

**Greater Helsinki Vision 2050:
Challenges for the future Greater Helsinki**

Challenges for the Future Greater Helsinki - North-European Metropolis

Jörg Knieling

Prof. Dr.-Ing. / M.A. soc. pol.

HafenCity University Hamburg

Personal introduction

- background:
 - urban and regional planning
 - political sciences and sociology
- Professor for Urban Planning and Regional Development at HCU
- Head of the Institute for Urban, Regional and Environmental Planning at HCU
- Head of Urban Future Lab at HCU
 - Greater Helsinki Vision 2050

2012



HCU

HafenCity Universität
Hamburg

Architecture

Construction

Geomatics

Urban Planning

Culture of the Metropolis



Content

1. Europe's Metropolitan Regions in a globalising World
2. Challenges for European Metropolitan Regions
3. Finland in Europe
4. Challenges for Greater Helsinki
5. Conclusion

1. Europe's Metropolitan Regions in a globalising World

- Global „space of flows“:
information, investments, workforce
- „To be on the map“:
 - big projects
 - international festivals
 - stimulating visions
- International competition for
„high potentials“



Europe's Metropolitan Regions in a globalising World

- Locomotives for national and European Development
- Centres of political and economical decision making
- Centres of creativity and innovation:
Richard Florida's 3 Ts:
 - Technology
 - Talent
 - Tolerance



2. Challenges for European Metropolitan Regions

- Economy: change towards knowledge and service based economies
- Globalisation and internationalisation: migration / integration (→ c)
- Demography: declining and older population
- Climate change and global warming
- European and national cohesion: Greater Helsinki in Finland



Greater Helsinki Vision 2050: Challenges for the future Greater Helsinki

Migration on the Global Scale: high qualified = red, less qualified = blue



Challenges for European Metropolitan Regions

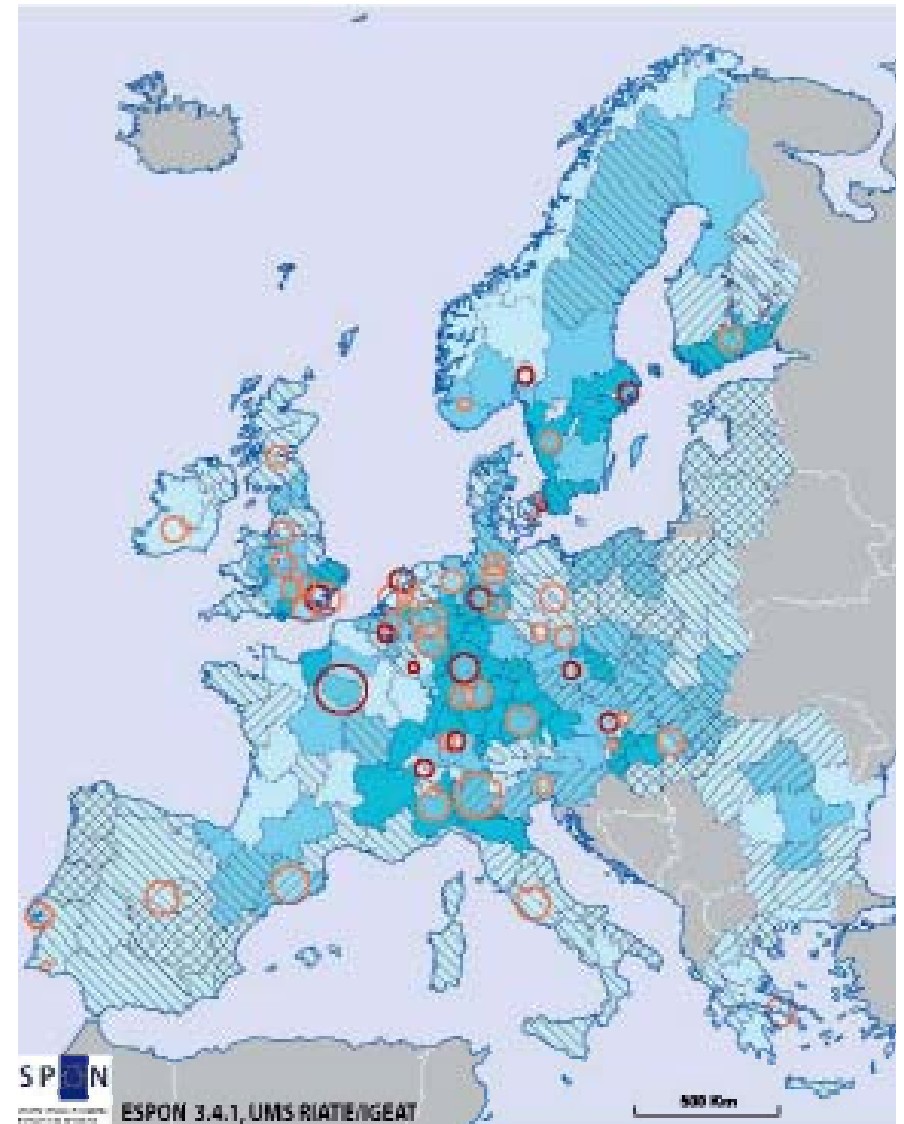
- Economy: towards knowledge and service based economies
- Globalisation: migration / integration
- Demography: declining and older population
- Climate change: global warming
- Cohesion: on national (Greater Helsinki) and European level



