand the city as it is made, through its projects, its strategies and its operation, both internally and in its relations with its environment. This means using observation, i.e. a decoding of city production, to analyse the development and implementation of public policies, of urban strategies, of practices of projects – both small and large – and of the rules of the urban game in a shifting context. At the same time, the aim is to decipher the transformations that cities are experiencing by observing, in particular, the adaptive strategies they adopt in tackling the economic, social, political and sustainability issues of today.

02

Intensifying the links between actors and researchers

In the words of François Ascher, the aim is to define and establish “spaces where research findings are translated into information and knowledge that can be used by the worlds of action, beginning with politicians and urban service technicians”. The goal is to consolidate a long-term dialogue between actors and researchers through the development of local platforms, and to test new, more responsive forms of interchange.



Constructing analyses of international comparisons, developing transnational exchanges of experience

In a largely urbanised world, the imperative of understanding urban universes demands a continuous and long-term effort to observe and analyse the trajectories of cities. This entails fostering comparative analyses between French cities and undertaking thematic research in order to provide keys for the understanding of the urban policies operating in cities, their agglomerations and the territories over which they extend. A second aspect is to initiate comparisons and networking between metropolises at European and international level by providing the actors with analyses of projects and innovative strategies. This international dimension forms part of a strategy of developing partnerships with European and international research bodies.



Compiling and promoting the lessons of analysis with the groups concerned

Established in order to produce and compile knowledge, and to disseminate it to the scientific, professional and institutional communities, and to politicians, the expression of the Popsu programme is structured around the production of scientific articles, topic-based publications of project analysis, special numbers in the professional and scientific press. Symposiums, seminars and actor-researcher encounters punctuate and encapsulate its activities. Online content on the programme website, on the PUCA website and on those of the partner cities, presents the objectives of the programmes, their methods, their findings, the associated research reports and publications. An additional objective is to diversify and upgrade the materials produced in order to provide, alongside the research publications, formats that make the findings more accessible to non-academic communities.

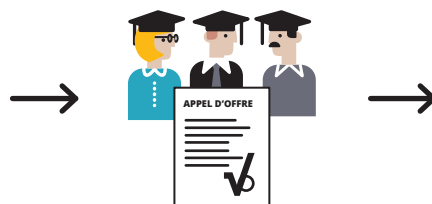
THE POPSU METHOD

01



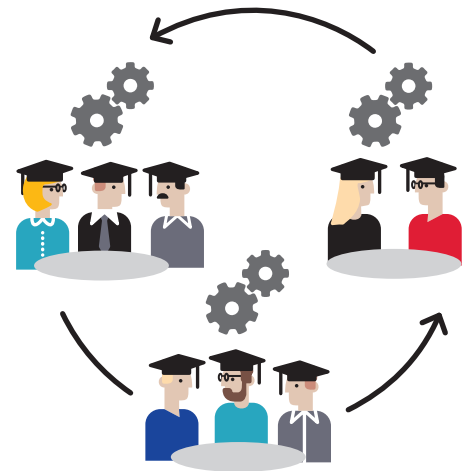
**Identify issues
in the cities and regions**

02



**Choice of researcher
teams in each of the cities
and regions studied**

03



**Production
of knowledge
through research**

PHASE 1 CHOICE OF ISSUES AND RECRUITMENT OF RESEARCH TEAMS

PHASE 2 ACTION-RESEARCH

[Method]

THE ACTORS



State



Regional authorities



Researchers

04



Seminars with politicians, practitioners and researchers

05



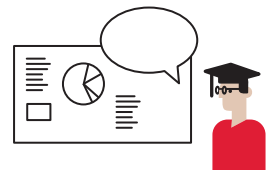
journal, press:
informing public action
and decision-makers



