Establishing New Urban-Rural Partnerships: Regional and Individual Approaches

Petri Kahila
Nordregio
petri.kahila@nordregio.se

VASAB Expert Workshop
Urban-Rural Partnerships in the Baltic Sea Region
21 September 2010
Minsk, Belarus
Approach in the New Bridges

• Conceptualisation of the QL approach

• Positioning macro (planning) level and micro (individual) level

• Comparison of individual preferences of QL to existing policies and strategies and their implementation

• Meaningful definitions and approaches of QL in various urban-rural contexts
Increasing Interest to QL

- QL is not directly related to material wealth
- Awareness of the other factors influencing individual well-being
- Relationship between individuals and everyday living environment
- Individual perceptions and appraisals in the centre of debate
Quality of Life and Challenges in Policy Making

- Broadly used by general public and policy makers
- Important dimension in various policy fields
- Requirement to pay closer attention to QL
- Managing QL in the frameworks of urban-rural interaction have been rather limited
Three elements of QL in the NEW BRIDGES -project

- Provision of services
- Residential preferences
- Mobility
Participating City-Regions

- Diversified city-regions
- Common features exists
- There are concepts and policies to match
Territorial Scope

- Territorial border of municipality
- Geographic scope of city-region (to be defined by each partner)
- Geographic scope of work and potential pilot actions
Individual Aspects and Policy Making

- QL reflects the public interest – strengthening by involvement of individuals (urban - rural)
- Individual aspects tend to be drowned in regional plans and strategies
- “Planning machine” does not contain coherence modes of policies (urban – rural)
- Effects of “relative vulnerability” of QL
  - on the well-being of the people (as being consumers, entrepreneurs etc.) living in these city-regions
  - on the attractiveness of the city-region as such to e.g. attract further inhabitants, business, capital
Strengths and Weaknesses

• Diversified approaches between urban-rural areas, in some cases may be opposing, e.g. local identity

• Provision and accessibility of services in urban areas/in rural areas

• Transport infrastructure weak in rural areas, well-functioning in urban areas → more efficient urban-rural connection needed

• Typical lacks: Integrated Strategies, common policies, communication and cooperation in order to tackle problems
Crucial Questions

• Vital is to map and understand dimensions of quality of life
• Emphasize the mixture of factors affecting Quality of life
• Investments in quality of life will improve the prerequisites for economic growth
• New urban-rural lifestyles
• Comprehensive quality of life in city-regions
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Questions & Comments
Participating City-Regions
Quality of Life and Policy Making

• Broadly used by general public and policy makers
• Important dimension in various policy fields
• Requirement to pay closer attention to QL
• Managing QL in the frameworks of urban-rural interaction have been rather limited
Establishing New Urban-Rural Partnerships: Regional and Individual Approaches, Petri Kahila

Individual Aspects and Policy Making

• QL reflects the public interest – strengthening by involvement of individuals (urban - rural)
• Individual aspects tend to be drowned in regional plans and strategies
• “Planning machine” does not contain coherence modes of policies (urban – rural)
• Effects of “relative vulnerability” of QL
  • on the well-being of the people (as being consumers, entrepreneurs etc.) living in these city-regions
  • on the attractiveness of the city-region as such to e.g. attract further inhabitants, business, capital
Making QL as a Policy

• Choices are reflections of QL
• Choices are based on interpretations and preferences
• Challenge is to enable people to make “right” choices
• Choosing own individual lifestyle
Crucial Questions

• Vital is to map and understand dimensions of quality of life
• Emphasise the mixture of factors effecting Quality of life
• Investments in quality of life will improve the prerequisites for economic growth
• New urban-rural lifestyles
• Comprehensive quality of life in city-regions
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Questions & Comments