

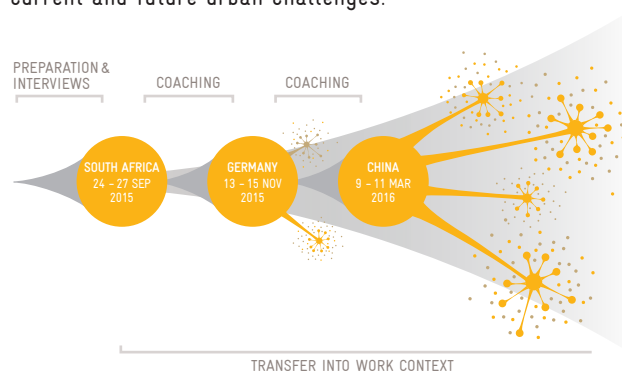


# The Urban Innovation and Leadership Lab

## Connecting mindsets and organisations for a collaborative future

By 2030, 60% of the world's population will live in cities. Significant challenges in social, environmental and economic parameters of urban life will require rapid adaptation and heightened resilience. New players, collaboration partners and stakeholders need to be engaged and brought on board to tap into collective intelligence, and create ownership and readiness for implementation of sustainable solutions for our cities' future.

topics, shared their knowledge, and co-created solutions for current and future urban challenges.



26  
  
 PARTICIPANTS

12  
  
 COUNTRIES

### The Process

The Urban Innovation and Leadership Lab united 26 Leaders and change agents (60% women, 40% men) from 12 countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, and South Africa. The participants came from relevant sectors such as business, government, civil society, and academia. Among them were, for example, a Deputy Minister for Municipalities, a Founder and Director of an NGO and an Executive Director of a Corporation.

The Global Leadership Academy and the innovation and strategy think tank zero360 launched the Urban Innovation and Leadership Lab – for leaders, organisations and change agents who want to unleash their potential to tackle current and future challenges relating to urban life and development.

Over a period of seven months, participants of the Urban Innovation and Leadership Lab worked together and met in three different cities, contexts, and world regions. Each participant was part of a diverse global team of 7 to 8 people working on innovative solutions. They jointly developed new approaches through each other's individual challenges and topics. They gained new perspectives on urban development, learned essential new skills, discussed pressing

During the first Lab meeting in Durban, South Africa, participants jointly reflected upon their common aspirations and started to generate ideas and prototypes addressing major challenges in urban development. Meeting in Berlin three months later, each team iterated its idea several times including the valuable feedback from users and experts.

Participants finalized their prototypes during the last Lab meeting in Shanghai, convened jointly with Tongji University, and explored leadership facets critical for carrying innovation into their home systems.

In between the Lab meetings, ongoing personal leadership and project coaching was provided to enhance participants' leadership skills and their teams' progress.

#### Further information about the Lab:

[www.we-do-change.org/what-we-do/the-urban-innovation-and-leadership-lab](http://www.we-do-change.org/what-we-do/the-urban-innovation-and-leadership-lab)

[www.urban-innovation-lab.com](http://www.urban-innovation-lab.com)





## The convening organisations

### zero360

zero360 is an innovation company that applies collaborative and entrepreneurial approaches to transform systemic social, economic and environmental challenges into new solutions, business models and sustainable ventures.

Services include the whole spectrum of research & analysis, facilitation of creative innovation and leadership processes, and implementation of new products, services and startup ventures. zero360 works across sectors with multinational companies, public sector entities and NGOs. zero360 is developing targeted meetings and interactive formats around Breakthrough Innovation, Business Transformation, Leadership and HR, that leverage a bespoke mix of methods (e.g. Design Thinking, Foresight, Coaching) and networks of experts and stakeholders for the development of sustainable solutions – from Phase Zero to 360 degree innovation management.

[www.zero360innovation.com](http://www.zero360innovation.com)

## Impact

“The Urban Innovation and Leadership Lab was a fantastic opportunity for me to build new international cross-disciplinary networks on urban issues and work. The mutual interrogation of urban innovation and innovation leadership approaches and possibilities using a methodology like design thinking was a great learning and experiential journey, and one that I carry forward now in my own work and personal journey. It was a privilege to participate in the inaugural programme, and I anticipate that it will continue to grow, improve and even further innovate itself.”

*Geci Karura-Sebina, PhD, Executive Manager: Programmes, South African Cities Network*

## Stories of Change

One example of a prototype developed in the lab is the Gap APP: Because of growing cities, a lot of people are pushed out of the city centre into suburban areas. These people usually have a low income and are not only spatially excluded but also lack a general access to cultural activities, work, and infrastructure. The limited options and high costs of accessing different services like transport affect the quality of life significantly. The Gap App offers a platform that supplies an affordable transport solution for this special demand. Changing these influences by building up, lobbying and demand for transport will put the power into the hands of the user, to the person with the demand instead of a company or government.

Many participants describe the lab's impact as reaching far beyond the developed prototypes. Personal transformations were initiated that had far reaching effects on participants impact in their home systems.

## The Global Leadership Academy

The Global Leadership Academy offers interdisciplinary and practice-oriented programmes aimed at improving the innovation capacity and leadership skills of decision-makers from the fields of policy-making, business, higher education and research, and civil society. In the Lab they come together to look at global issues from a completely different angle. Gaining fresh perspectives allows them to implement the necessary change processes in their spheres of influence.

The Global Leadership Academy, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is a central component in GIZ's range of services for international human capacity development.

[www.we-do-change.org](http://www.we-do-change.org)



60%

improvement of innovation and leadership skills



60%

received significant impulses for tackling current challenges in their home systems



50%

were able to initiate innovation and change in their institutions and organisations

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Further information about our impact:

[www.we-do-change.org/our-impact](http://www.we-do-change.org/our-impact)

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