

# Cross-border activity

**Add-On Activity To Project 1:  
National Support Initiatives For  
Sustainable Urban Development In Cross-  
Border Urban Areas**

# Cross-border activity

## National Support Initiatives

Initiatives that support sustainable urban development efforts through funding mechanisms from a nationwide stakeholder (e.g. ministries, foundations, agencies) to local level stakeholders, such as municipalities. The funding may encourage or lead to partnership networks and multilevel collaboration that enhances local level efforts in achieving national sustainable urban development targets.

# Cross-border activity

## Research questions

- What needs exist in border towns and cities for national support to urban – urban development across borders?
- What coordination efforts (horizontal and vertical) (need to) exist to achieve sustainable and green urban development in Nordic cross border towns and cities?
- What policy recommendations can we discern from the existing needs in border municipalities?

# Cross-border activity

## Content

- Methodology
- Presentation of Nordic cases
- Early results of ongoing interviews

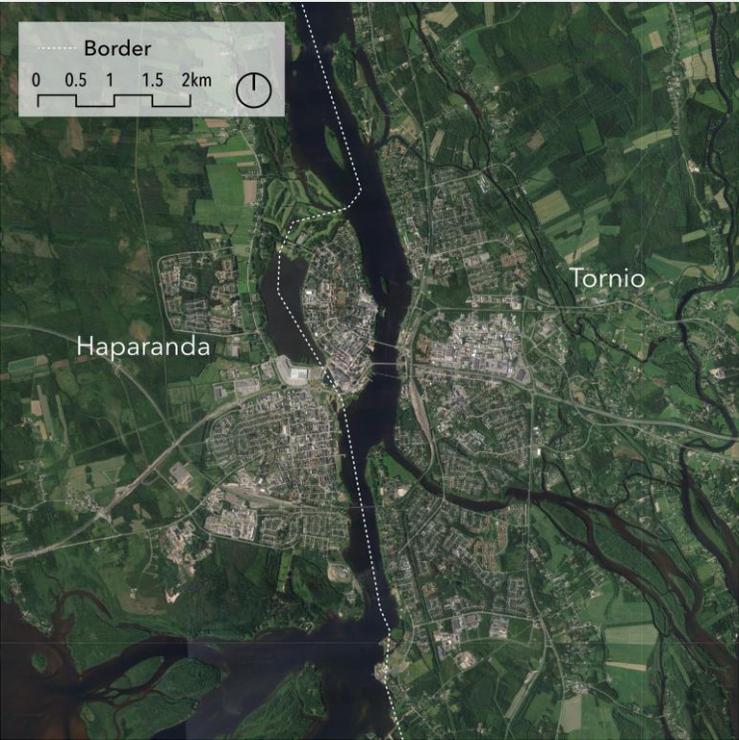
# Cross-border activity

## Methodology

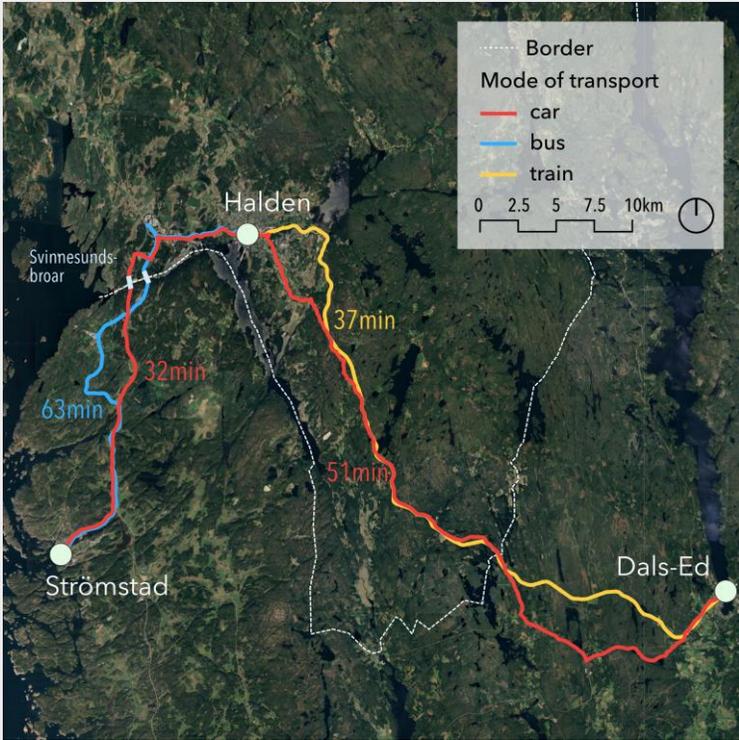
- Focus on green urban development in cross-border regions
- Selection of three cases (having a shared border with Sweden)
- Conduct semi-directive interviews with representatives of the municipalities and of the respective regions
- Analyse relevant development plans and strategies

