



Baltic Sea Region cities are the drivers for the change

Sami Sahala, Forum Virium Helsinki, 1.12.2021

“We are the drivers for the change”

- What change ?

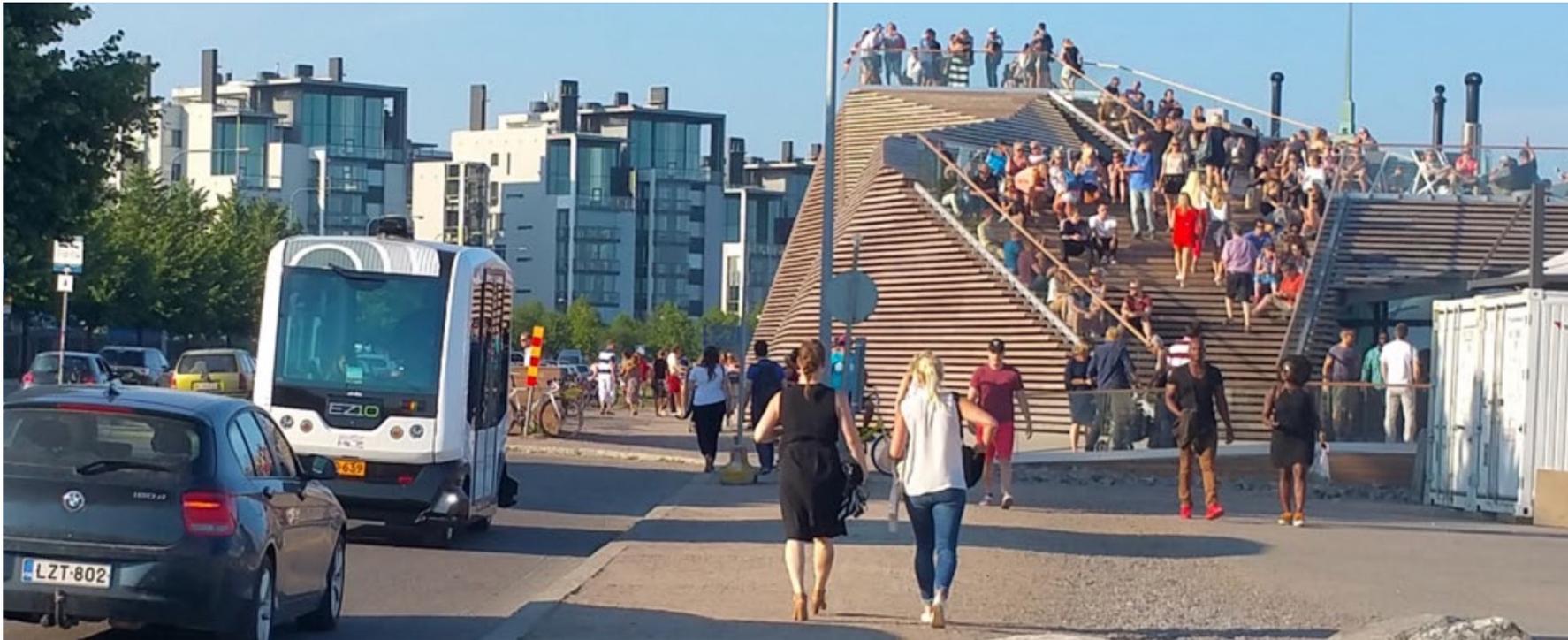
- Do we need one ?



CLIMATE
CONGESTION
COMFORT

“We are the drivers for the change”

- Are we (cities) drivers ? Why ?
 - eg in Helsinki urban mobility 26% of emissions
 - change doesn't happen without cities involvement
- What is driver for change ?
 - Eg Lead by example / innovation ?
 - Management by money? Or regulation ?
 - Because we state so ?



Our strengths to be the drivers

- Baltic sea cities' "ecosystem"
 - Most cities are by the sea
 - We are all digitally advanced societies
 - We are mostly pragmatic, solution-driven
- Nordic corner of Europe has good image
 - Let's maintain & utilize the forerunner status
 - Startup scene in it's own level
- City as a platform can be reality
 - Bureaucracy-wise we are competitive
 - Many brave attempts at innovative procurement
 - We have proven we can be cooperative !!



The importance of city-business co-operation

"...new way of thinking, where cities develop services and operational aspects by testing and co-creating them together with companies"

"..cities have become enablers of new solutions and active partners for companies' product and service development"



"companies have gotten the door open to multiple cities at once"



"over 4 out of 5 companies stated they'd be happy participate again"

The importance of inter-city co-operation

“When you know better the people working in another city, you know immediately who to call and you also do it”

“the culture of piloting and experimentation at this scale would not have born without the joint support and co-operation”

“trust between people working for different cities has grown, which has resulted in increased sharing of learnings and knowledge”



“...the importance of increased collective memory”

The image features a dense urban landscape with modern skyscrapers and buildings. Overlaid on this scene are various digital and data-related elements in shades of blue. These include glowing particle trails, circular data points, and abstract patterns that suggest a high-tech or artificial intelligence environment. The overall aesthetic is clean, futuristic, and data-driven.

..AND
THE
FUTURE ?

eg New programs 2021-2027

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



INNOVATIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

1. More exports by SMEs
2. More new scaled-up growth companies

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE USE

3. Joint circular economy solutions
4. Improved coastal and marine environment
5. Decreased CO2 emissions

IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

6. Improved employment opportunities on labour market

IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES

7. Improved public services and solutions for the citizens

*Forum Virium is the
City of Helsinki
innovation company*



Co-creating the urban futures

Kiitos ! Thank You !

**FORUM
VIRIUM
HELSINKI**