

Spatial Planning as a Tool for Climate Change Adaption and Mitigation

Kadri Koppel
Linnalabor
kadri.koppel@linnalabor.ee

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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)

Some present solutions

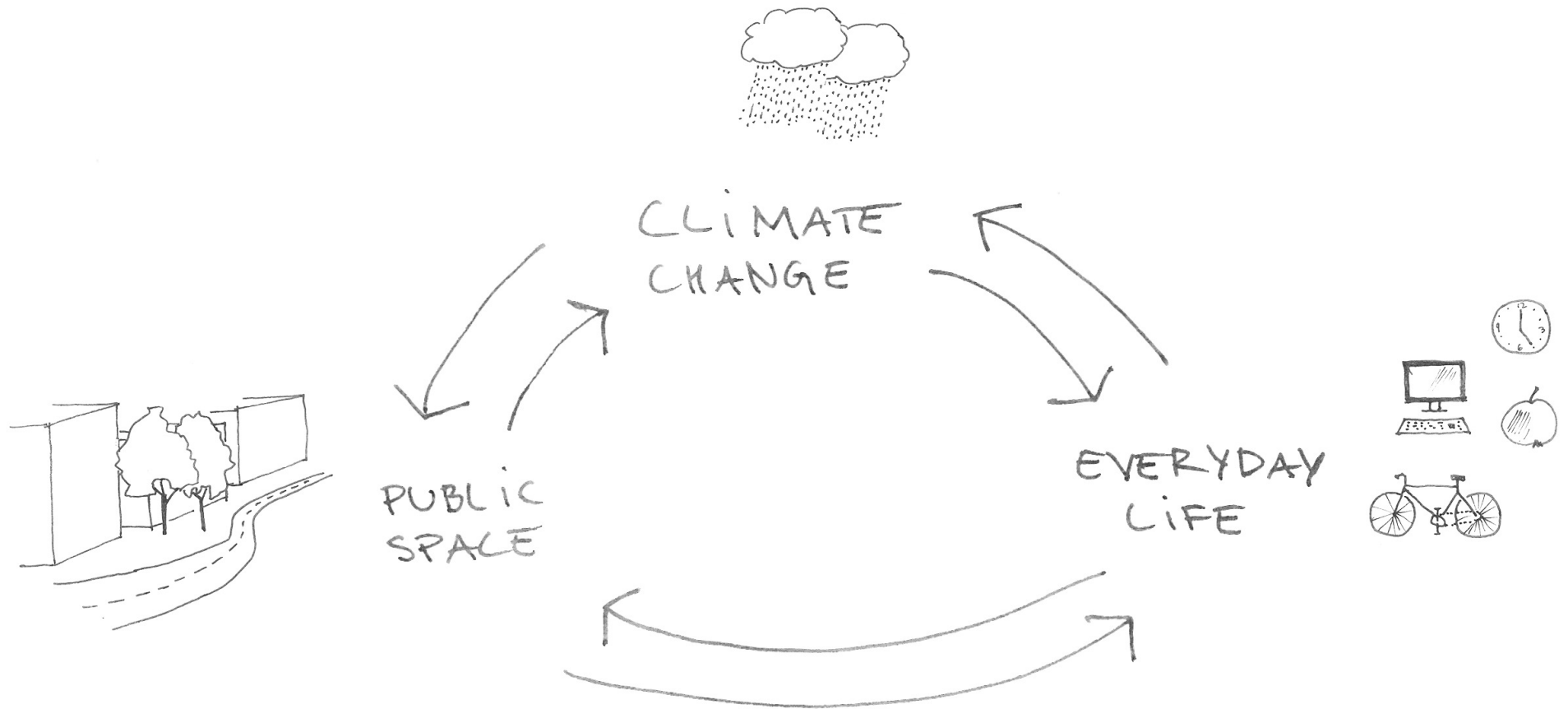


the problem

the local context

the tools

Stepping back to the basics



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**

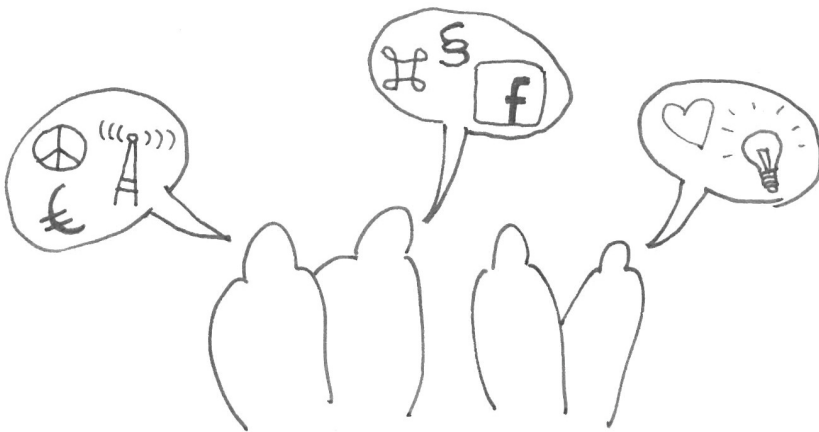
- . Moving from talk to action

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

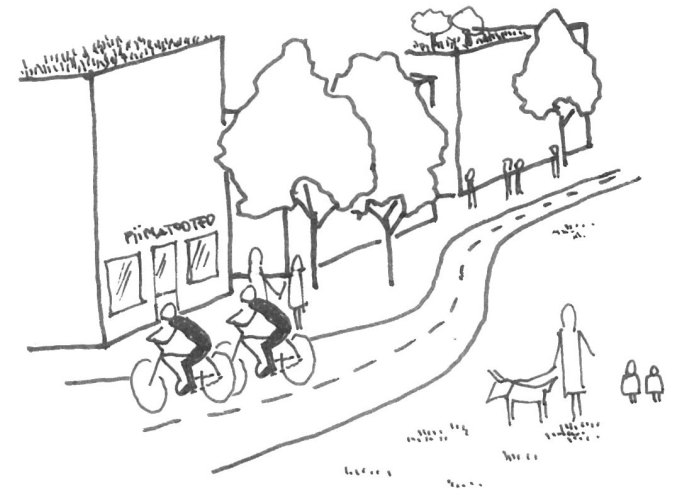
- . Public knowledge**

- . 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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linnalabor