

SOCIAL LAB: SMART, GREEN AND INTEGRATED TRANSPORT

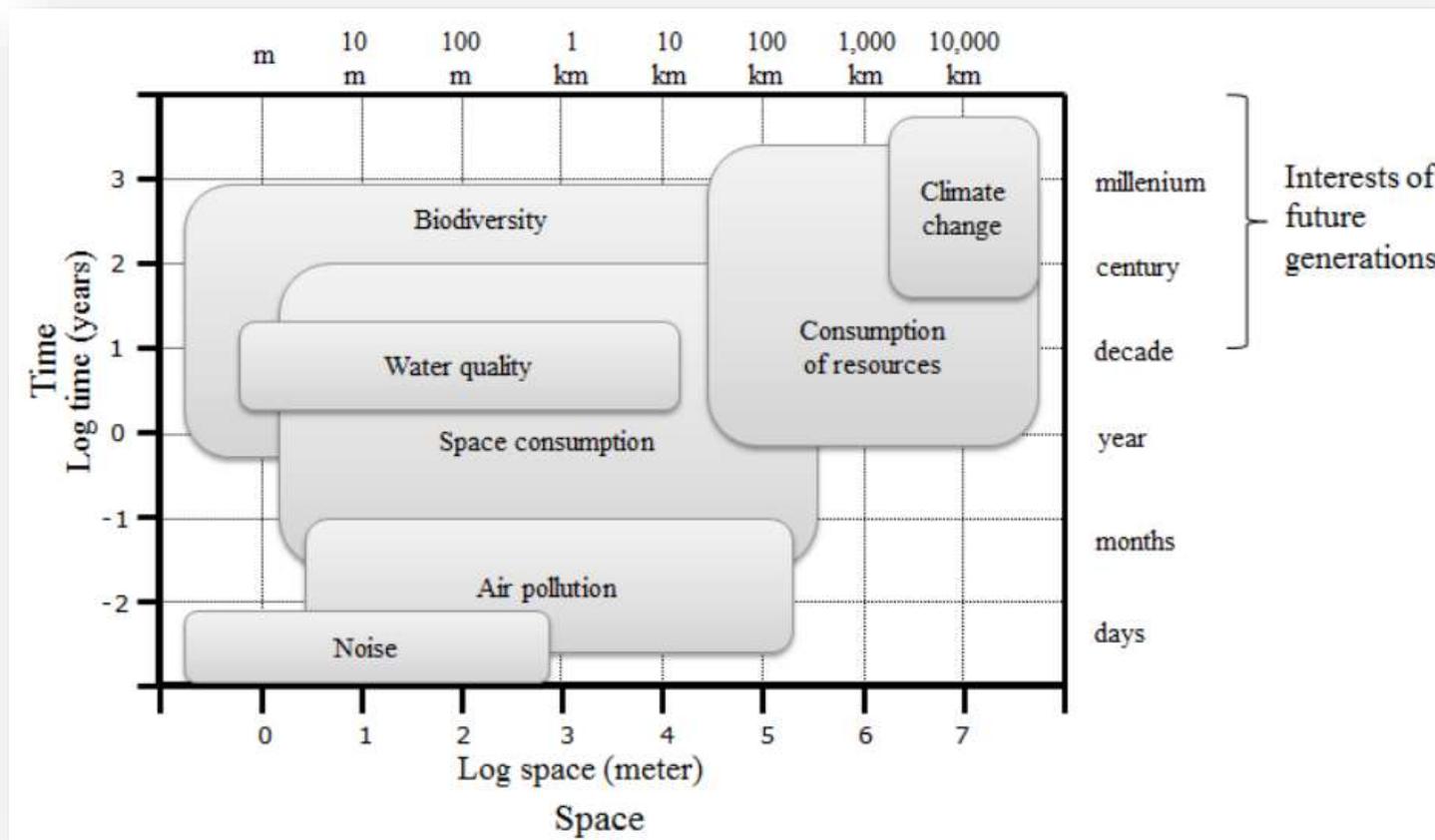
URBAN MOBILITY LAB 'GENVOICE' – GIVING
FUTURE GENERATIONS A VOICE ON MOBILITY

EVENT HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2019

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Most sustainability challenges are long term; they will affect future generations



Giving current and future generations a real voice: a practical method for constructing sustainability viewpoints in transport appraisal - <https://doi.org/10.18757/ejtir.2018.18.3.3244>

