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How cultural initiatives and creative industries enable urban regeneration in small town centre like Hauge I Dalane?

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Abstract

The phenomenon of shrinkage among many cities is seemed to happen continuously in the coming years which is a big challenge for sustainable urban development. As a city needs to adapt to social and economic trans-formation, a city is need to come up with sustainable strategies that can fit on the existing urban context allowing a community interaction while es-tablishing the grounds on how a city can foster a sensible development forming an engaging environment and establishing a strong identity. In the context of the Nordic small towns, culture platys an important role on the transformation as it is extensively particular to sustainable requirements, focusing not only on city's competitiveness, but would be a key strategy to develop a creative industry leading to economic stability.

As Sokndal town centre contains the characteristics vital to regeneration, initiatives need to be put on to place to be able to maximize the potential of the city and to address the current urban concerns to sustain future's development. The neighbourhood's condition of lacking the environmental qualities needed for a good everyday life and attractiveness in general, is one among the factors to focus on, to address the social-economic and living standards inequalities in cities, by upgrading physical built of the neighbourhood. A development model for the municipality must be di-rected with urban regeneration strategies to give much importance to the improvement of the neighbourhood's "hardware", including the physical improvement in the public open spaces, buildings and infrastructure.

Chapter 1
Introduction

The aim of this research is to increase the knowledge on how Sokndal Municipality will develop their centre in the next 10 years by primarily conducting a feasibility study of the existing urban context of Hauge I Dalane and evaluate the existing urban planning policy of the municipality. The knowledge that will be gathered is vital to gain sufficient understanding on the present condition of the context as the focus of research and will be the baseline of design recommendations and proposals.

The research is expected to have a progressive development of ideas to explore the possibilities and potential of Hauge I Dalane as a town centre fostering a more sensible development than what it is today- aiming to establish a stronger identity, giving rise to formation of engaging environment,accessibility to different age groups in the society and reviving the depleting urban characteristics of the Municipality through design framework recommendations and developing external public grounds.

The credibility of this research will be strengthened by theories gained from different perspectives of development strategies from the chosen referential studies and evaluate how these small towns were able to achieve the success of regeneration initiatives on different aspects of a society such as economic, social, environmental and well-being.

The theories exploited in this research are hypothetical ideas that the theorists have been working on to urban community design. Numerous papers, and articles are written pertaining to the subjects of interests decades ago and have been put into practice. The focus of the theories chosen is wrapped-around shrinking city, culture-led development, creative cities and industries, and its underlying factors.The ideas are presented through a design framework where all elements of the society will generate an equal opportunity which possibly increase and enhance the benefits on land resources and avoid the collapse on the same quality and quantity. (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010). The purpose of the design framework is to guide the planning actor by a sequential pattern of exploiting the opportunities of Sokndal Municipality as a whole, containing aspects and principles of creative industry and culture as part of the neighbourhood regeneration strategy allowing the community to broaden their perception, make aware of their sense of belonging leading to a stronger place identity, and further increase their level of knowledge in societal development.

These factors massively contribute on establishing the quality of living and well- being of the community as it hugely hinder Sokndal municipality to exploit their potential by the fact that environmental, social, and economic qualities are badly afflicted despite the initiatives regulated on municipality's development.

These concerns are situating the comaffecting the well-being of the community and left -alone the elderly. The challenges mentioned are characterized in the same context of a shrinking city which will be further discussed on the next chapters.

A description of creative industry as an urban regeneration intervention on shrinking city, in the context of Sokndalmunicipality will be followed through. As being described with low quality of living and almost no progression on the development over the years, the municipality is experiencing a huge decline on diversifying the quality of living from the local

and regional perspective despite of having a diverse resource that could be a good driving force of the municipality's transformation. Planning initiatives need to be substantial enough to be beneficial, such as exploiting the missed opportunities on the river that could potentiallycreate value and not just to perceive it as an obstacle towards development.

On a wider view, this research also aims to exploit the potential of Hauge I Dalane as the central of the development between different districts of the municipality and to reach the regional level of competitiveness on its potential to be a "linking hub of different districts from which natural tourist attractions and cultural activities are situated. By integrating the concepts of culture, creative industry, and principles of Cittaslow movement, the centre could be developed into an arena of diverse cultural affairs leading to addressing the different urban factors that the municipality are having challenges with such as establishing authenticity, entrepreneurial opportunities, economic development, and quality of life.

And lastly, the research will map out a solution in a form of recommended urban design framework and physical interventions through place-making exhibiting the significance of space networks and mobility patterns between zones and the relationship of spaces modifying Hauge I Dalane into an active neighbourhood using the concepts mentioned for urban regeneration.

Chapter Summary

The research is consisting of six (6) chapters which will be described in this section. **Chapter 1** is an introduction of the challenges that Hauge I Dalane is experiencing by now such

as: depopulation, slow progression in economy due to out migration, population ageing, and the growing concerns on unoccupied external public grounds which causes a depletion of good quality of living and what limits the development of community's well-being. It is also mentioned how the municipality are being affected by these challenges, and counteractions. In this chapter will also describe characteristics and terms of what urban shrinking city is in a broad sense, and how it is characterize in the context of small towns in Nordic region such as Sokndal to be able to characterized as a "shrinking city, and exploit the relevance of creative industry and culture as a strategy for urban regeneration to address the challenges that lies behind this notion.

Chapter 2 is the formulation of systematic methods used to gain and process the knowledge from the data that will be gathered and the relationship of each section leading to the development of solution and interventions. The systematic approach in addressing the 3 main questions is vital to knit the ideas all together and translate it to an urban design framework recommended towards bringing out the potential development strategy of Hauge I Dalane. To set a degree of reliability of this research, it is important to carefully evaluate the collection of data, and carefully choose the involved indicators by setting a limitation of the scope which will be discussed under this chapter.

Chapter 3 is the collection of relevant theories relating to how the principles of culture-led urban development and creative industries are being adapted to address the underlying challenges brought by the concept of a shrinking city on a bigger scale down to how it is interpreted on the different context of urban conditions presented in the case of Nordic small towns. Exploring the theories enable to bring to light what factors and important elements in urban development the actors should prioritize to achieve the success of t approach varying on different conditions

in the case of referential studies elaborated in this chapter. The relevance and implications of the knowledge gathered from the theories in connection to Sokndal will be further discuss at the end of this chapter.

Chapter 4 deals on presentation and assessment of the characteristic of external public grounds specifically in Hauge I Dalane mapping and spatial analysis. This describes the relationship between external spaces, what attributions of people affect the quality of the existing built environment,This describes the relationship between external spaces, what attributions of people affect the quality of the existing built environment, and the factors that highly the behaviour of the users and how their perception of the space will enhance further.

Chapter 5 concentrates on translation the proposed urban design framework recommendation for Hauge I Dalane into a more structured manner through place-making. This technically demonstrate how space networks and mobility pattern affects the perception of the users as a key to building the character of external public grounds and how the distribution of spaces establish a balanced environment thru the concepts of culture and creative industry.

Chapter 6 deals with the demonstration of key findings from the theories, how this knowledge evolves by explicating the idea of shrinking city in the context of Nordic small towns such as Sokndal and discussing how the effects of this phenomenon would be

counteracted the negative effect of it with a long-term urban regeneration initiatives such as the mentioned proposal on this research.

The progression of this research is somewhat streamlined in form. But a recommendation to have a few steps on back and forth is necessary in between the different sections which gives the benefit of developing the ideas in a more depth understanding in fulfilling the final result with the inputs from the theories, urban context and the concept.