# Chosen Nordic Cases

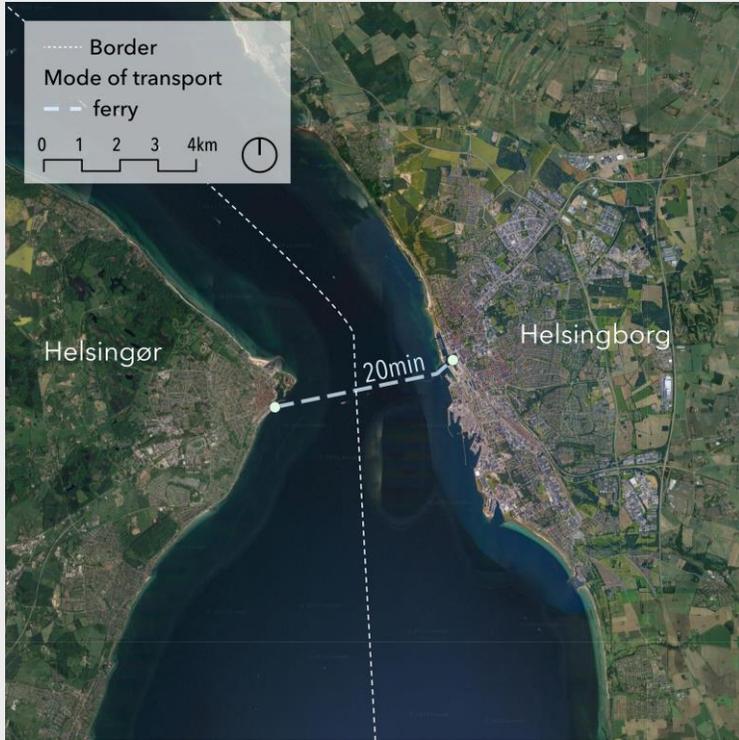
## A wide range of cross-border challenges



Cross-border town



Cross-border rural commute



Maritime cross-border commute

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# Haparanda (SE) - Tornio (FI)

- *International twin city*
- Cooperation since 1987
- Shared facilities incl. common elementary school, sewage plant
- Different time zones

