UCLG ASPAC United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific

고양특례시

10th UCLG ASPAC 2025 Goyang

Building Innovative Ecosystems

Kristi Shalla

Innovation Commissioner, Embassy of Switzerland USA

Sub Forum - urban growth

24 - 26 September 2025

KINTEX Exhibition Hall

Goyang, Republic of Korea

What is Urban Innovation and Why Does it Matter?

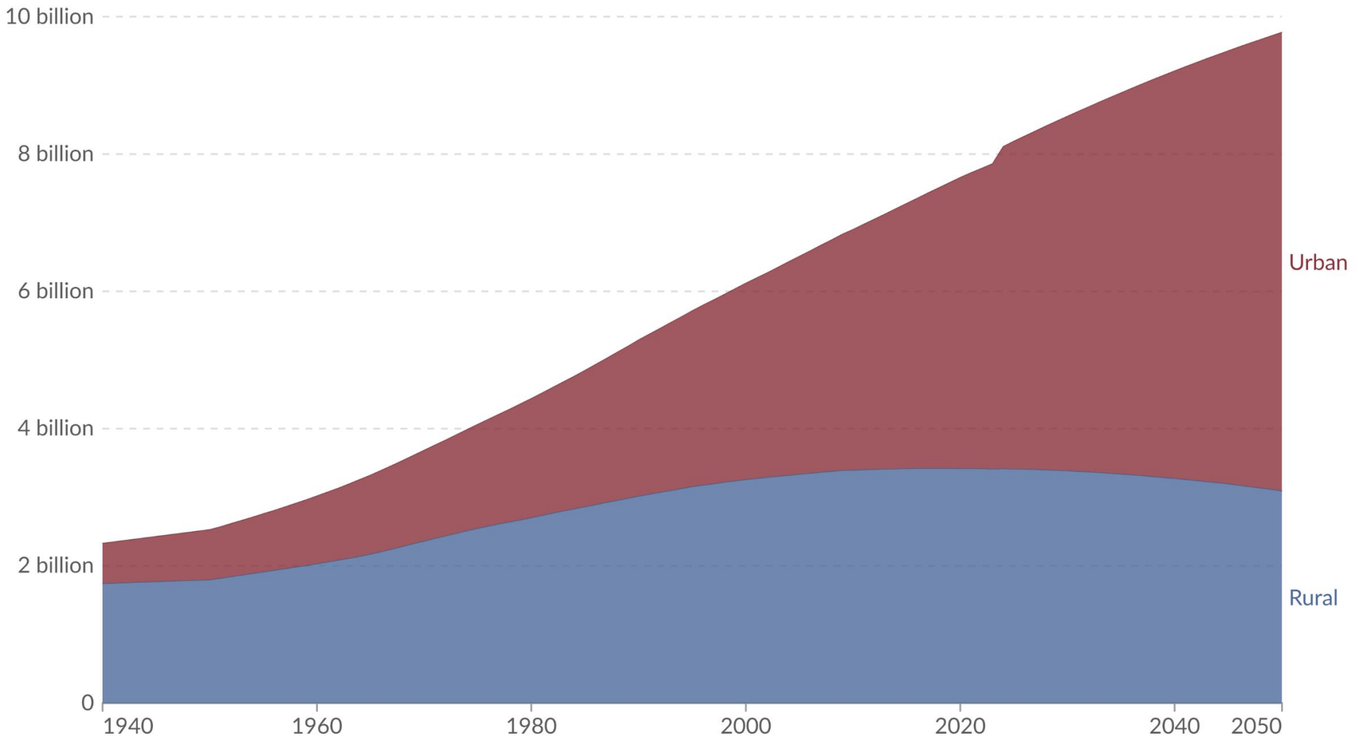
Urban innovation is Actions to Improve the quality of life in cities and high density communities

Kristi Shalla
Innovation Commissioner, Embassy of Switzerland USA

Urban and rural population projected to 2050, World, 1940 to 2050

Our World in Data

Total urban and rural population, given as estimates to 2023, and UN projections to 2050. Projections are based on the UN World Urbanization Prospects and its median fertility scenario.