books, articles
in scientific journals:
scientific dissemination

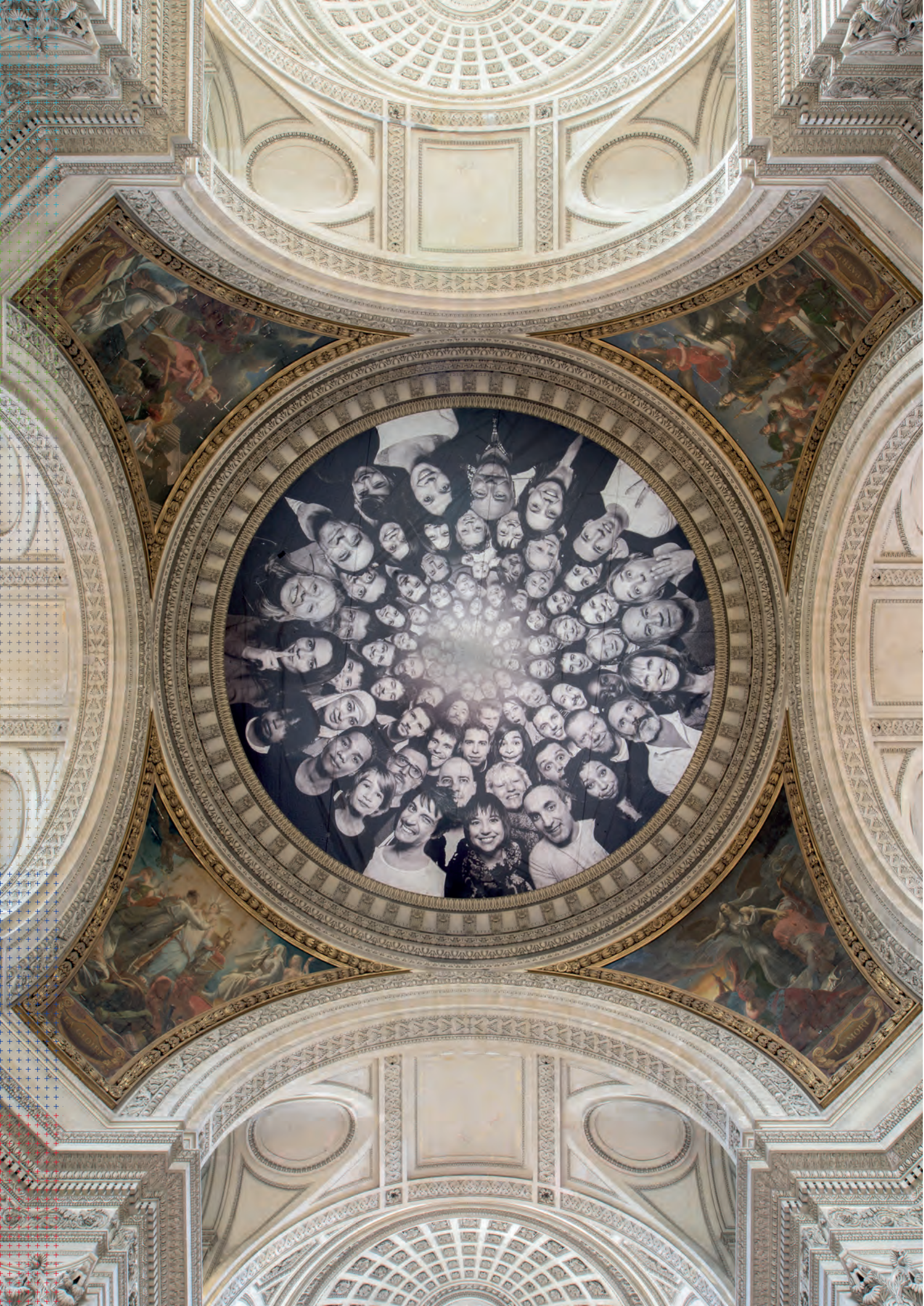
Dissemination

06



Feedback symposium

PHASE 3 FEEDBACK AND IMPLEMENTATION



GOVERNANCE

The platform is founded on a partnership between the state and the cities. It is managed by Plan Urbanisme Construction Architecture (PUCA).