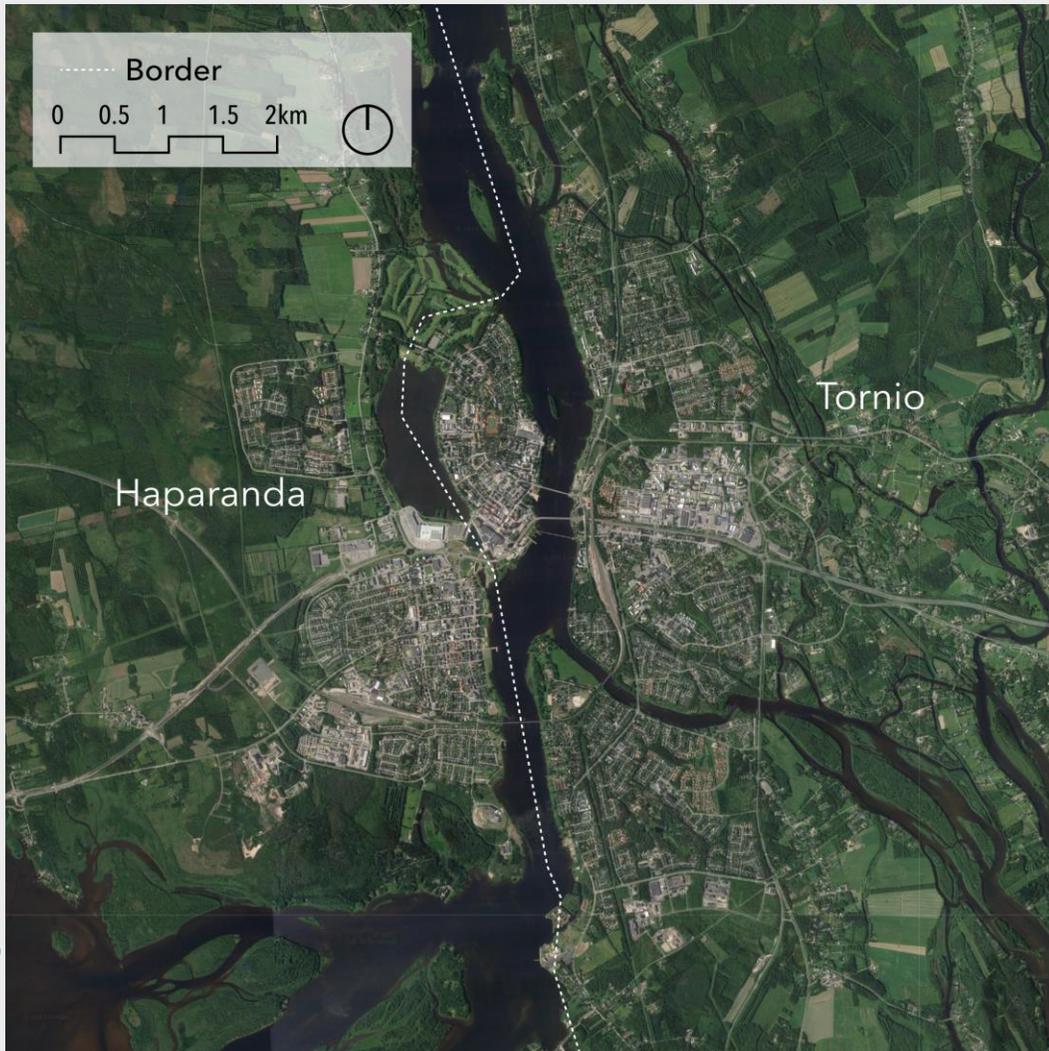
City	Country	Pop.	DGURBA	Language
Haparanda	SE	<sup>a</sup> 9 340	2	Swedish
Tornio	FI	<sup>a</sup> 21 227	2	Finnish

<sup>a</sup> in 2022



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# Haparanda (SE) – Tornio (FI)



- Many problems solved over the years and high level of integration
- Common border coordinator for both municipalities
- Regular meetings between the municipality's officials and staff
- Challenges
  - Bus/taxis can't pick up passenger cross-border
  - Expensive to operate train across border
  - Health system

