

# Managing technical and social infrastructure in planning for shrinking cities



## REVIVING SHRINKING CITIES

innovative paths and perspectives towards livability for shrinking cities in Europe

### What are infrastructures?

- **Urban infrastructure** is a **complex** concept without a common definition (Cirolia and Rode 2019)
- Infrastructures **provide** various **services**, technical and social (transport, energy, water, schools, etc.)
- Infrastructures **shape** cities (Steele and Legacy 2017) and **produce different territories** (Graham and Marvin 2001)
- Urban infrastructures offer **accessibility** to services and produce **inequalities** (Anand, Gupta and Appel 2018)

➔ **Urban infrastructures are complex urban objects linked with social realities**



### Shrinking cities and infrastructure

Urban shrinkage  
(population and economy decline, etc.)



Infrastructure  
(Underused, decrease of quality services, etc.)

In a shrinkage context, policies, initiatives for infrastructure management have emerged, such as:

- **Right-sizing**
- **Co-production**
- **Privatization**
- **Innovation**

➔ **Urban shrinkage: several impacts on infrastructure (technical, social, economic, environmental, ...)**



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Although policies have been implemented in shrinking cities (such as right-sizing), they have been criticized as being selective (Béal et al. 2017)

## How are infrastructure policies conceptualized and implemented in shrinking cities?

### Aims of the research

- Identify and analyse infrastructure management in shrinking cities (path dependency):
  - What are the motives that justify their implementation?
  - How are they related to the spatial/historical conditions and influenced by the context (e.g., growth, austerity, neoliberal policies) in which they are implemented?
- Analyse the repercussions of infrastructure policies on shrinking cities:
  - What are the differences between the conceptualisation of infrastructure policies and their implementation?
  - What are the impacts of these policies on the urban environment and inhabitants?

### Novelty of the research

Right-sizing policies in European shrinking cities and other infrastructure initiatives, such as co-production, have been less explored.

#### Expectations

Infrastructure policies may have repercussions on the urban environment, especially for citizens.

#### Methodology and case studies

- Interviews with stakeholders and analysis of planning document to understand aims and motives of infrastructure policies,
- Interviews with citizens to identify outcomes/impacts of infrastructure policies

#### Outcomes and dissemination

Publication of papers, participation in conferences, production of a synthesis document on infrastructure management in a shrinkage context