

MESSAGE.TALKS – 17 JULY 2025

Creating For and With Kids: Livable Places and Engaging Designs

WITH MUSTAFA SHERIF, AFRY

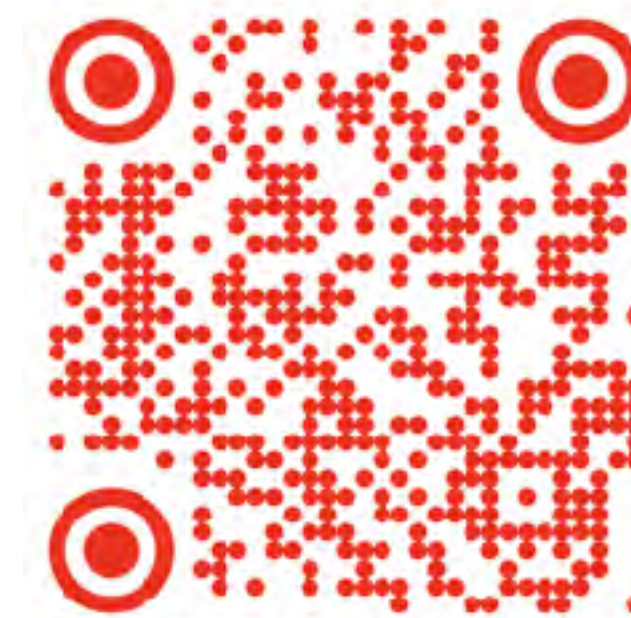
We will start in a moment ...