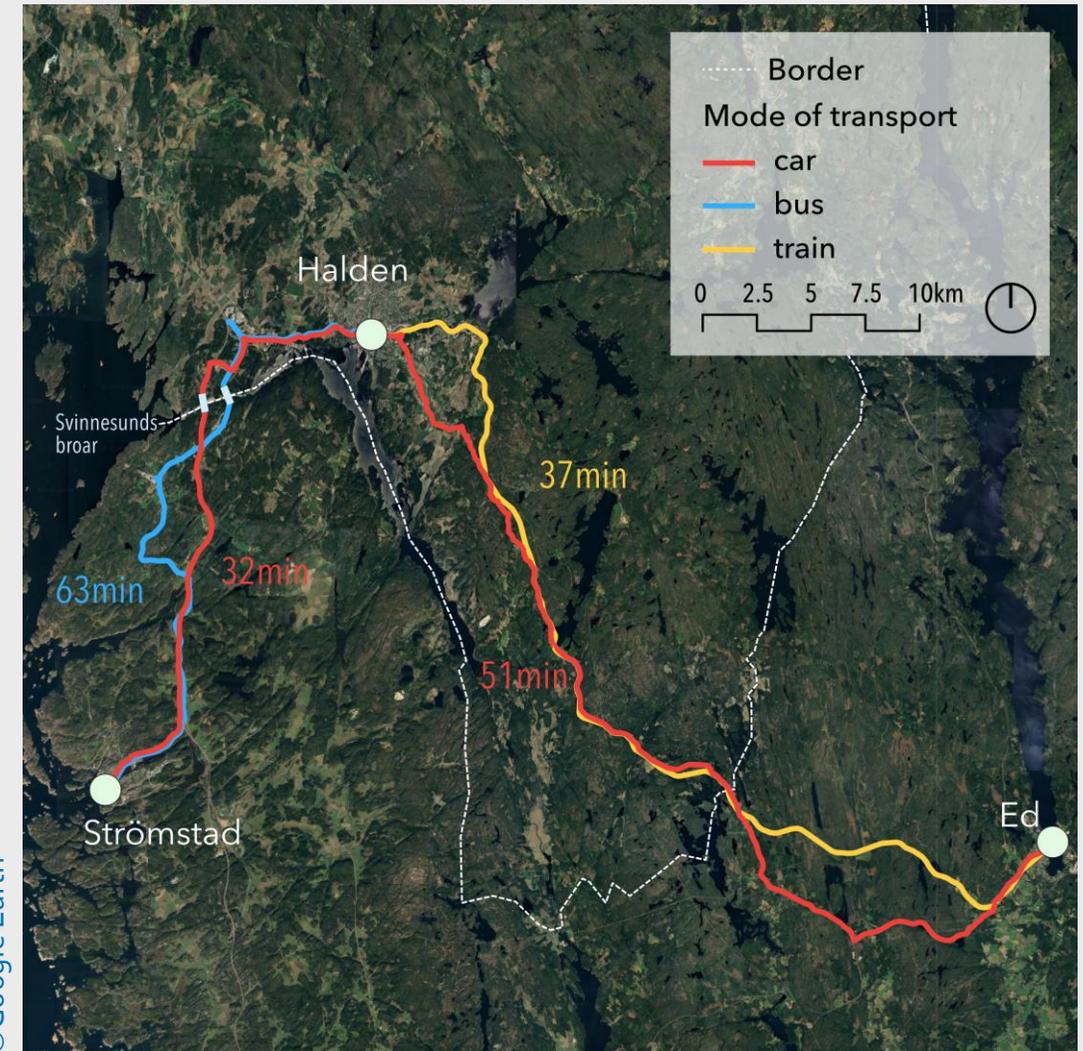
# Halden (NO) – Strömstad / Dals-Ed (SE)

