

Espoo
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SPARCS City Vision process in Espoo

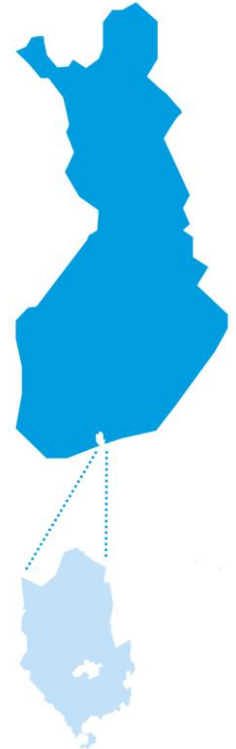
EU GREEN WEEK 2021 PARTNER EVENT

ZERO #EUGreenWeek
POLLUTION
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City of Espoo

- H2020 SPARCS project:
 - Espoo as a Lighthouse City
 - Lead of Work Package 3 (Espoo demonstrations)
 - Demo areas: Leppävaara, Espoonlahti and Kera
- Project supporting the city's sustainable development aims:
 - Carbon neutral by 2030
 - UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) reached by 2025
- Today's presentation:
 - Experiences from the SPARCS City Vision 2050 process and exercise



Looking into the future

- What will happen in next 30 years?
 - Multiple possible futures
- Future imagination: media, visual culture, architecture, films and books...
- In project SPARCS: drafting "a future vision" through a co-creation process. Focus in Espoo in the SPARCS City Vision 2050 process:
 - **What is the everyday life in the city like in 2050?** (positive approach)
 - How do people conduct daily life in 30 years?
 - What are "desireable" built/urban environments like in 2050?
 - What are the key elements of such city environments?



The futuristic yellow Futuro house by Matti Suuronen from the 1970s, situated in Espoo Museum of Modern Art EMMA. Photo: Otavamedia, Espoon kaupungin aineistopankki.

The SPARCS City Vision(ing) Process

- Covid-19 and restrictions for working:
 - Covid-19 related issues affecting decision to have workshop remotely and only with city personnel
 - A number of different stakeholder combinations and working modes (online/live) were examined during the workshop planning process
 - Also a citizen-focused questionnaire was initially thought of but overlapped time and content-wise with city strategy update process
- Remote/Online Workshop held 18.11.2020, 09:00-14:00
 - Need for an abridged version (5 hours instead of 2 days) of the original framework provided by Fraunhofer IMW and SPI in the **online setting**
 - Agenda/process for the shorter version drafted together with Fraunhofer IMW and SPI
- 23 participants taking part in the workshop:
 - City of Espoo personnel from different departments and units
 - Sustainable development team, Strategy, Environment, Public Works, Service Development, Service Point



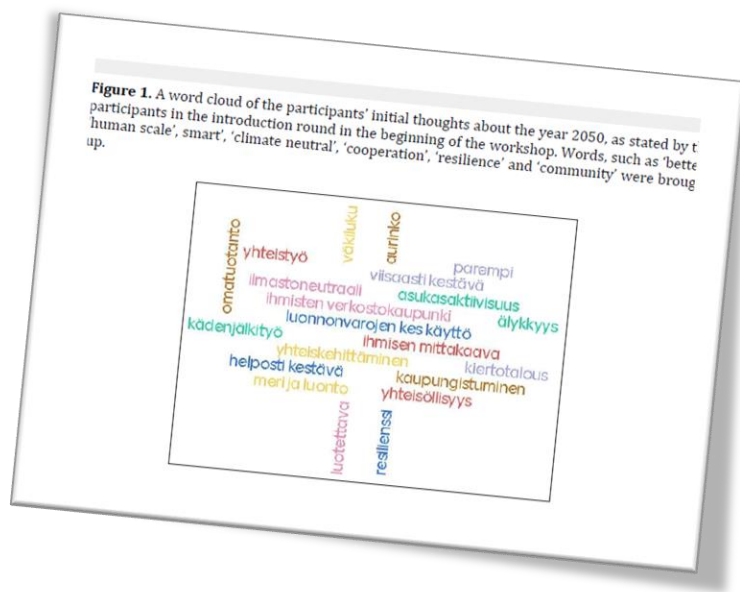
Key Strategic Areas examined in the workshop

- Key strategic areas examined as part of the Status Quo, and selected as representing some of the main focus areas of the sustainable development team:
 - Energy: Heating playing currently a major role in emissions; energy communities and prosumers
 - Mobility: Current modal split, accessibility; electric and autonomous transit
 - Smart cities and digitalization: Role of smart solutions and data in urban development; Kera as a pioneer area
 - (Circular economy was also one optional thematic area)
- The Status Quo material was prepared and sent beforehand to the participants as a reading material
- (Also links to TEDtalk videos relevant to the theme of future cities; also Sitra's *Mega Trends* cards)

Figure 2. The material depicting the Status Quo, provided in advance of the workshop to the participants through the workshop's dedicated Teams team (using the provided trend gallery poster template).