Notion of Shrinking city

The term **"shrinking city"** used in this research was described as a decline in population due to effects of economic transformation. It affects the multidimensional aspects of a city's component such as the economy, demography, geography, particularly the social and its physical characteristics leading to weakening or even dissolving the social networks in a specific area due to out-migration. (Rocak, Hosper, and Reverda 2016). In the context of small and medium-sized towns, it perceives with a common factor of cohesion, particularly in regions where urban network is less dense. It has been reinforced by a combination of factors that is linked to the change on political and economic systems such as deindustrialization, increased competition for development sources and consequent intensification of out-migration. (Batunova and Gunko 2018)

The phenomenon of shrinkage among many cities is seemed to happen continuously in the coming years which is a big challenge for sustainable urban development. As a city needs to adapt to social and economic trans-formation, a city is need to come up with sustainable strategies that can fit on the existing urban

context allowing a community interaction while es-tablishing the grounds on how a city can foster a sensible development forming an engaging environment and establishing a strong identity. In the context of the Nordic small towns, culture plays an important role on the transformation as it is extensively particular to sustainable requirements, focusing not only on city's competitiveness, but would be a key strategy to develop a creative industry leading to economic stability.

As Sokndal town centre contains the characteristics vital to regeneration, initiatives need to be put on to place to be able to maximize the potential of the city and to address the current urban concerns to sustain future's development. The neighbourhood's condition of lacking the environmental qualities needed for a good everyday life and attractiveness in general, is one among the factors to focus on, to address the social-economic and living standards inequalities in cities, by upgrading physical built of thevneighbourhood. A development model for the municipality must be di-rected with urban regeneration strategies to give much importance to the improvement of the neighbourhood's "hardware", including the physical improvement in the public open spaces, buildings and infrastructure

It was argued among European cities that the effects of shrinkage vary largely depending on the context on both national and regional perspective. The most common physical effects of shrinkage that can be seen on the cities that are experiencing the phenomenon are abandonment, vacancies, infrastructural surplus or degradation, which is manifested evidently among cities. (Batunova and Gunko 2018). This often affect business activities negatively since they cause decline with the values, contributing to an overall unappealing image of the city.

Figure 1: Example of how environmental qualities lead to inequality and segregation on urban development.
Source: Prof to recommend planning strategies for shrinking cities - One|Arch (tamu.edu)

The mentioned physical factors of shrinkage are therefore the main drivers how urban planning approach changes, given the fact that planners and policy-makers does need to deal with the infrastructures critically as it is part of marketing the place on public. (Batunova and Gunko 2018). However, there are several studies claiming that there are still assets that can be found in shrinking cities such as social resources for some instance, which contributes to the identification and exploitation of local resources leading to development of territories. (Rocak et al. 2016)

What drives a city to shrink ?

Shrinkage has become a reason for many European cities and regions to pursue urban and regional development. It is generally described in literature as a negative phenomenon, where cities are continuously affected by the process of change, in terms of their

physical, and socio- economic environment. Centres are bound to do its duty to align urban spaces to such repeated social and economic change. Demographic changes for some instances have a direct and significant impact on urban shrinkage where three of the common aspects are fundamental in demographic changes are: total evolution, migration, and aging (Camarda, Rotondo, and Selicato 2015).

The losses for some instances are commonly brought by a decline in natural population development, outward migration flows, that in turn resulting to a higher proportion of elderly. Migration on the other side however may be due to different range of causes. The demographic pressure on the population plays a significant role in the urban fabric and contributes towards an increasingly complex set of problems in the coming years.

The availability of employment and alternative training methods are just one of the reasons which appears to have a greater impact connected to the desire of having an improved standard of living, environment in terms of urban quality (Camarda et al. 2015).
However, socio-economic inequality and different disparities have recently become a concern on development agendas on the Nordic cities, which is characterized with low level of segregation and inequality (Stjernberg et al. 2020).

The effects of de-industrialization, economic competitiveness on local economies, the loss of function on environmental quality and the poor results of policy making on social integration has put pressure to form its large distressed urban area. Urban regeneration policies were often limited mostly to interventions focusing on areas that are fairly on a limited dimensions, while neglecting on the great difficulty faced by wider majorities of urban area (Camarda et al. 2015).

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Shrinkage is not a new phenomenon and a continuous problem that needs a new planning paradigm that leads on the transformation of a broadly conceived downtown areas. One example of these paradigms is focusing on changing it function, expanding the role, make influence anchored on the institutions and redefining their physical boundaries to establish significant opportunities and shape the demand of neighbourhood requiring a long term-strategies to cope with (Silverman 2018). As demographic challenges take a huge part on the development, effective government-led policy interventions and market solutions are needed. (Martinez-Fernandez et al. 2012) (Raugze and Daly 2017). Private organizations such as EU Shrink Smart projects for example have been considering paradigms on re-orienting policies and investments decisions targeting a more holistic, proactive, and spatial differentiated approach. (Raugze and Daly 2017)

In some cases, there has been strictly aimed on recovering single urban areas which have negative repercussions on spatial contexts, triggering the uncertainty and unpredictable outcomes such as migration, decline on households, social inclusion, and the area's image to further regenerate these deprived urban areas (Camarda et al. 2015). Implementing measures for urban regeneration should put high

importance towards sustainable development in what have been defined as shrinking cities.

On some cases where situation of shrinkage has become part of norms and seen to be as unlikely to be reversed on terms, framing a comprehensive strategy therefore requires a more complex change in perceptions. However, the concepts entailed with shrinkage should be brought up with the decision makers to take advantage of it and see as an alternative approach of the development. (Raugze and Daly 2017). Accepting the notion of shrinkage could eventually linked to turn challenges into opportunity giving the benefit to the policy makers to become more open on modernizing and innovating public governance and services, and to adapt to unpredictable economic and demographic conditions reflecting the local potentials of places in a realistic level of ambitions to make sure they bring expected results. (Raugze and Daly 2017)

In EU context, an emerging policy has been laid down and introduced to address issues and make advances on rural shrinkage concerns. The strategies being implemented requires integrated strategic solutions and a long-term governance. Decision-makers are putting high importance on diversifying local economy focusing on creative mobilising endogenous resources and comparative territorial advantages – this pertaining to economic capital, architectural assets, tourism, and natural resources). Increasing the resiliency and adaptability of small towns by downsizing the infrastructure according to the condition of local economy, opens up an opportunity to access on basic services and infrastructure leading to improved liveability and quality of life. (Raugze and Daly 2017)

Shrinking city in the Nordic context

The phenomenon of shrinking cities is widespread across the Nordic countries and sets a major challenge for future urban policy maker and urban researchers. This dilemma had started after the end of the cold war which implies significant challenges among cities. (Thorsten and Wolff 2013) The continuous growth of population is concentrated in urban centres which brought a population decline or stagnation in many rural municipalities. This is one of the factors why it is difficult for the rural regions to remain economically competitive despite of a continuous development on larger cities. (Heleniak and Sanchez Gassen 2020).

These rural areas and sparsely populated regions are continuously experiencing a decline in population size and are aging faster than the other regions in the country, and has led to new regional imbalances in the availability and demand for labour groups- indication that the development is not taking place.

These demographic trends are brought by the declining numbers of married couple, rising divorce rates, an increasing age of marriage, and drastically dropping fertility – affecting the birth rates that decline far below the population replacement level and a major cause on demographic declination such as the working age group, among cities which contributes to the economic instability and poses challenges for many municipalities to provide welfare services (Nordregio 2015). Changes from the post- industrial society has led to condemn cities to a process of decline by putting them into a competition with spaces that are more attractive to investors, and this brought the spread of urban blight and disaffection with urban centres. (Nordregio 2015). Another way to define a shrinking city on the Nordic regions is, it is a matter of course that describing the urban shrinkage is based on the development of the population does not meet the aspects of multidimensional phenomenon of the development such as housing, labour, and economic indicators which must be taken into account on the broader picture. (Nordregio 2015). Municipalities in Nordic region have a broad responsibility of providing a good quality social service and thus being solely responsible of the shrinking population. This is

