

Spatial Planning as a Tool for Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation

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Structure of the presentation

- . Defining the problem: climate change and urban resilience
- . Step back to local context: public knowledge, leadership and the meaning of spatial planning
- . Tools for mitigating climate change in spatial planning

Defining the problem



- . Cities drive Europe's economy
- . Moving from the discourse of sustainable development to the discourse of resilience (EEA 2012/ No2)

the problem

the local context

the tools

Some present solutions

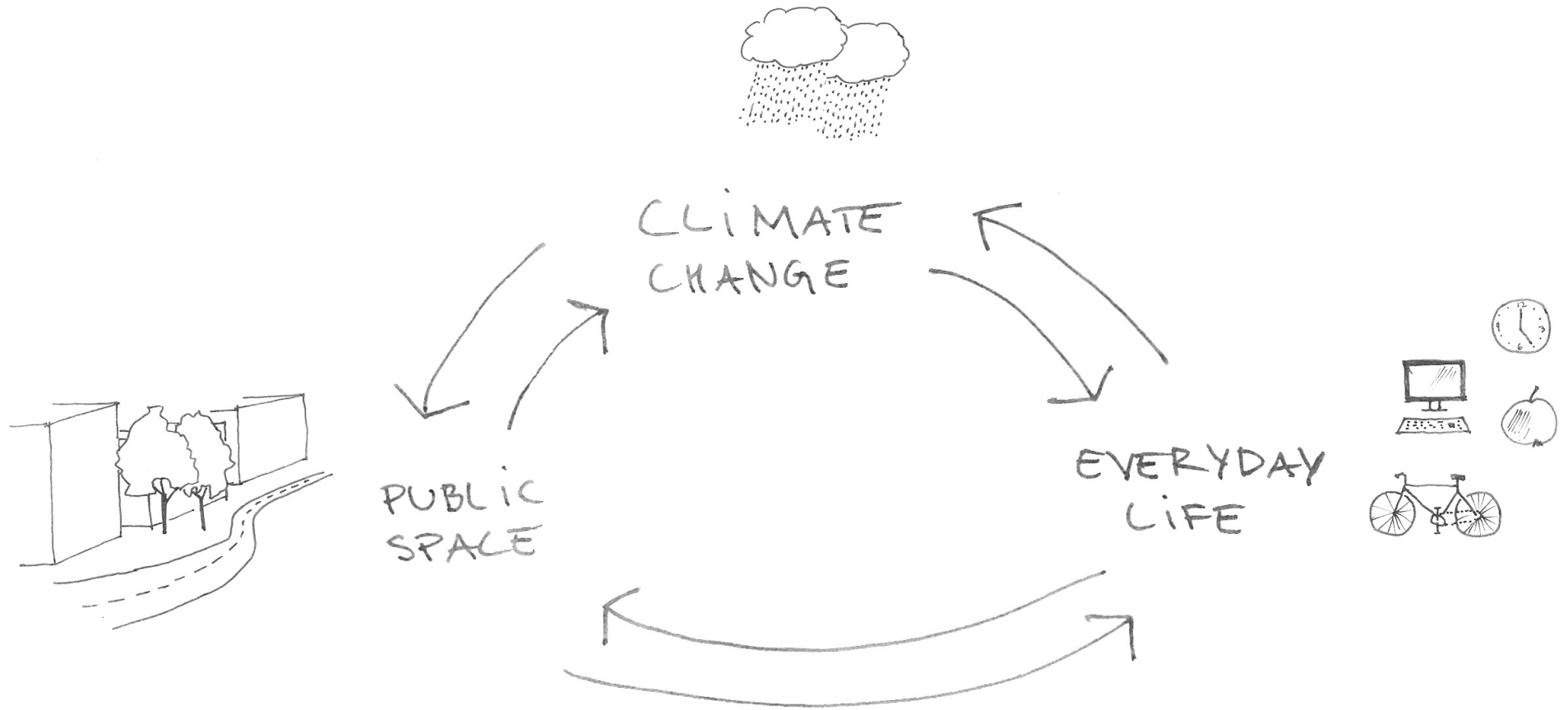


the problem

the local context

the tools

Stepping back to the basics



the problem

the local context

the tools

Understanding spatial planning

- . Spatial planning \neq comprehensive and detail planning
- . Spatial planning = governing the process of change in our (urban) living environment



Defining positive change

- . Change for better life quality
 - . Change we can afford
- . Change in balance with planet Earth's carrying capacity and limited resources

It is about following the principles of sustainability in spatial planning!

