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Seit 2014 ist die Frankfurt University am BMBF-geförderten Forschungsprojekt Rapid Planning beteiligt (siehe dazu auch Almanach Frankfurt 15 + 16). Einen Schwerpunkt der Arbeit des Frankfurter Teams im Jahr 2017 bildete die Untersuchung von Planungsinstrumenten und Planungsprozessen, sektorübergreifender Kooperation zwischen unterschiedlichen Ämtern und Akteuren sowie Programmen und künftigen Strategien für eine nachhaltige Stadt- und Infrastrukturentwicklung in der deutschen Referenzstadt Frankfurt am Main. Erste Ergebnisse dazu wurden auf der Internationalen Rapid Planning Konferenz im September 2017 bei UN-Habitat in Nairobi vorgestellt. Dabei wurde die Stadt Frankfurt, neben dem Forschungsteam der FRA-UAS, auch durch den Leiter der Abteilung Gesamtstadt im Stadtplanungsamt, Prof. Peter Kreisl, vertreten.

“Rapid Planning - Sustainable Infrastructure, Environmental and Resource Management for Highly Dynamic Metropolises” (see also Almanach Frankfurt 15 + 16) is a large research initiative supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and developed by eleven research teams located at universities and institutes across Germany plus UN-Habitat in Nairobi. The project aims at proposing a rapid planning methodology in which processes for planning urban infrastructure become more efficient and effective, and sustainable solutions to the emerging needs of dynamic metropolises are implemented in short time frames. Rapid Planning is analysing and implementing pilot projects in two African cities, Kigali in Rwanda and Assiut in Egypt, and one Asian City, Da Nang in Vietnam. These cities serve as laboratories to tests and understand urban dynamics in middle-sized dynamic cities. Simultaneously, the project selected the city of Frankfurt am Main as a reference city to illustrate the uses of sustainable technologies in the provision of urban infrastructure, as well as to explore decentralised planning processes and multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral urban and environmental development, focusing on five main infrastructure sectors, i.e. energy, water, wastewater, waste management and urban agriculture.

The project is divided into 15 different work packages in accordance with the expertise and focus of each of the partners. The FRA-UAS team is one of the urban planning partners and in charge of developing methods for knowledge transfer and capacity development for Rapid Planning among public administrations, academia, schools and the general public. The FRA-UAS team is also in charge to analyse the planning procedures and provision of urban infrastructure in the city of Frankfurt, as well as to examine development visions, goals and trends established by the city for its future. Additionally, the FRA-UAS team analyses planning procedures in city of Assiut, in collaboration with UN-Habitat.

In 2017, the FRA-UAS team worked together with city officials from the Frankfurt municipal departments of urban planning and environment as well as the energy

agency, to understand and identify the main characteristics of urban and infrastructure planning, looking for elements from which lessons for the case cities could be derived. The research has provided insights into the importance of establishing ambitious goals for urban development, the role of climate change and environmental protection in public infrastructure provision and project-driven collaboration among municipal departments. Likewise, the research has highlighted a particular feature in the Frankfurt planning process, which is the existence of a regional land use plan created by the Regional Agency FrankfurtRheinMain. This regional land use plan is legally binding, managing resources and land conflicts that could arise in a polycentric metropolitan region. Different to other case cities, with the regional land use plan in place the city of Frankfurt is not in an obligation to produce an additional city-wide master plan, allowing the City Planning Department to produce localised legal zoning plans in the areas that are subject to intended developments. Overall, urban development in Frankfurt has illustrated the benefits of localised approaches for an increased quality of life and sustainable urban growth.

These research findings and many more have been presented by the FRA-UAS team at the International Rapid Planning Mid-term Conference that took place on September 12 to 14, 2017, at the UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. As the project has been in implementation since 2014, each of the partners presented preliminary results, data sets and next steps in front of a panel of interested attendees as well as project evaluators from the BMBF. The teams working in the Rapid Planning case cities invited representatives of these cities to be part of the discussions. Frankfurt am Main sent Prof. Peter Kreisl, Head of Overall City Issues Division at the City Planning Department, to participate. His contribution was focused on explaining relevant points about the planning system in Frankfurt, and specifically the strategic planning approach that the city has chosen for its future urban development. Such approach makes the planning system more flexible and allows the adjustment of the legal frameworks to the merging issues brought by the needs and requirements of the ever-changing urbanisation.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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Informal densification at the outskirts of Nairobi



The representatives from Frankfurt at UN-Habitat



Rapid Planning Mid-term Conference