

Mistra Urban Futures Progress Report 2016-2019

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Executive summary

This report covers the bulk of Phase 2 of Mistra Urban Futures' ten-year period of programme funding by Mistra, Sida and the Gothenburg Consortium, namely 2016 – early 2019. The research agenda for this period was set out in the Strategic Plan 2016–19, and the Realising Just Cities research framework that explains how the Centre intended to implement the broad objectives of the Plan. This report's submission before the end of this current phase is necessitated by the timing of Sida's decision-making process during the remainder of this year with regard to a potential third phase of programme funding. As such, this report will hopefully be a valuable resource for potential new programme and project funders. Although financial support from the other two existing programme funders ends on 31 December 2019, the Gothenburg Consortium will continue to finance and steer the work of the Gothenburg Platform.

Urban challenges such as poverty, social polarization, unsustainable lifestyles, climate change, lack of resource efficiency, financial instability and urban sprawl are complex and sometimes either overlapping or conflicting. No single actor has the knowledge, capacity or power to grasp or address these challenges alone. They engage a variety of actors, decision-making levels, disciplines and sectors. They are global challenges requiring local actions.

In 2010, Mistra Urban Futures was established as an international centre for sustainable urban development, bringing researchers and practitioners together to co-create knowledge and solutions for urban transitioning. From the start, the ambition has been to make a real difference to people's lives in cities and the urban environment. With transdisciplinarity and co-production (including co-design and co-creation) of knowledge as methodological approach, the Centre addresses one of today's key societal challenges, namely how transitions and transformations towards sustainable urban development can be achieved.

Today, the Centre operates through local platforms in Cape Town (South Africa), Kisumu (Kenya), Sheffield-Manchester (UK), Gothenburg (Sweden), Skåne (Sweden) and Stockholm (Sweden). Additional partners in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Dehradun/Shimla (India) form the network and basis for both local and international comparative projects. These projects together with interventions in relevant international debates on the basis of the research findings, form the core of Mistra Urban Futures' activities. The platforms have become increasingly integrated into the Mistra Urban Futures organisation and work model during Phase 2. Collaboration among the platforms has become considerably closer, cemented through a series of comparative projects that focus reflectively on the research processes and lessons learnt as well as on substantive empirical findings.

In keeping with Sida's statutory requirement to use its funds to tackle poverty, gender inequality and environmental unsustainability, the Centre has used Sida's resources to promote these objectives in our work in and with the global South locally within the respective platforms, for comparative research projects across platforms in the South, and as part of our engagement with global agendas promoting these aims, most notably the United Nations initiatives to establish and then implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

Following an introductory section on the origin and evolution of the Centre, the bulk of this report is divided into four main parts. The first details the nature of local and comparative research undertaken by the Centre in pursuit of the main aims and objectives and in attempting to answer the principal research questions. The broad narrative is illustrated with examples of activities and specific outputs from this research, as the Centre has established its reputation both for a firm academic footprint and for sound results-based evidence to inform policy and practice at all scales from the local in individual cities to the global through UN processes. In the process, it has won several awards.

art 2 explains how the Centre is organised and governed, as well as how organisational capacity has been built. There has been a steady process of evolution and consolidation over the last 9+ years, with major revisions at the start of Phase 2 in 2016 but also as a result of expansion through the induction of one new platform and a smaller node in Sweden, as well as two project-specific partnerships in India and Argentina. This evolution is described both centrally and within each local context, along with capacity building efforts and attention to issues of intersectionality, particularly gender relations.

In Part 3, we provide an account of the Centre's increasing capacity for and success in using local and comparative research results to influence local, national and international policy agendas and practice. Each platform's efforts in this regard are outlined, along with the work of the Centre as a whole in relation to global local authority membership organisations such as ICLEI and the UN's Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11 on urban areas, and the New Urban Agenda.

Part 4 is devoted to the bespoke and comprehensive 5-part quality, monitoring and evaluation (QME) framework developed by the Centre to suit its particular organisational structure and research and policy approach. This became necessary since off-the-shelf frameworks were unsuitable and incapable of encompassing the various qualitative and self-reflexive dimensions. By the end of 2019, we intend to publish the framework and lessons from its implementation as a benchmark contribution to the international literature on policy-relevant research evaluation.

Finally, Part 5 synthesises our achievements and ongoing efforts to consolidate lessons learnt and to carry forward the momentum into a new phase from 2020 onwards.

Introduction: An International Research Centre for Sustainable Urban Development

Mistra Urban Futures is a research centre for sustainable urban development, bringing academics and practitioners together to co-produce research, new knowledge and solutions for sustainable urban transformations.

In 2008, Mistra, the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, issued an open call for research proposals concerning sustainable urban development. The idea was to create a full-scale, internationally renowned, research centre, based in Sweden with a number of local platforms in different parts of the world. The Centre was formally established in 2010, aiming to address a variety of city-based challenges at global and local levels. A Mid-term review was carried out in 2015 (see box below).

Core funding was provided by Mistra, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and a Gothenburg Consortium of seven partners: Chalmers University of Technology, University of Gothenburg, City of Gothenburg, the Västra Götaland Region, the County Administration Board of Västra Götaland, the Göteborg Region and IVL Swedish Environmental Institute. Additional funding was provided locally through the Centre's Local Interaction Platforms (also referred to as "LIPs" or "Platforms") and competitive project-based funds from diverse sources.

By creating, forging and building formal institutional partnerships with local governments and authorities, research institutes, businesses and civil society organisations, Mistra Urban Futures has created an international network of mainly intermediate cities for capacity building and the design of globally relevant collaborative research projects. Today, the Centre operates through the international Secretariat in Gothenburg and platforms in Cape Town, South Africa (CTLIP); Kisumu, Kenya (KLIP); Sheffield–Manchester, UK (SMLIP), Gothenburg, Sweden (GOLIP); and Skåne, (SKLIP), along with a smaller node in Stockholm (SNODE) and two project-based partnerships, one in Dehradun and Shimla, India, and one in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Centre thus straddles four continents, deliberately embracing the challenges of urban sustainability across the global North and South.

Global challenges require local actions. The global challenges affecting urban development, such as urban poverty, social polarization, unsustainable lifestyles, climate change, resource in-efficiency, are creating nested complexities of sometimes conflicting matters playing out in the local context. As no single actor has the full knowledge, capacity or power to comprehend or address these complexities alone, they engage a variety of actors, decision-making levels, disciplines and sectors. Mistra Urban Futures provides an arena for understanding and addressing urban challenges by bringing local actors together to co-produce new knowledge.

Transdisciplinary co-production refers to collaboratively based processes where different actors and interest groups come together with academic researchers from different disciplines to share and produce knowledge to address the sustainability challenges cities face today and to widen and increase the research capacity for societal problem-solving. Co-production is not referred to as a single method, but a methodological approach and ethos that can be implemented in different ways. It emphasizes inclusiveness and iterative, deliberative negotiation as the mechanism for building shared understandings as a precondition for making progress jointly. As such, it creates a fundamentally different epistemology of knowledge production from the conventional linear, positivist and expert-led model that still underpins most urban research worldwide. The goal is to co-produce problem-based, locally-appropriate and socially robust knowledge that is credible, relevant, and legitimate for participating academic and non-academic researchers alike, and which makes a real difference to urban life.

The outcome and impact of Mistra Urban Futures' activities go beyond the work directly funded by and affiliated to the Centre, extending to the wider network of researchers, practitioners and cities of which it is part. In this document we summarise the development of Mistra Urban Futures' achievements during Phase 2 (2016–2019), drawing upon the activities of platforms, the international secretariat, as well as the entire Centre – where the whole is larger than the sum of the parts.

The following section summarises the Centre Strategic Plan for 2016–2019 and the re-orientation of Mistra Urban Futures towards a new collaborative agenda: Realising Just Cities, i.e. cities that are fair, green and accessible. This distinction was reflected in the Centre activities and operational plans, marking the transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2.

The remainder of the document is arranged in five parts, organised to reflect the centre objectives, the revised Strategic Plan 2016–2019 and subsequent objectives for quality management and evaluation, QME, of Centre activities.

- In PART 1, the projects and outputs of our work are presented, with an emphasis on the academic footprint – publications etc – as well as on how to implement the know-how in practice. This relates to the first strategic objective: to deliver evidence-based outcomes that address the challenges facing cities and which make a difference in practice.
- In PART 2 we describe the work done to diversify the Centre's research base and forging strategic partnerships with selected international organisations. We also describe how we build capacity and include our analysis of intersectionality issues, particularly gender relations, all relating to the second strategic objective.
- In PART 3, we summarise the Centre activities to influence local and global sustainability agendas, such as Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda.
- In PART 4 the Centre's Quality Management and Evaluation Framework (QME) is presented, with a focus on indicators, formative evaluation and impact stories.

In PART 5, the currently planned activities for the remainder of 2019 and ongoing work to ensure long-term sustainability of the centre after 2019 are described.

The 2014-2015 Mid-term review

Following a start-up review in 2011, Mistra requested a mid-term evaluation of the Centre 2014–2015 to provide the basis for funding decisions 2016–2019. An international panel of researchers was appointed to evaluate the centre activities in terms of Centre performance; Excellence in science; Knowledge generation and utilization; Integration of science, policy and practice; and Organisation, management and leadership.

The unique nature of Mistra Urban Futures required a modified framework of the evaluation criteria, with an expanded view of the nature of outcomes and impacts by focusing on the process of co-production and whether it had been used to understand and practice urban sustainability more effectively. The panel concluded that it was necessary to take some of the key characteristics of the co-production process into account when evaluating transdisciplinary research, including the process of interaction between researchers and various partners and that it is essential to identify the objectives of both academic researchers and involved practitioners when evaluating outcomes and impacts achieved. This implies addressing effects beyond the scientific publications, such as enhancing capacity and networks, fostering organisational changes and policies and eventually impacting societal transformation.

Based on the proposed strategic plan (2016–2019), the evaluation panel concluded that Mistra Urban Futures will play a critical global role in supporting and implementing the vision of fairer, greener and more accessible cities. To achieve this, the panel made several recommendations, summarised below:

- To retain a substantial and explicit commitment to making co-production a central element and the most significant way in which the Centre can continue to make a substantial and globally relevant contribution to the discourse and practice of sustainable urban development.
- To keep the LIPs at the heart of providing practical examples of how co-production is put into practice.
- To embrace the principles of co-production in the relationship between LIPs and the development of collaborative ideas. However, the panel advised caution in creating new platforms.
- To engage with global agendas by prioritising translating, scaling- up, and making LIP and cross-LIP findings relevant and applicable. In relation to this, the panel recommended the appointment of a senior staff member as Deputy Director for Engagement.
- To replace board members gradually over time, so that issues of diversity and global representation are taken seriously. The commitment to global partnerships should be reflected by the Board.
- To pay further attention to the budgeting and the strategic planning for raising additional counterpart funds for the 2016–19 period, and to treat fundraising for the post-2019 period as a matter of significant priority by the Secretariat and the Board.

The Agenda: Realising Just Cities

Based on the achievements of Phase 1 (summarised in the 2014 Progress Report and the 2015 Mid-term review), the Centre worked collaboratively to reorient work on urban sustainability towards a new agenda: realising just cities that are fair, green and accessible. This reorientation is discussed conceptually in the Strategic Plan (2016-2019), in the collaboratively produced publication *Co-production in Action: Towards Realising Just Cities* (Palmer and Walasek (ed) 2016) and in the book *Rethinking Sustainable Cities* (Simon (ed) 2016). Both are available electronically on Open Access.

The Strategic Plan included two central strategic objectives:

Strategic Objective 1: To deliver evidence-based outcomes that address the challenges facing cities and which make a difference in practice

Strategic Objective 2: To diversify the Centre's research base and forging strategic partnerships with selected international organisations.

In line with the recommendations of the 2015 Mid-term review, the plan was supplemented by an international collaborative framework and a comparative research agenda called *Realising Just Cities*. Through this framework, the Centre intended to frame and support the activities to generate research and co-productive approaches that supports change and transitions towards urban sustainability. The reorientation towards Realising Just cities was intended to provoke reflection, engagement and action in different cities around the world; on what just cities look like and how they may be realised in different urban contexts.

In the collaborative framework, three sets of cross-cutting core processes were identified as essential for working towards the realisation of just cities in different contexts, and on which reflection, comparison, analysis and learning could be conducted: *urban change*, referring to processes of urban transformation which facilitate or constrain cities in becoming more just; *urban knowledge*, referring to the social organisation of different knowledges and practices to support transitions to more just cities; and *urban governance*, referring to the relationships and processes amongst governance stakeholders to help achieve just cities. Key substantive areas for research and practice in relation these core processes were identified as TRACKS – Transformative Research Activities through Co-producing Knowledge. These include *socio-ecological transformations*, referring to bi-directional impacts between cities and their social and biophysical environments and issues of urban ecological sustainability; *socio-spatial transformations*, including research on how the built environment and spatial form of cities contributes to achieve a more just city; and *socio-cultural transformations*, referring to the development of urban life and human conditions. The TRACKs and subsequent topics overlapped, contributed to and were informed by the core processes. As such, they were intended as organisational principles rather than discrete or disconnected spheres, primarily for internal use and not used in external communication.

Rethinking Sustainable Cities

In 2016, Policy Press published a book edited by Mistra Urban Futures' Director David Simon called *Rethinking Sustainable Cities*. The book's contents included three sections on accessible, green and fair cities plus introduction and an afterword. The book is available as paperback but also downloadable for free, as open access, thanks to Mistra Urban Futures' funding.

To reach a larger audience within Sweden, a Swedish translation and summary was created, with the permission of the authors and publisher. The summary was made from a primarily practical perspective, leaving reference lists and theoretical parts out, shortened to a 40-page report. Further editions of the same kind have been produced in English, Spanish and Hindi. The booklet was later further summarised into a Policy Brief, highlighting some of the most important lessons and recommendations.

All four language versions have been widely distributed in paper format. Along with the Policy Brief, they are available on Open Access on the Centre's website.



Simon, D., (ed) (2016) *Rethinking Sustainable Cities: Accessible, green and fair*. Bristol: Policy Press.

PART 1. Research and Knowledge Production for Sustainable Urban Futures

Mistra Urban Futures is undertaking innovative urban local and comparative transdisciplinary co-production research within and across its platforms. Through Phase 2, co-production has proved to be rewarding and has successfully delivered new scientific insights as well as influenced the cities where the Centre is operating in at different scales. This is why Mistra Urban Futures' researchers remain committed to this research approach, whilst recognising it involves a greater time commitment and brings different challenges from conventional research practice.

During the past 10 years, sustainable urbanisation has moved to the forefront of debate, research and policy agendas. Mistra Urban Futures is delighted to play a leading role internationally in this process. In order to tackle wicked problems of urban injustices, the Centre has during this decade further developed the platform-specific research, suited to particular contexts, to organising also systematic comparative research projects as a world-leading dimension of Mistra Urban Futures' work. By learning from the positive and negative experiences of cities and develop trans-local links, we aim to ensure the realisation of just and sustainable cities in diverse contexts. The Centre helps to open up more possibilities for change by bringing together different actors to analyse how key themes relating to urban sustainability and justice are understood and addressed in different contexts.

The Phase 2 Mistra Urban Futures research projects (listed in Appendix 1) cover a broad range of urban themes and have generated substantive knowledge relating to urban challenges as well as procedural knowledge of methods, skills, challenges, and methodological ethos of co-production. This knowledge has been disseminated to diverse audiences through various communication channels, contributing to build knowledge and capacity among partners and project members as well as in the wider global network of researchers and practitioners of Mistra Urban Futures as a whole (see PART 3 for more details on outreach). In accordance with Sida's requirements, this intellectually and sometimes practically challenging work has also generated knowledge in reducing poverty, social inequalities and environmental impact and contributing to fairer, greener and more accessible cities in diverse yet locally appropriate ways.

Co-produced research poses many challenges to research evaluation, as the output and quality cannot be measured only against conventional scientific ideals. Equally important is the socio-political quality and to relate results to the reality-based problems at hand. In Mistra Urban Futures' co-productive setting, academic quality work includes scientific publications and the use of information for governance purposes through, e.g., new services, and policies. See PART 4 for a more detailed discussion of research evaluation.

1.1 Undertaking comparative urban research

With justice as an embedded theme, the comparative project portfolio of Mistra Urban Futures displays a diverse set of topics such as participation and housing, migration and knowledge transfer, solid waste and food security. These comparative projects together with the wide range of local specific projects are listed and briefly presented in Appendix 1. Needless to say, the local projects constitute the firm and rich basis on which most of the comparative work is built.

The comparative work has developed to form a significant part of the Centre's intellectual work. The idea of drawing on research findings and experiences of transdisciplinary and co-creative work from different parts of the world is ground-breaking and challenging – but also promising in terms of impact

and usefulness for cities and urban areas. Through cross-context learning relevant results, findings and knowledge are compared and aggregated into globally useful knowledge for policy and practice.

As such, they also form the basis for Mistra Urban Futures’ external recognition as reflected in publications, talks and presentations at international conferences and proposals for collaboration, keeping in mind that the local platforms, in all their diversity, are where much of the actual research is undertaken. The comparative projects are about drawing on the research processes and outcomes of these projects – relevant results, findings and knowledge are compared and aggregated into globally useful knowledge for practice and research.

In this way, the co-creation methodology and transdisciplinary approach are being developed, based on observations and results in different places.

The comparative projects relate to different urban transformation processes: socio-spatial, socio-ecological and socio-cultural as well as different aspects such as urban change, governance and knowledge. However, as the primary research methodology and objectives are based on transdisciplinary collaboration and comparison, it seems relevant to present these comparative projects under a common heading. In this way, the projects themselves also become indicators of progress towards ‘Realising Just Cities’.