often viewed as a weakness and is later on coupled with efforts to make the municipality more attractive for potential residents, tourists and investors. (Heleniak and Sánchez Gassen 2020).
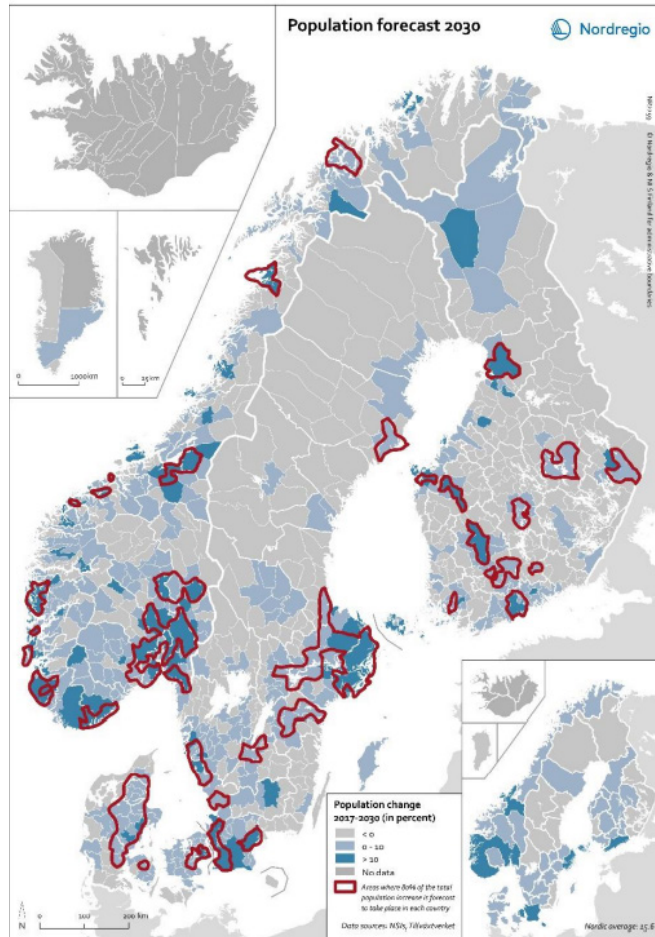

Figure 2 : Showing the population forecast of Nordic region by 2030 which remains decentralised in small to medium size towns. Source : https://vasab.org/

Putting into the context of small Nordic cities that seeks to establish further interventions on the concept of shrinking have the few resources in the areas of research, education, and qualified employment are unable to keep pace with the competition from the larger cities. These cities on the margin are experiencing difficulties on attracting investors (Fol and Cunningham-sabot 2010).
The ability of this town to adapt on future development for some instance is limited by the fact that benefits from education and research infrastructures that will potentially allow them to generate another form of businesses and job markets is rarely too small to absorb the working population that became unemployed resulted to economic degradation. (Fol and Cunningham-sabot 2010) This implies that potential of the Nordic rural areas varies widely depending on the population concentration, distance to major markets and cities, and natural and human resources and their flexibility on these changes.

For them to enable to adapt on the development, urban policies and strategies that are being prepared are set to reverse the economic decline by strengthening the economic competitiveness of shrinking cities and generate new economic and demographic growth. Many municipalities with shrinking populations fall into creating a new policy based on reversing the population decline and resuming growth, given that even the projected path is going down, they would still be advise to come up with strategies considering having smaller and older populations. (Heleniak and Sánchez Gassen 2020)

Consequences of internal migration

Internal migration is also evident in most of the Nordic cities where communities with the lowest densities and central borders are losing population through internal migration. (Statistisk Sentralbyrå 1999). The migration stream is mainly a product of young people moving towards
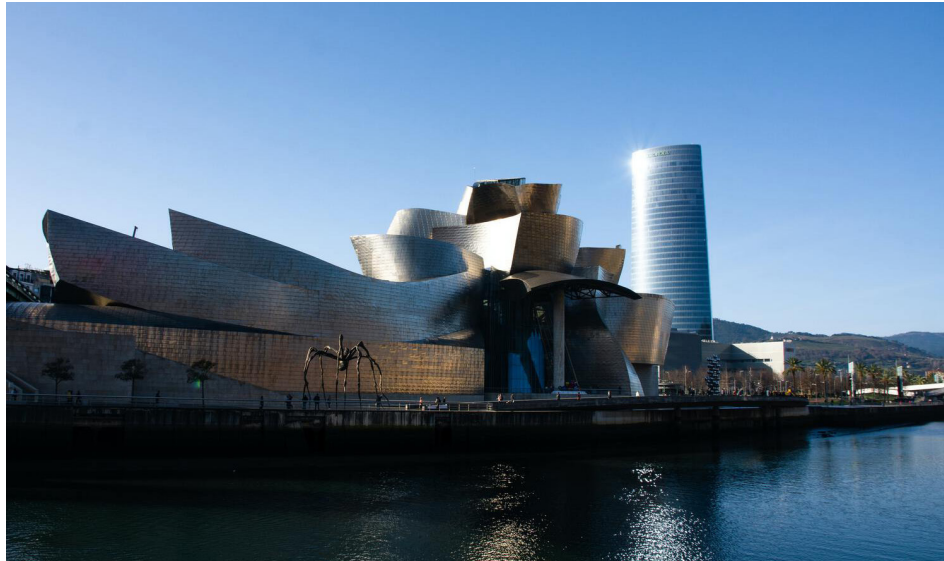
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Figure 3:De-industrialization effect on shrinking cities.
Source: Shrinking Cities: The Rise and Fall of Urban Environments | ArchDaily

to more central places, where larger urban areas are experiencing losses from middle age and upwards. (Statistisk Sentralbyrå 1999) The migration in Norway strongly characterize the same migration flow in West European countries, where the role of life course stage influences the direction of migration from family migrants, young, adult, older workers retirees and elderly. (Statistisk Sentralbyrå 1999)

One of the most important factors that influences migration pattern in Norway for some instance is the concentration of economy of the place. Many internal migrants are attracted in a place where industrial services are offered. While those who specialize in primary industry suffervs from migration outflows due to decline of productivity development – leading to a strong increasing net outflows while unemployment level increase.

Urban Regeneration concept

The concept of urban regeneration refers to a comprehensive urban management effort in resolving urban socioeconomic challenges. It focuses on establishing community's vitalization, job creation, and an increase of income, including the improvement of degraded built environment. It is a concept where a comprehensive management is intended to continuously improve the declined areas economically, socially, and physically through strategic planning of indicators for the progress of the whole city. (Hwang 2014)

The purpose of urban regeneration concept is to establish a progressive sustainable urban development where three main targets are supposed to be established. First is the consolidation of urban competitive power, where fosters urban central functions, extend the employment, and conserve historic and cultural environments. Second is secure a stable

Figure 4 : Showing conservation of indusrial facilities to address shrinking city problems.
Source: Shrinking Cities: The Rise and Fall of Urban Environments | ArchDaily

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concept should be manifested differently according to the context and its local characteristics. (Hwang 2014)

One of the most common approach in terms of community development is urban regeneration where it attempts to reverse the decline on both physical and economical structure of an area (Weaver 2009). Participation of the community does not only contribute to sustainability of regeneration initiatives and of individual well-being, but also vital for a long-term improvement of sustainable regeneration practices that are applied (Woolrych and Sixsmith 2013). It is important that the community has an active participation and taking part on regeneration process.

This can be achieved through providing good quality urban spaces putting them as the priority and strategic plans which likely helps to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area. Urban planners and developers must look into that local resident are the driver for change and develop a growth within the neighbourhood. In managing the expectations of the local community, there are several works that needs to be done such as in urban planning and environmental design to achieve an effective and long-lasting solution for regeneration (Woolrych and Sixsmith 2013).

In some cases, there has been evidence in the Nordic cities that the success of urban regeneration lies on a coherent policies that are being established. As a matter of fact in Sweden, which is characterized to effectively manage the consequences of shrinking city, have come up with a coherent policy focusing on sustainable growth and welfare (Raugze and Daly 2017). It is a more integrated and holistic approach on the level of national rural policy where it highlights the importance of Swedish green economy and tourism on the areas for the development.