Data source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018); HYDE (2023)
OurWorldinData.org/urbanization | CC BY

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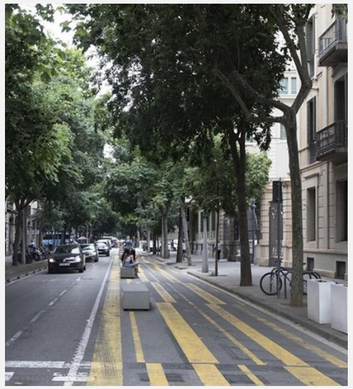
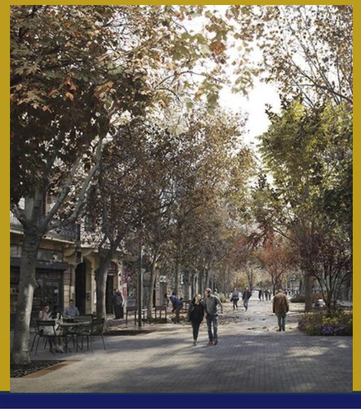
Before



After



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Urban Innovation

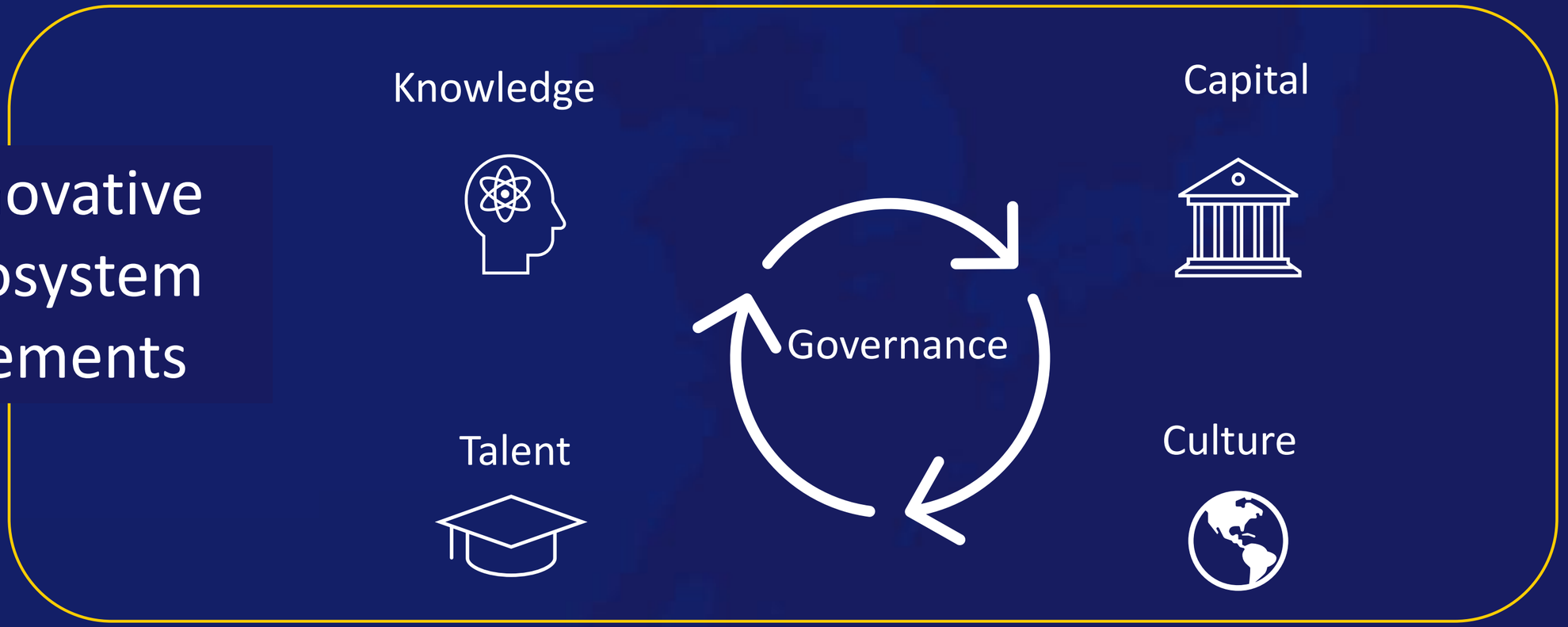
Livability

Sustainability

Economic Vitality

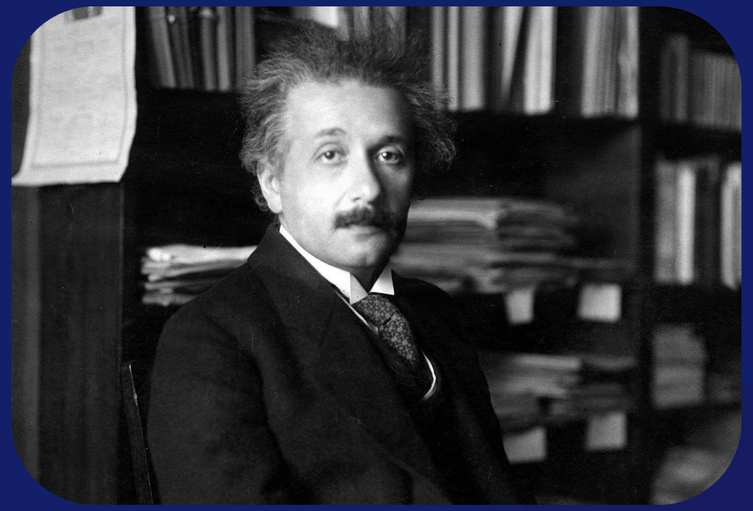
So how de we encourage innovation? How do we build innovative ecosystems?