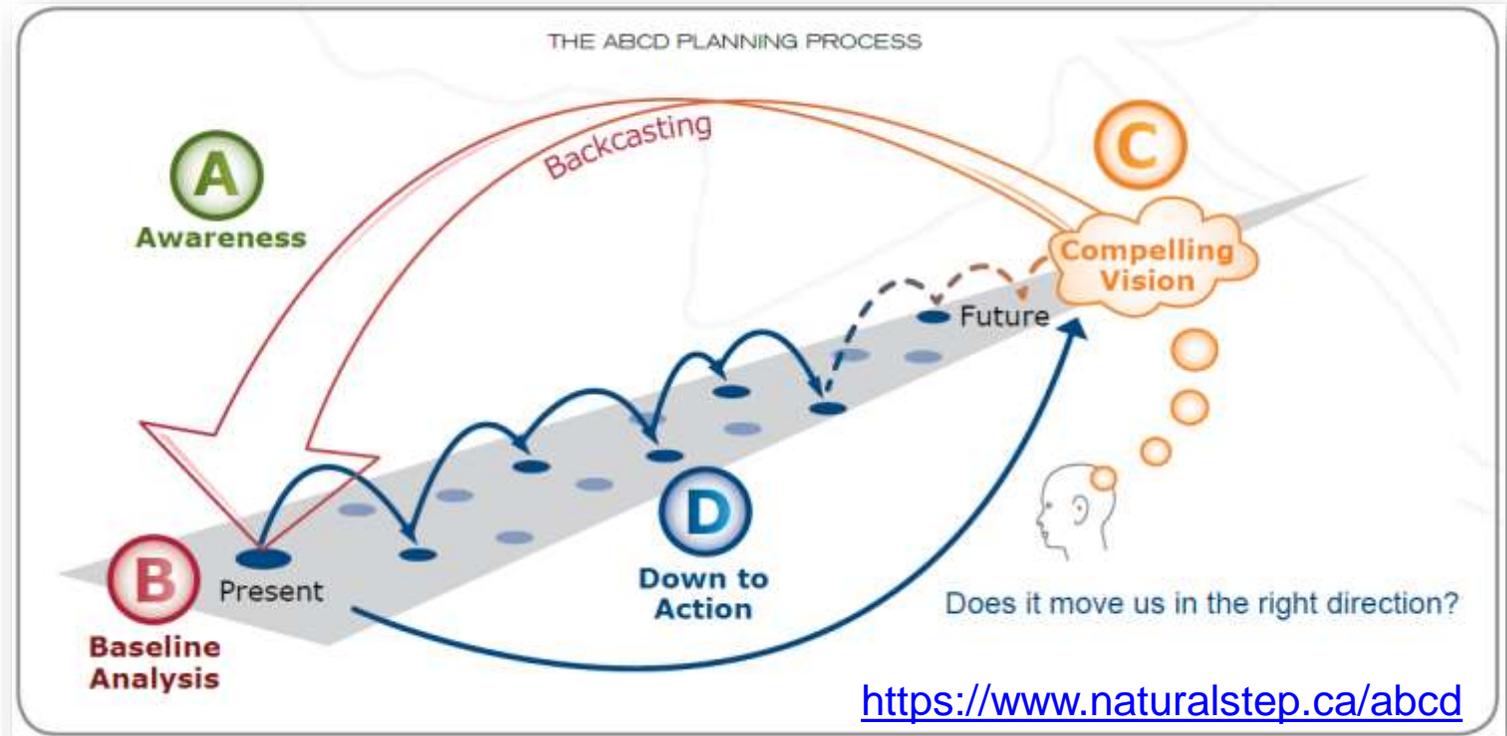
N: BACKGROUND

NEW
HORIZON

Planning for
sustainability

= taking small
steps towards a
vision of
sustainability

= backcasting



Central question: how to reconcile democratic engagement processes with long-term sustainability imperatives?

- In other words: how to account for future generations' interests in decision-making today?
- Can youth play the role of ombudsman for future sustainability?