The Realising Just Cities framework identifies a typology of comparative projects as follows, according to their design, origin and mode of implementation:

- (1) *Local projects retrofitted*: where existing research projects on a particular theme in different cities need some retrofitting, or a specific comparative “add-on”, to facilitate drawing comparative conclusions about that particular theme from multiple contexts.
- (2) *Local projects replicated*: where particular successful projects initiated at a particular platform have been, or are intended to be, replicated in other cities, thus opening up possibilities for cross-city comparison.
- (3) *Trans-locally clustered comparative research projects*: developing clusters of projects by topic across multiple cities to produce new knowledge and insights.
- (4) *Internationally initiated projects with local co-production*: internationally conceived through co-design, with co-production undertaken by local teams in each city with central coordination.
- (5) *International projects with trans-local co-production*: where completely trans-local teams work across cities.

Table 1. Comparative projects

PROJECT (project period)	ACTIONS TAKEN	AIM OF INTERVENTIONS (SDG 11 target)	WHERE
Realising Just Cities (2017-2019)	Workshop organised in March 2018. Four levels identified: evaluations of LIP-specific projects, comparative projects, platforms and international partnerships.	Organising knowledge through local platforms, generating new urban knowledge through co-production and conducting place-specific comparative research, contributes to realising just cities. (11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.7, 11.a)	Cape Town for project lead; all other platforms and partners for comparative work. Generalised to globally relevant knowledge.
Implementing the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs: Comparative Urban Perspectives (2017-2019)	Formation of city-wide working groups in each city. Sample of SDG 11 indicators (indicators 11.1.1 and 11.6.2) tested and reported for each city	Analysing implementation of the global agendas with cities, facilitating cross-city learning and interaction. Contribute to UN revisions of targets, indicators and NUA reports based	Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Gothenburg, Kisumu, Malmö, Sheffield and Shimla
Participatory cities (2017-2019)	Sub-themes on co-production and participation; participatory planning; role of inter-mediaries; policy briefings	Cross-city learning and comparison on the New Urban Agenda goals around ‘meaningful participation’ in goals 16 and 11. (11.3.2)	Empirical: Across all platforms. Relevance: global

Cultural Heritage and Just Cities (2017-2019)	Development of planning, assessment and mapping tools, position paper	Role and value of cultural heritage in the RJC context (11.4)	Empirical: UK, Kenya, Sweden, South Africa Relevance: global
Knowledge Transfer Programme (2017-2019)	Knowledge exchange meetings in 2018 on embedded research and other transfer oriented initiatives.	Create a programme for knowledge exchange in Malmö. Co-authored articles and comparative reflection on embedded research (11.b)	Cape Town and Malmö. Also in Sheffield-Manchester, Kisumu. Relevance: global
Migration and Urban Development (2018-2019)	Builds a network of researchers and practitioners comparing their work across four transformative themes, with common meetings and hearing, common research applications and jointly writing	Addressing migration and urbanisation from an integrated perspective (11.a)	In participating cities/countries, possibly producing generalised results on a global scale
Urban Food Security and Value Chain (2017-2019)	Builds on existing projects on urban food security and food value chains. At international level, the team is demonstrating that food lens and trajectory is likely to determine the issue of equity and conflict in urban context. Urban food poverty, nutrition, quality, availability, access, miles and affordability are gradually becoming extremely important.	Contributions to theory through publications, and to policy making through policy briefs and policy workshops. Applied food plan for Gothenburg. New business models for local production. (11.6 and 11.a)	Participating platforms. Global relevance for theoretical contributions
Neighbourhood transformation and housing justice (2017-2019)	Planning for learning exchange 2019 based on initiative in Sheffield.	Develop empowering and affordable models for housing low-income urban residents.	
Transportation and Urban Development (2017-2019)	Workshops in Gothenburg and Cape Town in 2018.	Comparative analyses of pursuing transport justice and realising just cities. (11.2, 11.6, 11.b)	Participating cities, methods and experiences of general interest
Solid Waste Management (2017-2018)	Knowledge transfer, knowledge generation, review of relevance of North-South perspectives and sustainability. Stakeholder workshops in Kisumu and meetings in Helsingborg and Gothenburg.	Identify opportunities and initiatives within the solid waste management value chain. Changing behaviour, attitudes and collaboration in the value chain. (11.6)	Testbed: Kisumu, Kenya Relevance: primarily Global South

In 2017, 11 comparative projects were formed with two or more Platforms taking part in each project (see Table 1 above)

One of the flagship projects in the group of 11, 'Realising Just Cities', with all Platforms engaged, has been redefined as an ongoing process, collecting and analysing data from other projects for formative evaluation as well as for impact assessments.

The Urban Public Finance project, primarily and initially investigating African cities opportunities for funding through their fiscal architectures, has been redefined to a local Cape Town PhD project. The field of research is highly relevant for sustainable urban development and will be re-assessed for potential expansion to cover also other cities and Platforms.

A particular project is the SDG project, *Implementing the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs: Comparative Urban Perspectives*, involving all platforms as well as local research and practitioner partners in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Shimla, India (see below).



Multi-stakeholder partnerships increase engagement with global agendas

As part of the SDGs project, we have set up transdisciplinary co-production partnerships in each of the case study cities (Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Gothenburg, Kisumu, Malmö, Sheffield and Shimla) between academics and city officials. In Buenos Aires the partnership also includes a civil society representative (CELS - the Centre for Legal and Social Studies). In Shimla, the research team is represented by Nagrika, a social enterprise working on small and medium-size cities collaborating with the Municipal Corporation of Shimla. Multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the ones established in this project can contribute to increasing awareness and engagement with global agendas such as Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

The partnerships allow the local research teams to have closer access and better understanding of the localisation of the SDGs and the NUA in each city. In the cities where there was little engagement with these agendas, the partnerships have also contributed to creating awareness about the agendas and to get discussions around them started within the municipalities. While the project cannot claim direct causality between our engagement with city officials and implementation of the agendas, the formalisation of these partnerships in several cities has been followed by increased interest and commitment in localising them. In Shimla, for example, the Municipal Corporation had not started working with the SDGs or the NUA in 2017, yet in December 2018 signed a resolution committing to the SDGs, particularly the targets in the urban goal (SDG 11). The resolution acknowledges the knowledge partnership with Nagrika and the involvement in our international research project. In Kenya, following meetings between the research team and the national agencies in charge of SDGs implementation informing about our project and our willingness to facilitate collaboration between Kisumu city, Kisumu county and the national level around the SDGs and the NUA, Kisumu was selected as a pilot study on how cities in the country are localising the global agendas. A local working team composed of researchers, city and county representatives has been set-up with monthly meetings and 2 meetings per year are to be facilitated with the national level; the first meeting involving city, county, national and civil society representatives took place in July 2018.

Furthermore, as the cases in Shimla and Kisumu have shown, the partnerships have contributed to setting up working agendas in all the cities where the researchers-city officials team agree on a set of topics to work jointly. In Cape Town, the joint work has included carrying out workshops with city officials from various departments in the City of Cape Town to understand the extent to which and how different departments seek to or are currently aligning their departmental and/or transversal projects to the SDGs, and specifically to SDG 11. In Buenos Aires, the researchers-city officials-civil society team has been jointly working on methodological definitions, actors' mapping and the construction of indicators as part of the localisation process of Agenda 2030. The first part of the joint work prioritised the adaptation to the city level of SDG 11 indicators, as well as those indicators linked to housing deficit, access to basic services and participatory processes of re-urbanisation and integration plans for city slums. With this aim, the team worked on SDGs 1, 6, 7, 11 and 16, and discussed definitions and measurements with other City of Buenos Aires departments.



“Kisumu was selected as a pilot study on how cities in the country are localising the global agendas”

The latter two examples show that these partnerships are not only contributing to advancing the localisation of these global agendas but also facilitating the discussions between different departments within city administrations. Agenda 2030 and the NUA are cross-cutting and promote a holistic approach that integrates the three dimensions of sustainability, the social, ecological and economic. Facilitating discussions across city departments is therefore of high importance as sectorial institutional silos still present a significant challenge for transversal work in our case study cities.



1.2 Establishing a strong academic footprint

At each platform, local responses to global agendas – such as the Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda – are recurrent themes. In Cape Town, Mistra Urban Futures researchers have published scientific articles in fields such as urban public funding, informal settlements and the transfer of knowledge between the academic and public sectors. In Gothenburg, several researchers have published within the field of methodological development of transdisciplinary research. Other publications topics include governance, e.g. in connection with the large waterfront development projects, and valuation of ecosystems, resulting in a handbook for practitioners in public sector.

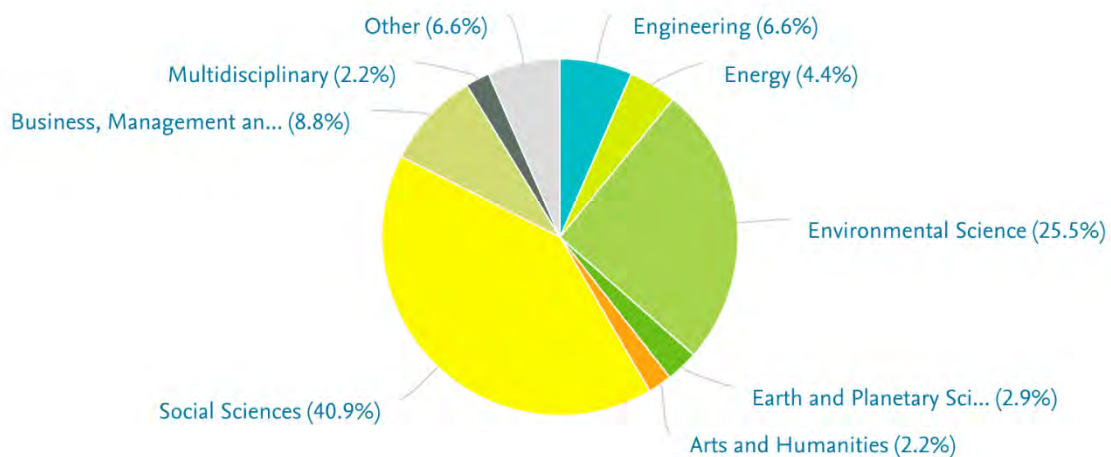
The Kisumu Platform, KLIP, publications are characterised by a focus on issues that are highly relevant in the local context and local development: articles cover such fields as the effects of the ongoing devolution, solid waste and the opportunities to develop a sustainable tourism economy. A particular area of research is the GOLIP-KLIP PhD collaboration, where PhD students from the both cities work together. In Kisumu, the GOLIP-KLIP PhD collaboration forms part of the tourism and market place development programmes, and exploration of livelihood opportunities at market places necessary for sustainable economic development of the city and the surrounding areas.

The Sheffield-Manchester platform has produced several monographs and peer-reviewed journals around the themes of knowledge co-production, citizen engagement and the new municipalism. These are published in interdisciplinary journals from across geography, urban studies and studies of science and technology. In parallel, the SMLIP is highly committed to producing multiple outputs, with short pamphlets, reports and creative outputs. Housing is also a high profile area in Skåne. One of the Skåne Platform's three 'Panels' aims to develop and contribute to improved methods to work with Sustainable neighbourhood Development. This work started in 2018 and published articles, reports and media pieces are expected later this year.

Our publications in numbers

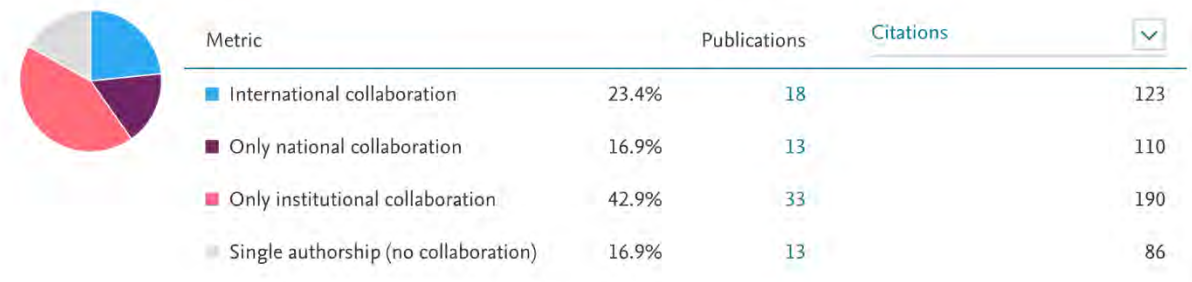
Scopus has registered 77 peer-reviewed articles published during the period 2015–2018, with an average citation count of 6.5 and a field-weighted citation impact of 2.50, which is well above average.

Figure 1. Publications according to subject areas



(source: Scopus)

Figure 2: Collaboration in Mistra Urban Futures’ peer-reviewed articles 2015-2018



(source SciVal)

The number of citations varies between 5,8 and 8,5, with national collaboration showing the highest figures. Compared to Chalmers University of Technology (total more than 11.000 publications), Mistra Urban Futures’ publications have 25-30% more citations on average per article; however, the percentage of international collaboration is less than half of that of Chalmers (23,4% compared to 57,0%). The comparative work, which has been initiated as a new feature during Phase 2, will naturally change that proportion considerably over time as their research results are published and come to form an increasing proportion of total publications.

SciVal measures academic–corporate collaboration in publications. For a university like Chalmers, this is a significant number, reflecting the close relationships with industry: 12% of all Chalmers’ publications (2015–2018) were co-authored with authors from industry. In the case of Mistra Urban Futures, however, the academic–corporate number is 0: so far little emphasis has been put on industrial collaboration. On the other hand, there are increasing numbers of publications that represent academic–public sector collaboration, starting with the GAPS project special issue of *Local Environment*, where publication is Sheffield-Manchester and Cape Town were co-authored with public officials (see Appendix 2), and also the SDG pilot project in 2015, but now a regular feature of the comparative project outputs.

OPEN ACCESS
 Mistra Urban Futures has, from the start, invested in making academic articles and book chapters published in scientific journals more accessible by providing them as ‘open access’. Open Access means that there are no paywalls to access the articles online, so the articles are free to download. However, ‘open access’ to an academic article does not necessarily translate into equal accessibility because of other structural or infrastructural constraints. Almost all Mistra Urban Futures publications are open access.

1.3 Selected publications 2016–2019



Photo by Dennis Schrader on Unsplash

Basic services crucial to improve living conditions in informal settlements

Brown-Luthango, M., Reyes, E., Gubevu, M. (2017). Informal settlement upgrading and safety: experiences from Cape Town, South Africa. *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, 32(3), 471-493.



Photo by Sazzad Aryan on Unsplash

Access for whom?

How urban transport planning impacts people with physical disabilities.

Ahonobadha, O.M., Mark, O.G., Godwin, W.G. (2017). Accessibility of washrooms in bus terminals in western Kenya to learners with physical disability. *Journal of Accessibility and Design for All*, 7(2), 99-126.



Photo by Robert Bye on Unsplash

Intersections of gender and age in urban greening

Ode Sang, Å., Knez, I., Gunnarsson, B., Hedblom, M. (2016). The effects of naturalness, gender, and age on how urban green space is perceived and used. *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening*, 18, 268-276.



Photo by Angelo Pantazis on Unsplash

Behavior and climate change

Andersson, D., Nässén, J. (2016). The Gothenburg congestion charge scheme: A pre-post analysis of commuting behavior and travel satisfaction. *Journal of Transport Geography*, 52, 82-89.



Photo by Finding Dan | Dan Grinwis on Unsplash

Local Responses to climate change in the Global South – The case of South Africa.

Leck, H., Simon, D. (2018). Local authority responses to climate change in South Africa: The challenges of transboundary governance. *Sustainability* (Switzerland), 10(7).



Photo by Joshua Fuller on Unsplash

Lessons learnt from Mistra Urban Futures comparative projects

Simon, D., Palmer, H., Riise, J., Smit, W. & Valencia, S. (2018). The challenges of transdisciplinary knowledge production: from unilocal to comparative research. *Environment and Urbanization*, 30(2) 481-500.



Photo by Scott Webb on Unsplash

Contributing to urban just transformation

The value of co-production in realising just cities.

Perry, B., Atherton, M. (2017). Beyond critique: the value of co-production in realising just cities?. *Local Environment*, 22, 36-51.

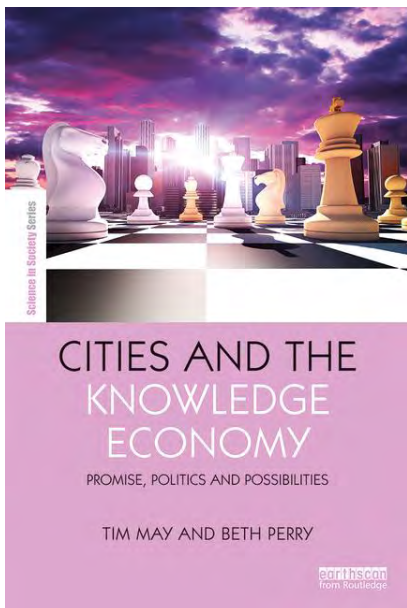


Photo by Daggy J Ali on Unsplash

Comparing planning instruments in three African cities

Cirolia, L.R., Berrisford, S. (2017). 'Negotiated planning': Diverse trajectories of implementation in Nairobi, Addis Ababa, and Harare. *Habitat International*, 59, 71-79.