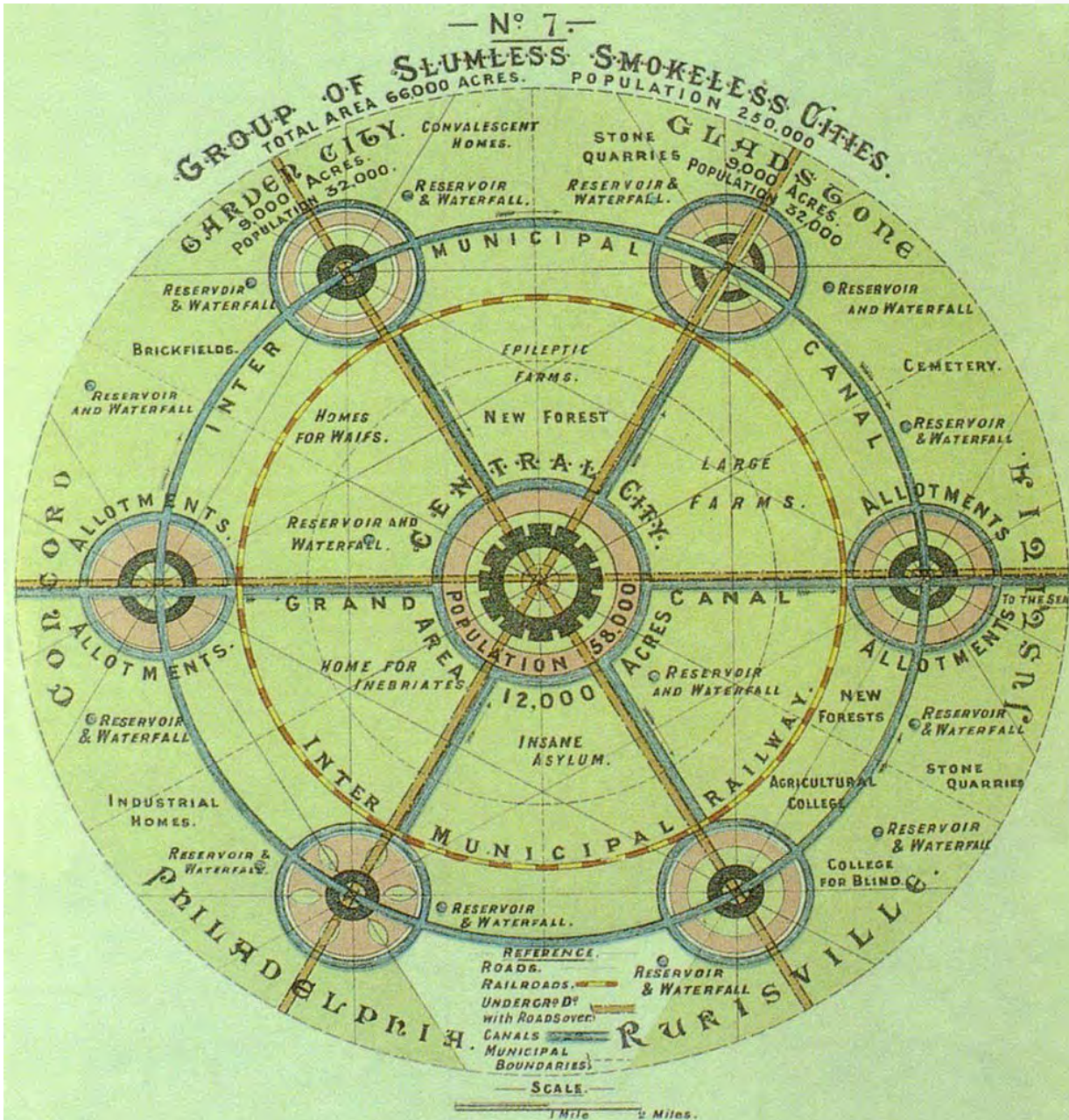


Mustafa Sherif

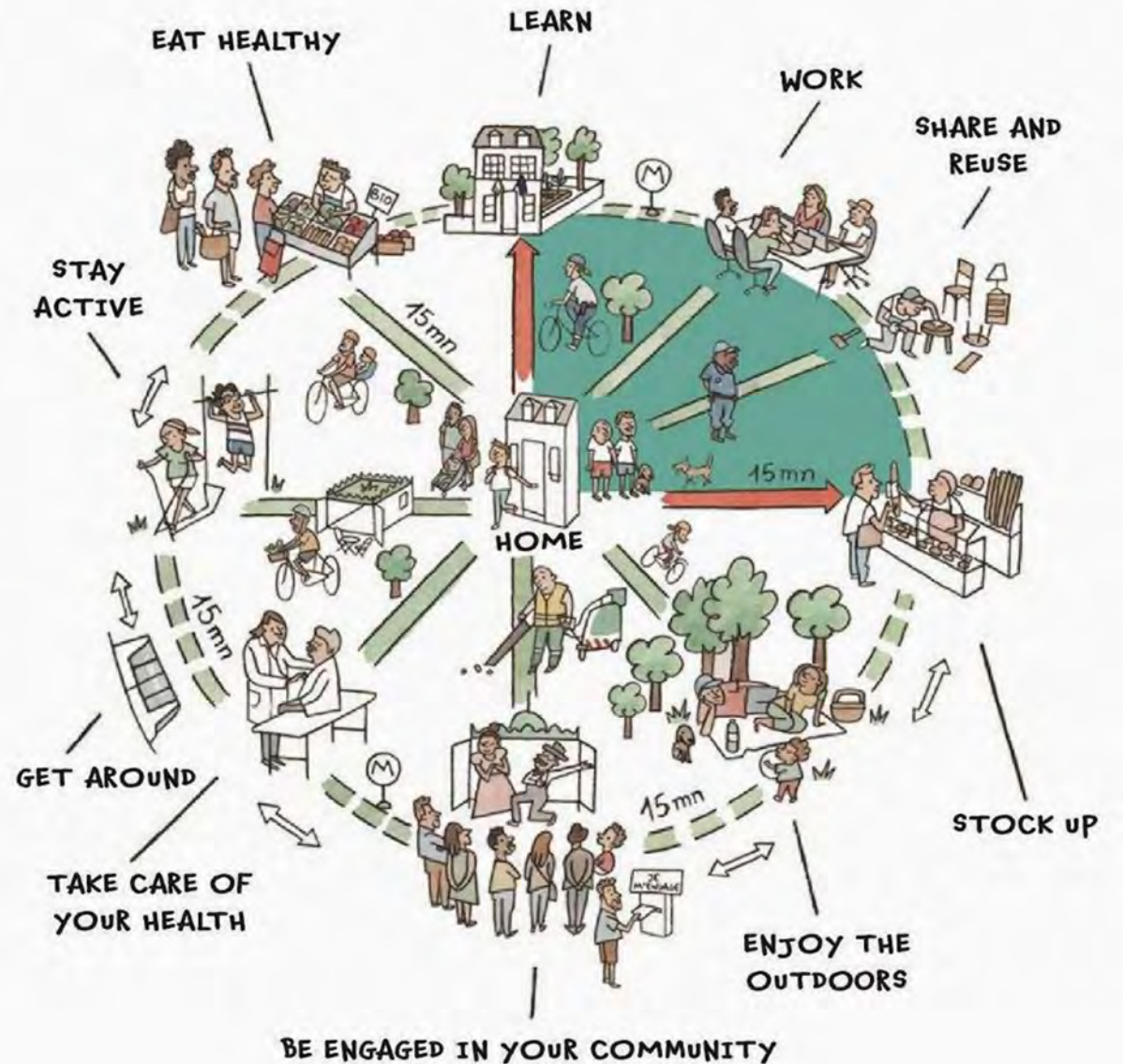
Studio Manager & Urban Planner
AFRY Stockholm



