Transition to smart transport systems in a city context (Finland)

In the Finnish case study, system innovation shall facilitate a seamless digitalised transport system. To analyse the system under study, the case study builds upon the multi-level perspective on sustainability transitions. Important issues, among others, are integrating different modes of transport, solving congestion problems and facilitating smart regulation. Financing, new types of steering instruments, a shift in policy thinking societal values, big data analytics and enabling technologies constitute strong driving forces. The City of Tampere with a focus on smart transport systems has been analysed as a transition case given their ambition to utilise the INKA programme for renewing its traditional industry base. However, competing visions and strategies represent obstacles, as do unclear divisions of labor and diverging responsibilities. It is furthermore unclear, whether councils, NGOs or business should make up the main system integrator. Experimentation of innovation policy on the niche level and PPPs are expected to be beneficial. The Finnish case shows that utilising the perspective on niches, regimes and megatrends as a starting point for measurement and the development composite indexes at these different levels. They could help find common visions and aims for further steps. The study also found that new skills and capabilities are required in order to manage transitions, in particular at the local level.

LinkToContentAt:
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Knowledge Type: Country report [1]
Other Tag: urban development [2]
energy [3]
government procurement [4]
business models [5]
piloting [6]
policy design [7]
policy mix [8]
procurement [9]
city regions [10]
public research and development lab [11]
public-private partnerships [12]
climate change [13]
structural change [14]
sustainable development [15]
systems innovation [16]
tax incentives [17]

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Links
[1] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/knowledge-type/country-report
[2] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/urban-development
[3] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/energy
[4] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/government-procurement
[5] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/business-models
[6] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/piloting
[7] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/policy-design
[8] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/policy-mix
[9] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/procurement
[10] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/city-regions
[11] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/public-research-and-development-lab
[12] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/public-private-partnerships

[13] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/climate-change
[14] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/structural-change
[15] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/sustainable-development
[16] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/systems-innovation
[17] https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/topic/tax-incentives