"Social Inclusion and Energy Management for Informal Urban Settlements (SES)"

"Learning through first-hand experience"

16 Ethiopian and 18 European researchers and practitioners learn and reflect from integrated urban development in Kassel

Summary

Dr Peter Gotsch and Prof Uwe Altrock from the chair of Urban Regeneration and Urban Theory at the University of Kassel hosted a workshop on social inclusion, sustainable housing and integrated urban development from the19th to 22nd of June, 2017. 16 researchers from Mekelle, Gonder and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and 14 urban researchers and practitioners from Kassel (Germany) and Krems (Austria) joined the event. The event was part of the European Commission's Erasmus+ project "Social Inclusion and Energy Management for Informal Urban Settlements in Ethiopia (SES)" With the motto of "learning through first-hand experience" the four-day programme comprised of seven field visits, ten lectures and discussions. The programme promoted interaction with central project stakeholders, dialogue and

reciprocal learning. Participants reported that they obtained new "technical" knowledge, a change in mind-set and increased awareness on the feasibility and relevance of integrated neighbourhood development and social inclusion. Moreover, the event provided a platform for networking and exchange of ideas between the participating individuals and organizations. The outcome significantly contributed to the main objective of the SES project, which is the development of teaching contents and training materials for students and professionals.

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Edited by Abnet Gezahegn, EiABC, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

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The context in Ethiopia — Why

Social inclusion and energy management emerge as central issues in the context of Ethiopian urban development. As sub-Sahara's fastest growing country, Ethiopia is currently undergoing a phase of unprecedented transformation. Currently the country is among the most dynamically changing places world-wide. Still, with an urbanisation rate of slightly above 20%, the (urban) development trajectory is only beginning. The extreme levels of growth and urbanisation involve unprecedented (and largely exploitative) levels of consumption of land and resources (including energy) and also exceed local management capacities. Despite significant efforts to provide sufficient land and housing for all, the cities are growing at rates that are faster than the administrations can handle. Moreover "alternative" forms of informal organisation and self-help on the rise as a result of the inadequate administrational capacities. Because access to land and resources, infrastructure and services for are insufficiently organised for all, bottom-up development and self-organisation steered by non-state actors, mainly in the form of informal settlements and informal work, are booming. Likewise, the rising scarcity is promoting higher costs and increased competition by various actors, and also tends to engender new forms of conflict, social exclusion and divide.

Whereas there is an exclusive and "rich" informal sector that manages benefit and profit, there is also a vast sector of the marginalised and poor "slum" dwellers lacking rights, political power and organisation. These tend to become the most vulnerable and effected by marginalisation and exclusion: E.g. often ending up being excluded from public infrastructure and services, paying primate rates for infrastructure and services such as fresh water which they often have to buy from the private sector and frequently being subject to forced evictions.

What? - Objective and guiding questions

In the context as described above, and given the goal of SES of enhancing the capacities of Higher Education Institutions and other central stakeholders such as governmental and non-governmental institutions in Ethiopia and various stakeholders, the main objective of the joint workshop of the Erasmus+ project "Social Inclusion and Energy Management for Informal Urban Settlements" in Kassel was to learn from European Experiences on socially inclusive, integrated and participatory oriented city and neighbourhood development. Some of the guiding questions in the context were:

- How does socially inclusive integrated and participatory planning work in a European city such as Kassel today?

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- How did it evolve? Which principles does it follow? and Where does it go? What are its key challenges today?
- How do local "best practice" experiences look through foreign eyes?
- What issues emerge from the core elements of mutual learning and knowledge transfer?

Who? – Participants

The participants comprised seven members and associates of the hosting institution, the Chair of Urban Regeneration and Urban Theory at University of Kassel, projects partners from the coordinating partner from the Danube University of Krems in Austria, a group of 16 Urban Planners, Architects, Geographers, Social Scientists from the Universities of Addis Ababa, Gondar and Mekelle in Ethiopia, as well as eleven experts and professionals who facilitated the various field visits and discussions. (See below for the list of participants)

How?

The event was organised as a four-day training workshop. It was based on field-trips, lectures and discussions with local experts and stakeholders.

Introduction to the workshop by Dr Peter Gotsch

What?

The field trips and discussions included

1. A tour of the **Campus Holländischer Platz of Kassel University,** facilitated by **Stephan Amtsberg**, technical officer at the Deans Office of the faculty for Architecture - Urban and Regional Planning - Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning (ASL). The central university campus in Kassel is a great example of an integrated, context based and incremental urban development and of urban regeneration from an industrial to a knowledge based use. Moreover, it showcases efforts to promote diversity, social integration and to minimise energy use, through its highly accessible public central location, public spaces and parks, increased densities, mixed uses, and walkable environments.

