Challenges for the Future
Greater Helsinki -
North-European Metropolis

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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
Content

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2. Challenges for European Metropolitan Regions
3. Finland in Europe
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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!
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