Cross-border activity

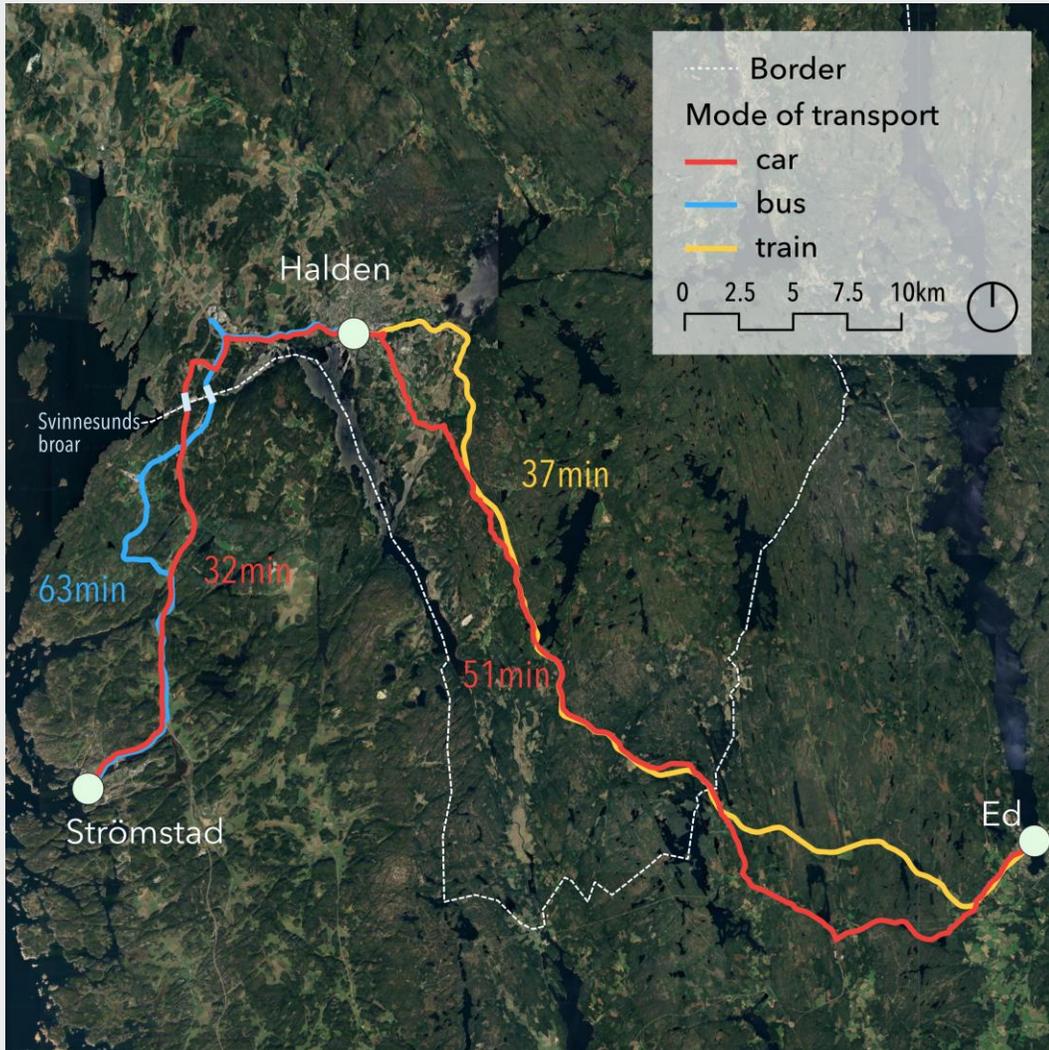
- Commuting despite distance
- *Svinesundskommittén* since 1980
  - Coordinates cross-border issues
  - Composed of municipality's politicians
  - Support from Region Västra Götaland and from Viken Region

City	Country	Pop.	DGURBA	Language
Halden	NO	<sup>a</sup> 31 444	2	Norwegian
Strömstad	SE	<sup>a</sup> 13 290	2	Swedish
Dals-Ed	SE	<sup>a</sup> 4 650	3	Swedish

