

JPI Urban Europe – URBAN-EU-CHINA Networking Event:UN-Habitat's 9th World Urban Forum

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

7 – 13 February, 2018

**Title: The value of City-City Partnerships for Implementing
the New Urban Agenda****11 February 2018 - 09.00-11.00 - Room 409**

Moderation: Johannes Riegler - FFG

Abstract

For **implementing the New Urban Agenda**, partnerships with strong commitments and cooperation on all scales, from local to global are required. Bi-lateral and multilateral partnerships between cities can enhance international support for effective and targeted capacity-building to support national plans to implement the NUA and SDGs. Exchange and co-creation of knowledge, technologies and experiences regarding sustainable city services and infrastructures offers promising prospects for addressing issues of urban planning, environment, health, water, transport, ICT, hazards, resilience and disaster risk reduction, and improving the well-being of citizens.

With city-city partnership we understand the “triple helix” of university, industry and local government relations. This model has become very popular for cooperative innovation in the last two decades. The helix is used as an image to illustrate a complex network of relationships, facilitating dynamic co-creation and respecting links, flows and backflows between partners. More recently, the term “quadruple helix” has been used, in which the fourth helix is represented as civil society becoming involved in the innovation process.

The main aim of this session is to assess the framework conditions for dedicated, committed and successful triple/quadruple helix city-city partnerships for implementing the NUA. The discussions will be framed by presentations of examples for city-city partnerships aiming at exchanging knowledge, mutual learning and capacity building of projects funded by JPI Urban Europe and the experience of URBAN-EU-CHINA's partners. Besides presentations the following questions will be addressed with active participation of the audience:

- How can global partnerships contribute to the mobilisation towards a common vision on sustainable urban development?
- How can global triple/quadruple helix city partnerships foster **capacity building/knowledge creation** for implementing the NUA?
- What **framework conditions** are required to allow global partnerships among cities to be successful?

Presentations:

Name of Presenter	Organisation	Abstract
Sigrun Kabisch	UFZ Leipzig, Germany JPI UE Scientific Advisory Board	<p>How can an international research program contribute to adapt the NUA at local level?</p> <p>The NUA and the SDGs are general guidelines for urban sustainable development strategies. They need to be translated and adapted towards the diverse local contexts considering social, cultural, political, economic or climatic conditions. JPI Urban Europe can support local actors and actions from the academic realm and the civil society to co-create and test new pathways and instruments to reach the goals. Furthermore, an intensive knowledge exchange between cities, which is included in this program, supports both the locally specific efforts and the generation of transferable knowledge and solutions.</p>
Bernhard Müller	Bernhard Mueller, Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER) and Technische Universität Dresden, Germany	<p>Transition towards urban sustainability through socially integrative cities Research and development in the EU and in China as a contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.</p> <p>The successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda depends to a high degree on both, academia and practice, and their close cooperation in research and development. However, such cooperation puts high demands on all concerned parties. Global cooperation, the peer-to-peer exchange of information and experience, and the organisation of urban living labs can be useful tools to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. On this background the presentation highlights two cooperation projects between academia and practice from the EU and China. TRANS-URBAN-EU-CHINA is a research and innovation action on the transition towards urban sustainability through socially integrative cities. URBAN-EU-CHINA is the acronym of an EU-China Innovation Platform for Sustainable Urbanisation. Both actions are funded by the European Commission through the mechanism of the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme. In both actions, international cooperation and urban living labs play a decisive role.</p>
CAO Buyang	Tongji University, Shanghai	<p>Data-driven insights for EU-China urbanization</p> <p>We propose an indicator system to evaluate the sustainability of urbanizations. Based on the paired cities from EU and China as well as the datasets with different dimensions, we conduct the analyses according to the indicator system and evaluate the sustainability of urbanizations in both EU and China. Some data analytical models are presented to explore the relationships between the selected impacting factors and the urbanization. The data analytics reveals certain interesting issues, similarities, and differences in the process of urbanization in EU and China.</p>
Gabriela Viale Pereira	Donube University Krems; JPI UE Project SmartGov	<p>Digital Governance for Sustainable and Smart Cities: Quadruple Helix Partnership in the case of the JPI Urban Europe SmartGov Project</p> <p>Digital Governance is defined as the use and application of digital technologies to frame the relationship among government and the civil society and related interaction process. Good and sustainable governance are established by relationships and process that are transparent, accountable and participatory, and which allow the perspectives, needs and rights of all citizens to be addressed. The SmartGov project (and Smart Cities in general) deploy intelligent</p>

