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Expert Workshop (hybrid event):

Advancing Sustainable Urban Development in Remote Regions

25 May 2022, 10:00-17:00 CEST

Universitätsclub Bonn and Zoom

[Website](#) | [Flyer](#) | [Video](#)

Background

Once more, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically shown that global challenges require global responses, which most often seem impossible to agree upon given our world's heterogeneities. Unfortunately, the recent tragic war in Ukraine revealed the existence of significant discrepancies in the understanding of human values and the questioning of the indivisibility of security. Seen less pressing by comparison, ["climate change remains the biggest global challenge that humanity is facing"](#) also in pandemic times and sustainable urban development is an important lever albeit most often not considered a priority area. Cities account for 70 per cent of energy use and cause 75 per cent of emissions worldwide. With two-thirds of the global population estimated to be living in cities by the year 2050, it really matters that regions, which experience a strong urbanization trend already and are of unique importance in the global climate system, build up city environments that match with the global goals adopted in 2015.

To bring different realities, perspectives, and ultimately policies together, transnational cooperation is crucial. Also in the Arctic, transnational cooperation is the master key for responding to the effects of the rapidly proceeding climate change. The regions' remoteness, harsh living conditions, and the relevance of the Arctic for the global climate, environment, and economy, have been encouraging factors for cooperation between the people from the Arctic, Arctic and non-Arctic states and various stakeholder groups with interests in the Arctic. As such, transnational cooperation has a long history in the Arctic. Also because of this history, the challenges that come along with transnational cooperation are well-known and experienced. Among them are the difficulties of long-term strategic planning, of defining specific goals, of agreeing on reforms and pertinent issues in a timely manner, to name but a few. One may argue that these "difficulties" are actually advantages that facilitate differentiated and context-specific responses. Context-specific responses run the high risk of being contradictory and ineffective, however, if they are not aligned transnationally towards the global challenge they seek to cope with. In this way, sustainable urban development is a case in point because priorities and understandings differ among the different stakeholders and Arctic regions. Some cities, such as Greenland's capital Nuuk experience ongoing outbound migration. Other cities, such as Norway's largest Arctic city Tromsø or Kolari, a small Arctic city in Finland, are growing and increasingly important for Arctic shipping, tourism, and resource transports. Adapting the cities' infrastructure to their needs has distinct implications that seem "sustainable" to some and "unsustainable" to others.

Against this backdrop, the research project "Sustainable Urban Development in the European Arctic" (SUDEA) investigates whether a "look up north" to the Arctic, where transnational cooperation has a long tradition, may help to identify pathways to better harmonize policies particularly in the context of sustainable urban development.

Together with experts focusing on

- sustainable (urban) development and ocean governance,
- the implementation of global agreements (specifically the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement),
- local governance and transnational cooperation,
- knowledge exchange and participatory approaches,

the SUDEA research team seeks to discuss how sustainable urban development can be advanced – in remote regions, in general, and specifically in the Arctic.

This interdisciplinary expert workshop is scheduled at the project's mid-term. It is dedicated to bring different research perspectives from Arctic and non-Arctic research projects together and to compare (preliminary) results with those from SUDEA's research team on cities in the European Arctic.

Structure of the Hybrid Expert Workshop

The hybrid expert workshop takes place via Zoom and at the Universitätsclub Bonn. The four different sessions all address challenges for sustainable urban development and transnational cooperation:

- 1) The first and introductory session is a roundtable discussion focusing on the reasons **why approaches to sustainable urban development differ**. This session sheds light on the possibilities and hindrances of stakeholders to inform policy and decision-making in the context of urban development in the Arctic and beyond.
- 2) The second session includes a panel discussion on the question **how sustainable urban development can be steered more effectively** and in alignment with local and global policies. Different paper presentations will assess governance approaches and different formats for stakeholder participation.
- 3) In the third session, researchers from various Arctic projects discuss **challenges and potentials for sustainable urban development** in the Arctic and consider how the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine affects their research perspectives.
- 4) This discussion is followed by a session with break out groups that discuss **preliminary research results** and their relevance for the Arctic and beyond.

