

URBAN HEALTH CULTURE OF THE FUTURE

Biodiversity and Urban Nature Investment in a Healthier Future

Date: 23 April 2025, 4-5 pm

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The INTA association has decided to focus on **urban health culture** for the two years 2025/2026 and to attract the attention of the community of professionals working in the field of urban projects. The action plan adopted to achieve this goal includes organizing a series of three conferences on urban health culture.

<u>The first conference</u>, on the theme "*What is Urban Health Culture?*", brought together Christer Larsson, former Director of Urban Planning in Malmö, and John Pløger, Professor Emeritus at the Universities of Kristiansand and Oslo, and a specialist in urban sociology.

<u>The second conference</u>, on March 20, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, focused on the theme *"City Mental Health, Loneliness, and the Urban Environment."* It featured two speakers: Étienne Lhomet, Director of DVDH, a French consulting firm specializing in sustainable mobility, and Léa Portier, Partner and Tamara Yazigi at Recipro-cité, a French company specializing in the design and implementation of shared accommodation projects.

This third conference, focuses on the theme "*Biodiversity and Urban Nature, Investment in a Healthier Futur*". We have two esteemed lecturers:

- Thomas Randrup, professor at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden.
- Karin Krasig Peschardt, a PhD landscape architect, in charge of biostrategic development in Holbæk, a mid-sized city in northern Zealand, Denmark.

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Introduction and presentation of the two speakers by Helle Juul, President of INTA

Now that most registered participants are here, I'd like to welcome everyone — both old, new, and potential members of **INTA**, as we begin the third lecture in our three-part series.

The INTA strategy for 2024–2026, during my presidency, focuses on urban health culture — specifically on the impact of the physical environment on our physical, mental, and social well-being. We are striving for a **new, transformative mindset** around health from a holistic perspective.

We are working from several angles to expand on this theme. *Jacques Gally* from France is in charge of the newsletters and website. On our LinkedIn platform, you'll find regular updates from cities developing new strategies around health.

We have also mapped our membership globally — we now have a full picture of where INTA is active, and we hope to grow our global presence even more.

Alongside these lectures, we're producing reports. One report will be published on INTA's website — one from Venice — and on the 30th, next week, *Christer Larsson* will be interviewed by *Mathias*. That interview will also result in a report, and will be made available on our website. These will highlight how different cities are addressing health and related strategies.

At the core, it's about creating panels, supporting cities and companies in planning and exploring **innovative approaches** to health in a broader sense.

We're addressing how things were before the pandemic, while also working on a new strategy inspired by a research project conducted by our firm, JUUL | FROST ARKITEKTER. We're trying it again. I think it worked.

And I'm truly fascinated by the two lectures we'll hear today — it's an incredible challenge we face as a society. **Biodiversity and nature are vital** — they influence how we live and feel. We know quite a lot about the positive impacts of nature on well-being, though we can still discuss how much of that knowledge translates into action.

So now, I'll hand it over to Thomas, who will kick off this one-hour session.

Thomas B. Randrup

INTA Urban Health Culture of the Future

Biodiversity and Urban Nature -Investment in a Healthy Future

Thomas B. Randrup

I'm **Thomas Randrup**, professor at **SLU**, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. I previously held the same role at the University of Copenhagen. My work has focused on **green space governance and management**, and I've been involved in a number of related research projects.

Today, I want to offer a broader perspective, structured around two key themes:

- 1. First, I'll talk about the many **agendas and expectations** related to urban green spaces particularly around **multifunctionality**. This concept helps emphasize the value, relevance, and broad role of green spaces in addressing various societal needs.
- 2. Then, I'll zoom in on **governance and management challenges** specifically those that emerge when we link green spaces to health and well-being. I'll try to make that connection clear, and I hope you'll find it interesting, especially from your various perspectives.

As mentioned earlier, there is now a well-established connection between green spaces and human health.

In 2010, we conducted a nationally representative study, interviewing over **15,000 people**, in collaboration with the **national health agency**. We included questions about **how far people live from green spaces**, and we found that:

If someone lives more than **300 meters** away from green areas, they are significantly less likely to use them — often only once a week, typically during weekends.

This wasn't the first study to show this, but it confirms what is now widely acknowledged.

I then explored a research database — **Scopus** — to search for keywords related to our themes: *human health, heat islands, biodiversity, stormwater management*. Since **the year 2000**, there has been not just an increase, but a **dramatic rise** in published articles linking these issues to **urban contexts**.

