

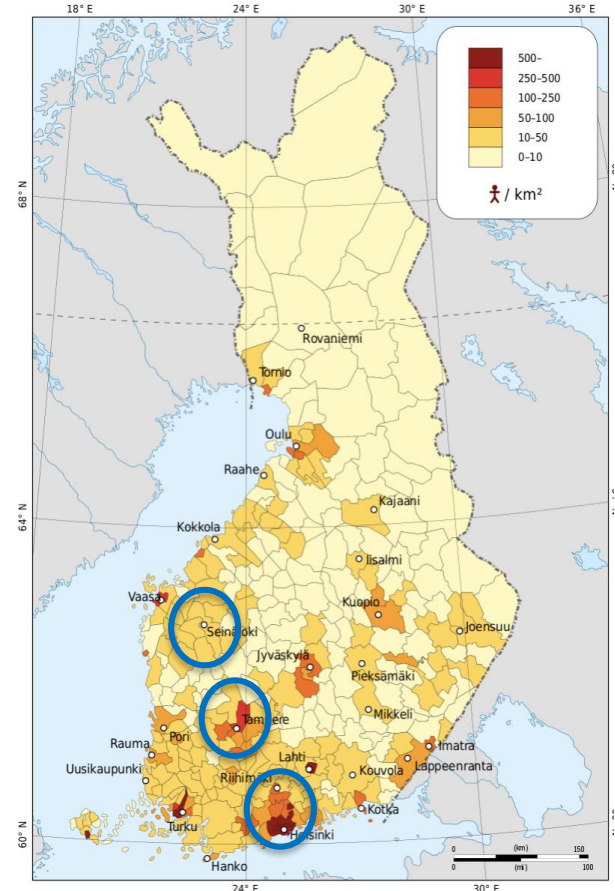
# Context Matters in Cities: Why Scaling Up Is So Hard to Accomplish?

21.2.2019 // Helena Leino & Markus Laine, Tampere University



# THREE CITIES

1. Helsinki 644 000
  2. Tampere 232 000
  3. Seinäjoki 62 700
- All growing cities along the main national railway line



# SAME GOAL: INCREASING URBAN INFILL IN CITY CENTRES

Different reasons:

- Helsinki: Lack of land
  - Tampere: Attracting wealthy tax-payers and saving in infrastructure costs
  - Seinäjoki: Outdated city centre & lacking services, dwellers and life
- Also: A shift of focus in housing development in Finland, from fringe areas to urban centers

# IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES

- **Helsinki:** Administrative units negotiating together
  - Strong incentive: lack of land
- **Tampere:** Administrative units negotiating together
  - Weaker incentive: still some land available for re-development in the city centre and nearby
- **Seinäjoki:** Acting as one
  - Strong incentive: population is growing, but city is missing an attractive, city-like structure

# WHAT ARE THE TOOLS FOR INCREASING INFILL?

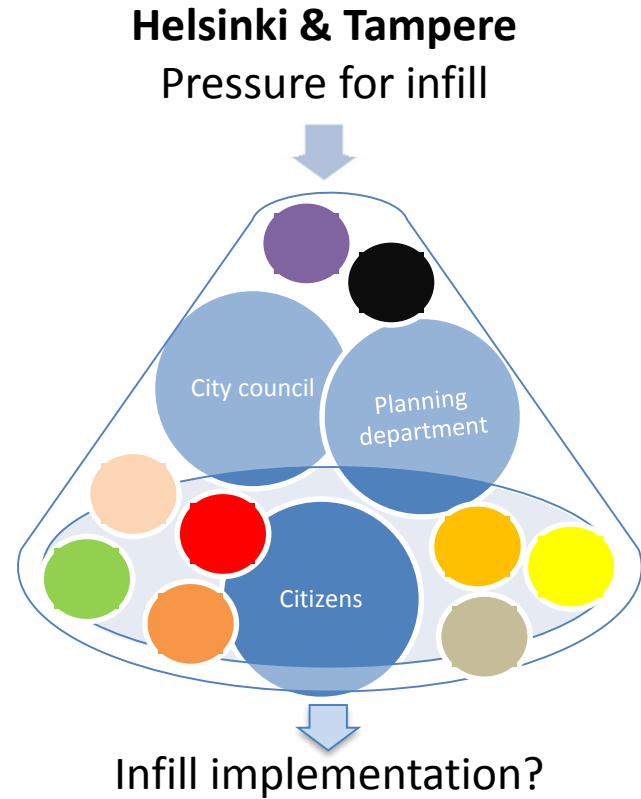
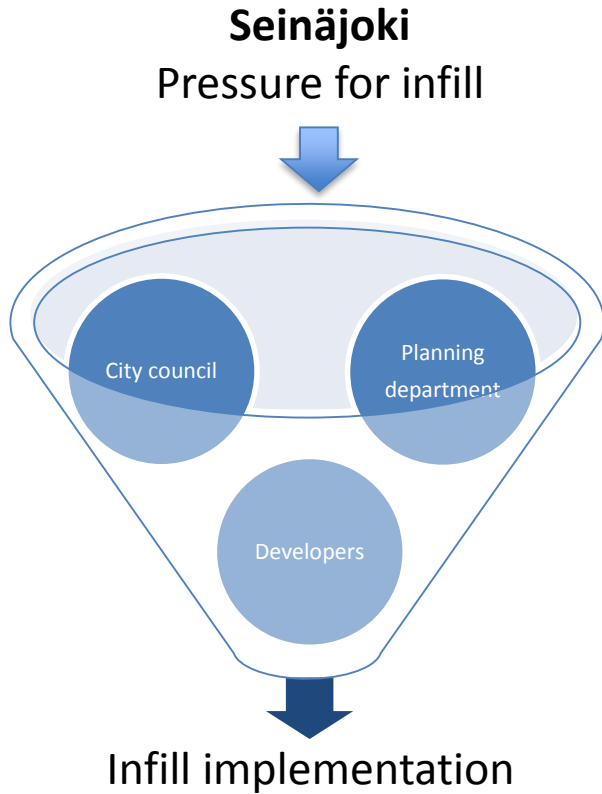
- **Helsinki:** Generous incentives for housing companies
  - **Tampere:** Emphasizing the importance of urban infill in strategic planning
  - **Seinäjoki:** Small and flexible city administration, construction rights x 2.5
- Orientation: Helsinki and Seinäjoki practical, Tampere rhetorical

# SAME GOAL, DIFFERENT CAPABILITIES

- Political structure varies
- Differing financial resources
- Distinct differences in public participation
- Spatial conditions
- Cultural differences


→ Context matters strongly!

# SCALING IN CITIES



# TO SCALE OR NOT TO SCALE?

- Why are cities prioritizing the scaling of innovations? Should we rather talk about the political tensions and power relations?
- Implementing new ideas can be more effective in smaller cities with leaner administration. **But:** Too effective implementation can challenge democracy and transparency.

 Rather than constantly scanning for innovations or experiments to be implemented in a city, it is more useful to respond to the contextual challenges and aim for a better understanding of scale sensitive politics.



# THANK YOU!

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