The policy targets to regenerate the current concerns by distributing citizens to live and work in rural areas, leading to exploitation of opportunities for business enthusiasts in a sustainable manner. This will be achieved by creating a stronger network, investing in education and training programs with an offered incentives –a better way on attracting people to move to rural areas (ESPON 2017b) (Raugze and Daly 2017).

Culture as a driver of urban regeneration in Nordic cities

The ideas intact on culture-led development has been an instrument in facilitating socio-economic revival and establishing identity of a specific place. It exploits the potential of a low-value and deteriorated area to become a highly valued district where the local community can simultaneously restore its social pride, revive the local economy, and establish their identity. (Hwang 2014)

The ideologies and different knowledge regimes in small town and rural places in Norway for some instances are interlinked on the local cultural policies. This can be explained by a social, economic, and/or a democratic motive. (Lysgård 2019) On a more focus context, the cultural policy on small town and rural areas dominated by ideological discourses in which the underlying motive of culture and its interlinked activities is to contribute to social welfare, participation, and mobilization (i.e. strengthening the social standards of the communities and secure the development of a democratic participative society. (Lysgård 2019)

How sustainable cultural develpoment is?

One of the coping mechanisms on this problem is an increasing focus on culture as a development strategy in urban development policy had been circulating from the last 20 years (Lysgård 2012). Several cities have chosen culture as a basis for strategies for change which the development can be found among different trends in the present society. It is seen as an alternative to traditional industry and industrial development. The trend can also be seen in the economic perspective is undergoing change and becoming strongly interwoven with culture where the traditional understanding of roles between cities has changed that leads to the competition between cities (Lysgård 2012). These

are only several among reason how the quality and attractiveness of a city both on the physical living condition and the cultural environment have gained new meaning in terms of urban development strategies and an active cultural life is set to be understood as a quality, which affects the standard of wealth and welfare in cities. Urban communities are expected to embody positive characteristics which nowadays are hard to find. Planners and urban developers are continuously working on every neighbourhood to achieve the highest quality of life through urban planning, where improvements are very challenging task- as it requires different levels of collaboration on different aspects within the community.

Community-determined efforts are vital in promoting an effective neighbourhood development such as local initiatives within housing and infrastructure, economic development, education, safety and health, different age groups within the community, and other issues and goals in relation to this. A better quality of life can be achieved if these important aspects of the community are intact together and how the spaces are supposed to be planned and used (Fawcett, Ph.D et al. 2001)

As the process of urban regeneration brings up the different driving factors, culture plays an important role on the transformation as it is extensively particular to sustainable requirements, focusing not only on city's competitiveness (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010). Culture in particular plays a vital role on building interventions, wherein employment, tourism, social and sustainable development becomes the product of good collaboration between people, places, economy, and traditions. These aspects can be integrated with new types of cultural uses that will be suitable not only for citizens, as well as for the tourists and visitors in general (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010).

It is important how creative the areas are on regenerating building, economic development, social renewal solidifying interactions to achieve a more comprehensive development of the city to be able to promote and activate urban areas strengthening neighbourhood's characteristics (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010).

Chapter 2
Methodology

Answering the main research question pertaining to *"How cultural initiatives and creative industries enable urban regeneration in small town centre like Hauge I Dalane"?* This research design presents the framework of methodologies use in the research as well as the relationship between main concepts, and research questions are made to establish such as follows:

1. How culture-led development help accelerate opportunities in town?
2. What types of cultural initiatives and creative industries can regenerate small towns?
3. How cultural strategies enable regeneration and the creation of attractive urban centres?

This research was conducted through sets of different knowledge processing methods from which aim is to understand the current situation of Hauge I Dalane and its existing urban context. To fulfil the goal of the study, different qualitative and quantitative data are gathered from both primary and secondary research. Both primary and secondary data are collected to map the knowledge in relation to urban regeneration process. Primary data were gathered thru in-depth interviews with the local representatives such as the residents and representatives from the municipality who are involved in planning.

Data collection and selection of indicators

In this study, data collection and data analysis are consisted of mix-methods, (explain what is mixed methods) which is vital to bridge the ideas from the theories, and actual conditions of Sokdnal municipality in terms of urban regeneration. The methods are listed as following:
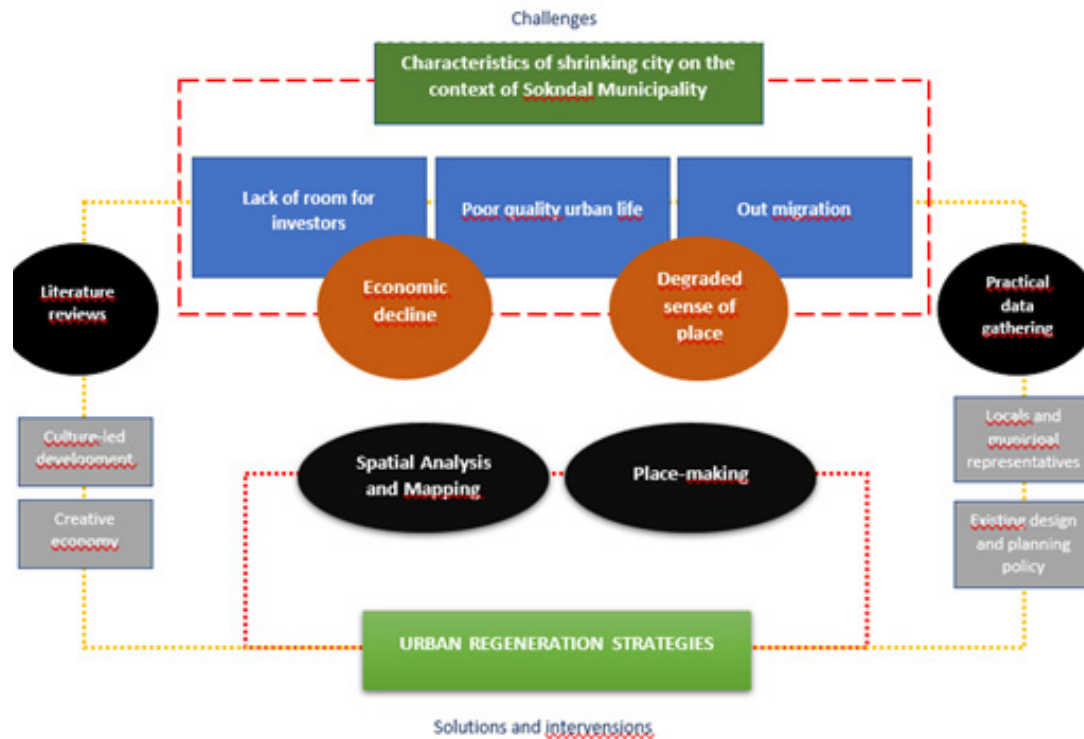
Figure 5 : Structure of research design
Source : Own Production

(1)   Literature review
(2)   Reviewing exiting planning policies.
(3)   Interviews
(4)   Mapping and Spatial Analysis

A *literature review* was used to connect the relationship between the chosen concepts of culture-led development and creative industry. This helps to fill in the gaps in knowledge and formulate hypothesis.

Reviewing existing policies is vital to map the current strategies that are being implemented and provides a more subjective data. *Desktop research* has provided objective data in relation to demographic and physical information.

The interviews were conducted as a tool for gathering participant's information, as well as their perception within urban, social and environmental aspects. The secondary research is comprised of available electronic documents related to urban regeneration and planning methods that complements the primary research. The research must consider subjective indicators since it is important to base the outcome of planning and designing on the actual perceptions and opinions of the neighbourhood complementing the objectivity of urban, social, and environmental aspects.

Spatial analysis was conducted to gather objective data as well as for registering subjective linked to spatial figures using GIS and configured maps for example.

After all the necessary data were gathered, a manual interpretation was applied to process the textual data from the in-depth interviews and gathered documents. All the relevant information were systematically selected, as the basis of the analysis and knowledge processing and compared relevant to the study, identifying the similarities and differences in characteristics. In this section, the researcher will also be able to identify the challenges based on the gathered data.

