Agenda 2030 at the local level

Nordregio Seminar: Wednesday 9th May 2018

Nora Sánchez Gassen, Oskar Penje, Elin Slätmo
Research questions and project goals

Research questions:

- Which Nordic municipalities are the frontrunners in working with the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

- How do they work with the SDGs?
Research questions and project goals

Project goals:

- Organisation of a seminar on 9 May 2018 at Nordregio
- Publication of a report to the NCM (July 2018)
Project team

Nora Sánchez Gassen  Oskar Penje  Elin Slätmo
Approach

- Identification of interesting municipalities:
  Request for suggestions from Nordregio’s network

- Conditions for interviews:
  1) Explicit reference to SDGs in municipal work, 2) beyond planning stage
  If too many suggestions: Focus on most frequently mentioned cases

- Interviewing municipalities:
  Predefined questionnaire

- Writing profiles of municipalities for report:
### Who are the frontrunners?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Cities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Kópavogur, Mosfellsbær</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Arendal, Asker, Bergen, Eid, Hurdal, Kristiansund, Stavanger, Tingvoll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Espoo, Kemi, Pirkkala, Tampere, (Vaasa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Åland</td>
<td>Mariehamn</td>
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[Image of map showing the frontrunners' locations]
Who are the frontrunners?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Cities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sweden (8)</strong></td>
<td>Åtvidaberg, Gotland, Helsingborg, Malmö, Örebro, Umeå, Uppsala, Växjö</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Denmark (5)</strong></td>
<td>Aarhus, Copenhagen, Gladsaxe, Odense, Sønderborg</td>
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<td><strong>Faroe Islands (1)</strong></td>
<td>Tórshavn</td>
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<td><strong>Greenland (1)</strong></td>
<td>Sermersooq</td>
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How do they work with the SDGs?

Goals and priorities:

1. Which goals do municipalities pursue?
   
   To become one of the most sustainable cities in the world (Copenhagen)
   To become a green and sustainable city (Kemi)
   To reduce our environmental impact and create a good living environment (Mariehamn)
   To promote the quality of life at all ages (Stavanger)
   To become carbon-neutral (Aarhus)
   To build a sustainable suburb (Sermersooq)
   ... and many more goals!
How do they work with the SDGs?

Goals and priorities:

2. Do the municipalities prioritize some SDGs more than others?

Some municipalities work with all SDGs:

* e.g. Växjö, Sønderborg, Copenhagen, Malmö, Hurdal, Åtvidaberg

Others prioritise some SDGs:

* e.g. Tampere: SDGs 8 and 9
  * Umeå: SDGs 11 (and 5)
  * Mariehamn: eight SDGs
How do they work with the SDGs?

Approaches and tools:

3. How do municipalities define their priorities?

- City strategy (Kemi, Gladsaxe)
- Environmental programmes (Mosfellsbær, Tórshavn, Odense)
- Sustainability programme (Åtvidaberg, Växjö)
- Climate plan (Aarhus, Arendal)
- Health/quality of life plans (Umeå, Helsingborg)
- Indicators based on Social Progress Index (Kópavogur)
- Commitment 2050 webpage (Finnish municipalities)
How do they work with the SDGs?

Approaches and tools:

4. Which approaches do they use to implement their goals?

Many different approaches

Frequently used:
- Evaluation of existing policies/programmes/steering documents
- Defining future goals and priorities
How do they work with the SDGs?

Involving the public:

5. How do the municipalities reach out to their populations?

Citizen consultations, seminars: Mosfellsbær, Växjö, Gotland
Board games, puzzles: Aarhus, Copenhagen, Odense
App and website: Sønderborg
Sustainability award: Odense
Positive scenarios ‘Images of the future’: Kristiansund
Business incubators for women and social entrepreneurship: Helsingborg
How do they work with the SDGs?

Involving the public:

6. How do the municipalities involve young people?

Science center and book adapted to kids: Gotland
Workshops, learning weeks: Sønderborg
Child hearing, youth dialogues: Helsingborg, Uppsala
Student/youth councils: Umeå, Aarhus, Mosfellsbær
Innovation camp for young entrepreneurs: Asker
Tampere (FI)

- Population: ca. 225,000 persons
- Most populous inland city in the Nordics
- Tradition of heavy industry

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Tampere (FI)

Unique for: All sectors of government are challenged to improve sustainability, but given space to develop own ideas

- Municipal working group has been meeting since March 2017
- Activities: Evaluation of where the municipality is standing
- Commitment on Finland’s “Commitment 2050”-webpage: “Sustainable economic and innovation policy and responsible procurement “
- Working group tries to activate all sectors of government to get involved
Gladsaxe (DK)

- Population: ca. 69,500 persons
- Close to Copenhagen

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Gladsaxe (DK)

Unique for: Clear strategic municipal planning with links to the SDGs

- SDGs are used as a tool to link the different sectors of government
- New city strategy: uses the SDGs to “raise the bar”
- Strategy defines six goals for the city (e.g. Green and vibrant city),
- Each goal is connected to activities and linked to the SDGs
- All administrative activities should be geared to reach these goals
- Use of SDGs clearly grounded in municipal priorities and interests
New Asker (NO)

- Population: ca. 93,000 persons
- Close to Oslo

Unique for: Agenda 2030 built into the municipal plan

- A new municipality when Asker is merged with Røyken and Hurum 2020.
- The SDGs will serve as the basic framework for the municipal plan.
- A separate committee work with establishing guidelines and methodologies to be built into the plan.
Umeå (SE)

- Population: ca. 125,000 persons
- Largest city in Norrland
- Björkarnas stad

Unique for: Activities to reach out to the population

- Umeå puts a particular emphasis on SDG 11 in their work.
- Many activities, e.g. related to air quality and transport
- SEE sustainability week (social, economic and ecological): Presentations, exhibitions, competitions, activities, events
- Annual project work and consultations with upper secondary school about sustainability and the future
Conclusion

- Municipalities are just starting to work with the Agenda 2030.
- But very inspiring examples, many good ideas
- Municipalities are very active already in promoting economic, social and ecological sustainability
- But: Often not (yet) linked to the SDGs: competing frameworks, lack of time/staff, lack of knowledge
- Our goal: Report as a source of inspiration for other municipalities
Thanks.