

SUSTAINABLE CITIES



GLOBAL UTMANING
- AN INDEPENDENT
SWEDISH THINKTANK

SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAMME

The 2030 Agenda clearly underlines that cities - not nations - have the answers to sustainable development. The cities is where a large part of the implementation, financing and monitoring of these global agendas will take place.

As 70 percent of the world's energy consumption and GDP is generated in our rapidly growing cities, the implementation of the global agendas will depend on a sustainable urban development. It is primarily in our cities where the combat against poverty and climate change will be fought. The eleventh sustainable development goal (SDG 11): "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" is thus crucial for the implementation of the global agendas. The global agenda is simply local.

More than half of the worlds' population lives in cities. During the coming generation, the urban population is expected to double. The pace of urbanization means that we will build as much new city as has been built throughout the history of mankind. At the same time, one-seventh of the worlds population, today live in informal settlements or under slum like conditions. Urban inequality is not only increasing in poorer countries,



THE GLOBAL GOALS

but is also becoming a common feature in richer countries.

Sustainable cities have been a focus within the think tank since the start. Since 2015, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda plays a central roll with a specific focus on SDG11. We highlight the increasingly important role of cities as drivers in the transition towards sustainable development. We wish to capture and disseminate system solutions created in collaboration between politics, management, research, private sector and civil society in cities around the world in order to accelerate the transition towards sustainable communities.

We offer platforms and create network for exchange of knowledge. By organizing policy dialogues, round tables discussions and seminars and further by following the development taking place in urban areas we co-create concrete policy proposals and spread good practices.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

We currently coordinate a national platform for sustainable urban development with special focus on the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. The aim is to promote a national and global exchange through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Leadership for sustainable cities - Nordic Urban Ways

Sustainable Cities early highlighted the importance of local leadership for sustainable urban development. In the UN-Habitat collaboration, 'Leadership for sustainable cities - Nordic Urban Ways', the implementation of the 2030 Agenda plays a central role. The study is based on nine Nordic Cities where the leadership for sustainable urban development has been an underlying feature. Our aim is to provide valuable insight on urban systems for leadership, governance and management.

The findings in terms of leadership is that a clear focus on sustainability goals, such as SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda, along-side strong self-governance, are key factors to instrumentalise sustainable urban development. The elements of success have resulted in a "vision to action" approach on leadership for sustainable cities identifying the value of: (1) visionary decision making, (2) creating synergies, (3) mobilizing supporting forces and (4) create continuity in planning.



A Government Sustainability loan

The purpose of the project is to determine the stimulus required in order to speed up the urgent restorations of the current Swedish housing stock. The main hypothesis is that the government plays a crucial role in initiating the restorations. The project is based on a wide societal perspective with the objective to investigate how a state initiative may also contribute to solutions for other current challenges; lack of housing, employment, environmental and social sustainability, integration.

Urban Girls Movement

Global Utmaning highlights global urban development initiatives targeting girls and young women in low-income areas in rapidly urbanizing cities, and develops methods for urban development planning, that can be applicable globally. The project will result in policy proposals for Swedish development cooperation and new identified ways for Swedish development assistance to be targeted.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Nordic Urban Ways – Local leadership, governance & management for sustainable development.** October 2016. Author Elin Andersdotter Fabre.
- **Leadership for Sustainable Cities – an international outlook.** February 2014. Red. Hanna Begler.
- **Urban world - New step towards sustainable cities.** March 2011. Author Carl-Johan Engström et al.
- **Housing policy and energy efficiency of the housing stock.** May 2015. Author Richard Murray.
- **The sustainable consumption of the future - What role should politics and business play?** October 2015. Author Kristian Skånberg.

ABOUT US

Global Utmaning is an independent Swedish think tank focusing on long term sustainable solutions to today's challenges in the economic, ecologic and social systems.

We create platforms for cooperation between science, businesses, management, politics and civil society. The think tank is a node in international networks working with strategic analysis, policy solutions and advocacy through dialogues, seminars and reports. Global Utmaning consists of a qualified network of senior advisors with cross-sectorial competence and a strong belief in the future. Within the think tank there are programmes in economy, climate, urbanization, development and health, water and the nordic way.

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Birger Jarlsgatan 27, 6tr, 111 45 Stockholm
info@globalutmaning.se | 08-787 2150