NSR Interreg project

URBan and rurAL development,

Reaching a balance in space.
Looking back: URBAL

Looking forward: SURF
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)
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
Looking back

How URBAL?

Integrated approach

Awareness of decisionmakers

Win-win-strategies for both urban and rural areas
Looking back

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
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
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
## Looking back

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Looking back

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
Looking back

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)
Looking back

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
Looking back

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
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 acceptation, 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
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
Looking forward

SURF Project Partners

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)
Looking forward

Transnational working:

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

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.
Looking forward

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
Looking forward

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
Looking forward

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)
Looking forward

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
Looking forward

Make Europe more attractive for its citizens and its companies!