

Culture Planning and Citizen Participation in Rural Areas in Örebro County, Sweden

Participatory Co-Design of Development Strategies in Rural and Peripheral Areas

16 April 2021

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	Population	Area
Sweden	10 378 483	447419,9 sq km
Örebro County	305 715	8 546 sq km

Cultural Planning

- is an interdisciplinary approach that weaves cultural perspectives into community planning,
- focuses on cultural identity and the importance of people's relationship to certain places,
- includes both tangible and intangible resources and values.

A regional initiative based on local experiences

- So far, Cultural Planning has been used by *one* of the 12 municipalities in the county – the Municipality of Laxå
- Cultural Planning has been used as a means of working with rural development in the municipality's smaller villages and urban areas



The Municipality of Laxå

Population: 5 700

Area 738 sq km

One town and four smaller villages

The goal

- Integrate culture into local planning,
- Increase the involvement and participation of citizens in cultural life
- Promote creative and cultural entrepreneurship



Development plans and funds

- Local development plans have been developed, where local residents themselves have identified development needs
- Local funds (public funding) have been set aside where development groups themselves largely control how they the funds are to be used



Further achievements

- A training program on cultural entrepreneurship is being developed
- "Micro-stories" on culture and identity are being formulated
- A culturally site-specific artistic design programme with roots in the community reflecting both traditions and a future-oriented view is being developed
- National and international attention



Next step – the regional initiative

- Three goals:
 - increased knowledge of Cultural Planning as a method for rural development in local/municipal and regional planning,
 - an increased use of Cultural Planning as a concrete tool in local/municipal and regional planning on rural development
 - an increased international exchange of experience in the field.