



1st Expert Exchange #MobilizeMinds

Discussing Joint Action on Capacity
Development and Education in
Sustainable Mobility

May 29, 2020

Summary Note

Background

On Friday, May 29, 2020, TUMI and VREF invited a global selection of experts to participate in a discussion on capacity development and education for sustainable mobility. The first Expert Exchange #MobilizeMinds convened experienced partners and experts on capacity development and education for sustainable mobility in international cooperation. The main aim was to initiate a discourse and joint vision on collaborating on educational and professional development activities for a global mobility transition.

Participating organizations

TUMI Partners (SLOCAT, WRI, ICLEI, C40 Cities, UN-Habitat, GIZ), VREF, HVT, IsDB, NUMO, Despacio, CODATU, University College London, University of Capetown, as well as several transport initiatives

Objectives

The online workshop had the following main objectives:

- Gain further understanding of the existing status quo and experiences regarding capacity development strategies, challenges and trends.
- Take the first steps towards formulating a joint and normative vision for capacity needs in the transport sector.
- Begin to develop an overview of the stakeholder landscape in capacity development (e.g. national and local governments, universities and schools, the private sector, NGOs etc.).
- Create a forum to discuss future cooperation between knowledge brokers, innovators and policy makers for providing Capacity Development and Education for Sustainable Mobility.



The online workshop was hosted by TUMI and VREF as an online event (see agenda in annex). After a round of introductions and input presentations, the moderator invited comments. In the second half, the exchange was facilitated in small groups, before group observations were shared back to all participants in the end. This summary note is based on individual comments and group discussions. Despite careful editing, it therefore contains the organizers' interpretation and does not necessarily represent the view of individual participants and organizations. Clarifications and edit suggestions are most welcome.

Main Takeaways:

1. There is a high need to better understand the educational and professional pathways in the transport sector
 - There is insufficient information how many people are needed for an urban mobility transformation (capacity gap) and how many people are educated in relevant programs (education gap) on all levels from local to international. Addressing potential skill imbalances successfully over a sustained period requires the prior assessment of demand and supply, the establishment of a common framework of action as well as development of specific roadmaps for the field of sustainable mobility. Substantial knowledge could be gained through a needs assessment and validated in-depth in national pilot contexts.
2. Curricula on sustainable mobility do not always reflect today's reality and needs
 - Existing curricula seem often outdated and too narrowly focused on free-flowing transport, exacerbating cities' challenges. Current teaching therefore needs to deliver a more comprehensive understanding of how traffic is generated and mitigated as well as how sustainable transport systems are developed. Through intellectual reform and updated curricula with standards, methods, and planning processes for sustainable mobility, future professionals should be enabled to plan towards people-centered mobility. Appropriate offers should be made more available to organizations and educational institutions.
3. Curricula are crucial, so are teachers and trainers
 - Where are the people able to educate students? This concerns their level of knowledge, the relationship to students, as well as their institutional and financial means to support those interested in learning more. There are fewer teachers and trainers from the Global South, yet those are often closer to the realities of developing cities and able to accompany the learning of students more directly.
4. Keep in mind the user perspective of your activities
 - Both in mobility planning and in capacity development, effectiveness depends on the ability to think from the user perspective and to integrate it in a larger context. That is why courses and trainings should build the users' ability to take lessons learned and apply them in their context. This learning can be facilitated through a number of methods and real-world cases. For example, to enhance the knowledge of transport managers, it will be necessary to understand the economic and political constraints faced by local transport operators and decision-makers.

5. Delivering change is an art for skilled artisans

- Pedagogy is skilled labor that we are used to, but hardly trained to deliver education and training for a global mobility transformation. In order to become skilled, some division of labor is inevitable. We therefore need to recognize our positions as skilled people, not educators, seek advice and incorporate modern pedagogy and soft skills into our measures.
- Online formats enable knowledge to become potentially available worldwide, but not all activities can be done virtually. As discussed, the use and presence of local trainers is dependent on the target group.