3. Finland in Europe

Internationalisation and structural strengths

- north-eastern periphery
- low level of internationalisation
- high technological level



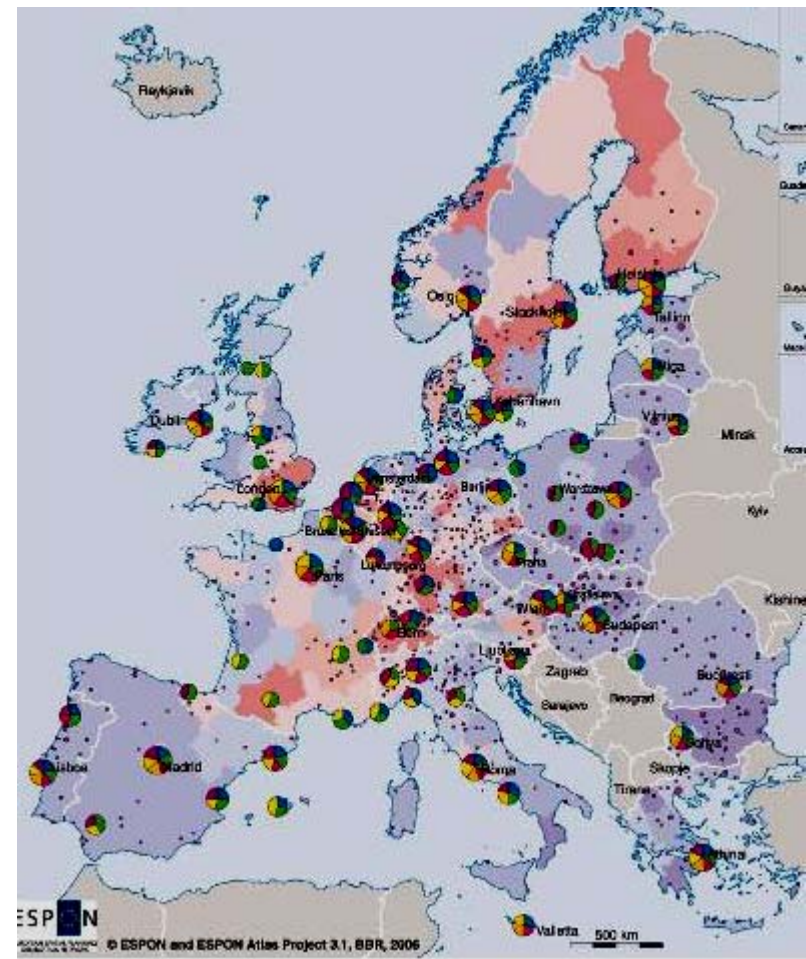
Economic Growth

- high economic level in FIN
- catching-up process of baltic states
- Helsinki: increasing importance as node to eastern europe



Research and Development (R&D)

- Strong position in R&D
- Information, knowledge, innovation as important elements of the EU's Lisbon strategy