Data Analysis

The key information gathered from the theories and practical information are assembled through a framework to visualize the connection between each variables that are mentioned. This is an effective tool for mapping the knowledge leading to formulation of urban regeneration solutions. A careful assessment on the knowledge management section is vital in order to achieve the desired

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goal of the research – where the findings will be the baseline of the proposal.

Limitations

It is necessary to reflect on the limitation of this research in order to understand the contribution of the knowledge and methodology presented.

The research consists of subjective and objective indicators referring to what the existing spaces are being used for within the particular setting. The behavioural mapping indicates the activities happening in the area to gauge the engagement of indicators within the built external spaces. Another limitation is that data collection was conducted in outdoor space, and public streets. A higher number of elder people have participated resulting to an assumption that young people are not that evident in the area who could have enriched the current data.

A difficulty to translate Norwegian documents pertaining to municipal plan and policies narrowed the data collection to the limited aspects relevant to the project which could have allow the researcher to dig further and with better discussion. Therefore, the collected data is limited on a certain area and not the ideas are not applied in general. This research focuses only on a concise discussion of the certain variables such as: shrinking city, culture-led development, and creative industry in the context of Nordic small towns specifically in the context of Sokndal municipality.

The limitations are set to test the range of understanding the societal concerns as pertaining to the condition of the town centre which time and resources narrowed the studies to be conducted and would allow more generalizable and representative results.

Chapter 3
Theoretical Framework

Creative industry in in urban development

Defining creativity, inevitably, leads to the variation in defining what creative industries really is. Some scholars described it as a term of little analytical value per se and prefer to use another term instead. Foe example, according to Pratt, creative industry has a "putative activity which produces a cultural object such as film making or writing a book, and quite too abstract to describe and measure" (Liu, Silva, and Wang 2015). On the other hand, theorists such as Caves defined the term as "those that supply goods and services that we broadly associate with cultural, artistic or simply entertainment value" (Liu, Silva, and Wang 2015) In this sense, we can view that "creative industries" refers only to the domain of culture and aims to emphasize "cultural creativity" (Liu et al. 2015)

The idea of creative industry grew out of a complex definition and has always been intertwined with cultural policy. It is still widely adopted in policy initiatives because of its potential in economic growth and job creation. As being discussed by Smith, he stated that the full economic and employment impact of the whole range of creative industries should be acknowledged and assisted by the government. (Liu et al. 2015) This implies that the success of creative industry as part of a strategy of community's development lies on the support and initiatives of the policy makers and actors on how they would want to integrate it on the process.

Approach of creative city in culture-led development

Constructing the idea of this project, it would be beneficial to look into theories pertaining to social aspects of city planning. In urban planning, creative cities are currently focusing on improving the interaction between regeneration, economic development, and social renewal to achieve a more comprehensive development of a city in general

leading to generate economies of innovation, aristic production, which later on strengthens the area's identiy capital. (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010)

Cultural identity

Creative Industry

Figure 6: Combined approach of culture and creativity
Source: https://blog.airbaltic.com/trondheim-a-taste-of-the-good-life/

Recognizing such values are fundamental component in implementing urban change and serves as the reference point fulfilling the society's wishes, and to build a sustainable urban image. Innovations on urban spaces represents an opportunity to build an identity to the scope of urban forms and to potentially reduce the tendency of risks for contemporary urban societies to fall back on their roots facing up an identity crisis (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010).

Urban theorists pointed out that creativity on a city was established as prerequisite for economic vitality of a city and a regional level. The notion of "creativity" on this research is all about situating the cultural industries on a new economic perspective playing the potential to

become part of the central element of growth and urban development (Bayliss 2007). Involving developers and planners who have a strong knowledge will therefore be able to expand the creation of work in general and possibly lead to the growth of activities leading to economic growth through adding value on urban environment (Bayliss 2007) This theory attributes on so many creativities. It has been a "market-friendly urban placebo" as described which can be easily bolted on to business-as-usual and urban-development policies" (Bayliss 2007). In fact, many cities have been trying to integrate it into their planning system as is it easy to implement under some considerations and some general traits of creative urban environment which is vital to identify. Promotion of creative spaces has been a global phenomenon as well, adding value to the knowledge on economic sector leading to strengthening the cultural competitiveness of an area (Evans 2009).

The concept emerged in 90s of the 20th centuries that makes a transformation on the post-industrial cities into a creative urban centres- which focus is revolving around involvement of different firms, workers, and highly consideration on cultural assets (Tajtakova and Olejarova 2021). This concept has been used in different cities where the development focuses on a place's culture and identity, set as a driving force for an overall urban and social revitalization. This highlights the new perspective on the centres as a place of opportunities where people who lives in it will be able to respond accordingly to the challenges of urban life, by activating their creativity under the conditions of allowing them to do so (Tajtakova and Olejarova 2021). Most of the cities who wants to enhance their competitiveness are rooting on their culture as a driver for their economic and urban growth, looking on the tendency of clustering within rundown city districts which could provide forces of area's revitalization and regeneration (Bayliss 2007).

The definition of this theory also advocates socio-cultural economic, and political changes which also characterizes tolerance, openness and diversity, presence of creative class and high cultural dynamism. (Tajtakova and Olejarova 2021). The presence of this creative spaces

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for example that contributes to the cultural life present within the local community and industry, will further generate an environment of creativity and innovation in the long run.

This theory of creative industry also establishes sustainability in social aspect which guarantees the opportunities of growth and welfare condition of a society in general (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010). By setting up a development model based fostering culture and social regeneration, it would also let people develop their perception of on their sense of belonging, an increase in social capital, changing the image of a place, and an increase to the level of knowledge. Environmental characterization should not also be separated from the community because it gives way to the promotion of areas in cities, where their competitiveness are based from local peculiarities relating the city's brand value. (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010)

There had been many evidence that creative city will only be successful on if it is being facilitated with an effective governing bodies who undertake broad range of tasks that a complete community should have such as social welfare, housing, planning, and urban development, leisure, sports, and cultural facility. An attractive cultural life on an area is a decisive factor on retaining and attracting new local and international firms as highly educated labours demands ready access to entertainment opportunities. (Bayliss 2007).

For some instance, there are even more type of visitors, not only focusing on the typical tourists, but also professionals, who visits a place for business or for other reasons, including to wanting to visit a city perse. This people's demands are many and may vary and the role of a city is to provide an environment which offers a low-impact consumption of culture and identity. In that way, the city must be able to provide new types of cultural uses – meant in a broadest sense where the needs of residents, visitors, and tourists will meet in one point (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010).

In fact, there had been studies on several Scandinavian citives stating that incorporating culture and creative industry have laid a strong foundation on establishing economic opportunities on existing businesses and especially with start-up, and had been a good attraction to many industries which they perceive on a good way. They have no longer see culture as "unprofitable choice of lifestyle" but rather have seen this concepts as viable to business areas, leading to an increased willingness to invest more leading to market growth, attracting more entrants and generate economic activities fuelling the greater competitiveness on the overall development. (Power 2016)

The commonality of characteristics described within the Scandinavian cities was identified that cultural industries was able to link the loosed industrial systems centred in different areas, which for some instance these industries make a significant local contribution. (Power 2016) As a matter of fact, the cultural industry in the Nordic cities that are being referred are subject to grow more at higher rates t the general economies that they are embedded, and the concept of culture within the creative industry should be considered as important contemporary and future growth engines of development strategies. (Power 2016)

Culture as a driving force of urban development

Culture as a factor of an area's transformation has been particularly extensive in response not only on how competitive the area is, but also to achieve the sustainable requirement in a cultural sector. In its broadest sense, it is a foundation to construct a system of interventions, where employment, tourism, and social sustainable development becomes the product of why the places, people, economies and tradition are interwoven together (Sepe and Di Trapani 2010). In that sense, decision-makers are looking on prioritizing economic development by employing arts and culture as a potential driving force. (Bayliss 2004)

On a general note, can be embedded on economic sector and growth on diverse industries which seem to be contributing to an increase on the employment and area regeneration. Cultural resources are

described as the raw material of the city, and it is the base of the area's value where planners and developers can think of using this and re-image the space as a place for tourists, and investments (Bayliss 2007).