Local platforms in the metropolises

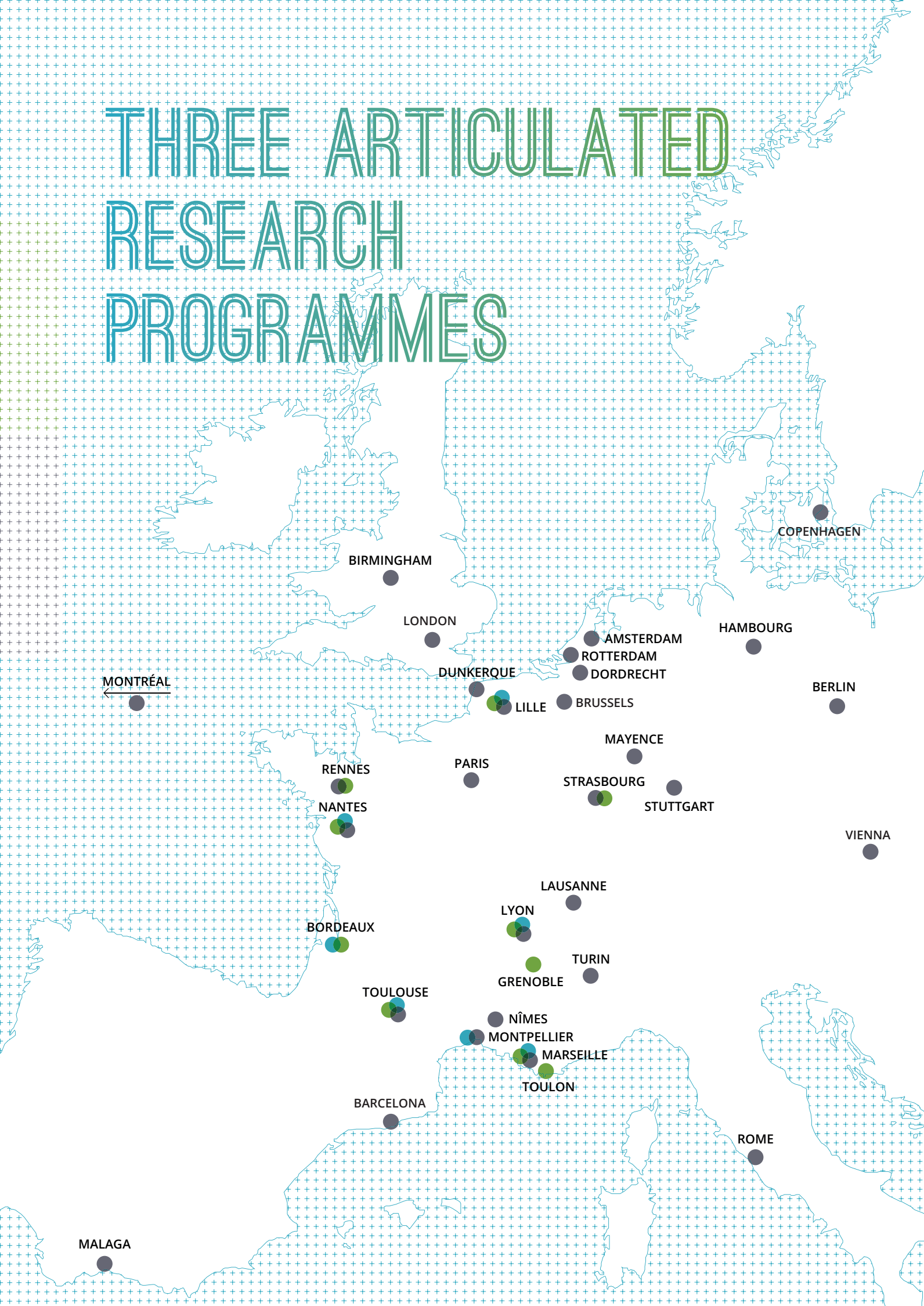
In each of the partner cities and metropolises, the programme is founded on local platforms made up of a range of actors – researchers, elected officials, municipal and metropolitan technical services, semi-public companies, public planning institutions, urban design agencies, development councils or other civil society bodies... The local platforms create places of interchange between the world of research and the world of action. Their aim is to organise direct exchanges through seminars. To support the system, management committees headed by elected officials are set up in each of the partner cities. Scientific directors in each of the partner cities are responsible for heading the research process.