6. Access to a variety of formats for a variety of people is key

- There are many ways to encourage impactful learning, but often they stand alone and are not connected. Increased digitalized education and training offers can help overcome some, not all, barriers, and different formats are apt for different people. For example, what you learn in 3 months of an internship cannot be compared to an evening course or the completion of a two-years thesis program. It is important to make available and display useful formats to an audience that afterwards shows interested learners to deepen their knowledge and increase their interaction with course providers and opportunities for implementation.

7. Extend the stakeholders ecosystem

- We need to involve more and engage with other stakeholders from education and transport sectors as well as international development. These include, but are not limited to:

a. Trainers and implementers	e. Education and training institutions
b. Research networks	f. Professional associations
c. Development banks	g. Advocacy coalitions and organizations
d. Foundations	
- The COVID-19 pandemic shows the potential to connect between disciplines. For example, lockdowns and access restrictions heightened the awareness of the intersectionality of education, transport and health, and allowed for new ways of learning and exchanging. Similar inspirations from other fields can be transferred much quicker and should motivate the transport community.



Conclusion and next steps

Current education and capacity development efforts aim to change course in sustainable urban mobility through equipping sustainable urban mobility decision-makers, practitioners, educators and researchers with the right tools and through engaging with local stakeholders. Our ambition is to provide our partners and further stakeholders with high-class learning experiences relevant to their respective contexts by facilitating sessions and exchanges with internationally acknowledged experts and colleagues. It is for this reason that we hope to continue and expand both Expert Exchange meetings and implement substantial activities together.

We suggest continuing the exchange in order to:

- Meet regularly: suggested every two months for 1.5-2h on Friday afternoon CET
- Exchange both in large and smaller groups (like a bar camp)
- Discuss steps to #mobilizeminds in topical sessions with fellow experts
- Elicit input on specific activities or areas of action

Potential topics include:

- Availability and contents of university education
- Funding programs and investments
- Online learning
- Non-traditional stakeholders in education and training
- Trainings alongside infrastructure projects
- Differentiated target groups
- Capacity building in COVID times: How has the Covid-19 pandemic shifted your perspective on education and capacity building, especially concerning sustainable mobility for the Global South?

TUMI and VREF are planning to continue the Expert Exchange #MobilizeMinds at a regular interval. Next anticipated dates are August 28th, end of October and mid-December. If you are interested to join or would like to suggest any candidates for future Expert Exchanges, please reach out to linus.platzer@giz.de.

Further reading and information:

- The research findings presented during the webinar on April 21, 2020 developed a first capacity assessment of supply and demand in the sustainable mobility sector. Please find the paper "[A 250k gap? Building Capacity for the Global Mobility Transition](#) for download as well as a [recording of the webinar](#).
- More background guidance is provided in the => [TUMI Session Guide](#), which also offers practical tips and examples to carry out successful capacity development activities. The [=>TUMI Capacity Development Charta](#) describes core principles to adhere to.
- The =>[TUMI knowledge website](#) provides an overview on resources and further learning opportunities. More partner resources will be provided here soon, including an update of the [=>TUMI Capacity Development Catalogue](#).



About VREF: Sustainable transport for equitable access in urban areas

Volvo Research and Education Foundations (VREF) inspires, initiates, supports research and educational activities, and contributes to dissemination and implementation of research findings among stakeholders.

<http://www.vref.se/>

About TUMI: Many Partners, One Goal

TUMI is an alliance of the world's leading organizations in sustainable transport. We build a community of actors to transform policies and business and advance science and society. Here lies the people power to leverage sustainable mobility worldwide!

www.transformative-mobility.org

Annex

Agenda

Friday, 29 May 2020

Welcome
14:00 – 14:15 *Dr. Mike Enskat*
Head of Infrastructure - Energy, Water, Mobility, GIZ
Henrik Nolmark
Director, VREF

Conclusions from study & presentation of survey
14:15 – 14:30 *Holger Dalkmann, Linus Platzer*

Round of introductions and comments
14:30-15:00
Moderation: Daniel Moser

Discussion in break-out rooms
15:00 – 15:40
Moderated discussion in 3 break-out rooms

Report back & final comments
15:40 – 16:00
Moderation: Daniel Moser