ICTs in urban space and planning

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Aim of the presentation

• What is the role of ICTs in urban space?

• How is ICTs used in urban planning and urban studies?

• Examples and experiences
Technology in urban infrastructure
Technology is not a gadget
(it never was, Winner 1981)
A growing interest: ICTs in urban environments

- Governance
  - E-government
  - E-democracy
  - E-governance
  - E-participation

- Citizen Activism
  - "E-activism"

- Community Development
  - Community Informatics

- Urban Informatics
  - System and Interaction Design
  - Urban PD
  - Urban Computing

- Urban Planning
  - GIS/PPGIS
  - NeoGeography

- Geography

- GeoInformatics

- E-planning

- A growing interest: ICTs in urban environments
ICTs in urban space?

• **Ubiquitous technology** = gadgets and applications integrated in everyday life environments (different applications in mobile phones, web 2.0, GPSR, GIS, 3D-modelling)

• **Social media** = depending on the context:
  any form of media for social interaction,
  use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue,
  web applications that enable exchange of user generated-contents
ICTs create new layers in urban space or even creates new ones.

- Physical reality
- Augmented reality
- Virtual reality
ICT is changing everyday life
- Extentions to the comprehension and everyday life
(cf. Metaverese Roadmap 2007)
Technology in physical urban space - assisting everyday life
Technology augmenting the space

Business
Information
Entertainment
...and providing virtual spaces
The appropriation of technology

requires embedding it not only into the urban infrastructure, but also for the people who are or will be living there.

• Appropriation means learning to use the technology and to adapt it to the behaviour of individuals and communities

• User-sensitive/ user-centered/ user-friendly applications and services in urban space
From user-centred to the user-sensitive approach in planning

planning to/ for

planning with
Hybrid infrastructure of everyday life

Existing web sites

Web 2.0 solutions:
www.kaupunginosat.net/kulosaari

Urban Mediator tool

Event calendar

Service desk

Meeting point

Screens

Web

Mobile
ICTs in urban planning and urban studies
A challenge and opportunity

1. ICT has already changed the perceived urban space and the conventions of everyday life → Lack of knowledge and methodology

2. Acknowledging the possibilities of ICTs in the process of urban planning, urban design and policy-making → Fragmented experiences

3. Advantage of ICTs in the forecasting and evaluation of urban change → Demand of improved design and education
Recent applications of ICTs in urban planning

Commenting tools
• Soft GIS (suitable for analysis also)
• Kerro kartalla (for all kinds of administration)
• Fillarikanava (open source tool for e-participation)

Developing tools
• Wikisuunnittelu (co-production of urban planning)
  http://www.slideshare.net/ptatters/wikivermo
• Urban Mediator (facilitates the participation and the planning process)
• Local neighbourhood sites (contains several web 2.0 services)

Other applications of urban informatics
• Tilannehuone (tool for anticipation, evaluation and research)
• Sähköinen kaavoituskatsaus (tool for visualizing the urban change)
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kG7okd7Ovg
Ecology of tools?
Conclusion

Technology serves, augments and reforms urban space

→ ICT should be integrated into the process of urban planning and designing, but also into urban development and policy-making