Project Overview

NORD GREEN

SMART PLANNING FOR HEALTHY AND GREEN NORDIC CITIES

Nordregio

17 March 2021

Lifestyle and Health

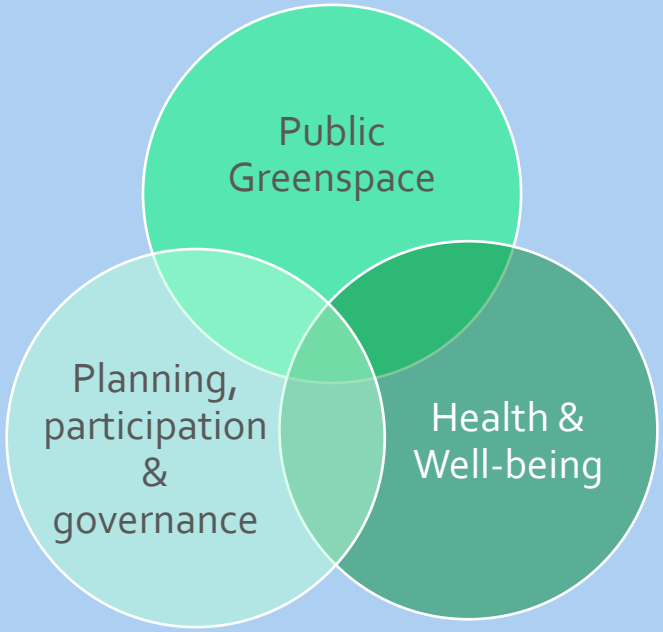
Society today is faced with increasing incidences of poor health, related to modern lifestyles, that cannot be addressed by medicine alone.

Contributing factors:

- increasing sedentary population
- increasing levels of mental stress
- hazardous environments e.g. air pollution

Natural spaces and natural elements such as forests and trees have been seen as providing opportunities to ameliorate such trends.

INTRODUCTION



NORDGREEN will help regional and local authorities to better understand the relationships between the urban environment and people's health and well-being.

It will supply them with practical tools and guidelines which help them in the implementation of **smart and sustainable cities.**

NORDGREEN partners

Research partners

Aalto University (Finland)

Professor Marketta Kyttä (aalto.fi)

Nordregio

International research centre for regional development and planning.
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Professor Thomas Randrup (@slu.se)
Professor Patrik Grahn (@slu.se)

City partners

Aarhus (Denmark)

For the first time, rapidly growing Aarhus at eastern Jutland is developing an overarching green strategy – A greener Aarhus. The strategy is a new approach and harmonizes several strategic policies in the municipality, such as the climate strategy, mobility plan, health policy and equity strategy. The green perspective is at the basis for the overarching strategy which is closely linked to the health perspective. Such new approach generates many questions about how a municipality succeeds in implementing it effectively in the development of the municipality. Photo: Aidin Ismaeli

Espoo (Finland)

Espoo is the second largest city and municipality in Finland. It is part of the Finnish Capital Region, along with the cities of Helsinki, Vantaa, and Kauniainen. As part of the new municipal master plan, called the 'Espoo Story', the city is collecting residents' opinions about the development which has become its 'story-based strategy', giving voice to what types of urban environments are meaningful to residents and what areas should be developed and how.

Ii (Finland)

Ii is a small city north of Oulu, with a growing region consisting of approximately 10,000 residents. Ii attracts thousands of visitors each year, given the access to many outdoor and cultural activities that are available in the city. The municipality is known as one of the best-practice cases in Europe when it comes to bioeconomy initiatives, and has set an ambitious goal to reduce 80 percent of carbon emissions by the 2020. These environmental targets and ongoing efforts towards a zero-emission society combined with the ongoing development of plans and strategies will be key to Ii's health-promoting green space implementation.

Stavanger (Norway)

Stavanger is the fourth largest and most populous city in Norway. In recent years, the city has implemented a new planning system, and the development of a new spatial plan as part of the municipal plan (KPA) has been part of this process. A component of the spatial plan is *Grønn plan*, a comprehensive green strategy for the city focusing on maintain biodiversity, access to outdoor activities as well as sustainable green spaces. For Stavanger, cohesive green areas connected to its coastal landscape will strengthen the city's adaptive capacity to a changing climate, and increase the quality of public spaces that can promote well-being of its citizens.

Täby (Sweden)

Täby, located in the Swedish capital region, is growing fast and greenspace is challenged by rapid population growth and densification. The municipality is working with citizen participation in the development of the green plan that states that half of the municipality should be green. The organization of the governance system for greenspace is thus a topic on the agenda that can be further studied in NORDGREEN. Of interest for the municipality is also finding ways to evaluate the health impacts of greenspace.

