

Mistra Urban Futures

Minutes Board Meeting No. 17

11-12 June, 2015
Mistra Urban Futures, Läraregatan 3, Göteborg

Participants:

Thomas Rosswall (Chair)
Elizabeth Deakin (through Skype)
Thomas Elmqvist (except for Item 7)
Colin Fudge
Katarina Pelin
Hans Ristner
Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez (through Skype 12 June only)

Ex officio:

Johan Edman, Mistra (11 June only)
Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström, Sida (11 June only)
Helena Söderbäck, Gothenburg Consortium
Jörgen Sjöberg, Chalmers
David Simon, Director

Invited participants:

Beth Perry, GMLIP
Mikael Cullberg, GOLIP
Stephen Agong, KLIP
Zarina Patel, CTLIP
Stephan Barthel, Stockholm Resilience Centre (item 5)
Johan Colding, Beijer institute (item 5)
Meta Berghauser Pont, Chalmers (item 5)
Magnus Johansson, Malmö University (item 6)
Cecilia Örnroth, Secretariat
Jan Riise, Secretariat
Ulrica Gustafsson, Secretariat

Notice of absence:

Klas Groth

1. **Opening of the meeting**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, in particular the LIP Directors Beth Perry, Stephen Agong and Zarina Patel, Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström from Sida and Helena Söderbäck, chairman of the Gothenburg Consortium council, who all participated for the first time. All participants introduced themselves briefly.

2. **Approval of the agenda**

The Chair invited the members to review the agenda and suggest any additional issues that might be discussed under #8, Any other business. The Centre's representation at the Almedalen political week and on the recruited Deputy Scientific Director were added.

Decision:

To adopt the agenda with two additions to #8 concerning the Almedalen political week and the recruited Deputy Scientific Director.

3. **Outcome of the mid-term review**

David Simon and LIP Directors

At the Mistra Board meeting on 2 June 2015, the Board of Directors decided to defer the decision concerning the Phase 2 funding of Mistra Urban Futures to its September meeting, as they wanted longer to consider the extensive materials and to consult further.

Pending this decision, interim funding for 2016 was approved as an extension to Phase 1, allowing Mistra Urban Futures to continue planning for Phase 2.

For Sida, the main processes to undertake in order to reach a decision on contribution to Phase 2 are:

1. Initial Assessment: (June-Sept)
2. (Internal) Decision for In-Depth Assessment: (Sept)
3. In-Depth Assessment: (Sept-Oct)
4. Decision on Contribution: Oct/Nov
5. Signing of Agreement: Nov/Dec
6. (First payment: Jan 2016)

The meeting discussed the consequences of the delayed Mistra funding decision as well as the recommendations from the panel individually:

- a) The panel recommends retaining a substantial and explicit commitment to making co-production / co-creation a central element of Mistra Urban Futures as the most significant way in which the programme can continue to make a substantial and globally relevant contribution to the discourse and practice of sustainable urban development.
- b) The panel recommends that the LIPs remain at the heart of providing practical examples of how co-production and co-creation are put into practice. The panel recommends that the relationship between LIPs in the development of these collaborative ideas fully embraces the principles of co-creation, including co-design that genuinely involves local partners.
- c) The panel advises caution in relation to the creation of new international LIPs. Given the length of time taken to establish a common vision and approach, and the inevitable constraints, particularly in relation to the capacities of the secretariat to engage with LIPs, we recommend prioritising the sub-objective of strengthening collaboration between existing LIPs over the suggestion to create more new LIPs.
- d) The panel recommends that the MUF secretariat should engage with global agendas by prioritising translating, scaling up, and making LIP and cross-LIP findings relevant and applicable (including, but not limited to, the Sustainable Development Goals, a post-2015 climate agenda, and Habitat III) – rather than applying priorities from global processes to the work that is being done locally in the LIPs.
- e) The panel strongly recommends the appointment of one further senior staff member in the MUF secretariat with substantive responsibilities as Deputy Director for Engagement.
- f) The panel recommends that as Board members are gradually replaced over time, that issues of diversity and global representation are taken seriously – a commitment to global partnerships in the work of MUF should be reflected in its highest decision-making body.

- g) The panel recommends that further attention is paid to the budgeting and strategic planning for raising additional counterpart funds for the 2016-19 period, and that fundraising for the post-2019 period is treated as a matter of significant priority by the secretariat and the Board.

Decisions:

To note with pleasure the positive report from the Mid-term Review and that written comments had been submitted to Mistra on behalf of the Board;

To note the recommendations and agree in principle that most are in line with the Strategic Plan 2016-2019 but that, since engagement formed key parts of the work of the Director and Secretariat, LIP Directors and individual project leaders as set out in the Strategic Plan, appointment of the additional post suggested in Recommendation (e) would not be pursued. However, further strengthening of the Secretariat would be considered in the light of Mistra's funding decision and its impact on the scale and diversity of Phase 2 partnerships within Sweden and abroad;

To note with concern the decision by Mistra to defer its funding decision until its next Board meeting on 15-16 September, with the consequence that, even if a positive decision is made for funding of 2017-2019, the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2016-2019 will be delayed;

To note with satisfaction the positive reaction of Sida to possible additional funding for the duration of the Strategic Plan and even a possible Phase 3;

To invite the Consortium Council to consider options for post -2016 funding, should Mistra not continue its funding, as well as for the post-2019 period; and

To note that there was considerable support for phase 2 among LIPs, but that adequate co-funding from partners at all LIPs might become more difficult due to the delayed funding.

