Oslo and EUROCITIES perspectives

S. Tyrol / CoR: Rural and urban challenges in developing regional zero-pollution plans

Peter Austin, 11.05.2021
Functional urban areas (FUA)

- Cities grow beyond their boundaries
- Sustainability goals are often best resolved at the functional area level
- Commuting area is a good approximation of the FUA (OECD/EU 2012)
- Rural-urban governance models
  - Transport, planning, housing, environment, economic development, services
- EU recognition and support
Hub city

Urban Sprawl

Peri-urban communities

Metropolitan Region (MR)

Morphological Urban Area (MUA)

Functional Urban Area (FUA)

Core city

Understanding spatial levels in metropolitan areas

Hub city

Urban Sprawl

Peri-urban communities
Setting the scene – Oslo region

Regional Plan for Land Use and Transport
Oslo’s regional strategy: Four pillars and one *big* achievement

- 2 Regional Plans (2015)
  - Land Use and Transport
  - Economic Development and Innovation
- Joint venture regional Public Transport agency (since 2008)
- Toll-ring, funding sustainable transport (since 1991)

*Zero growth* in road traffic since 2010
Rural-urban cooperation: Join forces to achieve the Green Deal!

**Why?**

- Rural-urban cooperation across Europe is needed now
  - New EU policies and strategies
  - Key environmental policies + Covid-crisis
- Changing territorial relations
  - Blurred boundaries and updated perceptions
  - Territorial cohesion between hub cities and their surrounding communities

**What?**

- Strengthened delivery on
  - Green transformation
  - Smart / low carbon villages and cities
  - Economic development
  - Inclusion
- Innovative tools
  - Cohesion funding: ITI, ESPON, Interreg, F2F
  - Local governance solutions – including the città metropolitane
- Dialogue at all levels
Cross-border dimension

- Functional Coexistence and Common Identity
- Shared policies and goals - finely tuned to national positions
- Shared infrastructure and markets
- EU Treaties challenged by restrictions due to Covid-19
- Green Deal goals challenged by competitive forces (policy and market)

Gorizia / Nov Gorica, Austin 2018
Multi-level policy coordination
From power-struggles to multipliers

- Common visions at each level
- Recognition of roles and responsibilities
- Structured processes
  - Goals, challenges, SWOT, participation, transparency and inclusion
- Agreement on
  - Joint management
  - Negotiation framework
  - Adaptations if needed
- Shared financial responsibilities
What do net-zero emissions mean in reality?

- Global, European and national goals at the city / regional scale
  - We might not be able to envisage the end-state, but everyone knows the urgency and the direction

- So, Involve the Stakeholders

- Oslo’s Climate strategy 2020 – 95% less CGE by 2030
  1. Identify key emission sources – as baseline for sector-specific strategies
  2. Manage natural areas for carbon capture
  3. Set realistic targets for energy reduction - mostly transport and buildings in Oslo
  4. Plan and invest in resilience to climate change
  5. Recognise the carbon footprint – indirect emissions, often higher than local
Three inspirational cases for South Tyrol:

- **Trondheim region**
  - International centre for excellence and research
  - Sustainable transport and land use

- **Rennes Metropol**
  - Strong urban-rural collaboration
  - Housing and transport policy

- **Strasbourg Metropol**
  - Cross-border collaboration
  - Industrial and international functions

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**Trondheim**
City 182,000  
FUA 271,000  
City = 67 %

**OECD approximation, 2012**

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