

## TRANSFORMATIVE OR PIECEMEAL? CHANGES IN GREEN SPACE PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE IN ELEVEN EUROPEAN CITIES?

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4th ESP Europe Conference,  
Heraklion/online, 10-14 October 202



## Political strategies promoting green space planning and governance



[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

### EU-Biodiversity Strategy 2030

(2020)

"Ambitious plans for greening" in all European cities



[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/topics/urban-environment/green-city-accord\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/topics/urban-environment/green-city-accord_en)

### Green City Accord

(2020)

Voluntary self-commitment of the mayors



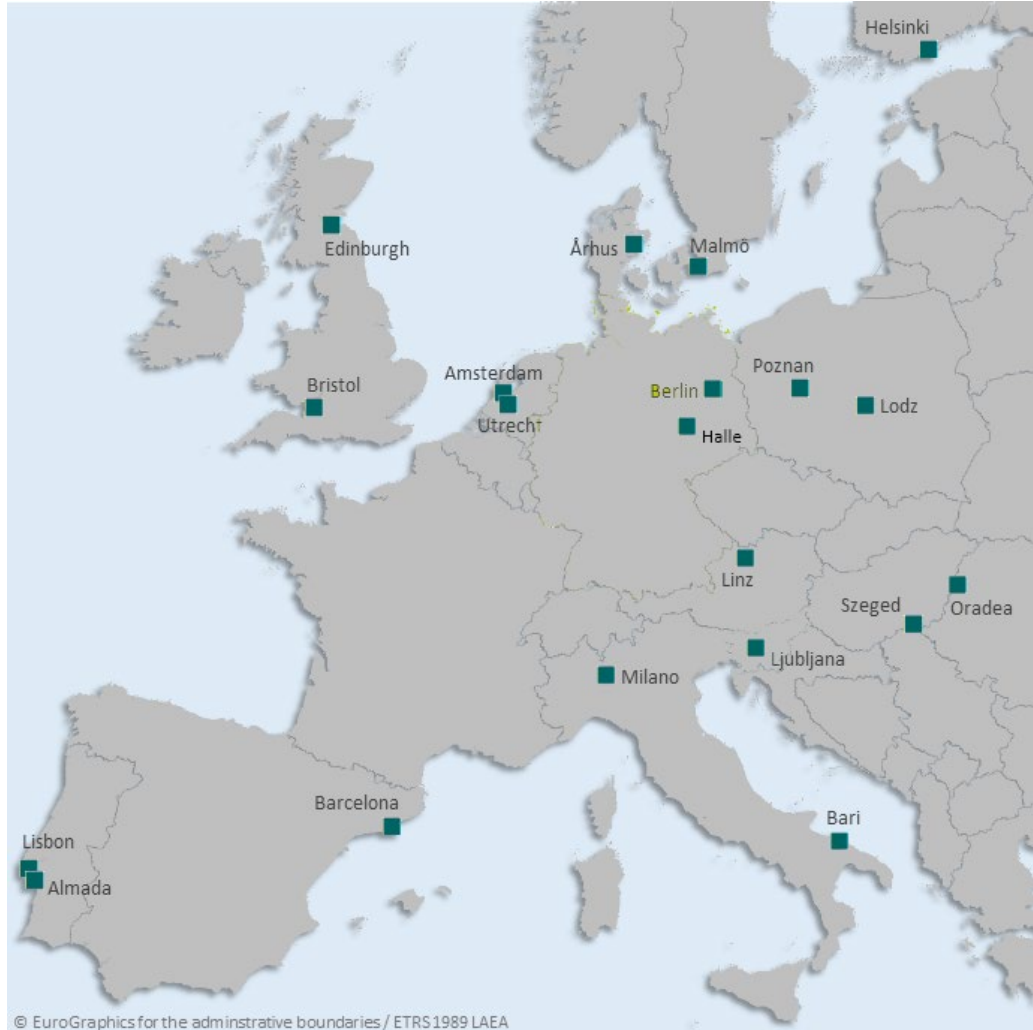
<https://www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de/NSPWeb/DE/Initiative/Leipzig-Charta/Neue-Leipzig-Charta-2020/neue-leipzig-charta-2020.html>

