



NORDGREEN

- Smart Planning for Healthy and Green Nordic Cities



How are people's wellbeing and access to green spaces integrated into city planning? NORDGREEN is tackling the issue by developing and implementing smart planning and management solutions for well-designed, high-quality greenspaces that promote equity, health and wellbeing. NORDGREEN, a NordForsk funded project, is working with existing planning projects in the following Nordic cities: Aarhus, Espoo, li, Stavanger, Täby and Vilhelmina.

Nordic cities have many qualities to draw on when it comes to green space, social inclusion and public health. But they are also characterised by health-related divides and uneven access to urban amenities. Without careful consideration, the health and well-being of urban populations can be negatively influenced, despite sustainability ambitions at local and regional levels.

The focus of NORDGREEN is to develop research-based strategies and tools for green spaces to be integrated into city planning processes. This project aims to understand citizens' needs, especially vulnerable groups where participation between the cities and its communities is the key. In parallel, by examining the health, well-being

and greenspace nexus drawing from environmental psychology and epidemiology data, the knowledge base for strategies and policies on green space planning, management and design will be enhanced and sustain the long-term impact of NORDGREEN.

Project implementation will happen in collaboration with research partners from Nordregio (SE), Aalto University (FI), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NO), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SE) and the six Nordic partner cities: Aarhus, Espoo, li, Stavanger, Täby and Vilhelmina. NORDGREEN is funded by the NordForsk programme on Sustainable Urban Development and Smart Cities, and will run from 2020 until 2023.

Visit www.nordregioprojects.org/nordgreen and sign up for the newsletter to hear more about the project.

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Project manager
Ryan Weber, Nordregio
ryan.weber@nordregio.org





Aarhus (DK): A greener Aarhus strategy

For the first time, rapidly growing Aarhus at eastern Jutland is developing an overarching green strategy – A greener Aarhus. The strategy is a new approach and harmonizes several strategic policies in the municipality, such as the climate strategy, mobility plan, health policy and equity strategy. The green perspective is at the basis for the overarching strategy which is closely linked to the health perspective.



Espoo (FI): Developing the "Espoo story" together with the citizens

Espoo is the second largest city and municipality in Finland. As part of the new municipal master plan, called the 'Espoo Story', the city is collecting residents' opinions about the development which has become its 'story-based strategy', giving voice to what types of urban environments are meaningful to residents and what areas should be developed and how.



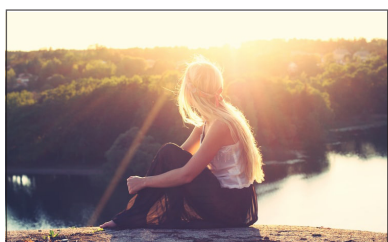
Ii (FI): Small city on a mission towards zero-emission society

Ii is a small city in northern Finland, with a growing region. Ii attracts thousands of visitors each year, given the access to many outdoor and cultural activities. The municipality is known as one of the best-practice cases in Europe when it comes to bioeconomy initiatives, and has set an ambitious goal to reduce 80 percent of carbon emissions by 2020. These environmental targets and ongoing efforts towards a zero-emission society combined with the ongoing development of plans and strategies will be key to Ii's health-promoting green space implementation.



Stavanger (NO): Cohesive green areas to help adapt climate change

Recently, the city has implemented a new planning system and a spatial plan. A component of the spatial plan is Grønn plan, a comprehensive green strategy for the city focusing on maintain biodiversity, access to outdoor activities as well as sustainable green spaces. For Stavanger, cohesive green areas connected to its coastal landscape will strengthen the city's adaptive capacity to a changing climate, and increase the quality of public spaces that can promote well-being of its citizens.



Täby (SE): Half of the municipality should be green

Täby, located in the Swedish capital region, is growing fast and the greenspaces are challenged by rapid population growth and densification. The municipality is working with citizen participation in the development of the green plan that states that half of the municipality should be green. The organization of the governance system for greenspace is thus a topic on the agenda that can be further studied in NORDGREEN. Of interest for the municipality is also finding ways to evaluate the health impacts of greenspace.



Vilhelmina (SE): Green Overview Plan

Vilhelmina covers a vast area of northern Sweden, while being sparsely populated. The municipality has adopted a Green Comprehensive Plan with a holistic view of social, ecological and economic aspects. As a destination for outdoor tourism, Vilhelmina municipality needs to balance the expectations from seasonal population with the needs of the permanent population to support wellbeing for both groups, especially Kittelfjäll area.

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