You don't need to see all the details in the slide, but just note the trend: since 2000, "urban" has increasingly been associated with a wide range of issues.

The key message here is that the **majority of the world's population now lives in urban areas**, and over the past 25 years, cities have become central to research, policy, and expectations.

But it's not just about having green areas in cities. Research has also shown that **biodiversity** — the topic of today's session — is extremely important. This ties back to the idea of **multifunctionality**: it's not just about the quantity of green, but also about **quality** — having the *right types* and *combinations* of vegetation.

When the **composition is right**, we can observe benefits such as **urban cooling effects**. So, it's about the species, how they're combined, and the ecological balance.

In short:

 \rightarrow Green spaces carry a high level of expectation.

 \rightarrow It matters where they're located, how many there are, how they're connected, and how large they are.

 \rightarrow But ultimately, the key question is: **Do they function well**?

And that's a qualitative issue, not easy to answer — it depends on your goals and perspective.

In most cases, when we talk about **urban green spaces**, we're dealing with a complex balancing act between **climate change adaptation**, **water management**, **biodiversity conservation**, and **human health and well-being**. These are currently the *three main agendas* that frame expectations around green space planning and management.

From a **governance and management perspective**, the key question is: what are the challenges in promoting green spaces that fulfill all these multifunctional goals?

Let me share a few studies we've conducted.

One of them was a **Nordic study**, funded by a Swedish national agency on behalf of the **Nordic Council of Ministers**. The aim was to assess the **status and challenges** faced by green space managers across the Nordic region. We focused on the **three largest cities** in each of the five Nordic countries — excluding the capitals. This gave us a range of cases, from major cities like Gothenburg to much smaller towns in Iceland.

We asked managers: what is the biggest challenge you face today?

Regardless of location or city size, the **number one issue** cited was **densification** — urban densification as a pressure on green space.

We then investigated what they really meant by that.

Imagine a city layout where:

- The yellow dot is the city center,
- The **blue area** is water (sea or river),
- The light green ring represents the urban fringe.

Densification, they explained, typically occurs in the **inner city areas** — former industrial sites, harbour zones, or areas adjacent to rail infrastructure. These areas are being transformed, developed, and urbanized rapidly. As a result, **resources are heavily concentrated in the city center**, while **less investment** is directed to the urban fringe.

Interestingly, that imbalance sometimes works in favor of biodiversity: less lawn mowing, hedge trimming, and micromanagement in the urban periphery means **wilder spaces** can emerge — and biodiversity increases. But of course, it's not as simple as just doing nothing. It's more of a **tendency** than a deliberate strategy.

In contrast, inner-city green spaces are:

- Smaller,
- More fragmented,
- More programmed (e.g. playgrounds, decorative trees),
- And generally less green in a natural sense.

That means **more work** for green space managers — but without necessarily enhancing **health and well-being outcomes**.

Let me show an example from **Malmö**, Sweden. The former harbour front now includes private developments, with tiny green areas and small squares managed by the city. These are typical of the **fragmented**, **semi-green urban spaces**we see today — they contribute something, but their **health impact is limited**.

Another study looked at **organizational structures** behind green space planning and management.

These organizations operate on three levels:

- 1. **Policy level**: where visions and political priorities are set.
- 2. Tactical level: where planners and departmental managers define strategies.
- 3. **Operational level**: where on-the-ground implementation happens.

What we observed:

- Departments operate in **silos**. For example, one team manages parks, another handles roadside greenery, another deals with stormwater green infrastructure.
- There are often **10+ different units**, with separate budgets, mandates, and priorities all managing different types of green space.

This leads to:

- Weak horizontal coordination (across departments),
- Weak vertical alignment (between policy, planning, and execution).

For instance, policy might promote green health strategies, but operational teams continue their routines without reference to those goals. There is a clear need for **better alignment**, **dialogue**, and **knowledge flow** from the ground to the top and vice versa.

One of my PhD students, **Anna Solny**, analyzed **comprehensive urban plans** across the Nordic region. She found that almost every city claims to want to be "green" and "healthy." However, those ambitions are usually expressed in vague terms — without:

- Concrete geographic targets,
- Timeframes,
- Or practical instructions for planners.

Unsurprisingly, most planners and managers admitted they **don't know** what the comprehensive plan says — or **don't find it helpful** in daily decision-making.

This highlights the gap between policy on paper and policy in use.

A takeaway: cities should encourage **more concrete and directive language** in planning frameworks — particularly if we want to support green health outcomes.