Urban planning



THE 15-MINUTE PARIS



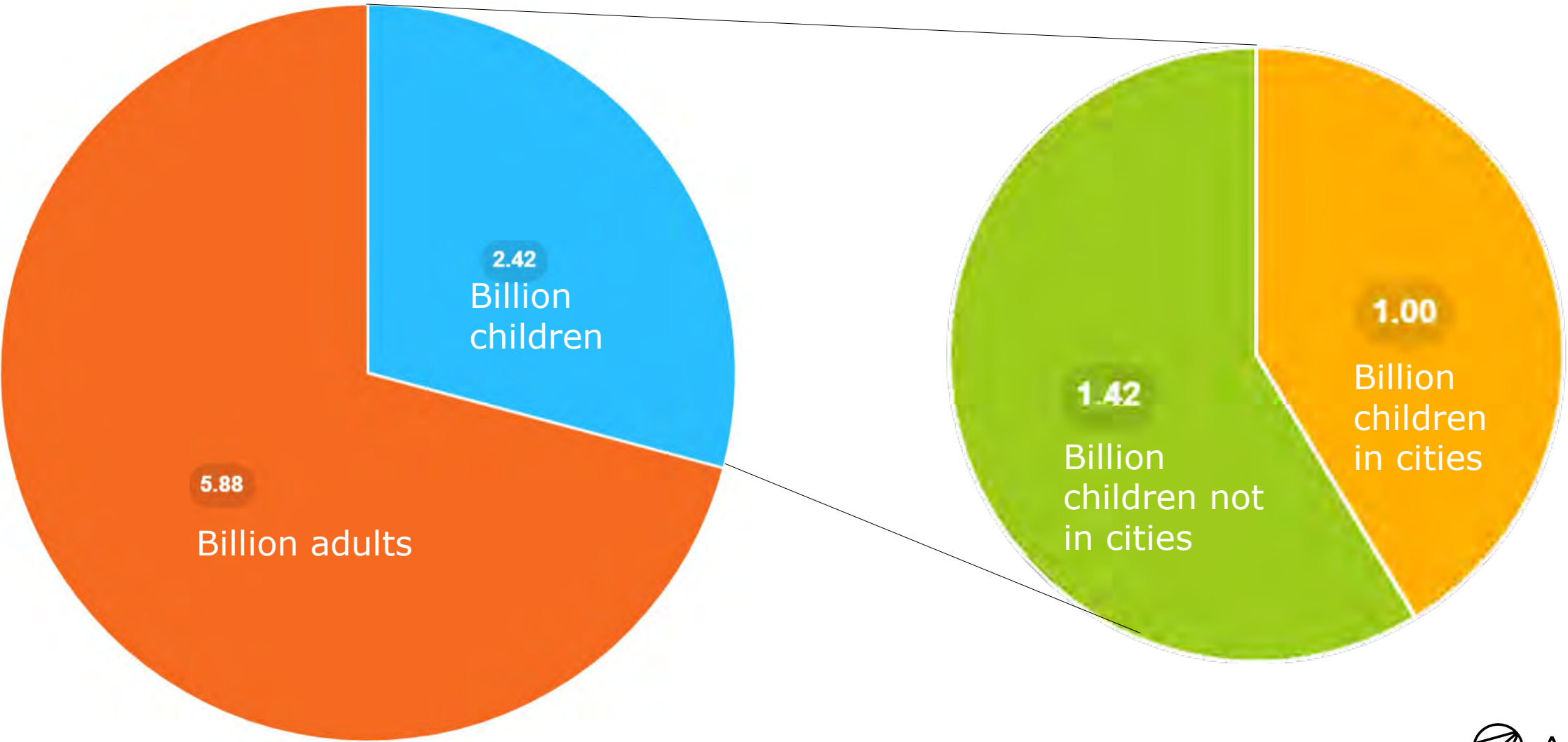




Definition of a child:
A child is any person under the
age of 18. [UNICEF.com](https://www.unicef.com)

Estimated world population around **8.3 billion** in 2025. Around **30%** of the global population are children

Distribution of **2,42** billion children in the world (Urban vs Non-Urban)





Folkhälsomyndigheten

Grönskans kvaliteter och barns hälsa

Kunskapsunderlag om barns hälsa och utveckling vid
vistelse i gröna miljöer med fokus på ekosystemtjänster



CHAPTER 3

Nordic child friendly urban planning reconsidered

Fredrika Mårtensson and Maria Nordström

Introduction

In the Nordic countries children have high levels of independent mobility due to the merits of earlier planning regimes. Children's needs for outdoor places have been safeguarded by regulation, but today each community decides its own policies on the quality of their outdoor environments. What will the consequences be for children when the communities where they live choose differently? In this chapter, the strategies for child friendly urban planning in two Swedish cities will be described and discussed. We want to highlight the adoption of an inclusive strategy in which children's perspectives inspire urban planning. The history of child friendly planning and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provide a backdrop to this discussion.

