**Objectives of the course**:

1. Providing an understanding of the problems and potentials, of the deficits and assets of the ‘European type of city’ in transforming Europe. Theoretical concepts from a historical view of urban development towards the ‘modern’ machine-type economic city and network-city approaches will be debated on the basis of a contrasting view on different eastern and western European countries, regions and cities.
2. An analytic view of the structural situation of different cities under transformation regarding the social, economic status and the trends of development will be taken. Which European cities are moving towards ‘higher ranks’ in the competition for wealth and a civic culture with respect to sustained development and which are declining? In what way does size matter? Does the future look brighter for metropolitan regions or for medium-size-towns? What are the social, economic and physical elements that seem to matter? What are the roles of social milieus and the build structures for development?
3. Information will be given about best practices for urban governance and planning that can prevent the loss of the quality of the city as a social and economic environment and can help cities to manage their situation in a positive way.

- One focus will be on a comparison of ‘western’ and ‘eastern’ approaches and the opportunities for a joint learning process.

- A second focus will be on the interdependence between urban ‘master planning’ and the concrete development of districts. Are the ‘neighbourhood’ and local networks re-emerging as a force, when integrated in larger networks?

- A third focus will be on the conflict between avant-garde ‘high-tech’ and ‘high-serve’ developments producing high income for the happy few and the threat of a polarised development for those increasingly excluded from wealth creation as their potentials – labour and knowledge are devalued. How do the policies of the ‘social city’ (Germany), the ‘politique pour le cité’ (France) or the ‘new deal for the communities’ (United Kingdom) work in bridging the gaps and turning the tide for problematic cities?

- The fourth focus will be on local governance, partnership and the role of a civil society as ‘carriers’ of an embedding development. What are the roles of politicians, administrators, and the planning professions in the ‘enabling city’ of the 21st century?

**Syllabus:**

Module one, ‘The European city’: Theoretic debates about dissolution and re-emergence. The urban element of ‘city’. Globalization, cities and citizenship: the change in the practical role and the theoretic importance of cities, the effect on urban governance, urban life and urban society. A comparative look at the development of urban policies in post-socialist central European cities. East-west contrasts, the empirical data about polarization, segregation and new neighbourhood.

Module two: The economic city: New types of urban economics – global actors and the neighbourhood. The meaning of the emerging real estate markets, the relation between investors/developers and local policy.

Module three: Urban transformation concepts: The urban region, network-cities – the new concept of region integrating city and opening new visions for the historic town. Milieu, locale and urban action – a look at action-oriented social theories of dissolution and cohesion. The local and neighbourhood experience of integration between groups, central and peripheral – the example of Paris. The new role of city planning and the new professional roles for planners, managers, administrators and mediators.

Module four, Urban governance in practice: The Budapest case – the innovative approach of the new strategic development concept and of the urban rehabilitation programmes. Comparative assessment of European policies for the cities. The Budapest case; from theory to praxis, from research to politics.

Module five, The public event: (in cooperation with the Budapest Goethe Institut): presentations of findings and debate about ‘The city between global and local, between high-tech and neighbourhood?’ (Afternoon/Evening)

**Teaching methods:**

In addition to traditional ‘frontal’-teaching, group discussions, the course will make an extensive use of the fact that it takes place in Budapest, one of the most rapidly changing metropolises of central Europe. Field-encounters and panel-debates between academics and practitioners about ‘best practices’ will be part of the course as well as panel debates about theory. The students will find the opportunity to present local cases from their own environment and to re-assess these strategies in a workshop situation. A discussion about innovative teaching methods for urban development professions will also take place.