

On the border of Sweden and Finland Tornio-Haparanda

Cooperation, visions, projects and best practices



Hanna-Leena Ainonen
Cross border Development Specialist
Tornio-Haparanda



LOGISTICS HUB OF LAPLAND



Kemi-Tornio Airport

1.5 h flight to Helsinki



Train connection to Kolari and Helsinki. Border crossing to Sweden.



TornioHaparanda Travel Center

Joint Bus station



Port of Tornio Røyttä

Greatest port in Lapland



Busiest border crossing point by road traffic and passengers: about 14 milj /year

We form a unique, international twin city of **32,000 inhabitants** on the border of two states. Our total Area is **3 216 sqm**.

Here meets:

- Two cultures
- Two time zones (Sweden -1 hour to Finland)
- Two currencies, euro and Swedish crown
- Three languages: Finnish, Swedish and our local dialect which is spoken on both sides of the border (Meän kieli)

Our joint city center is growing on the national boundary of Finland and Sweden.

OUR VISIONS AND STRATEGIES

TORNIO 2027:

- ❑ An attractive border city for happy citizens, renewable services and successful entrepreneurs
- ❑ Sustainability

HAPARANDA 2035:

- ❑ Borderless, openminded cooperation
- ❑ Sustainability, good living environment for **all**

TOGETHER:

Action plan for common development: infrastructure, business, education, tourism (working group: leaders, politicians, employees in the cities, entrepreneurs...)

TORNIOHAPARANDA CO-OPERATION

WHY?

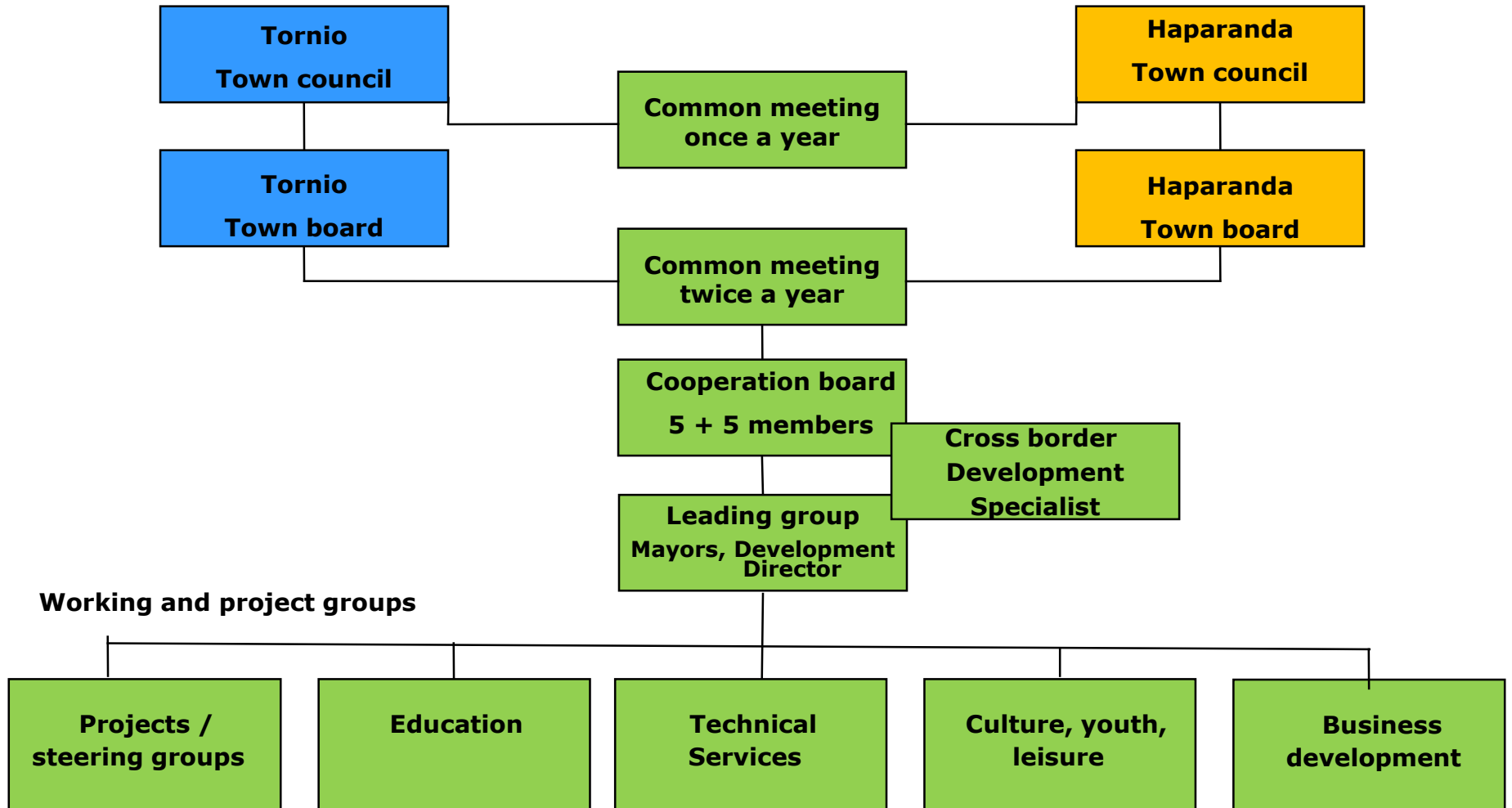
- Question of survival
- Better services for residents at lower cost
- Development and growth