<sup>a</sup> in 2022



# Halden (NO) – Strömstad / Dals-Ed (SE) Cross-border activity



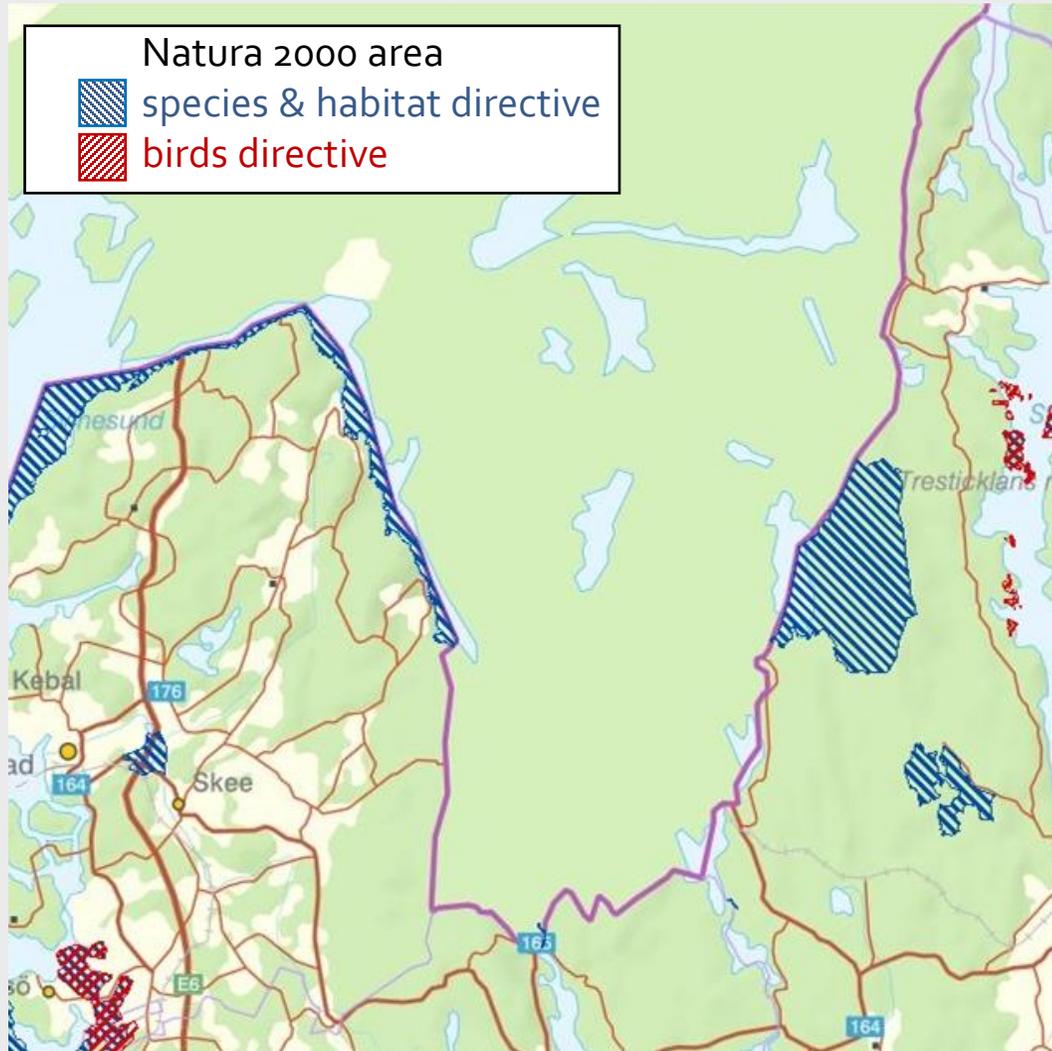
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## — Challenges

- Need more statistics on demography of commuters
- Administrative issues (e.g. with D number)
- Natura 2000 area the border on the Swedish side
- Truck traffic and customs (entry from non-EU member)