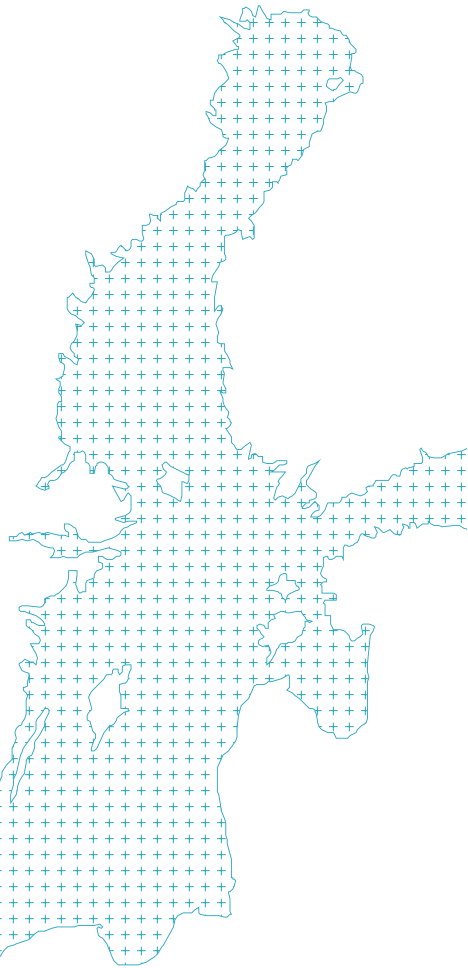
A national platform to serve the metropolis

The platform has a permanent team to manage the programme and the scientific secretariats, and to oversee outreach at the national and the local levels. Responsible for setting up the scientific engineering, it operates through a Strategic Council made up of state actors, elected city officials, actors from municipal technical services, the scientific directors of the programmes and scientific advisers.

The role of the national management structure is to construct a dialogue between the cities. It is also to maintain the comparative dimension and to support the system internationally. Regular meetings provide an opportunity to discuss ongoing changes and to identify new questions.

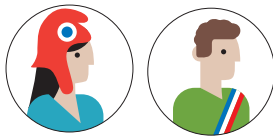
THREE ARTICULATED RESEARCH PROGRAMMES





Two research programmes
co-constructed with the cities,
and one programme of exchanges
on planning projects developed
in French and European cities

1



joint funding
by the state/cities

32



cities
and metropolitan
areas involved

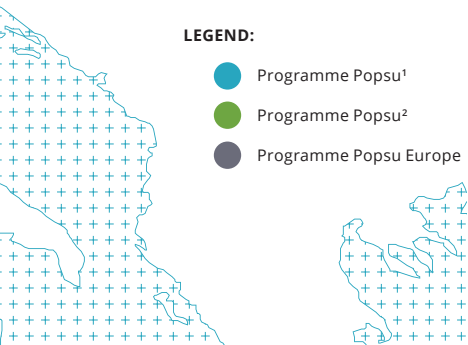
240



researchers
participating

LEGEND:

- Programme Popsu¹
- Programme Popsu²
- Programme Popsu Europe





2004 – 2010

Understanding metropolitan projects and strategies

- 7 CITIES
- 24 THEMES
- 6 SYMPOSIUMS
- 7 PUBLICATIONS

BORDEAUX

LILLE

LYON

MARSEILLE

MONTPELLIER

NANTES

TOULOUSE

Popsu 1 began in 2004 and ended in 2009. It focused on seven metropolitan regions: Bordeaux, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Montpellier, Nantes, Toulouse. In each of them, local research teams worked with the local urban actors to produce monographic studies founded on thematic analyses of urban projects. Five crosscutting themes were then co-chosen as the basis for comparative research between urban agglomerations.

