

Stockholm Dialogue Process: Key Messages

Stockholm's key messages for further dialogue processes are:

- The active participation of residents is a precondition for Stockholm's sustainable development to positively influence densification and transformation processes.
- Participation provides for better knowledge and evidence for sustainable and fair decision making by planners.
- Initiating dialogue at the early planning stages leads to many diverse perspectives and also increases involvement and understanding among citizens.
- Effective dialogue at neighbourhood level seem to be the easiest way to channel inputs into the detailed plans.
- Consultation with residents also delivers a comprehensive picture of the city's overall development. However, this process needs to be properly moderated, well-established and requires continuous consultation from the very beginning.
- Participation is a broader and more comprehensive concept than dialogue and consultation, and even includes a certain influence on planning decisions. However, there is no co-decision making procedure for citizens in Stockholm yet.
- Frequent consultations are an important pre-condition for better understanding, mutual learning and improving trust, confidence and acceptance of public institutions. Furthermore, they promote enhanced civil society building and strengthen direct democracy.

Continuous improvement of structures and instruments as success keys

Based on work in recent years on densification and dialogue projects, some general conclusions can be drawn. It is crucial to have planning and management structures that continuously coordinate urban development initiatives in association with the City's investment strategy and in accordance with the City's annual budget. It is necessary to have strong and continued political support over the coming decades for the transformation of the urban fabric with 140,000 new housing units. The need for in-depth analyses, including control over land, more knowledge about the conversion possibilities of existing neighbourhoods and new planning instruments are important supporting factors.



It is also essential to organise broad and inclusive participation processes in order to make urban transformation a durable success. Urban transformation, where densification is a central factor, must involve robust and resilient structures that take into account social needs, climate change and reduced resource demand. Last but not least there is a high demand for good internal coordination among the City's administrations, which requires new forms of planning and decision making procedures where sustainable urban development takes into consideration market requirements.

Future comprehensive planning, e.g. a new City Plan, must take into account flexible and rapidly-changing global preconditions, but also create a stable framework for the transformation of Stockholm into a one million city.



Stockholm Dialogue Process



Through the series 'In Dialogue about Urban Transformation' we present urban experiences and good practise collected by EUROCITIES working groups (WG). Many European cities are faced with the challenges of (rapid) growth and socio-demographic change. To achieve and ensure sustainable development, cities focus on inward development with densification, energy efficiency, and socially-balanced solutions. The ways of reaching these goals vary between the cities. Nevertheless, each example provides guidance or inspiration for others to improve dialogue and participation. The tools, methods, and approaches we present include outstanding visualisation, involvement, co-design, GIS-modelling, and more.

WG Integrated Urban Development (Economic Development Forum)
We exchange on integrated and cross-sectoral approaches, using peer-exchange to improve day-to-day practice in projects and urban development. Our focus on urban transformation and densification includes emphasis on participation, dialogue and multilevel governance, carbon neutral planning/renewal and its social impact, as well as resourcing integrated projects. These complex issues often overlap: therefore, we seek exchanges with other working groups!

WG Housing (Social Affairs Forum)
WG Housing gathers representatives from more than a dozen cities. Our objective is to raise awareness of the importance of housing for social cohesion in European cities by comparison of national/local housing policies and development of recommendations with regard to: affordable housing, social housing and housing of special target groups, mixed-use urban developments, housing and social cohesion, rehabilitation of existing housing stock, transfer of know-how.

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Modelling and Counselling – Experts and People Change the City