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Tour of University Campus Holländischer Platz

While visiting the old and new campus of Kassel University, the participants familiarised themselves with the history and the diverse periods in the Campus Holländischer Platz has evolved and with the respective paradigms of these periods. This also included future plans, existing conflicts and struggles and the question of integration of the campus area with the surrounding neighbourhoods.
(Date: 19 June 2018, Venue: Campus Holländischer Platz of Kassel University)

2. The **Unterneustadt Urban Quarter** in a central location at Kassel Fulda river is an example of a recent innovative and successful re-densification and revival of the inner-city through housing and related services. **Dr. Friedhelm Fischer**, an associated researcher in the institute for urban regeneration at Kassel University and currently Professor at the University of Sydney was the guide and host of this visit.

Visit to the Unterneustadt Urban Quarter

The project demonstrates how a sustainable and integrated urban development works through the promotion of cultural identity, mix and diversity and high-quality public spaces, therefore preventing segregation, sprawl, suburbanisation and consequently attracting residents back to the inner city.
(Date: 19 June 2017, Venue: Kassel Unterneustadt)

3. The groups visit to the **UNESCO world heritage site Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe** facilitated by **Prof. Wigbert Riehl** (Chair of Landscape Planning and Technology) and carried out by **Mr Yannick Schwartz** from the Bergpark was a welcome variation in programme.

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Visit to Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe

It demonstrated the role of parks and public places and of cultural heritage and identity that is open and accessible to all to social inclusion, quality of live and the image of a city. (Date: 19 June 2017, Venue: Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe)

4. A visit of the Design of **Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse and the Goethe-Strasse** with **Dr. Hans Helmut Nolte**.

Visit to Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse and the Goethe-Strasse

The new Friedrich-Ebert-Strasse and Goethe-Strasse in Kassel's Neighbourhood Vorderer Westen is seen as one the most innovative re-designs of streets and public spaces in Germany. The project received the German Design Award in 2014. Dr Nolte was involved in the project as one of the Authors of the Project that redistributed and upgraded pedestrian and vehicular and parking spaces promoting integrated and human scale neighbourhoods, accessible to all and with attractive public transport. (Date: 20 June 2017, Venue: Streets of the Vorderer Westen Neighbourhood in Kassel)

5. Social inclusion through a combination of spatial upgrading, accessible to services, affordable housing, social empowerment, community work targeted training and capacity building programmes was at the centre of a visit of the "**social city" project Rothenditmold** (Soziale Stadt Rothendittmold).

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Tour of Rothenditmold with Martin Pauli

As part of a national and state level initiative the project aims to upgrade and regenerate an old and socially deprived industrial neighbourhood without driving the existing residents out through social, environmental and economic incentives. Our discussion partner was **Martin Pauli**, a social geographer and staff member of the implementing NGO Jafka. (Date: 20 June 2017, Venue: Streets of the Rothenditmold Neighbourhood in Kassel)

6. While the Post WWII Kassel has a legacy as an arrival city of internally displaced and migrants parallel to a recent migration wave the city has also experienced a significant rise of new arrivals during the last few years. Accordingly, the question of how the Municipality deals with the integration of migrants and refugees was the focus of a presentation by Carsten Höhre, Kassel's Integration Commissioner. The event took place at the side of an innovative housing project for refugees, the **Refugee housing Bunsenstrasse** in Kassel's north.

Housing Project for Refugees in Bunsenstrasse

It also included a presentation and guided tour by **Prof Alexander Reichel**, one of the designers and architects. Important features of the affordable and innovative social housing included high quality adoptable courtyards and open spaces for the residents, shared facilities (such as kitchens), ecological building materials, community rooms, and a flexible and adaptable layout and floor plans making it possible to convert the facility into a social housing in the future. (Date: 21 June 2017, Venue: Refugee housing in Bunsenstrasse, Kassel)

Discussion of Kassel's integration policy at the Refugee Housing project in Bunsenstrasse

7. **Prof. Uwe Altrock**, the host of the workshop and chair of urban regeneration at Kassel University presented the field of urban regeneration. He emphasised the concept of **careful urban regeneration and socially integrative regeneration** and introduced the group to the system of federal and state level grants in Germany. Careful

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urban regeneration was presented as an approach that is need-oriented, participatory and inclusive, incremental, that minimises demolition, and that includes the upgrading of streets and public spaces. Social cohesion and integration were presented as vital challenges, especially in economically thriving and dynamic cities and under conditions of self-segregation. Instruments such as **socio-spatial monitoring** and **Neighbourhood Management** were presented as "good practices" addressing the problem. After all it became clear that social integration is a multidimensional field of action that requires comprehensive and holistic solutions tackling spatial, social and economic aspects including and social and political empowerment and communicative action. (Date: 21 June 2017, Venue: Chair for Urban Regeneration, Kassel University)