- **Main goals:**
 - To give a voice to citizens and public transport users who are not usually heard in transport planning
i.e. **to hear the opinions, to understand the needs and future visions of young adults** living in or near the City of Zilina (16 -25 years old), with a focus on young women
 - To consider how these can **represent the needs of future generations** in transport investment choices we make today
- **Method:** 2 sessions of 3h45 with two groups, composed of **three STEPS**
 - A) Assess the **current mobility context and user experience**: good and bad, like and not like, group exercise with post-its, then organized by theme
 - B) Envision a **desirable future**, “perfect” mobility system: collage exercise
 - C) Propose and vote concrete **mobility solutions** to reach the vision
- **Participants:** students: 19 females/6 males; 1 NGO, 3 researchers, 2 city planners

N STEP A – CURRENT MOBILITY

NEW
HORIZON

Understanding the current mobility context
Feedback directly on a map



N STEP A – CURRENT MOBILITY

**NEW
HORIZON**

**Understanding the current mobility context – good and bad
(50min)**



N ■ STEP A – CURRENT MOBILITY

NEW
HORIZON



N: STEP A – RESULTS

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HORIZON

Other people

Good: meeting people - help from strangers

Bad: drunk or noisy or '**unscrupulous**' people - lack of privacy (no personal space) – cars don't stop at zebra crossings – reckless drivers

Travel costs

Good: **free** public transport in Žilina + free trains (for students and pensioners)

Infrastructure

Good: KIA bike (new bikeshare system) - possible to bike in the city – car-free city centre
Bad: safety, unsafe to cycle – **traffic jams slowing buses – lack of bike roads** – bad condition of sidewalks – lack of KIA bikes or bad location - delayed ring road construction – bad road maintenance – bad or inoperative traffic lights – few parking spaces

Multimodal integration

Bad: **poor connection** from train to bus – too frequent connections or too frequent delays in connections - different tickets for trains, buses and long distance buses

Comfort

Good: nice drivers – restaurant wagon in train

Bad: **Wifi** – buses are always full – carrying bicycles not possible on buses – aircon or heating not working – 'stink' or dirty – dirty toilets – problematic drivers

Environment

Bad: **air quality** – 'unfilled' cars

N STEP B – DESIRABLE FUTURES

NEW
HORIZON

Envisioning a desirable, “perfect” mobility system
Collage (1h)



N: STEP B – FUTURE VISION

GROUP 1

NEW
HORIZON



“Feeling good!”

*“The point of our project was that we as citizens of city of Zilina **do not want to feel as in a cage, but we want to feel good.** We do not want to be a dog on a leash, a cat in a cage, we **do not want to destroy the environment,** but we want to keep the environment health. Our vision is electric vehicles, safe transport, fast and efficient as tigers and safe as cyclists with helmets. We want our environment to evolve in a better sense so that we do not destroy nature from car smog for a more beautiful tomorrow and **we want to feel like a fish in the water”***

N: STEP B – FUTURE VISION

GROUP 2

NEW
HORIZON



“Ecological Transport!”

*“Our group is going to present you our perfectly sharp picture of ecological transport (..) that is linked to the **healthy lifestyle of people**, technology is moving forward and it can provide people appropriate alternatives to not pollute the environment. (..) **When talking about the health style of people, of course we don't have to travel only by cars, buses and trains but also by bikes.** The bike can already be an electric bike, of course it is faster (..) **People should move more**, use their feet more to walk and run, and they don't have to use the car and public transport everywhere, so they can **refresh their minds** by walking or running and burn the calories. (..) According to some people we should not consume too much meat or milk products. Humanity is already going to such a stage, it **may be too late but we start to remember and start to respect our planet.**”*

N: STEP B – FUTURE VISION

GROUP 3

NEW
HORIZON



**“Efficient and healthy
Transport!”**

*“Our drawing didn't look as perfect as the one next to it, but there is a deep thought in it. We would like people to make transport more efficient, for example, that **five people travel in the electric car which is beneficial to the nature.** We would like to avoid using the cars by drunk drivers because it usually causes accidents. **We would like people who have a job near the house to commute by bike in the future, maybe run in the morning to improve their health.** We care about the safety of people and we would like to further develop the train networks and railways and that is probably all”.*

N: STEP B – FUTURE VISION

GROUP 4

NEW
HORIZON



“Priority for the elderly!”

*We agreed that **people should walk more**, which is good for the environment, because Žilina is a very smog city and it is more environmentally friendly. Construction of highways is also a big problem in Slovakia. Next problems are cleanliness in the train, toilets in the train, Wi-Fi in the trains does not work often, toilet could also be much better. We suggest building railways in places where it is needed and where there is a lot of tourism and tourists coming. Aviation...*

***Let's give priority to the elderly people**, we should realize how to treat older people and other companions. Other important topics are air quality, building cycle routes, walking, many drivers are under the influence of alcohol and more people should use buses.*