HOW?

- Very strong local political support and motivation
- TRUE partnership culture: both municipalities have in their vision and strategy the cooperation as one main goal
- Organized cooperation
- 1 worker for Cross border cooperation, fulltime



TORNIOHAPARANDA CBC ORGANISATION



Many major agreements between Tornio and Haparanda

- ❑ Main agreement of Tornio-Haparanda Cross Border Cooperation (the principles for cooperation and administration)
- ❑ Free choice of school and nursery
- ❑ Language school (classes: 1-9)
- ❑ Fire and Rescue Service Cooperation
- ❑ Cooperation in Ambulance Services
- ❑ TornioHaparanda Travel Center
- ❑ Joint Sewage Treatment Plant
- ❑ District Heating Networks
- ❑ Flood Protection
- ❑ The Provincial Museum of Torne Valley
- ❑ Cooperation in Culture-, Youth- and Leisure Services (eg. joint use of facilities, events, disco, floorball, ice hockey, etc.)



Our projects, plans and goals 2020 →

- ❑ Tourism: **Two countries one destination**
- ❑ Tourism boulevard along the riverside across the border
- ❑ A bridge to Kukkolankoski rapids
- ❑ Train connection from Finland to Sweden (infrastructure exists, needs to be modernized)
- ❑ Higher education: possibility to cooperation with the five arctic universities and local universities of applied sciences (circular economy, lifelong education)
- ❑ Learn young people about the education possibilities across border
- ❑ Soft values: bringing people together in businesses, education, working life (after Covid-19)
- ❑ Common events
- ❑ Developing the City center
- ❑ To look possibilities for common labor market

