

From Local Knowledge Mapping to a Learning Planning Process



Case studies of Maunula and Espoon keskus

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# The Question:

How to bring local knowledge of a place and its stakeholders to the urban planning and design process?

(which is more and more complicated, multi-actor and global)

#### Local "informal" knowledge and "formal knowledge" in a planning process

• OPUS project: *"Urban Planning and Every-day Life: a Learning Process"* 

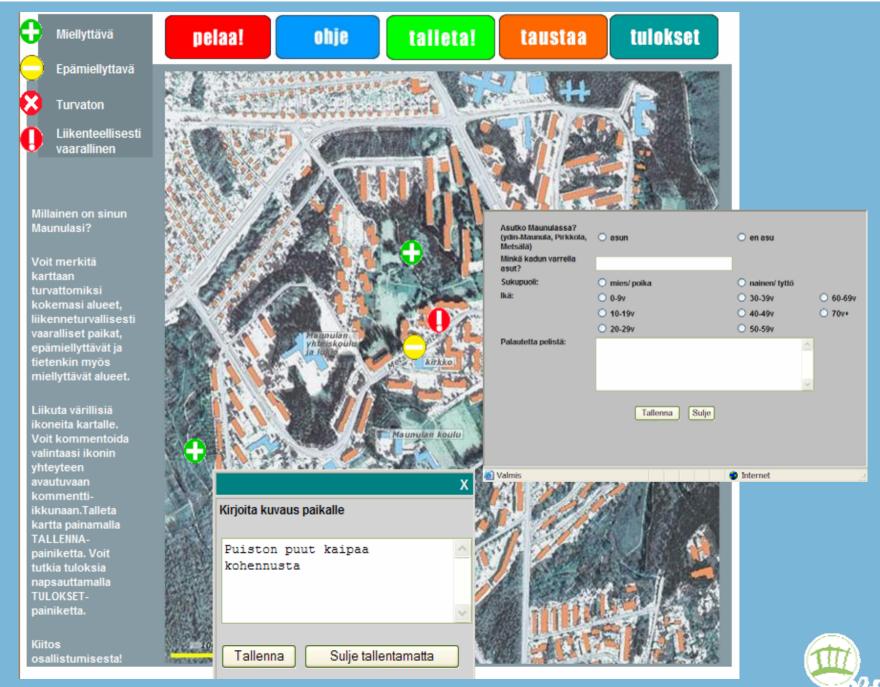
• Research theme and doctoral thesis: *"Internet, Urban Planning and Local Knowledge" (Dept. of Architecture)* 



## Case study 1: My Maunula Map

- My Maunula –map (2003-): produced in cooperation with the residents' association, the City Planning Department of Helsinki and University of Technology, Department of Architecture
- Map application was integrated to the web site of Maunula City Quarter, which is maintained by the residents
- Four different symbols:
  - Pleasant, unpleasant, unsafe or traffically dangerous
     places in the neighbourhood
- A comment could be attached to each symbol
- The users (residents, planners, researchers) can also analyze the comments through different criteria and produce a map or a list of symbols





