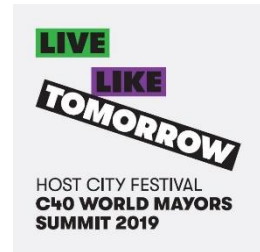


A Nordic Partnership Model for Sustainable Development

- Learning points, 11 October 2019



WHAT IS Innovation districts and Science City collaborations?

- Triple Helix constellations between companies from the private sector, universities and the public sector that has a starting point in a certain geographical local setting

STRENGTHS in the Nordic innovation districts and Science City collaborations

- Shorter distances in the Nordics, high level of trust, good at building strong partnerships and strong welfare states.

WEAKNESSES in the Nordic innovation districts and Science City collaborations

- Small markets make it more difficult for companies to scale, lack of skilled people, 'mono career' challenge where people stay in the same sector throughout their career, lack of global institutions and support structures.

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The importance of innovation districts for the partners and why they are attractive

- The partnerships are a good way to create development projects and to attract startups and talent: *where interesting people are – interesting people will come.*
- The partnerships enable close collaboration with the local municipality which is a key.
- Innovation partnership fosters *local collaboration and face to face meetings*, which makes it easier to realize projects.
- Innovation partnerships push the sustainability agenda which is a core business strategy.

How innovation partnerships can make an actual impact and drive sustainable urban development

- There is a bigger commitment to take chances in the smaller innovation constellations, but the partnerships need to get involved in bigger structures to scale solutions
- Innovation districts can nurture researchers to come up with solutions, connect them to entrepreneurs and bigger companies who can scale up the solutions
- We need free zones for experimenting without regulation
- Making sustainability the core of the partnerships can attract talent to certain areas
- There is a need for political leadership to drive the sustainable agenda, and the partnerships must show the politicians the solutions and what is possible
- Innovation districts can help integrating solutions, showing cities and politicians what it takes: small organizations can make an impact. Change comes from collaboration.