



CATCH

an Interreg North Sea Region project

Activity line: Learning networks

Developing an Adapt My City learning network

Värmland, Sweden 

In leaps and bounds to a water sensitive city

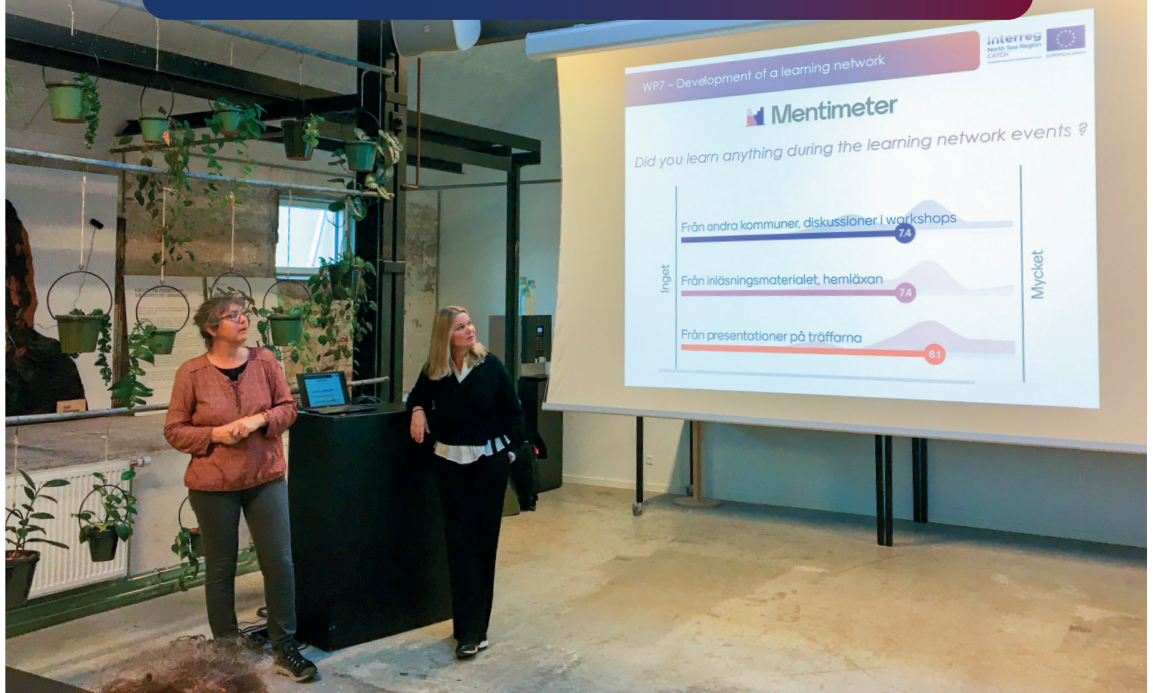


Värmland County
Administrative Board

ABOUT LEARNING NETWORKS

In CATCH midsize cities work to become adaptive and resilient to climate change and the resulting extreme weather events. To evolve from an engineered system into an adaptive and resilient system, partners are inspired by the water sensitive cities theory. One of the main principles of this theory is to work on the development of Adapt My City learning networks. These are networks to disseminate knowhow and share experiences and learnings from CATCH with peers and stakeholders.

In CATCH several partners set up Adapt My City learning networks in which various methods of developing learning communities were tested and demonstrated. From these experience key take aways are distilled.





KEY TAKE AWAYS OF HOW TO SET UP A SUCCESSFUL LEARNING NETWORK FOR MUNICIPALITIES

- In Värmland, we worked with learning networks by organizing meetings on climate adaptation for the municipalities in the county.
- There are many municipalities in the county with small resources and often climate adaptation is just a small part of a job. Municipalities have difficulty to find resources for the climate adaptation work and for training to build expertise on the subject.
- It is important that municipalities cooperate on climate adaptation and learn from each other and from experienced experts.
- Those who participated in our learning network meetings come from mixed professional backgrounds in the municipalities. This is good, as climate adaptation is a very broad issue that needs to be dealt with in various departments of the municipalities. As we had such a good mix, they could learn from each other.
- It is quite a long distance to travel for many participants, so the meetings were held on Skype. This way participants did not lose time on travel.
- We organized 6 meetings. They were joined by 95 participants from 10 (out of 16) municipalities, excluding participants from Värmland County Administrative Board and lecturers. Each meeting lasted three hours and was held between 9 and 12 in the morning.

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- We sent out the agenda, the programme and some reading material as a small homework assignment in advance, so that everyone would be on the same level and understood the issues to be dealt with in the meeting.
- We also sent out the workshop questions in advance, so they could discuss them within their municipality.
- The meeting itself was a mix of lectures and workshops.
- The municipalities that participated in the learning network meetings have greatly appreciated these meetings. They have gained more knowledge about climate adaptation and good examples and appreciated that they could spend time on questions regarding climate adaptation.
- The municipalities would like to continue with these meetings, so we will organize similar meetings in the future.

More information

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