

ANNUAL
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Ecosystem services project highlights values of urban greenery. Page 36.



Realising Just Cities is an ambitious enterprise. To undertake such an initiative takes courage, an open mind and a strong sense of necessity.

The 'just city' is a dimension of the context of sustainability, and - over time - sustainable urban development, promoting the transformation to more sustainable cities. In a way, the 'just city' adds the social and societal aspects of urban development to the economic and technological aspects, which, often labelled as growth and innovation, have been seen by many as the main fields in which to work out the paths to sustainability.

These are the ideas of participation, of knowledge beyond the academic, of a right for everyone to access and use the city space, of democracy and equity.

For the past 50 years, this has increasingly come to be acknowledged as crucial for success in sustainability transformation processes, including the environmental sustainability and the global efforts to drastically improve our work against climate change. It is expressed in the New Urban Agenda, adopted in October 2016 at Habitat III in Quito, as 'Leave no one behind' and

a broad acceptance of the thoughts behind the 'Right to the City' discourse, first presented by the French philosopher Henri Lefebvre in the 1960's.

Mistra Urban Futures is building a methodology for addressing the sustainability challenges based on these ideas through various forms of co-creation and co-production of knowledge with a transdisciplinary approach. Through local research and knowledge platforms, researchers, practitioners, citizens, NGOs and other stakeholders identify, initiate, create and implement solutions, strategies and policies, based on local projects.

Drawing on experience and knowledge from the local platforms, the Centre is able to compare and extract relevant knowledge from the local projects and - more importantly - about the processes that lead to actual impact: positive changes and mutual learning. Thus, Mistra Urban Futures represents something that is bigger than the sum of the parts.



Anna Johansson, Chair of the Board

As a politician, both as a local politician in Gothenburg and as a Minister of the Swedish Government, creating sustainability and especially sustainable cities has been at the heart of what I have been doing. As a minister I travelled a lot to different cities in the world and I could see there is a great need for sustainability, not least within the transport sector. I think my chairing the board is an opportunity to keep that work going and to be able to share my experience and make a difference. This project is challenging but also very exciting, so I was happy to be asked and almost immediately said 'Yes, please. I would like this!'.

The next two years will of course be very important. I am convinced that the connection to the SDGs and the strong global focus on the issues like sustainability and cities is a great opportunity. The board has a great responsibility but also an opportunity to make this the basis for the continuation of Mistra Urban Futures,

maybe with new funders, maybe with a different organisation, but with the work that has been done to continuously keep us moving forward. I am hopeful, a lot of efforts have already been made and there are a lot of things pointing in the right direction, so I am confident there will be a continuation in some way, but it is of course also very important that each member of the board also is a part of that.

I think that a just city is a city that provides equal opportunities for good lives for everyone in the city, it is a city that doesn't exploit natural resources more than necessary. You need to have social equality and you also need to make sure that everything you do is within the framework of the nature. I think that Mistra Urban Futures is addressing all of these and is also doing it in a way where practice meets research, where the very hands-on, everyday work is connected to the future issues and I think that is what is so exciting about Mistra Urban Futures.



Photo: John Magnusson/CFCC.se

David Simon, Director

2017 was an important year within Mistra Urban Futures' second phase of funding from Mistra, Sida and the Gothenburg Consortium.

First of three key highlights was the launch in earnest of our comparative research projects. Various combinations of our platforms are working together to compare the processes and lessons and experiences of undertaking locally appropriate and locally defined projects in thematic areas like urban transport and mobility, food supply and security, participatory cities and so forth.

Secondly, we expanded our footprint, by means of a node in Stockholm, the Swedish capital city, which gives us a presence in all three of Sweden's major urban regions. We also established a more limited partnership in India, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goal and New Urban Agenda project. Our social enterprise partner Nagrika is working in Shimla, in the foothill of the Himalayas with the local municipal council in a co-productive partnership that feeds into the global project.

And then thirdly, we have established an equivalent partnership in Buenos Aires with the University and Centre of Legal and Economic Studies, linked through the Observatory on Latin America of the New School in New York. This means that we have research activities in all the major continental regions apart from North America in fulfilment of our vision and within the limits of our funding for Phase 2.

Looking forward to 2018, we welcome four new members of our Board. They will integrate very quickly and support us in the crucial task of formulating a funding strategy for the period after Mistra funding ends, on 31 December 2019, and also for the development of the strategic plan for the third phase to work in parallel with the funding strategy.

2018 is also a critical year in terms of consolidating the work and starting to distil lessons from our portfolio of comparative projects and very much 'making waves', in terms of establishing and strengthening Mistra Urban Futures' reputation locally, nationally and, equally important for funding and for phase three prospects, globally.

Comparative projects

The comparative projects 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.

As such, they are also the basis for Mistra Urban Futures' external recognition as reflected in publications, talks and presentations at international conferences and proposals for collaboration. However, 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'.



See the digital version of the
Annual Report with interviews.
annualreport2017.mistraurbanfutures.org



New Orleans. Photo: Scott Webb on unsplash.org

REALISING JUST CITIES

Across the world, cities face a range of complex and interrelated challenges. It is therefore important to think about what just cities should look like, what practical steps we can take towards trying to achieve them, and what the impact of these steps are.

The purpose of this over-arching research imperative is to draw across different projects within the Mistra Urban Futures Local Interaction Platforms to reflect on the role of co-production, collaboration and comparison in an effort to achieve more just cities.

Key research questions concern just cities in different urban contexts, key role-players that can enable - or inhibit - the realisation of just cities in different contexts, and how comparative projects within Mistra Urban Futures can contribute to realising just cities.

The first phase of this project was a baseline study looking at terminology and definitions, relevant literature on academic works as well as on policy issues. Substantive issues related to social justice and possible strategies for achieving just cities were discussed and presented in the Mistra Urban Futures book published in 2016 'Co-Production in Action: Towards Realising Just Cities'.

During 2017, the first part of the second phase of the research tried to fill in gaps that were identified, including:

- Who are the key role-players in the local transformation towards just cities?
- What are the key initiatives being undertaken locally that explicitly focus on increasing urban fairness/equity/justice?
- What are the impacts and how can they be measured?
- How can these initiatives be supported to enhance their impact?

The research will work towards three workshops in 2018 where all platforms will gather to reflect on realising just cities.

The output of this project will not only be academic, but first and foremost will result in user-friendly summaries and policy recommendations, including the evidence, findings and reflections on how to 'realise a just city'. It will be about presenting impact and impact stories of various strategies and interventions to support a transition towards more accessible, fair and green cities.

REALISING JUST CITIES

LEAD PLATFORM: Cape Town
Participating platforms: All
Project period: 2017-2019
SDG: 11



Buenos Aires. Photo: Jess Kraft/Shutterstock

IMPLEMENTING THE SDG AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Cities' interpretation, implementation and engagement with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals form the basis for this Mistra Urban Futures project. It is partly based on the outcome of the 2015 pilot project where the then suggested targets and indicators for SDG 11—the Urban Goal—were tested against the realities in a number of cities.

The present project started in 2017 and will go on until 2019. The aim is to actively work with cities to support understanding and implementation, and to facilitate cross-city learning and interaction between the seven participating cities. The findings, conclusions and results will be used as feedback to ongoing UN revisions of targets and indicators.

The range of issues encompassed by the New Urban Agenda, SDG11 and the urban elements of

other Goals makes this comparative Mistra Urban Futures project comprehensive and provides a holistic perspective on urban sustainability. It also reflects Mistra Urban Futures' approach of co-producing knowledge with different stakeholders and working from the local to the global. In this case with the global initially informing the local while the co-production approach with the respective municipalities in turn feeds back to inform the global.

Cities participating in the comparative project are Cape Town (South Africa), Sheffield (UK), Gothenburg and Malmö (Sweden), Kisumu (Kenya) and new partners in Shimla/Dehradun (India) and Buenos Aires (Argentina). An in-depth analysis and research will be carried out in each city, in parallel with a comparative component, with all cities involved in learning and interaction.

IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Participating platforms: All
Project period: 2017-2019
SDG: All

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





The SDG project started in 2017 and will run at least until the end of 2019.

“It is a little early to talk about concrete findings”, Sandra Valencia says. She is the lead researcher for the whole project and is also locally collaborating with the City of Gothenburg.

“But we have found a few things”, Sandra Valencia continues, “and we have published those in a collection called City Briefs”.

