1. INTRODUCTION

Ethiopia is located in the horn of Africa, it is 1.1 million square km big (like Spain and France together) and has an estimated population of 76.5 million inhabitants in 2007 being one of the most populous countries of Africa. It is the only country in Africa that hasn’t been colonized, except for a very short period of four years (1936–1940), where the Italian troops, leaded by Mussolini, invaded the country.

Addis Ababa is the capital city of the country since 1886. It had a built up area of 290 square km in 2004 and has an estimated population of 4 million. It is the seat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union (AU), what makes call Addis Ababa as the capital of Africa.

As many other big cities in Africa, Addis Ababa is facing big urbanization growth and is suffering from many social and economic problems (huge income differences, deep poverty, unemployment, housing shortage, lack of physical and social infrastructure coverage and proliferation of slum and squatter settlements). The city has a high rate of population growth (8% per annum, mainly due to the migration process from rural areas. Studies show that the city will reach in 20 years the 6 million of population and in 40/50 years the mega city level of 10 million (Yenoineshet Meazah Haregewoin, 2007).

Since some humanitarian emergencies took place in Ethiopia in the last 30 years (droughts and famines are recurrent, there was a long civil war until 1991, the Eritrean war 1999-2000), in the whole country many NGOs and Cooperation Agencies from different countries are working for developing the country in general terms, defending human rights, demanding good governance and fighting against poverty among others.

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3 Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1072164.stm, September 2007
5 (Asfaw, 2005) from Integrated Housing Development Programs for Urban Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Urbanization (The Case of Addis Ababa)
This study aims, in this extended and complex context, to give an overview of the development cooperation on urban upgrading projects in the context of the actual situation of the infrastructures and housing in the urban Ethiopia and mainly in its capital city, Addis Ababa.

To carry out this study five development projects done by five different Not-for-Profit Organizations have been visited between October and November 2007. These projects are analysed and compared from different points of view as stated in Chapter 2, where the main objectives of this study are explained.

In Chapter 3, the general profile of Ethiopia, and particularly of its capital Addis Ababa, are explained. A chronogram has been elaborated for locating the visited projects in Addis Ababa in an historical context.

In Chapter 4, the visited projects are explained in detail. Firstly, two water projects outside of Addis Ababa (Sole Chefa and Wukro) are explained. Then, a housing project is explained which was carry out in Alamata. Finally, the last two projects are projects done in Addis Ababa. The first one is an upgrading programme that finished in 2004 and the second one is a housing programme that was launched in 2005.

The projects are analysed in detail in Chapter 5. It is particularized in the iterative urbanization process of the target areas, in terms of efficacy and efficiency, and in the articulation of the actors involved in the project, taking special attention on the community participation and in the use of appropriate technologies.

In Chapter 6, the projects are compared in terms of upgrading scale, efficiency and in terms of actors involvement.

Finally, in Chapter 7, the conclusions are done about the projects, the country and the development cooperation.

Recommendations for further researches are done in chapter 8.
2. OBJECTIVES

The GRECDH (“Grup de Recerca en Cooperació per al Desenvolupament Humà”) is a research team on human development cooperation founded in 2006 in the of the “Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya”. The goal of GRECDH is to develop instruments for the evaluation of shelter and basic services infrastructure coverage in informal settlements. Therefore, a sample of good practices of NGOs and Development Agencies in Africa and Latin America are being collected in order to establish these evaluation instruments.

In this context, this study has been conducted for evaluating urban upgrading development programmes in the Ethiopian country.

Particularly, the goals of the present study are:

- To know/study the general Ethiopian profile in terms of urban living conditions and development cooperation in urban areas paying special attention to the situation in Addis Ababa.

- To evaluate urban upgrading projects in terms of efficacy and efficiency; and to locate the intervention within the context the way the city and its urban services have grown, by analysing the parcelling out (P), urbanising (U) and house building (E) processes.

- To locate the position of the different actors in the different interventions and to know the relevance of the involved NGOs regarding the projects, the communities, the local government and the country administrations.