Socio-economic foundations of urban projects and strategies

Cities seek to stimulate economic development through the production of urban space. How are urban development projects used in the construction and implementation of strategies for local economic development and/or to promote the attractiveness of the city? What land regulation tools and strategies are implemented?

Governance, systems of actors and “urban project ownership”

Governance is approached through three main questions: what tools are used to organise governance at metropolitan scale? What territorial rationales and what spheres of intervention structure metropolitan governance? What role for national and European institutions to intervene in the definition of urban projects?

Urban forms and organisation of urban growth

This subject covers questions relating to the typologies of urban forms and to the actors and strategies cities employ to manage them. Who are the actors that take on the issue of urban form? How and by

what means? How are strategic and regulatory documents used to tackle this question? What can be done to control urban sprawl?

Incorporating sustainable development into urban projects and strategies

Successful though the concept of sustainable development is, it is nevertheless a vague notion that covers a very wide range of practices and experiences. What is the definition of sustainable development? At what scales does it operate and how is it applied? What impact does it have in the development of an urban strategy?

Habitat and the diversity of urban activities

The question of habitat is tackled from the perspective of local housing policies in the different cities. What is the local housing situation? What concepts are employed in the development of local housing policies? How are those policies developed and implemented?

The findings were published through a website that presents the work of the teams, in a series of six symposiums in the cities in question, and in seven publications.

CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Alain Bourdin

Sociologist and urbanist, Professor at the Paris School of Urban Design

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

Robert Prost

Engineer and architect, Honorary Professor at École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris Malaquais

PARTNERS

Bordeaux:

Bordeaux Urban Community (Bordeaux Métropole), A'urba Bordeaux urban design agency

Lille:

Lille Métropole Development and Urbanism Agency, Lille Municipality, Roubaix Municipality

Lyon:

Grand Lyon urban community

Marseille:

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region

Montpellier:

SERM, Montpellier Municipality, Montpellier Urban Agglomeration

Nantes:

Nantes Métropole

Toulouse:

Toulouse Municipality, Grand Toulouse urban community, Setomip, SEM Constellation



2010 – 2016

Exploring the construction of metropolises through research

- 10 CITIES
- 5 THEMES
- 10 SYMPOSIUMS
- 9 PUBLICATIONS

BORDEAUX

GRENOBLE

LILLE

LYON

MARSEILLE

NANTES

RENNES

STRASBOURG

TOULON

TOULOUSE

In 2010, it was decided to continue this work through a second programme called Popsu 2, emphasising the comparative dimension and a stronger partnership approach. In dialogue with several of the main urban communities and urban agglomerations outside Île de France, most of which have become *métropoles* (metropolitan regions), themes were chosen with the aim of establishing comparisons between the situations observed. Ten consortia were formed, made up of EPCI (public intermunicipal cooperation bodies) and multidisciplinary research teams from different universities and architecture schools.

This programme – which focused on the cities of Bordeaux, Grenoble, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Rennes, Strasbourg, Toulon and Toulouse – took two perspectives: monographs conducted in each city, and crosscutting comparative analyses relating to the following five topics:

Urban fragilities

The oft-cited contrast between rich metropolitan France and neglected rural France is not a reality, but the popularity of this image illustrates a misapprehension, particularly with regard to metropolitan areas. The research teams chose to explore the social and environmental fragilities to be found in these territories.

Territorial and metropolitan regulations

The law creates the “métropoles”, but does it bring changes in the way they are produced and governed? What cooperations, what institutions, establish the rules of the game, and what are those rules? To what extent does the articulation between plans and projects reflect them?

Knowledge economy

What is the place of the knowledge economy in the social organisation of metropolitan areas, but also in the strategies of the public actors for developing those areas? This raises the question of the new role of the universities in urban dynamics.

Sustainable development

How does public policy take into account the effects of spatial organisation on greenhouse gas emissions? How – with the crisis and its effects – are climate change objectives contributing to the redefinition of urban strategies? What are the territorial approaches to risk management?