The City Briefs include short summaries of what each of the participating cities is doing regarding the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. The project team of people from all participating cities has also looked at some of the ‘Tier 1’ indicators. Those are indicators where data should be readily available, at least on a national level. However, it turns out that not all cities can find such data on the local level.

See the interview with Sandra Valencia at annualreport2017.mistraurbanfutures.org

The City Briefs can be downloaded from www.mistraurbanfutures.org



CULTURAL HERITAGE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Valuing cultural heritage and people’s memories and meanings of place are essential to the development of sustainable cities and communities. The Cultural Heritage and the Just City project is a baseline study exploring the role and value of cultural heritage in the context of Realising Just Cities.

Culture has been increasingly prominent on global urban agendas - being recognised within the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, Agenda 2063 and through Agenda 21. Culture is often regarded as the fourth pillar of sustainability. Global instruments such as UNESCO Conventions have resulted in a growing recognition for the importance of cultural policy, and since Habitat III, this has increasingly coalesced around the urban. With this comes a range of risks and opportunities.

The purpose of this project is to explore how cultural heritage can better contribute to realising more just cities in different contexts. The project started in 2017 and the first year focused on understanding the role of festivals in cultural heritage, as well as collaborative writing and presenting the ideas at a major conference.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

LEAD PLATFORM: Cape Town
Participating platforms: Sheffield-
Manchester, Gothenburg, Kisumu
Project period: 1 March 2017-31 Dec 2019
SDG: 11, 12



Photo : Annie Spratt at Unsplash.com

FOOD VALUE CHAIN

The Food Value Chain is a cross-cutting thematic project that covers several different aspects of the food value chain: production, distribution/ marketplace systems, processing, packaging, product design and development, and consumption. It involves understanding the existing patterns of various food items for comparison and identifying practical opportunities for actions to ensure urban food security and sustainability. It will provide policy makers at local and regional levels with ideas, experiences and evidence regarding local food production, security and distribution.

Initially, the project consists of two clusters of activities, one focused on Kisumu, with involvement from Kisumu, Cape Town and Gothenburg, and one involving Sheffield, Manchester and Gothenburg.

The first cluster of activities has its focal point in Kisumu, with a focus on urban food security, value chain, nutrition and systems, including the Consuming Urban Poverty and Nourishing Spaces projects, as well as the Urban-Rural Gothenburg and the Craft-Kisumu frugal innovation hub.

In the second cluster of activities, the platforms in Sheffield-Manchester and Gothenburg have developed a process of mutual exchange to support food projects on the ground in their cities. Members of the Action Research Teams (ARTs) in each of the three participating cities (Sheffield, Manchester and Gothenburg) engage in learning exchange activities and will contribute to the support of the development of social infrastructures.

FOOD VALUE CHAIN

LEAD PLATFORMS: Kisumu and Sheffield-Manchester

Participating platforms: Cape Town, Gothenburg

Project period: 2017-2019

SDG: 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14



Photo: John Towner on Unsplash

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Policy responses to complex urban sustainability challenges require knowledge from many different areas to be appropriately responsive. This forms a starting point for the Knowledge Transfer Programme in Cape Town, where researchers are 'embedded' in the policy processes in relevant departments of the city. An additional value of the South African project is joint writing, where city officials contribute to the academic output as co-authors of scientific articles.

In Southern Sweden, the three universities in Lund, Malmö and Alnarp have joined forces to find new ways to support municipal strategic challenges connected to sustainable development, primarily building and planning activities.

The purpose of this collaborative project is to learn from experiences of the programmes in Sweden and South Africa in order to implement more innovative ways of working in the two countries. The focus will be on comparing different kinds of partnerships in order to strengthen collaborative work between the state, universities and society, and to try those methods in practice in Sweden and South Africa.

The research has three priorities:

- Exploring different state-university-society partnerships and collaborations, with a specific focus on how they function as brokering communities
- Deepening theoretical understanding of conditions for co-production and collaborative and comparative research in different national and institutional contexts
- Developing methods for successful transfer and implementation of good practices in university-society collaboration between two different national contexts, in this case Sweden and South Africa.

The both research teams, in Cape Town and in Skåne, will visit each other, arrange workshops, and interview municipal officials and relevant researchers at the African Centre for Cities and at the Swedish universities.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

LEAD PLATFORM: Cape Town
Participating platform: Skåne
Project period: 2017-2019
SDG: 11



MIGRATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

This project addresses migration and urbanisation from an integrated perspective. As migration studies and urban studies are generally treated as two separate discourses, Mistra Urban Futures has the opportunity to contribute to a new research direction where aspects of sustainable spatial transformation and urban governance, as well as constraints of urban-rural development, are seen through the lens of migration.

Migrants, internal and international, move to urban areas and to smaller municipalities where they bring diversity, but also connect localities within and across state borders. A key message from the World Migration Report 2015 is that urban partnerships among, for instance, migrant groups, local governments, civil society and the private sector are central to addressing the challenges and optimizing the opportunities presented by the growing trend of migration towards cities.

This comparative project focuses on how cities receive and prepare for in-migrants, including persons of varying legal statuses, and the effects of this on local and regional development. The comparative studies aim to understand the challenges and opportunities that migration presents in the face of sustainable urban development.

Mistra Urban Futures Annual International Conference in Kisumu 2017 provided an opportunity for the team members to discuss ideas relevant to the project, with focus on translocality as

both an effect of migration and a precondition for planning.

Questions that present opportunities for collaborative research include:

- How can cities plan for and adapt to mobility and fluidity?
- How is temporality perceived on different scales?
- How do new migrants access urban resources and navigate an (trans-local) inclusion?
- How do migrants' agency shape and contribute to cities?
- How to combat unequal access to the city - in terms of citizenship, border control and ethnic/racial discrimination?

What does the interconnection between the urban and rural look like in terms of migration? Who moves to the urban areas and why?

MIGRATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

LEAD PLATFORMS: Gothenburg and Skåne
 Participating platforms: All
 Project period: 2017-2019
 SDG: 11



NEIGHBOURHOOD TRANSFORMATION AND HOUSING JUSTICE

The Neighbourhood Transformations project focuses on questions of socio-spatial urban justice and the inclusive and democratic potential of housing innovations. Delegates linked to Mistra Urban Futures' platforms in Sheffield-Manchester, Skåne and Gothenburg will be drawing together their experiences of housing initiatives that seek to combat the exclusionary effects of gentrification. Exchanges and site visits will focus on initiatives that combine aims of tenant empowerment, affordability, scalability and accessibility to city centres.

The three platform teams will engage in a series of learning exchanges and reflective dialogues across the three cities. The two Swedish delegations will visit Manchester together for

learning exchange and the Manchester delegation will visit both Malmo and Gothenburg on a joint learning exchange with both of the other delegations. The three day exchanges will include contextual overview, visits to case studies of different housing models, and one final day of reflection. This project will create space for building relationships, sharing experiences, and engaging in joint reflection in pursuit of comparative lessons on housing justice amidst gentrification and neighbourhood change. The work will be supported by literature review in support of contextual knowledge of varying housing regimes.

NEIGHBOURHOOD TRANSFORMATION

LEAD PLATFORM: Sheffield-Manchester
Participating platforms: Gothenburg, Skåne
Project period: 2017-2019
SDG: 11



Photo: Alice Pasqual on unsplash.org

PARTICIPATORY CITIES

One of Mistra Urban Futures strategic goals is to improve relationships and processes amongst governance stakeholders in order to ensure decision-making and urban management practices that will help achieve just cities.

This ambition is reflected within both the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. Goals 11 and 16 commit to

- developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (16)
- ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (16)
- enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries (11)

This project will seek to draw on existing and new knowledge across the Local Interaction Platforms to identify lessons and insights about the realisation of the three SDG goals by asking the following questions:

Q1: How can cities develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions? Our contribution will reflect on the local interaction platform as a governance innovation and space for cross-institutional ways of working.

Q2: How can cities ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making? Our contribution will be to review existing debates, identify secondary cases and undertake interviews with senior decision-makers to understand elite perspectives on this issue.

Q3: What needs to be done to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management at the urban level? Our contribution will be to review lessons from existing projects in participation in spatial planning and to identify good practice methods and processes.

PARTICIPATORY CITIES

LEAD PLATFORM: Sheffield-Manchester
Participating platforms: Gothenburg, Skåne, Cape Town and Kisumu
Project period: Nov 2017 - Dec 2019
SDG: 11, 16

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Solid waste management is a global concern and local efforts need to be informed by the global desires. With the rapidly increasing urban population and varying consumption patterns, waste predicaments become more complex and will continue to draw increased attention as we struggle to ensure a clean and healthy environment. The current solid waste management system, therefore requires review and in some cases overhaul in order to develop more sustainable systems.