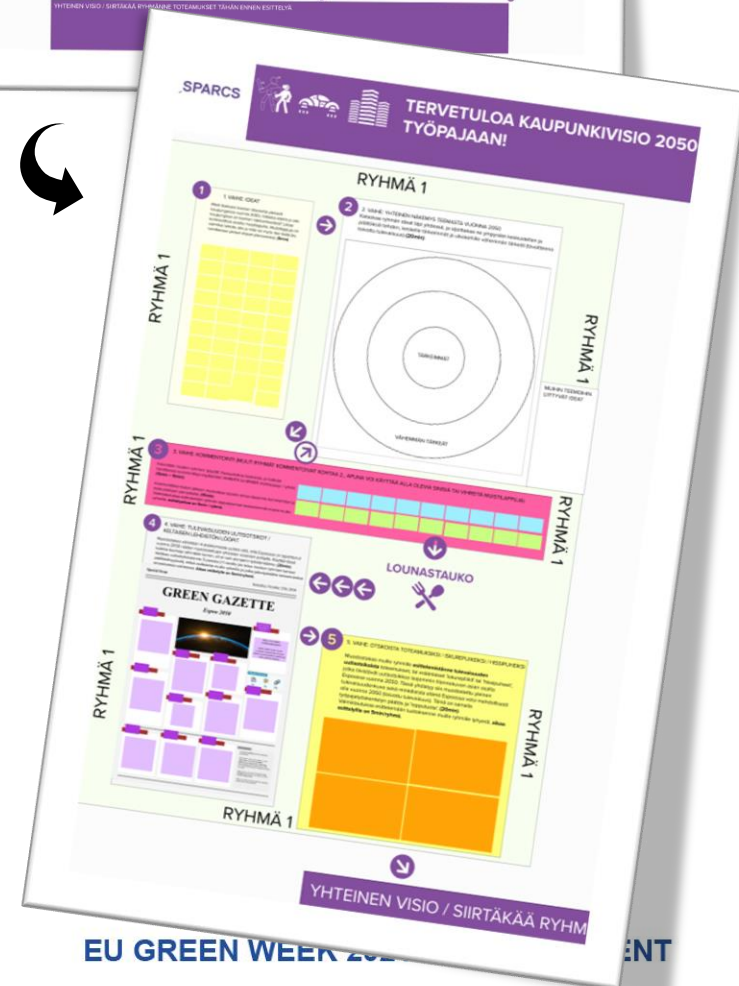
The Workshop Process



- Tools: MS Teams and an online whiteboard tool
- A dedicated MS Teams channel for the workshop was set up to share documents (Status Quo) and for communication before and after the workshop (e.g. comments to the draft of the city vision report text)
- One main facilitator for the whole event, 3 small group facilitators (groups representing the selected key strategic areas), 2 short preliminary talks about the subject
- Word cloud about “desired” year 2050 formed as part of the participant introduction round
- Good and open atmosphere for co-working supported

The Workshop Process, cont.

- 5 steps in the workshop (the pictures on the right)
 1. Idea generation in 3 thematic groups (=3 key strategic areas).
 2. Forming a common view on central elements of the theme in 2050.
 3. World Café-type comment rounds in other groups' "tables"/themes. Presentations of key ideas. (Lunch.)
 4. Newspaper headlines from the future based on the steps 1.-3. Presentation of headlines.
 5. From Headlines to Statements: drafting statements about the visioned future and presentations (+ voting of the most relevant ones from the 12 formed).
- After workshop: drafting 1. version of the SPARCS City Vision 2050 text (translating insights) → comments from participants (through MS Teams channel) → Text v.2.0



Results of the SPARCS City Vision 2050 process

- Energy
 - Produced near to the consumer, modern energy services
 - Self-consumption and peer-to-peer systems
 - Reduced- energy consumption
- Mobility
 - "Multimodal" day-to-day transit habits, increase of walking and biking, use of shared vehicles and mobility services
 - Urban space is freed for other uses than motor traffic
 - Electric vehicles and autonomous transit are commonplace
- Smart cities and digitalization
 - Smart solutions making life easier, technologies and services accessible to all
 - Integration of circular economy –thinking to material use
 - Automation and robotics in different themes (incl. energy, mobility)



The SPARCS City Vision for the years to come

- Interesting exercise on future-thinking (year 2050; long timescale vs. the usual shorter timespans) and PED (Positive Energy District) and Smart City-related thinking
- The process supports the communication of SPARCS activities and the future-orientation of the project
- Gaining experiences from organizing a remote workshop
 - Remote/online tools, facilitation and co-working online...
- Some gaps:
 - One workshop – time use, scope and engagement issues
 - Specialist view and confined to SPARCS project (e.g. not political process or citizen engagement, one level of city organization)
 - Limited stakeholder involvement (project's local technical partners, citizens, political actors, local organizations etc.)
- To keep in mind: multiple possible futures





SPARCS



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