



URBAN CHANCES, CITY GROWTH AND THE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

CHANCE2SUSTAIN: A RESEARCH
DISSEMINATION REPORT

UN**HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



ABOUT THE RESEARCH

Urban Chances, City Growth and the Sustainability Challenge - Chance2Sustain

This research programme examines how governments and citizens in cities with differing patterns of urban economic growth make use of participatory (or integrated) spatial knowledge management to direct urban governance towards more sustainable development. Participatory spatial knowledge management is the main concept we use to study this issue, as it reflects a strategic resource, which all stakeholders can contribute to urban governance processes towards sustainable development.

It includes both expert knowledge and several forms of non-expert knowledge, such as knowledge from (working) experience (tacit), embedded sectoral knowledge, and social (or community-based) knowledge at the neighbourhood and city-wide level. Participatory processes of urban planning and management are strategic in eliciting these forms of spatially disaggregated (of specific) knowledge, which are usually not acknowledged in top-down, expert-driven models of urban governance and planning. Utilizing participatory spatial knowledge can make urban governance and planning more effective and gain wider acceptance, by incorporating both expert and local community knowledge. Although participatory spatial knowledge management is increasingly used in urban planning processes, its success depends on external political and economic conditions.

A legal framework providing for fiscal decentralisation and funding, for instance, is a strategic support. The influence of various external conditions has not yet been analysed much locally, and certainly not comparatively across different socio-political contexts, although it is a strategic question, given the inherent trade-offs and potential political conflicts in combining environmental, social and economic goals (within sustainable development). Therefore, the programme focuses on ten cities with contrasting economic and political conditions, with the main scientific objective of developing a model on participatory spatial knowledge management to direct urban governance to sustainable development.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Nairobi, Kenya is a dissemination partner. The project is coordinated by the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), Germany.

Cities & Topics

The Cities are:

India: Dehli, Chennai, Kalyan

South Africa: Durban, Cape Town

Peru: Lima Metropolitana, Arequipa

Brazil: Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Guarulhos

The four-year project was organised around **five major topics:**

1. **Large-scale economic and infrastructure projects** in fast-growing cities and alternative economic strategies
2. Analysing policies and politics to address urban inequality: **CSO networks and campaigns on sub-standard settlements in metropolitan areas**
3. **Environmental risk assessment** and inclusive scenario building for reducing costs: reconciling the green and brown agenda
4. Developing **participatory 'spatial' knowledge models in metropolitan governance networks** for sustainable development and an integrated model of urban sustainable development
5. **Combining fiscal decentralization, participatory budgeting, and inclusive development:** supporting sustainable development policies, monitoring and implementation

Chance2sustain research publications:
<http://www.chance2sustain.eu/10.0.html>

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Chance2Sustain Partners

The Chance2Sustain project combine both research and communication aspects. Its aim is to encourage close collaboration between researchers and policy makers and therefore enhances the co-operation with reputable global development research institutes.

- Amsterdam Institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies (AMIDSt (UvA)), The Netherlands
- French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), France
- School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), India
- Cities for Life Forum (FORO), Peru
- Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (CEBRAP), Brazil
- Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR), Norway
- University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), South Africa

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TABLE OF CONTENT

ABOUT THE RESEARCH	02
SECTION 1: A REVIEW OF URBAN CHANCES, CITY GROWTH AND THE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE - CHANCE2SUSTAIN	07
Introduction	07
About Chance2Sustain.....	07
Summary, Emerging Policy Issues and Recommendations for Future Work	09
Large-Scale Economic and Infrastructure Projects	09
Linking Research and Policy to Enhance Adaptive Capacities for Sustainability	13
POLICY BRIEF 1: PARTICIPATORY SPATIAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR MUNICIPALITIES	17
1.0 Participatory Spatial Knowledge Management for Municipalities	18
1.1. Why Participatory Spatial Knowledge Management	18
2.0. Spatial Knowledge Management at Work.....	18
2.1 Urban Planning	18
2.2 Municipal Work Processes	19
3.0. Enhancing Participation in Spatial Knowledge Management and Decision-Making Processes.....	22
4.0. Conclusion.....	23
POLICY BRIEF 2: ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF URBAN PLANS	25
1.0. Enhancing Implementation of Urban Plans	26
1.1 Attempts to Harness the Transformative Potential of Cities	26
1.2 Why Implementation Matters	26
2.0. Understanding the Outcomes of Megaprojects	27
3.0. Drawing Policy Lessons from Megaprojects	28
3.1 Why Participation in Implementation	28
3.2 Understanding the Key Features of Implementation	31
4.0. Conclusion.....	32
SUMMARY OF WORK PACKAGES	34



Souvenir shops and local handicrafts line the traditional cobblestone streets of the colorful historic tourist district of Pelourinho in Salvador, Brazil. © Lazyllama/Shutterstock



Chance2Sustain

Research Findings

WORK PACKAGE WP2

SECTION 1: A REVIEW OF URBAN CHANCES, CITY GROWTH AND THE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE - CHANCE2SUSTAIN

Introduction

The transition towards more sustainable urbanization demands cities to mobilize the requisite adaptive capacities. It is a process that entail policy discourses that engage with the key actors and their networks, across the varied sectors-in an environment that promote an all-inclusive approach to urban development. Considering this, sound urban governance becomes indispensable, and to realize it, it calls for the need to focus attention to mechanisms that strengthens local governments. Meanwhile, the role of research and its valuable contribution to developing these policy discourses remains crucial.

About Chance2Sustain

This booklet features research done under the project, **“Urban Chances, City Growth and the Sustainability Challenge- Chance2Sustain (C2S)”**, funded by the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union (EU) and coordinated by the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI). The *“research programme examined how governments and citizens in cities with differing patterns of urban economic growth make use of participatory (or integrated) spatial knowledge management to direct urban governance towards more sustainable development.”* The programme covered five main thematic topics or work packages (WPs):

1. WP: **Large-scale economic and infrastructure projects** in fast-growing cities and alternative economic strategies
2. WP: Analysing policies and politics to address urban inequality: **Civil Society Organisations (CSO) networks and campaigns on sub-standard settlements in metropolitan areas**
3. WP: **Environmental risk assessment and** inclusive scenario building for reducing costs: reconciling the green and brown agenda;

4. WP: Developing **participatory ‘spatial’ knowledge models in metropolitan governance networks** for sustainable development and an integrated model of urban sustainable development, and;
5. WP: **Combining fiscal decentralization, participatory budgeting, and inclusive development:** supporting sustainable development policies, monitoring and implementation.

The research was conducted in ten (No.) cities, in five (No.) countries as follows:

- **India:** Dehli, Chennai, Kalyan
- **South Africa:** Durban, Cape Town
- **Peru:** Lima Metropolitana, Arequipa
- **Brazil:** Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Guarulhos

Drawing from the outcomes of the thematic topics, this section of the booklet highlights some fundamental emerging policy issues. These are research outcomes that UN-Habitat considers critical for policy and decision makers in cities facing similar urbanization opportunities and challenges, as those focused in this research programme. Furthermore, the section recommends areas of further research.

Figure 1.0: Cities Featured in Chance2Sustain Research Programme



Box 1.0: Urban Chances, City Growth and the Sustainability Challenge - Chance2Sustain

This research programme examines how governments and citizens in cities with differing patterns of urban economic growth make use of participatory (or integrated) spatial knowledge management to direct urban governance towards more sustainable development. Participatory spatial knowledge management is the main concept we use to study this issue, as it reflects a strategic resource, which all stakeholders can contribute to urban governance processes towards sustainable development.

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