This project is therefore based on a collaboration between the Mistra Urban Futures platforms in Kisumu and Skåne. The Vera Park 'Sustainability Hub' in Skåne is a testbed environment for innovative solutions within municipal infrastructure systems that can be considered for further development and sharing amongst other municipalities. The project focuses on ways of reducing waste, by reclassifying waste as a valuable resource for income generation. It uses a co-production approach and brings on board the practitioners, industrialists, academics and other critical stakeholders to participate in the development of more sustainable solid waste management systems.

The current research activities are therefore designed to contribute towards effective and sustainable waste resource management systems and networking. Activities include the formulation of frameworks for developing mechanisms for effective and sustainable waste resource management systems and long term collaboration, and creating a start-up platform and a resource centre for new companies, universities and other organisations.

The specific activities are the following:

- a. Overview of concepts and economic potential of different solid waste management technologies and systems.
- b. Design and demonstration of different waste management technologies (considering inexpensive, and easy-to-establish technologies) that are salient for Kisumu, and ultimately developing a framework for establishment of a large scale waste management system.
- c. Strengthening relationships and collaborations amongst the waste actors as well as the stakeholders in the waste management sector to facilitate formalization of operations and relationships.

The project is relevant to the achievement of the SDGs 11 and 6 in response to impacts of increased generation and accumulation of solid waste in the Cities and effects on water and sanitation situation.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

LEAD PLATFORMS: Kisumu and Skåne
Project period: 2017-2019
SDG: 6, 11

Kisumu stories

Based on field visits during the Annual Conference



Kachok Dump, Kisumu. Photo: Barry Ness

Turning solid waste into societal development

The Kachok dumpsite has become a nightmare in Kisumu City. What used to be a quarry depression outside the city that was to be filled up with some waste materials in the 1970s, is now a central city challenge, reflecting the limited capacity to sort, reuse and recycle solid waste, and is now more than full but continuously growing.

“The management of solid waste in the City is disjointed”, says Michael Oloko at KLIP, Kisumu Local Interaction Platform. “There is no smooth connection between the actors. We have identified some gaps where we could contribute, given the valuable resources of academia and practitioners coming together for a solution”.

The solid waste value chain offers several options for interventions; at the source level, during production and at the actual dump site, as well as between these levels. At the same time the issues cut across social, health and environmental areas; many people work as ‘waste actors’, e.g. as waste pickers at the site. The transdisciplinary research team looks at best practices, considering the weak links in the chain, inefficient waste collection, marketing of recycled products and solutions for organic waste. Opportunities to strengthen food security by considering unnecessary losses in retail and consumption are studied. Reducing food waste improves food security and reduces solid waste in one go.

Strengthening the links with the waste actors may generate synergy effects. Accepting the waste workers and engaging with them may be the basis for waste recycling centres.

“It involves a process of re-thinking and review of existing institutional and legal framework for integration of waste pickers to improve their livelihood conditions”, Michael Oloko explains.

But as the waste is being continuously produced this is not a long-term solution. The project is looking at ‘What needs to be done?’ in order to get as little waste as possible to the dumpsite. Alternative management form have been considered, Michael Oloko continues

“Currently we are working together with the company Vera Park from Malmö, and the Skåne Local Interaction Platform in Sweden. We realise that there are quite a number of technologies that can be considered for the management of waste. From that perspective we look at waste as a resource rather than as waste, and again, we try to focus on the management before the waste reaches the dumpsite, the landfill. So our focus is to utilise the waste before it gets into the dumpsite or the landfill. Ultimately then, we will have less volume of waste to manage at the end point”.

See the interview with Michael Oloko at annualreport2017.mistraurbanfutures.org



Kisumu. Photo: Jan Riise

Creating a new railway station community

The once strategic location of Kisumu by Lake Victoria, connected to neighbouring countries by rail and sea may be revitalised by the new railway being built from Mombasa to Uganda. Plans are being drawn up and funding has been secured through Chinese investments. The first part, from Mombasa to Nairobi, has already opened and Kisumu will be the major station along the next part of the railway construction. The port facilities in Kisumu will be rebuilt and connected to the railway as part of a modern logistic system that will eventually cover a large part of East Africa.

“The property that belongs to the railway is land that was part and parcel of the old railway system, established in Kisumu in 1901, and that has been running for almost one century. Then the railway became moribund, because the knowledge was old, the tracks were narrow, and the maximum speed was about 6 km/hour. It would take like forever, maybe two days, to travel from Kisumu to Nairobi. It made no economic sense for passengers or transport companies to use the train”, says George Mark Onyango, professor and senior lecturer at Maseno University in Kisumu.

The Gothenburg based research project Urban Station Communities has been successful in gathering knowledge about the complexities in planning and creating conditions for the development of station communities. The ambitious plans for Kisumu can use the same focus for revitalizing and supporting these processes to stimulate the building of an efficient transport region, including the creation of a new station with a direct impact on the community in the new location.

“We can use this special capacity to work with the County Government, mobilising the citizens, in terms of getting information and developing the urban station communities. For all major projects in this country now there is now a requirement to have public participation. That then becomes a role, to facilitate this public participation, to create a positive engagement to ensure that we are able to build into these mega-projects. This is going to change the economy of this area, and that I think is a very critical role,” concludes George Mark Onyango.

See the interview with George Mark Onyango at annualreport2017.mistraurbanfutures.org

TRANSPORTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Transportation and Urban Development comparative project has its basis partly in the Urban Station Communities project, a long-term project within the Gothenburg Platform, and partly in the work concerning Transit Oriented Development at the Cape Town platform. Furthermore, the Kisumu platform is engaging with the Urban Station Communities project as an approach to the location and construction of a new railway station in Kisumu. The project and activities will provide policy makers and local and regional stakeholders with opportunities to initiate, research, test and implement evidence-based solutions and ideas within local contexts.

Urban Station Communities is a project that focuses on revitalizing and supporting the regular and often complex planning processes of municipalities to stimulate the building of efficient transport regions with attractive and dense station communities. This approach and methodology may be valuable also for the development of the new railway station in Kisumu, with a direct

impact on local communities as well as on the re-development of the local transport industry.

Transit Oriented Development is an investment and performance driven approach for the City of Cape Town, with several issues for further exploration. The Cape Town platform of Mistra Urban Futures has two embedded researchers working within the City of Cape Town's Transit Oriented Development programme. Although not directly related, findings will be shared across the participating Centre platforms.

TRANSPORTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

LEAD PLATFORMS: Kisumu and Gothenburg
Project period: 2017-2019
SDG: 11

URBAN PUBLIC FINANCE

Urban public finance plays a crucial role in urban transformation. The fiscal architecture of cities and the choices regarding revenue and expenditure fundamentally shape city development processes. In addition, the ways in which infrastructure is funded and financed has implications for urban access, participation, and equity.

In order to make cities more just, it is essential that the operations and logics of urban public finance systems are understood better. It is equally important that potential levers for change are identified.

This project will help those involved with public finance recognize their urban impact, not least concerning socio-spatial justice. In the longer term, the aim is to coproduce knowledge on creative, innovative, and just modes of urban public finance.

The first phase, the Urban Public Finance comparative project examines urban public finance in

Cape Town and Kisumu. What are the fiscal architectures of the cities? What are the main sources of revenue? How are different types of infrastructure and services financed? What are the key obstacles and opportunities?

In a second phase of the project, innovative ways of leveraging additional financial resources and making better use of these resources will be explored. The scope of the project may then be extended to other cities, and to include new global initiatives such as green financing.

URBAN PUBLIC FINANCE

LEAD PLATFORM: Cape Town
Participating platform: Kisumu
Project period: 2017-2019



Cape Town. Photo: Kevin Bessat at unsplash.org

Unlocking the black box of public finances

“Urban Public Finance tends to be a black box. Many urbanists don’t understand it, they see it as the job of economists; they find it complex, spreadsheets, numbers and strange legislations. What I seek to do with this programme is to open up that black box and make it very clear where the urban intersects with financial flows in the city,” says Liza Cirolia, researcher at African Centre for Cities and Mistra Urban Futures in Cape Town.