N ■ ■ PILOT STEP C – TOP POLICIES

NEW
HORIZON

- Prohibit cars in the center, make pedestrian centre (10)
- Development of cycle routes (repair of old + new routes) (8)
- Development of train transport – more trains (6)
- Process: Idea, vision, idea, plan, possibilities, motivation → people's interest → campaigns, gatherings, advertising, discussions → EUR (5)
- Building citizen organizations for improving transport (5)
- Putting more effort into educating school children about the impact of traffic on the environment (5)
- Complete the tunnel in Zilina (5)
- Investing in autonomous transport systems (4)
- Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ (student) (4)
- Teleport (3)
- Modernization of transport vehicles (3)
- Transport card for everyone charged to 40EUR per month - distance is crucial (3)
- Ban on the sale of state property to private individuals (3)
- More stands for KIA Bike (5km) (2)
- Promotion of green advertising (2)
- Minibuses (2)
- Investing in the development of electric vehicles by supporting manufacturers by purchasing (1)
- Traffic Sharing (1)
- Timing connections (1)

- **Organiser perspective:**
 - Difficult to attract young people to attend this kind of event via normal channels (student mailing lists, facebook pages, social centre agenda)
 - They are not used to get involved, and they have other commitments
 - Even at university level they may not easily be allowed to miss class
 - **Best is to organize it together with their teachers and invite a full class,**
 - or reach out directly in their school or university site
 - **Youth is hungry for more:** they learned to be active participants in democratic process
- **Attendee perspective**
 - They clearly enjoyed being asked their opinion!
 - They found the workshop fun, inspiring and empowering – they enjoyed being **creative**
 - See feedback on next slide:

What was the most important thing you learned at the workshop today?

About the process

- *“By combining multiple ideas and opinions, things that benefit our country and people can arise”*
- *“We can work on a topic that we have never discussed with and be interested in it”*
- *“Basically, we learned nothing extra new because we only presented our thoughts and ideas. We have learned how to express our opinion and find new possibilities for this problem.”*
- *“That we should be more interested in what is happening around us, especially in our city and traffic situation. We should discuss this more and come up with solutions.”*

About mobility

- *“People should be more interested in the functioning of transport and as much as possible fill the environment and influence it”*
- *“We have a choice. They are all for a healthy life. Environment. Problems with Traffic Situation in Žilina”*
- *“That we should be more interested in transport”*
- *“That we should talk more about transport problems in Slovakia”*
- *“We could talk about problems between our cities = we found that they are similar and can be compared with the ones we experience here in Žilina every day”*

About sustainability

- *“The environment must be considered”*
- *“You need to protect the Earth. If you want, you can”*
- *“The future is in our hands and we should do something”*

NEW PILOT FEEDBACK

NEW
HORIZON

Do you have any ideas, ideas, suggestions, recommendations for the next workshop? (What did you like, didn't like?)

- *“The workshop surprised me pleasantly and **learned really new things**. However, I was most interested in the topic of cycling and bike-sharing.”*
- *“I liked everything, nice people and nice atmosphere. **I liked working in groups**”*
- *“Activity for pupils. Motivation, Innovative. Nicely organized. Many activities, **we were intrigued**. Thank you, Workshop for pupils will be pleased”*
- *“Working with others, hearing others' opinions”.*
- *“I liked it was **not like a lecture**, but we worked alone in the group. We invented our ideas and thoughts, **we were creative**.”*
- *“I liked everything, it was a **great discussion**.”*
- *“I liked everything - activities, working in groups, **deepening the situation in the city**”*
- *“Workshop in schools, cities..., promote more, better reclamation, invite and engage elementary school, high school, college, retired, city, county, Everything was great: program, people, activity and food 😊”*
- *“Expand the workshop **for the public**”*
- *“More advertisement, and **bit more input**. The workshop was nice but really superficial” (→ master student)*

N POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

NEW
HORIZON

About citizen engagement:

- Citizen engagement must be **gender-balanced** and **age-balanced**
- Citizen engagement requires going where citizens are, to **reach out to them**

There is value in involving the Youth (particularly 16 to 19 years old)

- They can provide valuable, original feedback e.g. the automobile is not a 'must'
- They are also willing to learn: "Life-forming period",
 - their values, habits, lifestyles are still being questioned and developed
- Citizen engagement teaches them the value of democratic action and about being active citizens
- **They share a strong interest in being involved in transport decisions that will affect their future**

Suggestion: improve systematic consultation with the youth in Zilina on important policy decisions

THANK YOU!



**ŽILINSKÁ UNIVERZITA
V ŽILINE**



Mesto Žilina

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**N NEW
HORIZON**



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