Becoming a global city – defining targets, measures, networks and projects

City of Oslo, Norway

Tone Skodvin
Department of Cultural Affairs and Business, City Hall
This is Oslo  OXLO- Oslo Extra Large

Oslo – capital city of Norway
Population 634 000
• 30,4 % adults,  40,4 % children of minority origin
• Largest minority groups
Context:

- Oslo, a city of migration
- Population growth
- Social and geographic mobility

150,000 people on the move each year

The last decade:
Large increase of labour and migration
Political priorities of City Government
City Council Decision 129/13
Diversity Opportunities – On OXLO, Oslo Extra large

Stian Berger Røsland
Governing major
Signing the Integrating Cities charter in 2010
The Intercultural city
Democracy and Participation
Oslo City Council 2011 - 2015

16 of 59 council members

Council of Immigrant Organizations
200 immigrant organizations
Evidence based policies

Intercultural city Index
Policy evaluation 2009, 2012
Statistics (annual reports 2013)

Measuring the gap (2012)

Employment 61 % versus 71 %
Unemployment 8 % versus 2.5 %
Entrepreneurs 10 % versus 10 %
Secondary education 73 / 90 % versus 91 %
Students 17 / 38 % versus 39 %
House ownership 63 % versus 77 %
The Oslo story

Public trust and confidence

The narrative of integration is woven into the social and political history of Norway

- Social justice
- Equality
- Social mobility

Surveys show:
Income, education, and family patterns in minority communities become more like majority Norwegian host society over time and generations

Social mobility for Minorities joining the middle class
What are our main assets?

- Education
- Employment and work possibilities
- Housing policy
- Welfare state
- Participation and democracy
- Strong perception of equality
Timeline – crisis and opportunities

• Racist murder 2001
• Governing mayor 2000 – 2009 Erling Lae
• Danish cartoon drawings of the prophet Mohammed 2005
• Terrorist attack July 22. 2011
• Mayor Fabian Stang in 2011
Celebrating the National Holiday, May 17.
The Royal family
Intercultural possibilities in Oslo
Minority is majority in 2040 (Statistic Norway)

Response from local politicians: “We don’t worry – ethnicity is not the issue”

Popular response: “More immigrants – yes, thank you”
Stakeholders and discourse

Stakeholders

• Leading politicians and public figures
• Religious communities
• Participators in civil community f.i. sport
• Media coverage
• Municipal engagement and support

Relationships

• Climate in public debate and in political parties
• Relations between NGOs, civil communities and the municipality
Some suggested conclusions

- Leaders capable of formulating trusting and inspiring messages at the time it is needed
- Providing basic services needed: education, work, housing, civil rights, gender and minority equality
- Ensuring the city has supportive structures on most levels
- Be aware of your front- and backyard
- Local authorities are ahead of national level because of their close interaction with citizens
Some obstacles

- Welfare dependency for some groups
- «Poverty pockets» in local subdistricts
- Labour market exploitation
- Media coverage
- Language requirements in municipal employment