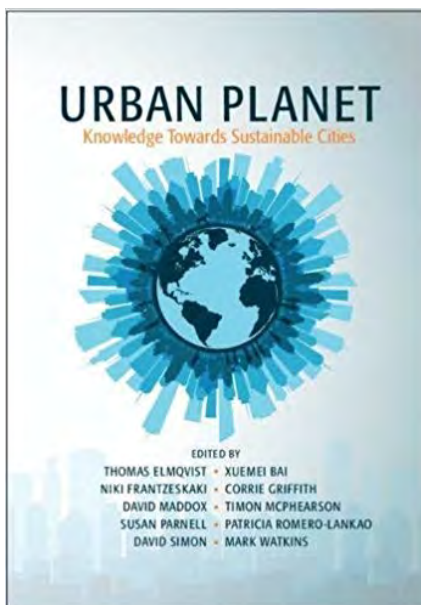
Selected books from Mistra Urban Futures



May, T. & Perry, B. (2018). *Cities and the Knowledge Economy: Promise, Politics and Possibilities*. London: Routledge.



Palmer, H., Walasek, H. (Eds.). (2016). *Coproduction in action: towards realising just cities*. Gothenburg: Mistra Urban Futures.



Elmqvist, T., Bai, X., Frantzeskaki, N., Griffith, C., Maddox, D., McPhearson, T., ... Watkins, M. (Eds.). (2018). *Urban Planet*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

See also Box page 9 for *Rethinking Sustainable Cities* edited by David Simon, published in 2016.

FORTHCOMING: *Comparative Co-Production for Urban Sustainability* (working title), edited by David Simon, Henrietta Palmer & Jan Riise. To be published by Policy Press late 2019/early 2020.

1.4 Awards and achievements

European Foundations Award for Responsible Research and Innovation

In 2016, Mistra Urban Futures was awarded the European Foundations Award for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). The concept of RRI – including the key characteristics ethics, gender, education, open access, engagement and governance – has been integrated within the Centre. Aligned with the ethos of RRI: to foster gender balance in research teams, ensuring gender balance in decision-making and to integrate the gender dimension in research and innovation content to improve the scientific quality and social relevance of the produced knowledge, Mistra Urban Futures was presented as an example of ‘good practice’.



Publication award to Merritt Polk and Lotten Westberg

The Mistra Urban Futures article ‘The role of learning in transdisciplinary research: moving from a normative concept to an analytical tool through a practice-based approach’ was elected as a ‘Best article of the year’ in 2017 by the Springer journal *Sustainability Science*. The article explores the experiences of transdisciplinary project work in three Mistra Urban Futures projects.

“We believe that the authors deserve recognition for diligent work beyond citation count and other article metrics’ writes Springer about the award: ‘This serves as an indicator for our readership to find high quality, new research publications.”

The article adds new knowledge to the central aspect of learning from participating in transdisciplinary projects. When people from different sectors of society, including both research and practice, engage in solving the same problem or adding new knowledge to a particular challenge, the outcome in terms of learning is essential. However, this does not happen automatically and the practice-based approaches that the article presents provide some analytical tools to understand how knowledge is exchanged between practitioners and researchers.

Publication award to Mistra Urban Futures team

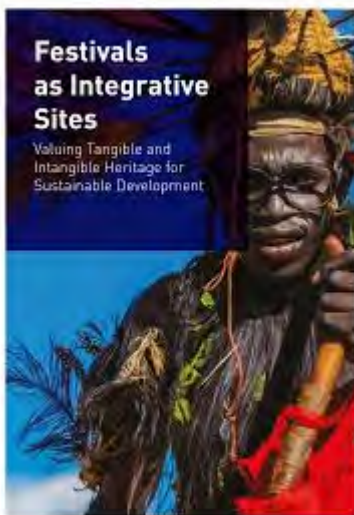
An article based on Mistra Urban Futures’ pilot project on the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 was awarded ‘Best Article of 2017’ in *African Geographical Review*. The article, “Engaging with and measuring informality in the proposed Urban Sustainable Development Goal” by Helen Arfvidsson, David Simon, Michael Oloko and Nishendra Moodley, focus on the notions and challenges of informality in many places around the world, discusses how to relate to this and the risk for underestimates and thus the comparability of figures from different parts of the world.

1.5 Establishing know-how in practice

The language and the way academic articles are written with their references, theories and methodology may be excluding to some audiences.. To attract and build relationships with a wider audience we therefore present the same body of knowledge through different forms of publications to enable a stronger use of the knowledge through policy briefs, reports, summaries, working papers, video clips, blog posts and social media content. These are produced for each project on demand and after evaluating what would be the most appropriate choice or combination of dissemination formats. All non-scientific publications are all available at Mistra Urban Futures website, free for download.

Policy Briefs

Policy briefs are very short summaries of a particular project, publication or other activity, intended to be useful for high-level officials who need to be updated on several issues, but may not have the time to go deep into any particular project. The policy briefs offer short summaries and include policy recommendations, based on findings or results. Policy briefs are designed to be easily accessible, short and normative to the extent that potential policy consequences of the research are clearly stated.



Perry, B., Ager, L. & Sitas, R. (2018). *Festivals as Integrative Sites – Valuing Tangible and Intangible Heritage for Sustainable Development*. Sheffield: The University of Sheffield Print & Design Solutions.



Oloko, M. (2017, 30 June). Research at Kachok dumpsite [Blog post – Mistra Urban Futures official webpage].



Photo by [Cory Woodward](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Eliasson, S. (2017, 1 September). Gender perspectives often ignored in urban planning [Blog post – Mistra Urban Futures webpage].



Photo by [eddie howell](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Larsson J. (2017). *Consumption perspective in climate strategies of cities - the case of Gothenburg* (Policy Brief 2017:2). Gothenburg: Mistra Urban Futures.



Goulding, R. (2018). *Housing Futures: What can community-led housing achieve for Greater Manchester?*. Sheffield: University of Sheffield, Urban Institute.

Establishing know-how by multiple means

The collected experiences of the Gothenburg-based project Wellbeing in sustainable cities (WISE, 2012-2016) is one example of how Mistra Urban Futures projects can tie into relevant processes in policy and practice and establish know-how among critical actors. The project was developed based on an identified need for knowledge among the platform partners to further the understanding of how the city can move towards low-carbon urban lifestyles, without jeopardizing individual well-being.

Through a co-productive research process among academic, public authority and city partners, the learning generated through the project were communicated in various ways. Along with scientific and popular publications, these include decision-support models for planning practitioners, the development and incorporation of a consumption perspective in the city and regional climate strategies, a highly adopted interactive computer game targeting high school students, and a policy brief.

In 2016, the participating researchers David Andersson and Jonas Nässén (Chalmers University of Technology) summarized a policy brief based on their scientific article "The Gothenburg congestion charge scheme: A pre-post analysis of commuting behaviour and travel satisfaction". The policy brief highlights key lessons from the introduction of congestion charges in Gothenburg in 2013. These contradict many of the anticipated drawbacks with introducing congestion charges. Based on the research results, travel satisfaction did not change, and initial negative attitudes changed over time. This policy brief became the primary background material to an article in Citiscope, an American web-based news organisation focusing on urban issues, published and distributed to the Citiscope global readership.

The WISE project is also registered within UNEPs 10YFP Sustainable Production and Consumption initiatives database. This database aims to be a source of inspiration by gathering initiatives around the world with focus on sustainable consumption and production.

Lessons and results from the project are further developed in the ongoing project Guiding Urban Transitions for Sustainability (GUTS), affiliated to the Mistra Urban Futures Gothenburg platform. Among other things, the project has developed and launched a digital platform to guide consumer decisions towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

Conferences, seminars and events

Conferences and other events play important roles in the dissemination of the work of the Centre. Such events are also opportunities to influence local as well as global policies and strategic agendas. Furthermore and at the same time, the Centre’s events promote the use of co-production as a research approach.

Researchers and practitioners in Mistra Urban Futures projects regularly present projects, results and findings at national and international conferences. Participation and presentations in strategic academic conferences are also encouraged by the Centre, e.g. by paying travel costs and conference fees from the Centre engagement budget.

Equally important are presentations at conferences for audiences outside of the academic realm, such as local governments (e.g. annual ICLEI conferences and the Swedish Almedalen week) or targeting sustainable development in practice (e.g. World Urban Forum and other specialised events). Some strategic conferences are selected in the annual Centre Operational Plan for presentation and networking.

A palette of dissemination activities is at the Centre’s disposal. Each platform is hosting series of events, ranging from monthly ‘Urban Lunchtime’ seminars – presentations and networking lunches – to various forms of lectures and seminars, all adapted to each particular audience. Individual presentations are also made on demand, varying from talks to presentations for visiting national and international delegations from municipalities, regions or governments, or for specific professional groups like architects and urban planners.

Mistra Urban Futures’ Annual Conferences



In 2015 Mistra Urban Futures took the strategic decision to arrange Annual Conferences on the theme of Realising Just Cities, which is also the name of our research framework, at the different platforms. The overall purpose has shifted a bit during the years, depending on where the Centre stands. The subtitles of the successive conferences therefore reflect our progress over the years:

- Gothenburg 2016 - Co-production in Action
- Kisumu 2017 - Learning through Comparison
- Cape Town 2018 - Comparative Co-production
- Sheffield-Manchester 2019 - Lessons, Impacts and Outcomes

Although shifting the main focus, positioning the Centre in the local and regional context, showcasing results, networking and giving the delegates a possibility to work for Realising Just cities have always been important.

Annual Lecture

Mistra Urban Futures has over three years hosted a series of annual lectures on sustainable urban development featuring some of the world’s most prominent experts within the field. Professor John Robinson from the Munk School of Global Studies and the School of the Environment at the University of Toronto launched the series in 2016 with a lecture on Making a Difference: Universities as Living Labs and Agents of Change. In 2017 Maruxa Cardama, Special Advisor within the Brussels-based secretariat of the Cities Alliance focused on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The most recent, in 2018, with possibly the biggest audience so far, was Jan Gehl a world-renowned Danish architect and founding partner of Gehl Architects, and Professor emeritus at The School of Architecture, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, who talked about “Cities for People” and why looking after people is crucial for the quality of old as well as new cities in the 21st century.

Urban Research

Inviting international speakers, Urban Research focuses on a particular topic to enable deeper discussions and knowledge exchange. Over the years waste management, the relationship between urban and rural environment, slumification and Business Improvement Districts as well as growing cities; who has access to what, where and how have been discussed.



In 2018 Gill Valentine, Professor of Geography and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University spoke on the subject of Living ‘together-in-difference’ in multicultural cities

Integration Syndicate

The Integration Syndicate, a series of ten “episodes” which commenced in 2017 and concluded in 2018, has explored the obstacles and solutions to social-spatial integration in the Cape Town metropolitan region. High-level public officials, activists, academics and property developers have been attending the episodes, working towards some practical suggestions for spatial transformation in Cape Town.



Why participation?



In November 2016, the Centre hosted a seminar with Professor Nabeel Hamdi. Currently based within the Housing and Urban Development Department at Oxford Brookes University in the UK, Hamdi works across all sectors of society. With a pedagogical eye on how spatial and social change take place in inter-relational processes he has consulted on housing, participatory action planning and upgrading of slums in cities to all major international development agencies, and to charities and NGOs worldwide. From a grassroots perspective and place-based experiences, he has extracted a unique research methodology in which he deals with all the challenges and complexities of contemporary urban realm.

1.6 Developing and promoting co-production as a research approach

Across the platforms, co-production has emerged as a rewarding approach for addressing complex problems in achieving sustainable urban development. Co-production is a methodological ethos and approach to learning and generating new knowledge, as well as an instrument for change in its own right. It is thematically embedded in all of Mistra Urban Futures research and project activities, and evolved both methodologically as theoretically research practice and research training.

Until the end of 2015, each platform experimented with its own forms of co-production, suited to the context and the blend of academic and practitioner partners and their respective priorities. By the end of 2015, critical reflections from this period were drawn together in the Routledge book *Co-producing Knowledge for Sustainable Cities: Joining forces for change* (Polk ed, 2015). The book centres on in-depth descriptions of examples and experiences of co-production from several urban development contexts around the world, including those of GOLIP, CTLIP, KLIP and SMLIP. It highlights that urban sustainability is unsuited to management through traditional decision-making structures and how all the exemplified approaches to co-production share an overall common goal of promoting sustainability, growing from different constellations of ideas and problems, with distinct local challenges.

Throughout 2016-2018, the platforms have continued to develop local approaches to co-production and to draw on and share their existing and ongoing methodological expertise in several academic publications. Within and across platforms and affiliated projects, co-production takes a variety of forms, through methodological innovation and reflective practices, and through engaging different combinations of city authorities, private sector and civil society in initiating and conducting urban research. Some innovative examples are the CityLabs at CTLIP, the Guiding Urban Transitions for Sustainability project at GOLIP, the Solid Waste Management project at KLIP and SKLIP, and the Urban Institute's Co-producing Urbanisms theme led by the SMLIP director, Beth Perry.

Several of Mistra Urban Futures' books, peer-reviewed journal papers and reports have been devoted to reflecting upon, evaluating and learning about transdisciplinary co-production (see Appendix 2). This literature points to the need for co-production processes to be iterative, interactive and reflexive, provide transparent discourse and collaboration, and embed broad and diverse participation. Beyond promoting co-production per se, it critically reflects upon and discusses strengths and limits of this approach, contributing to develop theoretical, methodological and philosophical underpinnings, as well as societally relevant approaches to research evaluation. As mentioned above, one of these publications (Westberg & Polk, 2016)] was awarded 'Best article of the year' by the Springer Sustainability Science journal in 2017. Another example is a 2018 Comment in Nature, co-authored by the platform leader in Sheffield–Manchester, Prof Beth Perry, narrowing down the societal and scientific relevance of co-productive research, and the challenges it meets in conventional research evaluation (Durose, Richardson & Perry, 2018).

The particular challenges of undertaking comparative research spanning what is sometimes called the Global South–North divide were summarised in the *Environment & Urbanization* article, co-authored by five Mistra Urban Futures' staff. Co-produced knowledge partners do not always share the epistemological understandings, while local contexts and priorities may differ markedly:

“For example, in relation to food, reducing obstacles for informal retailers and dealing with the implications of supermarketization are priority issues in the global South, whereas the priority food issues in the global North are about enhancing local production of healthy food and reducing the consumption of unhealthy foods, as well as cutting transportation distances.” (Simon et al., 2018, p.15)

A recommendation from the Phase 1 evaluation of Mistra Urban Futures (2015) was to develop the framework for co-production theoretically and methodologically by drawing upon the experiences and applications of different approaches across platforms. The 2016 Mistra Urban Futures publication *Co-production in Action: Towards realising just cities* (Palmer & Walasek, 2016) bridges the first phase of the Centre development and the Phase 2 re-orientation of sustainable urban development towards realising just cities. Here, authors from the different platforms share insights on the processes of transdisciplinary co-production and how it can contribute urban change and to realize just cities. It shows how all examples of co-production from the different cities have resulted in the development of stronger relationships between research and practice. This has resulted in new insights and substantive knowledge about the different issues and has strengthened local capacities for both research and practice. A 2018 paper (Perry et al, 2018) reflects on the role of the local interaction platforms as innovative responses to urban challenges. The article concludes that the value of this approach lies in its context-sensitivity and iterative flexibility to articulate between internationally shared challenges and distinctive local practices. In the context of increased uncertainty, complexity and the demand for transdisciplinary knowledge production, the platform concept has wide relevance in surfacing the challenges and possibilities for more adaptive urban governance.

This is also brought together in the 2018 paper (Simon et al, 2018), authored by several Mistra Urban Futures researchers. The paper surveys the lessons and challenges faced by the respective platforms in developing and deploying different forms of transdisciplinary co-production and explains the potential for adaptation of locally developed approaches to co-production in diverse contexts, so that such methods can be more widely utilised.

Added to the publications referred to above are the extant lists of projects (see Appendix 1) and publications (see Appendix 2) focusing on different urban challenges, using co-production as an approach. Altogether, these contribute to promote concepts such as transdisciplinarity and co-production in both academic and practitioner spheres; by providing models, critical reflections and recommendations on how to practice and evaluate transdisciplinary and co-produced research, and how to bring about new modes of interaction between researchers and practitioners. Mistra Urban Futures' platform have become safe spaces for this transformative approach to generating new knowledge. Through the international secretariat and the network of platforms of which they are part, the platforms are able to share results and experiences and gain momentum in local and global debates.

Since the Centre was first established, the international field of transdisciplinary and co-produced research has grown substantially, and Mistra Urban Futures has been able to establish itself in a front position in this community. In consequence, Mistra Urban Futures researchers have been invited as visiting scholars and as keynote and conference speakers to share and develop understandings at academic institutes and a broad range of conferences and networks. Several visiting scholars have also taken an interest in Mistra Urban Futures Phase 2 activities, to pursue international research and theoretical and methodological development of transdisciplinary co-production. Mistra Urban futures have also been invited to host the bi-annual international conference of the international network for transdisciplinary research in the autumn of 2019.

In addition to methodological innovation and advancing the research field on co-production, the platforms and Centre secretariat engage in broad-ranging and innovative ways of disseminating vital perspectives and results. Knowledge and experiences on co-production are communicated internally to LIPs and externally to Mistra Urban Futures network of platforms, as well as to the wider research and practitioner communities connected to Mistra Urban Futures through a broad range of channels. In addition to academic publications and debates, these include popular publications, training activities, peer community networking, seminars, workshops, webinars, conferences, websites, and

social media activities (see for example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOkVilom8qw&t=70s>). At KLIP, key findings and recommendations from research processes are tested and communicated within local communities, to democratize tools and make real difference to people’s lives. For more details on outreach, see PART 3.