The emergence of cultural industry development is for the reason to assists cities in promoting its reputation as a focus of culture and identity which later on became a global practice letting the practitioners to investigate new ways of establishing its importance as a place, such as being an arena for cultural tourism. (Bayliss 2004) As a general notion for tourism as being one of the world's leading growth industry, cultural aspect of it is one of its significant factors. Because of that, many cities are motivated to promote themselves as a tourist destination by establishing cultural infrastructure. (Bayliss 2004)

Figure 7: Stavanger as an example of culture-driven development and development of industries
Photo sources: (1) https://www.norskolje.museum.no/forside/besok-museet/ (2) https://gypsynester.com/stavanger-norway/ (3) own photo

The concept of culture-based urban regeneration on the other hand, could lead on the development of economy, local community enhancement, social inclusion and cultural tourism, leading to an overall urban and social revitalization such as in the case of Stavanger. It highlights the improvements on physical quality of public spaces creating an arena for social interactions and educational activities for some instance. This development can directly affect 3 areas that stands an important role on urban development such as direct and indirect economic impacts, induced effects of cultural activities on a places' quality and creative inputs that occurs on the local networks of production and creative class development (Tajtakova and Olejarova 2021).

In urban planning, clustering of cultural assets such as facilities, industrial areas and architectural heritage allows the integration of diverse attractions with means of access and ancillary enabling people to enjoy their preferences, such as walking down the city. Active streets are highly essential on the success of cultural marketing regulated carefully with street performers and traders, pedestrianized areas, and a balanced-scale on public transit. (Bayliss 2004) Looking into the consideration, that the success of cultural development lies on the level, quality, and diversity of artistic and other cultural activities that prevails in a city for some instance, is one of the huge factors that decision makers depend on in order to achieve their level of satisfaction.

This could positively affect the locational attractivity up to improving its quality on a regional level. (Bayliss 2004). For some instance, a neighbhourhood-scaled cultural activities have claimed to begun a prominent contribution for social development pointing to the value creation in both community and individual development. (Williams, 1995; Matarasso, 1998; Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 1999; Local Government Association, 2001).

On a smaller context, local cultural initiatives act as an agent in broad ways. This could for example establish wider opportunities to promote socialization across different level of people, leading to better

understanding between groups and increased its cohesion. (Bayliss 2004)

The use of culture as a strategic element in urban development has been used all around the states of Europe, to build up strong and homogenous nations to form and develop a new citizenship within (Lysgård 2012). Putting a high importance, project within cities was launched which aimed to empower cities and regions to help them strengthen their cultural assets through planning initiatives and cultural heritage policies helping them to develop innovative solutions through adaptive reuse of heritage buildings that are obsolete, underused, or misused giving them a new use – upgrading or restoring it according to what will be the intended use which is defined and adapted to the building, considering to preserve and respect its value and significance on the area's context. (Tajtakova and Olejarova 2021).

It adds value on social status and cultural level within societies and nations where hierarchical positions are being developed by establishing different cultural institutions. Claims that in working environment, people are seeking for open, multicultural and tolerant atmosphere to make a place attractive to different classes regardless on the type of employment opportunities available, 7and not least their image as cultural arena and living environments (Lysgård 2012). By promoting local participatory on cultural activities for example is one of the alternatives to make the cultural development strategy work, and this can be possible by providing an arena for the people to do it.

These activities could also be a way to promote and strengthen social cohesion, increase confidence, improve individual's mental and health well-being, and develop training and employment routes to everyone (Bayliss 2007). The culture-based urban development and the concept of creative city has been an important factor globally and in political agendas that was developed by UNESCO with their goal of promoting the cooperation among cities who have been thinking of creativity as their strategic factor to achieve sustainable urban development. The creative, innovative, and interdisciplinary approach of culture-led urban development focusing on the multi-functional usage of venues, highly

contributes on the genius loci while serving the cultural purpose. (Tajtakova and Olejarova 2021). It enhances the potential of urban areas on becoming a vivid creative arena and fosters regional development based on the active participatory of the community.

Figure 8: Showing the Fiskegrygga in Kristiandsand as a meeting place and venue for gathering. Source: (1) Fiskebrygga fotograf Kristiansand Vest Agder (adamreadfoto.no) (2) (Kristiansand kommune 2022)

There have been platforms circulating among different cities promoting learnings helping them to identify their strengths, opportunities, and integrate it to their planning policies which enables an area to practice on their cultural, creative, and innovation potential (Tajtakova and Olejarova 2021), and one of the examples is the case of Fiskebrygga in Kristiansand.

As evident to several cities among countries, features of changes in economy have rooted from culture-led development strategies as indicated from the basis of knowledge. Understanding the potential of culture as a driving force on economy and understanding how life of the community are changing drawing an attention to the importance of

competence and creativity of a place are part of the field of knowledge. (Lysgård 2012). The goal on restructuring the basis of the development within cities and it's attractivenesst should be put on highly importance in order to attract new residents, tourists, new economic activities and capital, while the initiatives are also focusing on the growth of cultural industries.

Creative industry in small town

Defining creativity, inevitably, leads to the variation in defining what "creative industries" really is. Some scholars described it as a term of little analytical value per se and prefer to use another term instead. According to Pratt, creative industry has a putative activity which produces a cultural object such as film making or writing a book, and quite too abstract to describe and measure. (Liu et al. 2015) On the other hand, "creative industry" is defined as those that supply goods and services that we broadly associate with cultural, artistic, or simply entertainment value. In this sense, we can view that "creative industries" refers only to the domain of culture and aims to emphasize "cultural creativity".

The ideas of "creative industry " model can be illustrated according specifically to the characteristic of a place. Central to this assumption is that most of the places now are competing to each other over creative industry and people – described as the creative class, who are vital demographic group to capture immigrants, the investment and innovation they bring with them. Several studies show that the size, geographical position and class legacies in theories of creativity, place an important part on economic development and urban regeneration. It appears to be that when the creative economy of a certain place is conceptualized, it is possible to reveal how urban regeneration can operate in uncertain sometimes surprising ways, simultaneously estranging and involving civic leaders and residents. (Waitt and Gibson 2009)

Generally, the underlying goal of the concept is to rescue the decline

sites and stimulate economic renaissance and also social inclusion. Through conversion of building uses, refurbishment of abandoned factories and development of flagship project, it is possible for the declining sites to become economically competitive and promote cultural diversity. Generally, this sites first become attractive places to the smaller creative companies, especially the start-ups, and home to artists seeking affordable working spaces. If this turned successfully, public services and environment quality will improve as well, and these areas will turn out as a vibrant cultural life with the influx of people. (Liu et al. 2015) These spaces will then finally evolve into hubs with an atmosphere of tolerance characterised by differences.

As being described, creative industries is not only about the products and consumption. On a more technical description, it influences the re-territorialisation of urban space, manifest in accelerated transition and succession experiences and the associated re-imaging of long and established neighbourhoods. At a more localised scale, it reconstructs the city landscape, sites and buildings by living iconic marks and cultural symbols. In other words, the transformation of the urban spatial structure is a reflection of the complex interactions among all the involved agents. It is not only influenced by the economic dynamics of the property, but also by government intervention and personal value appreciation held by the firms, workers and citizens. (Liu et al. 2015)

The creative class onto a Nordic Context

In Nordic urban planning, various creative strategies were introduced on both national and regional level. The strategy they have been focusing on is often not based on empirical knowledge and quality of a place, but rather based on assumptions that the general context of "creative class" described by Florida is also applicable on the smaller context such as in the Nordic cities. (Andersen et al. 2010) According to Florida:

"*Nordic countries are also particularly interesting case in relation to the new global competition for talent because of their acclaimed ability to perform will on standard measures on innovation and economic competitiveness*" (*Andersen et al. 2010*)

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It is also stated that Nordic cities such as Finland, Denmark and Norway belong on the top 10 lists among 45 countries who are the most competitive on an international scale – this is mainly due to their high educational level, productivity, and extensive training of the labour force. (Andersen et al. 2010) Studies have shown that Florida's creative class stimulates the growth of technology-based companies, which further contributes to generate new jobs and population growth in the context of Nordic regional development. (Andersen et al. 2010) This implies that Nordic regions who generates many creative and higher educated people by establishing training programs and communal environment, also tend to have many jobs in the knowledge and talent-based industries. Due to the fact that Nordic countries have more concentrated hierarchical regional structure, the implementation of creative clusters idea are seen on how dedicated the public sectors are in implementations and how rich the cities in terms of supply of amenities. (Andersen et al. 2010).

