

# THE FUTURE CITIES

Snapshots (glimt) from the programme period 2008-14

1.

My name is Olav Backe-Hansen. I want to give you a short introduction to our city's involvement in the programme "Future Cities". In 2008 our Government invited a group of big and medium size cities to cooperate with 4 Ministeries and other state level organizations in finding ways to develop cities to reduce CO2 emissions, and to adapt to the climate changes that we already experience, and will experience in the future. I have taken part in this work from the start, and in the last 2 years I have been the contact person of Skien.

I will here present GLIMT –«snapshots» → from the results of this programme, that was closed up at the end of last year.

It is the short version of the final report, made for the twin cities of Skien and Porsgrunn. The two cities have made as much together as possible, and we can be proud to say that we are the only real twin cities in the programme.

From the layout of the cover of this folder you can recognize the map of the central areas of the two cities, from city center to city center. This is a symbol of the good cooperation.

2.

## THE MAYORS!

Hedda Foss Five from Skien and Øystein Beyer from Porsgrunn have been the carriers in the programme. Here you can see two mayors who have been really dedicated.

When we asked them how we should end this programme, they both answered that «WE CANNOT END THE FUTURE CITIES!» That is why we have this folder with a profile to reach the youth and find a way to continue.

In the programme period 2008-14 the local action programme of the Future Cities has also been the Climate and Energy Plan of the two cities, and this year we will start to make a revised plan. We will take our experiences as a basis for youth participation.

3.

The programme had 5 focus areas. I will show you snapshots from all five of them.

An overall focus has been on city center environment. This focus is holding all the 4 others together. They are:

- Land use and transportation
- Use of Energy in buildings
- Consumption and waste, and

- Adaptation to Climate changes

Focus on better city center environment is very important because living in cities may turn out to be the best way with regard to CO2 emissions. We want to create living cities where more people live, work, shop and take part in cultural events.

This is from The Cultural Night in Porsgrunn 2011, with a focus on temporary public areas and passages.

4.

And this is from Skien.

The project Mosaics, and later on Skien 2020 are important parts of the city center environment focus in Skien.

MOSAICS – upgrading of 5 backyards in the city centre, have given rooms for small gardens, art and café life.

SKIEN 2020 – has taken this further with a greater effort on how the city shall be in the future. We have established arenas for cooperation between the municipality, land owners, shop keepers and culture, and this has grown attention from outside of our city.

5.

## **LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION**

The precondition to create good and sustainable cities with short distance to the everyday activities is that it is easy to travel without a car.

This requires great attention in the land use planning.

Good networks for biking, safe routes for walking and a good public transport system is crucial.

6.

## **STATE REWARD MONEY**

Only the Future Cities have been invited to apply for State Reward Money, which has been given out to cities that have taken action in this direction.

In 2013 Skien, Porsgrunn and Siljan municipalities, together with Telemark County have made an agreement to receive 215 mill. NOK over a 4 year period.

This money has so far been used to give a higher frequency on our bus system, bike- og walking routes have been improved, and we have provided schools with new bike racks.

7.

### **ALL THE CHILDREN BIKE**

The organization called On Bike in Telemark teach the children in 4th grade of primary school to become safe in the traffic and to learn the joy and freedom of biking.

We are now building a culture of biking in Grenland. The new generation is getting a different approach to biking to what has been the usual in Norway. The numbers of biking children can now be compared with Denmark and the Netherlands – which we have reason to be proud of!

8.

### **THE USE OF ENERGY IN BUILDINGS**

Skien church – here the image of the church symbolizes literally energy – namely district heating.

Buildings contribute with about 40 % of the energy consumption in Norway. To reduce the use of energy in buildings we have to design smarter and with better insulation.

In Skien we have introduced Energy Saving Contracts for many buildings owned by our municipality.

9.

There has also been built 2 pilot projects: Women's shelter in Skien and Heistad primary school in Porsgrunn.

These pilot projects have been important to establish new knowledge about building in a more sustainable way

10.

### **CONSUMPTION AND WASTE**

All consumption articles affect the environment when being produced, transported and after use.

We have worked with improvements in the handling of waste, here symbolized by underground collection.

In order to reduce the waste quantity we have to buy less things and make the things we buy last longer.

Which brings me to the next picture ...

11.

This is from the Reuse Day in Skien 2014. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> in a row of annual events on this area.

The arrangement has focused on children and youths, and on reuse and redesign.

Many good ideas have been exchanged, and what has been of no use for some, has become useful for others.

The intention has been educational, and with a visitor number of about 5000 we must hope that the ideas of reuse and redesign have been spread.

12.

The Creative Reuse Centre has invited children, youths and adults to investigate reuse materials.

With materials from 30 private business companies and from private households the educational frame has been waste sorting, creative activities, design and innovation. It has been a centre for kindergartens and schools, with 4000 visitors last year, and 6 exhibitions has been produced.

The center is not being continued, and was unfortunately shut down last year.

13.

### **ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGES**

All the previous focus areas have aimed at reducing CO2 emissions. Climate adaptation has focused on improvements on our ability to handle a changing climate: – warmer – weter – wilder.

We have worked in two main fields:

1. Establish arenas for cooperation and knowledge development. Starting with a seminar called «In the same boat» - from which this picture is.

We could not discuss whether climate changes is happening, but how to limit the damages and build more solid societies.

14.

This leads to the next field, and the main subject of your visit. GIS finds the routes of flooding. Sigurd Laland will tell more about this afterwards.

15.

## **COMMUNICATION**

There has been conducted a series of 3 Gallups to investigate how many people know about the Future Cities Programme.

In the last Gallup, from last autumn, Skien and Porsgrunn turn out to be the cities in Norway where more people have knowledge about this programmet han any other – 25%, compared to 11% as an average of all the 13 cities that has been participants in the programme.

It has been important for us to communicate the messages, to go on journeys, look into solutions elsewhere, together; the bureocrats, the politicians, from both cities, and from the different sectors within each municipality.

16.

Even if the programme now is closed, we hope to be able to continue parts of this important field of development.

Thank you!