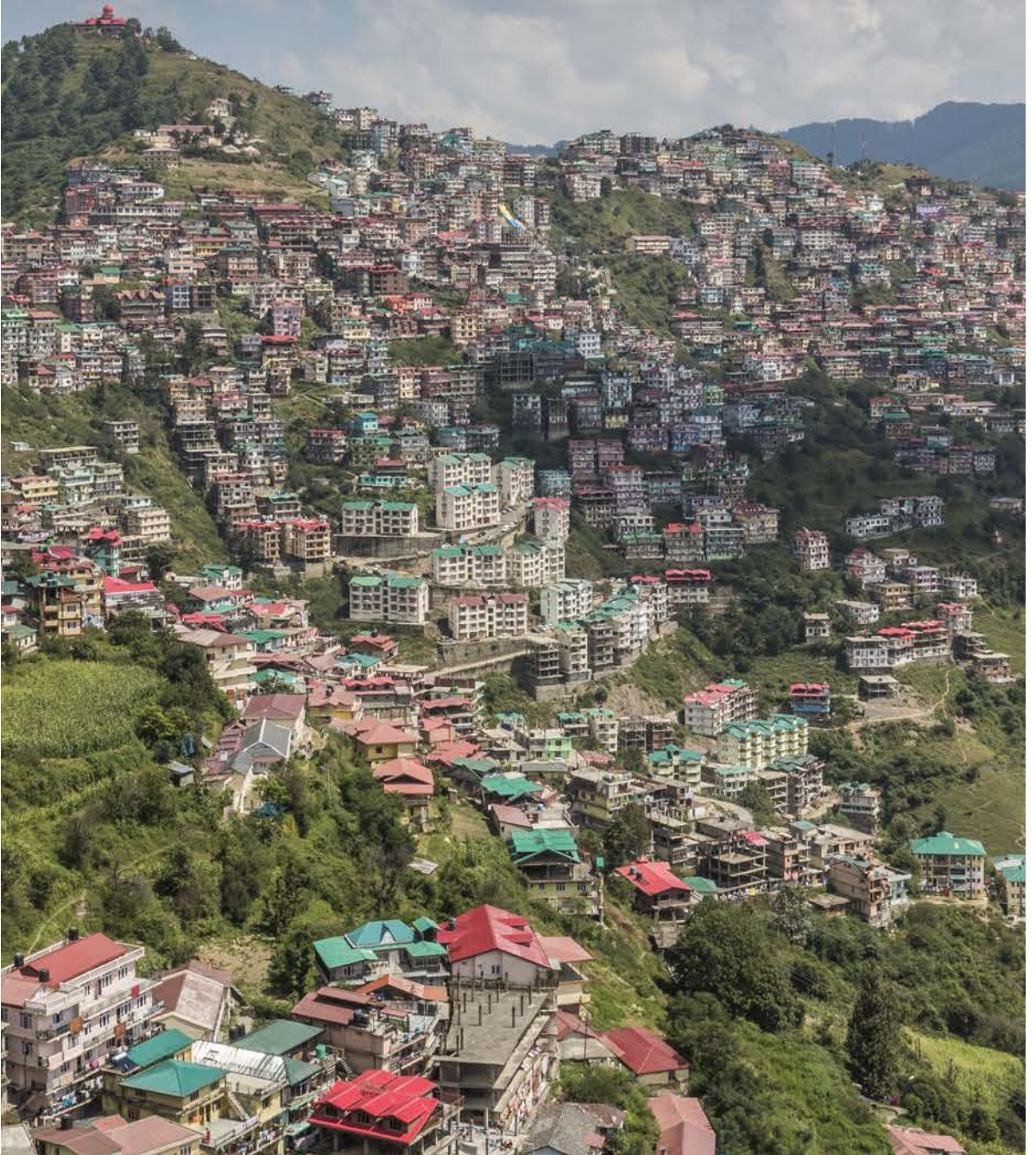
Through her research in urban public finance in Kisumu, Liza argues that urban public finance ‘configurations’ are important sites through which the development of city processes are realised, enacted and given meaning. In this case, the city refers to the city as a place and the City as an institution. Equally, the practice or method of tracing the city nexus allows for a dynamic approach to addressing challenges in

the public finance sector. Understanding the production of public finance configurations across the city assists in moving inquiry from value-based judgment of what should be to a more propositional expression of what could be with regards to city development and decentralisation.

“So when we think about Urban Public Finance, we don’t just think about how the public authorities manage public finance we also think about how the public services of the city can be financed in different ways, by different actors and at different scales. The exciting thing moving forward will be if we can actually take seriously these alternative or heterogeneous model of service delivery and the financial and material flows that accompany them.”, Liza Cirolia concludes.

See the interview with Liza Cirolia at annualreport2017.mistraurbanfutures.org

Shimla in India new partner city
in USDG project. Pages 8 and 21.



Global presence

The global network of Mistra Urban Futures expanded significantly during 2017 through two new partner agreements in India and Argentina.

In India, an agreement was signed with Nagrika - Hindi for 'Citizen' - a social enterprise focusing on locally relevant research and policy work. Based in Delhi and Dehradun, Nagrika will primarily be engaged in the Sustainable Development Goals project in collaboration with the city of Shimla, a city with 200,000 inhabitants at the foothills of the Himalayas in North Eastern India, capital of the state of Himachal Pradesh.

The Observatory on Latin America, based in Buenos Aires, is the other major new partner in the SDG project. The Observatory is a research centre within the New School, a renowned university in New York. Founded in 2006, the Observatory on Latin America works with many academic, civil society and governmental institutions in Latin America, with a focus on political reform, social inclusion and processes of urban change across the region.

UNITED NATIONS - UN HABITAT - WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN

Mistra Urban Futures took an active part in a range of presentations, meetings and sessions at the Habitat III summit in Quito in October 2016. This engagement has been strengthened during 2017, not least through the Urban SDG project about comparing perspectives and experiences from a range of cities around the world. ([link/see page](#))

In September 2017, Mistra Urban Futures was selected as one of a handful international organisations to participate in a 'High-Level Forum' at the United Nations General Assembly. The organisation of urban issues within the UN and UN Habitat has been under discussion and the New York meeting was considering the national responses to an evaluation report, where several countries also emphasised the need to strengthen the collaboration between member states and non-national entities, such as cities, regions and others.

Towards the end of 2017, the Centre planned for participation in the World Urban Forum, to take place in Kuala Lumpur in February 2018, including a 'Networking Event' on trans-disciplinary work and co-production of knowledge.



See the digital version of the
Annual Report with interviews.
annualreport2017.mistraurbanfutures.org

Gothenburg



During 2017 the Gothenburg platform was re-shaped to have a profile even that is more of an open arena for everyone determined to realise just cities which are fair, green and accessible.

The platform now offers five different thematic networks around urban food, learning about sustainable cities and regions, co-creative leadership, climate friendly vacationing and urban mobility. The networks are opportunities for actors across different organisations and fields to meet and contribute to the development of sustainable cities.

Another exciting thing that happened during 2017 was the launch of the Urban Futures Open Research School, open to both PhD students and practitioners. Co-producing knowledge in transdisciplinary research - From practice to theory was the first course that attracted more than 20 participants.

The platform welcomed three inhouse researchers. Their focus areas are the co-creation methodology, urban-rural development as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda with one of the researchers being part of the central working group on this assignment in the City of Gothenburg.

A range of different events created a meeting place throughout the year as 1500 people met around topics such as migration and urbanisation, designing out waste and Business Improve-

ment districts (BID). The highlight was the Gothenburg conference in October, where around 155 people from practice, research, politics, business and civil society gathered for a day to discuss fair, green and accessible cities.

The projects have always been the backbone of the Platform and the portfolio continued to develop during 2017 with projects around urban transitions, dialogue, integration and culture. A range of projects was completed. Culture and heritage in sustainable urban development, urban-making, local-regional planning, sustainable lifestyles, socially sustainable urban planning & development and accessibility to culture have been the project focus areas.

GOTHENBURG

STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Academia 57%, Public sector 41%.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

32, including comparative projects

STAFF Margareta Forsberg, PhD, Director; Sanna Isemo and Elma Durakovic, Co-ordinators

Cape Town



The legacy of colonial and apartheid urban planning has resulted in a socio-spatially segregated city where many people struggle with poverty, unemployment, food security and street violence. A more equitable, efficient and sustainable future is therefore essential for the City of Cape Town and all its citizens. Socio-spatial, socio-cultural and socio-ecological transformations are key drivers for academics, city officials and civil society in the move towards a more just city. Hence, a key characteristic of the Cape Town Local Interaction Platform is its focus on sharing knowledge amongst different institutional role players in order to strengthen policy-related praxis and civic engagement.