Stations and transport hubs

Between the stations located on high-speed lines, characteristic of cities, and the secondary stations, supposedly places of intermodality, what urban strategies does the renewal of these infrastructures impose on cities and at what scales? What are the consequences of this for urban mobilities and the organisation of urban space? What can be done to take account of mobility practices?

Nine books were published and events and symposiums organised at local level (in eight metropolitan areas) and national level.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
AND SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR**

Alain Bourdin

Sociologist and urbanist, Professor
at the Paris School of Urban Design

MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Virginie Bathellier, Elisabeth Campagnac-Ascher, H       Dang-Vu, Marie-Pierre Lefeuvre, Jean-Baptiste Marie, Marie-Flore Mattei

PARTNERS

Bordeaux Métropole, Grenoble-Alpes
Métropole, Métropole Européenne de Lille,
Métropole de Lyon, Métropole Aix-Marseille
Provence, Nantes Métropole, Rennes
Métropole, Eurométropole de Strasbourg,
Toulon Provence Méditerranée, Toulouse
Métropole



Comparing urban strategies, debating innovative project processes

2008 - 2014

29 CITIES
6 THEMES
6 PUBLICATIONS

AMSTERDAM	MAYENCE
BARCELONA	MONTPELLIER
BERLIN	MONTREAL
BIRMINGHAM	NANTES
BRUSSELS	NIMES
COPENHAGEN	PARIS
DORDRECHT	RENNES
DUNKERQUE	ROME
HAMBURG	ROTTERDAM
LAUSANNE	STRASBOURG
LILLE	STUTTGART
LONDON	TOULOUSE
LYON	TURIN
MALAGA	VIENNA
MARSEILLE	

A third programme, called Popsu Europe, was launched in 2008. It took the form of a series of thematic seminars bringing together representatives of European cities, researchers and professionals, in order to debate, discuss and compare urban strategies and a variety of innovative project processes. The programme tackled the following topics:

High-speed stations and urban renewal dynamics

Impact of the development of high-speed stations on the cities of Barcelona, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Rotterdam; role of station districts in the dynamics of urban renewal.

Walking and the sharing of public space between the different travel modes

Growing role of walking and the sharing of public space between the different travel modes in the cities of Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Lausanne, London, Lille, Paris and Vienna.

The city of creatives

Place and role of creative enterprises, creatives and artists in urban development processes in the cities of Berlin, Birmingham, Lausanne, Lyon, Montpellier, Montreal, Nantes.

New uses and social practices developing in the gardens of Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Lausanne, Lyon, Nantes, Strasbourg, Toulouse, and for the projects of the social landlord, Paris OPH Paris habitat.

Changes in urban approaches and architectural projects in response to flood risks in the cities of Amsterdam, Dunkerque, Hamburg, Lyon, Mayence, Nîmes, Rotterdam, Toulouse.

New urban approaches and architectural projects
European cities in response to climate change.

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

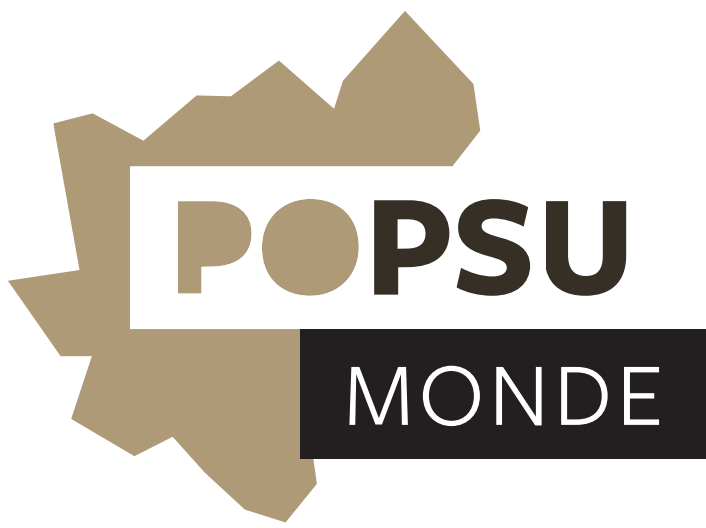
Jean-Jacques Terrin
Emeritus Professor at École Nationale
Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles



RESEARCH FROM THE LOCAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCALE

A synergy between
three programmes
to apply crosscutting
approaches and
a hybridisation
of knowledge between
actors and researchers





Cities through the prism of cooperation and competition

The aim of this research programme is to make international comparisons between cities on the issues of urban governance, housing, energy, digital technology, or urban resilience... In addition to research conducted by research teams on the metropolitan areas, international seminars will be held bringing together actors and researchers, and including research trips (with visits and discussion days). This programme will be developed in collaboration with European and international research bodies. In order to implement a comparative approach, the programme will draw on foreign research laboratories. This perspective should elucidate what foreign scholars say about the construction of the *métropoles* in France and how they stand in the growing international competition between cities. And conversely, what cooperation if possible. The Popsu World programme will begin in 2018.



POPSU



MÉTROPOLES

Innovating to cooperate

How are metropolitan projects constructed and what links are formed between small and mid-sized towns and the metropolis? What benefits accrue to towns on the edges of the metropolis? These are the two main questions in this programme, which will explore the metropolis from the perspective of its urban solidarity, its solidarity with the territory, and its ability to assimilate periurban complexity. As well as looking at how the metropolitan areas assume their territorial responsibilities and how the transactions and interactions between territories are organised, the programme will explore issues such as changing uses and living patterns, resident participation in modes of governance, the manage-

ment of mobilities and access to digital opportunities, adaptations to climate change, the approach to risk and the management of resources...

Between 2018 and 2020, research teams will analyse the trajectories of metropolitan areas and their links with small and mid-sized towns, on the basis of questions specific to each metropolis and co-constructed by researchers and actors.

An inter-school and inter-university partnership in a chair on metropolitanisation

Financed through the Popsu programme and its partners, the chair will establish a course or courses in architecture, urbanism and spatial planning. It will offer thematic training modules – in the form of seminars – relating to the question of the “making of the metropolis” and reflecting the scientific specialties of the site researchers involved in the observation system. Under the chair, applications will be invited for CDUs (Single Doctoral Contract) or CIFREs (Industrial Agreement for Training by Research), including funding for urban design agencies.



POPSU

TERRITOIRES

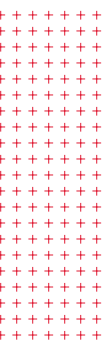
Observing and acting in small and mid-sized towns and rural areas

Constructed in partnership with the AD1 “Atelier des territoires” bureau at DHUP (Department of Habitat, Urbanism and Landscapes), Popsu Territoires will focus on small and mid-sized towns or territories whose future demands strategic thinking. The aim is to develop knowledge on urban, territorial and landscape dynamics in preparation for the intervention of designers. Over two-year sessions, the multidisciplinary research teams will conduct research on planned sites through dialogue between scientists, designers and politicians, at three levels:

- through in situ meetings that tackle the concrete issues of the terrain,
- in local discussion forums where politicians, practitioners, researchers and designers come together,
- by national seminars that encompass all the potential project sites.

In 2018-2020, the topic will be “Water as resource and as environment”. Six strategic sites and four research teams will take part in the programme. A second theme will focus on the renovation of built heritage in the old centres of small and mid-sized towns.

For many years, the Atelier des territoires has applied a field method involving all the local actors around the political players, in order to develop large-scale strategic projects with a high-calibre multidisciplinary design team.



STRATEGIC COUNCIL OF THE POPSU PROGRAMME

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Ministry for an ecological and
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- LISST-Cieu, Vice-President of
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Michel Vayssié

Director General of Services
for the City of Lille

Pierre Veltz

Director of Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY

21 texts to understand
metropolitan issues
and trends

POPSU 1

For Popsu1, the collection of works titled “La ville en train de se faire” published by *Parenthèses*, consists of an introductory text and a series of six monographs.