The publication of *Growing up in an Urbanising World* by Louise Chawla (2002) made us aware of the fact that most children will grow up in urban environments, and this includes the Nordic countries. Like many regions in the world, the Nordic countries are changing in fundamental ways in response to increased urbanization. Sweden is a sparsely populated country and the population continues to diminish in the countryside as people move into the big cities. The region where the capital Stockholm, with 890,000 inhabitants, is situated gains 35,000 people every year. Malmö, Sweden's third-largest city, with 350,000 inhabitants, is also growing but more slowly. In this chapter we will share our reflections on the relationship between city development and children from a Nordic perspective, by describing planning related to children in these two cities. In Malmö we find planning initiatives inclusive of and sometimes even inspired by children, while in Stockholm, children's perspectives more easily get turned into an obstacle and a problematic issue. When looking at the planning history of Stockholm, however, we see that once it was as child friendly as Malmö is today.

Researchers on children's environments have been asking if there is a place for children in the city when observing the strong densification taking place in many cities (Churchman 2003). The committee evaluating the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child acknowledges the general threat of urbanization to children's welfare, particularly in their ability to access spontaneous forms of play and to interact with their surroundings. UNICEF points to the concept of sustainable development as a means to 'boost' child health and children's rights (UNICEF 2013). Taking children's perspectives seriously implies involving children in planning processes and using insights and knowledge accumulated in the field of children's environments studies. Children need to be included in the establishment of sustainable planning regimes as they are directly dependent on the quality of their physical

Folkhälsomyndigheten, SLU, Boverket

Cities as learning Environments (Mental and Physical)