In response to the complex challenges faced by the urban majority, the CityLab programme facilitates the co-production of policy-relevant knowledge to reduce urban poverty and the ways urban poverty is experienced by diverse role players. The CityLabs bring together researchers, public officials and civil society in meetings and working groups to undertake collaborative research.

The Knowledge Transfer Programme is a signature activity of the Platform, embedding academic researchers in City of Cape Town departments, working on sustainability policies. 2017 saw researchers being embedded in the City of Cape Town in the Transport Development Au-

thority, Operations and Policy Management and in the Social Services Directorate. In parallel, city officials spend two months at the University, writing up the development and implementation of policies within their specific areas.

Ongoing in 2017 were projects focusing on food systems and food security in the global South; experiments in artful urbanisms; and exploring the role of culture and heritage, and cultural planning in sustainable and just urban development.

CAPE TOWN

STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Academia 45%, Public sector 18%, Civil society 27%, Private sector 10%.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

9, including comparative projects

STAFF Warren Smit, PhD, Director, and Rike Sitas, PhD, Researcher.

Kisumu



Kisumu in western Kenya is situated on the shores of Lake Victoria. With a population of around 500,000, Kisumu is the principal city of western Kenya and one of the fastest growing cities in the country. The city is largely the transport and business hub in the western circuit.

Environmental degradation and poverty are the two main challenges Kisumu shares with other cities with a rapid urbanization. Despite a growing economy, Kisumu still registers one of the highest poverty levels in Kenya, due to a lack of livelihood support structures. The infrastructure development and service expansion has not matched the rapid population growth. Other challenges include but are not limited to the political configuration given that Kisumu has been the bedrock of the opposition right from the time of independence - as well as migration, planning and waste.

Rural urban migration has been a major contributing factor to the population explosion in Kisumu. Young people come to the city in search of employment opportunities and social amenities. The population growth is accompanied by poor planning of infrastructural development. The development of the city has also turned its back on the immense potential of the lake-front, where port and railway activities once contributed to the City's socio-economic development.

As a growing city, Kisumu has not been able to cope with its massive solid waste handling issues. Discharges from the small industries and liquid refuse from the hospitality industry and households within the city occasionally find their way into the lake leading to eutrophication - a major contributing factor to the survival of water hyacinth.

Migration, solid waste handling and the development of new livelihood opportunities for the population as well as following the re-vitalisation resulting from a potential re-built railway connection to Nairobi form significant parts of the KLIP agenda. Thus, the Platform increased its research capacity significantly during 2017.

KISUMU

STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Academia 59%, Public sector 19%, civil society 8%, business sector 18%.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

9, including comparative projects

STAFF Stephen G Agong, PhD, Director, Alfred Otom, Co-ordinator, Michael Oloko, PhD, Deputy Director.

Sheffield - Manchester



In 2017, the Sheffield-Manchester platform established itself as the Centre's leading partner for projects concerning citizen action and deepening democracy. SMLIP has developed a broad portfolio of work including action research to enhance participatory governance; experiments in self-organising food systems and resident-led organising in deprived urban neighbourhoods and a new community-led housing partnership.

Two ESRC match-funded research partnerships gained momentum in 2017. The Action Research Cooperative (established in 2016 under 'Jam & Justice') selected and launched a number of projects associated with enhancing democracy within the new Greater Manchester context of city-regional devolution. Fieldwork also began around dissensus and citizen protest in spatial planning, through the 'Whose Knowledge Matters' project.

Numerous food initiatives exist in Sheffield and Manchester, but there is a lack of understanding about how to harmonise and capitalise on the energy each project is drawing on. In 2017, a partnership emerged to evaluate how food systems information is curated, represented and shared using a digital commons.

Another highlight in July was a learning exchange to South Africa for two women's groups from low-income neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester. The women were hosted by the

South African Alliance (a federation of low-income women's savings schemes and their partner organisations). The Manchester groups are now applying lessons they have learned from the experience within their own communities as part of action research into the dynamics of community-led organising in the UK and the possibilities of 'seeing from the South'.

2017 was the first complete year for the Platform at Sheffield University's Urban Institute. The location has benefited the work, as several new networks have been created - while retaining and further developing relationships in Greater Manchester.

SHEFFIELD-MANCHESTER

STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION

Academia 22%, Public sector 16%, civil society 50%, business sector 12%.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

17, including comparative projects

STAFF Beth Perry, PhD, Director, Victoria Simpson, PhD, Co-ordinator

Skåne



In 2017, the Local Interaction Platform in Skåne (SKLIP) has worked to promote and harness participatory research for sustainable urban development in and beyond the region. The platform has a robust academic presence, consisting of a consortium of three institutions: Malmö University, Lund University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, as well as support and co-operation from the city of Malmö. Additionally, the platform has also had support from other municipalities and private sector actors, including the co-operative housing developer, HSB, Helsingborgshem.

During the year, the platform supported a number of innovative projects. Project examples include an anthology of the Augustenborg neighbourhood in Malmö, innovative partnerships in sustainable urban transformation, focusing on the real estate sector, and a project on the ecosystem service city, concentrating on developing tools and methods for identifying and mapping connections between the physical elements of ecosystems and the values they hold for citizens. The individual projects are either region-specific or are carried out in collaboration with other Urban Futures platforms around the globe.

In addition to the projects running in the region, the SKLIP has made initial progress (especially during the autumn) 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 will get underway throughout 2018.

SKÅNE

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Malmö University, Lund University, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

ESTABLISHED

2016.

STAFF

Barry Ness, PhD, Director; Magnus Johansson, PhD, researcher.

Stockholm



In March 2017 a Mistra Urban Futures node was established in Stockholm, thus connecting the three cities initially competing for the Mistra grant to establish an international centre for sustainable urban development in Sweden, i.e. Gothenburg, Malmö and Stockholm.

The new node in Stockholm is the result of a year-long development period including partners such as Stockholm Resilience Centre and Openlab.

Openlab is a centre for researchers and students at the Royal Institute of Technology and Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and is an arena for collaboration with public partners such as the City, the Region and the County of Stockholm.

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 has been identified and acknowledged. The Mistra Urban Futures node, with access to the experience and knowledge of the centre and its global platforms, and Openlab as a neutral arena constitute an opportunity to make significant contributions to the development in Stockholm as well as in the global context.

A consortium has been established to support the new Stockholm node, 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

STOCKHOLM

ESTABLISHED
2017.

STAFF
Sofie Pandis Iveroth, Node manager



The second Annual Conference in Kisumu turned out to be a most friendly and productive meeting for all participants. Top picture: some 120 delegates took part in the conference. Above left: Caroline Wanjiku Kihato's keynote 'Translocal urban lives: rescaling justice in African cities' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6s78-axCINK>). Above right: Stefan Bengtsson and Stephen G Agong, rectors of Chalmers and JOOUST. Left: Liza Cirolia and Michael Oloko in workshop. Below: Fishermen at Dunga Beach.



Publications 2017

The transdisciplinary co-production approach of Mistra Urban Futures by default leads to a range of different outputs; what normally would be easily identified as scientific articles and books will in this case be made available to different audiences through not only articles and books, but also as reports, blogs, summaries and video clips.

Books

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Ström, L., Molnar, S. & Isemo, S. Social hållbarhet ur ett samhällsplaneringsperspektiv - en kunskapsöversikt. Misra Urban Futures Rapport 2017:4

Policy Briefs

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Larsson J., Policy Brief: Consumption perspective in climate strategies of cities - the case of Gothenburg. Misra Urban Futures Policy Brief 2017:2.

Nässén, J., The Gothenburg Congestion Charge Scheme: a pre-post analysis of commuting behavior and travel satisfaction. Misra Urban Futures Policy Brief 2017:3

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Eriksson, L., Isemo, S., Abrahamsson, H. On justice, fairness and equity in Gothenburg. Misra Urban Futures Working Paper 2017:1

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See the digital version of the Annual Report with interviews. annualreport2017.mistraurbanfutures.org



Blogs and 'other publications' form a significant and important part of Mistra Urban Futures output of projects and knowledge production. Researchers and collaborators are encouraged to publish blogs and other texts as well as scientific articles, book chapters etc. Some of the blog entries below may have been republished also at other sites.

