Stuttgart Region‘s Green Infrastructure
- and Challenges for Funding and Political Support

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Stuttgart Region‘s DNA: Cars + Amazing Landscapes, Agriculture and Wine

» Innovative, dynamic and prospering – but: Open spaces considered most important **locational factor**

» Natural resources important for **overall quality** – Green infrastructure key for „futureproof“ regions

» „Just / Green / Productive Cities“ are not separate options – all aspects important

Green Infrastructure as **integrated part** of regional development
Discussd, approved, enforced: Mandatory Regional plan

» Open space needs **protection** - and dedication for adaptation, agriculture, bio-diversity, ecology, recreation…

» Mandatory planning essential - **binding** for local land use plans, zoning, building permits. Very few exceptions.

» Planning procedures with **participation** – but also strong political commitment of regional assembly

» Options for further development, infrastructure, use of renewable energies – and **Green Infrastructure**
Protection + Improvement: Regional Landscape Park

» Active **development** of open spaces – improvement of Green Infrastructure

» Provision of **masterplans** („good ideas“) + **Co-funding** scheme: Municipalities get up to 50% of investment

» Actual **annual budget**: 1.5 M €
  – so far: 250 projects ca. 20 Mio. regional invest + municipalities + third party funding
Open to all: Wide range of „Green Infrastructure“

» Ecology: Wetlands, Improvement of riverbanks, by-passes for fish, bio-corridors…
» Recreation + health: Hiking / Biking trails, pump tracks, Canoe camps, BBQ-installations…
» Cultural heritage: „Steep slope“ vineyards, traditional orchards…
» Education + Integration: educational trails (traditional agriculture, cultural background…)
» Outside cities – and within!
» Equal, easy and comfortable access crucial.
Pandemic as game-changer: More needs – less money

» Lock-down experience underlines **importance of access to open spaces** for physical / mental health

» **Growing demand** for health care (hospitals); social security; social infrastructure (Kindergardens, schools)

» Severe economic downturn – reduced company taxes (at least mid-term) – **reduced public budgets**

» How to achieve **political support** for investment in „Green Infrastructure“ – even when budgets are tight?
Green Infrastructure and resiliency: Sustainabilty happens in crises – or never

» Region provides **Strategic consultation** for municipalities – long term overview
  - Overview / information on strategical **goals** (UN-SDG, Leipzig Charta, etc.) – and political commitment
  - Underline **relevance of health** issues in planning procedures / decision making
  - Relevance of Green Infrastructure for **sound economy** – high quality location for high quality work force
    Demografic change and need for migration – how to become „longed-for destination“
  - **Widening the scope**: Provide supra-municipal data; regional perspective; „Big picture“

» Improve **efficiency of investment** – multi-purpose / multi-functional projects
  Deliver good examples for combined projects on e.g. ecology – adaptation – recreation

» Burden sharing: Cutting costs with regional / inter-municipal **cooperation**

» Regional **funding** as trigger money - find access to **third party-funding**
Landschaftspark in times of Covid 19
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