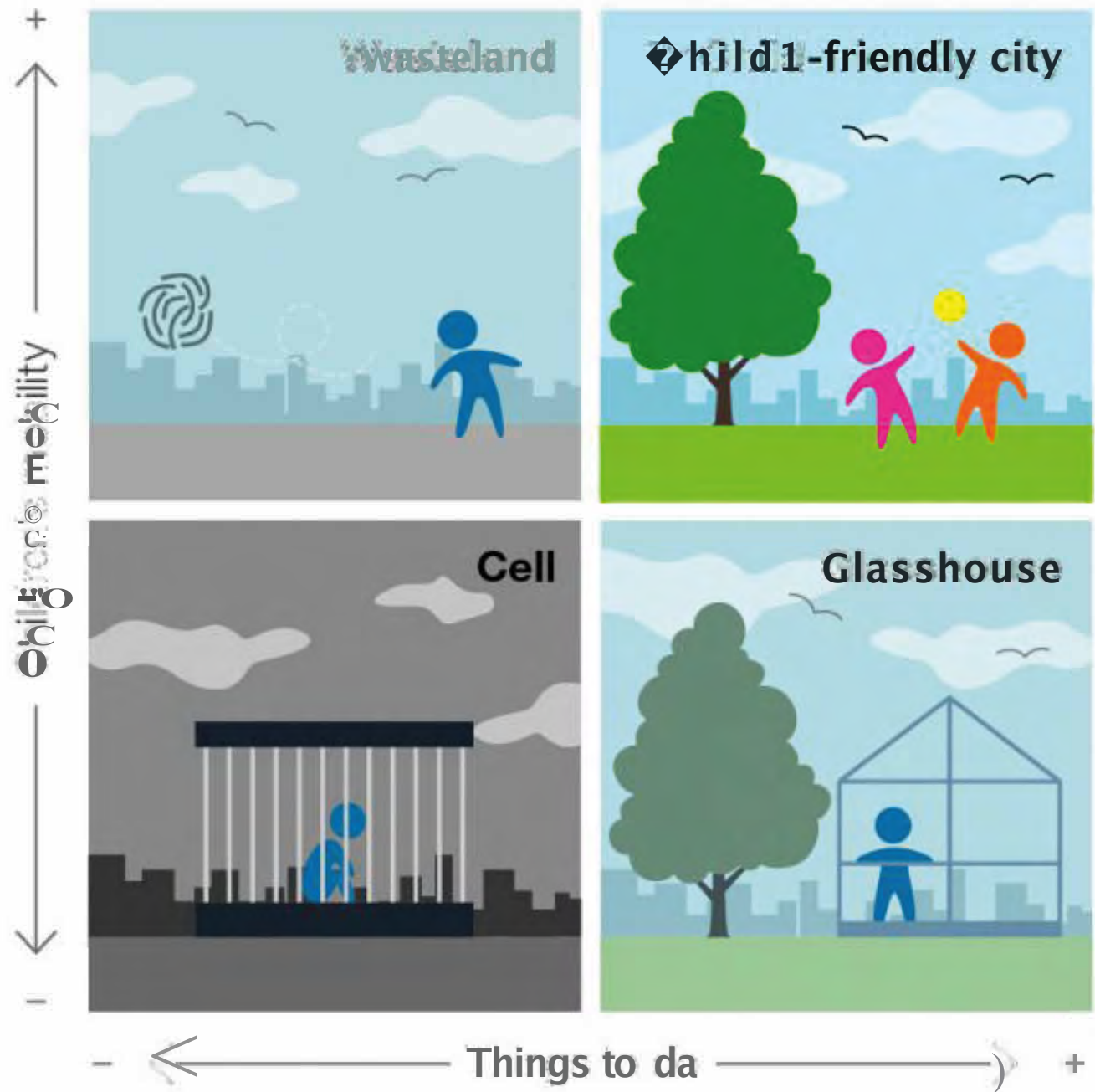


Tabel 1: The ten socio-ph_ysical qualities of a child-friendly built environment

Qualities	Explanation
Places	Green spaces and other varied places that offer room for activities, such as parks, playgrounds, sports facilities, schoolyards, and areas that allow movement and information to and from vitus
Networks	A complete and more equal distribution of residential networks and cohabitation across the city between young people and children and cyclists for both
Clean environment	The physical environment is free from junk, chemicals, noise, and in general clean air
Safe environment	Quiet traffic environments with safe play stops in places and streets; inherent safety and reduced exposure to accident risk
Freedom	An environment of freedom that offers plaees and streets and social contexts that provide independence of children and young people
Play and leisure	Opportunities and possibilities for exercise and activity in varying greedes of formality
Participation	Opportunities to participate and influence a child-friendly environment in both their design and management
Learning	Providing a wide range of walkable types of places, environments, and contexts that inform the learning of children and young people
Sense of place	Opportunities for practicing community and fello-ty human ship in different contexts and environments
Inclusion	A comprehensive, three-corner vision for equality that safeguards social, economic, ethnic background, religious and disability, status, etc.



Urban Playground, Tim Gill, 2022





How do we make
child-friendly places?



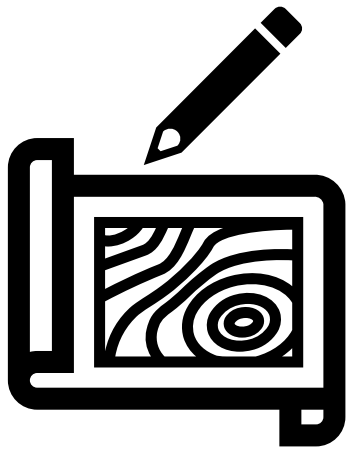
a linear
process



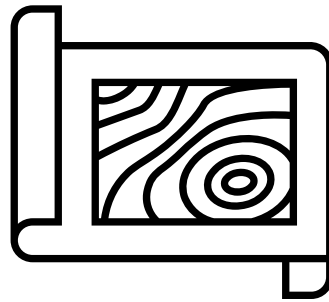
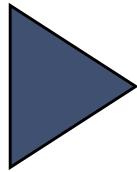
a supervisorial
process



a co-creational
process



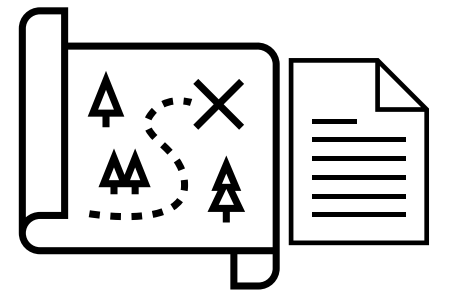
Planners, Architects,
Designers ...



1. analysis



2. 3. 4...

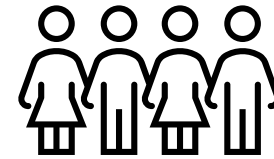


X. Proposal

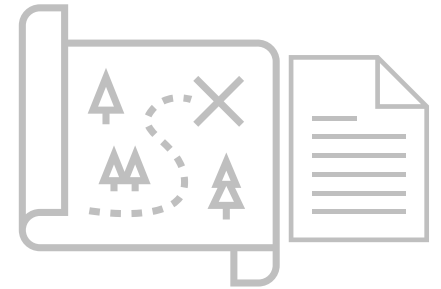
The convention on the rights of the child
2020, UNICEF.se



Arkitekter



users



Proposal

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

In 1989, world leaders made a historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – an international agreement on childhood.

