



SESSION DESCRIPTION

A4 Towards realizing just cities

Panel

Date: Thursday, 26th April, 2018

Time: 14:30-16:00

Rooms: S01-02

Language: English

Contact: Jan Riise

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Organized by: Mistra Urban Futures

OBJECTIVE

The 'Towards Realizing Just Cities' session presents the latest research and knowledge concerning the implementation of the Urban SDG, contributing to a transition towards inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities – with the New Urban Agenda's 'Leave no one behind' as a motto for fairness and justice.

Based on experiences in a number of primarily intermediate cities in several continents, the session opens up for comments and discussion regarding cities' and local governments' participation in and commitment to the ongoing development. Particular attention will be paid to urban public finance for implementation of SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

OUTCOMES

The proposed session intended to achieve a few related but still different outcomes:

- For participants wishing to take a less active part in the session – listeners – it provided an overview of the state-of-play regarding the development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda, with a particular focus on 'Just Cities'
- For participants wishing to take a more active part in the discussion, an opportunity to raise issues within the field of particular relevance for the own local government or city situation, as comments or questions.
- For the panel, an opportunity to receive feedback and comments at an intermediate point in time for the 'Realizing Just Cities' project, as well as other related projects concerning the Urban SDG, the New Urban Agenda and urban public finance.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator opened the session with a short introduction of himself and each speaker and the context of the subject, including how the session is organized. **(10-15 minutes)**
- Each of the four speaker was given time to describe their work, showing maps or other illustrations as needed. **(4 x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers from the audience, with the objective of creating a discussion, rather than a Q&A session – i.e. asking also the audience for comments and experiences, not only questions. **(25 minutes)**
- The facilitator concluded with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**



Guiding questions:

1. List of questions the panel explored and sought to answer; however the two first are more rhetorical questions, from which the panelists discussed how various interventions and projects can contribute. The third question was immediately relevant, for the audience and for the panel.
2. What do just cities look like in different urban contexts?
3. And how might just cities be realized?
4. Who are the key role-players in the realization of just cities?

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator	<i>Jan Riise, Project Manager, Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden</i>
Panelist	<i>David Simon, Director, Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden</i>
Panelist	<i>Warren Smit, Lead Researcher, Realizing Just Cities Project, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa</i>
Panelist	<i>Liza Cirolia, Urban Planner, Mistra Urban Futures, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa</i>
Panelist	<i>Sara Pettersson, Project Manager, Climate and Environment, City of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden</i>

Towards Realizing Just Cities, that are Fair, Green and Accessible – what does it take? The panel and the audience discussed and commented on several initiatives across the world that may contribute to the social sustainability and the ‘Just City’ that is necessary for a sustainable urban development.

Further recommended reading

Rethinking Sustainable Cities: <https://oapen.org/search?identifier=613676>

Summaries of the book available in English, Spanish, Swedish and Hindi:

<https://www.mistraurbanfutures.org/en/news/summaries-swedish-spanish-english-and-hindi>

Towards Realising Just Cities – Co-production in action: <https://www.mistraurbanfutures.org/en/annual-conference/conference-book>