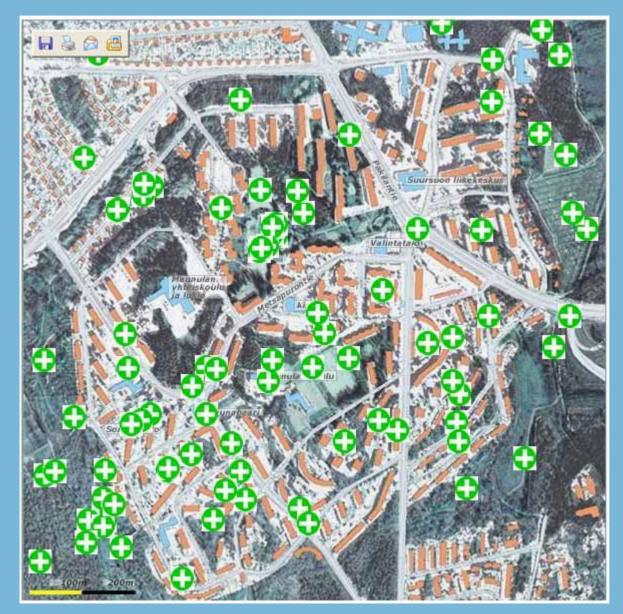
## Analyses and visualizations

pelaa!	ohje	talletal	taustaa	tulokset	
Täytä henkilöhakukriteerit					
1. Hae tuloksia seu	uraavien kriteereid	en mukaan:			
Sukupuoli:	⊖ Kaikki O Mieł	het ONaiset			
Asuinpaikka:	⊖Kaikki ⊖Asu	u Maunulassa 🔘 E	i asu Maunulassa		
lkä (voit valita useita vaihtoehtoja):	□ Kaikki □ 0-9 □ 40-49 v. ☑ 50		20-29 v. 🔲 30-39 70+	V.	
Valitse tulostusta	litse tulostustapa, joko kuvatuloste tai listaus				
2a. Valitse symbolit: (voit valita useita vaihtoehtoja)		Epämiellyttävä Liikenteellisesti vaar	allinen		
2b. Valitse tulostustapa:	Kuva (muodostaa kuvan, jossa haetut symbolit esiintyvät päällekkaisinä kenttinä). Symbolit tulostuvat koko alueelta (et voi käyttää aluevalintaa tässä).				
	TAI				
	<ul> <li>Symbol</li> <li>Komme</li> </ul>	a jommalla kumma ien lukumäärät halutu ntit listattuna halutuil aja, siksi tulosteen ty	villa alueilla la alueilla (kaikki eiv	ät ole kommentoineet	
	Määritä vielä aluee	et tekstimuotoiseen	valintaan (voit valita	useita alueita):	
	alue 1 alue alue 7 alue alue 12 alue alue 17 alue	8 🗹 alue 9 🗹 alu e 13 🗌 alue 14 🗌	ue 4		
	К	likkaa kuva isommal	ksi niin näet alueraja	t	
			Lähetä haku	Tyhjennä kentät	





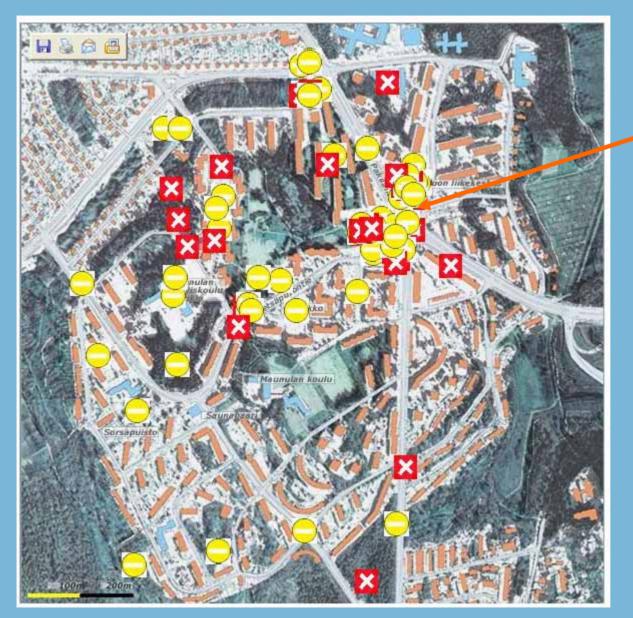
#### All respondents, living in Maunula, pleasant places



People value green areas and the surroundings of their own homes – especially in the area built in the 50's. The image of Maunula is mainly based on its well designed dwelling areas which were built before the 70's.



