

## TAMPERE FUTURE ARENA OF SUSTAINABLE LIFE, FINLAND



*Tampere Future Arena of Sustainable Life engaged local NGOs, cooperatives, culture actors, individuals as well as representatives of many City departments and local decision-makers from different political parties. The process included a visioning workshop for residents, a visioning workshop with 60 participants and a pathway and solution workshop with 40 participants. The topic "sustainable life" is related to both people and nature.*

### WHO WAS INVOLVED?

Tampere Future Arena attracted various people that were interested in providing their views on a sustainable future and enhancing direct discussion with the City. The main three workshops had over ten City representatives from different departments, representatives of Youth Council, students, individuals, cooperatives, associations, communities and small business actors. An important element was the intensive participation of local politicians from five different political parties in the visioning workshop and later as commentaries in the result event.

### IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

Several key challenges related to the sustainability work of local actors were identified in the focus group discussions. These include:

1. Use of urban space - how urban space enhances community building and sustainable life?
2. Participation in urban planning - how to support especially early-stage participation?
3. Stronger visibility for second hand and repair services - how could the City support in this?
4. Promotion of biodiversity in cooperation with local actors.

### ABOUT THE PROCESS

The Tampere Arena included three main workshops and an additional workshop solely for residents (visioning of good and sustainable life). The process started with the workshop for residents, which was followed by the main visioning workshop with 60 participants. The results of the workshop with residents were presented in the main visioning workshop to get voices from a wider range of residents into discussion about a sustainable future.

Local politicians participated in the main visioning workshop that ended in a panel discussion with politicians and local actors. The workshop started with inspiring presentations by the local civil society (e.g. urban gardening, second hand business and citizen participation). Participants were divided into seven small groups and each group could select a sustainability topic or topics they wanted to focus on. These topics were circular economy, sustainable business, biodiversity, youth & education and participation.



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Pathway and solution workshops had 35-40 participants that were divided in four thematic groups according to their interests: 1) Biodiversity promotion, 2) Utilisation of empty spaces to enhance sustainable life, 3) Participation in urban planning and 4) Second hand and repair services. Each group made an action plan and identified the first steps and actions.

After two months of the solution workshop, a result event was organised where the representatives of four thematic working groups presented results. Local decision-makers from five political parties made commentary speeches and answered questions made by the participants. Each decision-maker had to say what issues they would be ready to enhance and take further in the political decision-making.

## RESULTS

The Tampere vision of sustainable life underlines the role of the City in supporting community building, civic participation and possibilities to influence the living environment. The importance of having nature everywhere in the City is highlighted.

Each four thematic groups made a plan of actions and formulated key messages to be delivered widely to the City administration.

The key results were:

- A platform of sustainable life - new cooperation model with the City and local actors to enhance community building and sustainable life.
- Biodiversity Centre to gather knowledge and create a group of voluntary-based "biodiversity ambassadors" around the city.
- Actions to strengthen the visibility of second hand and repair services.
- Recommendations for the City on how to improve civic participation in sustainable urban planning.

Key messages and actions are taken forward by the working groups and in further discussions with the City and local politicians. The pilots are financed by the City development programmes and the We make transition! project. The results have an impact on the Biodiversity Programme and City Strategy.

In Tampere, a success factor was the participation of politicians and strong involvement of the various City departments. Another important factor was the openness for new participants: some participated only in one workshop, and suggested new relevant people to join in the other workshops. Engagement of new people empowered the group.

***"I felt that I was developing the city's new role from actor to enabler."***

***"There was respect, and everyone listened. The atmosphere was good. Participation was made in such a way that people did not just sit in their chairs."***

## CONTACT

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