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NSR Interreg project

Urbal

URBan and rurAL development,

Reaching a balance in space.

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Structure of presentation

Looking back: URBAL

Looking forward: SURF

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Looking back



Start 2004, end 2006

Budget: € 7 mln

URBAL had 6 partners:

Netherlands: Province of Overijssel, Lead partner

Sweden: Municipality of Härryda

Belgium: Regional Landscape Meetjesland

Norway: Knutepunkt Sørlandet

UK: North Yorkshire County Council

Germany: TuTech (Hamburg-Harburg)

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Looking back



Why URBAL?

Perspective of Growth -> collision between urban
and rural needs -> mismatch

A quest for balance, a balance between rural and
urban areas

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How URBAL?

Integrated approach

Awareness of decisionmakers

Win-win-strategies for both urban and rural areas

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For a better management of the URBAL area 3 main problems have priority:

1. Imbalanced opportunities and imbalanced dynamics
2. Fragmented governance
3. Competition for land

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Looking back



4 main objectives:

1. To raise awareness amongst local decision makers
2. To develop understanding of how to manage URBAL space
3. To better understand the spatial implications of sectoral policies
4. To develop practical actions leading to a balanced development

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Looking back



URBAL projects within 4 themes:

- 1. Developing spatial strategies and new forms of cooperation**
- 2. Promoting quality of space and sustainable accessibility**
- 3. Developing social and cooperative strategies**
- 4. Developing economic and marketing strategies**

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Looking back



	Developing spatial strategies + new forms of cooperation	Promoting quality of space + sustainable development	Developing social + cooperative strategies	Developing economic + marketing strategies
Belgium	Landscape Development Plan	Cultural Heritage in Meetjesland		Traditional Roads in Meetjesland
Germany	Demographic Change	Elbestrom		
Netherlands	Expressive Enschede "We are Twente"	URBAL Estates Northern Park Almelo Hellendoorn Hengelo/Oldenzaal	Carint Chain – Management Youth Care Farms Care Farm Coord. Hof van Twente	Taste the countryside Ommen Hellendoorn
Norway	Coordinated public services via broadband	Cohesive Housing Sustainable Transport		Traditional Roads in Knutepunkt Sørlandet
Sweden	Increasing Local Democracy		New rural services	
United Kingdom North Sea Region Programme				Market Towns in North Yorkshire



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Looking back

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Developing Spatial Strategies and New Forms of Cooperation
Motto: Towards Shared Visions

Lessons learned:

- The need for demonstration projects to influence the political agenda
- Most urban-rural issues are multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral and must be tackled with the involved disciplines and sectors
- Existing familiar approaches from one country can be very new and problem solving in other countries: transnational learning, from good and bad experiences

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Promoting Quality of Space and Sustainable Accessibility
Motto: Towards Spatial Balance

Lessons learned:

- Pronounce that projects are European: it gives attention!
- Win-win situations can be achieved by broadening the scope of projects and policies
- Sometimes you can solve local problems when you make use of a larger geographical scale (region)

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Developing Social and Cooperative Strategies
Motto: Live Close To A Quality Of Life

Lessons learned:

Some negative trends amplify each other:

scaling up of social services; scaled up social services concentrated in larger cities; demographic change of small communities

To break these trends you need innovation of services and management
-> creativity + networking

So an URBAL region can profit from urban and rural areas and with that improve the quality of social services

Examples: Carefarming + Tailor-made services for small communities

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Developing Economic and Strategies
Motto: Towards A Balanced Spatial Economy

Lessons learned:

-Inspiration by marketing strategies of other countries

-Economic strategies need to be developed as part of a wider spatial-economic strategy, especially for market towns:
Consider the role of small towns as complementary with large cities and metropolitan areas

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Overall lessons:

1. Success of projects

- Geographically: cover both urban and rural area
- Formal power + financial authority to develop new policies
- Learning capacity
- Strong image and acceptance, close to the communities

2. Transnational learning

3. Practical demonstrations, start small with experiments

4. Interreg projects should be a part of a long term strategy on cooperation

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Looking forward

2 new Interreg IVB projects, based on the URBAL approach and with a part of the URBAL-partners:

D(emographic) C(hange) Noise (DC Noise)

www.dcnoise.eu



Sustainable URban Fringes SURF)

www.sustainablefringes.eu



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Looking forward

SURF Project Partners



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[Aberdeen City Council](#) (Lead partner)

[School of the Built Environment at Leeds Metropolitan University](#)

[City of Bradford \(Airedale Partnership\)](#)

[Norfolk County Council](#)

[City of Enschede](#) (Urbal + DC Noise)

[Saxion University](#)

[City of Almelo](#) (Urbal + DC Noise)

[City of Hengelo](#) (Urbal + DC Noise)

[Province of East Flanders](#) (Urbal + DC Noise)

[Province of West Flanders](#) (Urbal + DC Noise)

[\(soon: Province of Antwerp\)](#)

[City of Hamburg](#) (Urbal + DC Noise)

[Municipality of Harryda](#) (Urbal)

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Transnational working:

Exchange of information
and
Development of a common approach
towards urban fringe development

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What is the idea behind the project?

Unlocking the potential of urban fringes, the areas between urban and rural landscape,
recognising their value to local communities
and
protecting their environmental quality for future generations

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Why?

These spaces are often neglected
and

under threat from growth and expansion and inconsistent spatial
planning policy

Most of all: spaces with lots of opportunities

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Challenges:

- spatial planning and sustainable development
- complex issues of ownership and administration
- fragmented spaces
- declining biodiversity
- deteriorating water quality
- low green space value
- poor access and lack of engagement with local communities
- changing demographics and their impact on the urban fringe

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Key themes for the Project

- Competitiveness, economy and enterprise (Economic Quality)
- Role and value of green space (Environmental Quality)
- Spatial planning (Spatial Quality)
- Governance (Decision-making quality)

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Overall goals:

1. Toolkit for urban fringe development
2. Higher attention to urban fringes in Europe: on the European political agenda
3. Building a knowledge network on urban fringes

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Make Europe more attractive for its citizens and its companies!

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