		<p>urban systems to serve sustainable development, with the aim of engaging citizens in policy making and supporting policy makers through the use of information and communication technologies and decision support systems, which are in turn fundamental features of smart sustainable cities. The aim of the project is to create ICT based tools to support cities and their stakeholders in making better decisions regarding urban environment issues. The project illustrates the quadruple helix partnership with the development of Fuzzy Cognitive Maps as dynamic tools, which allow applying participatory and collaborative methods, as well as to visualize complex knowledge and dynamic systems.</p>
<p>WU Changhua</p>	<p>China/Asia Director, Office of Jeremy Rifkin; Vice Chair of World Green Design Organisation</p>	<p>Advancing Sustainable Urbanization Through EU-China Partnership (TBC)</p> <p>Digital technology offers a biggest opportunity for urban planners and managers to more effectively and efficiently build and manage the infrastructure, the flows of materials in cities, and provide best services to its residents, on the foundation of biosphere sustainability, people's better quality of life, robust economy and growth opportunity. A smart and clean city revolution has dawned. While technologies are available, barriers remain and need to be lowered or removed among different departments, sectors, regions, or any other silos. Otherwise we will not be able to capture the opportunity and maximize the benefits of the new technology and industrial revolution.</p> <p>How to design and operate a new industrial revolution-based urban system and infrastructure that would accommodate the plug-ins of all kinds of technology innovation remains a technical puzzle to be resolved.</p> <p>How to define data ownership and protect privacy and security also needs to be clearly addressed. Role of government and governance needs to be highlighted.</p> <p>And this is where EU and China can best work together to share and learn from each other in order to deliver the set goals and targets of sustainable and smart cities.</p>
<p>Kristian Mjøen</p>	<p>Trondheim Municipality</p>	<p>Beyond Smart Cities - Learning Society</p>

Results of the World Café Session:

In this session, we asked the audience three questions on what the added value of global city-city partnerships are and which framework conditions are required to facilitate the exchange.

Approximately 20 people joined the discussion.

How can global partnerships contribute to the mobilisation towards a common vision on sustainable urban development?

- The openness to technology and developments in smart city and communities can contribute to transparent processes in governance if managed successfully. This calls for knowledge exchange between cities/countries which are experienced with these technologies and countries, eg in Africa, to fully tap on the potential of technology in a bigger scope.
- Work in city-city partnership can contribute to the understanding the global chains of value and value production, including the consequences for urban development.
- Sensitization of culture: for developing a common vision on sustainable urban development the local cultures need to be taken into account in a serious manner.
- Turning data into wisdom is essential for sustainable urban development and implementing the SDGs / New Urban Agenda.
- Urban areas and cities might have a big stake in achieving the SDGs; however, cities cannot solve global issues alone. Furthermore, the power of urban areas to support a transition towards sustainable urban development is determined by governance structures and the separation of powers.
- For developing a common vision, sharing needs, aspirations and concepts are important. Soft factors matter.

How can global triple/quadruple helix city partnerships foster capacity building/knowledge creation for implementing the NUA?

- Listening and understanding between different actors / sectors is a pre-condition to foster capacity building and knowledge creation and to build up the connections of people, research, policy and business. This also holds true for any partnership on sustainable urban development.
- Developing common goals and therewith creating commitment are the fuel for triple/quadruple helix partnerships.
- The different bodies of knowledge need to be balanced: a trustful and respectful atmosphere and a level playing field have to be established between all involved parties/organisations/individuals.
- Are we sure we want to implement the New Urban Agenda? Maybe we should instead talk about translating the New Urban Agenda into the local contexts by using triple/quadruple helix approaches.

What framework conditions are required to allow global partnerships among cities to be successful?

- Exchange on a level playing field
- Open exchange platforms
- Openness

- E-Governance
- Managing expectations
- Understanding of the Smart Cities Framework: Is it primarily an economic or a social agenda we are partnering on?

Appendix:

Agenda	
Opening Remarks: - Johannes Riegler	5 min
Short presentations on the experiences of city-city partnerships á 7 min: - Sigrun Kabisch - Gabriela Viale Pereira - Buyang Cao - Bernhard Müller - WU Changhua - Kristian Mjøyen	45min
Discussions in World Café Setting – 5 Tables Participants are invited to join the discussions on the tables to exchange on their experiences on city-city partnerships and to answer the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can global partnerships contribute to the mobilisation towards a common vision on sustainable urban development? • How can global triple/quadruple helix city partnerships foster capacity building/knowledge creation for implementing the NUA? • What framework conditions are required to allow global partnerships among cities to be successful? 	50min
Wrap Up	15min
Closure and Next steps	5min

Total: 2h