8. Integration of individuals with special needs into the society combined with urban regeneration, was at the focus of the visit to "**Werkhof am Park Schönfeld**". The visit was facilitated by **Mr. Stefan Pötzsch** the Chair of the organisation and **Wolfgang Klepp** the director of the Workshop. The project and housing project was realised in a former army barracks of the Jägerkaserne next to the Park Schönefeld in Kassel. The Werkhof works on the basis of the anthroposophical image of man and the principle of "autonomy through social integration". It combines people with special needs and those without. They live and work together in a modern residential complex. Moreover the project is an example of promoting social mix, integration and diversity of populations in high value areas at prime locations that are normally prone to gentrification. (Date: 22 June 2017, Venue: Werkhof Park Schönefeld)
9. **Mr Volker Mohr (Director) and Petra Gerhold (Officer)** of Kassels Department of Urban Planning introduced the group to Kassel's Urban Planning Challenges and Strategies. Moreover they presented the **project "Zum Feldlager".** This 11,5 hectare housing project is planned for 120 lots and 180 houses and mixed dwelling typologies. As a piloting **innovative energy solutions at neighbourhood** level, the project was developed in close cooperation between the local utilities company and renowned science and research institutions such as the Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics (IBP). The scheme will employ a collective geothermal heating network thus avoiding the use of non-renewable resources (such as gas and oil). In addition, the design of the micro climatic conditions including the layout of fresh air corridors as well as pedestrian and bicycle networks and the integration with public transport has played a central role. (Date: 22 June 2017, Venue: Chair for Urban Regeneration, Kassel University)

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Quote

"Urban Regeneration does not work when it stops with investments in bricks and mortar. It can only be successful when linking spatial with social and economic and other policies. Neighbourhoods can only be stabilised through empowerment and communicative action." (Uwe Altrock)

Uwe Altrock is Professor and Chair of Urban Regeneration and Planning Theory at the Institute of Urban Landscapes and Dean at the of the Faculty for Architecture Urban Development and Landscape Design (ASL) at the University of Kassel Germany.

List of Participants

Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development, EiABC, Addis Ababa
Mr. Dawit Benti Erena, Lecturer, EiABC
Mrs. Abnet Gezahegn Berhe, Lecturer, EiABC
Mr. Tsion Lemma Mamaru, Researcher, Lecturer, EiABC
Mr. Yonas Alemayehu Soressa, Researcher, Lecturer, EiABC
Mr. Imam Mahmoud Hassen, Chair of Housing, EiABC

University of Gonder, School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Dr. Atsede Desta Tegegne, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Gonder
Dr. Meseret Kassie Desta, University of Gonder
Mr. Hone Mandefro Belaye, School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Gondar
Dr. Mikias Amare Gebreselassie, Senior Reseracher, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Gonder

University of Mekelle, School of Architecture and Urban Planning
Mr. Daniel Semunugus Negese, Chair Chair of Architectural Design , Theory ,History and Building Science, Mekelle
Mrs. Sara Amare Geberemeskel, Head, School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Mekelle
Mr. Ephrem Nigusie, Architectural design team leader, Mekelle
Mr. Haile Gebre-egziabher, Chair of Urban and Regional Planning
Mr. Biniam Tekle Biru, School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Mekelle
Ms. Makda Dirar, School of Architecture and Urban Planning in Mekelle

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Donau University Krems, Center of Europe and Globalization
Dr. Tania Berger, SES Coordinator, Head for Center of Europe and Globalization, Danube Univesrity Krems

Universität Kassel, Chair of Urban Planning and Regeneration
Prof. Dr Uwe Altrock, Chair of Urban Planning and Regeneration, Dean ASL
Stephan Amtsberg, Technical Officer, ASL, Kassel University
Prof. Wigbert Riehl, Chair of Landscape Planning and Technology, Kassel University
Dr. Peter Gotsch, Senior Researcher, Urban Planning and Regeneration
Dr. Friedhelm Fischer, Associate, Urban Planning and Regeneration
Mohamed El Gamal, Researcher, Urban Planning and Regeneration
Gerhard Kienast, Senior Researcher, Urban Planning and Regeneration
Dr. Xiaohong Tan, Researcher, Urban Planning and Regeneration
Amiel Bize , PhD, Researcher, Urban Planning and Regeneration
Prathiwi Putri, PhD (Guest), Urban Planning and Regeneration

Experts and Stakeholders from Kassel
Petra Gerhold, Staff City Planning, City of Kassel
Wolfgang Klepp, Staff, Workshop am Park Schönfeld, Kassel
Volker Mohr, Chief of City Planning, City of Kassel
Dr. Hans Helmuth Nolte, "City Architect", Kassel
Dr. Martin Pauli, JAFKA, Kassel
Stefan Pötzsch, Director, Werkhof am Park Schönefeld
Prof. Alexander Reichel, Reichel Architekten, Kassel
Mr Yannick Schwartz, Guide, Bergpark Kassel

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