

# CASE STUDY

Stuttgart Urban Region (DE) – Taicang/Suzhou (CN)

IURC – China



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**Thematic Network(s): Urban & Regional Renewal**

**Thematic Cluster(s): Urban Planning, Mobility&Transport, Nature-Based Solutions**

**Cross-cutting challenge(s): Energy Transition -Climate Change**

**Topic keywords: TOD, productive city, low-carbon city**

# Transit-oriented Urban Development

*The Stuttgart Urban Region-Taicang (Suzhou) cooperate to create attractive, productive, and low-carbon cities through innovative TOD projects.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The port city of Taicang (Suzhou), 35km away from Shanghai, has experienced rapid urban expansion and economic growth. The city established strong Sino-German cooperation, leading to notable investments, technological advancements, and cultural exchanges. The Stuttgart Urban Region in Germany, known for its dynamic economy and innovation, focuses on urban sustainability, renewable energy infrastructure, equitable development, green industrial transition, and integrated transit-oriented development (TOD).

The collaboration between Taicang and Stuttgart Urban Region aims to create **attractive, productive, and low-carbon cities** by addressing key urban challenges, including transportation, land use, environmental sustainability, and industrial transition. Three pilot projects in Taicang, including the 18 Gang Road TOD, China-Germany Phase VI, and North Hongqiao China-Germany Innovation Corridor, integrate **green transportation and low-carbon urban district** in this area, showcasing innovative transit-oriented development (TOD) and industrial symbiosis. These projects represent a collective effort to leverage green and resilient urban planning practices, focusing on **TOD, nature-based solutions, renewable energy, and energy efficiency**.



**“Sustainable development is a top priority in urban planning to make our regions future-proof.”** Thomas Kiwitt





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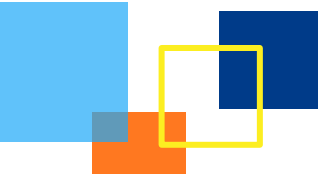
# MAIN CHALLENGE AND SOLUTION

Both Taicang (Suzhou) and the Stuttgart Urban Region face challenges in their urban development agendas. Taicang(Suzhou) must address obstacles in establishing efficient transportation networks, aligning urban plans with transport management strategies, and balancing economic growth with ecological space planning. Likewise, the Stuttgart Urban Region encounters challenges in achieving a balance between land use, transportation, housing, environmental sustainability, and brownfield revitalization.

In response to these challenges, Taicang and the Stuttgart Urban Region have initiated cooperative efforts with a specific focus on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and the development of low-carbon urban district. This collaboration involves engaging in municipal government dialogues, exchanging knowledge, implementing joint projects, and providing technical support to achieve green and low-carbon development objectives. The ultimate goal is to create attractive, productive, and environmentally friendly urban districts by adopting the Low Carbon City concept principles and implementing the TOD model.



Three pilot projects in Taicang have been identified: 18 Gang Road TOD, China-Germany Phase VI, and North Hongqiao China-Germany Innovation Corridor. These projects aim to integrate green transportation planning, establish low-carbon urban districts, and create landscape ecological corridors. Activities such as study visits, seminars, workshops, and consultations with Stuttgart Urban Region’s experts are planned to exchange knowledge and experiences. The projects will undergo continuous evaluation, improvement, and necessary adjustments to ensure successful implementation.



# RESULTS AND IMPACT

Stuttgart Urban Region – Taicang (Suzhou) cooperation is multifaceted involving municipal government dialogues, exchanging development strategies, policies instruments, financial incentives, and regulatory frameworks related to urban planning, transportation, and energy. They also engage in knowledge exchange among institutions, industry associations, and enterprises. Implementation of the three pilot projects, the 18 Gang Road TOD project, the industrial district in Sino-German Zone Phase VI, and the Beihongqiao Sino-German Innovation Zone, focuses on the application of green technology and contributing to the realization of liveable, productive and low-carbon development goals.

The partnership between Taicang and Stuttgart Urban Region achieved in:

1. **Sustainable urban development with transit-oriented development (TOD):** implementing the TOD model in Taicang and integrated energy planning for low-carbon urban districts are critical for mitigating climate change.
2. **Green growth with industrial ecosystem transition:** the support of the industrial symbiosis and the promotion of green transition of SMEs contribute not only to the productivity and competitiveness of the city but also set a model for sustainable economic practices that can be transferable in other contexts.
3. **Long-term partnership and knowledge sharing:** A structured consultation mechanism engages in continuous knowledge exchange, capacity building, and collaborative learning that is crucial for strategic partnership for long-term development outcomes.

## KEY FIGURES

3

pilot projects as demonstrations for Zero-Carbon Experiment

300,000

estimated population


2

carbon goals: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions peak by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060



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# LESSONS **LEARNED**



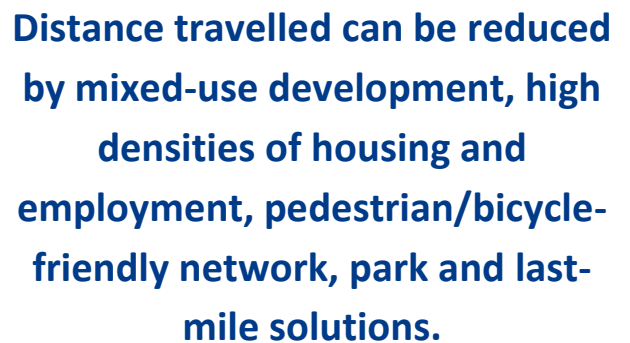
**Effective decision-making and implementation are critical to achieving integrated transit-oriented urban development.**




**Policy, institutional, and partnership supports are crucial to make TOD work.**



**Improving understanding of TOD concepts among stakeholders is important.**



**Distance travelled can be reduced by mixed-use development, high densities of housing and employment, pedestrian/bicycle-friendly network, park and last-mile solutions.**



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# THE IURC PROGRAMME

The International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) programme enables cities in different global regions to link up and share solutions to common problems. It is part of a long-term strategy by the European Union to foster sustainable urban development in cooperation with the public and private sectors, as well as representatives of research and innovation, community groups and citizens. Through engaging in IURC, cities will have the chance to share and exchange knowledge with their international counterparts, building a greener, more prosperous future.

The IURC programme is an opportunity for local governments to learn from each other, set ambitious targets, forge lasting partnerships, test new solutions, and boost their city's international profile. Its activities will support the achievement of policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the EU Urban Agenda, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.

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## Acknowledgments:

**Thomas Kiwitt**, Technical Director for the Verband Region Stuttgart

**YU Ting**, Deputy Director of Taicang Development and Reform Commission

## Links to related outputs:

<https://www.iurc.eu/2023/11/14/stuttgart-regions-study-visit-to-taicang-enhancing-partnership-in-low-carbon-urban-development-and-transit-oriented-development/>