Innovative Ecosystem Elements



Knowledge

- Universities
- Technical training programs
- Laboratories
- Pilot Programs



Capital

- Private Investment
- Government Grants
- Open Innovation Incentives
- Tax incentives

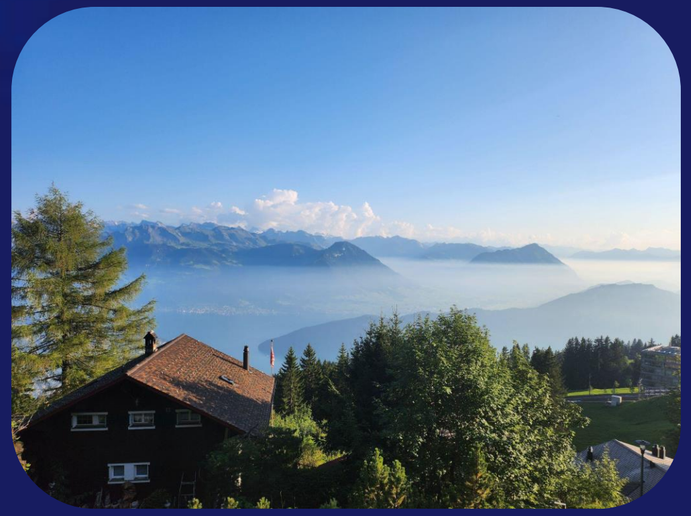
Innosuisse

Talent

- Homegrown talent pool
- Diversity
- Ability to import talent
- Educational Funding

Culture

- Political System
- History
- Geography
- Collaborative Spirit



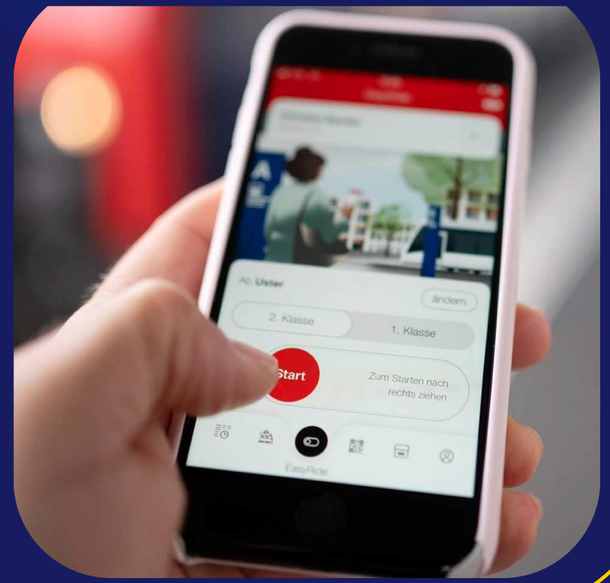
Swiss Innovative Ecosystem > Urban Development

Participatory Democracy

Public Private Partnerships

Precision solutions

University Collaboration



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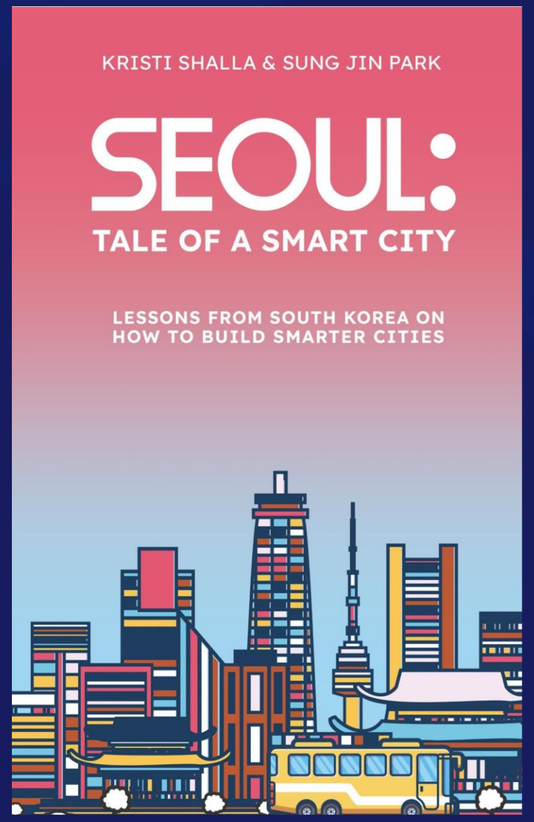
감사합니다!
Thank You!

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