

# 1<sup>st</sup> CoP Meeting

Basel, April 25, 2012



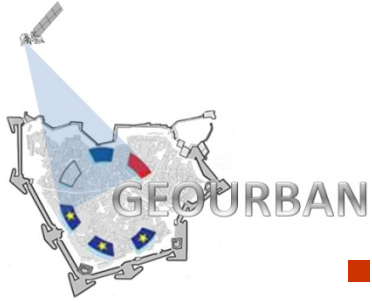
GEOURBAN

---

Communities of Practice



Nektarios Chrysoulakis  
FORTH

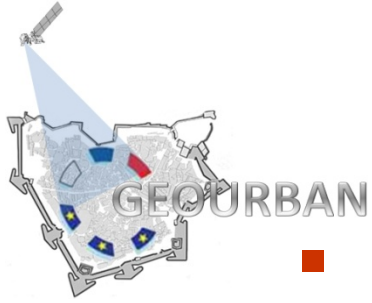


# What are Communities of Practice?

- Groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly (Wenger, 1998).

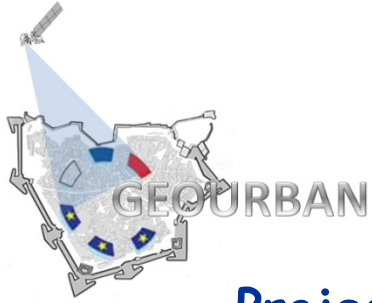


# CoPs: Three key dimensions



- Shared **Domain** of interest: Issue, practice (e.g, sustainable urban planning).
- **Community**: members are actively engaged and they develop a common identity, trust and a feeling of belonging.
- **Practice**: members develop a shared practice through an exchange of knowledge, developing stories, tools, etc.





# Differences between CoPs and other organizational structures

---

## Project teams

Driven by (planned) project results

Committed to fixed agreements / tasks

## Networks

Open membership

Large

Interactions

Creates relationships

## CoPs

Driven by improving performance in practice

Driven by issues, question and continuous learning

## CoPs

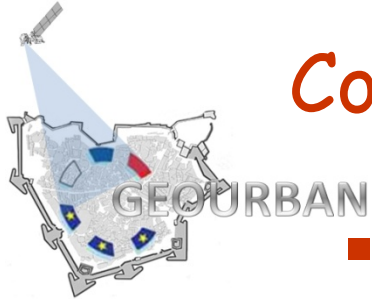
Closed membership

Small

Contributions

Creates identity - belonging

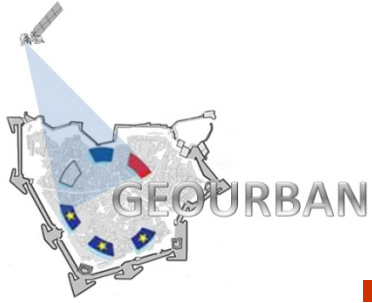
# CoP as organizing principle in GEOURBAN



