

Sustainable Places Projects: SUSPLACE – Sustainable City Regions

SUSPLACE is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Innovative Training Network funded by the European Commission, to train Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) in innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to study sustainable place-shaping practices.

The network provides training in scientific and professional skills to enable ESRs to pursue academic or high-professional careers at various institutions such as governments, NGOs, consultancies and businesses.

SUSPLACE brings together six universities and seven non-academic partners in seven European countries: The Netherlands, United Kingdom (Wales), Latvia, Lithuania, Belgium, Finland and Portugal. The SUSPLACE approach provides insight into how to utilize the full potential of places and communities for development and help to build capacities of people to engage in place-shaping processes and thus strengthen connectivity between policy-makers, academics, businesses and civil society.

The Sustainable Places Research Institute is hosting three ESRs in Cardiff in order to support the development of research and expertise in three specific areas:

1. Place Ambassadors: exploring the role of private sector businesses in supporting sustainable place-shaping through their enrolment in formal 'place ambassador' schemes.

2. Connected Learning Spaces: exploring the learning landscapes of higher education for sustainable development (HESD) by studying student perceptions and practices of sustainable place-shaping and students' learning experiences within the broad area of sustainability.

3. Sustainable City Regions

Co-hosted by Wageningen University (Netherlands), the objective is to promote a better understanding of the relationship between the different sustainability pillars at a regional scale. The project is based in Wales, one of the first nations to have introduced the concept of sustainability in its constitution, through the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (WFGA). The recently established Cardiff Capital Region will form the basis of research for assessing whether collaborative governance can balance between the economic drivers of city-region development and the broader social and environmental priorities of sustainable place-shaping.

The project aims to find ways of connecting the city-regional development strategies with the broader wellbeing goals supported by the WFGA. The empirical part will also focus on finding ways to purposely engage the younger generations in the governance structure and turn them into active stakeholders.

The programme of work will involve a critical understanding and conceptual development of the sustainable city-region literature, especially as it is associated with ideas and models of the regenerative city, and how they might be applied to the case study.

Welsh Government and Royal HaskoningDHV (Netherlands) will participate in this project.

Research team



Professor Terry Marsden
Sustainable Places
Research Institute

MarsdenTK@Cardiff.ac.uk
+44 (0)29 2087 9271



Dr Abid Mehmood
Sustainable Places
Research Institute

mehmooda1@cardiff.ac.uk
+44 (0)29 2087 6232



Lorena Axinte
Sustainable Places
Research Institute

axintel@cardiff.ac.uk
+44 (0)29 2086 88842