

Minutes from the fourth meeting of the Nordic Thematic Group on Green and Inclusive Urban Development (TGA), 14 September 2021, online via Teams

Participants:

TGA members: Daniel André, Sivi Anttila, Sigríður Björk Jónsdóttir, Sanna Roos, Mathilde Ankerstjerne Caspersen, Olof Linde, Susanna Slotte-Kock (Most parts, but had to leave earlier), Annastina Sarlin, Hrafnkell Á. Proppé (most parts, had to leave earlier), Olli Voutilainen, Henrik Børsting Aagaard (Most parts, joined after 50 min), Alf Johansen (had to leave earlier, participated in the beginning)

From NCM secretariat: Gitte Mondrup (most parts, joined after 40 min)

From Nordregio: Ryan Weber, Mats Stjernberg, Johannes Lidmo, Johanna Feuk Westhoff, Lisa Rohrer

1) Welcome. Daniel André welcomed everyone to the meeting. We had a quick catch-up round about how we are working now

- SE, hybrid model for remote working
- FI, hybrid model for remote working
- DK, Mathilde, they do not have workspaces for everyone (three days in the office, two days at home)
- IS, it is accepted that people work from home. It is common to have a mix of working at the office and from home

2) News of the Nordics

We had fewer but more in-depth presentations on some of our members' recent news related to themes that we address in our collaboration. This time, we had news from Denmark, Iceland, and Finland. Norway has indicated that they will present at the next News from the Nordics Session, focusing on a new strategy on small and medium sized towns. Below is a list of a few things that were presented. See more in the attached presentations from the meeting.

- Denmark: It is now required that there are strategies for developing city centres. In addition, the "toolkit" that was introduced could be interesting for some members, and for project 3. Online and collection of information and know-how, about concrete activities. Between three to five cities will test the toolkit.
- Iceland: Focus on two key initiatives:
 - i. National planning policy 2015-2026
 - ii. Planning portal, national database
 - o Regarding the planning portal: 1) A new geographic data and consultation portal, 2) A database, 3) In 2024 all local plans need to be digitally in the portal. Already since 2020, master plans have been required to be in digital form.
- Finland: Planning reform in Finland which is soon to be implemented. Climate change adaptation is a key element. Also, biodiversity and improving peoples' engagement opportunities. There will be a new planning instrument, *The urban land use plan*, which is a plan between the regional level and the municipal level. It departs from the functional city-region and the aim is to allow cities (municipalities) in one region to work effectively together towards common issues such as climate mitigation, urban structure etc. This

plan has received some opposition in the large cities. Initially the plan was supposed to be more like a land-use plan. After the latest revision, it was decided that it would not be legally binding, and in the current proposal of the reform the new urban land use plan is to be considered a "planning scheme" (more a strategic planning document) rather than a land-use plan. The new planning instrument will be obligatory for the city-regions that nowadays also have MAL-agreements (MAL-agreements = agreement on land use, housing and transport between a city region and the Finnish state).

3) Project updates

- Johannes Lidmo gave an overview of the latest progress in Project 1: *Comparative review of national support initiatives for local urban project development*. A survey in five languages will be shared with all TGA members, **and all members are encouraged to answer the survey and forward the survey** to relevant co-workers in their own organization and at other national ministries/agencies.
- Mats Stjernberg presented Project 2: *Planning for socially mixed and inclusive neighbourhoods* and gave an update on the latest progress and next steps. The project team is currently working on Activity 1, looking at policies and strategies for preventing segregation and promoting social inclusion in the different Nordic countries.
- Ryan Weber gave an overview of the latest progress in Project 3: *City planning impacts of emergent workplace location norms on a city's attractiveness and competitiveness*. He presented the progress of the knowledge overview of remote work that is being done jointly with projects in TGB and TGC. The knowledge overview consists of an international outlook, as well as the current status in each Nordic Country. The attractiveness part of the project will not start until next year. The urban-rural typology is inspired by a Finnish typology developed by SYKE. That typology has progressed and will be developed jointly with TGB and TGC. The typology will be the basis for analysis of migration patterns due to remote working possibilities in the covid and post-covid era. **Ryan encouraged those of the members, or your co-workers, that have an interest in the typology and GIS to join a typology reference group.** Please contact Ryan directly.

4) Networking activities for TGA

This point of the agenda was moved to the November meeting.

5) Upcoming activities and next meeting

- **Knowledge sharing / TGA website** (Johanna)

In the previous TG group, we used SharePoint to share and store files. Since some members cannot access SharePoint, we will not use this knowledge sharing platform for TGA. Johanna investigated if we could upload files on [TGA's project website](#), with a specific log in. That is not possible. But a sub-page can be created which you only can access with the link. Everyone with that link can access the sub-page, so the minutes and PowerPoints and other information will be shared on that sub-page, but no sensitive information will be shared since everyone with the link can access the sub-page.

- Link to TGA website: <https://nordregioprojects.org/urban/>
- Link to our knowledge sharing sub-page: <https://nordregio.org/20210929-2/>
- **November meeting**

There is an ambition that the November meeting will be physical and take place in Helsinki in connection to Nordregio Forum. However, the decision whether the meeting will take place in Helsinki, be hybrid or be digital will be based on how many of the TGA members are allowed to travel to Helsinki according to travel rules in their respective organizations. The TGA secretariat will in the beginning of October contact each of you to see if you will be able to travel, and then a decision will be taken together with the TGA chairs. If the meeting takes place physically, it will be a meeting from lunch to evening on November 22nd, followed by a morning meeting on November 23rd. Nordregio Forum takes place in the afternoon on November 23rd and in the afternoon of the 24th.