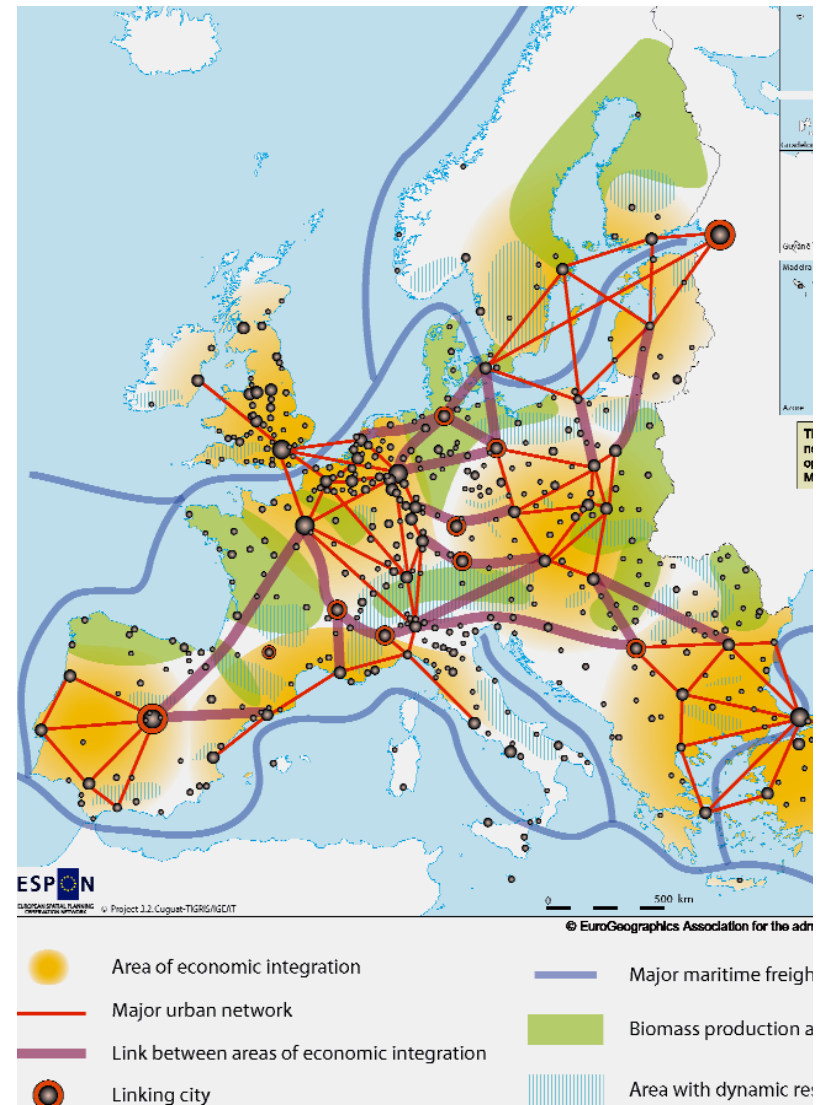


Southern Finland / Helsinki

- Area of economic integration
- Part of urban network
- Maritime freight route

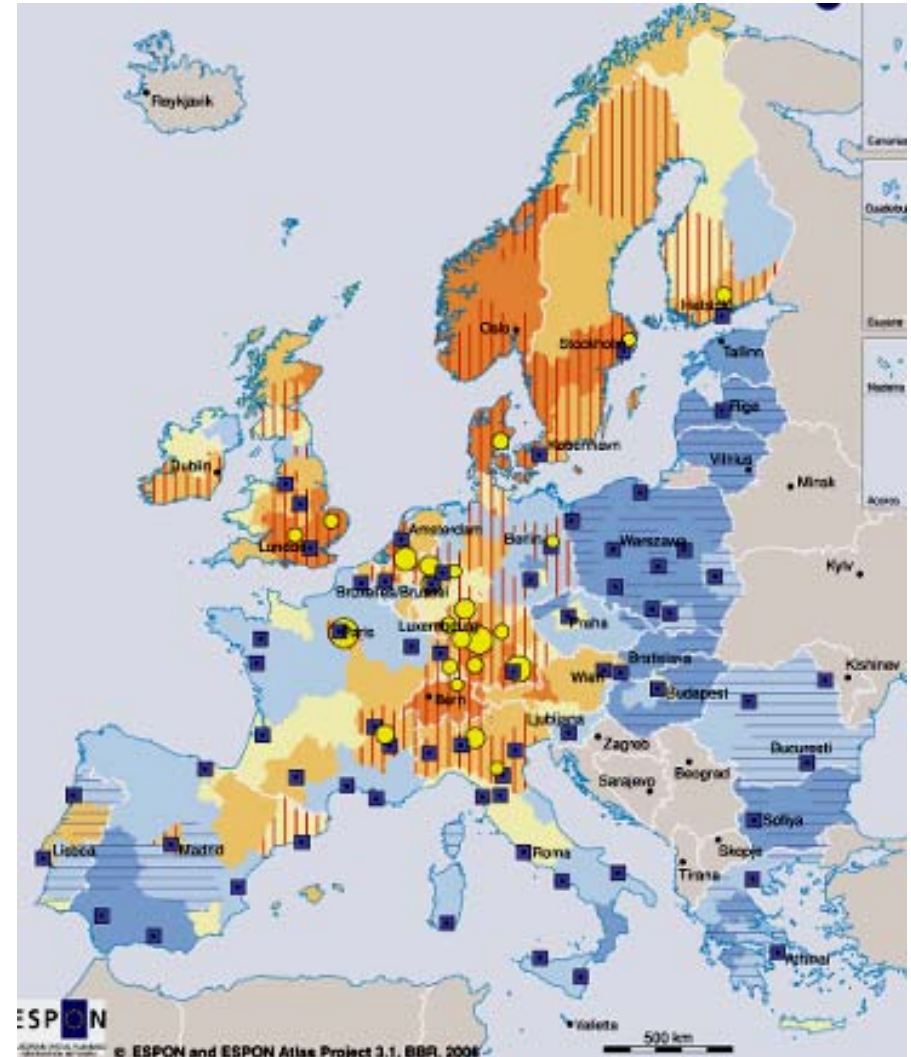
But **no**:

- Economically strongly linked region



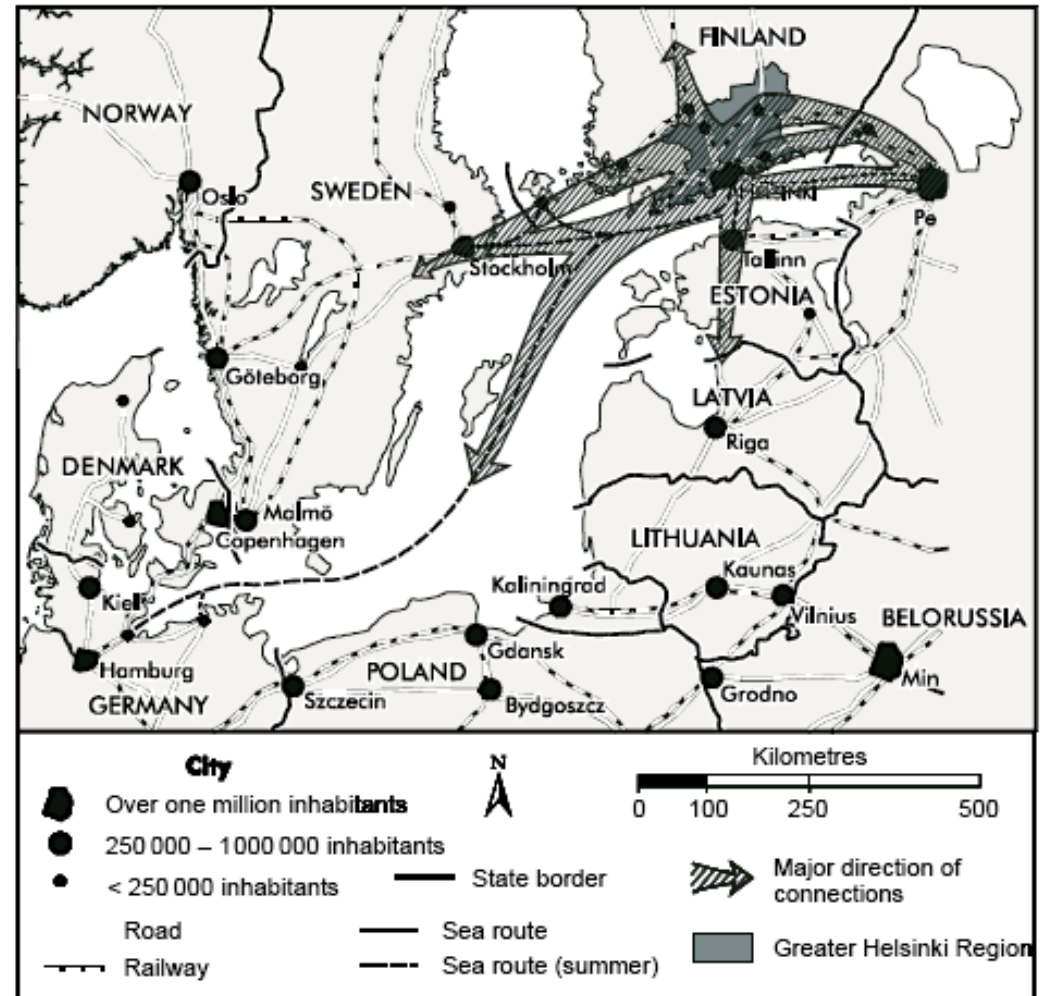
Southern Finland and the Lisbon indicators

