

CHECKLIST FOR MAKING ADAPTIVE URBAN VISIONS

Adaptive in content

During a transformation process that can take up ten or fifteen years or more, a lot can happen and change, both in the area itself and in the world around us. These can be for example major ecological transitions, sudden crises, technological disruptions, demographic changes or new cultural trends and demands. Make sure the area is resilient by being able to adjust the content of your future vision and change or add topics as you go.

Adaptive in direction

Sometimes the topics in your future vision remain relevant but you need to change direction somehow. When you create your vision there may be a lot of focus on for example providing housing and battling office vacancy, but over time demographics can change and you need to shift your focus a bit more to providing enough space for work or other functions as well. The same goes for example for mobility systems that can change when the functional mix in the area changes – or when technological breakthroughs change the system itself. You always need to be able to adjust your direction if needed or opportune.

Adaptive in scale

During a long transformation process you probably move through both economic booms and crises. Crises may often require changes in content and direction as well, but they will most definitely require you to scale down your steps a bit. Probably the trust in the future and the willingness to make substantial investments among other stakeholders is lower now and they may choose to scale down their projects. Your vision should be able to incorporate this and still provide enough quality and coherence for the area.

Adaptive in speed

In case of a big change or crisis the transformation process will inevitably slow down. Everybody needs time to reflect, observe and perhaps reconsider what they are doing. This may cause serious delay or even standstill in the area. The same goes for very big and heavy negotiations that slow down the transformation. In this case you probably need lighter, smaller and more cost-efficient steps to keep the progress and energy in the transformation and to mitigate the risks for the projects that already have been realised. This is strongly related to your transformation path where the area is always and never finished at the same time.