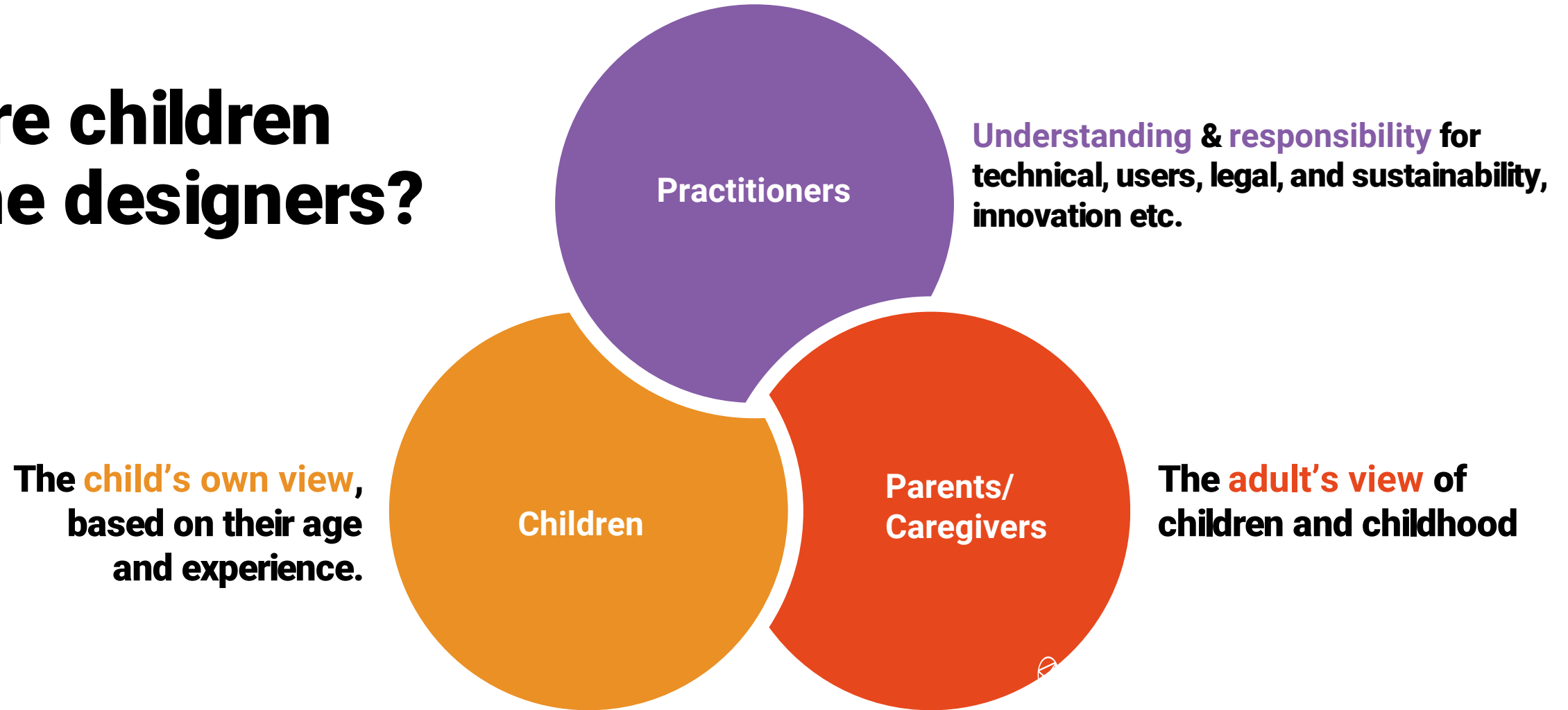


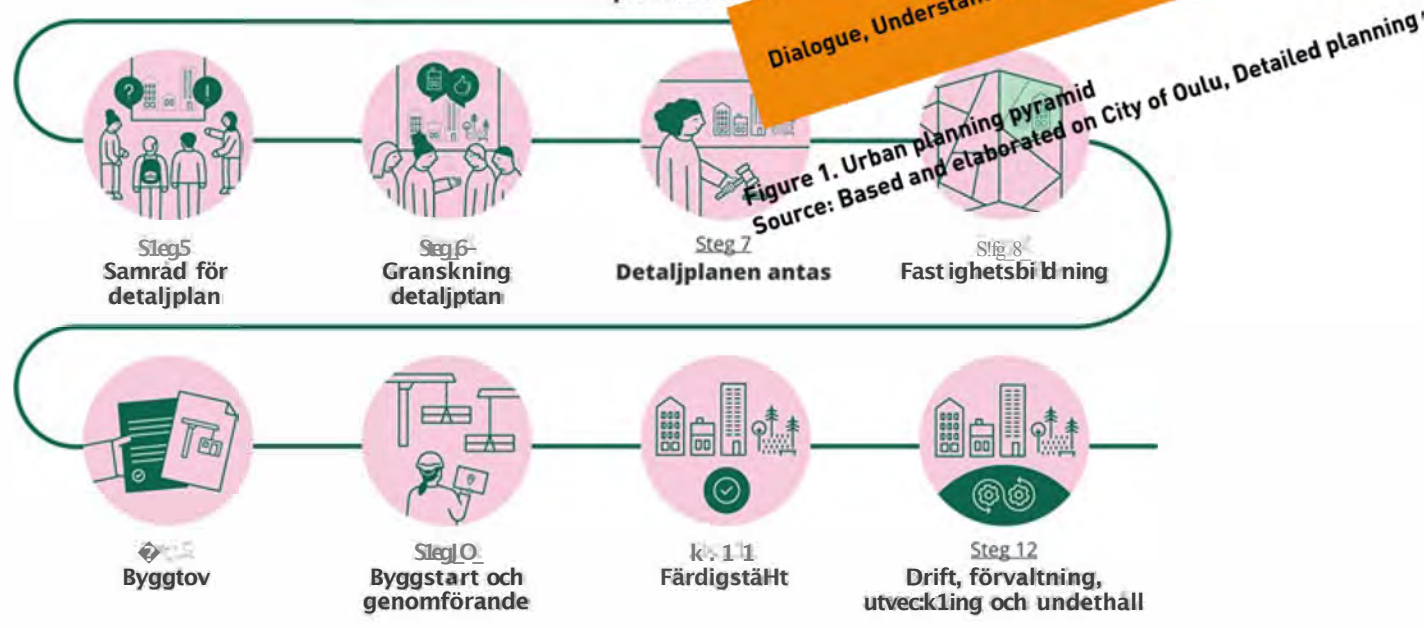
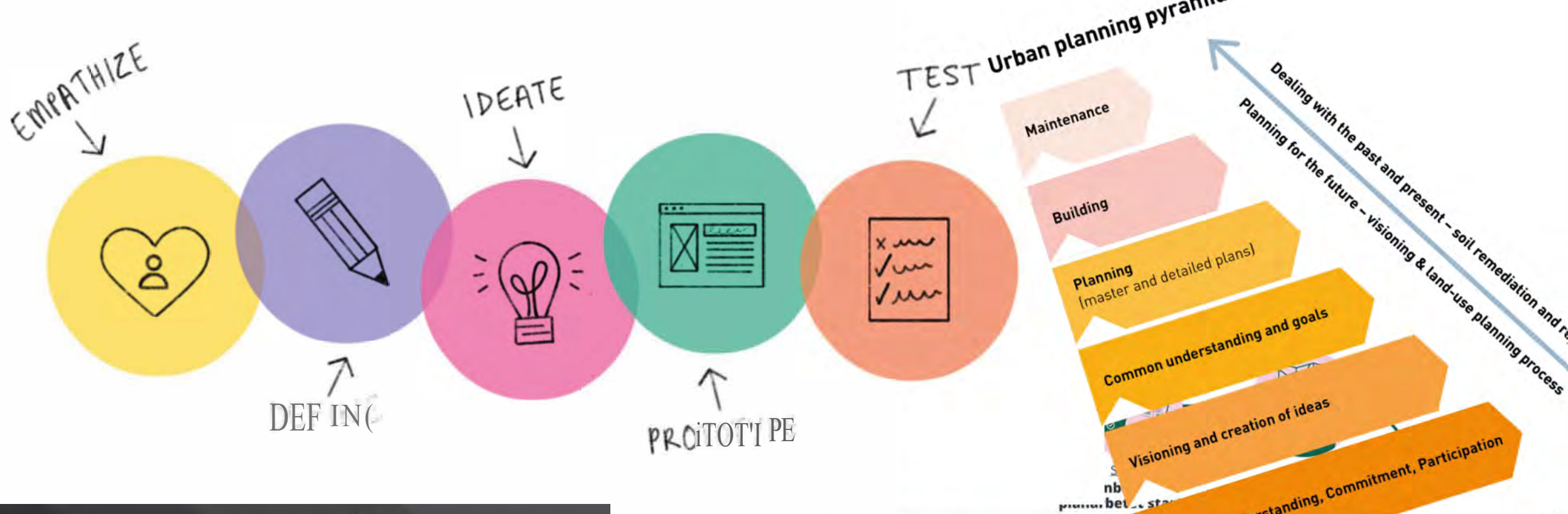
Read more, and
download the convention from
UN website





Are children the designers?





EMPATHIZE
↓

IDEATE

TEST
↓

Urban planning pyramid

Dealing with the past and present – soil remediation and re
Planning for the future – visioning & land-use planning process

Include
children and
Youth



Figure 1 Urban planning pyramid
Source: Based and elaborated on City of Oulu, Detailed planning

Maintenance

Building

Planning

Common understanding and goals

Visioning and creation of ideas

Dialogue, Understanding, Commitment, Participation

Steg 5
Näråd för
detaljplan

Steg 6
Granskning
detaljplan

Steg 7
Detaljplanen antas

Steg 8
Fastighetsbildning

Steg 9
Bygglov

Steg 10
Byggstart och
genomförande

Steg 11
Färdigställt

Steg 12
Drift, förvaltning,
utveckling och underhåll



Urbanistica Podcast - Cities for People

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8 TEENAGERS TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE: LIVING SUSTAINABLY IN KORNEUBURG FOR ONE MONTH

Mit Unterstützung von Bund, Land und Europäischer Union

 Bundesministerium
Land- und Forstwirtschaft,
Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft



Europäischer
Landwirtschaftsfonds für
die Entwicklung des
ländlichen Raums.
Hier investiert Europa in
die ländlichen Gebiete.





