



Urban Chances – City Growth and the Sustainability Challenge

How can cities in the South meet the sustainability challenge? What can be learned from the frontrunners? Development patterns and governance approaches devised in fast growing cities in growing economies in the South foreshadow what other Southern cities will face in the near future.

Chance2Sustain compares 10 cities of different sizes and with a different economic base in four countries (India, South Africa, Brazil and Peru), all pioneering certain aspects of sustainable urban development. All cities are based in countries with moderate to high economic growth-rates in the pre-crisis era, and most cities faced moderate to high urban growth rates over the last decade.

Chance2Sustain encourages close collaboration between researchers and policy-makers from around the globe and enhances co-operation with reputable urban development research institutes such as GID (AISSR-UvA), CEIAS-CNRS, NIBR, UKZN, FORO, CEBRAP and SPA but also UN-Habitat as a dissemination partner. The project is funded by the European Framework Programme (FP7) under the Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities theme and coordinated by EADI, the European Association of Development Research and Training institutes.

The project is organized around five major topics.

1 Large-scale economic and infrastructure projects in fast-growing cities and alternative economic strategies

The growth of large-scale economic projects in fast-growing cities in India, Brazil, Peru, and South Africa is documented, contrasting the processes among three categories of urban economic bases in the selected cities (industrial, administrative, service-based). The policies promoting these specialised spaces strive for maximum global connectivity without necessarily favouring linkages with the local economy, thereby creating risks for spatial fragmentation and social exclusion. They are analysed in relation to the traditional economic base of the cities, and alternative strategies are explored.

2 Policies and politics to address urban inequality: poor people networks, CSO networks and campaigns on sub-standard settlements in metropolitan areas

Urban governance studies show that territorial scale, and type of stakeholders involved in local governance networks may differ from those involved in political party work. Poor people networks are crucial to understand local mechanisms in place for reproducing or reducing poverty. The project will map urban inequality (poverty and segregation), the

CITIES

Delhi, India
Chennai, India
Kalyan, India
Durban, South Africa
Cape Town, South Africa
Lima Metropolitana, Peru
Arequipa, Peru
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Salvador, Brazil
Guarulhos, Brazil



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urban political-administrative system, and campaigns for social inclusion and environmental upgrading of sub-standard settlements. Taking the various country contexts into account, the project will analyse how the interaction between the various types of social and political actors – poor people networks, CSO networks, government – can promote social/environmental aspects of sustainable development.

3 Environmental risk assessment and inclusive scenario building for reducing costs: reconciling the green and brown agenda

Urban environmental issues are often portrayed in terms of two distinct agendas. Research on the ‘unfinished’ or ‘brown’ agenda encompasses the conventional environmental health issues. Research on the ‘green’ agenda focuses on the other environmental dimensions of urban sustainable development, nowadays often with a focus on its potential impact on climate change. This research will map out complementarities and conflict arising from integrating the green and the brown agenda across fast-growing cities, with a focus on water and related energy issues. In scenario-building exercises with relevant local stakeholders in the relevant cities the predicted consequences of climate change will be taken up.

4 Developing participatory ‘spatial’ knowledge models in metropolitan governance networks for sustainable development and an integrated model of urban sustainable development

Utilizing spatially disaggregated community knowledge to address needs in a more integrated fashion is still rare and contested by governments. This approach is being developed within the research program on urban poverty currently undertaken by the GID (AISSR-UvA) with SPA in several Indian cities. This model will be used in the 10 participating cities to analyze the factors contributing to (or preventing) sustainable development, and integrate the issues included in this research project: economic analysis, the poverty/inequality analysis, the environmental risk assessment issues, and the funding patterns and exigencies analyzed in this project.

5 Combining fiscal decentralization, participatory budgeting, and inclusive development: supporting sustainable development policies, monitoring and implementation

The main concern is to find out to what extent fiscal decentralization has opened up opportunities for including local knowledge and spatial information in participatory budgeting processes, what local political and institutional factors influence them, what aspects of sustainable development are incorporated, and what trade-offs are made.