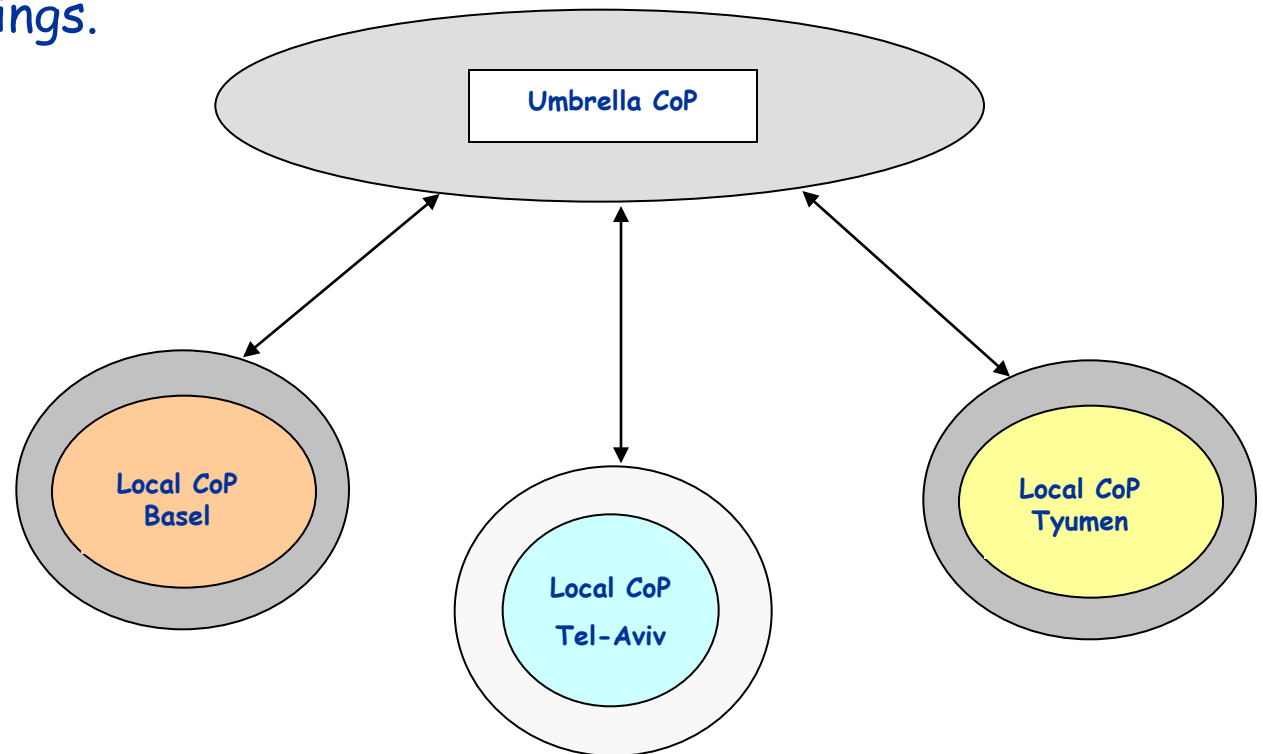
- To involve future users in the design of the tool.
- To create a learning environment for the team.
- To organize a dialogue.
- Not a separate WP in GEOURBAN.
- Two different but cross fertilizing processes.



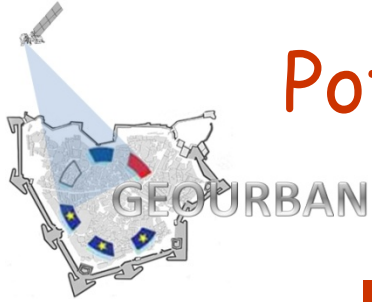
# Structure of CoP in GEOURBAN



- In each city a local CoP.
- Some members of local CoPs join umbrella CoP.
- Local CoP meetings alternated by umbrella CoP meetings.

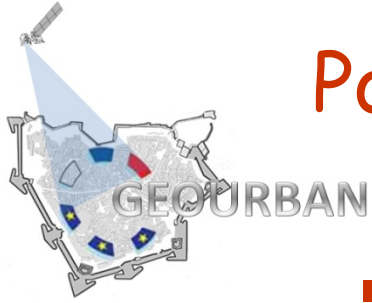


# Potential members of CoPs in GEOURBAN



- Sharing a concern for sustainable urban planning.
- Users of the Web-based tool.
- Data providers for GEOURBAN.
- City counselors, board members, civil servants.
- Departments such as spatial planning, energy, waste, water, green infrastructure / city parks, mobility and housing.