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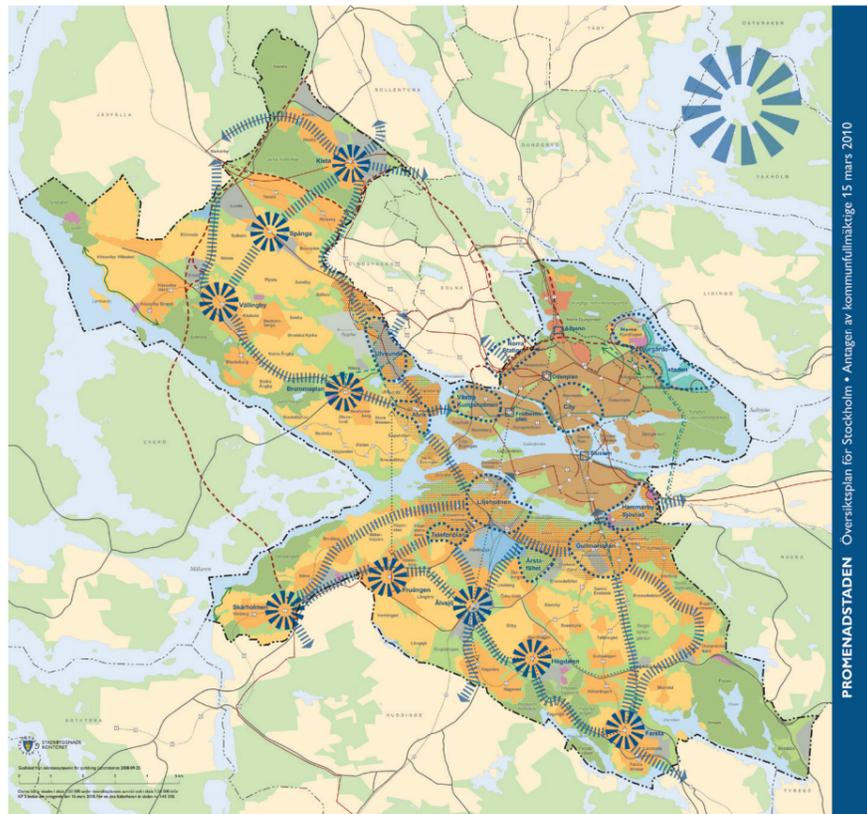
Stockholm, the Walkable City

Stockholm is at present one of the fastest growing cities in Europe. It is estimated that the city will grow from today's 905,000 inhabitants to one million in about eight years' time. This requires a high rate of housing construction. The City Council has therefore decided to plan for an additional 140,000 new housing units by 2030, i.e. approximately 9,000 units a year. This means that the city's current morphology will change considerably in many areas due to densification, transformation, and new public infrastructure. The successful implementation of the plans heavily depends on the participation and active involvement of Stockholm's residents, NGOs and the business sector. Stockholm's city planning follows key guiding principles such as sustainability, a human-oriented approach, and the goals to create an open, connected, innovative and healthy city. The city's Vision 2030 (developed in 2007) provides guidance for important strategic planning issues.

It is the base for the 2010 Walkable City Plan, which contains four strategies for sustainable growth: strengthen central Stockholm, focus on nine strategic nodes, connect city areas, and create a lively urban environment in all of Stockholm. These two strategic documents aim to make Stockholm denser, more polycentric, better integrated, and functionally mixed.

The central area of Stockholm will be extended into several strategic development areas which are all brownfield areas or former industrial zones/harbours. This will provide diverse new city areas that support Stockholm's competitiveness, sustainable mobility i.e. walking/cycling, and connect areas that are currently isolated. In practice, this means expanding the inner city beyond its historic borders, which represents a big change for Stockholm's planning philosophy.

Stockholm, the Walkable City, comprehensive plan of 2010 – focus on nine strategic nodes

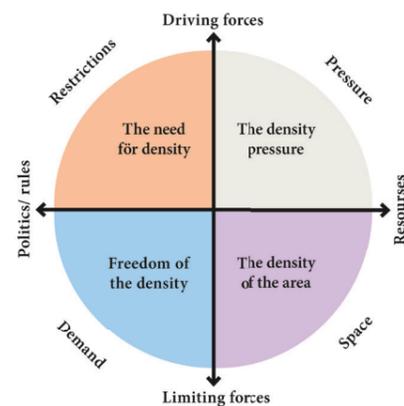


A New Urban Morphology

This urban transformation will lead to urban development processes which will see the current distinct morphology gradually disappear. Spatially, the city's planning efforts will also strengthen the identified nine strategic nodes and create new connecting corridors containing housing, improved green areas and infrastructure. The better linkage between currently non-integrated city areas should help to re-strengthen the city's suburban fabric. This too is a planning effort that leaves behind the original concepts of clearly-defined areas to form new, mixed and better interconnected areas.