## Dual reality in urban regions

**Support for urban  
green spaces**



**Pressure on urban  
green spaces /  
competition for  
land**



## EU-FP 7 project **GREEN SURGE** Green Infrastructure and Urban Biodiversity for Sustainable Urban Development and the Green Economy (2013-2017)

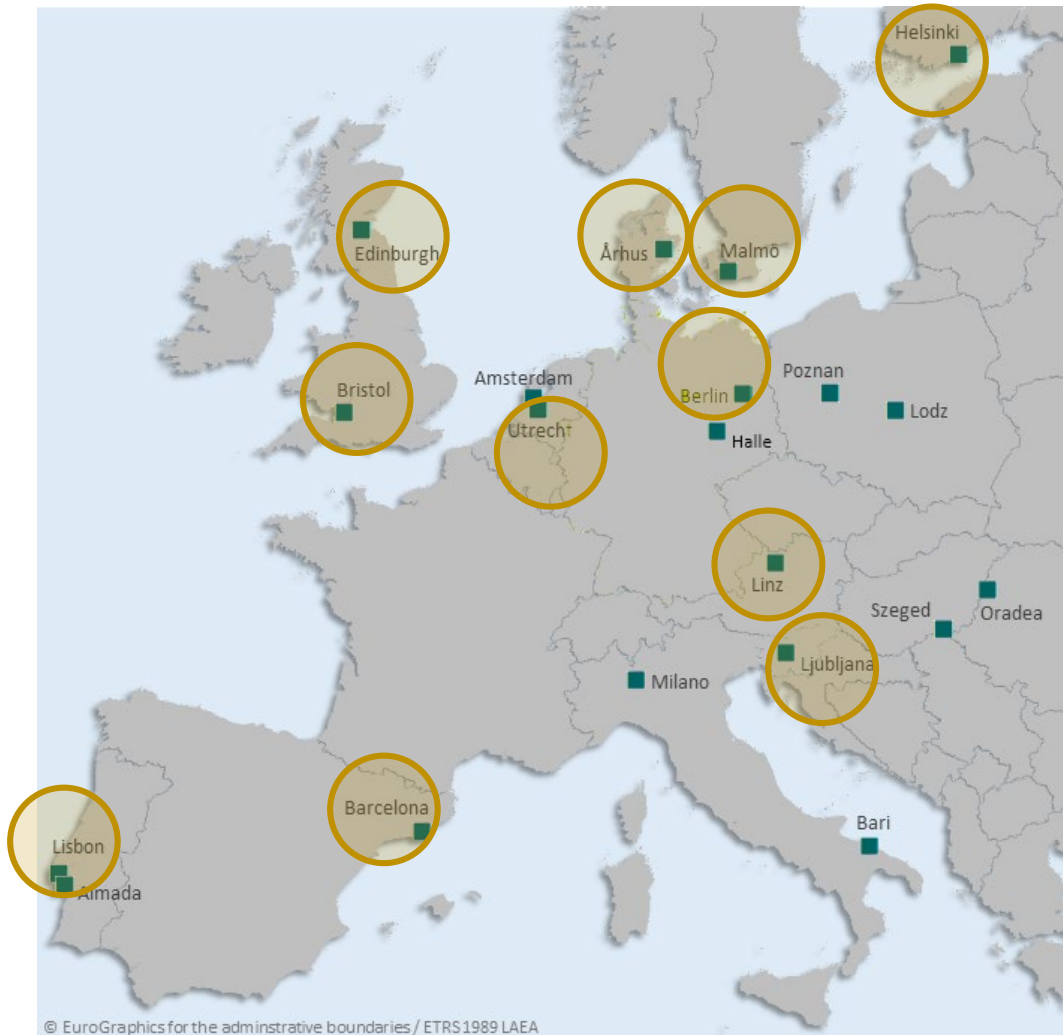
Davies, Hansen, Rall, Pauleit et al. (2015): Green Infrastructure Planning and Implementation. The status of European green space planning and implementation based on an analysis of selected European city-regions. GREEN SURGE report D5.1