Both small and large Nordic city was identified that creative people highly considered the city's openness and its location implying a positive correlation on the indicators such as business climate and regional growth. Although creative class concept is much high visible on larger cities, in depth explanation is also relevant in rural counties but is dependent on more restricted measures such as introducing a good quality of place such as providing natural amenities. The empirical analysis conducted from previous studies shows that talent based creativity weighs more on smaller cities, and is more relevant to describe as economic growth engines. (Andersen et al. 2010)

Theories on regional development are traditionally based on the assumptions that people follow jobs, and policies are focusing on nurturing the business climate to attract investments and to stimulate competitiveness of the industry. An alternative urban approach was present by Florida where the central approach of his theory claims that "jobs" follow "people" rather than the other way around (Andersen et al. 2010). Florida's theorizing is needed to be seen in a broader context

in order to have a better understanding of the driving forces and mechanisms of regional development and economic growth. Claiming that creativity is the ultimate economic driving force. On his argument which pertains to that if urban areas want to succeed and grow, then the need to address issues such as providing an advanced consumption of lifestyle to the community (Bakken 2012).

Creative people for some instances, are looking for diversity and its potential, when they are of evaluating communities of their choice. According to several studies, for most people, it doesn't have to be a big city necessarily, but a cosmopolitan which authenticity. A town that offers a local music for example gives the vibe of making the place authentic. (Rakelmann 2009). According to Florida's opinion, "large number of visibly active young people, easy access to wide range of outdoor activities, a vibrant music a performance scene with a wide range of live-music opportunities, a night-life experience which does not involved alcohol characterizes a clean, healthy environment, and commitment to preserving natural resources for enjoyment and recreation, a lifestyle that is youth-friendly and supportive of diversity" is what the creative class in Nordic cities are envisioning for. Town centres needs to be active, pulsating, and a little bit fun-oriented in order to stimulate the creative class. (Rakelmann 2009)

Theorists argue that variation in population size for example may affect the significance of people climate and business climate in different ways. People may seem to be attracted if a place consisting of the factors related to a quality of place e.g. cultural amenities, attractive public spaces, and provision on public amenities such as schools, healthcare and public transport. (Andersen et al. 2010) It is also the people who stands as the common denominator of elements that affects the attractiveness of a certain location. It is therefore both deviations might still have the possibility to attract the creative class, but differs between which part of the city and age groups. While on the other hand, integration of business climate involves more direct influence with infrastructure, institutions, and network between organizations. This would result to more job opportunities affected by

the population size.

Another point that he argues on his theoretical view is that the attractiveness of regional centres is basically consists of the qualities that let people move from capital city regions or maybe because there are more affordable housing, a stronger sense of community, local identity and authenticity (Andersen et al. 2010). He pointed out that people are highly considering the quality of their social atmosphere where he described as "not too alienated from each other" but still " everybody does not know what is everybody doing." That several groups of people tend to avoid the congested cities and prefer to move into the smaller region centres close to their origin (Andersen et al. 2010). He also argues that it does not necessary for the regional centres to offer more high quality living environments as the key attractive factors comes with smaller sizes such as having low congestions, local social cohesion, and affordable housing prices. And if reasonable job opportunities will be offered within the community, regional centres could be more attractive for the creative class.

Creative class puts high importance on the qualities of places that can provide inputs and inspirations which can majorly affect their jobs. And these qualities being mentioned pertaining to diverse cultural life, urbanity, and professional communities outside the place of work- a creative environment where one can meet people having different professions (Andersen et al. 2010). As in the case of Sokndal municipality where mostly young generations are moving in a city which offers more opportunities, the community probably is experiencing problems on how they will encourage people to retain, as in the present day that they cannot be able to offer greater variety of leisure opportunities and just having a smaller professional community. This is by the fact that smaller towns have a more comparatively thin job market which is something that a community needs to work with.

Urban morphology /dimensions of creative clustering

Understanding urban forms on a common note will give a better

knowledge on how urban planners implicates the philosophical approach that integrates the physical, social, and cultural dimension of a city. It is vital to establish awareness of urban aesthetics and elements that are attached to a city, prerequisite on building a good quality of life. (Barke 2018) It also plays an important role in order to achieve a successful and holistic urban management integrating the principles of planning on the context of small cities. Its significance possess cultural and social characterization that further develop depending on the how a space will be used for, integrating the value intact. (Barke 2018)

In small town development, locational theory is also vital to consider for the investors for some instance to decide where to settle up their businesses, and the core reason is to figure out which site is optimum where profits can be maximised with the lower costs- this is to think that businesses values to maximize their economic benefit, and to find a good locational factors looking at the social and spatial quality, which involves the value, perception, and its impact to the future (Liu, Silva, and Wang 2015). On the other hand, the value judgement underlying their residence location for some instance is not primarily economic efficiency but also consider a different aspect of how they perceive the place in terms of architectural styles and mental satisfaction. This difference is mentioned by Florida, where he discussed that a group of talents whose lifestyle and workstyle conspicuously differ from other population group. (Liu et al. 2015)

Although inner cities have a lot of features to be compared of to the advantages, such features to some extend can change. Evidence shows that inner cities feature is still critical today for the creative industries as they perceived that built environment should composed of cultural facilities, cultural heritages, schools, and alike which are essential for building up the context for creativity. Sharing of talent pool from smaller firms to with those internationally competitive ones can be regarded as "hard" locational factors which are important to consider in location theory.

It does not necessarily mean that other urban areas are not appealing

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to the creative firms, as inner city boasts these factors and centrality is important. If these "hard" factors are well established on other areas, then it is a decision for the smaller firms to move to sub-urbans. One factor that they also need to take into consideration is that the unaffordability of small firms to high office rents, can drive them to move to suburban periphery. There are also other factors which are highly appreciated by some of the creative firms in suburban context. For some instance, many artists and business owners are bound to stay in tranquil environment, to get a good feeling of aesthetic appreciation and a place where social networking is highly valued, resulting to a distribution of creative firms around city edge on in outer suburban and ex-urban areas. (Liu et al. 2015)

Generally, the goal of it is to rescue the declining sites and stimulate economic renaissance and build up social inclusion. Through conversion of building functions, developing public spaces into something that is more useful, refurbishing abandoned factories and development of flagship project, the declining sites then become places with economic vitality and cultural diversity. Initially, this sites first become attractive places to the smaller creative companies, especially the start-ups, and home to artists seeking affordable working spaces. Then followed by improved public services and environment quality- which later on could develop to be the area for vibrant cultural life with the influx of people.