Vilhelmina (Sweden)

Vilhelmina covers a vast area of northern Sweden, while being sparsely populated. The municipality has adopted a Green Comprehensive Plan with a holistic view of social, ecological and economic aspects. As a destination for outdoor tourism, Vilhelmina municipality needs to balance the expectations from seasonal population with the needs of the permanent population to support wellbeing for both groups. In particular, Kittelfjäll area is going through a large development which generates many questions about the balance between physical development and maintenance of the greenspace. The municipality will benefit from NORDGREEN, not least via using PPGIS to gather additional data about the seasonal and permanent population. Photo: Emma Sandström

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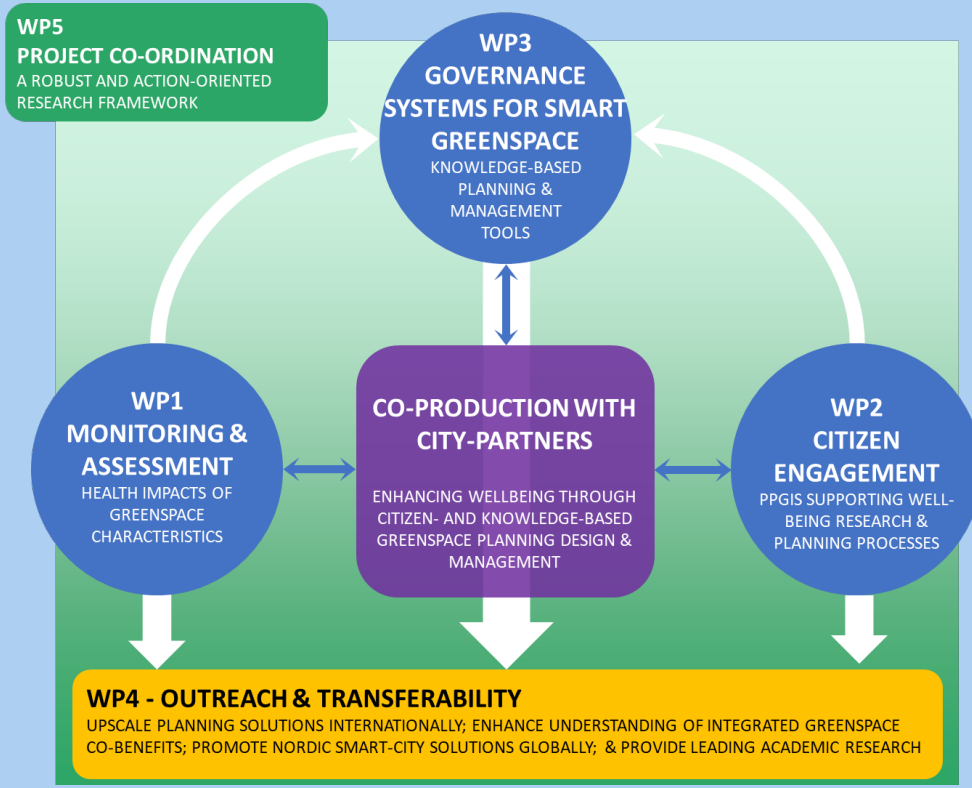
Objectives

1. Place **the "smart city focus"** on urban greenspace as a planned mechanism for enhancing health and well-being.
2. Be applicable to cities and municipalities of all sizes, from capital metropolitan areas to towns in remote areas.
3. WP1: Measure the effects of improved access to high quality urban greenspace on health, social inclusion and quality of life for residents in urban areas.
4. WP2: Implementation of PPGIS technology for integrating citizen's needs, demands and use of greenspace into urban planning processes.
5. WP3 Understand governance processes and provide know-how for municipalities to transform new and existing greenspace into restorative landscapes.



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CITY-PARTNER INVOLVEMENT

- Data support
- Sites for conducting citizen research
- Cases for analyzing governance processes
- Supporting project implementation:
  - Plan and design of new green areas in the city
  - Creating new strategic plans
  - Dealing with risks of greenspace fragmentation from development
  - Providing guidelines for managing greenspace accessibility, reachability and quality; and carrying-out planning processes with active public participation.