Projets et stratégies urbaines, regards comparatifs
sous la direction d'Alain Bourdin et Robert Prost
Ed. Parenthèses, avril 2009



Montpellier - La ville inventée
sous la direction de Jean-Paul Volle, Laurent Viala,
Emmanuel Négrier
et Catherine Bernié-Boissard
Ed. Parenthèses, mai 2010



Bordeaux Métropole - Un futur sans rupture
sous la direction de Patrice Godier,
Claude Sorbets et Guy Tapie
Ed. Parenthèses, avril 2009



Nantes - Petite et grande fabrique urbaine
sous la direction de Laurent Devisme
Ed. Parenthèses, février 2009



Lille Métropole - Laboratoire du renouveau urbain
sous la direction de Didier Paris
et Dominique Mons
Ed. Parenthèses, juillet 2009



Lyon - La production de la ville
sous la direction de Paul Boino
Ed. Parenthèses, octobre 2009



Marseille Euroméditerranée - Accélérateur de Métropole
Brigitte Bertoncello et Jérôme Dubois
Ed. Parenthèses, mars 2010

[Bibliography]

POPSU 2

For Popsu 2, the collection published by *éditions du Moniteur* contains three monographs on the cases of Bordeaux, Grenoble and Toulouse, together with three thematic texts focusing on comparisons between the cities studied, i.e. Bordeaux, Grenoble, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Rennes, Strasbourg, Toulon and Toulouse. Two other volumes on Strasbourg have been published by *éditions La commune*. Finally, two final works on the metropolis of Lille have been published by *éditions Septentrion*.



La métropole fragile

sous la direction d'Alain Bourdin
Ed. du Moniteur, janvier 2016



Economie de la connaissance. Une dynamique métropolitaine?

sous la direction d'Elisabeth Campagnac-Ascher
Ed. du Moniteur, 2015



Une trajectoire métropolitaine. L'exemple de Toulouse

sous la direction de Fabrice Escaffre
et Marie-Christine Jaillet
Ed. du Moniteur, 2016



De la technopole à la métropole ? L'exemple de Grenoble

sous la direction de Gilles Novarina
et Natacha Seigneuret
Ed. du Moniteur, 2015



Faire métropole. De nouvelles règles du jeu ?

sous la direction de Marie-Pierre Lefeuve
Ed. du Moniteur, 2015



Strasbourg métropole, Ourlets urbains dans la ville-mosaïque

sous la direction de Cristiana Mazzoni
et Andreea Grigorovschi
Ed. La commune, 2014



Strasbourg métropole, Images et récits pour la ville archipel

sous la direction de Cristiana Mazzoni
et Luna d'Emilio
Ed. La commune, 2014



Lille, métropole créative ? Nouveaux liens, nouveaux lieux, nouveaux territoires

sous la direction de direction de Christine Liefoghe, Dominique Mons, Didier Paris
Ed. Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, 2016

POPSU EUROPE

For Popsu Europe, a series of six texts explores current topics relating to today's urban production through a combined analysis by urban actors and researchers.



Gares et dynamiques urbaines, les enjeux de la grande vitesse

sous la direction de Jean-Jacques Terrin
Ed. Parenthèses, 2011



Le piéton dans la ville, l'espace public partagé

sous la direction de Jean-Jacques Terrin
Ed. Parenthèses, 2011



La ville des créateurs

sous la direction de Jean-Jacques Terrin
Ed. Parenthèses, 2012



Jardins en ville, villes en jardin

sous la direction de Jean-Jacques Terrin
Ed. Parenthèses, 2013



Villes inondables, Prévention, résilience, adaptation

sous la direction de Jean-Jacques Terrin
Ed. Parenthèses, 2014



Villes et changement climatique, Îlots de chaleur urbains

sous la direction de Jean-Jacques Terrin
Ed. Parenthèses, 2015

The videos of Popsu symposiums and events are available online on the Popsu and Puca websites:

www.popsu.archi.fr

www.urbanisme-puca.gouv.fr

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Charline Boujard

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Fêtes, 19ème arrondissement, Paris.
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2010 © Stephan Poulin

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