Perspectives of urban research and statistical analyses in Helsinki

The development programme for urban statistics and research in the city of Helsinki for years 2011 - 2015

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Content

• Starting points and targets
• Focal themes for research and analyses for 2011-2015
• Topical tensions for research and analyses
• Helsinki – statistics, established services
• Helsinki statistics and urban research development needs for years 2011-2013
• Summing up: the strategic directions in development programme
Starting points and targets

• To meet and predict actual customer needs
  – Intensive and constant cooperation with different customer groups
    – Information and knowledge support to city leadership, administration, planning and
data
decision making, business life, media, inhabitants and organisations
  – Evaluation of current products and services
  – Evaluation and foreseeing of operational environment changes and
their impacts on information needs

• To support city’s strategies and development programmes
  – Definition of thematic areas common to several offices and fields of
activities
  – Definition of thematic areas essential to city leadership
  – Development of follow-up indicators for the implementation of
strategies and programmes
  – Balance between actuality and analyzing; good information base and
well defined core fields of expertise
Starting points and targets - continues

• To support and realize office’s own vision
  – Good statistical and research know how on appropriate discipline and favourable atmosphere to the development of expertise
  – Good quality of products and services and better impressiveness of research results
  – Networks and cooperation – universities, regional and international partners and reference groups

• To define a common strategy for city’s information needs
  – By uniting two separate programmes and strategies together
  – By extending the programme period from three to five years

• To intensify cooperation between units
  – Thematic working groups over unit’s borders
  – Flexibility to meet the topical information needs
  – Deeper and wider expertise
Focal themes for research and analyses for 2011-2015

• Housing, urban structure and environment
• Wellbeing, health and services
• Urban culture
• Municipal economy, employment and competitiveness
• Democracy and participation

• Common fields on interest:
  – Foreign population and immigration
  – International benchmarkings and comparisons
  – Regional information
Topical tensions for research and analyses

• Housing, urban structure and environment
  Tension and research theme, an example
  Housing :
  – The Helsinki region is receiving more and more demanding inhabitants also aboard. In Helsinki the prises of dwellings are high compared to the quality of housing and the price level in surrounding municipalities.
  – The quality of housing in new residential areas: How does these areas correspond to the needs of inhabitants and enterprises and how have the housing values changes?
  – European bench markings
Topical tensions for research and analyses

• Wellbeing, health and services
  Tension and research theme, an example:
  – Growing income differences: Well-offs, hard ups and happiness - how much and to whom?
  – Segregation as a shared theme in several research projects and statistical analyzes
  – Development project with academic institution on measuring happiness

• Urban culture
  Tension and research theme, an example:
  – The importance of culture to attraction and success of the city is growing, the official cultural funding is organized on temporary bases
  – The meaning of culture seen as instrumental or as spontaneous phenomenon with dynamics of its own
  – Helsinki World Design Capital 2012 – evaluation surveys
Topical tensions for research and analyses

• Municipal economy, employment and competitiveness
  Tension and research theme, an example:
  – Municipalities’ income base will get worse, the significance of metropolises to national economies will grow
  – City’s competitiveness and ability to create new job opportunities
    Special focus on new districts near the city centre
  – The profile of competitive enterprises and working districts – also international bench making

• Democracy and participation
  Tension and research theme, an example:
  – Combining of representative or/and participative elements of democracy to the municipal decision making process is a challenge
  – Different forms of participation among young generation, changes over time and districts
Helsinki – statistics, established services

- **Housing**
  - Housing conditions, housing market, stock of dwellings, state (municipal) subsidy
- **Construction**
  - Building stock, construction work, urban structure
- **Living conditions**
  - Social welfare and welfare services,
  - Health and health care services, mortality,
  - Education and schooling, educational systems
  - Cultural offerings and services
  - District comparisons and descriptions
- **Population**
  - Population structure and changes, expected lifetime, fertility rate,
  - Population prognosis
- **Enterprises and industries**
  - Economic activity, municipal economy, regional economy
  - Competitiveness indicators
  - Employment, trade cycles and workplaces
  - Income and property
- **Environment**
- **Databases on internet**
  - Helsinki region District Database
  - Scandinavian city and region database - NORDSTAT
  - Environmental statistics in Helsinki
    www.helsinginymparistotilasto.fi
- **Databases for city administration**
  - City and regional indicators, population statistics service ....
- **Compilations**
  - Statistical yearbook, Helsinki by District, The State and trends in the city of Helsinki
  - Foreigners in Helsinki
- **Helsinki database**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Theme</th>
<th>Research challenges</th>
<th>Analyzing of new phenomena or city district</th>
<th>Harmonizing, control and transparency of regional data</th>
<th>International comparisons and analyzes</th>
<th>Quality of data and new starts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing, urban structure and environment</td>
<td>Trends and perspectives in housing market - new forms of housing values, Sustainable city structure and mobility</td>
<td>Dwellings released from state regulation, Inhabitants in the city owned rental dwellings, Changes and trends in housing market, The quality of housing in foreign language families, Sustainable development</td>
<td>Helsinki region data base, Helsinki Region InfoShare, Regional environment statistics on internet</td>
<td>Housing in European urban regions, New residential and business areas</td>
<td>Renovation statistics, Land use statistics, Measuring the carbon footprint in Helsinki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, welfare and services</td>
<td>Ageing population and the young ones, Segregation issues, Creative city</td>
<td>Health and social welfare indicators, Life circle and welfare, Income structure and poverty, Segregation in urban areas</td>
<td>Helsinki region database, Regional cooperation in preparing population prognoses</td>
<td>Causes of death in European urban regions</td>
<td>Youngsters' educational segregation, From schools to municipal sector's jobs, Foreign background and service statistics, Second generations' foreigners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal economy, labour market and competitiveness</td>
<td>Municipal tax revenue and production of health, social and educational services, Competitive enterprises, The future workforce demand and supply</td>
<td>Industries and enterprises by district, Cohort analyze on workforce changes over two latests economic fluctuation periods, Changes and trends in occupational structure</td>
<td>Helsinki region trends database, Regional labour force projection</td>
<td></td>
<td>Changes of enterprises and industries in the Helsinki region: starting and closing down business, growing industries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summing up: the strategic directions in development programme

**Focal themes:**
- Housing, urban structure and environment
- Wellbeing, health and services
- Urban culture
- Municipal economy, employment and competitiveness
- Democracy and participation

**Common fields on interest:**
- Foreign population and immigration
- International bench markings and comparisons
- Regional information

**Impressiveness of research**
- One study, several additional products

**Thematic cooperation and synergy advances**
- Economy and employment
- Competitiveness and culture
- Urban differentiation and segregation
- Housing trends and values in and new housing areas
- The elderly population and the young ones

**Know how and expertise**
- Thematic cooperation with universities and applied science institutions
- Expert networks and bench making
Thank you for your attention!