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Espoo PPGIS survey completed 31.10.2020

Randomized survey (Aalto):

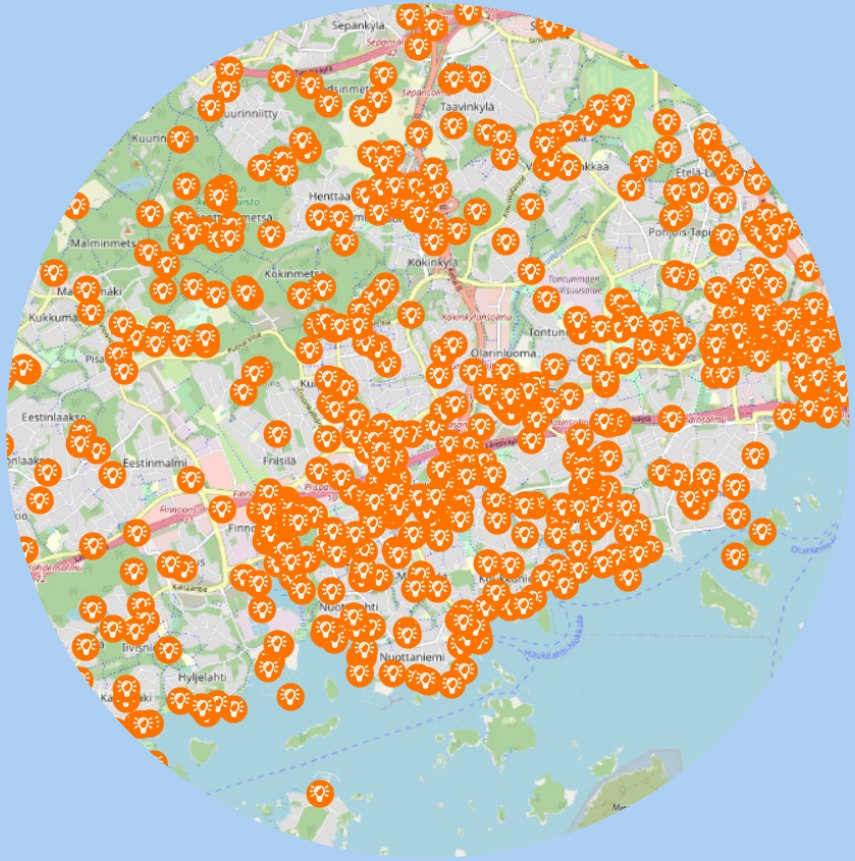
2066 participants
1944 home locations mapped
31042 locations mapped

Open survey (Espoo):

2132 participants
1717 home locations mapped
22768 locations mapped

Youth survey (Espoo):

