

"Risk Habitat Megacity" Research Initiative

Megacities are places marked not only by extremely high population density and barely manageable growth, but also by complex, interacting processes with a dynamic of their own. Urban habitats thus bear risks, but also offer opportunities.

The Helmholtz Association is pursuing an interdisciplinary and integrative research approach aimed at furthering our understanding of the urban processes, interactions and feedback mechanisms that are increasingly turning megacities into a habitat of risks and opportunities. The approach combines theoretical and conceptual considerations with empirical and application-oriented analysis. Three research concepts (the "Cross-Cutting Concepts") are applied to several typical megacity issues: land use management, socio-spatial differentiation, energy systems, transportation, air quality and health, water resources and services, and waste management (the seven "Fields of Application").

Geographically, the project focuses on Latin American megacities, with Santiago de Chile acting as the "anchor city". Five Helmholtz Association research centres are currently participating in the initiative along with partner organizations from Latin America.



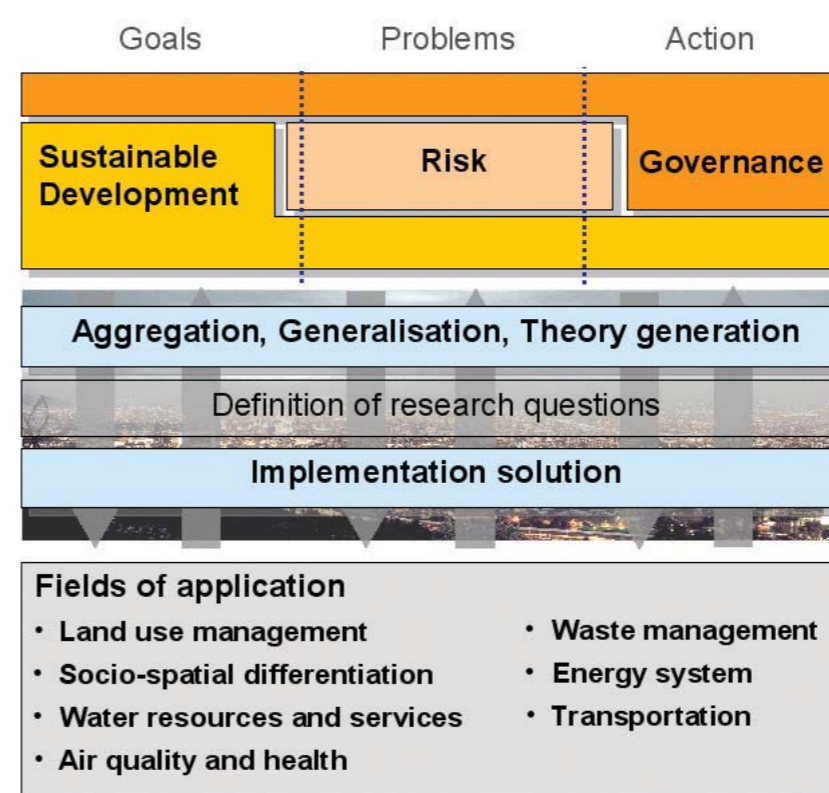
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Intended outcomes and results of the initiative:

- Evaluation of urban risks under sustainability criteria;
- Development of analytical tools and instruments for action-oriented knowledge to tackle the risks of the uncontrolled growth of megacities;
- Implementation of the derived strategies for sustainable development, application of the tools and instruments in collaboration with partners and target groups;
- Demonstration of response options to allow risk mitigation and adaptation;
- Capacity building for young researchers and professionals.

Duration: 2007–2013
 (First phase: 2007–2010, implementation in Santiago de Chile
 Second phase: 2010–2013, research framework to be transferred to other Latin American megacities)

www.risk-habitat-megacity.ufz.de



- Integration**
- Disciplines, Actors
 - Concepts and Topics
 - Methodologies
 - Results



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