



Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



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RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

We make transition!

Nature in my Neighbourhood

Transition Arena in Uusikaupunki, Finland

2023-2025

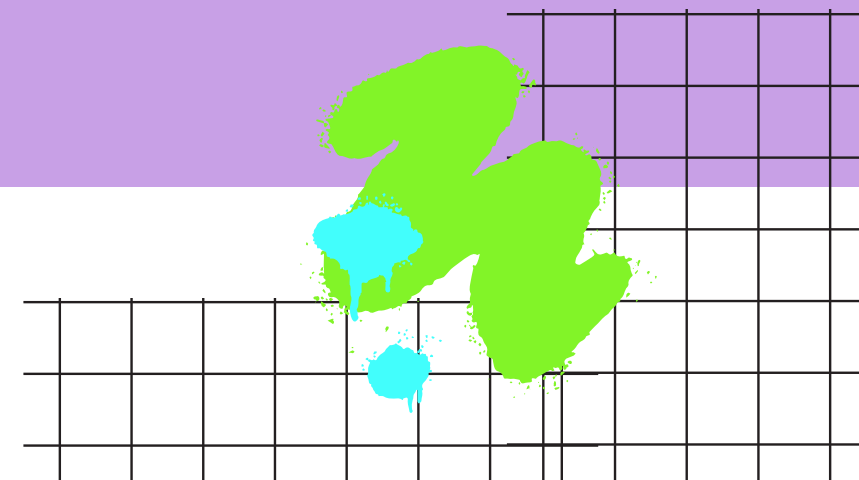


Uusikaupunki

 **UKIPOLIS OY**



Varsinais-Suomen liitto
Egentliga Finlands förbund

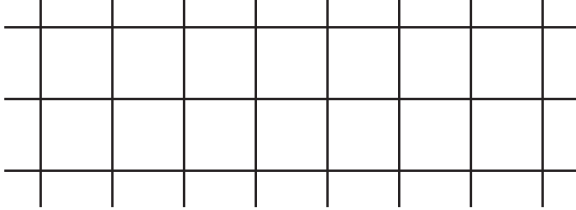




Topic: Co-operation for **biodiversity** in nearby nature

Reasons:

- Biodiversity loss but with easy and approachable framing
- Need for volunteer work to complement municipality's
- Local gardening enthusiasts



Challenges in local cooperation for biodiversity

1. Regarding biodiversity

- Lack of connectedness on private yards
- Locally special plants

2. Regarding cooperation

- No strong local civil actors specifically on biodiversity
- How do people participate? General decline in civil society activity, limited pop-up participation possibilities
- Residents' lack of knowledge
- Scarce municipal resources



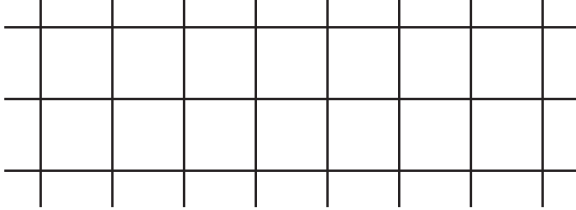
Focus group interview on local biodiversity actions in spring 2023



- Small and local
- Associations, small entrepreneurs, residents
- Good commitment from municipal officials

Participants





Result: Local **Biodiversity Circle** collaboration

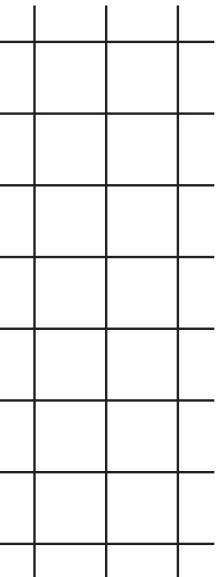
3 sustainability experiments

1. Meetings for information and encounters:
Biodiversity Coffee Breaks
2. Yard signs
3. Enhancing biodiversity on a vacant lot in the city centre



1 network: **The Biodiversity Circle**

bringing everyone who's interested and the experiments together





Added value: **structure** that can last

1. **The Biodiversity Circle** – enables pop-up participation and shared ownership of the agenda
2. The Biodiversity Coffee Breaks – meeting platform
3. An annual local Biodiversity Forum – brings it all together and creates stability
4. Nature in my Neighbourhood Transition Agenda as a routemap forward



Our secrets to success:

FUN

COMMITMENT

TIME

DETERMINED COORDINATION

LUCK?

Added value: **empowerment?**

"I hadn't realized there are this many people who think this is important! I thought I was the only one." LTA participant

"It's been great to see the actions taken after the workshops. I'm so proud: elsewhere there's only the talk, here in Uusikaupunki people actually do things!" LTA participant

"Next we could gather entrepreneurs to create more business around biodiversity." Municipal official

"I will be suggesting this biodiversity improvement to my housing company." Biodiversity Coffee Break