



**INSIGHT PEAK
N°1**

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PANDEMIC, GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Research for promoting participation during pandemic times

**PEAK
URBAN**
CONTRIBUTES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



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Highlights

1.

Social Urbanism is the concept that underlies multiple strategies used by governments to face complex realities in Latin American cities.

2.

Social urbanism emphasizes the use of innovative approaches to respond to policies on the terrain of urban planning and exclusive plans. This method is implemented successfully in cities like Medellín, Bogotá and Sao Paulo.

3.

Stakeholder participation is a key component to advance towards the achievements of Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

4.

The city of Medellín successfully applies territorial planning mechanisms that prove to have an impact on the quality of life of citizens.

Social urbanism is the concept that underlies the set of multiple strategies used by governments to tackle the complex realities of Latin American cities. Social urbanism stresses the relevance of using innovative approaches to respond to land-use policies, urban planning and inclusive plans. This approach is implemented in towns like Sao Paulo, Medellin and Bogotá to create social infrastructure aimed at improving complex problems like violence, access to education and social inclusion.

One key element in this discussion is citizen participation for strengthen partnerships and empower communities in the policy process. PEAK researchers in Colombia are working on this front. A project implemented in Medellin is providing tools to allow for the participation of a more diverse set of stakeholders and promote evidence-based governance.

Social urbanism is the concept that highlights multiple strategies used by governments to approach complex realities in Latin American cities.

Many scholars and decision-makers have highlighted the great impact that unsustainable consumption and production patterns can have on humans-nature relations. In particular, the current pandemic requires new approaches to deal with challenges related to urban expansion and deforestation due to agriculture (linked to growing demand of products such as meat and palm oil). Cities have been recognized as fundamental contributors to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (see SDG #11, Sustainable cities and communities). In particular, cities in the Global South—where most urban population lives—must find ways to deal with challenges such as informality, utilities coverage and rural immigration. This COVID-19 pandemic has set the alarms for the urgency to accelerate implementation in and by cities, not only due to the actual connection between habitat invasion and wildlife trade with the disease, but also because of the larger concern over issues such as climate change and the global environmental crisis. This research seeks to find ways in which cities in the Global South can build strategies based on already-existing, context-proven

mechanisms, for the formulation and implementation of SDG strategies.

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Spotlight

Research in Medellin

One of the five projects led by EAFIT under PEAK is called Transitional cities in the Global South and their contribution to SDG implementation: Governance and power relations in Medellin, Colombia. An underlying aim of this project is to analyze how

science-policy interfaces can be strengthened through better and more diverse stakeholder participation. Such interfaces are crucial for the successful implementation of SDGs, as highlighted by the New Urban Agenda.

The city of Medellin is applying, successfully, innovative territorial planning mechanisms that show to have a direct impact on the quality of life of its citizens. We are analyzing ways in which these instruments can help the city achieve local and global sustainability goals, taking advantage of existing knowledge and expertise, and promoting community-oriented tools that facilitate citizen participation.

Medellin is applying successfully innovative territorial planning mechanisms that show to have a direct impact on the quality of life of its citizens.

The city is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals based on the promotion of evidence-based governance by sharing and exchange information between different sectors. The COVID-19 health crisis has brought to the table the importance of

strengthening these links, considering that many actors have highlighted the emerging relations between unsustainable practices and global pandemics.

Keywords

Social urbanism/ COVID-19/ Sao Paulo/ Bogotá/ Medellín/Colombia/
Urban Planning/ Social Participation/ Global South/ ODS/ Governance
Pandemic/ Cities in transition/ Sustainable cities and communities

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