Buizer, I. M., Elands, B., Mattijssen, T., Jagt, A., Ambrose, B., Geroházi, E., et al. (2015). The governance of urban green spaces in selected EU-cities: Policies, Practices, Actors, Topics. GREEN SURGE report D6.1

## How did planning practice change and respond to emerging challenges?

Follow-up to **GREEN SURGE** (2020-2021):

Interviews in **11 of the 20 cities**

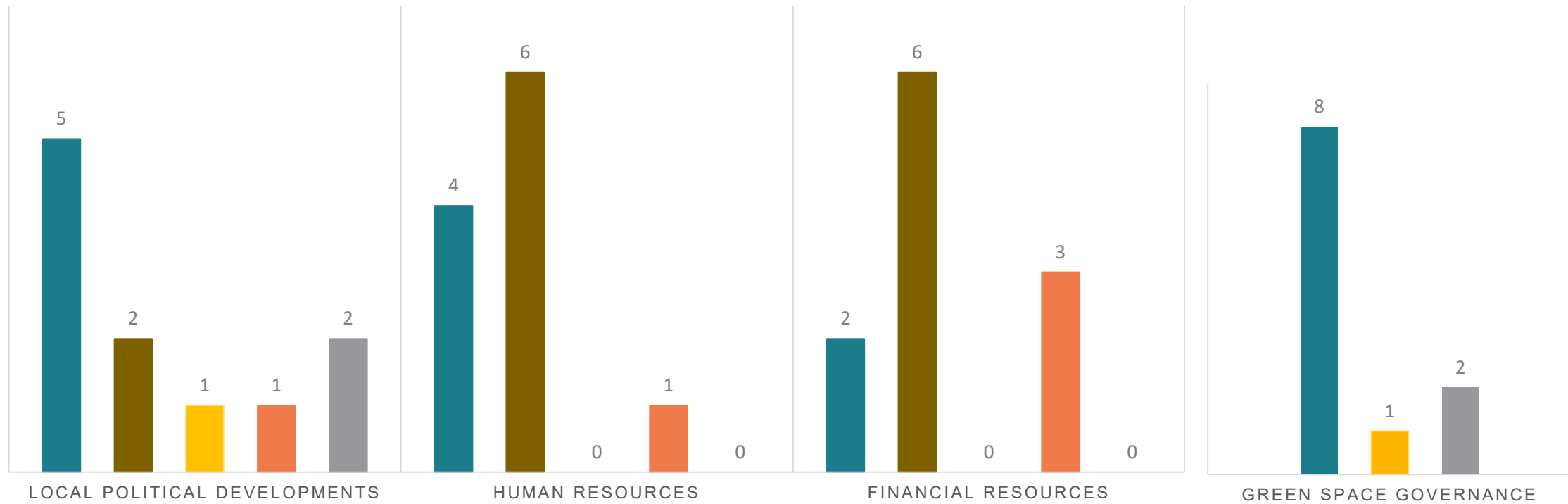


More: <https://www.hs-geisenheim.de/en/research/departments/open-space-development/professorship-for-open-space-and-ecological-urban-design/research-urban-green-infrastructure/>

**Results**

## Evaluation of changes

■ mostly positive   ■ no changes   ■ ambivalent   ■ mostly negative   ■ can not be determined



## Planning responses to global developments and disruptive events



New planning strategies for  
Adaptation to climate change +  
loss of biodiversity

© City of Helsinki (2018)