- High economic performance
- High information society index
- Cluster of patent concentration outside the „European pentagon“



Internationalisation

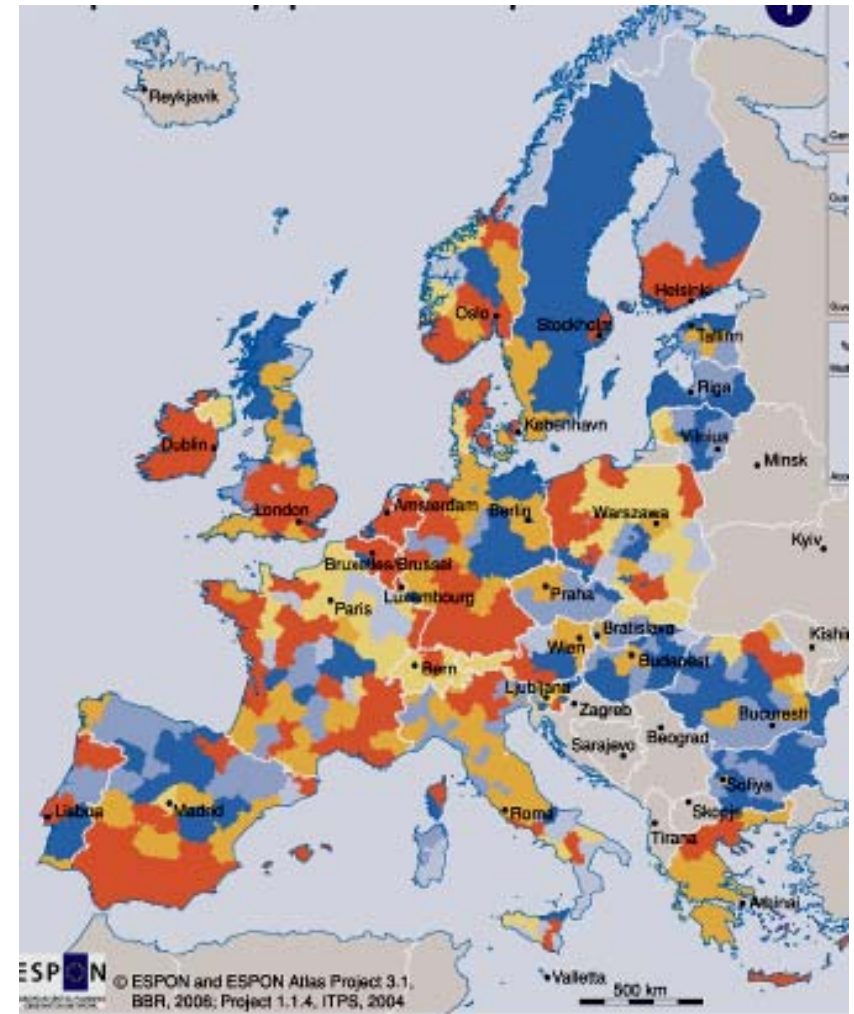
- Traditional connection to Stockholm
- New important links to Tallin and St. Petersburg
- Helsinki as node in the Baltic Sea Region
... instead of Europe's periphery!



Source: City of Helsinki Urban Facts.

