Re: Item 12.1.2

# ΗΛLIFΛΧ

#### Presentation of Findings from the EU-Canada Urban Policy Cooperation

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## ICLEI EU-Canada Urban Policy Cooperation

- The EU is running a series of inter-municipal exchanges that facilitate dialogues between cities in the EU and its partner countries
- 3 central themes of resilience and adaptation, ecosystem services and low carbon development
- Cities will cooperate based on similarities between their thematic areas, experiences and goals

#### **EU-Canada Partner Cities**

Almada, Portugal Hannover, Germany Tallinn, Estonia Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain Saanich, Canada Ottawa, Canada Halifax, Canada Edmonton, Canada

## City Profile – Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

**Population** – 245,000 Land Area – 278 km<sup>2</sup> **Key Industries** – Automotive, Manufacturing, **Aeronautics** Municipal Budget - €332 million **European Green Capital Winner 2012** 





- Green infrastructure in V-G is more cost effective, resilient & beneficial than other alternatives.
- Focus on natural processes for biodiversity

   the backbone of green infrastructure.
- Requires spatial, temporal & fiscal planning
- Emerging terminology in EU: climate services, climate intelligence, climate protection



















## City Profile – Tallinn, Estonia

Population – 435,000 Land Area – 159 km<sup>2</sup> Key Industries – Information Technology, Textile, Food Industries Municipal Budget - € 529 million Applying for EU Green

Capital 2018





## Sustainability in Estonia

- Estonia has a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy adheres to direction by EU Commission.
  - Adaptation and action plan due April 2016.
  - Focus on 4 key sectors: land use, natural environment, economics, social/health
- ENFRA Estonian National Climate Adaptation Strategy for Infrastructure and Energy
  - Oil shale supplies 85% of Estonia's power, dirtiest power source
  - Will suggest a switch to decentralized power production
  - Focus on district energy, renewables
- Adaptation measures up to 2030 estimated to cost 155 million euros
- National Electric Mobility Program, 2011-14
  - Covered half the price of an EV up to 18,000 euros
  - Network of 163 quick charging stations



### **Sustainability in Tallinn**

- Began paperless city management in 2004
- Created a virtual service hall in 2009
  - Self service portal linked to banks, forms are prefilled, can do anything but get married online!
- Fare-free public transit for Tallinn residents
- Main street creation as part of city masterplan due 2020. To connect to the harbour and pedestrian route in a green circle surrounding the city
- Covenant of Mayors 20-20-20 Target
- 70% of development in last 10 years has been densification
- 63% of Tallinn is water-permeable surface
- 13.8% of Tallinn is protected areas





### **Coastal Erosion in Estonia**

- Coastal erosion an issue in Tallinn and throughout Estonia
- Tallinn University received a grant to reconstruct past storminess to see how it has changed over time
- University is also working to estimate the value of ecosystem services for their Minister of Environment
- 4000 km of coastline
- Land uplift of 2.8 mm/year
- Main agents changing shores: waves, wind, sea ice, sediment redeposition & inundation
- One cape in Western Estonia is rapidly receding
- Maximum wave height and # of large storms increasing
- Some areas prone to flooding in Tallinn, currently looking for solutions.







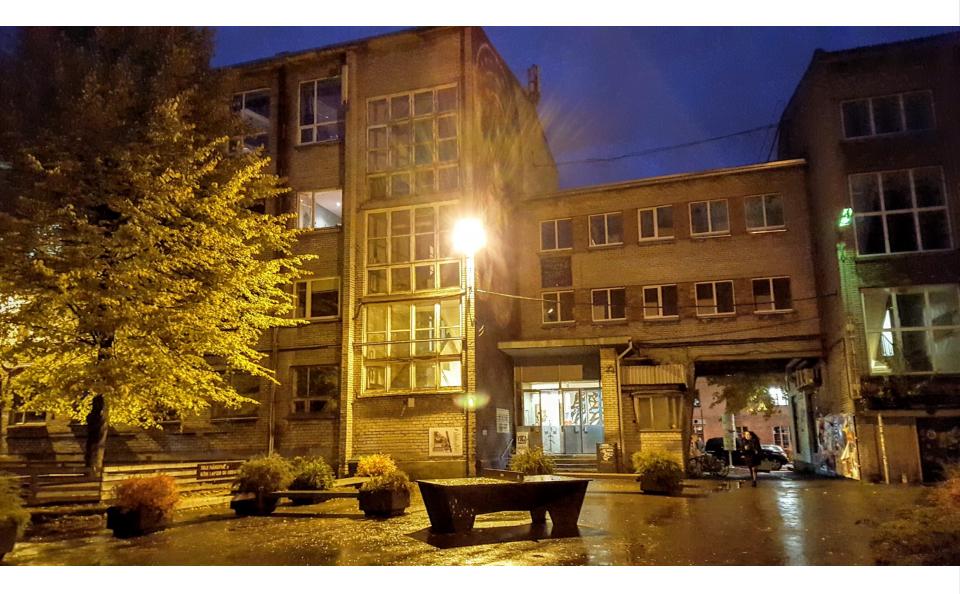














#### **Lessons Learned**

Policy Exchange Structure

- The impact of face-to-face meetings and site visits should not be underestimated
- Learning from others is very valuable
- Successful projects need to have clearly defined
- Clear & timely communication is critical
- Agree with partners as to what success looks like

#### Governance

- Awards and titles can motivate and inspire change
- Every initiative needs a strong champion
- We can do more to integrate HRM projects with the university and academic resources in Halifax
- There are significant NGO resources in Europe wishing to help Canadian municipalities in their climate change efforts
- EU and European cities are dedicating significant financial and human resources to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as to enhancing and protecting biodiversity

#### **Lessons Learned**

Climate Change & Resilience

- There are aspects of sustainability that Canada is ahead on
  - Forest management and policy, conservation, water quality
- The EU is advanced in urban-based sustainability and in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, generally speaking
- There is a vast amount of resources, consulting firms, NGOs, international associations, governments, academics etc. working in this area. We need to make an effort to draw upon them more frequently.