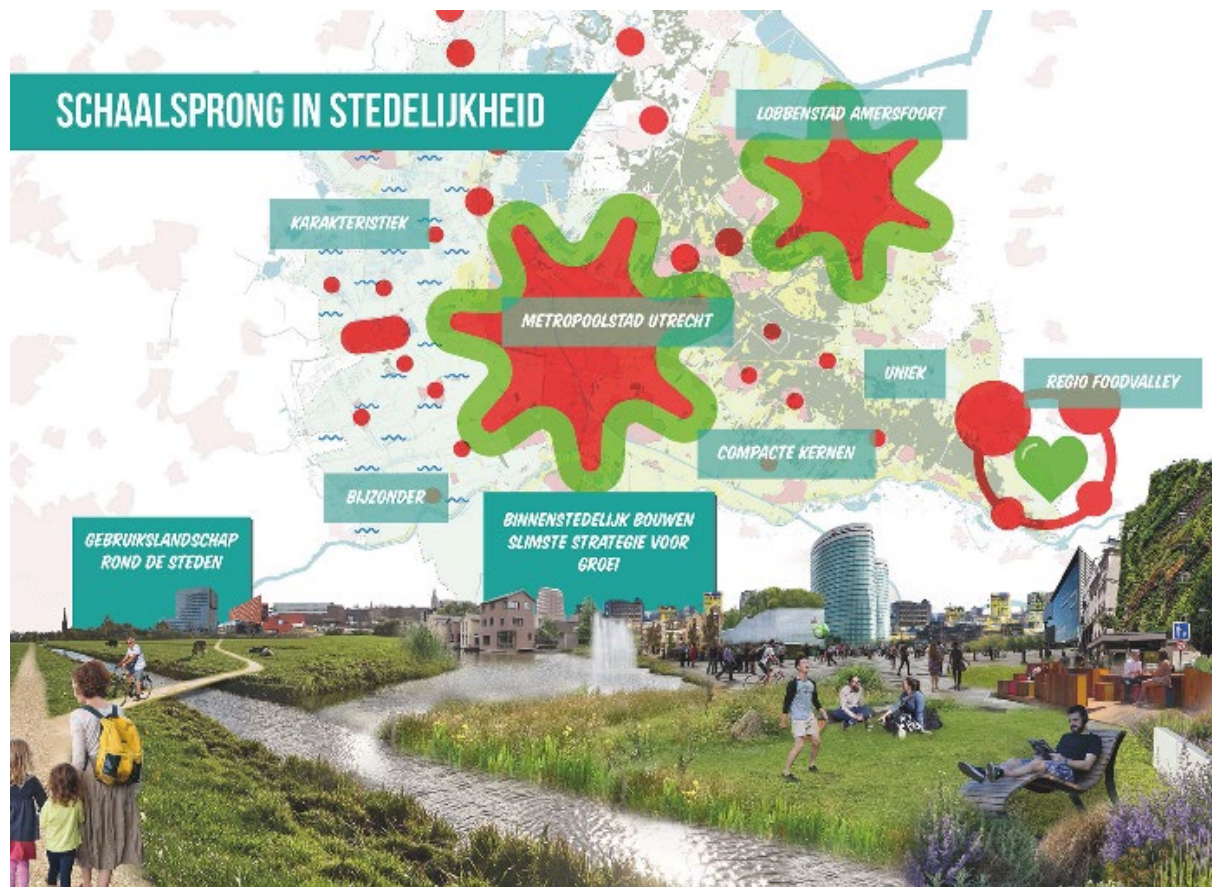


More awareness of social  
challenges, but few specific  
planning responses

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## Ambiguous relationship between urban growth and green space development / Steps toward integrated planning and scale-crossing



[www.bvr.nl/portfolio/tourteam-en-koersdocument-utrecht-2050/](http://www.bvr.nl/portfolio/tourteam-en-koersdocument-utrecht-2050/)

greening + urban development  
as a guideline  
new regulatory instruments

More integrated planning  
+ new collaborations

## Participation between tokenism and co-governance



Few new examples of citizen-led initiatives

Little France Park, Edinburgh, [www.elgt.org.uk/projects/greenspace-improvements/little-france/](http://www.elgt.org.uk/projects/greenspace-improvements/little-france/)

More participation in top-down planning - only rarely fundamental change



ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP POLICY

<https://www.aarhus.dk/media/6603/policy-for-active-citizenship.pdf>

## Conclusions

- **Cities are working with a variety of planning instruments rather than a single overarching strategy**
- **Changes are rather incremental than radical transformative**
- **High-level policy support is needed for fundamental transformations**
- **Financial and human resources are needed for more ambitious green space planning**
- **Only few cities are well prepared for co-creative strategies**

## Contributors

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**THANK YOU!**