Several platforms have arranged workshops for local and international capacity-building on how to conduct co-production as a research approach. Some examples are the SMLIP project Jam and Justice training sessions on participatory methods and action research, and the co-production focus groups during the 2018 Mistra Urban Futures Annual conference in Cape Town. Similar training sessions have been conducted at other platforms. In 2017, GOLIP introduced Report Seminars as a way of bringing in specialized researchers and practitioners to jointly reflect upon and discuss the final reporting of individual projects. GOLIP has also published several reports aiming to disseminate knowledge of how to conduct co-production as a research approach and support reflective learning among both researchers and practitioners in local projects (see e.g. Hemström, 2018). The overall aim is to inform and inspire researcher and practitioner project leaders and participants to develop co-productive ethos’s and approaches when generating new knowledge on urban challenges. Through research projects, workshops, seminars and conferences, all platforms have engaged and trained PhD students and/or early career researchers in co-producing knowledge for sustainable urban development. As an example, Table 2 summarises SMLIP activities at local, national and international level aiming to build capacity and generate spaces for critical reflection and discussion on how to conduct co-production as a research approach among PhD students and early career researchers. These are also progressively more examples of knowledge exchange and experiences on transdisciplinary co-production between Mistra Urban Futures’ platforms.

Table 2. Examples of local and international SMLIP activities aiming to build capacity among PhD students and early career researchers, on how to conduct co-production as a research approach

Year	Activities
2017	PhD workshop on transdisciplinary methods at the launch of the Helsinki Centre for Sustainability Science
2017-2019	Three presentations/seminars for the GOLIP Urban Futures Open research School
2018	‘Working Across Boundaries’ teaching module to 42 MA and PhD students
2018	Action research training with guest lecturer Professor Davyd Greenwood
2018	Writing workshop
2018	2-day workshop on coproduction and emotional labour
2018	Workshop on challenges of coproduction and engaged PhD research, University of Cape Town
2019	Lectures on coproduction and ethics to USP seminar series
2019	Training seminars on navigating engagement
2019	Support and funding for self-organisation of action learning sets for PhD students (Action Research Peers ‘AR Peers’)
2019	1-day seminar on coproduction and representation

In 2017, GOLIP launched the Urban Futures Open Research School addressing PhD students, postdocs and practitioners jointly. The aim of the Open Research School is to create research collaboration that connects the academy to its societal context, in close interplay between researchers from all disciplines and practices, to address the challenges of urbanization. The first course, *Co-producing knowledge in transdisciplinary research – from practice to theory*, ran as a two-semester programme

(2x7,5 credits) and attracted 20 participants. In 2018, the course had 16 participants with a distribution of 40/60 between academics and practitioners. These courses were then repeated during the academic year 2018-19.

Attracting a diversity of local, national and international practitioners and theorists from different fields of urban research and practice as lecturers and workshop leaders, the Urban Future Open Research school serve as a springboard for theory evolution within transdisciplinary research. The Mistra Urban Futures' Open method seminars, as part of the Open Research School, invite experts on transdisciplinary and co-production methods and welcomes alumni and participants beyond the course contexts. As an example, the seminars have focused on group model building in urban challenges in a collaboration between GOLIP, the University of Gothenburg and Radboud University in the Netherlands, and on complexity and conflicts as societal transformation. The Open Research School is further establishing relationships to ongoing transdisciplinary training and research, e.g. nationally to the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development at Uppsala University (SWEDES), with methods used within the new Mistra program on Geopolitics hosted by Stockholm Environment Institute and internationally to the USYS TdLab at ETH Zürich.

1.5 Intersectional Perspectives

In relation to the Centre's research theme on urban justice, several of Mistra Urban Futures' research projects and publications have explicitly had gender as a substantive intellectual topic and methodological approach. In Cape Town Mercy Brown-Luthango's work on urban violence, safety and governance in upgrading processes, as a part of the CityLab programme, specifically focused on gender-based violence. Under the supervision of Carole Rakodi, the urban food security work illustrates another example that involved an explicit gender focus. It attempted to go beyond just counting proportions of men and women to examine gender roles and dynamics in urban food systems.

In Gothenburg, through the project Valuation of ecosystem services provided urban greenery, Åsa Ode Sang, Igor Knez, Bengt Gunnarsson and Marcus Hedblom have investigated the effects of naturalness, gender, and age on the activities, aesthetics and self-reported well-being associated with urban green space. Other examples are found in the work of Birgitta Guevera (e.g. Guevara, 2015) and Sanna Isemo, Leif Eriksson and Hans Abrahamsson's report on justice, fairness and equity in Gothenburg (Eriksson, Isemo & Abrahamsson, 2016). The latter has worked as a way to start in-house capacities and reflections about justice in the local context of Gothenburg.

In Kisumu, three PhD students have focused on aspects of gender – Jennifer Otieno's research on market places as well as Naomi Apali Mogoria's work on processes of gender mainstreaming in environmental management of ecotourism destination sites in Kisumu City. Beatrice Abura focused on gender vulnerability in fishing-based livelihoods. Further, the project Tourism and Community Empowerment targets women and youth in eco-tourism training through promotion of eco-ventures and alternative means of livelihoods e.g. craftwork in Dunga Beach and other beaches along the shores of Lake Victoria.

In Sheffield-Manchester, Sophie King's research on community-led organising works with two neighbourhood-based resident-led associations to specifically support women to learn about saving schemes and participatory planning practices through a programme of research and exchanges with the social movement Slum/Shack Dweller International. In the project GM Decides, Katie Finney and Alice Toomer-McApline are working with women to explore and design digital democratic innovations.

Other examples are Bertie Russell's work on New Municipalism and feminisation of politics, and the research of Victoria Habermehl on social reproduction.

In Stockholm, the node is a part of the #UrbanGirlsMovement initiative by the independent Swedish think tank Global Utmaning. In collaboration with a range of multi-stakeholders, the purpose is to highlight global pro-poor urban development initiatives targeting girls and young women in low-income areas in rapidly urbanizing cities, as well as to develop methods for local and urban development that can be applicable globally. The initiative aims to map, increase knowledge, inspire and provide support for how feminist urban planning and urban development can be applied in practice.

PART 2. Centre Governance and Building Organisational Capacity

Mistra Urban Futures was formally inaugurated in with a 2-year build-up phase to develop and establish the centre. A renewed agreement was signed in 2012 between Mistra, and Chalmers University of Technology to fund and host an international centre for research on sustainable urban development.

The requirements of the call stipulated that the successful bidder should match the funding from Mistra, which the Gothenburg Consortium has provided since the establishment of the Centre.¹ The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) provided additional funding specifically to support Mistra Urban Futures' activities in Africa².

The Consortium also accepted four associated partners: the Swedish Transport Administration, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden (now RISE) and White Architects.³

The Mistra Board's decision was for a possible 10-year commitment, 2+4+4 years, including the above mentioned build-up phase in 2010–2011, a first fully operational phase in 2012–2015, and a second phase in 2016–2019. The commitment was subject to evaluation and decision of funding between the two operational periods.

The Centre's Board is appointed by the Centre's host, i.e. Chalmers University of Technology, after consulting with Mistra and the Gothenburg Consortium. On behalf of the host, the Board is responsible for plans and budgets as well as decisions and follow-up concerning the research and other activities of the Centre. The Board decides about the use of the financial strategic reserve, promotes an active engagement with industry and other users, and ensures an effective communication of research results. Finally, the Board is expected to deliver an Annual Report and a Final Report.

The Board normally meets 4–5 times/year; two meetings physically, one of which in Gothenburg, the second in connection to the Annual Conference, and two-three meetings as phone conferences.

The daily management of the Centre is the responsibility of the Centre Director, who also is to create and maintain the collaboration within the entire Centre as well as ensuring that the operations are in line with the decisions and ambitions of the original agreement.

The LIP Directors form a management group with phone conference meetings every two weeks (except at the Board meetings, where also the LIP Directors participate). The LIP Directors' meetings serve as opportunities to discuss matters of mutual interest, such as research proposals, to anchor decisions concerning e.g. joint publications or evaluation and impact work. Furthermore, as a rule, the LIP Directors' group contribute to and informally approves specific documents like Annual Reports, Strategic Plans, Operational Plans etc.

¹ Mistra uses the definition 'programme' for the research the foundation is funding.

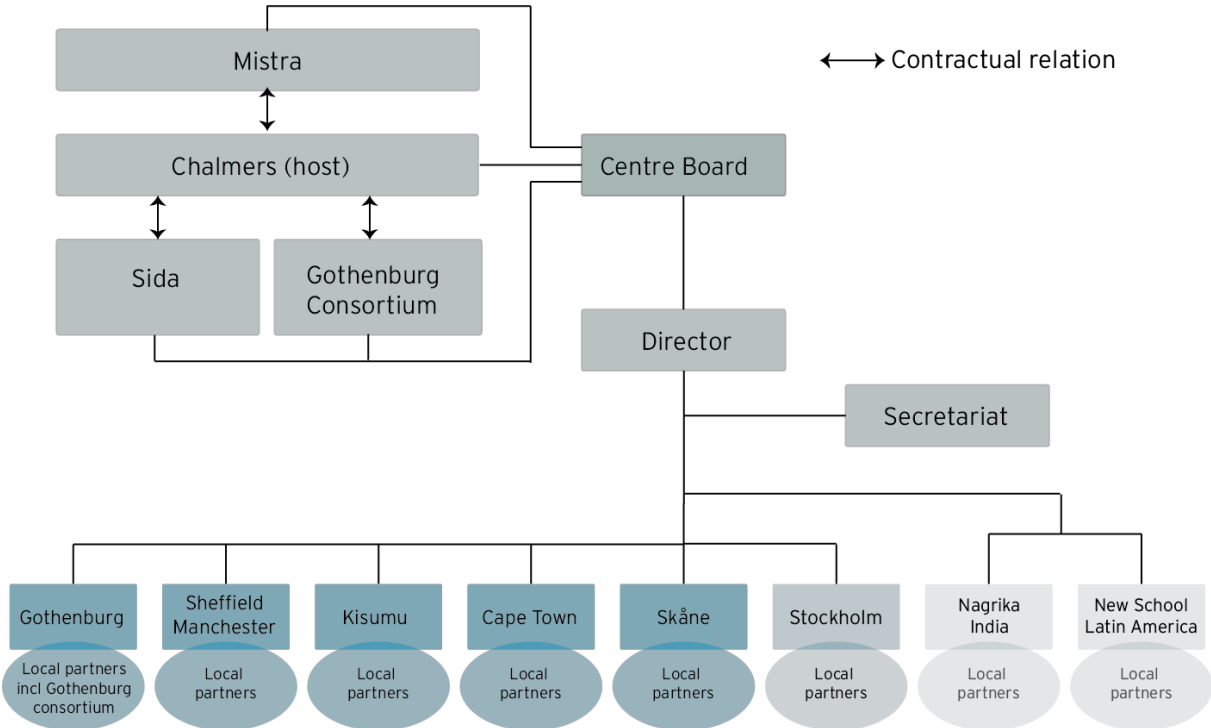
² The actual funding, in cash and in-kind, are found in the Annual Reports

³ During Phase 2, the associated partners group changed as White left and the National Board of Housing has been a collaboration partner in other ways. Furthermore, the SP Technical Research Institute has merged and become the nationwide group of institutes RI.SE, with an expressed interest in joining the Consortium.

Table 3. Major changes in governance and organisation 2016–2019

Year	Major changes in governance and organisation
2016	Start of Phase 2; new Board members elected for 2016–2017: Lyla Mehta, Caroline Wanjiku Kihato, Olivia Bina were elected for a 2-year period; chair Thomas Rosswall re-elected for two more years, as were John Robinson, Roberto Rodríguez Sanchez, Katarina Pelin and Hans Ristner.
2016	Greater Manchester Local Interaction Platform (GMLIP) becomes Sheffield–Manchester LIP and relocates to the Urban Institute at University of Sheffield.
2016	Skåne Local Interaction Platform established at Malmö University
2017	The Stockholm Node is established at OpenLab, connected to KTH, Royal Institute of Technology. Partnership agreement is signed with Nagrika, social company in Dehradun, India for the SDG project.
2018	New Board members elected for 2018–2019: Anna Johansson becomes new Chair succeeding Thomas Rosswall; Carl Mossfeldt, Benjamin Bradlow and Thomas Elmquist elected new members of the Board (replacing Roberto Rodríguez Sanchez, Katarina Pelin and Hans Ristner.
2018	Partnership agreement signed with Observatory of Latin America (OLA) at the New School in New York. OLA is based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, thus becoming the first Latin America partner.

Figure 3. Organisational model 2018–2019



2.1 Building organisational capacity

At the beginning of Phase 2 (in 2016) the Centre comprised Local Interaction Platforms in Cape Town, Gothenburg, Greater Manchester and Kisumu. Initial discussions had taken place during 2015 regarding the possible addition of platforms in the Stockholm and Skåne regions of Sweden.

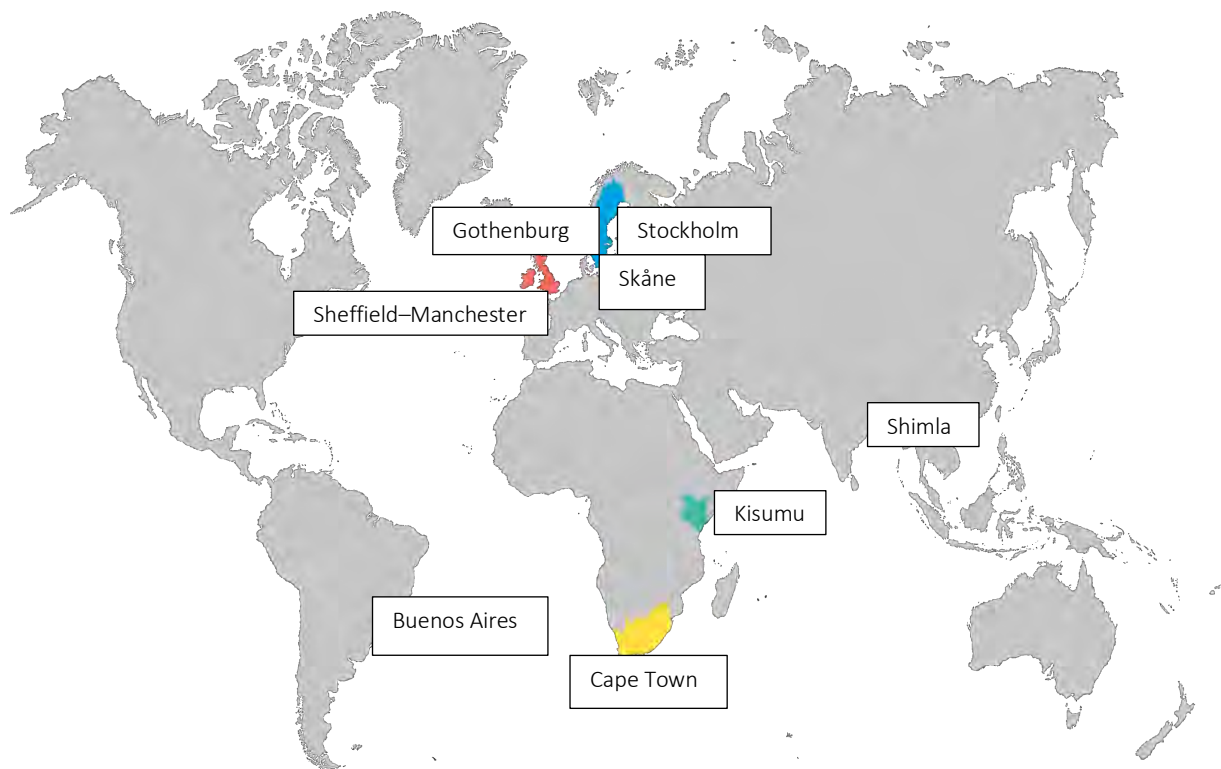
In order to strengthen Mistra Urban Futures' global relevance and adding value to the existing work and organisation, the objective to expand the geographical base was made a priority. During Phase 2, the Centre has expanded its research base geographically by creating a stronger Swedish presence – the establishment of the Skåne platform and a node in Stockholm – but also through the development and move of the Greater Manchester platform into the Sheffield-Manchester platform (more information in section 1.2.2).

Continued funding from Sida, also made it possible to consider additional collaborations in Latin America and Asia. The complete platform model, with its rather extensive formal agreements and hence time-consuming character, was perceived as not realistic and more limited partnerships were sought. Through embedded partnerships with co-funding mechanisms two project-based relationships were formed with the aim of creating a basis for long-term sustainability of the Centre beyond the period of Mistra funding.

In 2017, an agreement was signed with Nagrika – Hindi for 'citizen' – a social enterprise focusing on locally relevant research and policy work. Based at that time in Delhi and Dehradun, Nagrika became a partner for the *Implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Comparative Urban Perspectives* project. A collaboration was developed with the city of Shimla, the capital of the state of Himachal Pradesh, with about 200,000 inhabitants, at the foothills of Himalayas in North Eastern India.

The second collaboration was initiated in 2017 with the Observatory on Latin America located in Buenos Aires. The Observatory on Latin America is a research centre within the New York based university The New School. Founded in 2006, the Observatory works with many academic, civil society and governmental institutions in the region, focusing on political reform, social inclusion and processes of urban change across the Latin America. Although Mistra Urban Futures started to work with the centre in 2017, it was not until February 2018 the formal contract was signed at the World Urban Forum in Malaysia. Like the partnership with Nagrika, this one was also primarily established as a collaboration within the boundaries of the SDG project. However, a number of promising development opportunities have been identified and discussed, not least in connection with the so called 'U20' meeting in Buenos Aires in October 2018 which was set up as a pre-meeting for urban issues, in preparations for the G20 summit held in Buenos Aires in November 2018.