BLOG POSTS PUBLISHED ON MISTRA URBAN FUTURES WEBSITE

Participatory Cities and Urban Justice, by Beth Perry, 22 September 2017

Gender perspectives often ignored in urban planning, by Sara Eliasson, 1 September

Reorganising UN-Habitat, by David Simon, published 17 Aug 2017

Research at Kachok Dumpsite, by Michael Oloko, published 30 June 2017

A missing dimension, by Gunilla Almered Olsson, published 28 June 2017

Land of opportunities, by Jan Riise, published 13 June 2017

We cannot do this alone, by Jan Riise, published 31 May 2017

Cities can make a difference, by Caroline Winjuku Kihato, published 29 April 2017

Reflections on Urban Governance, by Warren Smit, published 19 Feb 2017

Co-producing Urban Governance, by Beth Perry, published 2 feb 2017

Inspirational RRI Example, by Jan Riise, published 20 January 2017

All blog posts above are found at <http://www.mistrurbanfutures.org/en/blog>

OTHER BLOG POSTS

Jam and Justice: Co-Producing Urban Governance for Social Innovation', by Bert Russel, for the Urban Transformations website in February. <http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/search/jam+and+justice/#sthash.T3whp1RW.dp>

Russel, B., 'Eight lessons from Barcelona en Comú on how to Take Back Control' was reprinted on the Urban Transformations website in March. Democracy: <http://www.urbantransformations.ox.ac.uk/blog/2017/eight-lessons-from-barcelona-en-comu-on-how-to-take-back-control/>

Sophie King's blog post Manchester Policy: 'What is it that we actually want and how are we going to get it?' in April. <http://blog.policy.manchester.ac.uk/posts/2017/04/what-is-it-that-we-actually-want-and-how-are-we-going-to-get-it/>

'Radical Municipalism and Directional Demands', by Bert Russel, in Open Democracy, June 2017. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/plan-c/radical-municipalism-demanding-future>

'Participatory Cities and Urban Justice Blog' by Beth Perry for the Urban Institute website in September. <http://urbaninstitute.group.shef.ac.uk/participatory-cities-and-urban-justice/>

'The value of co-design/co-production as a methodology for promoting sustainable and just cities', by David Simon, Public Space, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, 31 March

Video clip library

A number of Mistra Urban Futures presentations and lectures are available on video, at our Youtube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/MistraUrbanFutures>.

The clips include popular talks, such as the Annual Lecture by Maruxa Cardama from October 2017, Caroline Wanjiku Kihato's keynote talk from the Annual Conference, and David Simon's presentation of 'Realising Just Cities' from the Gothenburg conference in October 2017.



Popular summaries

In 2016, the book 'Rethinking Sustainable Cities', edited by David Simon was published by Policy Press in Bristol, UK. The book was widely acknowledged and a pdf version can be downloaded for free from URL.

Nevertheless, a need for a shorter version, a summary focusing on practice rather than theory, was discussed. Thanks to an agreement with the publisher, such a summary in Swedish was produced and presented at the Gothenburg conference in October 2017. Following the favourable reception of the summary, entitled 'Ett nytt sätt att tänka på hållbara städer', summaries in Spanish, Hindi and English were produced in early 2018.

All versions are free to download as pdf-versions from our website.

How to find a publication

In general, Mistra Urban Futures' publications are open access and free to download from our own website or from publishers'/journals' sites.

At Mistra Urban Futures website, there is a publication database with a search engine, to be found at <https://www.mistraurbanfutures.org/en/our-research/publications>. Furthermore, relevant publications are also listed under projects, events and news items.

Societal impact of research

What if we could say that the recommendations we published a few years back actually resulted in new policies or new municipal strategies, thus forming the work of a city on a longer-term scale? Or what if we could point at the results of a particular project, claiming that these contributed to changing mind-sets, both among researchers and practitioners?

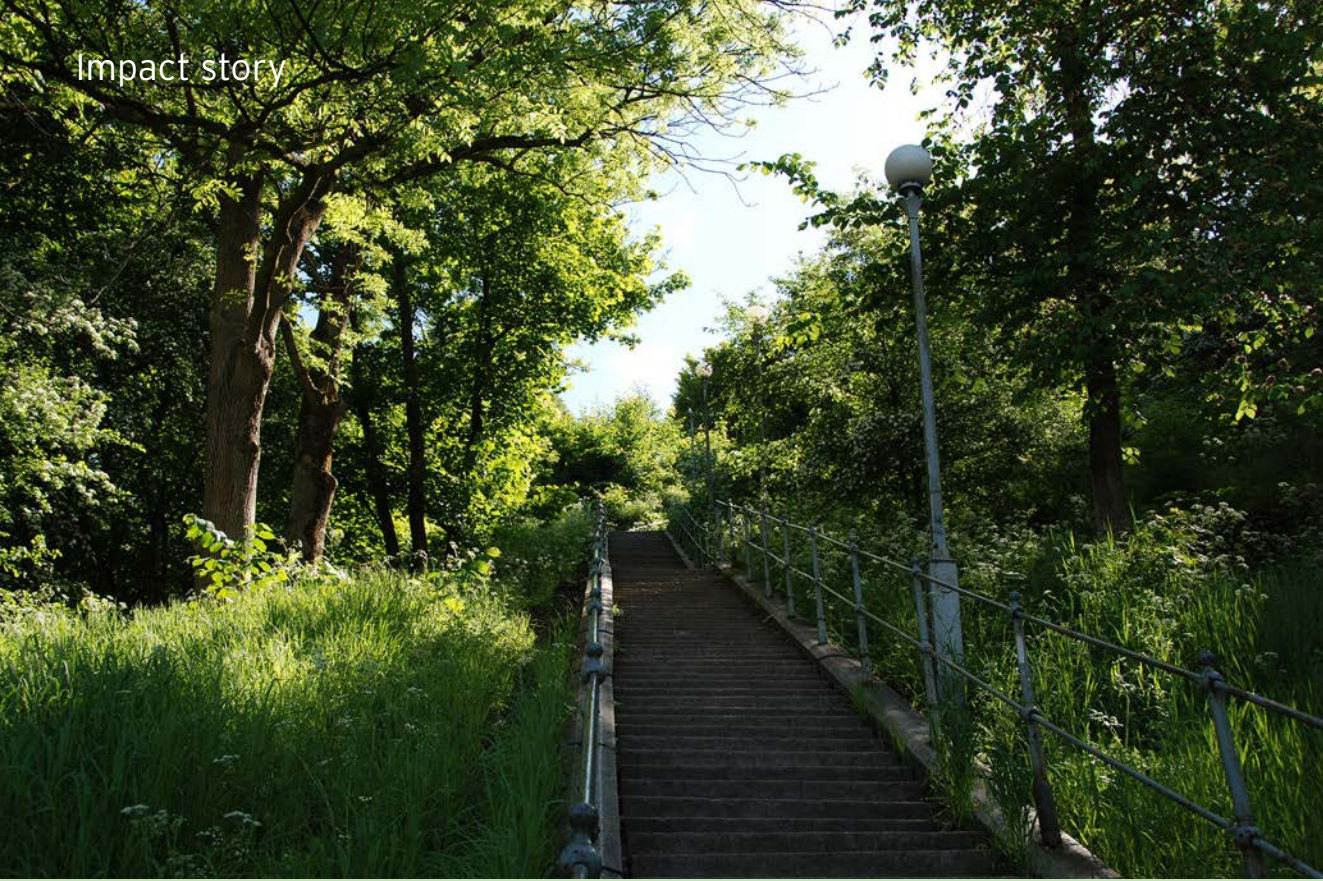
Assessing the societal impact of research is a challenging task. Traditionally, research is being evaluated - and rewarded - based on numbers such as citations in academic journals. The idea of looking at its effects on a decision-making level is rather new, and the experiences are limited. Furthermore, the long-term perspective is challenging; expected changes in policies, behaviour and attitudes can take years or even decades.

The transdisciplinary approach to sustainable urban development issues, including the co-creation and co-production of knowledge, has been the subject of several articles. One of these, by Merritt Polk and Lotten Westberg, was actually honoured with the 'Best article of the year' Award in 2017 by the Springer journal Sustainability Science.

During 2017, the outcome and impact of the work done at Mistra Urban Futures has been discussed and a framework for assessment has been added to the Quality Monitoring and Evaluation (QME) Framework. Several methods and tools have been used or adapted to the Centre's particular organisation and activities.

The Gothenburg platform has contracted journalists to track the stories behind and resulting from some of the projects from the first years of activities, to find and describe also the longer-term effects. The Centre's host, Chalmers, uses a 'canvas model' for impact cases, looking at outcome and impact, including the logic behind them and the resources invested in the projects from the start.