#### All respondents, living in Maunula, unpleasant and unsafe places



The experiences of insecurity cluster in the shopping center area (over third of all negative comments)



#### 0-19-years, living in Maunula, dangerous traffic

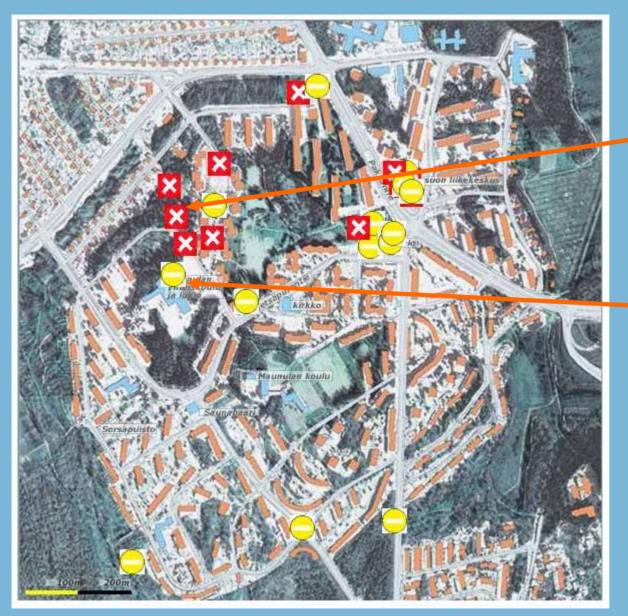


Dangerous crossing"

"A boy was hit by a car in there...It's so peaceful there that the drivers think that they can drive as fast as they please".



#### **Over 50 years, living in Maunula, unpleasant and unsafe places**



Unsafe: This walk feels unsafe because it is dark and poorly maintained"

Unpleasant: "The forest and neighbouring areas around the school are full of trash."



#### Feedback

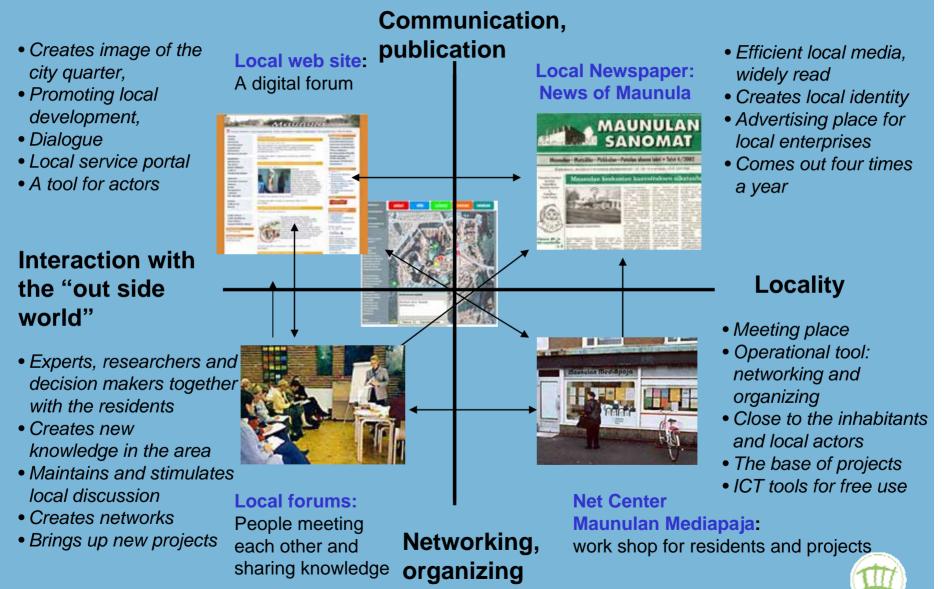
#### In 18 months: 150 maps (7500 inhabitants):

323 symbols, 59 % includes a comment: pleasant 109, unpleasant 87, unsafe 67 and traffically dangerous 60

- female, 60 69: "Easy to use! It would be so nice if this [map] helps bringing out opinions and the positive changes and even supports enduring the good surroundings."
- male, 70 +: "Interesting, stimulates thinking."
- male, 50 59: "Interesting initiative...especially the results are of interest!"
- male, 30 39: "Reading maps and orienteering require some skills, though..."
- male, 40 49: "I hope that with these comments I can influence on the well-being and cosyness of the neighbourhood."
- male, 20 29: "A good idea of mapping people's opinions."
- female, 30 39: "... you can perceive the place as a whole better."
- female, 30 39: "A very good way to map the character of the area."