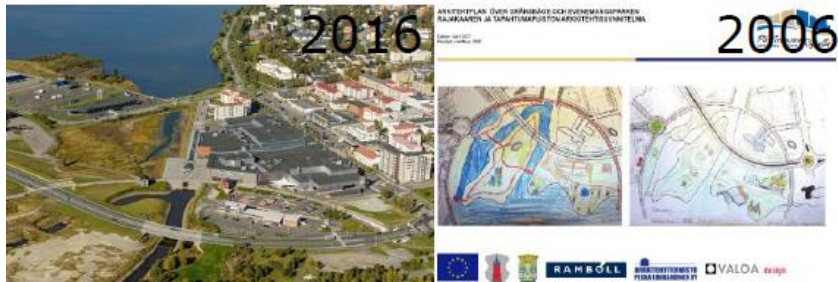
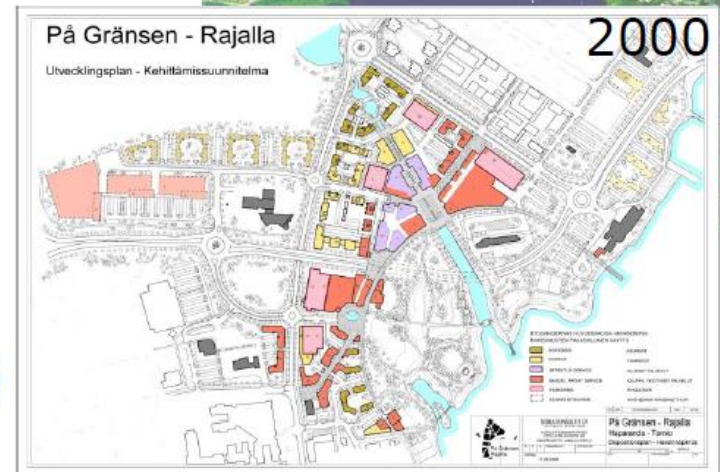
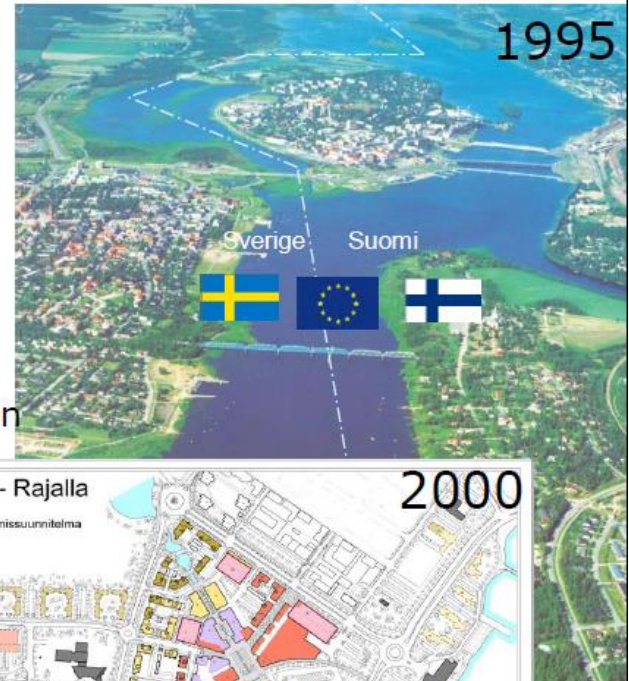
Challenges: law issues, recourses, unique cooperation versus national decisionmakers, attractiveness of the area (north), low birthrate



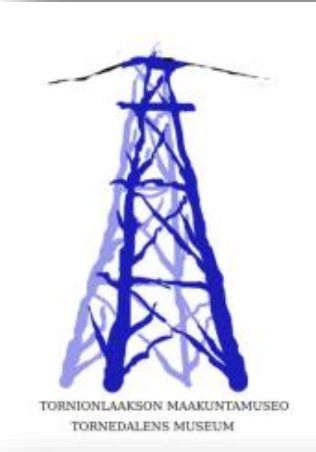
WE ARE BUILDING OUR CITIES TOGETHER

22 steps of twin city

- 1995 EU
- 1996-7 Architect competition
- 2000 Development plan
- 2002 Referendum (Hpa)
- 2003 Execution plan
- 2005 IKEA-decision, Krannikatu
- 2006 IKEA opening, Ideacompetition + installation plan
- 2007 RPG-investment decision
- 2008 RPG-shopping centre
- 2010 Pedestrian street To+Hpa
- 2012-13 Travel centre
- 2016 Brandmapping E14-area
- 2017 EUROPAN 14 & Block 19
- 2020 Hpa side?



Some results of the co operation, our daily life on the border



TOURISM ON THE BORDER

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Alatornio Church 1797 (Struve Geodetic Arc)

National Parks and River Tornionjoki

Bothnian Bay, Haparanda Archipelago

Salmon and whitefish fishing, Kukkolankoski rapids
(Unesco-project, Intangible cultural heritage)



Border Shopping and boundless border

2-3 million visitors per year: Victoriasquare, Golf on the border, events (Happy New Twice, Jazz&Blues)

Museums

Art Museum, The Provincial Museum

Other

Old Brewery, Activity Park, Toranda Events Center,
Cape East (Survivors tv-program)

<https://www.facebook.com/happynewtwice/videos/534339260242588/>



Twincity TornioHaparanda

TORNIO
FINLAND

HÄPARANDA
SWEDEN

TORNIONJOKI
RIVER





TORNIOHAPARANDA

KANSAINVÄLINEN KOHTAUSPAIKKA

KIITOS! TACK! THANK YOU!

Hanna-Leena Ainonen
Cross border development Specialist

hanna-leena.ainonen@tornio.fi
hanna-leena.ainonen@haparanda.se



TORNIOHAPARANDA