Literature on the evaluation of societal impact suggests looking at first-, second- and third-order effects. First-order effects are such things as capacity building and actual products (e.g. plans, reports, web sites) whereas the second-order effects include longer-term effects like new policies and organisational changes. Finally, on an even longer term, there may be effects that transcend policy institutions and take place on a societal level, expressed e.g. as transformed social practices or alternative visions and imaginaries.



VALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

When cities become denser or an increasing traffic burden demands new investments, chances are the green areas are the ones that are used. However, the value of urban greenery such as parks and trees is most likely underestimated.

The urbanisation and densification of cities have led to a decrease of urban greenery in recent years. This is unfortunate and the importance of green parks and trees for a sustainable urban life should be more visible. Biodiversity, climate adaptation, air and water treatment, noise reduction and well-being and recreation are all aspects that are influenced by trees and plants in the city.

Results from the projects within the Ecosystems valuation study include:

- Biodiversity influences perception of urban areas; the more the better
- Vegetation lowers temperature, reduces wind, increases humidity and gives shadow
- Air quality better with greenery; choose your path through urban areas
- Urban areas perceived as 'nature-like' generate activities and well-being

The Mistra Urban Futures project 'Valuation of Ecosystem Services' based on a close collaboration between the University of Gothenburg, the City of Gothenburg and the Swedish Transport Administration, has produced a number of academic articles and at the same time contributed to a change of practices.

"The participation of practitioners and actual users of the tools has contributed to the development of a new method that assesses the values of ecosystem services provided by urban greenery," Sophia Thorsson, professor and project leader, says.

This new method includes the 'informal' greenery and its significance for perceived values, recreation and well-being. The value of trees, plants and birds are included in the method, which has recently been published in a hand-book - free for download.

The project partners are pleased with the outcome of the project; new models to evaluate ecosystem services are important for the planning of city parks, and the knowledge as such is of importance for the understanding of ecosystems within the organisations.

An intersectional perspective

The requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda demand cities of the world to become more equal, where stereotypical norms and values are challenged. An intersectional perspective is essential to the realisation of just cities - accessible, green and fair.

The co-production and transdisciplinary research approach of Mistra Urban Futures must reflect these requirements in project design as well as in communication, monitoring and evaluation of the work done - whatever the context and background.

Cities are far from being gender-neutral places. Far too often these differing lives are seen through one lens - mainly 'white, male, middle-class, middle-aged, employed, and with full physical and mental capacities' - this represents only one understanding of what everyday life consists of and how urban development should be perused (Annas, 1993). People are not just people; they also comprise different genders, classes, sexual preferences, physical abilities and ethnicities that interact in different and inter-connecting ways. This means that one has to consider a person's or group's multiple identities aiming to expose how different types of discrimination and disadvantages occur as a consequence of the combination of identities.

An intersectional perspective provides a broad and inclusive vision of people by outlining how all people live and experience the urban space differently. This makes us recognise and be aware of the daily experiences of everyone and the needs and responsibilities associated with and within groups. It aims to address the manner in which racism, patriarchy, class oppression and other systems of discrimination create inequalities that structures the relative position of an individual. Furthermore, this takes into account historical, social and political contexts and creates an understanding that people both have privileges and lack of privileges in different contexts. As such, without an intersectional gender perspective, urban development will continue to reproduce, rather than challenge, stereotypes within communities and thus hinder the realisation of just cities.

During 2017, Mistra Urban Futures, as part of its Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) profile, has carried out an intersectional analysis of both projects and administration. Guidelines have been developed for the continued work and a practical workshop was arranged in January 2018.

Open Science and Responsible Research & Innovation

Mistra Urban Futures' work aligns well with the Open Science Policy, that is the European Union's stakeholder driven mechanisms and policies to improve the quality and impact of European science. It includes, among other things, commitments to Open Access.

Responsible Research & Innovation is the European Union's concept for involving society in science and innovation. This includes different aspects of the relationship between research and society, such as public engagement, open access, gender equality, education, ethics and governance.

In 2016, Mistra Urban Futures was awarded the European Foundations Award for RRI, as a 'best practice' example in Europe.

Following this, part of the development work undertaken within the Centre during 2017, has focused on gender and intersectionality issues.

On the global level, Mistra Urban Futures has developed its comparative work between the different platforms, hence adding knowledge and mutual learning between the Global South and the Global North, as well as to the urban aspects of Climate Change.

Climate Change and the Just City

Climate change is a reality that is already having significant effects on the four interrelated dimensions of sustainability: social, economic, ecological and environmental as well as cultural.

The work and research of Mistra Urban Futures reflects this in various ways.

Climate change cannot be viewed as a scientific and technical matter disconnected from the realities of millions of people and the domains of power and social relations. It is also a social, economic and political phenomenon with profound implications for social justice and gender equality, where the consequences are not evenly distributed or experienced.

The links between climate change and urbanisation have been even more emphasised since the COP21 meeting in Paris in late 2015. Not least the resources and potentials of cities and other organisations than countries have been highlighted; the growing insight that cities and urban regions may be well positioned and ready to be more involved in meeting the serious challenges ahead.

As urbanisation and the urban areas are major causes of greenhouse gas emissions, the agenda of 'Realising Just Cities' is also about the unevenly shared consequences of climate change; the undermining of built environment, sea level rise and extreme weather to which vulnerable groups in vulnerable areas are most at risk.



Global South and Global North

Across the Global South, many countries and cities have experienced not only a rapid urbanisation and globalisation, but also unprecedented economic growth, where poverty is decreasing and a new middle-class with new lifestyles is emerging.

Mistra Urban Futures, positioned in both North and South, has a particular responsibility to bridge the divides and contribute to the mutual use and learning from knowledge reserves in both hemispheres. More sophisticated and contextually relevant knowledge can be advanced and developed with the support of citizens, community organisations and NGOs.



See the digital version of the Annual Report with interviews.
annualreport2017.mistraurbanfutures.org



Photo: David Jönsson

Urban Futures Research School launched in 2017

In 2016 the Gothenburg Platform initiated the Urban Futures Open Research School with the aim to foster research in a collaborative and transdisciplinary context and to support with courses and seminars on methodologies for transdisciplinary research towards the realisation of just cities.

In the spring of 2017 two PhD courses of each 7,5 ECTS were launched with the title Co-producing knowledge in transdisciplinary research – From practice to theory. The courses invited PhD students and practitioners from the public and private sector jointly. They both received a great response with about 20 accepted participants to each course, with PhD students from Gothenburg, Stockholm, Lund and Malmö attending together with practitioners from different public authorities and private companies in Gothenburg and Stockholm. The mixed groups of PhD students and practitioners presented a wide spectra of disciplines with research fields and practices from pedagogy, architecture, design, planning, sociology, industrial ecology, to medicine and political science.

The full curricula of the two courses was organised along four extensive workshops with invited experts focusing on different methods for co-production of knowledge: Explorative Scenarios, Integral Process for Complex Issues (TIP), The Inquiry Based Approach (IBA) and Collaborative Writing as Research Inquiry. Shorter workshops contributed with further methods, either derived from earlier Mistra Urban Futures' projects, or as complementing introductions to Systems thinking, Designly thinking, Mapping, Deliberative methods and methods for Power analysis. As the fall term 2017 focused on practiced based experiences of co-production, the spring term in 2018 will more specifically investigate the nexus of facilitation and research, to end with theoretical modules on Reflexivity, on possible TD-theory, and on Evaluation and Validation of TD-research. During the two courses the participants are also introduced to context relevant concepts, such as Urban justice, the Sustainable Development Goals, Networked Governance, Institutionalisation and Boundary Critique. The outcome of the spring course will be a collaboratively written proposal for a TD-project, possibly presented as a compilation for wider usage.

Events and participation 2017

Mistra Urban Futures, the Centre and all the Platforms, arrange and participate in a wide range of events over the year - primarily to present results and findings of the research and knowledge production activities. The examples below are exactly that, examples, that give an impression of what it is all about: from podcasts to steering committees for Mayoral summits, from learning exchanges to Almedalen, the political week in Sweden.

BUILDING A RESILIENCE PERSPECTIVE

Expert workshop in Cape Town on infrastructure planning in Cape Town with City officials and academics. Mistra Urban Futures represented by Liza Cirolia. (January)

THE NEW URBAN RUINS

Vicky Habermehl, Sheffield-Manchester, presented a paper at The New Urban Ruins: Vacancy and the Post-Crisis City workshop at Trinity College Dublin. (March)

WHAT MUST BE OUR URBAN QUESTION?