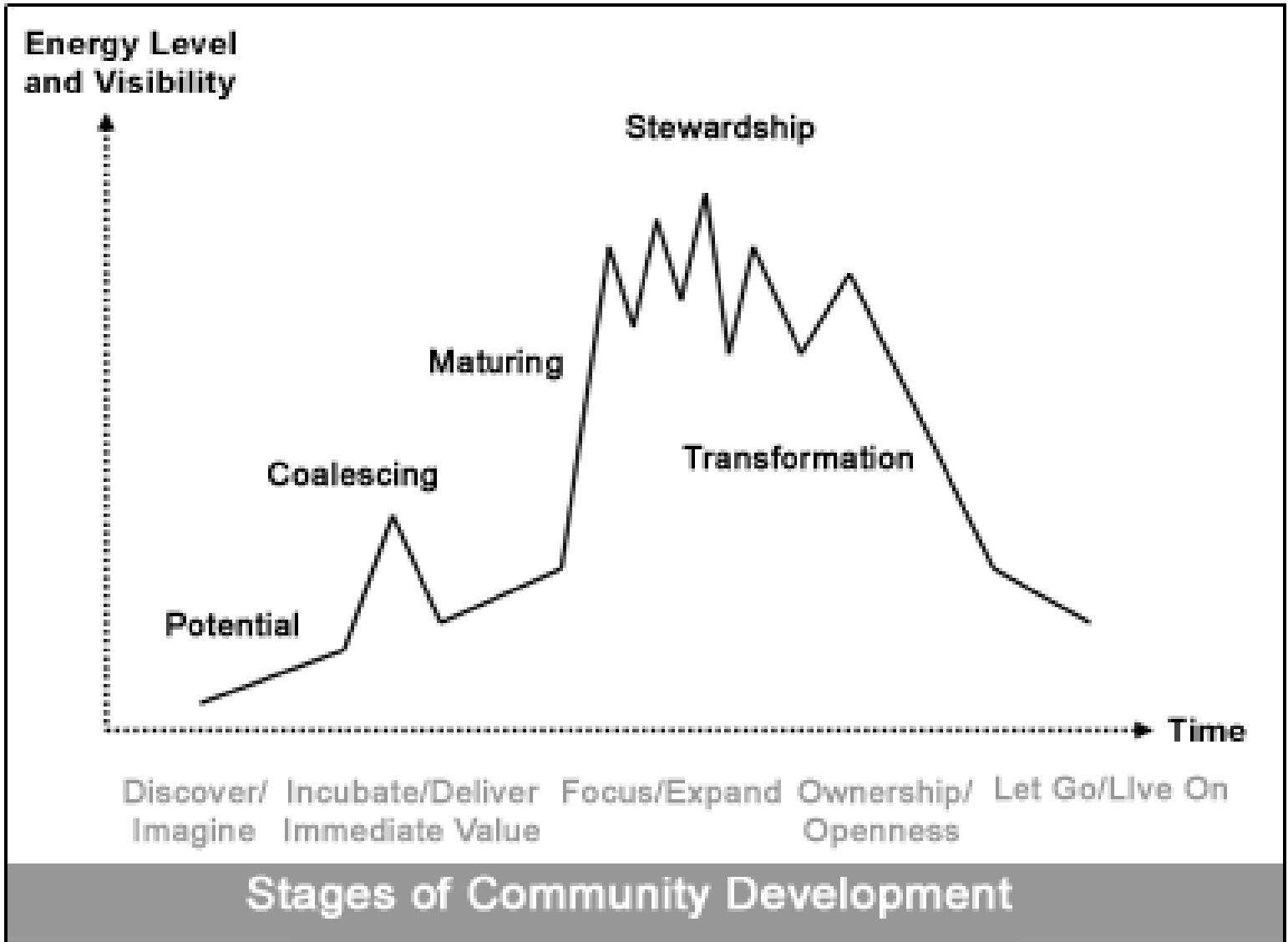
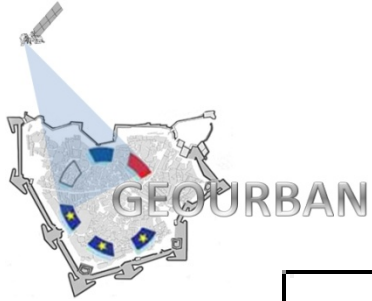
# Possible functions of CoP in GEOURBAN



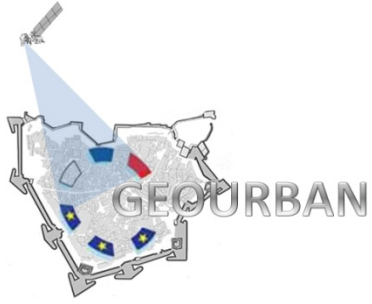
- Identification of objectives & targets for the GEOURBAN methodology and tool.
- Identification of required data and indicators.
- Testing and validation of the first web-based prototype.
- Feedback on final prototype.
- Umbrella CoP: different cities exchange experiences with EO in urban planning in general.



# CoP development

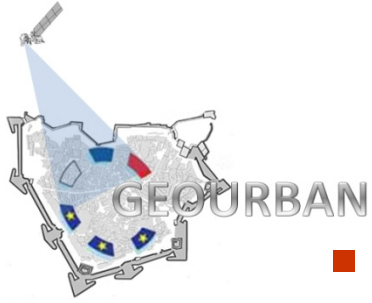


# CoP development: orientation



- A CoP will begin with an informal group of people who loosely network on the topic "EO in Sustainable Urban Planning".
- Activities:
  - ✓ identifying and talking with prospective community members;
  - ✓ identifying and contacting a community coordinator;
  - ✓ community kick off meeting.

# KoM CoP in Basel



- Getting to know urban planning practices in the city: Identifying strengths and weaknesses in sustainable urban planning and challenges for improvements.
- Getting to know the GEOURBAN project.
- Clarifying expectations: What could the web-based tool offer and what not.
- Discussing preliminary ideas for indicators.

## But also:

- Developing agreement on the major issue(s) or concern, the "community members" would like to address together and how they will organize themselves.

# CoP in GEOURBAN