To make it happen

- . **Political will and leadership**

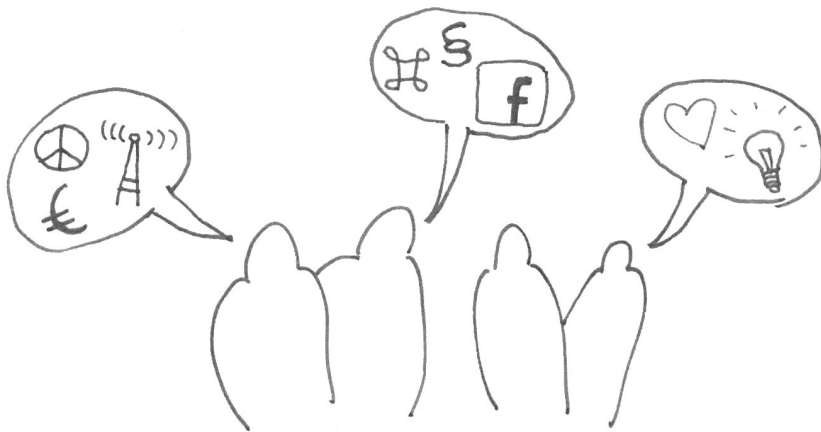
- . Moving from talk to action

- . Climate considerations should be above left-right wing political thinking

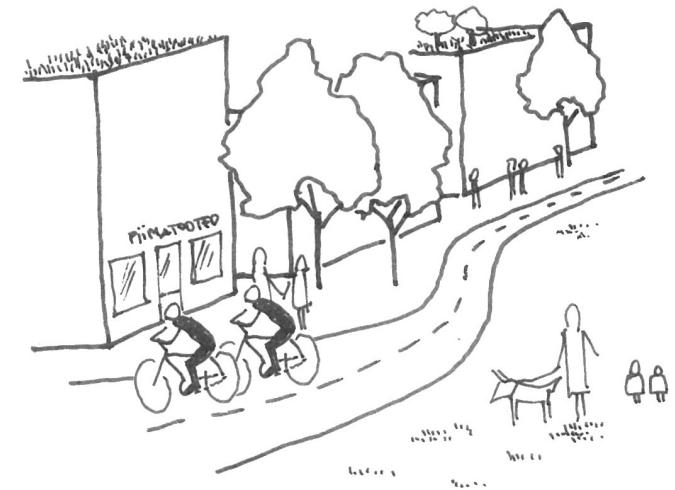
- . **Public knowledge**

- . How different spatial arrangements either cause or mitigate the impacts of climate change

Spatial planning as a tool



. Knowledge and leadership



. Sustainable urban planning

Tools for mitigating climate change in spatial planning

- . Stop thinking that we are an island protected from the negative impacts of climate change
 - . Planning walkable communities limiting automobile dependency
 - . Rethink the use of bicycles
 - . Rethinking public green spaces
- . Shift to a more open and collaborative process in spatial planning

Not an island

- . We so far have no floods, no heat waves, no climate change refugees – easy to be in a denial
 - . But, the IPCC reports predict a rise in annual precipitation and sea level + extreme weather events



What do we need to do?

Plan walkable communities

- . Mixed land use
- . Energy and time efficient
- . Positive social aspects: safety, tolerance, equality



Limit car dependency

- . Fossil fuels are a limited resource
- . Dividing space between cars and people defines the character of the city
 - . Energy, land use, social justice, public health



Rethink the use of bicycles

- . Cycling is a mean of transportation not only a recreational activity
- . Tallinn today: no network along and between the main traffic corridors
 - . Unsuitable climate for cycling?



Rethink public green spaces

- . Public space – crucial factor of a city's social capital
 - . A tool of mitigating climate change impacts
 - . Bridging urban and rural environment
 - . Contact with green elements helps to understand natural processes and its connection to our lifestyle



Shift to more open and collaborative spatial planning

- . Communicative, collaborative, transparent process
- . Multiple actors and stakeholders involved in bringing along positive change
 - . Crowdsourcing ideas



Key points!

- . Stop thinking that we are an island protected from the negative impacts of climate change
 - . Planning walkable communities
 - . Limiting automobile dependency
 - . Rethink the use of bicycles
 - . Rethinking public green spaces
- . Shift to a more open and collaborative process in spatial planning

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Thank you!

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