To relate this to INTA's current **vision of urban health culture** — I think it's excellent. Looking at your five pillars, there's a strong need to:

- Strengthen integration of health in urban planning,
- Promote environmental health,
- Leverage data and technology,
- Build capacity and knowledge sharing,
- Advocate for effective policy change.

All of these are absolutely essential.

I'd like to end with this final slide — it looks complex, but it sums up the challenges from a **governance perspective**, especially around **stormwater management** in urban areas.

One question we asked was:

"If we know how to create green roofs, bioswales, parks — why don't we see them everywhere?"

The **technical knowledge exists**. Urban planners know how to implement them. The issue is not competence, but rather:

- Policy level: There's often no legal mandate to require green infrastructure.
- Tactical level: Strategies can be vague, fragmented, or poorly prioritized.
- **Operational level**: Practices often default to the familiar, rather than adopting innovative or integrated approaches.

So again, better **alignment across levels**, and **stronger legislative and political commitment**, is needed if we want to scale up impactful green interventions in our cities.

Ultimately, it's up to **city politicians** to decide *what*, *where*, and *how* actions are implemented. A recent development worth noting is the **2024 European Nature Restoration Law** — this is the first time the **EU has issued a legal mandate** that requires **local-level monitoring** of green space development. It's an important step: it implies that green space creation and preservation are no longer optional.

But the reality is complex. There's often **unbalanced leadership and responsibility**, mainly due to **siloed political structures**. Politicians have different agendas and priorities, making it difficult to set clear, consistent policies.

We also observe a **general lack of funding**, and more importantly, a **lack of solid evidence** demonstrating the effectiveness of green spaces — for example, in relation to health. Yes, we know that living within **300 meters** of green space increases usage, but *what does that really mean* in terms of health outcomes or budget planning? The proof is still incomplete, and that weakens investment arguments.

At the tactical level — where plans and priorities are developed — we see the following challenges:

- There's too much to do, and unclear guidance on *what to prioritize*.
- Many professionals say: *we try to do everything*, hoping that green spaces will indirectly support health.
- But there's also a lack of staff and time.
- And **institutional capacity** is limited: do we actually know *how* to design multifunctional green spaces? Which function should come first biodiversity, recreation, climate adaptation?

There's also a **perceived risk** regarding **costs and performance** — especially when public money is involved. Politicians are cautious: they want to spend wisely *and* be seen doing things properly.

We often talk about **stakeholder involvement** — and while there's **motivation and willingness**, it's rarely clear *how* to do it meaningfully. Beyond public hearings, who are we really engaging? And are they representative?

At the **operational level**, we're facing several persistent challenges:

- Lack of space,
- Lack of funding (again),
- And of course, inter-organizational conflicts the recurring issue of silos.

These difficulties are closely tied to the **lack of monitoring and documentation** of what is being done and its effects.

Another significant barrier is the **resistance to change**. On the ground, people tend to stick with what they know — the way things have always been done. Changing routines and habits

takes time. In the business world, this process is known as **change management** — and many of you will be familiar with it. It's slow. It demands persistence and support.

This resistance is often rooted in what's been described in academic literature as an **engineering culture**. And I mean this with respect — it's not a criticism of engineers — but rather a description of a mindset:

If we know what goes in, and we can measure what comes out, we feel in control. That sense of predictability creates a sense of safety.

But this mindset can **limit innovation**, especially when we're aiming for **transformational change**.

So, this is something we must acknowledge and work with carefully when promoting new approaches.

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Helle Juul - Discussion

Let's open the floor for any questions for *Thomas*.

Participant :

You talked about **equity**, which is relevant across all dimensions of urban health. But you also mentioned **densification**. Could we think of **densification of green spaces**, rather than the built environment?

In other words, could we **increase and better distribute** green areas in cities to **reduce inequality**? Using "densification" as a way to **describe investment in greenery** rather than construction — could that help reframe the conversation?

Thomas Randrup :

That's a very relevant question. What you're suggesting is already happening in some cities. Many local governments now prefer **inward densification** rather than expanding into the periphery — with the argument of preserving valuable farmland or natural areas.

However, that approach often threatens existing urban green spaces, especially in central areas. This is a real dilemma — because the trend toward smaller, more fragmented, less green spaces is problematic, both for biodiversity and for human well-being.

Participant :

Do you think this political hesitation is specific to certain countries? Are there places where the political level is more proactive and open to transformative thinking?

