

CPDT Conférence Permanente du Développement Territorial

# Urban recycling and optimal use of built stock and artificial land

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## Context

- CPDT Research « Intensification and requalification of centralities to reduce urban sprawl and car dependency »
- DPR 2019-2024 : intention to stop urban sprawl
  - Reduce the consumption of undeveloped land by limiting it by 2025;
  - Preserve as much agricultural land as possible;
  - Preserve, reuse or renovate existing buildings;
  - Locate buildings to be constructed as far as possible in existing built-up areas (urban, rural or peri-urban) located near services and public transport.
- Demographic forecasts : + 166,000 Walloon households by 2050 (BFP, 2021)
  - Housing production : how many ? where ? what size ?

# No net land take



**Objective:** 100% of housing production on built-up land (via urban recycling)

- Modification of existing buildings (divisions, extensions, requalification, etc.)
- New construction on artificial land
- Demolition reconstruction

What has been the part of urban		What potential for housing production			
recycling in the housing production in		does the already developed land			
recent years?		represent?			
Diachronic analysis of housing production (2010 - 2016)	Present day	Modelling the potential for residential densification (5 soft densification modes)			

# Available data sources

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### **Données ex-ante**

- Data from the delivery of permits (Work-flow, GESPER)
  - Data on operations (constructions, modifications, demolitions)
  - Spatialization at the communal level
  - No distinction can be made between building on greenfield and building on artificial land

**Données ex-post** 

- Data from the registration after the work has been completed (Cadastre)
  - Data on the land and building stock situation at a given time
  - Spatialization at the parcel level
  - Possibility of distinguishing between building on greenfield and building on artificial land



## Part of urban recycling in housing production

# Previous analysis (ex-ante data)

- Two different work attempted to estimate the part of urban recycling based on data from the permit delivery process
  - CPDT Plan de secteur durable, 2014 (data from *Work-flow* SPW Territoires)
    IWEPS Observatoire du développement territorial (data from SPF Economie)
- Estimated part of urban recycling at about 25% for the period 2009-2012



- Housing units from modification of existing building
- Housing units from new constructions



 Housing units from modification of existing buidings

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 Housing units from new constructions

# Diachronic analysis (ex-post data)

Comparison of cadastral data between two years (2010 and 2016)



# Diachronic analysis (ex-post data)

• Possibility to distinguish between the construction of buildings on greenfield and those that take place on land that was previously artificialised

- Possibility to associate some housing production
  - with an increase in the built-up area
  - with changes in land use (e.g. from non-residential to residential use)



# **Results**



## Housing units increase



- 10 880 housing units / year
  - 8800 on greenfields
  - 2080 on artificial land

## Housing units decrease



• 800 housing units / year



- 5400 housing units / year
  - 4590 without change in the built-up area
  - 810 with change in the builtup area



 1580 housing units / year (Particular period of time)



# Results

## Part of urban recycling in housing production



- Housing production by land take
- Housing production by urban recycling
  - Modifications of existing buildings
- New constructions on artificial land

	Annual	Relative	
	average	part	
New constructions on greenfields (land take)	8819	63%	
New constructions on artificial land	2083	15%	
Modifications (include suppressions)	3046	22%	
Net housing production	13948	100%	









## **Potential for residential densification**





Estimating the potential for housing production on developed land for residential use through five different mode.



# Method

### 1. Identify applicability criteria for each mode:

- Minimum area required
- Accessibility to roadway
- Distance to roadway
- Distance to existing building
- Size of existing building
- Average density within a specified radius
- Part of single-family housing units (nonsubdivided buildings) within a specified radius



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Mode 4: reconstruction is done according to the average land use coefficient (LUC) of housing units located within 500 meters



## Method

2. Determine the available areas by these criteria on residential land occupied by single-family homes:

- Available land areas
- Available floor areas
- Available heights



Mode 1: Determining the amount of land available for a new building on already developed land





### **3.** Convert available areas into number of housing units:

- Minimum housing unit size (100 m<sup>2</sup> floor area)
- Density of housing units per available area within a specified radius (500 m)

4. Decline the potential according to the proximity to basic services and structuring public transport stations :

- Proximity to at least two services (shops, pharmacies, primary schools)
- Proximity to a major stop (train stations and bus stops with sufficient service)

< 500 m

> 500 m et < 1000 m

> 1000 m



## **Results**

#### Number of potential units for the 5 modes

Proximity to services or structuring stops	Mode 1	Mode 2	Mode 3	Mode 4	Mode 5	Total
Less than 500m	52 448	56 060	27 161	26 936	33 518	196 123
Between 500m and 1000m	51 813	24 208	6621	2657	27 244	112 543
More than 1000m	100 939	23 365	5226	743	44 760	175 033
Total	205 200	103 633	39 008	30 336	105 522	483 699







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# **Conclusions**

- The part of urban recycling is about 37% of housing production. Recycling processes are already well established in some municipalities.
- In average, the municipalities can increase their housing stock by 20% through the analyzed modes.
- From a technical point of view, it seems perfectly possible to meet future residential needs without consuming new land.
- The criteria used to evaluate the potential for residential densification were intended to be realistic and reasonable, even minimalist in some cases. The analysis does not take into account all forms of housing production that do not involve the use of land.
- The results are orders of magnitude. In reality, it is up to the policy-maker to ensure that the dynamics of densification are accompanied by a maintenance, or even a reinforcement, of the quality of the area.





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