Urban-Rural Partnership in Helsinki
VASAB Expert Workshop 21 September 2010 in Minsk.

Deputy Mayor Pekka Sauri
Urbanization and growth of service economy

- Urban population: 50% of world population
  80% in the EU
  75% in Finland

- GDP and cities: Helsinki Region 1% of land area, 34% of GDP

- Growth of immaterial economy / service economy, % of jobs
  70% in Finland
  82% in Helsinki
  < 85% in Stockholm, Frankfurt,
BaltMet Network

• **Priorities:** promote competitiveness and innovation in the Baltic Sea Region.
• **Members:** Berlin, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Malmö, Oslo, Riga, Stockholm, St.Petersburg, Tallinn, Vilnius and Warsaw.
• www.baltmet.org
Baltic Metropolises – Pool of potentials

- Baltic Metropolises, together with the surrounding areas, are home to almost 25 million inhabitants – every fourth citizen of the Baltic Sea region.
- The joint annual GDP of the 11 cities is approx. EUR 400 billion.
- There are more than 130 universities and approximately 200 universities of applied sciences or polytechnics, university colleges and academies with a total number of students and academic staff of around 1.7 million. Every fourth inhabitant has a higher education degree.
- There are approximately 800 research institutions. Over EUR 20 billion, including business expenditure, is invested in research and development annually (47% of the total R&D input of the Baltic Sea region)
- The total budget spending of the metropolises was EUR 43 billion in 2006
Helsinki Region population 2010
1 335 366 and Capital Region
1 033 933

Source: Journal of Nordregio No 2 2010, Kajaani University consortium, University of Oulu and Finnish Regional Research FAR
Summer cottages and remote work creates possibilities
Energy production towards CO2 neutral future - 20 % reduction in emissions & 20 % renewable energies by 2020

• Today, Helsingin Energia mainly use coal and natural gas as sources of primary energy.
• In the renewed development strategy:
  – further construction of CO2-free hydropower and nuclear power,
  – significant new investments (470 EUR million) in renewable energies in the form of offshore wind power and forest-based biomass.
• Forest-based biomass (biogas or bio coal) only viable if production and supply chains built in the country side.
Local and organic food as a urban trend

Wholesale Food Market:

Farmers’ Market:
http://www.viisitahtea.fi/eat-and-joy
Helsinki Baltic Herring Fair – Since 1743

More examples of cooperation

• The cities of Helsinki and Turku challenge other actors to join the work for improving the state of the Baltic Sea: www.itamerihaaste.net

• City of Helsinki Youth Centre is coordinating and developing web based youth services for whole of Finland.
Conclusions on urban-rural relations

- New forms of mutual interdependence emerge
- Housing mobility increasing
- Potentials for functional cooperation exist
- From innovative experiments towards new models of partnerships
- State level policy guidance is critical
- Big cities taking the initiative