Thomas Randrup :

Although we often say that the **Nordic countries** are special — with their own planning culture — I don't see major differences globally when it comes to **local governance** and the **difficulty of making bold decisions**.

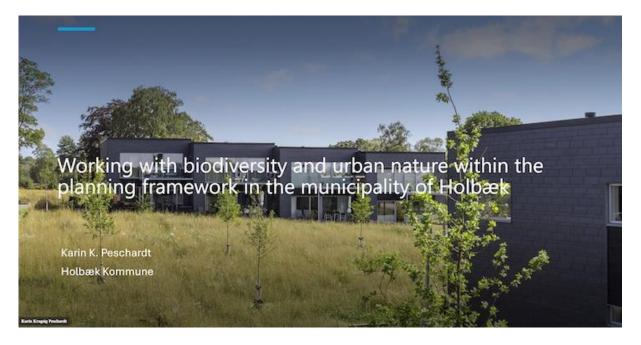
For example, we recently worked in a city district in **Buenos Aires**, and they are facing the **exact same challenges** as we are here in the Nordic region: fragmentation, slow decision-making, siloed structures, and limited political boldness.

The last slide I showed was based on **international reviews**, not specific to the Nordic context. These governance barriers seem to be **global** in nature.

Helle Juul

Thank you. If there are no further questions, I'll hand the floor to *Karin* so we can continue and hopefully have some time at the end for discussion.

Karin Krasig Peschardt



Thank you very much, *Helle*, and thank you *Thomas* — your presentation really gave me a lot to reflect on. I deal with many of these issues in practice, and your insights are highly relevant.

Like you, I also have a background in **landscape architecture**, and I've done research at the intersection of **landscape and health** — a topic that is very close to my heart.

But when I entered the **practical world**, I quickly realized that it's not so simple to push an agenda solely focused on health. In a **political organization**, we need to work within a planning framework, using the tools we have to navigate complexity.

Let me give you some context about Holbæk Municipality, in Zealand, Denmark.

As Helle mentioned, Holbæk covers a **large geographic area**, and it includes two main towns: one with around **20,000 residents**, and Holbæk itself with **30,000**. These are not large cities, but we are currently experiencing significant **population growth** — especially from people moving away from **Copenhagen**, where housing has become unaffordable.

This growth has actually shifted the dynamic. Until recently, we were just grateful when developers were interested in building here. But now, with demand increasing, we have **leverage**. We can begin to **set conditions** — including requirements around **green infrastructure**, biodiversity, and public space quality.

So things are changing.

That said, like all other municipalities in Denmark, we're facing **urgent planning challenges** — particularly in relation to **climate** and, more than ever, **biodiversity**. Health is also a growing concern.

There's a clear **national political will** to move toward a more sustainable future. But our experience shows that we also need to engage deeply with **local politicians**. The direction they set within the local planning framework is what shapes our **daily work**.

It really depends on how **local politicians** approach these issues. They are generally aware of the challenges, but they also play a major role in **setting the direction** we follow in our daily work. As *Thomas* mentioned earlier, we sometimes wish for **sharper political prioritization**, because it's not always easy for them to remain consistent with the visions they set.

That said, we **do use the planning framework**, and we do produce **strategies and policies** that express the vision for what we want to achieve in our physical planning. These strategic documents are important tools for several reasons:

- They allow politicians to **demonstrate ambition and commitment** to the public.
- They provide a structure for **involving stakeholders**, through meetings and workshops. We make a strong effort to gather input from local residents to foster **ownership** of the final result.
- They also help meet **national planning requirements** at the local level.

However, as both *Thomas* and I have observed, these strategies can sometimes become **an exercise in producing nice words** — broad, well-intentioned visions that lack practical traction.

When a new **electoral term** begins — as it will this November in Denmark — one of the first things we do is draft a **planning strategy**. What worked particularly well in **Holbæk** last time was that we **collected all existing policy and strategy work** from previous years and synthesized it into a **single strategic plan** for physical planning.

Why? Because having ten different documents with scattered priorities makes it very difficult for the administration to follow political directions consistently. By consolidating everything into one strategy, we were able to clearly define the **four main themes** the municipality wanted to work on. This made it much easier for politicians — and for us — to focus efforts.

These four themes were:

- 1. Development in urban and rural areas a core concern for all municipalities.
- 2. Nature and biodiversity this was new in our planning strategy and reflected updated expectations from the national level.
- 3. Business-friendliness a constant across all Danish municipalities.