2407 participants
2534 home locations mapped
16029 locations mapped



TOTAL
6606 participants
69839 locations mapped

Combined, this is the largest PPGIS data set that has been gathered in Finland

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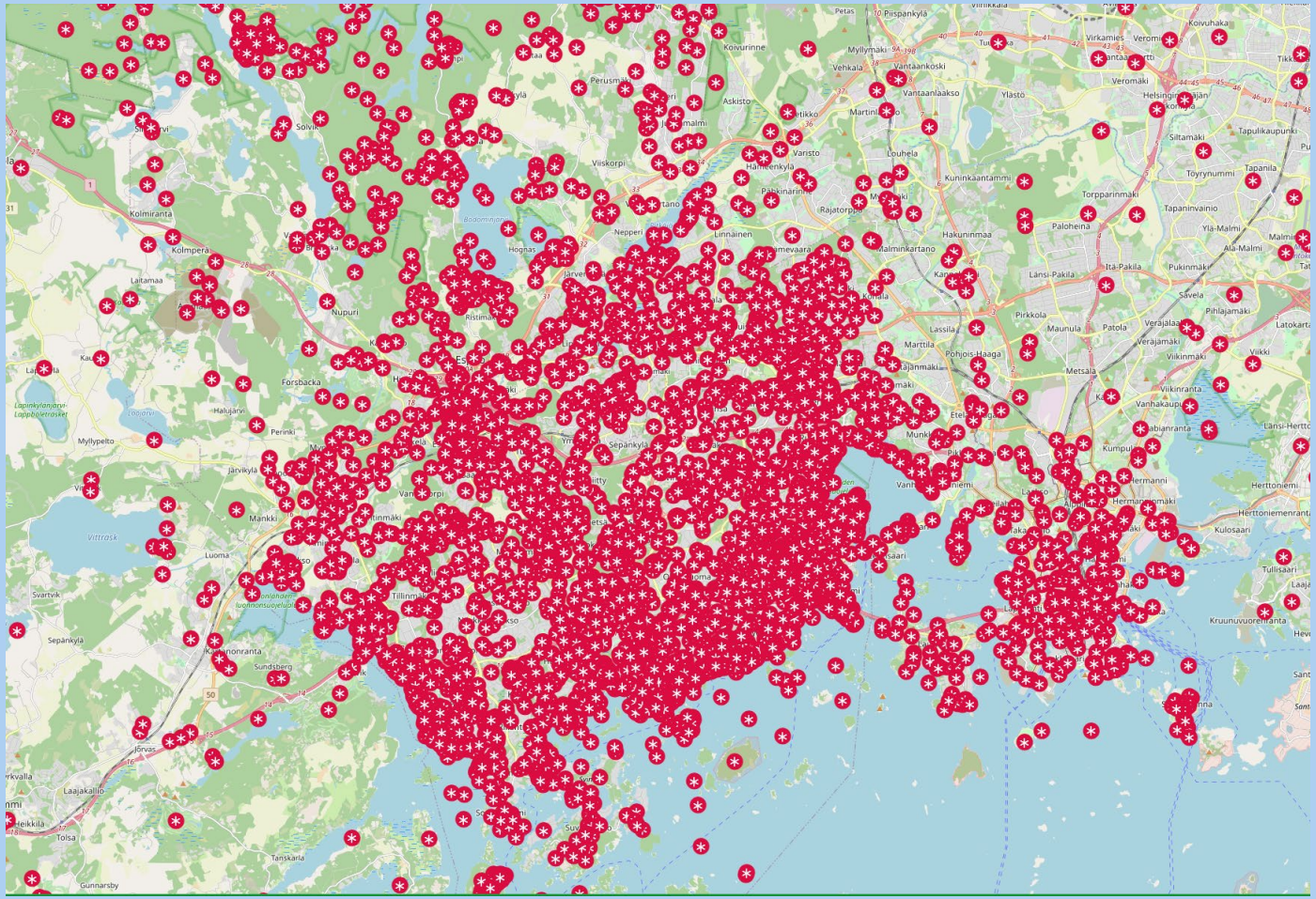
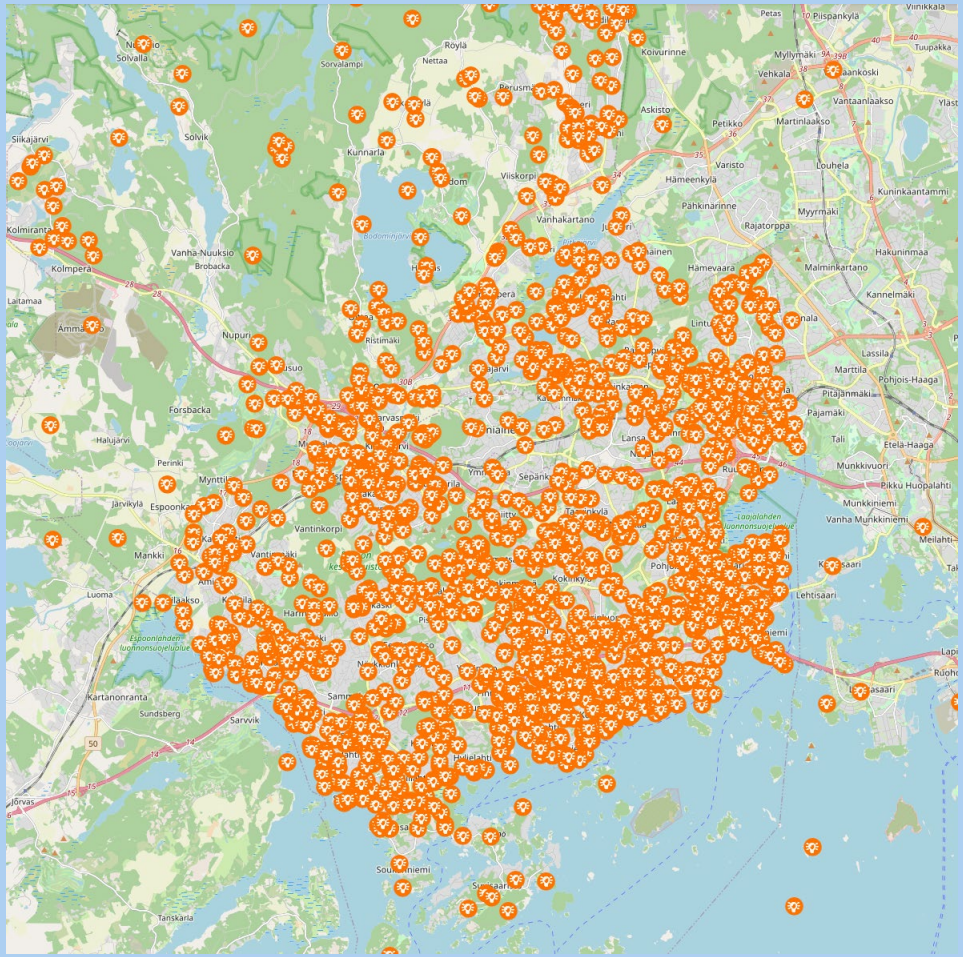
First (preliminary) results: Map markings



Special places, 6977 mappings



Development ideas, 1946 mappings

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Nordisk ministerråd: Et grønt Norden mot 2030

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