



Roundtable on cycle research  
*CyCity: From car-centric to cycle  
centric cities*

Mr M. Koucky & Dr P. Envall

Velocity Global Conference, Copenhagen

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UNITED  
BY OUR  
DIFFERENCE



# Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Presentation of the CyCity research programme (30 min)**
  - Scope, activities, funding, partners
  - First results: problem definition
- **Round table discussion on cycle research (60 min)**
  - Problem definition, participants feedback, relevance for other countries?
  - Synergies between CyCity and other ongoing cycle related research. How can we co-operate to move cycle research forward?
  - Challenges for research within the cycling field generally and how can we overcome them?
- **Closing**

# CyCity: Important starting points

- Severely fragmented networks
- Implementation problems (see e.g. Gaffron 2003; Kågeson 2009, p. 1).
- Doubtfully engineered solutions (see e.g. Ahlström 2004, pp. 67-68).
- Limited & 'isolated' research approaches (incl. churn)



# CyCity: overview and objectives

## ■ 4 'products'

- Increased understanding of factors influencing individuals' choice of travelling by bike
- A systematic and computer aided planning tool
  - ✓ *For problem identification, to describe possible improvements*
  - ✓ *Adapted to the needs and condition of tool users*
- New functionality for online cycle journey planners
- Internationally competitive expertise

## ■ 4 years (2010 – 2013)

## ■ 1,5 million €



# CyCity: Perspective

- Fact: increased spending in many cities, although from a low basis
- Improve tools and decision support for cycle planning
- Contribute to a change in development where the cost-benefit ratio of cycle investments can further increase



# CyCity: People and partners

Funding:



Partners:



Dr Kerstin Robertson  
Biology



Mr Michael Koucky  
Env. Physics



Dr Pelle Envall  
Transport  
planning



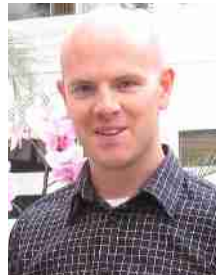
Mrs Elisabet I. Angelov  
Economy



Dr Anna Niska  
Roads & road  
maintenance



Dr Sonja Forward  
Psychology



Dr Johan Faskunger  
Health Science



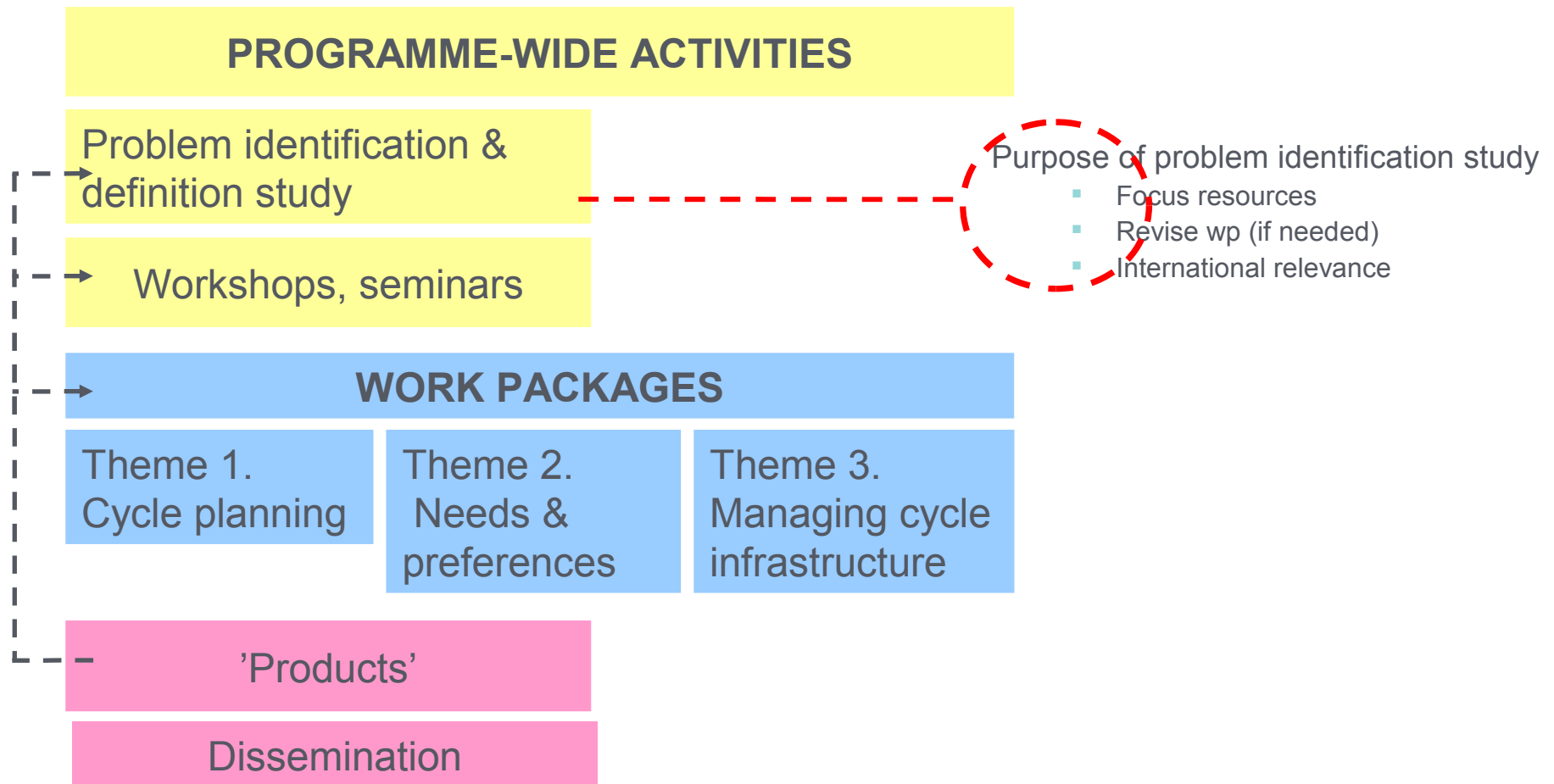
Mrs Katarina Lindberg  
Civil Engineer



Mr Martin Emanuel  
Historian,  
Science & Technology

- Multi-disciplinary
- See folder

# CyCity Programme overview



# CyCity: Problem identification and definition study



*January –  
November 2010*

Main partners:

Pro  Activity  
[www.proactivity.se](http://www.proactivity.se)

 **KOUCKY  
PARTNERS**  
MILJÖKONSULTER

**vti**

 **WSP**

*Old town, central Stockholm*



# Key question

What are the challenges and difficulties facing a *city* that would like to:

- become significantly more cycle friendly, and
- achieve a higher proportion of cycle trips?



Avenyn, Gothenburgh, Sweden

# Research activities, so far

- (Questionnaire survey [2008, 235 responses])
- Structured web-based discussion group (internal)
- Workshop with 15 project members
- In-depth interviews [20 out of 23]
  - Transport engineers, planners
  - Cycle experts, cycle NGO's
  - Elected leaders/ their advisers
- Hypothesis development & testing
- >270 people, >170h



*Malmö, Sweden*

## Key problems (preliminary)

1. Underestimation of complexity
2. Unclear procedures/ responsibilities (accountability)
3. Lack of will



*Mushroom forest, Småland, Sweden*

# Underestimation of complexity

## Supporting evidence

- Many say: (severe) lack of information needed for cycle planning
  - - quality of existing streets and routes, problems, flows, surfacing, when is resurfacing needed?, what are cyclists' priorities? etc.
  - 'better decision support', lack of schemes 'ready to go'
- Quite a few say: quite often difficult to find good solutions, many parties have a say -makes implementation tricky, implementation is weak
- Some say: "not dealt with in a professional manner", lack of systematic approaches/ planning
- Some say: key transport authorities assign their youngest and least experienced staff to cycling, churn
- Some say: people professionally skilled in area in minority
- Some say: 'last minute fix', taken into account too late → poor solutions

## Unclear procedures/ responsibilities (accountability)

### Supporting evidence

- Many say: unclear split of responsibilities between key authorities and departments (local, regional, national, public transport vs cycle parking, transport vs development planning)
- Many say: too difficult for cycling to compete for financing, conflict between national and local authorities
- Some say: 'Cycle money' "disappear" if/ when large-scale road projects overrun their budgets
- Some say: regional public health care organisations not well suited to see the benefits of cycling
- Some say: "few routines", one or two officers' personal interest too often only reason for good design solution
- Some say: architects too dominant

# Lack of will

## Supporting evidence

- Many say: I am all for, but 'someone else' thinks it should not cost any money
- Quite a few: distinct and vocal criticism against key national transport authorities, too little, too late (no powers, no money, no support)
- Some say: civil servants opposed cycle improvements (1990)
- Some say: in reality there is a lack of political will, at least when it comes to securing a safe enough traffic environment (no speeding cars) and when relocating road space to cycle facilities
- Some say: key transport authorities interpret their (legal) obligations in a way that in practice limit what can be achieved
- Some say: engineers try to verbally marginalise 'softer planning issues'

## Non-supportive evidence

Everyone interviewed: important to increase cycling modal split

# Not really said about difficulties and challenges

- Importance of creating a 'cycle culture' (one respondent)
- How to get public health authorities 'onboard' (one respondent)
- Need to catch up – 30 years backlog (although several people touch on this topic)

# Discussion

Moderator:

Mr Michael Koucky, Koucky & Partners AB

Thank you!

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*Skeppsbron, Stockholm, Sweden*



# Discussion

1. Does the Scandinavian/ Swedish problem identification correspond to the problems in your country?

2. Where do you see synergies between CyCity and your own research or other ongoing research programmes within the cycle field?

3. What are the challenges for research within cycling and how can we overcome them?

- international cooperation and exchange
- financing
- quality
- multi-disciplinary
- other