Figure 4: Mistra Urban Futures platforms and partners



2.2 Developing local partnerships⁴

Cape Town

The core institutional partnerships of the platform have continued to be the African Centre for Cities (ACC) and the City of Cape Town in Phase 2. Anchored at ACC at the University of Cape Town, the platform is a part of huge network that is rooted in the local context. The collaboration between the platform and the City of Cape Town has a long history. The first memorandum of agreement between ACC and the City of Cape Town goes back as long as 2012. Although the current memorandum of agreement renewed in 2016 expires in 2019, it is intended to be extended for another 3 years. Through the Knowledge Transfer Program four new researchers have been embedded in new departments at the City of Cape Town and extended the reach of the local partnership. Throughout the years, departments have been involved in the exchange programme and since 2018 three additional ones have been added: Transport and Development Authority, Operations Policy Management (a reference group of experts from the City of Cape Town and relevant research units is being convened to support the research process) as well as the Arts and Culture and Architect departments within the Social Service Directorate. Through different project the platform has nurtured old and formed new local partnerships, which has engaged a broad range of actors ranging from universities, private sector, public sector to civic associations, NGOs and social movements – in the service of transforming the city to a just place.

In addition, there is a joint Project Steering Committee that oversees the partnership with the City of Cape Town. This committee has three members from the African Centre for Cities and three members from the City of Cape Town. The partnership with the Western Cape Provincial Government has also been key with a series of collaboration agreements. Due to high levels of political contestation and

⁴ Local Partners at the Platforms are listed in Appendix 4.

conflict, it has proven to be better to have a series of bilateral agreements rather than attempt to form a multi-stakeholder consortium.

Gothenburg

The Gothenburg Consortium consisting of seven public organisations and universities⁵ has since the start of 2010 been a key funder of not only the Secretariat but GOLIP as a whole. The Consortium together with RISE and the Swedish Transport Administration as associated partners act as the steering group of the platform through a Consortium Council and a Coordinator Group. Since 2017 the Consortium Council has intensified their engagement in GOLIP, by involvement in the GOLIP Operational Plan and Budget, and also by engagement in development of the Platform through Future workshop work in 2017 and following year.

During Phase 2, GOLIP has increased the project portfolio and developed networks as a new model for knowledge exchange and mutual learning. GOLIP has also through different projects and networks engaged with new actors within the city and across the Västra Götaland region. These partnerships have mainly involved civil society organisations and initiatives as well as municipality bodies. Examples are Business Region Gothenburg, Gothenburg Räddningsmission, Erikshjälpen, Swedish Union of Tenants (Hyresgästföreningen) and Egnahemsbolaget.

Kisumu

The platform is set up as a trust with a Board of Trustees bringing together three institutions: Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Maseno University and the City of Kisumu. The County Government of Kisumu, private sector and civil society are further represented through the KLIP trustees. Based on the establishments and development of partnerships in 2010-2015, KLIP has continued to foster its collaboration with JOOUST, Maseno University, the City of Kisumu county government, the private and industrial sector as well as civil society actors. With the transdisciplinary coproduction approach, KLIP plays a significant role in reshaping research in the city of Kisumu and the universities to focus on societal needs of higher priorities, increasing relevance of research findings in institutional governance, relationships and operations. Through projects established and emerging areas of interest, new local partnerships have developed. Regular stakeholder meetings, workshops and research activities organised at both KLIP Board level and researchers level facilitate the operations of KLIP and strengthen the relationship with stakeholders.

In addition, with the devolved governance following the Kenyan Constitution and The Urban Areas and Cities Act, the relationship between the County Governments and the City Boards has changed within Kenyan society. The City Boards now operate within the jurisdiction of County Governments and are accountable to the respective County Government. Due to its mandate, the County of Kisumu has therefore recently emerged as a principal partner alongside the City of Kisumu.

Sheffield–Manchester

SMLIP was constituted in 2016 with the transfer of hosting arrangements from the University of Salford to the University of Sheffield. This enabled considerable additional match funding and investment to be made in the development of the platform, allowing the Platform to continue to build and expand local partnerships within Greater Manchester and lay the possibility for the growth of an additional platform in Sheffield.

⁵ The Consortium consists of the following organisations: City of Gothenburg, the Västra Götaland Region, the Västra Götaland County Administration Board, the Swedish Environmental Institute, the Gothenburg Region, Chalmers University of Technology and University of Gothenburg.

The University of Sheffield has continued to be the host organisation; the Platform is hosted within the Urban Institute – an interdisciplinary research centre within the Faculty of Social Sciences. From there, researchers collaborate with the Sheffield Methods Institute to support methodological analysis and development. From this base, further partnerships have been initiated for instance, with the Urban Studies and Planning department around the Realising Just Cities PhD cluster and the development of collaborations around community projects in Sheffield; with and the new Institute for Sustainable Food around the Self-organising Action for Food Equity (SAFE) project; with the Migration Research group and with other Faculties, such as the Music department in relation to the socio-cultural work of the Platform; and with the University’s sustainability strategy team around the SDGs project. The Urban Institute’s national and international reputation has also made it possible to engage with other UK institutions and international networks, for instance engaging with the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy and the UK SSD network.

Within the Sheffield city-region context, it has been important to take time to understand existing local dynamics, opportunities and challenges. The approach was not to launch into full-scale LIP development, rather to ensure that the necessary groundwork was to support spaces for debate and discussion about local priorities and cross-city learning.

Greater Manchester has remained the Platform’s primary location of work since 2016. The attraction of external funding from the UK Economic and Social Research Council has enabled the creation of new academic partnerships, notably with the Department of Politics / Manchester Urban Institute and the University of Birmingham. Through a long-standing collaboration, the SMLIP has also consolidated partnership with the Global Development Institute, in support of our projects on housing futures and savings schemes. The coalition-building activity around co-production has extended into Manchester Metropolitan University, specifically around creative methods and co-production with young people.

The Platform has also developed strong partnerships with local authorities and non-governmental bodies within specific projects – examples include Salford City Council, Good Food Manchester, Greater Manchester Housing Action, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation and Manchester Histories. The co-production partners also include a range of community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations, such as Mum’s Mart, Steady State Manchester, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, the Democratic Society, Carbon Coop, Manchester Settlement, Shared Future CIC and the Children’s Society.

Skåne

SKLIP was established in 2016 by the three universities in the region and the City of Malmö. Lund University is one of the oldest universities in Sweden, well-known for excellent research, not least within the field of sustainable development. Malmö University is one of the newest universities in the country, with a strong focus on co-production from its start. The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences is well-known for its research in ecosystem services and urban development related to green spaces. The steering committee has secured in cash and in-kind funding until the end of Mistra’s funding, i.e. 31 December 2019. The City of Malmö also increased its contribution by covering major costs for a local conference in 2019, ‘Urban Innovation’.

During the second phase, Lund University became a more prominent partner in 2018, and the platform secretariat was moved from Malmö to Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS). In addition, Barry Ness took over the role of Director from Magnus Johansson. The expansion of the platform’s project portfolio further enabled several new local partnerships to be formed, primarily property developers and investors in real estate. The individual projects are either

region-specific or are carried out in collaboration with other Mistra Urban Futures platforms around the globe.

In addition to the projects running in the region, the SKLIP has made initial progress in forming three platform expert panels concentrated on urban environment themes: urban ecosystem services, migration and urban development, and sustainable neighbourhood development. Each panel, for example, consists of academics, city officials, and representatives from the private sector. The panels are responsible for collecting and systematically analysing the knowledge and experiences generated from each theme, and broadcasting that knowledge, in different ways, to help promote sustainable urban development. The formal work of the panels got underway during 2018.

Stockholm

The SNODE was established in 2017 as a collaboration with the Openlab at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH). Through this establishment the node has been able to build upon Openlab's already established network of partners within the Stockholm region, namely the City of Stockholm, Region Stockholm, the Stockholm County Administrative Board, KTH, Stockholm University, Södertörn University and the Karolinska Institute.

A consortium has been established to support the SNOD, consisting of:

- Openlab/City of Stockholm
- Stockholm Resilience Centre
- IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- Stockholm University
- Global Utmaning
- Quantified Planet

Worth to note is that the Stockholm region is internationally renowned for its climate and sustainability work, and the need for transdisciplinary arenas for collaboration between different sectors, actors and levels. This in turn has enabled an innovative environment where the SNOD has continued to build and expand its local partnerships.

2.3 Ensuring research capacity and fostering transdisciplinarity

To ensure progress in line with the ambitions of the strategic plan 2016–2019, the centre quality management (QME) objectives and indicators include capacity building and mutual learning through ensuring consistent research capacity and fostering transdisciplinarity at each LIP. In this sense, fostering transdisciplinarity means increasing capacity to undertake transdisciplinary research in terms of project staffing, and researchers' training of methods and complexity awareness. As different platforms are differently composed with different staff and funding arrangements, set against the local history of collaboration, urban challenges and governance structures, fulfilling these objectives have local connotations.

Overall, each LIP and the Secretariat has ensured research capacity and fostered transdisciplinarity through developing partnerships, research teams and the capacity of team members, and through initiating project-based modes of research-practice co-production. In 2018 alone, over 60 memoranda of understanding, service level agreements, contractual arrangements and alike have been signed between LIPs and local partners, and between LIPs. Over 60 local research projects have been undertaken throughout 2016-2018, 14 research projects involving several LIPs and respective local

partners have been initiated. Research capacity has also been strengthened through networking and participation in current debates in the international research community. Additional LIP-wise information on local activities to ensure research capacity and foster transdisciplinarity is included below.

Cape Town

The core team consists of nine full-time researchers, four of whom are embedded in the City of Cape Town. The researchers come from a range of different disciplinary backgrounds (including urban planning, sociology, fine arts, geography and civil engineering) and were specifically recruited for transdisciplinary co-production work. The percentage direct Mistra Urban Futures funding, and co-funding, of individual researchers vary. Five members of the CTLIP core research team already have PhDs, one is about to graduate with a PhD, and the other three researchers are in the process of undertaking PhDs. All nine researchers of the core team have been involved in transdisciplinary work through the LIP projects, and there have been various workshops and meetings to reflect on transdisciplinarity (e.g. during 2018, a workshop was held for the first round of embedded researchers to impart lessons based on their experience to the second round of embedded researchers).

Gothenburg

In Gothenburg, in-house research capacity has been strengthened through the appointment of a LIP director with a PhD degree (2017–2019) and three part time researchers (2017–2019). The part-time researchers have been appointed specifically to strengthen the scholarly output of the projects Urban Rural Gothenburg (forming a Research Forum), SKILLs (The Sweden Kenya living Learning Labs), Implementing the New Urban Agenda and The Sustainable Development Goals (local perspectives), Greengov, and to summarize and reflect upon the methods used to enable transdisciplinary co-production in local projects. Capacity has been further strengthened through the strategic recruitment of a professional facilitator in 2018. The facilitator supports local projects, networks and core staff in overcoming the challenges involved with transdisciplinary co-production.

Kisumu

At KLIP, diverse expertise and experiences from academia, public authorities and private sectors are brought together in a Triple Helix Model to engage in co-productive work on critical issues of development. Within this group, research and transdisciplinary capacity has been strengthened through regular meetings, round table meetings on proposal development, and research seminars on co-production methodology. To increase capacity and expand their network, KLIP has also trained PhD and Master students and Postdocs at the LIP and in partnering universities in Kenya. KLIP has further strengthened research capacity through networking in the international research community, and through comparative projects between LIPs.

Skåne

Research capacity and transdisciplinarity has been strengthened through the intensification of project-based collaborative and co-production partnerships and activities involving several local municipalities, city officials, universities, research centres, as well as private sector. This includes city-to-city, within-city and research collaboration to consolidate experiences and bring in academic as well as practice-based perspectives and pioneering thematic work at the interface of academia and practice.

Sheffield–Manchester

At SMLIP (Sheffield-Manchester, UK) moving the platform to Sheffield enabled hosting and funding of partnerships that allow for considerable development of in-house research capacity through the generation of institutional match funding and external research projects. The result is a current team of two professorial staff, two full-time researchers and four part-time researchers, and two post-

doctoral professional staff members. This in-house research capacity has been supplemented by the occasional contributions of casual researchers to support literature reviews or thematic analyses. The appointment of 3 PhD students, jointly supervised between the Urban Institute, Dept of Urban Studies and Planning (USP) and Sheffield Methods Institute, also represents an extension of the inhouse capacity. Collaborations with others across and beyond the Faculty have also increased SMLIP's capacity without additional resources, through integrating work with the priorities and agendas of colleagues. SMLIP has also placed a heavy emphasis on extended-house research capacity building through identifying co-researchers in Greater Manchester and Sheffield (policy, voluntary, community), with whom they have collaborated. This represents a significant extension of the overall SMLIP research capacity.

Stockholm

Local partnerships around transdisciplinary and action research have been developed to initiate co-productive projects focusing on socio-ecological sustainability. In developing these partnerships, SNOD has applied co-productive methods (Design Thinking) to develop mutual understandings and agreements. The partnering organisations include two universities, one research institute, a think tank, a NGO, and the innovation hub where SNOD is based (OpenLab).

2.4 Fostering intersectionality

To create research that works toward the realisation of more just urban environments, the Centre requires all its components to “actively encouraging, ensuring and implementing gender dimension-related aspects in all its research and communication activities” (Mistra Urban Futures, 2015a, p.13). Accordingly, activities such as new projects are required to be consistent with the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the Centre (Mistra Urban Futures, 2015a, p.26). Gender equality is thus seen as an important goal in itself, as well as an instrument for realising just cities.

2017 marked a year with intensified discussion on gender mainstreaming. With the help of a Master's student, Sara Eliasson, the Centre started to look more closely on how its work reflected and represented the Realising Just Cities framework from an intersectional approach. A clear indicator of the increased attention of not only gender but intersectionality as such, can be found in the writings of strategic documents such as the Operational Plan 2016, 2018 and 2019; the Strategic Plan of 2016 – 2019 and 2020 – 2024, Communication, Event and Engagement Plan 2018-2019 as well as the Annual Reports. An intended strategy to internally and externally communicate and stimulate the need to take intersectional perspectives into account in management as well as in research aiming to contribute to sustainable urban development. Initial discussions on how intersectionality can be an integrated part of the planning, implementation, follow-up and development of research were taken place at the Annual Conference in Kisumu. The following year it was decided that intersectionality should be one of the cross-cutting perspectives going into 2020.

However, all the LIPs agree that there need to be more comprehensive modes of working with intersectionality (including gender). Since there has been little success to fully implement and mainstream such an approach across the whole organisation at all levels, there is a need for more radical overhaul of how the Centre thinks about and makes use of intersectionality. Despite this not yet being fully mainstreamed, each platform has sought to ensure that it is being developed with an awareness to gender equality. This has, for example, involved working to ensure a discrimination-free working environment by having equity representatives and strong policies regarding equal opportunities in employment practices. Within the organisation one always strive for a gender balance during events and in the composition of core staff and project teams where possible.

As the numbers of the QME templates for 2017 and 2018 show there is overall a balance of female and male researchers and experts involved in the core activities of the Centre –117 women and 130 men in 2017, and 178 women and 150 men in 2018. Yet, looking more closely the numbers display differences both when it comes to level of seniority and the participation of men and women within each platform (for further elaboration on these figures, see QME data in Appendix 5; for more information about the QME framework, see Part 4).

For gender mainstreaming to be effective, the Centre acknowledges that the work of the platforms must be locally appropriate and contextual rather than based on a blueprint-style template approach developed in one particular locality. Different contexts require different actions and enable different means. Therefore, how each platform chooses to work with intersectionality will and has differed. Below are some examples of platform specific actions taken to promote gender equality:

Cape Town

The platform has explicitly tried to get the researchers involved to reflect upon what a just city means and how intersectional dimensions interlink in all of the work that happens. To further advance the understanding of intersectionality a reading list with some of the current discussions within the field was composed. Discussions around intersectionality and how it affects internal dynamics within the office space as well as the research conducted have thus taken place.

Gothenburg

Capacity building activities such as lectures and workshops around gender, intersectionality and norm creative innovation have been performed amongst the staff and partners to obtain, improve and retain the skills and knowledge within and outside the organization. Based on a Master's thesis gender analysis of the platform and its operations, it was concluded that more support was needed in the gender mainstreaming efforts, especially within research.

Another specific actions to promote gender equality was the dissemination conference arranged by the KAIROS project. The purpose of the conference was to highlight and increase the awareness of social justice (discriminatory practices, participation etc.) in urban development.

Kisumu

The platform has worked with their PhDs to make sure gendered aspects are considered in the research. This has involved the use of gender-disaggregated data in the data collection and analysis, but also that interventions and recommendations are given gender considerations.

Sheffield-Manchester

Ensuring that the platform is developed with an awareness to gender equality. Our actions have been focused on the composition of project teams; external panels and workshops; organizing principles and feminization and gender equality as a substantive intellectual topic / methodological approach as well as community-organising in low income communities.

All project teams are either balanced or with more women than men. Concerning organising principles, the Municipalist Research, Advocacy and Action Network (MARAN) has not only achieved a gender balance (11 female: 9 male) but also enshrined gender equality in its statement of intent and will thus ensure that at least 50% of contributions to events and communications should.