GIS model laying out densification and housing potential

The City uses a GIS-based model to assess different types of densification, i.e. the housing potential all over Stockholm based on the City Plan. The model has been developed since 2008 by researchers together with city experts in order to support planning processes. The housing potential study is a very important contributor to the planning activities in Stockholm as it sets out the local potential for densification based on the current demand, physical conditions and planning restrictions.

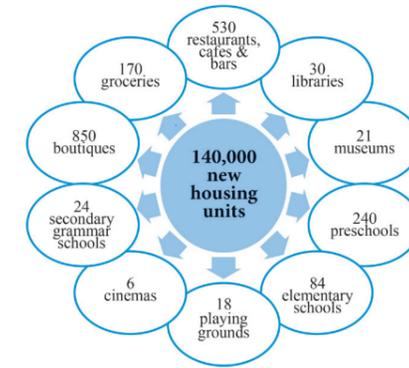


The GIS model (source: Spacescape)

The advantage of the GIS model being used is that it combines a large number of specific indicators, such as land ownership, the City's policies, legal restrictions, market conditions, and the physical urban environment. Furthermore, in the model around 20 percent of land is dedicated to purposes other than residential housing. This means that the space required for public service infrastructure is

automatically linked to the new housing units in the model.

Necessary public services and investments linked to 140,000 new housing units



The work around Stockholm's housing potential shows that business as usual or simple 'in-fill' measures result in very limited densification possibilities compared to the rather radical 'transformation' scenario. Fundamental changes are needed both in the planning processes and in the urban fabric itself. It also includes a change in the existing urban morphology: new and more coherent street networks, improved urban public transport, and a much denser neighbourhood structure including enhanced public and commercial services. As a result of densification, it will even mean that not only will parks be developed in existing green spaces, but also that new green spaces have to be created. The anticipated major transformation of Stockholm's urban areas means that:

- new financing schemes will have to be established
- a new interpretation of EU directives and Swedish laws must be made (noise regulations, air quality standards, etc)
- new ways of making detailed plans have to be developed
- many planning procedures including the political involvement will have to be renewed.

There is also an absolute necessity to gain the support of Stockholm's residents for this transformative planning approach. The city's planning slogan is 'welcome your new neighbours'. This should spell out that the current growth and

Housing Policy for a Growing City



Densification with low and high ambitions (top to bottom): Existing situation – low densification – high densification



Streets in Stockholm: Moränvägen (left), Sleipnerv (right)

transformation process will lead to many positive effects making the existing urban fabric more lively, structurally-enhanced and even greener.

Enhanced involvement as key to ensure urban transformation

To deal with the pressing demands of communicating the housing provision situation and the related urban transformation, Stockholm launched a pilot project, the 'Dialogue Project'. It has helped to improve the understanding of urban planners with regards to public consultations and early dialogues. It has also helped to find new approaches and communication tools for supporting Stockholm's sustainable development, e.g. by establishing a mobile communication pavilion, a handbook for dialogue tools, and a catalogue of methods that can be used in detailed planning procedures. The difference to previous procedures is that the feedback of citizens and involved stakeholders is much more constructive than before. The experiences so far show that successful debates are informative, improve the exchange of ideas and standpoints,

and are helping to raise awareness among residents.

In order to reach the widest possible audience, carefully-chosen communication channels are essential. The Dialogue project has effectively combined existing networks and platforms. Besides the Stockholm City homepage, local media and social media are the most frequently-used communications tools. To meet people and enterprises in the local areas, events and discussions are held in open spaces, e.g. squares, using mobile pavilions and showrooms. The use of 3D techniques has helped to improve the visual presentation of the project, especially in the electronic media and in meetings with citizens. A solid management process has been developed for the consultations with residents. This involves three phases: the collection of viewpoints and perspectives, the compilation of suggestions backed by analysis and the set of priorities prepared by local working groups, and finally the provision of feedback to the involved participants on how plans will be implemented.