# Halden (NO) – Strömstad / Dals-Ed (SE)

Cross-border activity



## — Challenges

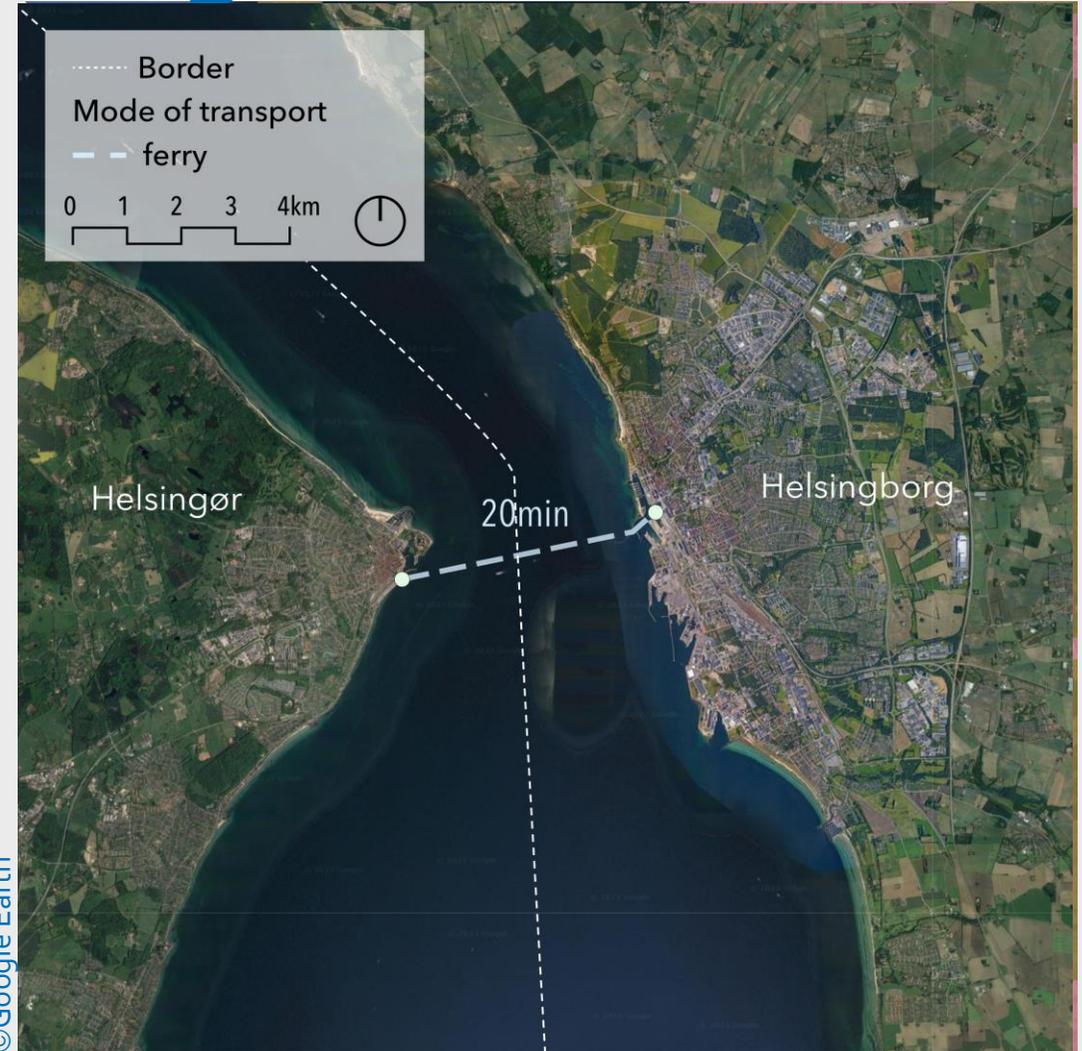
- Need more statistics on demography of commuters
- Administrative issues (e.g. with D number)
- Natura 2000 area the border on the Swedish side
- Truck traffic and customs (entry from non-EU member)

# Helsingborg (SE) – Helsingør (DK)

- Shortest link between Sweden and Denmark
- Greater Copenhagen
- HH – samarbete
- One cohesive city by 2035