Skåne

Taking into consideration how different power structures intersects, the platform has collected and systematically analysed knowledge and experiences through two of their expert panels in order to display how specific groups are helped as well as hindered in the urban context. The sustainable

neighbourhood development has explored growth conditions and development paths for young people, and the international migration and urban development panel has focused on the integration of asylum seekers and refugees with respect to housing policy, local integration policies and the configuration of public space and (in)visible borders.

To summarise, during these four years of funding there has been a positive development within the Centre when it comes to gender and latter intersectionality in research and management. However, as stated by the staff, stronger measurements needs to be taken to fully mainstream such perspectives.

PART 3. Agenda Setting to Influence Policies

With a strong commitment to co-production and transdisciplinary research, the Centre connects and partners across science, policy, business and civil society to translate knowledge into action. This means taking the academic and practice-oriented outputs one step further, to actually ensure that the messages reach those they are intended for, and that language, format and tone make them accessible.

During Phase 2, Mistra Urban Futures agenda has become substantially more directed towards policy-makers regarding both local and global agendas, not least the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. This is a strategic decision, fully aligned with the ambitions of the Board, of funders and partners; the character of transdisciplinary, co-produced knowledge is to initiate engagement and actions of change. Furthermore, all Mistra Urban Futures projects have been mapped according to the Sustainable Development Goals; all projects address the Urban Goal targets but most projects are also directed towards one or more of the other. See appendix 5.

3.1 Influencing global urban sustainability agenda and policies

During Phase 2, the Centre has scaled up its global presence and developed a range of partnerships, formal and informal, with various international organisations including the United Nations and its agencies, primarily UN-Habitat. Partly building on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Chalmers and UN, Mistra Urban Futures has been and is currently acting as Chalmers' representative in urban sustainability issues. In addition, alliances has been established with ICLEI and IPCC. For more information see for example

<https://www.mistraurbanfutures.org/en/blog/innovative-approach-urban-agenda>

As he took up the position of Director of Mistra Urban Futures, David Simon initiated and led a pilot project testing a sample of potential targets and indicators for SDG 11 – the stand-alone urban goal of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Covering Bangalore, Cape Town, Gothenburg, Kisumu and Greater Manchester, the project delivered a set of recommendations, which were taken up directly by the UN statistical team in UNDESA (United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs), and in turn partly reflected upon in the final version of Agenda 2030 adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 – see <https://www.mistraurbanfutures.org/en/project/pilot-project-test-potential-targets-and-indicators-urban-sustainable-development-goal>.

The Director also participated in the development of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), commenting on successive drafts, until the presentation of the final document at Habitat III in Quito. Ecuador, which was presented in 2016. In relation to the launch of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), Mistra Urban Futures was present in Quito, hosting a side event where the Director held a presentation on rethinking sustainable cities. A comment called 'Scientists must have a say in the future of cities', was further published in a special feature in Nature to mark our stand on the discussions at UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). In the comment the authors emphasised the need to give science and researchers more prominent roles in policies and planning.

The SDG Pilot Project and the engagement with the development of the New Urban Agenda laid the ground for what has now become the comparative project Implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: Comparative Urban Perspectives. Launched in 2017, the comparative project geographically targets Cape Town (South Africa), Gothenburg (Sweden), Kisumu (Kenya), Malmö (Sweden), Shimla (India) and Buenos Aires (Argentina) focusing on the cities'

interpretation, implementation and engagement with NUA and SDGs (for more information see Section 1.1)

By positioning ourselves as an international urban research centre promoting urban sustainability by means of the transdisciplinary co-production of knowledge, Mistra Urban Futures is gaining international recognition. By moving beyond the polarisation of practitioners and academic researchers to instead emphasise the need to view everyone as researchers and hence knowledge producer, the Centre even received an invitation to pose a question to the High Level Political Forum at the UN General Assembly in 2017 about the ways in which the UN system could support the collaboration among many stakeholders, with the aim to create more efficient ways from research to policy and action.

Finally, Mistra Urban Futures has been visible in two more comments in the leading authoritative journals, *Nature* and *Nature Climate Change*. The latter was a follow-up of the IPCC report and the first, in *Nature*, was the comment previously mentioned (Dipro emphasising the need to “Craft Metrics to Value Co-Production”).

Participation in SDSN online education platform

In the *Sustainable Cities* course by the SDG Academy, an online education platform of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (a global initiative for the United Nations) David Simon is teaching along with 27 world-reowned experts in the field of urban sustainable development. The course focuses on the major challenges currently faced by urban areas around the world - including poverty, unemployment, poor housing infrastructure, and constraints on productivity - and the huge potential of these areas to enable change in the future. In Module 8, How can cities and urban areas be governed better to make them more sustainable? which will take place in June, David will give a lecture on Addressing the Opportunities of Secondary Cities. Edgar Pieterse and Susan Parnell from our partner in South Africa, African Center for Cities (ACC), will also be featured in this third edition of the course and address various urban sustainability issues.



3.2 Influencing local urban sustainability agenda and policies

The following texts are basically the Local Platforms' own stories, only lightly edited for coherence and context. The texts thus reflect also differences in approach and choice of channels and subjects. These differences are important; unlike e.g. subsidiaries to a company, the essence of a platform organisation is about providing different perspectives and broadening the understanding of particular issues.

To realise just cities requires contextual understanding and actions by engaging a range of local partners. The following sections therefore reflect different approaches and choices of themes to influence local urban sustainability agendas and policies.

Gothenburg

To be able to take a stance, GOLIP works to attract different audiences by hosting a range of events such as Urban Lunch-time, Urban Research, Open Research Seminars as well as an annual Gothenburg Conference while also producing Policy Briefs, reports and academic articles. Moreover, during 2018 the platform launched a series of impact stories ‘What came next?’ describing how previous projects have and still are having an influence in the local context (for more information visit our website).

Naturally, influencing agendas whether local or global is a work that to some extent takes place informally in environments such as conferences and meetings. However, the value of formal and planned activities should not be underestimated. Below are some examples of important scheduled interactions during Phase 2:

- Meeting with Karolina Skog, former Minister for Environment with responsibility for urban development, in February 2017. In addition, Henrietta Palmer authored a chapter on co-production and urban climate justice, that was presented to the Swedish government.
- Participation in Almedalen, the annual Swedish political week, where we arranged seminars and had informal discussions as well to strengthen and expand our national network.
- Meeting with the Delegation Against Segregation to talk about national and local challenges around segregation and how co-production could be a means to transform cities to more just places.



From left to right: Deputy Scientific Director Henrietta Palmer, Gothenburg Platform Director Margareta Forsberg, at the time Minister of Environment Karolina Skog and Mistra Urban Futures' Director David Simon

In terms of influencing national scientific policy and sustainability discourse in Sweden, Henrietta Palmer, Deputy Scientific Director of Mistra Urban Futures, was part of a team engaged in an evaluation of a law requiring Swedish universities to integrate and promote sustainability in education. Assessing the performance of universities revealed that only about a quarter of them had implemented the law to satisfactory levels. Recommendations were therefore made regarding interdisciplinary collaboration and the need for engagement with sustainable development at the leadership level.

In 2016, Mistra set up a ‘Scholars at Risk Fund’ to assist refugees and migrants in Sweden at risk. Mistra Urban Futures applied for two persons; Samar Rami from Palestine and Varvara Nikulina from Ukraine. In 2019 Varvara Nikulina published her licentiate thesis *Need for speed: towards urban planning for rapid transitioning to sustainable personal mobility*.

Cape Town

Based on a process that started in 2014, CTLIP has continued and just finalised the jointly work of co-production of the Living Cape Framework Policy with the Western Cape Provincial Government. The platform is currently providing support for the implementation of the process, which involves five 'test beds of innovation'. The process will enable the provincial government to intervene in more innovative and participatory ways to contribute to the creation of more sustainable cities and towns.

As been stated before, four embedded researchers are currently involved in different departments in the City of Cape Town and thus engaging in local policy processes and project implementation with a direct impact on a range of key issues in the local urban sustainability debate such as transit-oriented development, implementation of the SDGs and the role of culture.

Changing the views on transit-oriented development in the City of Cape Town

Through the co-production process of knowledge creation, Sean Cooke, one of the PhD students, has introduced the City of Cape Town's policy-makers to the concepts of accessibility-focused planning and transport justice. The City have been exceptionally receptive to both and together they are changing the planning protocols to incorporate accessibility as a primary premise for decision-making. The goal is now to produce one of the world's first metropolitan accessibility strategies based on an integrated accessibility model. Through this mainstreaming of accessibility measurement, Sean has begun the localisation process for SDG 11.2, which the unit will now be reporting on, as well as many, more advanced accessibility metrics. The combination of accessibility-focused transport planning and the contextualisation of Transit-Oriented Development, through this co-production programme, will create a more socially, environmentally and fiscally sustainable transport system for Cape Town. The 'sustainability transitions' approach is providing City officials with clarity on the dynamism within this sector and a forum to debate the possible transition pathways to our desired transport system.

In terms of influencing policy and popular discourse about urban issues in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa, there is an ongoing social media campaign led by Alma Viviers from the Cape Town platform. There are also various seminar series, co-ordinated by Rike Sitas and a popular magazine on urban issues entitled Cityscapes, edited by Edgar Pieterse and Tau Tavengwa.

Kisumu

In Kisumu the SDG project has been selected by the Kenyan Government as a national focus and the platform is supporting the process on how the city can integrate the SDGs into their work. Correspondingly, KLIP is currently assisting in the development of an integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan as well as an Urban Transport Plan. Processes of strengthening the relationship between the Waste Actors Network and city officials is also underway to find possible options for sustainable waste management in Kisumu. Reports from comparative projects such as Urban Food System Governance, and Poverty in African Cities has further helped the platform to influence local urban sustainability agendas and policies.

Kisumu capacity building community

In Kisumu, where many urban challenges call for immediate action, the co-production research process between researchers, public authorities and community members serves to empower local community members and build a community of trust between participating actors. Local researchers themselves work in a mediating position between public authorities and local communities, giving community members a stronger voice in their encounters.



When different community actors are brought together to pursue a research agenda, the actors discover more potentials and find themselves empowered by the network created. These community actors are not necessarily interested in formulating research questions; their interest lies in tangible and immediate solutions. Parallel to the research process, they meet to organize interests and to facilitate change. This network empowerment is enabled through, but not part of, the co-production research project. As such, the project becomes a mediator of multilateral change. *Dr Michael Oloko is a Senior Lecturer at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, JOOUST and Deputy Director of KLIP, Kisumu.*

Sheffield–Manchester

All local and comparative projects seek to influence global and/or local agendas. SMLIP has developed a multi-scale approach to agenda-influencing at local, city-regional, national and international levels. The activities are public- or policy-focused. Table 5 below gives a few examples and illustrates the multi-media approaches we take to influencing and setting agendas.

Table 5 Examples of agenda-influencing activities in Sheffield–Manchester

	Public	Policy	Local/city-regional	UK*	International
Housing Futures: a written report, recommendations for different audiences, video and a public event with decision-makers. Social media to promote event.	x	x	x		
Green Summit: a paper for discussion with the Green Summit Steering Group leading to a redesign of the Mayor's Green Summit to be more participatory. A video was shared on our website and social media. The value of this approach was minuted by the Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub.	x	X	x		
Coproductive Capacities: a collaboration with the GMCA to support capacity-building	x	X	x	X	x

through workshops, visits, joint presentations, designing policy tools and coalition-building. Piloted in Sheffield and West Midlands prior to being taken internationally.					
Devolution Download: a public debate as part of Manchester Histories festival on devolution reach beyond the townhall.	x	X	x		
Localising the SDG project in Sheffield is intended to shape agenda of Sheffield City Council through collaborative design and events. Joining national network, the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD)		X	x	x	x
Submission of evidence to the UK Environmental Audit Committee on the localisation of the SDGs drawing on work and that of the international partnership				X	
Participatory Planning Panels and Roundtables: two transdisciplinary discussions on challenges and opportunities of participatory planning in different urban contexts of Manchester, London, Gothenburg and Cape Town. Community organisations, planners and citizens invited to a dialogue.		X		x	x
Sheffield Food Network event: networking with the Sheffield Food Futures groups and exploring possibility of a new Northern food network. Video and blog.	x	x	x	x	
How to co-produce the city? Member of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy and submitted evidence to the Agenda for Local Democracy.		x	x		x

*National includes activities beyond our two designated LIP cities.

Skåne

SKLIP has also increased its position by engaging with different stakeholders. To influence local urban sustainability agendas and policies, the platform is currently arranging workshops with municipalities through a concept called City to City Lab, which aims to foster ecosystem-based planning, climate adaption and associated governance. Through the platform expert panels, seminars and workshops have and are being held with a broad representation of different sectors with themes connecting to glocal processes while highlight the situation and need for action and change in the local context. The platform is also financially supporting and strategically participating in the City of Malmö Conference on 'Urban Innovation' in May 2019 to take part and discuss how new innovations can support sustainable urban transformations.

3.3 Influencing through web and social media

Web and social media work is a joint responsibility for all parts of the Centre, including all platforms and the Secretariat. The main website, mistraurbanfutures.org, is maintained and developed by the Secretariat, with input from platforms. The bi-monthly Newsletters are important communication channels. In addition there are websites related to the Centre in various ways, see Table 6 below.

Furthermore, platform partners are invited to contribute, e.g. blog texts, in special occasions. Likewise, whenever possible, items and tweets about e.g. news are exchanged between the platforms and various twitter accounts of individuals, groups and platforms. Retweeting of tweets and re-publishing e.g. of blog texts have become increasingly frequent and important. Quite a few researchers and other individual partners of Mistra Urban Futures use personal twitter accounts as well, to contribute to the network dissemination of our messages, e.g. @UrbanDavidSimon, @TheUrbanBeth, @RikeSitas, @janriise, @NayokaMartinez, @nicktaylorbuck, @nils_bjorling, and many others.

Engaging the local partners behind the Platforms⁶ is crucial in the communication work and to reach out within the partners and to their stakeholders. Communication professionals from all partner should be engaged in a communications network. In the Gothenburg case, the communication professionals in the partners' organisations are engaged in the daily operations in sharing strategic communication messages. Furthermore, the Centre's and GOLIP's increased social media presence has been key in finding easy ways for the partners to share our content. The partners' commitment is apparent in the Gothenburg Region's Annual Report for their collaboration within Mistra Urban Futures, each year the report highlights the impact Mistra Urban Futures has had with the Gothenburg Region and the role the organisation has played within Mistra Urban Futures, <https://www.mistraurbanfutures.org/en/news/collaboration-sustainable-urban-development-mistra-urban-futures> (2017) <https://www.mistraurbanfutures.org/sv/grs-samverkan-inom-mistra-urban-futures> (2016) (2018 will be published on the web shortly).

Table 5. Some of the websites and social media accounts exchanging news, tweets and other information.

WEBSITE	Content
mistraurbanfutures.org	Main site, includes project presentations, publications, news, blog texts etc
Annualreport2016.mistraurbanfutures.org	Annual Report 2016
Annualreport2017.mistraurbanfutures.org	Annual Report 2017
Realisingjustcities-rjc.org	SMLIP site on Realising Just Cities local content
Kliptrust.or.ke	KLIP site for the KLIP trust in Kisumu, Kenya
Africancentreforcities.net	UCT partner site
Urbanafrika.net	ACC co-ordinates the platform (see also below)

⁶ The seven consortium partners plus the two associated partners, see page xx

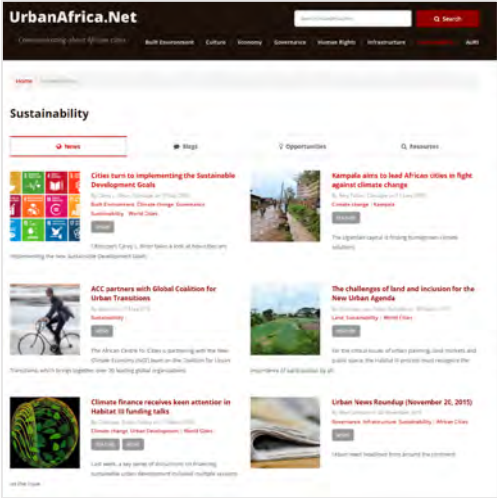
TWITTER ACCOUNTS	
@mistraurbanfut	Mistra Urban Futures international account, 2500+ followers
@urbanfutures_SE	Mistra Urban Futures Swedish account
@urbanafricaACC	Africa Centre for Cities account
@UK_RJC	Sheffield–Manchester account
@LUCSUS_LU	LUCSUS at Lund University account

The Centre’s social media presence has increased to being active on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and YouTube. Especially Twitter is used to target and follow political leaders, influencers within Sustainable Urban Development and decision makers with key messages.

The web and social media form parts of the QME indicators, although mainly expressed as numbers of followers, recipients of newsletters etc. The wider implications, in terms of retweets and further dissemination is an area for improvements.

Communicating about African Cities

UrbanAfrica.Net is an online platform dedicated to communicating about African cities. Here information about urban experiences in Africa, with contributions from journalists, academics, bloggers and those working in the urban sphere is shared. A key objective of UrbanAfrica.Net is the mainstreaming of progressive debates on African urbanism through the stimulation of a dynamic online community. The African Centre for Cities co-ordinates the platform on behalf of the partnership with the African Urban Research Initiative and Mistra Urban Futures.



