SURF Final Conference
Aberdeen June 27-28 2012

Explaining SURF: the Analytical Framework

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What is the Urban Fringe?

• “The last great frontier for spatial planning”
• Where the city meets the country and everybody argues about what to do
• Where the NIMBYs live – KEEP OUT!
• The citizens’ playground – LET ME IN!
• Essential support for urban living
• Important refuge for nature
• Fragmentation, incoherence, on the edge
How to approach the Urban Fringe?

• UF Challenges
• UF Potentials
• UF Complexities
• Growing political attention paid to the UF
• Plenty of policies and project interventions but little knowledge of
  – ‘What works’?
  – Is enough being done?
  – What is being overlooked?
SURF looks for evidence about better policies and interventions to create a more sustainable and competitive Urban Fringe

• LEARNING
  – **Capitalising** on previous learning about Urban Fringes
    • Exploring previous & ongoing research/ projects
    • Invited experts to SURF Conferences
  – Using the SURF **partner areas as laboratories** to
    • Show how real these challenges/ potentials/ complexities are on the ground
    • See what strategies & policies are in place and if they work
    • Look for useful tools and interventions for sharing

• DISSEMINATING
  – The **useful lessons** from SURF partners
  – Try to **influence UF policies** at all levels
  – In particular a **governance model** and a **toolkit**
  – Leave a **legacy of this learning**
How did SURF go about its tasks?

Based on the commitments in the Interreg bid:

• Created a **conceptual & analytical framework**
  – Explained how to organise the various tasks
• From the CAF we produced a **road map** for future activities
  – Identified key **SURF themes** and coordinators
    • Competitiveness/ green spaces/ spatial planning/ governance
  – Mapped out key **activity phases** for partners
  – Reporting schedule at **partner conferences**
• Programmed **deliverables** & responsibilities
Example of SURF Capitalisation:

The METREX metropolitan governance network active in a SURF partner region
SURF findings

What did SURF find and does it matter?
Word cloud: SURF final report chapter 3 Themes
Word cloud: Cities of Tomorrow (DG Regio 2011)
Where to next?