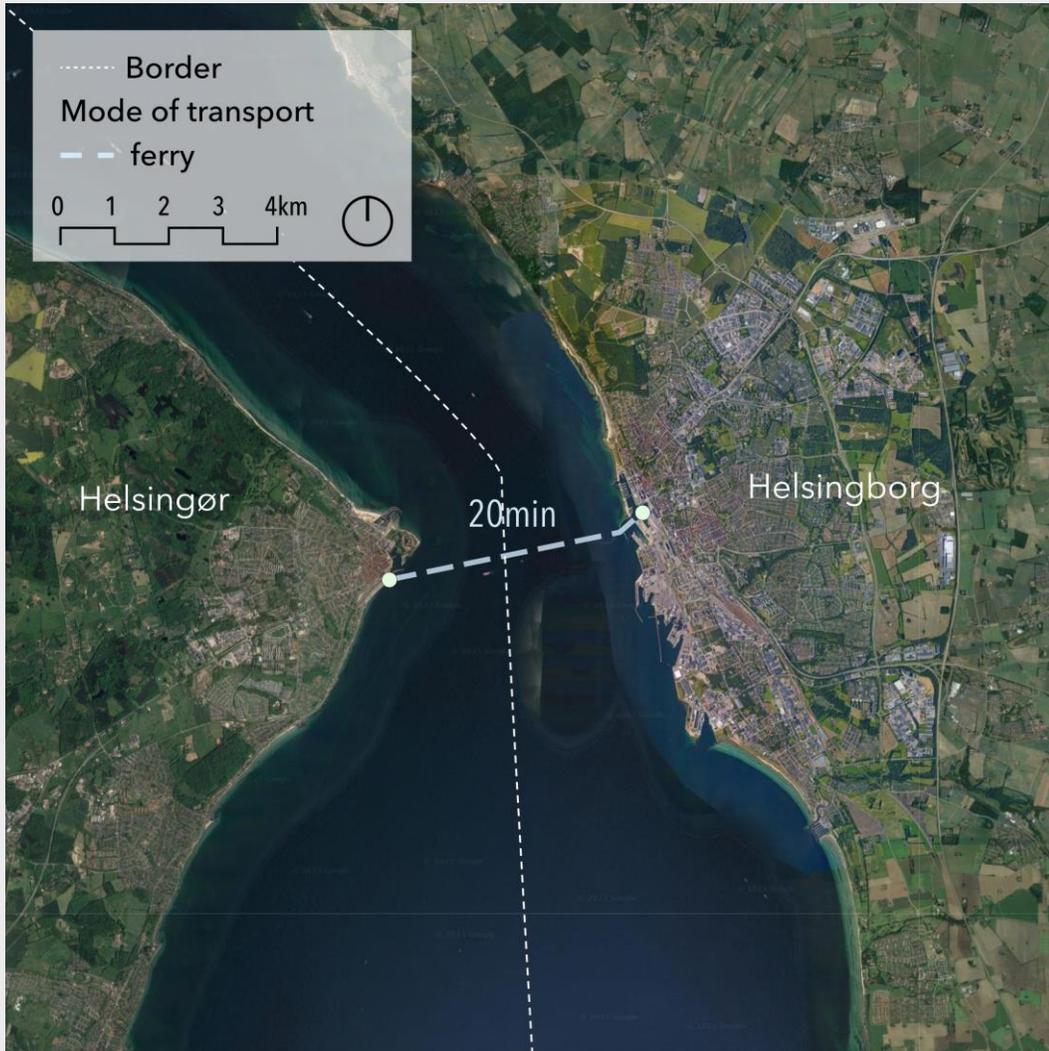
City	Country	Pop.	DGURBA	Language
Helsingborg	SE	<sup>a</sup> 150 975	1	Swedish
Helsingør	DK	<sup>a</sup> 62 875	2	Danish

<sup>a</sup> in 2022



©Google Earth

# Helsingborg (SE) – Helsingør (DK)



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- Proportional investments
- Tunnel between the cities
- Infrastructure improvements needed to connect to the Greater Copenhagen and String Mega Region

# Additional overall observations

- Need for a better understanding of the specific needs of cross-border regions
- Administrative burden and taxation issues
- Generally no common masterplan, but consultation of counterpart

# Next steps

- Continue with interviews and documents analysis
- Intermediary report by the end of the year
- Nordic Level Workshop in February 2024
- Final report in August 2024