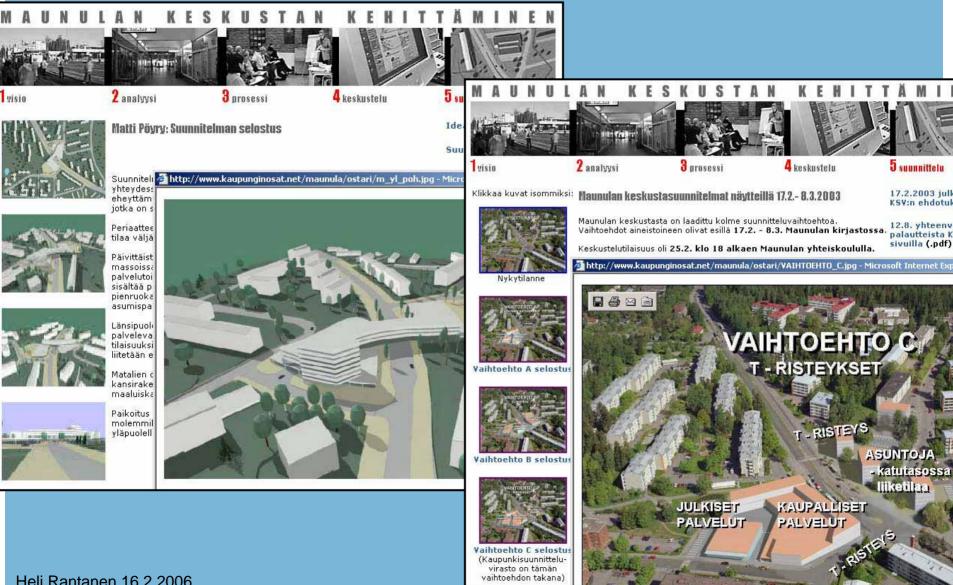


## Maunula: residents, locality and communication



#### Hannu Kurki 13.9.99/8.11.99/HR 4.12.200

#### **Developing Maunula Shopping Center Area**



## Conclusions

- The interest of the stakeholders raise from their daily experiences in the area (*identity and image of a place, feeling of "insideness"*)
- residents are willing and capable of evaluating their living environment as a whole (not just "my back yard")
- they expect to have influence on planning and to have feedback
- Internet-based mapping applications must be very simple and easy to use, and the costs must be low
- The application may give "something **in exchange**". A possibility to review the results and answers of the others can be rewarding enough.
- Still: the most important reward would be the fact, that this citizen produced data would be of some importance. → data must be transferred to planning process and it must be acknowledged.



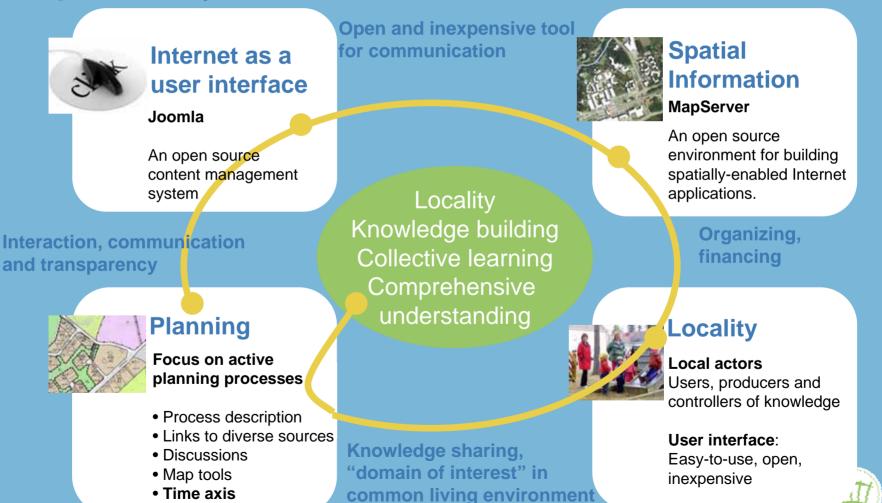
#### Case study 2: Espoon keskus

- OPUS: a research project (*http://opus.tkk.fi*)
- A three-year-long project (2005 2007), funded by Tekes (*Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation*) and multiple public and private partners
- Cooperation of two laboratories in University of Technology: Enterprise Simulation Laboratory SimLab and Laboratory of Urban Planning and Design
- The objective of OPUS is to develop a continuously learning urban planning concept
- Action research: pilot case Espoon keskus
  - Focuses on planning processes
  - Gathers various actors together
  - Provides an easy access to local information
  - Offers means to produce local information
  - Supports processes by preserving data
  - Preserves "local memory"