Key Questions

- How do national and local legislations regulate participation in urban development processes?
- How do governance frameworks affect the participation of stakeholders in decision-processes that concern urban development?
- How could national and local legal frameworks be improved to enable and support participatory approaches effectively and potentially be harmonized through transnational agreements?
- How can (transnational) multi-stakeholder and participatory approaches that promote inclusive decision-processes be applied in the context of urban development and what challenges go along with their implementation?
- Do multi-stakeholder platforms such as city-networks facilitate knowledge exchanges across different regional levels and in transnational networks? What are their limitations?
- To what degree do the pandemic and the war in Ukraine influence sustainable urban development in the Arctic?

Participants

The aim of the workshop is to have a frank and open exchange of views to gather opinions on how to advance sustainable urban development in remote regions. The expert workshop will bring together 40 researchers with different disciplinary backgrounds and research areas.

Research team

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Programme

Moderation: Kerstin Pettenkofer, Sustainable at Work

10:00 h	Welcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dorothea Wehrmann, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), SUDEA co-lead○ Anna-Katharina Hornidge, DIE, Director
10:15 h	Session I: Why do approaches to sustainable urban development differ? Roundtable discussion
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hannu I. Heikkinen, University of Oulu2. Yanzhu Zhang, DIE3. Monica Tennberg, University of Lapland4. Jacqueline Götze, DIE
11:30 h	Coffee and Tea
11:45 h	Session 2: How can sustainable urban development be steered more effectively and in alignment with local and global policies? Panel
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Okka Lou Mathis, DIE2. Anni-Sofia Niittyvuopio, Youth Council - Sámi Parliament, Finland3. Alexia Faus-Onbargi, DIE4. Dorothee Cambou, University of Helsinki5. Arne Riedel, Ecologic Institute
13:00 h	Lunch
14:00 h	Session 3: Arctic research on sustainable development: Effects of the COVID pandemic and the war in Ukraine Project presentations and discussion
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Katarzyna Radzik-Maruszak, Maria-Curie-Skłodowska-University (UMCS)2. Svenja Holste and Mikko van Bremen, Bielefeld University3. Hannes Hansen-Magnusson, Cardiff University, JustNorth4. Monika Szkarłat, UMCS
15:00 h	Coffee and Tea
15:15 h	Session 4: Preliminary research results and their relevance for the Arctic and beyond Break out-groups and discussion
	Break out-group 1: "Capacities of communities to advance sustainable urban development" <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adam Stępień, University of Lapland2. Tanja Joona, University of Lapland3. Peter Schweitzer, Austrian Polar Research Institute
	Break out-group 2: "Governing sustainable urban development" <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jennifer Spence, Kennedy School, Belfer Center Arctic Initiative2. Gary Wilson, University of Northern British Columbia3. Elena Dybtsyna and Evgenii Aleksandrov, Nord University
16:45 h	Wrap-up and closing words
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Michał Łuszczuk, UMCS, SUDEA co-lead○ Dorothea Wehrmann, DIE, SUDEA co-lead

Your directions to Universitätsclub Bonn e.V.

Konviktstr. 9
53113 Bonn
Phone: + 49 (0)228-72960

From Bonn Central Station (*Hauptbahnhof*):

- Walking (10 minutes): Exit the main building, cross the street "Am Hauptbahnhof" and turn right to follow "Am Hauptbahnhof". Walk 10 meters and turn left into Poststraße. After 20 meters turn right into Maximilianpassage and turn left in Maximilianstraße. Turn right to follow Gangolfstraße and turn right into Gerhard-von-Are Straße. Continue walking straight to cross Martinplatz, to cross Am Hof, to cross Bischofsplatz, to cross Rathausgasse. Turn right into Belderberg. After 50 meters turn left into Konviktstraße.
- By Subway: Take the U-Bahn U 16 / U 63 or U 66 towards "Bad Honnef / Bad Godesberg" and get off at the station "Universität/Markt". You may buy your ticket at vending machines either at the Station or on board (choose ticket type 1b; 2.50 Euro, coins only). At Universität/Markt Station, follow the signs towards the Stockenstraße/Markt exit. At the exit turn right. After 50 meters walk through the Koblenzer Tor (left) and cross the main street Belderberg. On the other side of the street follow the Konviktstraße. After 20 meters the Universitätsclub is on your left.

