



SUMMARY

Models for sustainable LHT integration in the Nordic countries

LHT Network (MAL-verkosto) project, 9/2019-2/2020

The purpose of this report has been to map co-learning and cooperative networks in Sweden, Denmark and Norway that seek to promote sustainable and low-carbon urban development. We have especially sought cases linked to Finnish "LHT work" (MAL in Finnish), that is, integrating land use (L), housing (H) and transport (T) planning and development in co-operation with and between cities, city-regions and the government.

The information produced by the report aims to support municipal and city-regional learning and sharing of best practices. To Finland, other Nordic countries serve as a natural benchmark in terms of their active role in climate action and sustainable urban development. In short, these are countries with the power to urge Finnish cities and regions to get to work.

Cases:

The examined cases were classified into four main themes (with the fifth being a collection of other interesting projects, programs or ways of working).

- Sustainable mobility
- Sustainable urban development
- Development of housing
- Sustainable growth: Business development through cooperative networks

Networks that emerged 'bottom-up', from municipal needs are powered through strong advocacy and initiatives to justify their existence, whether their purpose is regional visibility (*Mälardalsrådet*), national advocacy for small municipalities (*SmåKom*) or municipal promotion of bicycling (*Cykelstäder*), urban railways (*Spårvagnsstäderna*) or climate action (*Klimatkommunerna*). Government-initiated 'top-down' networks and programs typically operated under an overarching theme that supported the sharing of expertise, for example in urban development (*Forum for stedsutvikling, Hållbara städer*) and specific issues related to large cities (*Plansatsning mot store byer, Storbyprogrammet*).

Findings:

- **Overarching global challenges at the core of city-regional action:** Climate change prevention and sustainable development have emerged as issues that need cross-sectoral solutions together with perspective that goes beyond borders of individual municipalities. In regards to LHT, all Nordic countries are engaged in active networks and projects – particularly in the context of sustainable urban mobility. In terms of sustainable development, particular attention should be paid to social sustainability (*Nätverket för socialt hållbar transportplanering*).
- **Significance of peer support:** The particular issues of the largest cities have been identified in all Nordic countries. Major cities or forerunner municipalities need peer-to-peer networks whose members grapple with issues

at the same scale – or who possess similar ambitions in their operations (*Nätverket för nya stadsdelar*).

- **Effective network action requires timely, monetary, informational and structural resources:** It is important to consider the significance of network action and its benefits to its members and their activities (*Nordic Smart City Network*). These networks must make strategic choices and form the foundation for their own existence – not

only in the eyes of their members, but also in society.

- **The enabling role of government:** Government objectives must be reconciled with the city's own agencies and local needs. The same template may not work in all cases.

Based on the report, cooperation and peer learning are needed in the field of sustainable urban development in the Nordics.