## **Development Forum of Espoon keskus**

# An internet-based concept which gathers together knowledge produced by local actors



## Local Knowledge Map and Commentary Map

Hae kriteerien mukaan:

sukupuoli

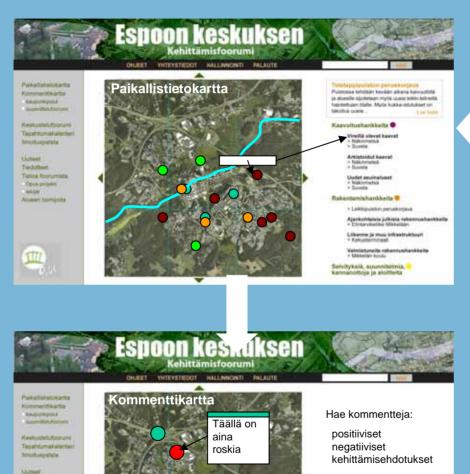
ikäryhmä

asuinpaikka

vuosi 2006

vuosi 2007

Hae ajanjaksolta:



Basic information is created by many kinds of local actors: planners, residents' associations, active citizens, etc.

Thematic maps can be created using different kinds of criteria: visualization of comments (positive, negative, ideas).

Heli Rantanen 16.2.2006

Technikie

Tissue Income

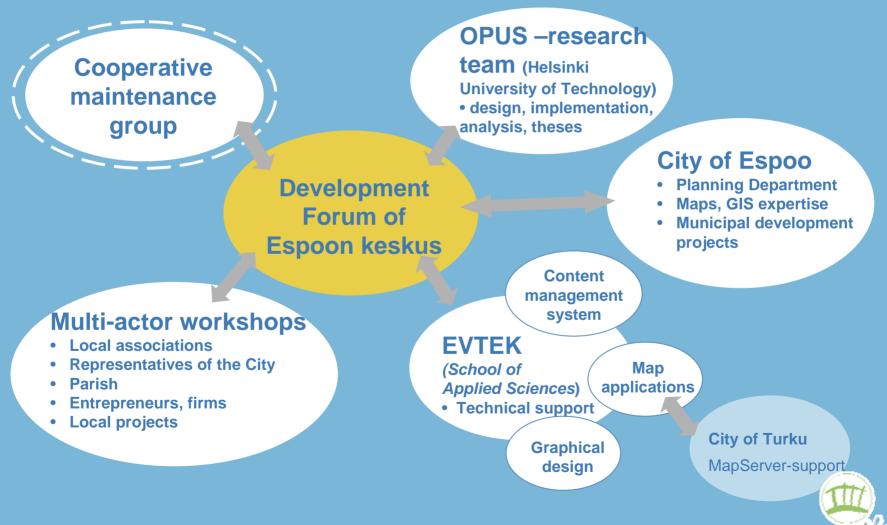
Copus proset

Advance Incompany

Tämä puisto on tärkeä

vanhuksille

## Designing and Implementing the Forum



### Mapping Local Knowledge...

- Experiences in other city quarters imply that a local website can support shared learning process
- A map interface seems to offer an easy access to information (compared to hierarchical data management systems)
- Mapping can help the residents to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the nature and potentials of their neighbourhood.
- Embedded into other local activities and media local mapping supports local knowledge building ("a local barometer")
- A multi-actor maintenance group guarantees the diversity of information and the continuity of the project
- Larger amount of local knowledge available for planners
- Better management of a planning process by utilization of time axis

## .. To a Learning Planning Process







## Thank you!

#### My Maunula-Map:

www.kaupunginosat.net/maunula/kartta

#### **OPUS-project:**

http://opus.tkk.fi

