



2nd Expert Exchange #MobilizeMinds

Discussing Joint Action on Capacity
Development and Education in
Sustainable Mobility

September 18, 2020

Summary Note

Background

On Friday, September 18, 2020, TUMI and VREF invited a global selection of experts to participate in a discussion on capacity development and education for sustainable mobility. The second edition of the 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. The focus of the second session was on different aspects of capacity development for the transport sector.

The workshop was hosted by TUMI and VREF as an online event (see agenda in Annex). 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.

Participating organizations

TUMI Partners (SLOCAT, WRI, ICLEI, UN-Habitat, CAF, GIZ), VREF, HVT, NUMO, CODATU, as well as several transport initiatives and freelance consultants.

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.



Key findings:

1. “Market analysis of trainings”: Understand how the target audience learns and how this can be supported through training offers.
 - One target group should be the mid-level managers of sustainable mobility involved in concrete cooperation activities. Despite its project-based character, the experiences and lessons learned should be made available through monitoring & evaluation in order to be transferred to new contexts.
 - At the same time, the insights from worldwide capacity development activities create many results. What is a good method of compiling experiences, what is a good process to manage resources?
 - A stable community of experts with self-interest would certainly help. On the way there, it remains useful to know in advance what partners are doing. The TUMI website could provide a starting point.
 - We should also look into adding more people on the “receiving end” of capacity development to serve as multipliers. This could also be done via a local stakeholder survey to better capture perceived needs and demands.

2. Finance is a crucial element to scale capacity development
 - While capacity is acknowledged as a main enabler for sustainable mobility, there seems insufficient attention to supporting capacity building programs by funders as well as governments. “Billions in concrete, but only millions in brains” seems the main message. From the four key potential identified funders for capacity building programs (development banks, aid organisations, foundations, national governments), there seems to be a lack of attention to fund capacity building at a larger extend. Furthermore, where funding is available, it is often linked to a specific project with no longer-term sustainability. To assess the situation, it was recommended to carry out a study to better understand the current level of investment and identify target-oriented solutions to scale investment for capacity building.
 - Examples mentioned were the Leaders in Urban Transport Planning (LUTP) Program and the Global Road Safety Facility (GRSF) by the World Bank. In either case, the specific pedagogy used needs to aligned with the programs directions and activities.
 - While cities (generally speaking) do not have funds for training, there is funding at other donors, and cities can showcase the usefulness of trainings. At the same time, it is difficult to get donors funding both a) service delivery and b) content & pedagogy development.

3. Enriching and engaging trainings: Make it interactive!
 - Cities are looking for more face-to-face knowledge exchange. One role of us is to set up peer learning opportunities by connecting people.
 - With regards to virtual meetings, rapid innovation and diffusion of knowledge is taking place. Online and gamified exercises are still difficult to design.
 - All this happens without a top-down mandate, but by combining and exchanging creative bottom-up responses. Including new online elements should be accompanied by paying attention to communication across bubbles and crucial differences such as languages.

4. Experiences on Capacity Development at city level matter
 - Often useful support for capacity development comes from international NGOs, e.g. on road safety, communication trainings for journalists etc. However, it seems to be challenging to gain funding for local programs.
 - Cross-sectional participant selection was helpful to spread the knowledge (and program) further. Start at senior level, and make it attractive for them to participate. "There is willingness at higher level." In addition, blended learning programs and externships can help as a "slower, but deeper" form of knowledge transfer.
 - Training of trainers is an established, but not widespread enough method. There is a need to focus more on the "how to implement" than on the "what to implement".

5. Increase efficiency of capacity building programs to reduce costs
 - Rather than only ask for increased funding, there is a need to look into efficiency gains to reduce the costs. For example, train the trainer programs could reduce the need for international organisations to host trainings in specific countries.
 - There seems to be a knowledge gap on the efficiency of existing programs. Such a study describing "what works" could help to improve the future offers and reduce the costs of the programs.

6. Creating a better narrative
 - While there seems to be a common agreement on the need for capacity building, at the same time this is not a priority of any funding organisation. To improve the situation, it was suggested to create better narrative(s).
 - Creating target oriented notes (from local to global organisations) on why (and how?) to invest in capacity building could empower local as well as international organisations to strengthen their requests for more and better training. Such a narrative could be created out of a group of organisations and could be a starting point for a dialogue/campaign raising more money for training offers. Furthermore, it could certainly benefit from the two other suggestions above to better understand the donor interest as well as advocating for cost-efficient capacity building programs.

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. The organisers VREF and TUMI hope to continue and expand both Expert Exchange meetings.

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

TUMI and VREF are planning to continue the Expert Exchange #MobilizeMinds at a regular interval. Next date is November 13th.

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](#).
- Want to learn more about the Avoid-Shift-Improve framework, as well as other components of a sustainable urban mobility strategy? Sign up today for our **free online course**: "Transforming Urban Mobility: Introduction to Transport Planning for Sustainable Cities." <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/introducing-sustainable-urban-mobility> (presented by University College London, GIZ, and the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative)



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, 18 September 2020

14:00 – 14:05 **Welcome** – *Daniel Moser, TUMI*

14:05 – 14:15 **Round of introductions and short updates**

Moderation: Linus Platzer, GIZ

Input contributions & comments

14:20-14:40

- *Gaps in supply and demand of trainings – Sebastian Varela, WRI*
- *Funding programs and investments in trainings – O.P. Agarwal, WRI India*
- *Capacity building in COVID times: what has changed, how to adapt? – Armin Wagner, GIZ*

14:45 – 15:30

Discussion in break-out rooms

Moderated discussion in 3 break-out rooms

15:30 – 16:00

Report back & comments, next steps

Moderation: Linus Platzer, GIZ