

The “Planning Grant for Sustainable Solutions” aims to enable scientists to produce project proposals targeting one or several of the five SDSN sustainable development challenges that have high relevance to Global Environmental Change.

SSEESS is pleased to announce that Henrikke Baumann from Chalmers University of Technology (Dept. Energy and Environment) is one of the grantees for this grant.

Project description by Henrikke Baumann:

Sustainable urban transportation system in Kisumu, Kenya as a step towards resilient city

Transportation, i.e. movement of people and freight, happens mostly in urban areas. This places transportation in a context of urban planning, and its complexity requires a comprehensive approach to planning that includes “governance, land-use planning, economics and equity”, as recognized by OECD. Adding sustainability goals to this adds further to the complexity of the planning task, especially in a rapidly changing urban environment.

The envisioning of future(s) through techniques such as backcasting, scenario planning, etc., can help capture and enable the reconciliation of disparate goals in urban planning. However, knowledge about the fit and the feasibility of these techniques to planning processes is limited and there is need for better understanding of the field.

Through a combination of feasibility study and field study in a transportation context, improved understanding of the possibilities for planning for future sustainability can be reached. Specifically, in this project, a number of futurist techniques will be evaluated in the context of on-going urban planning projects related travel centrals in Kisumu, Kenya and Gothenburg, Sweden. A travel central takes the shape of a more or less integrated bus, train passenger centrals in many cities. Such centres often manifest ambitions of urban sustainable mobility, thereby making them suitable cases for our study. The 'futurist' techniques will be evaluated through a comparative environmental systems analysis approach within a sustainability framework in order to find out their respective strengths and weaknesses in the context of urban planning.