4. Climate — we aligned our local goals with the **Paris Agreement**, incorporating them into the overall planning framework.

We also integrated content from various existing strategies:

- Our climate plan,
- Our biodiversity strategy,
- Our architecture policy,
- And our cultural and leisure policy.

In each case, we extracted the key **missions and objectives** — such as those related to healthy environments, green space, and climate adaptation — and pulled them into the **overarching planning strategy**.

This process had an unexpected benefit: it helped **politicians realize that they themselves had approved all these strategic directions** over time — and now, for the first time, they could **see them unified in one document**. That gave the work more coherence and legitimacy.

Of course, this was still at a **visionary or strategic level**, so there remained a certain flexibility — what we sometimes refer to as a "free round" politically.

However, in Denmark we also have a more **formally binding document**: the **municipal plan**. While it's not binding for individual property owners, it is a plan that **the municipal council is required to follow**.

This time, we went one step further: we **incorporated the strategic intentions** from the planning strategy directly into the **municipal plan**, turning them into more **formal regulations**. These can then be translated by local planners into **local plans**, which *are* binding for property owners.

At the **next level of the planning framework**, health remains mostly addressed at a **visionary level**. In contrast, for **biodiversity** and **climate**, we've started to support our planning strategies with **concrete data** — which helps when formulating regulatory language.

That's a step forward. But we're still highly dependent on political will and courage.

It's encouraging to see these topics appear in the planning framework, but we need political support to **carry the intentions through to implementation**. This also strengthens our **position in dialogue with developers**: when discussing development plans, we can argue that green infrastructure must be prioritized — based on evidence and long-term objectives. This is, without a doubt, one of our **most pressing challenges** right now.

As *Thomas* also pointed out, **maintenance and management issues** often become **deal-breakers** when we try to argue for more trees or expanded green space in new developments.

Our current approach is to frame things in a **multifunctional perspective**: \rightarrow The more objectives we can align with a given intervention, the stronger the case — and the greater the **political backing**. \rightarrow If we can show that a green space contributes to **flood mitigation**, **biodiversity**, **heat reduction**, and **public health**, we build a far more compelling argument.

To do this, we've made significant efforts to gather **reliable data** to support our planning rationale across various domains — **climate adaptation**, **biodiversity**, and **urban heat mitigation**.

One of the data sets we now use comes from our **biodiversity strategy**, and is based on the **3-30-300 rule**:

- 3 trees visible from every home,
- 30% canopy cover in each neighborhood,
- And a maximum of 300 meters to the nearest green space.

This principle builds on past research, and its **simplicity makes it politically powerful** — decision-makers understand it immediately. The dataset maps our entire municipality and identifies areas that meet (green), partially meet (orange), or fail to meet (red) the criteria. It's proven extremely useful in conversations with both developers and local politicians.

We also use a complete **urban heat risk map**, identifying areas where temperatures become critically high. Not surprisingly, these zones are concentrated in denser urban areas. The **white zones on the map** indicate areas of **extreme heat** — and we now use this data to argue that **green space is essential** in any new developments planned for those zones.

This led to an unexpected insight: several **elderly homes** and a **high school** were located in extremely hot areas. This kind of evidence allows us to advocate for **targeted interventions**, like planting trees or creating shade infrastructure, in exactly the places where they're most needed.

Another valuable tool is our **flood risk map**, which we were required to include in the most recent municipal plan. This dataset shows where the municipality is vulnerable to **flooding from heavy rainfall or stormwater overflow** — based on 100-year events.

In one ongoing project, we discovered that a designated development area was at **very high flood risk**. Although we couldn't remove it from the municipal plan, we had to adapt. After two and a half years of negotiation and redesign, we agreed to only build on the **lower left corner**, and to implement **terrain modeling** and **stormwater handling** measures in the rest of the area.

Interestingly, what began as a major obstacle became a **positive feature**: the new green space not only manages stormwater but also connects housing to the surrounding landscape, creating a **pleasant and functional public path**. This transformation only happened because we dared to have the **difficult conversation with the developer** — and that's something we must be willing to do more often as public administrators.

To sum up:

The strongest arguments in discussions with developers arise when green spaces solve multiple problems at once.

At first, I found it hard to argue for **health** as a justification — we didn't have the data. But now that we work on **biodiversity**, **urban heat**, and **stormwater management**, we see clear **positive effects** for **public health** too.

There is real **synergy** between these agendas.