PART 4. A Quality Management Framework for Mistra Urban Futures

Traditionally, research is evaluated and rewarded based on metrics such as citations in academic journals. However, in evaluating co-produced and transdisciplinary research for urban sustainability the significance of policy impacts, enhanced networks, knowledge transfer and mind-shifts, are equally important as results and outcomes to capture. This was highlighted in the Chapter 7 in *Co-producing Knowledge for Sustainable Cities* (ed. Polk, 2015) by Thomas Hellström, as he concluded: “An important insight from the overview of perspectives on transdisciplinarity and interdisciplinary centres was that evaluation needs to be tailored to the aims and structure of the centre in question” (Hellström 2015:162). This calls for the formulation of an alternative evaluation methodology, sensitive to the underlying ethos and goals of Mistra Urban Futures, to determine the success of activities and plans of the Centre.

There are no clear mechanisms that link participatory research approaches for urban sustainability to impact. Rather, there is a complex web of relationships, institutional cultures and political agendas. Impact and different outcomes need to be evaluated at different times, sometimes even years after the completion of projects and other activities. The TD-research process as such, also needs to be evaluated as the knowledge-production is also connected to the format and quality of the process itself, i.e. how a research processes is staged, performed, which knowledge cultures are included in the process, how power-relations are acknowledged and dealt with in the processes etc. (Brown, 2008, Pohl & Hadorn, 2008). Hence there is both a need for evaluating the quality and quantity of outcomes, as for the quality and quantity of knowledge-transfers, of capacity building and of skills for future TD-research processes. This all comes together in a quest for reflective and formative learning as part of a process of evaluation, for the Centre to eventually also be able to formulate a programme theory. For this reason, the evaluation of transdisciplinary co-produced research poses many challenges, as output and quality of transdisciplinary co-production cannot only be measured towards scientific ideals. Equally important is to evaluate the socio-political quality and relating results to a reality-based problem at hand.

In his recommendation to the Centre Hellström suggested a framework that can capture the outcome of formal and informal processes. Such framework was concluded in five functions attached to different outcomes. During 2016 the Centre structured its Quality Management Framework (QME) closely based on the functions developed by Hellström:

Table 6: The proposed functions by Mistra Urban Futures, for a QME framework.

QME functions	Outcomes of QME activities
Knowledge management and transfer	Situational awareness of the Centre’s participants and stakeholders as to progress and results.
Performance monitoring	Identifying and adhering to relevant and adequate measures.
Leadership and governance	Enabling the Centre’s principals (board, funders etc), Center management and participants to direct and influence activities appropriately.
Continuous improvement and learning	Act as a knowledge hub on the Centre’s structure and best practices thereby ensuring that past successes and mistakes are taken into account in developing the Centre.
Legitimacy	Communicating how and to what extent the Centre’s goals are achieved, so as to enable internal and external assessment of the level of quality vis-à-vis expectations.

The final QME proposed a framework of five distinct components were societal impact also was to be captured. Although impact eventually stems from all activities, it would especially be captured and highlighted within the part of the framework named Impact stories:

1. *Annual activity planning and follow-up cycle* – describing how Centre and LIP activities are planned and reported on annually and how the Centre reflect on and learn from the reporting within the integrated 4-year framework of Phase 2.
2. *Targets and performance indicators* – as to monitor key aspects of the Centre and local platforms operations.
3. *Formative evaluation* – as a critical assessment of activities at project, LIP and Centre levels, fulfilling a reflexive learning function.
4. *Impact Stories* – as narratives capturing examples of societal impact in relation to the Centre’s goals, i.e. how do the activities of the Centre contribute to the realization of Just Cities.
5. *Risk management* – as an annual review, assessment and mitigation of defined and potential risks that jeopardise the fulfilment of the Centre’s strategic goals.

To ensure that the framework proposal also included an academic discussion of societal impact, a mapping of the Centre activities up to that date was carried out on commission by PhD researcher, Steve Williams from the University of British Columbia. Williams was asked to capture indicators specific to co-production processes from the Centre’s previous work. The focus of the report was to be on societal impact rather than on the process of evaluation as such. Doing so, Williams structured the captured indicators and integrated them into an existing societal evaluation framework which he presented to the LIP directors and Secretariat at a meeting in London, in August 2017 (see Figure 4) (from Williams, S. (2017) *Evaluating Societal Effects of Transdisciplinary Co-production Processes: Final Report*.

4.1 A deepened framework for assessing impacts

Pioneering academic work on participatory and problem-based research has given rise to various attempts to articulate criteria for assessing the societal impacts of differing forms of such research. In general, these highlight the value of adopting parallel effect categories, but of different ‘hierarchies’ or ‘orders’, such as network effects, enhanced capacity and usable products; structural characteristics and decisions, actions and policies; and ultimately alternative visions and imaginaries and transformed social practices. It was recommended by Williams that these three orders could be usefully applied to understand the effects and outcomes of Mistra Urban Futures (see Figure 4). Combined, the orders of effects illustrate the complexity of types of impacts and outcomes that might result from work based on strong forms of co-production and co-creation.

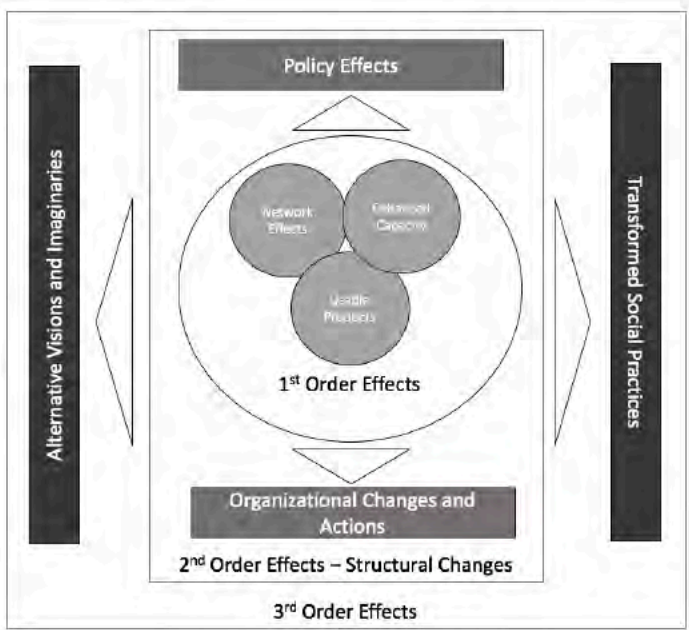


Figure 5: Williams proposed framework for evaluating the societal impacts of Mistra Urban Futures activities, expressed as first, second and third order effects.

The figure shows how the three order effects works in an integrated manner, which also could be understood through the integration of three different time frames – from the short-term time frame of the first order effect, to an undetermined timeframe of the third order effects. Williams summarised the effects as follows:

“First order effects are those most closely connected to the project and most often such effects appear at the same time as the event or project are finished: a report, a plan or a technology but may also be enhanced capacity, such as learning and new knowledge, or network effects that have been developed during the project period. Second order effects are impacts on the system within which the project or process was operating. New policies or changes in the existing discourses, or new organisational strategies or new business models are examples of such second order effects. Typically, these effects emerge after a period of time, which makes direct causal relationships more difficult to claim and prove. Finally, third order effects are those that take place at societal level, i.e. beyond the system or organisation in which the project or process took place. Sometimes called ‘alternative visions and imaginaries’, these effects are about changing views and a different conception of the future than the prevailing one. In the context of sustainable urban futures, environmental issues and

climate change, such alternative imaginaries may lead to new narratives and changed behaviour, even radical individual changes e.g. towards personal efforts to decrease one’s own carbon footprint.” (Williams 2017: XX)

With the support of Williams’s three orders framework, the QME was revisited and discussed in relation to the comparative project called Realising Just Cities, which had been inaugurated as an overarching inquiry and assessment of the Centre’s research framework of Realising Just Cities (RJC). In November 2017, the RJC comparative project was incorporated into the QME framework to constitute the function of formative evaluation, which would capture primarily the 1st and 2nd order effects of impacts. Where Williams’s framework addresses societal impacts, the formative evaluation addresses impacts which affects the participants involved, and as such could be defined as ‘internal’. However, as participants in co-produced transdisciplinary research comes from diverse knowledge cultures, disciplines and societal sectors, their individual learning and capacity building also affects the transformations of the organisations involved, and possibly and eventually also affects the transformation of society in relation to the Centre’s goals. A distinct separation from internal and external impact is therefore difficult to propose and hence there are overlaps between the differing functions of the QME as well as of their belonging to the different orders. A simplified image of how to understand the QME in relation to the Williams frame work is shown below in Figure 6.

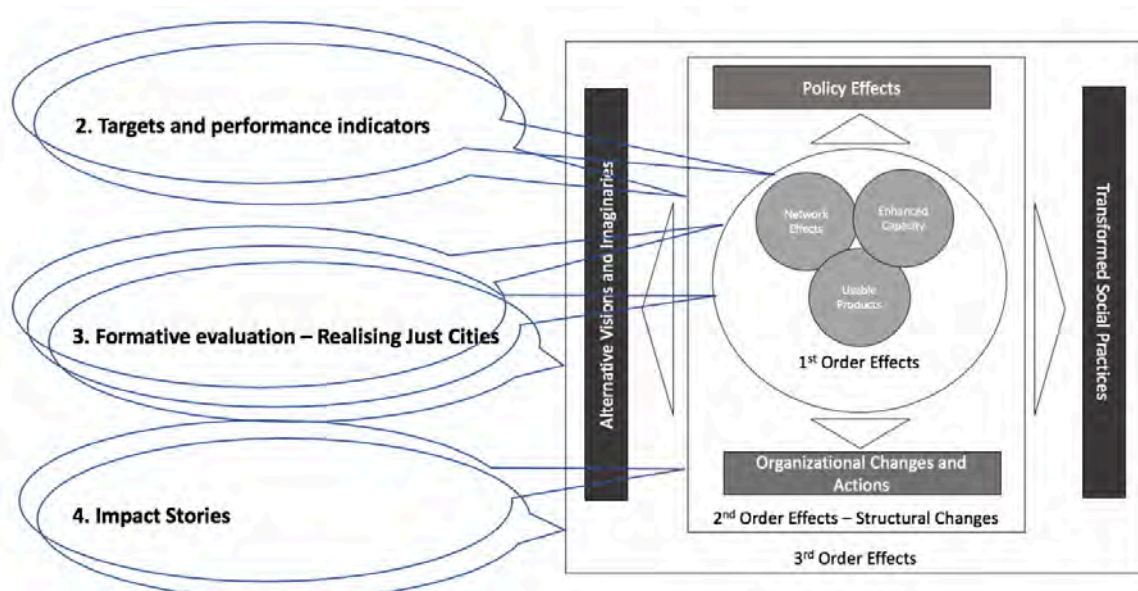


Figure 6: Showing how the QME framework could be understood in relation to the Williams’ framework of first, second and third order effects.

The prioritised parts of the QME framework to describe in this report are the *indicators*, the *formative evaluation* and the *impact stories*. Annual plans and risk assessment are evaluated as parts of the annual audits.

4.2 Indicators

Targets and performance indicators were developed during 2016-17 as to monitor key aspects of the Centre and the Local platforms' operations. No annual targets were decided to be set on the performance indicators, as there would be a big risk of goal displacement and contra-productivity if such targets are set. The overall progression of the performance indicators, from a base line of the situation in 2016, in combination with the fulfilment of the milestones was considered to instead ensure the Centre's progress is in line with the ambitions set out in the SP 2016–2019. While the societal impacts which Williams's frame work intend to capture are partly beyond the agency of the Centre, the Indicators on the other hand, are precisely measuring what is within the Centre's steering reach.

To realise the SP 2016–2019 the indicators were eventually formulated as four operational objectives:

1. Produce new urban knowledge through co-production and structured comparative research.
2. Capacity building and mutual learning
3. Agenda setting to influence policy – globally and regionally
4. Ensure Mistra Urban Futures long-term sustainability

Each one of these three objectives were further broken down to sub-objectives with connected milestones and performance indicators according to the following:

1. Produce new urban knowledge through co-production and structured comparative research

- 1.1 Establish a strong academic foot-print and increase academic publication and outreach
- 1.2 Undertake systematic comparative research across two or more LIPs
- 1.3 Promote co-production as a research approach

2. Capacity building and mutual learning

- 2.1 Promote knowledge about how to conduct co-production as a research approach
- 2.2 Foster transdisciplinarity at each LIP
- 2.3 Ensure consistent research capacity
- 2.4 Diversify the Centre's research base geographically

3. Agenda setting to influence policy – globally and regionally

- 3.1 Influence global urban sustainability agenda and policies
- 3.2 Influence regional/ national urban sustainability agenda and policies
- 3.3 Position the Centre through the web and social media

4. Ensure Mistra Urban Futures long-term sustainability

- 4.1 Increase external funding
- 4.2 Plan for post-2019

(from document, *QME and performance indicators_Version 1.3*)

The material for the Indicators is collected once a year from the Centre secretariat.

4.3 Formative evaluation

The QME function *Formative evaluation* is defined as a critical assessment of activities at project level as well as LIP and Centre levels, fulfilling a reflexive learning function. As mentioned above, in November 2017, it was acknowledged that the questions for interrogation of the formative evaluation were very close to the questions in focus of the project called Realising Just Cities, which was conducted by CTLIP as a comparative inquiry including all LIPs. It was therefore suggested and decided to merge these two programmes of work into a *Realising Just Cities Evaluation*, where the ‘project’ was replaced by the ‘evaluation’. The evaluation structure was captured in document called *Realising Just Cities planning guidelines* with an agreed timeline of activities and deadlines for the evaluation to be performed but at each LIP and jointly as concluding workshops, together with guidelines and recommendations for different inquiries.

The primary methodological objective was to evaluate the central hypothesis:
... that organising knowledge through local interaction platforms, generating new urban knowledge through co-production and conducting place-specific and comparative research, contributes to realising just cities that are fair, green and accessible...

To assess the hypothesis the evaluation was structured to be performed at three levels: the international partnership; the platform; and the project (comprising both a selection of local projects and of comparative projects). Each one of these levels were then organised with its own rationale to respond to the three guiding questions posed:

In what ways has our particular approach to international partnership contributed to the realisation of cities that are fair, green and accessible?

In what ways have the particular platform models and processes that we have created contributed to the realisation of cities that are fair, green and accessible?

In what ways have our different project approaches to knowledge co-production (both local and comparative) contributed to the realisation of cities that are fair, green and accessible?

A number of different outcomes are foreseen as part of the evaluation including a report, possible policy notes, blog posts, scientific articles, impact narratives, short films and a book etc. The total knowledge of the RJC evaluation will be the fundament for shaping the Centre’s post-2019 intellectual framework. (from document, *Realising Just Cities planning guidelines*)

4.4 Impact Stories

Impact Stories as part of the QME framework is an approach to capture examples of societal impact in relation to the Centre’s goals, i.e. how the activities of the Centre contribute to the realisation of Just Cities, through narratives. This approach at large speaks to the third and second order effects of Williams’s framework (*Organizational changes and actions & Policy effects and Alternative visions and imaginaries & Transformed societal practices*) but also to the third objective of the Indicators (*Agenda setting to influence policy – globally and regionally*). In other words, the Impact stories will both capture narratives about results of the Centre’s activities, as well as trying to capture narratives about results far beyond the Mistra Urban Futures’ reach of actions but which could be traced back to research projects or research processes initiated by the Centre.

Some impact stories will be produced by the RJC evaluation, while others will be captured through other mechanism during 2019. Important to say is that each LIP is constantly engaged in tracing its

local impact, which is part of the rationale of the LIPs' communication towards and engagement with its local partners.

For 2019, the impact measurement study following Steve Williams's report is being commissioned from an external consulting researcher, building on existing impact evidence. This study will include narratives covering the Centre's work and results over the two phases 2012–2019, drawing on existing assets, such as the RJC formative evaluation, and project staff. The goal is to establish how certain things have worked well – or less well - with the support from good evidence. The consultant will develop an integrative impact model and instrument showing supportive theories of change (for the different projects) which could be used for further reporting narratives.

At the time of writing (late Feb 2019), a contract with an external consultant is being negotiated, with the objective to assist in analysing collected data and information, fill in the gaps through surveys and interviews, in a way that makes it useful for both formative evaluation and impact stories.

The knowledge outputs of the RJC evaluation will be focused on sharing lessons with a variety of audiences about:

- The potential and pitfalls of a variety of knowledge co-production approaches for realising just cities, including robust analysis that recognizes challenges and limitations as well as opportunities
- How to measure the societal impacts of knowledge co-production projects, platforms and partnerships
- The relevance of these methodological findings for thinking, policy and practice in relation to participatory governance, urban sustainability, the NUA and Goal 11.

A number of different outcomes are foreseen as part of the evaluation, including a report, possible policy notes, blog posts, scientific articles, impact narratives, short films and a book etc. The total knowledge of the RJC evaluation will be the fundament for shaping the Centre's post-2019 intellectual framework (from document, *Realising Just Cities planning guidelines*).

PART 5. Consolidating Experiences

As the final year of the 10-years funding from Mistra, 2019 is the appropriate time to consolidate the experiences, knowledge and partnerships that have been developed over the past decade. Some of this will be collected in books and other outputs for different stakeholders and audiences. Plans include a book for academic and professional readerships on the lessons from our pioneering comparative research projects and a series of journal articles and practitioner reports as well as policy briefs. In addition, this evaluation report itself constitutes an important consolidation of the key achievements, new knowledge and innovative actions undertaken during Phase 2.

2019 is also a crucial year for maximising the value of the international partnerships, including, not least, the recently formed LIP in Skåne, node in Stockholm and project-based partnerships with Nagrika in India and the New School/Buenos Aires in Argentina. Whether and how to pursue these latter partnerships from 2020, and also whether and how to broaden the Centre's international partnerships as a component of the Strategic Plan, will also be decided upon. That Sida will, subject to a successful evaluation and its own decision-making process, continue funding the Centre for another phase provides invaluable continuity and the opportunity to enhance the scope of international work in line with our global vision and mission that is eligible for Sida funding.