Cape Town seminar on reflection on contemporary urban knowledge by Gautam Bhan from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, IIHS, in Delhi. (March)

MUSIC, FESTIVALS AND HERITAGE

A panel discussion was convened at the international Music, Festivals and Heritage conference in Siena in May 2017, organised by the JPI Heritage Plus CHIME project. The panel included presentations by Professor Beth Perry, on 'The role and value of cultural heritage in realising just cities: what can we learn from a festival gaze'; by Dr Niklas Sorum (University of Gothenburg) on local cultural planning tools for urban justice; and by Dr Rike Sitas (University of Cape Town) on cultural heritage, public life and socio-spatial justice in Cape Town. (May)

PODCAST - REACHING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Tim May and Magnus Johansson discuss sustainability from the viewpoint of learning, co-production, and how "knowing" things not always solves everything in this episode of Medea Vox, a podcast produced by the Malmö University, (June)

JAM AND JUSTICE

Bert Russell has been attending and participating in a series of events to promote the Jam and Justice Project. In June he participated in events organised by Barcelona en Comú in Barcelona, Spain, with 'What about new Municipalism? Austerity, Globalization and Democracy' and 'Fearless Cities'. (June)

ALMEDALEN

In July each year, the Baltic sea island Gotland is invaded by 40,000 visitors for the so called Almedalsveckan. It is a political week and is especially important for policy makers and politicians, public officials as well as lobbyists and the business sector. It has evolved into one of the world's most important democratic meeting places. Mistra Urban Futures organised two seminars, 'Migration at a current state' and 'How cities deal with the global sustainable goals can add value to the local sustainability work'.

COMMUNITY LEARNING EXCHANGE

A community learning exchange to a social movement in South Africa was organised by Sophie King. Community activists in Greater Manchester and different informal settlements across South Africa shared experiences and organising against poverty and inequality. Greater Manchester activists learned about a new methodology and are applying this in their own neighbourhoods. (July)

URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

Beth Perry participated in a panel debate on urban transformations at the Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference in London. This was a roundtable discussion on the theme of nature of urban transformation.

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RETHINKING GLOBAL URBAN JUSTICE

Beth Perry, Sophie King, Bert Russell and Victoria Habermehl participated in the Rethinking Global Urban Justice conference in Leeds. It provided an opportunity for dialogue between the UK and Swedish partners of Mistra Urban Futures. The Sheffield Manchester platform initiated two presentation and debate sessions at RC21. (September)

STEERING GROUP FOR GREEN SUMMIT

Mayor Andy Burnham announced his ambitions for making Greater Manchester one of the leading green cities in Europe. To deliver this, a landmark Green Summit will be held in spring 2018. This will be led by an expert panel of some of the brightest environmental minds in the UK, including academics and researchers from the University of Manchester. Members of the public will also be able to contribute views and ideas through an extensive public engagement process. Beth Perry has been invited to sit in a Steering Group feeds into the process.

TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

A workshop for Tourism Product Development between Dunga and Miyandhe Beaches, took place on Thursday 5th October at Dunga Beach, Kisumu City. During this meeting, the participants gave their input on the way forward for co-production and co-knowledge generation of tourism products and offerings at the two beaches in a collaborative framework. (October)

GOTHENBURG CONFERENCE

The first Mistra Urban Futures Gothenburg conference was fully booked with about 170 people. The ambition was to show what Mistra Urban Futures had done during the year, presenting the international links and give inspiration, knowledge and new perspectives to work with urban sustainability. (October)

ANNUAL LECTURE

This year's Annual Lecture 'A global agenda for the urban age', on World Cities Day 31 October at Chalmers, explored the current global urban 'moment' during which the international community is focusing on the challenges of transitioning towards urban sustainability. Maruxa Cardama, Special advisor, Cities Alliance Brussels offered a unique and exciting perspective on the global sustainability goals and the New Urban Agenda. (October)

FAILURE LUNCH

The international well known Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena at the Do-Thank Elemental, received the 2017 Gothenburg Award for Sustainable Development for designing and building affordable and adequate social housing. In connection to the award Mistra Urban Futures arranged a side event called 'Failure Lunch - Learning from Failing Dialogues for Sustainable Urban Development' in cooperation with SDSN Northern Europe and GAME. (November)

For more information about the events:

<https://www.mistraurbanfutures.org/en/events-overview>

Financial Report

Mistra and the Gothenburg Consortium provide the core funding to the Centre, which finances the Secretariat, management of each Local Interaction Platform and a large part of the research. The Sida funding has been used for activities related to poverty alleviation, mainly in Africa.

Expenditures in 2017 were lower than budgeted, primarily due to lower costs than projected for the first months of the year, e.g. for integration of new platforms and projects. The resulting surplus in the income statement 2017 will be put forward to 2018 and 2019.

Table 1

INCOME (1 000 SEK)	2017			2016		
	CASH	IN-KIND	TOTAL	CASH	IN-KIND	TOTAL
Mistra	22 000	0	22 000	26 000	0	26 000
Gothenburg Consortium total	8 937	6 779	15 717	9 714	6 969	17 716 519
<i>Chalmers University of Technology</i>	2 198	1 258	3 456	2 364	1 835	4 199
<i>The Göteborg Region Association of Local Authorities</i>	400	2 004	2 404	400	1 011	1 411
<i>City of Gothenburg</i>	2 000	1 203	3 203	2 000	910	2 910
<i>University of Gothenburg</i>	2 000	1 093	3 093	2 350	2 121	4 471
<i>IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute</i>	0	798	798	0	735	735
<i>County Administrative Board Västra Götaland</i>	300	325	625	300	223	523
<i>Region Västra Götaland</i>	2 039	99	2 138	2 300	134	2 434
Sida	11 200	0	11 200	8 800	0	8 800
Local co-funding Cape Town ¹	2 941	1 042	3 983	3 302	328	6 182
Local co-funding Sheffield-Manchester	3 026	675	3 701	4 311	1 297	5 608
Local co-funding Kisumu ¹	645	712	1 357	542	578	1 119
External funding GOLIP ²	10 317	498	10 815	9 672	774	10 446

¹ Includes funding from local and external partners

² External funding at the Gothenburg Local Interaction Platform (GOLIP) includes funding from associated partners as well as external funders such as EU and Vinnova. Local funding at GOLIP is included in the Gothenburg Consortium funding.

Table 2

EXPENDITURE Cost category (1000 SEK)	2017			2016		
	CASH	IN-KIND	TOTAL	CASH	IN-KIND	TOTAL
Staff costs	25 926	8 726	34 653	22 465	8 064	30 528
Travel expenses	3 665	0	3 665	3 629	0	3 629
Consumables	962	0	962	486	0	486
Depreciation costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other direct costs	3 066	0	3 066	3 352	0	3 352
External services	3 838	0	3 838	4 640	0	4 640
Indirect costs	3 141	1 334	4 475	4 763	1 883	6 647
External projects GOLIP ⁴	10 317	0	10 317	9 672	0	9 672
TOTAL	50 916	10 060	60 976	48 988	9 947	58 935

⁴ External GOLIP projects are projects applied for by Mistra Urban Futures/GOLIP, but administered at a partner organisation or other institution at Chalmers

Table 3

EXPENDITURE Organisation (1000 SEK)	2017			2016		
	CASH	IN-KIND	TOTAL	CASH	IN-KIND	TOTAL
Secretariat	4 706	327	5 033	4 895	86	5 071
International collaboration	5 722	15	5 737	4 236	33	4 269
Gothenburg	20 636	6 936	27 572	21 156	7 625	28 781
Cape Town	7 072	1 042	8 114	6 892	328	7 220
Sheffield-Manchester ²	5 318	675	5 993	6 677	1 297	7 973
Kisumu	5 292	712	6 004	4 295	578	4 873
Skåne	2 169	354	2 523			
Strategic initiatives	0	0	0			
TOTAL	50 916	10 060	60 976	48 989	9 947	58 935

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Mistra Urban Futures strives towards Realising Just Cities which are Accessible, Green and Fair. This is achieved through transdisciplinary co-production and comparative urban research at Local Interaction Platforms and nodes in Cape Town, Gothenburg, Kisumu, Sheffield-Manchester, Skåne and Stockholm. Main funders are the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (Mistra), the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and seven consortium members.

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