4. Alternative MUF governance models for Phase 2

The Director introduced Document MUF 17.5 outlining 4 conceptually distinct alternative governance scenarios as a prelude to discussion. This issue has become a priority in view of the anomalies with our current governance structure and procedures. The Strategic Plan includes a commitment to rethink current governance and procedural arrangements for more streamlined and effective operations in Phase 2. Taking on any additional partners will underscore the importance of addressing these issues.

The Chair suggested adopting the modifications to the status quo scenario set out in the document, proposing a Board functioning as today but with LIP Directors participating in the Board meetings. The Gothenburg consortium continues to have one ex-officio representative, which should be the chair of the Consortium Council.

The Board also had a general discussion about its composition, since members have only been appointed until the end of 2015. Thus, Chalmers must appoint a Board from 2016 (or extend the appointment of the current membership to enable it to oversee the implications of the delayed Mistra funding decision) and guiding principles for membership were discussed.

The Board members suggested the creation of a high level advisory panel to focus on the long term evolution and funding of the centre. Similarly the idea of an international annual conference as provided for in the Strategic Plan, could prove a very useful tool for bringing together researchers from different institutions in each LIP and beyond, thereby strengthening the sense of partnership. These were seen as positive suggestions to be explored further.

Decision:

To provide feedback on the alternative governance models, to request the Chair and Director to continue consultations and note that a formal decision will be taken by the host

in the light of the Mistra and Sida funding decisions;
 To note that a general profile of board members from 2016 need to be agreed on; and
 To advise the Secretariat to explore further the ideas of an international advisory panel and an international conference.

5. Presentation of Stockholm node feasibility study

In 2014, the need to expand in Sweden beyond Gothenburg was identified in order to build a strong and relevant national arena for co-creative urban knowledge production. Hence a feasibility study was commissioned in 2014 from a partnership in Stockholm consisting of the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, collaborating with the City and County of Stockholm. The feasibility study contains proposals for the set-up of a Stockholm partnership, together with a number of pilot projects, and will be the basis for further discussions. (Strategic Plan 2016-2019, page 33)

6. Presentation of Skåne feasibility study

A similar process as in Stockholm was initiated in Skåne in late 2014. This builds on an established partnership in Skåne between its universities, main cities, regional elected body 'Region Skåne', and several business partners. (Strategic Plan 2016-2019, page 33)

7. Mistra Urban Futures in Sweden

If the current feasibility studies in Stockholm and Skåne are successful, these will be founded on the same principle of co-financing as the others, with the possibility of also contributing to the Centre's overall budget. The precise architecture will be finalised during 2015, but should remain city-region-based for consistency with the LIPs in other countries. With an expanded group of partners in Sweden, great care will be needed to ensure overall balance and coherence among existing and new partners, as well as the Centre's ability to assimilate and co-ordinate activities in line with its strategic objectives and financial resources, even with the associated planned co-funding. This expansion in Sweden is expected greatly to enhance the Centre's voice and visibility nationally, not least in face of national policy-makers and other nationwide actors, both public and private. This could be favourable in many respects, project financing being one, but essentially also the possibility of making a difference to the urban populations. (Strategic Plan 2016-2019, page 33-34)

The Board discussed both proposals in principle. The ToR for the Stockholm study from 2014 are attached for information.

Decisions:

To advise that the discussions with Skåne on becoming a LIP continue and are elaborated further, should the Mistra Board decide on continued funding after 2016;

To advise that the collaboration with the Stockholm team is continued on a project basis with no institutional structure for the time being, with support to the build-up of a co-creation environment between the research institutions and relevant partners in Stockholm.

8. Any other business

Mistra Urban Futures will be present during the Almedalen political week this year and is responsible for three sessions:

- Urban Goals and New Roles for City Leaders, moderated by David Simon, on the Urban Sustainable Development Goals and Future Earth, in collaboration with "The Mayors' Initiative"
- Bygga rättvisa och tillgängliga städer. Vad krävs? ("Building fair and accessible cities. What is needed?"), moderated by Mikael Cullberg
- Storstädernas agenda för hållbar stadsutveckling ("City agendas for sustainable urban development"), organised by Kerstin Elias, SP

In addition, David Simon will be a panelist in the closing session of the mayors' urban stream on Sunday 29th, alongside Ilmar Reepalu.

Deputy Scientific Director Henrietta Palmer has been appointed and will start on 1st July. Henrietta will provide academic leadership in Sweden, starting within GOLIP but also potentially with Stockholm and Skåne. This does not mean that another hierarchical level is introduced in the secretariat, as her role will be more focused on the academic work in Sweden.

9. Next meetings

- #18: 1-2 October – preliminary physical meeting in Gothenburg to discuss draft of amendment to the Strategic Plan and the Outline COP 2016. Discussion on final governance structure for submission to Chalmers for approval.
 The morning of the 1 October may include study visits to GOLIP projects. On the afternoon of the 2 October there will tentatively be a meeting together with the Gothenburg Consortium Council.
- #19: 23 November – phone meeting (4-6pm, CET) to approve COP 2016

Decision:

To decide that meeting #18 will be a physical meeting, including study visits to GOLIP projects and meeting with the Gothenburg Consortium Council, unless Mistra decides not to continue funding after 2016. If so the meeting will be a phone meeting instead.

10. Closed meeting with Director

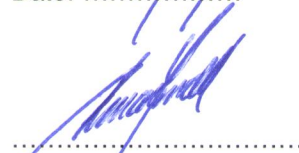
The Board had a closed meeting with the Director to discuss the meeting, the documentation provided and possible ways of making futures meetings exciting and productive.

Date: 17/08/15



David Simon
 Director

Date: 25/8/2015



Thomas Rosswall
 Chairman