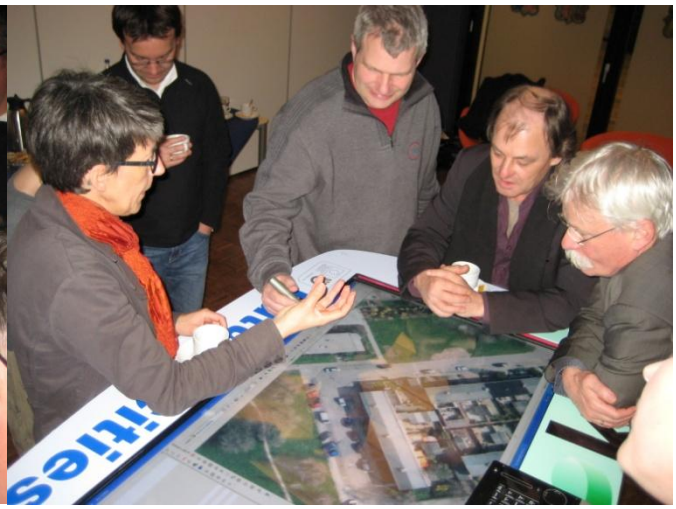
The urban heat island in Nijmegen – possibilities for the city's development
(Summary)

1. Introduction – the problem of the urban heat island Nijmegen

The climate analysis map by the university of Kassel shows the heat and wind situation in Nijmegen pointing out problematic areas. As next step, the municipality of Nijmegen needs to combine the results of the analysis map with recommendations how to deal with the heat in the city. Therefore, working group 2 as plenary conducts a twinning session on the topic of the urban heat island effect in Nijmegen, the results of the climate analyses map and working on concrete measure to develop ideas for short, medium and long term urban planning. Furthermore the session demonstrates the usefulness of working interactively with the Map Table.

2. Discussion of possible solutions for two areas of Nijmegen

In two groups the working group members work on two different areas of Nijmegen which were identified with the climate analysis map: the city centre and the western part of the city. They differ in the possibilities to change the urban structure. In the city centre buildings can't be removed to add more green and blue structures so there the heat problem has to be solved in a different way. In the western part of Nijmegen there are more possibilities to remove buildings and re-arrange the urban structure due to renovation of neighbourhoods and possibilities to reduce the number of houses.



3. Results of the twinning

The groups present their result.

Group 1 (western part of Nijmegen) worked intensely on defining the problem and concluded that the problem has to be solved within the area in question. Various possible measures were developed on different levels which could be taken, e.g. learn from areas in the city that are marked on the analysis map "green or yellow", but be aware not to introduce new (e.g. social) problems and especially not to worsen the situation for the inner city.

Group 2 working on the inner city also started with taking a closer look at the problems analysing the existing surfaces. One idea which as developed makes reference to Nijmegen

being an old Roman city, e.g. by introducing the ambiance with shading or flushing streets at night, while being aware of possible negative impacts.

Both groups tackle the issue that learning from the measures taken in southern cities might be an option, but when transferring solutions from the south to the north one has to be aware of the differing northern circumstances especially in winter, spring and autumn. It should be taken into account not to create uncomfortable situations in these times of a year.

Ton Verhoeven thanks the participants for the valuable inputs.

Examples of ideas worked out on the map table