Strategic institutional partnerships linked to national and international agendas

The Centre's principal focus in global arenas during 2019 will be on implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and SDGs, especially Goal 11, and on imparting lessons from our Realising Just Cities agenda and transdisciplinary co-production and comparative experiences. Maximising the visibility and impact of our work requires systematic horizon scanning and exploitation of key global and regional international events, coupled with agility in responding to important opportunities that might arise at short notice, subject to our capacity and resource constraints. In this regard, having a small Secretariat, where the different portfolio holders work closely together and with their LIP counterparts, is a distinct advantage.

The relationship between the NUA and Goal 11 will remain a focus of ongoing work and the Centre will continue to play a role in international campaigns and programmes to that end, providing the Centre with global exposure and impact, and providing a channel for feeding back our findings to the UN and other fora.

A systematic horizon scan of international conferences during 2019 has been undertaken as the basis for prioritising those at which to organise a presence as a Centre or by individual LIPs or researchers. At the time of writing, the Centre is planning to have a presence at the Conference on Food Science and Nutrition in Rome, 25-26 February; the Annual Conference of the Association of American Geographers in Washington DC, 3-7 April; the International Waste Pickers Conference in Dar es Salaam in April-May; the inaugural experimental conference of The Nature of Cities, the TNOC-Summit, in Paris, 4-7 June (for which the Centre is a partner); the 8th European Conference on African Studies in Edinburgh, 11-14th June, the 8th Nordic Geographers Meeting in Trondheim, Norway, June 16–19 2019; the World Conference on Climate Justice in Edinburgh 19-21 June; and of the Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers), in London, 28-30 August.

The Centre's informal collaborations with WWF Sweden and WWF International will continue on an ad hoc basis where it is mutually beneficial, particularly in relation to urban climate change adaptation. The Director provided advice and contributed to collaborative research using WWF International/Luc Hoffmann Institute's Carbons database on urban emissions, as part of the strategic development which added value to their annual One World City Challenge competition for cities worldwide, when

relaunched in 2018 as One Planet City Challenge⁷. The Centre also partnered with WWF Sweden in a joint session at Almedalen in 2016, other possible collaborations may include joint funding applications.

The Centre has developed its relationships within the Swedish national political system not least in the Sustainable Development Goals context. In 2018, the Sustainable Development Goal 11, the 'Urban Goal', was subject of the annual High Level Political Forum at the United Nations. Mistra Urban Futures had the opportunity to contribute to and influence the Swedish report and actual presentation.

During Phase 2, Mistra Urban Futures has produced a suite of complementary output formats, ranging from major agenda-setting publications from the Centre to specific policy briefs derived from the work of individual projects. Some of the achievements and some of the remaining plans are:

- Three successful Annual Conferences, in Gothenburg, Kisumu and Cape Town; the fourth to be held in Sheffield in October 2019. Includes outputs, e.g. reports and summaries
- Book on *Rethinking Sustainable Cities* (Simon, 2016)
- Book on Comparative Urban Research from Theory to Practice (to be published late 2019)
- Book on Realising Just Cities (planned output of impact assessment/impact stories, late 2019)
- Special issue of Local Environment with six articles on the GAPS project⁸
- Other academic articles in peer-reviewed journals related to theme/topic specific work
- Sessions at high profile international conferences, such as Habitat III, ICLEI Resilient Cities, ACC International Conference and UN High-Level Political Forum
- Approximately 3-4 policy briefs per year
- Implementable results such as policies, processes, mechanisms, experiments, toolkits, manuals
- Urban designs and planning documents
- Creative communications to different audiences
- Workshops, exhibitions
- Press coverage
- Forward Plan and additional funding bids/projects.

Strategic Plan 2020–2024

Final decisions about hosting arrangements for the Secretariat and GOLIP have just recently been taken by the two Gothenburg universities and by the Gothenburg Consortium respectively. In line with the Centre's post-2019 Vision and Mission, a new Strategic Plan is being formulated for completion by mid-February, alongside the this Progress report, as inputs to the Sida Evaluation of Phase 2 during March/April. The Plan will envisage a constructive blend of continuity, building on what the Centre has achieved to date, and innovation to facilitate our positioning as global leaders in transdisciplinary in research on urban transformations towards sustainability. Accordingly, some of our research processes and comparative projects are likely to continue, if funding is secured, while others will come to the end by December 2019. Key decisions to be taken as part of the Strategic Plan process will relate to organisational and institutional forms (i.e. what kinds of research platforms or other structures and their geographical distribution), and scope of research and governance arrangements to be reported in more detail at the Board meeting in late March 2019.

⁷http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/projects/one_planet_cities/one_planet_city_challenge(http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/projects/one_planet_cities/one_planet_city_challenge/)

⁸ The GAPS project, Governance and Policy for Sustainability, a comparative review of challenges and transition pathways, 2012-2016, involved the platforms in Gothenburg, Sheffield–Manchester and Cape Town.

The fundraising initiatives launched in early autumn 2018 will continue through 2019, seeking a mixture of programme and project funding consistent with the Vision and Mission and also the contents of the Strategic Plan. The initiatives combine strategic work at the Centre and LIP/node levels. The Gothenburg Consortium Council has confirmed their intention to fund GOLIP and to act as its Board.

Engagement

The strategic decisions following the discussions and collaborative development work on the Centre's vision and mission form the basis for contacts with potential new programme funders. In this respect, informal and early contacts are followed by more detailed presentations and possible applications and negotiations.

The major asset of the Centre is the aggregated knowledge and experiences that have been the results of the first ten years, including the expected long-term impact of the work done at the platforms, in the comparative projects and through the partnerships. Still, phase 3 may call for an updated or revised 'offer' to partners and funders, depending on the development of the global landscape of sustainable development research and of the ambitions and interest of funders.

Planned engagement activities in 2019 include

- Focusing on the impact stories and QME features as part of the Centre's credibility and position as experts in sustainable urban development.
- Continuous analysis of impact through articles and publications; annual bibliometric analysis and encouraging the publication of articles and papers in scientific journals as well as in other media.
- Continued mapping of potential international and Swedish funders that could be relevant as programme funders. This could include the Swedish government, the Nordic Council of Ministers, and the European Union.
- Presenting Mistra Urban Futures to potential funders, following relevant calls for proposals; producing the 'prospects' for future funders and partners.

5.1 Ensuring Mistra Urban Futures' long-term sustainability

The original programme funding agreement with Mistra clearly states that a plan for the future of the programme after the 10-years funding period must be presented by the Centre in each of the Centre Operational Plans during Phase 2, i.e. 2016–2019: “Every annual Centre Operational Plan shall include a report concerning the long-term development of the Centre, in particular regarding how Mistra’s funding gradually will be replaced”⁹

This follows the Mistra Board meeting on 16 September 2015, where it was decided that Mistra would fund Mistra Urban Futures in Phase 2 with a total of MSEK 80. However, the Mistra funding was then to be phased out during 2016-2019, starting with MSEK 26 in 2016 and reducing by MSEK 4 annually to reach MSEK 14 in 2019.

During Phase 2, increasing attention and resources have been allocated for fundraising for Phase 3, i.e. from 2020 and onwards. A fundraising manager and a senior advisor have been employed, systematically exploring opportunities for both programme and project funding. Until now, late March 2019, bids and proposals have been submitted e.g. to Vinnova, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and to Mistra. (See table 7).

Planning for a post-Mistra phase from 2020 onwards commenced in earnest during 2017, with a comprehensive scenario-based Vision – Mission exercise involving the entire Centre as well as extensive consultations among local partners in each LIP city. The final Vision and Mission document, setting out the intended organizational structure and associated governance mechanisms, was approved at the November 2017 Board meeting to form the basis for a fundraising strategy and formulation of a strategic plan during 2018 and early 2019.

The reasons for a longer-term solution are many. There are considerable volumes of knowledge, experiences, networks and outcome in terms of reports, presentations, policy briefs and academic articles, books and theses. Facing the most challenging period in the history of the modern society, it becomes even more important to keep all of this accessible and available for further development, practical use and potential impact – all contributing to new research and knowledge production to support the necessary transitions to more sustainable urban development paths.

Mistra Urban Futures' Phase 2 consequently has been characterised by planning and preparing for longer term sustainability of the Centre, including secretariat and local platforms.

A scenario planning exercise was designed and carried out in 2017, to find possible organisational solutions that would benefit the ongoing development of knowledge and methodologies. The Centre Director, the Platform directors and senior employees discussed the different options from a range of perspectives and concluded that the organisation preferably would remain similar to the present. This would imply a relatively low number of ‘complete’ Local Platforms, i.e. local formal agreements, primarily between universities/research institutes and the public sector, represented by cities, regions, counties and similar, and a Secretariat responsible for co-ordination, comparative research projects, strategic participation in global meetings and networks (UN, ICLEI, etc), Quality Management and Evaluation, joint publications, development of centre-wide profile, including e.g. gender/ intersectionality, open access and focus on the transdisciplinary co-production approach.

⁹ Agreement signed 12 Feb 2016 by Chalmers and the Mistra Foundation, original in Swedish
Sida Evaluation

At the other end of the scale was the so called 'shoestring scenario' with the Platforms being loosely held together mainly through their own interests and projects, funded as far as project funding may allow.

The Platforms and Secretariat agreed that the preferred scenario, a Centre similar to today's organisation, also opened up for other and new partners, with various kinds of agreements and partnership solutions. Such a scenario calls for some kind of programme funding. The added values provided by an active Secretariat, taking on various co-ordination and leadership tasks, cannot be covered only through overheads on regular project funding.

Mistra Urban Futures as a Centre has not as such pursued any external fundraising for Phase 2 during the period 2016-2019. In some cases, e.g. the Sheffield–Manchester Platform's bids for projects that include also other platforms have been successful. The Secretariat has been 100% funded by Mistra, the Gothenburg Consortium and Sida (in relation to international engagement around global agendas, and activities in and for the Global South).

In 2018, Mistra Urban Futures joined the GreenGov project, a comparative study of climate change governance in Oslo, Gothenburg and Copenhagen funded by the Norwegian Research Council and led by researchers at OsloMet. The Centre's contributions are funded through the NRC grant to the organising institute. This exemplifies the Centre's proactive approach to seizing opportunities to collaborate with compatible initiatives for mutual benefit, in this case bringing additional funds to the Secretariat and GOLIP to fund the research on Gothenburg (being led by our postdoctoral researcher on the SDG project on account of the close complementarity) and strategic inputs by the Centre's Director. The project is also enhancing the Centre's visibility and reputation in the Nordic region.

A fundraising strategy was developed during 2017-2018 for the post-2019 period. The fundraising objectives include

- Programme funding for Secretariat
- Project funding for platforms and Secretariat

Project funding is necessary for individual projects, specific for each LIP or collaborative. However, in order to promote the further development of transdisciplinary and comparative research with a co-production approach, it is necessary to add a component of 'programme funding'. This funding is necessary for the coherence of the research programme and the ability and capacity to develop new theories and policy recommendations, as well as new areas of transdisciplinary sustainability research. This includes the dimension of 'impact', not only as bibliometric successes, but also and foremost actual societal changes and new imaginaries for a sustainable urban future.

Initial meetings and contacts were made from 2017 and onwards. Some potential funders are listed in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Potential funders and partners for Phase 3

ORGANISATION	TYPE OF FUNDING	STATUS
Sida	Programme	Extension of existing funding is being assessed Q1–Q2 2019
Riksbankens Jubileumsfond	Project	Funding for ‘Research initiation’ may be an option, including an opening conference
Formas	Mainly projects	Formas received considerable parts of the Governmental support for research on sustainable societies in 2017; several calls for proposals have been published, more to come.
Vinnova	Programme (GOLIP only)	Application for ‘Centre of Excellence’ submitted January 2019.
Ford Foundation (US)	Programme	Waiting for outcome of restructuring of the areas for Foundations’ grants
Rockefeller Foundation (US)	Programme	Waiting for outcome of restructuring of the areas for Foundations’ grants 100ResilientCities, funded by RF may be an option
Robert Bosch Stiftung (DE)	Project – later programme	Proposal submitted for mapping study
Mistra	Environmental Communication Programme (4 years)	Proposal submitted with SRC, GU Neuroscience, WWF and Mansueto Institute at University of Chicago

Resources for the fundraising work was allocated for hiring a fundraising manager and a part-time senior advisor during 2018 and 2019 for identifying, contacting, submitting proposals and promote the Centre to potential partners and funders.

Cape Town

Major sources of co-funding during Phase 2 are three cases of project-funding (see below) and two grants from the Bosch Foundation for post-doctoral and PhD research within the socio-spatial transformation projects at the Cape Town Platform.

The Consuming Urban Poverty project on urban food security and governing food systems to alleviate poverty (2014–2019), funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the UK Department for International Development. The PEAK Urban programme (2018-2021) aims to build skilled capacity for decision making on urban futures and includes more than 40 projects in China, India, South Africa, Colombia and UK, funded by the Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the Global Challenges Research Fund, also in the UK. Finally, the Western Cape Provincial Government funds work on housing policy (2012–2018).

Gothenburg

The Gothenburg Platform has developed a strategy of supporting projects or project ideas to develop applications for external funding. This “seedmoney” strategy means that the Platform may provide limited funding for networks, groups and projects in order to develop ideas or to work on ongoing applications. As an example, the Platform supported a group of researchers and practitioners from Sweden and Kenya by financing travelling for meetings to develop ideas. This work resulted in a 15.5 million SEK grant for a four-year project to study the role of tourism in multicultural societies. A pre-study on three major cities in Sweden and their work address social inequalities has also been funded to write an application for larger and more comprehensive study on the same theme.

In parallel, during 2018, the Gothenburg Consortium came to the conclusion that it wanted to remain as funder, but focusing solely on the Gothenburg Platform, thus discontinuing the ongoing and significant funding of the Centre as a whole since its establishment in 2010. The Swedish Transport Administration has not yet decided upon a continuation in the steering body of the platform, but RISE intends to become a full partner from 2020.

Kisumu

The Kisumu Platform (KLIP) is part of the Consuming Urban Poverty, coordinated by University of Cape Town, and has as partner received support from the Department of International Development (DFID) in the UK.

KLIP is also a partner with the University of Cape Town on the Nourishing Space Project, which is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

Sheffield–Manchester

The Sheffield–Manchester Local Platform strategy for external funding to ensure adequate internal research capacity comprises three different elements.

First, there are bids for funding to address the underpinning intellectual questions around the core themes of urban governance and urban knowledge. Two successful bids have been accepted by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC): the Jam and Justice: Co-producing Urban Governance for Social Innovation and the Whose Knowledge Matters: Competing and Contesting Knowledge Claims for 21st Century Cities projects. These projects are primarily externally-funded and matched by Mistra Urban Futures.

Second, there is funding to add value to Mistra Urban Futures projects within the socio-spatial and socio-ecological themes. A cash contribution has been received from the Social Responsibility Research Stimulation Fund at the University of Manchester to support a community exchange to South Africa, and Sheffield Food Futures has provided additional funding to support a networking event for the Sheffield Food Network. In these cases, the majority funding is from Mistra Urban Futures.

The third element of the funding strategy is to build new comparative projects with partners in the international network. In 2018 the Platform successfully bid for funds from the British Academy’s Sustainable Development Programme for the first joint international collaboration project between Mistra Urban Futures LIP partners - Sheffield University’s Urban Institute, African Centre for Cities (Cape Town, South Africa) and the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (Kisumu, Kenya). Whose Heritage Matters? Mapping, Making and Mobilising Heritage Values for Sustainable Livelihoods in Cape Town and Kisumu is a coproduced action research project which

brings stakeholders together to map heritage values and develop creative interventions for sustainable development.

Skåne

The Skåne Platform was established late 2016 with activities and projects starting early 2017.

The first tranche of funding was cash contributions from Malmö University, Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Region Skåne and the City of Malmö. This provided the startup funds for the Skåne Platform and its first wave of projects. Non-cash in-kind contributions from supporting partners also played a role in the early projects. These covered the time spent on writing, translating, editing and publishing the outputs as well as costs for seminars/workshops and access to special databases.

In 2018 and 2019, Lund University added to the annual cash contributions of the other host institutions, took over to host SKLIP and covered a part of the cost pertaining to SKLIP director's time.

The universities in Lund and Malmö, SLU, the City of Malmö and Region Skåne form the Platform consortium. The funding mentioned above is part of those agreements. During 2018 and 2019, additional in-kind support has been provided by other partners in the local projects, such as a local civil society organisation for a residential area in Malmö. Future Commission
The decision to separate more clearly the Gothenburg Platform from the Centre secretariat has to some extent led to separate but sometimes overlapping trajectories, starting in practice from the Kisumu conference in November 2017.

The two universities agreed to co-host the post-2019 Centre and the Gothenburg Platform, and in December 2018 the final decision was made to locate the Gothenburg Platform to GMV the Gothenburg Center for Sustainability, a joint centre for the two universities and a basis for much of the interdisciplinary work within the universities in sustainability related research areas.

A 'Future Commission' was created for the future of the Centre in September 2018. Two researchers from each of the universities were asked by the rectors to consider 2-4 possible scenarios for the Centre post-2019.

The final report was delivered to the rectors 31 January, suggesting an organisational solution like today's – however with a limited funding from the universities and hence dependent on external funders, if today's level of resources are to be maintained. It has been ensured that the suggested centre organisation will be eligible for potential Sida funding, i.e. there is a research capacity which can be allocated to research and capacity building in the Global South.

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