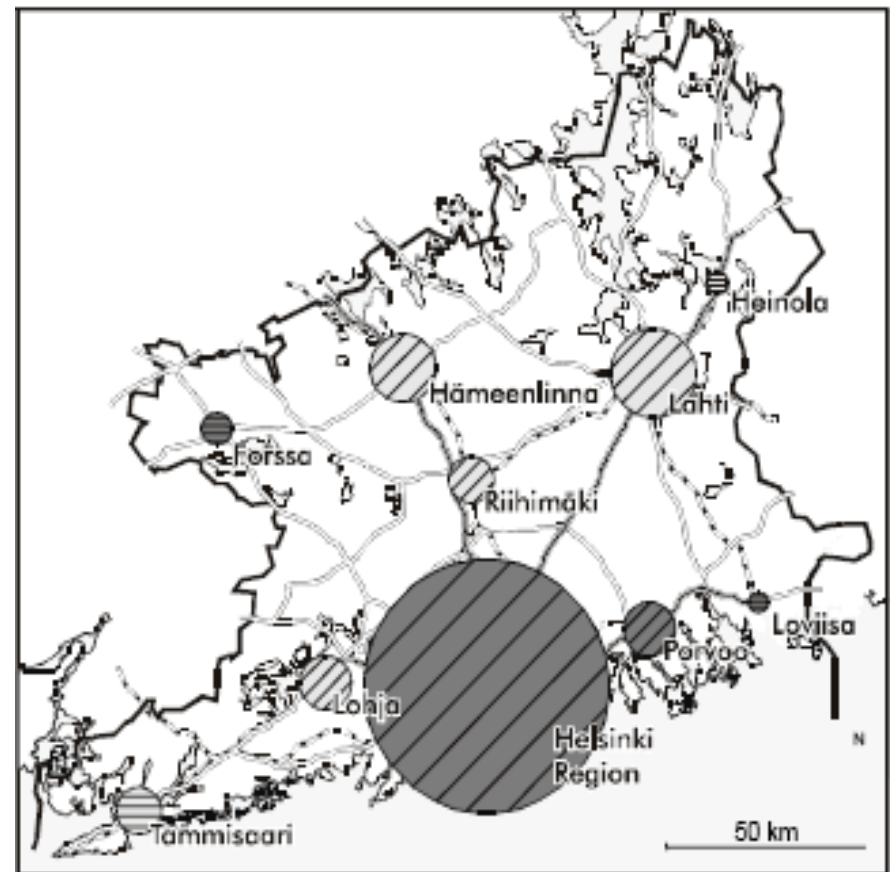
Population Development

- Southern Finland and Helsinki profit from negative migration of other states of the Baltic Sea Region
- strong demographic potential



Centralisation of Greater Helsinki Region

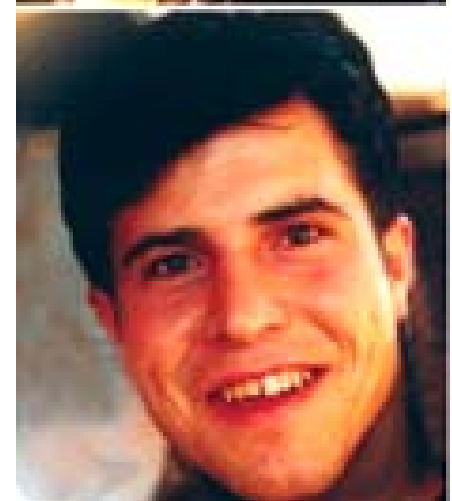
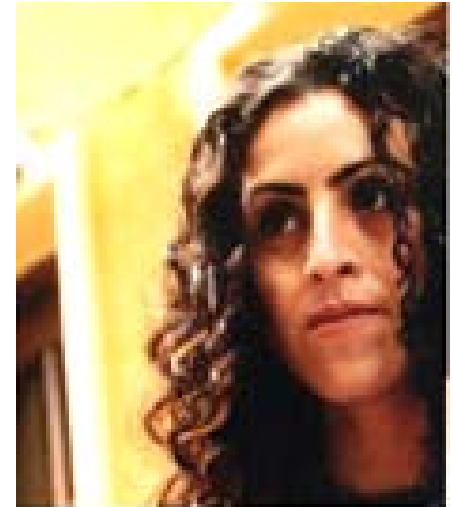
- Helsinki Region is the growing metropolis
- economic change as pull-factor for migration
- increase and decrease in GHR



Source: City of Helsinki Urban Facts.

4. Challenges for Greater Helsinki Region

- Cope with changing framework conditions:
 - economy: structural transformations
 - population: growth and integration
 - environment: quality of natural resources
- ▶ External challenges:
 - „space of flows“: international competition
 - „creative region“: structural changes
- ▶ Internal challenges:
 - quality of life / climate change: renewables
 - regional cooperation / governance



5. Conclusion

Greater Helsinki Region ...

- is the most dynamic Metropolitan Regions in the BSR and one of the most dynamic in Europe
- has to define its position as global Metropolitan Region
- has the quality of life to attract the „creative class“ like other “second cities“, e.g. Barcelona or Copenhagen
- has to cope with a fast population growth including the challenges in housing, traffic and integration
- has to develop an effective metropolitan governance