As *Thomas* rightly said, **political support is crucial**. And yes, it can be hard to hold the line without it. But when we lack that support, we must be ready to **stand our ground** as public officials — even if it's difficult. These issues are not optional; they're urgent.

Finally, it's essential to **involve and inform local stakeholders**. When we have strong local support, it becomes **easier to secure political support**. Engagement strengthens the legitimacy of our planning strategies.

So that was a brief insight into how we're trying to work with the planning framework in practice — in a Danish municipality facing real-world challenges.

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Thank you so much, Karin.

This is indeed a very complex topic — it touches on so many different dimensions. One key point that may help in discussions with developers is showing how **green areas and biodiversity** can also **increase property values**. That can be a compelling economic argument.

But beyond that, our goal should also be to **reframe the conversation** — to make green infrastructure and biodiversity a **natural expectation and basic need** for residents. When people begin to demand these features, it puts **pressure on politicians**, especially around election time. It becomes part of the democratic process — two sides of the same coin.

That said, it's still a challenge — especially in terms of **who pays for it**, particularly in the current economic climate where much of our national budget is being redirected, for example, toward defense.

Helle Juul - Discussion

Let me open the floor now. Are there any other questions for Karin or Thomas?

Participant :

Thank you again for the presentation. I was especially impressed by the **holistic approach**. I have a question about **stakeholder involvement** and **gaining public support**:

Have you had any experience using **digital platforms**, **social media**, or even **local influencers** to engage citizens and put **soft pressure on political leaders**? Have you explored alternative ways to foster participation?

Karin Krasig Peschardt:

Yes, the **politicians are very aware** of the need to involve the local community when developing strategies. We organize a lot of **workshops and public meetings** early in the process to get feedback.

We also work on a longer-term basis. Our municipality is divided into **18 smaller areas**, each assigned to a **specific liaison officer** — a colleague of mine — whom residents can call at any time, whether the issue concerns physical planning, schools, or other local matters. It's a way to build a **closer relationship** between the administration and the public.

Of course, this doesn't mean we don't face challenges — we do.

Over the last five or six years, we've also developed a **digital platform** where citizens can share ideas and see which projects are currently active. It's a work in progress — we don't claim to have a perfect model — but it's important, and we continue to develop it because **citizen involvement is a political priority**.

Helle Juul:

You're both researchers, but you come from **different ends of the process** — one more theoretical, the other more applied. One major challenge is still: *how do we bring research into practice*? How do we accelerate the **transfer of knowledge** from academic institutions into **real-world implementation**?

Thomas Randrup:

First, a lot of what we do today is **applied research** — meaning we work directly with **practitioners**, including municipalities, consultants, and citizens. For large EU-funded projects, it's now **expected** that we involve a wide range of stakeholders. This shift is driven by **Research Councils**, which now prioritize **collaborative**, **practice-oriented work**.

Five years ago, research was more traditional — focused on academic output. Now, the model is changing. We are increasingly asked to **describe expected impacts**, including how our findings might support real-world practices. This shift is very present in **green space planning**, **landscape architecture**, **and urban design research** — fields that already have a strong tradition of engaging with practice.

That said, we're not perfect — there's still a **gap** between the push to publish academically and the need to generate **practical impact**. But we're moving in the right direction.

Helle Juul:

And when it comes to convincing politicians — of course, having data helps — but does it make a real difference when you can cite academic research or evidence?

Karin Krasig Peschardt:

Yes, it does. But our time with politicians is often **very limited**. When we get that opportunity — maybe 30 to 40 minutes — we try to **pack in as much actionable information as**

possible. The aim is to give them something they can use in **long-term decision-making**, especially in relation to **physical planning**.

We also work closely with Universities and participate in EU-funded projects. We've seen an increase in opportunities to join larger, multi-municipal collaborations.

The challenge, however, is **capacity**. Participating in these projects demands **significant time and resources**. Sometimes, when we decline to take part, it's simply because **we don't have the staff capacity** to do it properly.

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Helle Juul - Conclusion

I'm really happy with the contributions from both of you — we got insights from **two complementary perspectives**, both highlighting similar dilemmas from research and practice.

Let me thank **everyone who attended**, and a **special thank you to Thomas and Karin**. It's been a real pleasure. And if we organize anything before summer — you'll be the first to know.

Looking ahead: we're currently preparing for our **Congress on September 12**, which will revisit many of the same themes. It's timed just before the **local elections in Denmark**, and we hope it will help put these issues on the political agenda.

Thank you!