PROCESS DESIGN – KEY STEPS



TENNS4CHANGE CHANNELS

Raising Awareness Online

Instagram

- Daily reels & posts from the teens' challenge
- Creative content for a young audience
 - Local shopping
 - Second-hand fashion
 - Meatless choices
 - Baking tutorial

Project Blog & Website

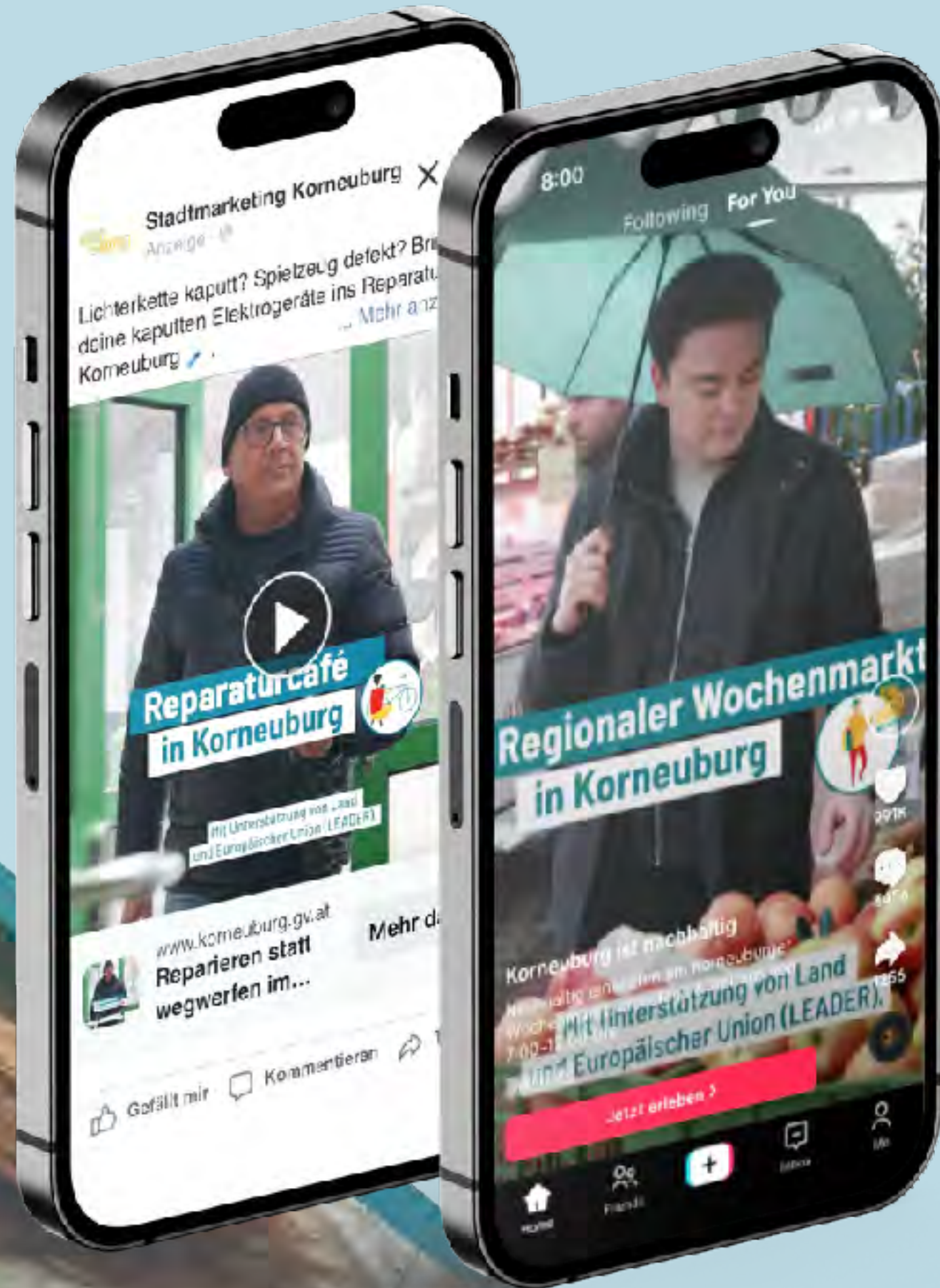
- Project timeline & team intros
- Teen-led sustainability survey
- Tips for sustainable living in Korneuburg



PUBLIC OUTREACH VIA CITY CHANNELS

Spreading the message city-wide





IMPACT & OUTCOME

Real visibility. Real engagement.

Teens4Change channels

- 92 followers | 24 posts | 23 stories
- Reach: 6,063 accounts
- Views: 2500+

Local Media Coverage

- Meta: ~1,600 reach total
- City newspaper: 8,600 copies distributed

Personal & Social Impact

- ~60 completed sustainability surveys
- Teens inspired friends, family and changed their habits

Follow-up Campaign

- **Meta ads:** 9,757 reach | 59,220 impressions | 986 link clicks
- **TikTok campaign:** 84,883 reach | 293,190 impressions
- **Sustainability folder:** 10,000 copies printed

LEARNINGS

What Worked, and What We Learned

- Consistent support is essential
- Flexibility over rigid goals
- Use the tools they actually use
- Teen engagement fluctuates naturally
- Self-responsibility needs structure
- Timing is key





Child
Friendly
Cities
Initiative

unicef
für jedes Kind

KINDERFREUNDLICHE
GEMEINDEN & REGIONEN



unicef.at/unterstuetzen/als-gemeinde/