Referential study Approach

1. Culture-led development in Kvinesland, Norway

Investigating the cultural policy in small towns such as Kvinesdal in Adger, which is known for tourist's spots or resorts on winter, and center of small industries, livestock farming and forestry – where cultural heritage has a strong role in its municipality (Lysgård 2015). The main strategy of the municipality is based on culture-led policy emphasizing how the community will be able to build its attractiveness and develop its reputation as a good place to live in utilizing their resources. The cultural strategies are being incorporated in three ways. First, they

Figure 9: howing multicultural activities such as emigrant festival in Kvinesdal gathers different ethnicity and establishing cultural identity. Source: Kvinesdal - Wikipedia

Figure 10: Showing an abandoned minin facility in Kvinesland Source: https://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kvinesdal

Figure 11: The abandoned Knaben mining facility turned into tourist attraction Source: (ivar krageland 2021)

focus on providing cultural services (e.g., kulturskole, sports arena, and library) which allows the creation of civic clubs, organizations are cultural activities. Secondly, a consideration on building infrastructures, such as sports facilities, community meeting places where cultural activities will takes place. ad reuse of abandoned mining buildings that turned into an attractive spot with several activities. And lastly, the institutionalization of the strategy thru place-making, attractiveness as place-branding and community initiatives for stimulating vitality, liveliness, and social gatherings as an approach for an inclusive community.(Lysgård 2015).

The illustrations for example, the municipality's focus on developing arenas, meeting places, activities, and organizations for participation and mobilization, leads to the urge of the citizens to become accountable for the strategy and legitimize it through their choice of active participation. Instead of making the inhabitants a passive spectator and consumer of natural products, they made responsible the local citizens as a member of the democratic community by letting them to participate in cultural activities and social arenas.

They made use of cultural heritage as a branding strategy to market the town as a good place to live in – feeling the sense of identity, belonging, well-being and contentment. This idea seems to be partly directed towards tourism, but this is mainly towards improving the lives of Kvinesland community. The approach that they come up with is perceived as a strategy for marketing and competition within cities, especially concerning tourism and consumption, which later on will have an effect on the overall economy of the municipalities. The original idea of the project was related to the local trade association but it has become an umbrella project for the urban development in a broader perspective (Lysgård 2015).

Key findings

 Looking on the more detailed perspective, Kvinesland is also a small town like Sokndal, and a centre of a small industry could possibly

exploit how cultural aspects can be incorporated in urban planning. For some instance, this small towns could be a hub of cultural services allowing the creation of cultural activities through engagement of local community giving them the urge to legitimize the strategy by actively practicing this cultural deeds and establishment of active organizations as a support group.

The engagement of people perse could be adapted in the case of Sokndal establishing a good foundation to change their perception that there is a reason for them not to leave the municipality and rather discover what more they could potentially offer utilizing their existing sources through establishing cultural arenas where they can exercise and make fully aware of it. This could also be a strategy for a small town such as Sokndal to gain more attention from people leading to tourism opportunities and be more competitive with value creation. In that way, it could potentially make a huge impact on the overall economy of the municipality and the surrounding areas of Sokndal.

2   Economic strategies after downfall of Etowa in Tennessee

Etowa is a unique community in Tennessee with an estimated of 3,660 population (Lambe 2008).   where century-old railroad infrastructure provides the town with a valuable heritage asset and a thriving industrial park providing the residents an opportunity. (Lambe 2008) The community faced a severe economic decline caused by deindustrialization and closing of the rail industry,   which decides them to look on the town's existing assets and build a long and sustainable strategy development focusing on heritage tourism, downtown development, and industrial recruitment and expansion. (Lambe 2008)

Etowah's location is the gateway into the Cherokee National Park and it rests on the edge of a country where hundreds of hiking trails and four major rivers skirt the town- known to be a tourist destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Aside from that, it is also a home to a substantial industrial base that supports a range of spin-off industries including suppliers and

distributors. (Lambe 2008)

Although thriving today, tourism, shopping and industrial activities were not always on peak. It is said that the textile industry closed its doors in Etowah where unemployment declined by 20%, and the main streets are lined with empty storefronts. The economic decline was being backboned with economic development strategies focusing on the town's existing assets- using the heritage to attract tourists, a dynamic and thriving downtown corridor with retail and service amenities, leveraging the town's quality of life, and existing industries to further expand it's industrial base. (Lambe 2008)

One of the strategies to cope up with the downfall focuses on using its's asset on tourism- the old, abandoned rail line which stretched up into the national park. Rail excursions have become the anchor for Etowah's tourism industry. It's second strategy focuses on developing the downtown providing services and amenities that attract tourists and locals alike. (Lambe 2008) The willingness and ability to adapt of Etowah to change with the times has positively affected the shift on social, economic and civic condition of the municipality. Etowah had to adapt in order to survive the ups and downs on rail industry, brought jobs and formed an art council – looking to her historical, natural and infrastructure assets to create a new model for local development. (Lambe 2008).

This entails that the development strategy should be based on a broad definition of small-town assets which for example in the case of Etowah that historic downtown architecture and rail infrastructure were obviously an asset for development. By identifying this assets, it is ought to take a broad view of what a town has to offer and employ creative ways to leverage those assets towards economic, civic, social and environmental gains.

Key findings

Given that Sokndal municipality is surrounded by many tourist

Figure 12: Activating the facades of heritage houses through enabling creative industries upfront the streets. Source: raymondclarkeimages 2018)

Figure 13: Tennessee's old rail transit is currently use for tourist spots. Source: (raymondclarkeimages 2018)

attractions, Hauge I Dalane has a potential to develop as a "gateway" linking these places to one another. These opportunities could be a driving force to introduce creative industries as part of regeneration process and establishing the character Sokndal municipality. It will serve a good foundation of a long term-development as many tourists come to visit especially during a certain time of the year and a strategy to use cultural assets, improving the town's corridor with retail and service amenities, and introducing a character on the external public grounds to naturally attract people, will lead to leveraging the municipality's quality of life. This could also lead on the potentiality that existing businesses and industries will further expand. Looking into that Sokndal is known to being a cultural and industrial town, on a wider perspective this could improve and leverage the town's economic, civic, social and environmental gains.

3.   Cittaslow movemnet in Kristinestad, Finland

Kristinestad is a town located on the westcoast of Finland, housing the population of 7,100 and covers an area of 687 sq.m. (Design Strek 2014). The old town centre is surrounded by wooden houses built by the farmers as they want to establish a trading centre for the locals-which symbolizes the richness in culture and heritage from the old times. Nowadays, the town is characterized as a very culturally diverse, as the place whose inhabitants can lead an active and rich lives are divided into Finnish and Sweddish. (Design Strek 2014)

As part of the cittaslow movement, one of the urban development strategies that they are focusing on is protecting the heritage houses is by maintaining its physical characteristics with the facilitation of the community. Basically the area was known as a farmland, but during winters, they open the area for activities such as skiing, while in summer, it covers a vibrant atmosphere for walking trips where people enjoys the prehistoric vibes around the area, and the wooden houses. (Design Strek 2014)

With integration of culture and business, the service sector, the retail trade and small business plays an important part in the local economy

Figure 14: Activating streets through establishing bazaar/ markets of local products of Kristinestad / Source: (Kristinestad Tourist Office 2019)

Figure 15: Incorporating Cittaslow movement in commercial industry Source: (Kristinestad Tourist Office 2019)

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of the town as well, which the young people who left the town to study chose to move back afterwards establishing their own business or working for a company. (Design Strek 2014) The development in Kristinestad nurtures the unique, local identity that sets the town apart from the rest of the cities which aim is to concentrate on the local products and own resources which offers a good quality of life among residents and sustaining their economic capabilities generating tourist all year round.

Key findings

As the development of Sokndal municipality is also tied up with the principles of Cittaslow movement, this gives a notion that they already had established a good characteristics and values where we can incorporate to the principles of culture and creative industries in urban planning. Even with a small population such as Kristinestad, the town, could manage to establish a local-based trading centres leading to natural way of participation of its people and this is where creative industries play its role. Identifying the factors which made the development successful,it is basically by active participation of local people through establishing their grounds on retail and small businesses, and integrating the characteristics and values of their own culture.

This development could lead to improving the whole neigbhorhood which will impact the community's everyday life and attractiveness in general. The interventions tied up with the principles of Cittaslow movement is evident to address socio-economic and living standard inequalities in the town of Kristinestad, and could also happen in Sokndal in the same case.

Context and Relevance

This research is relevant in the preparation of Sokndal municipality on how they will achieve a promising urban development for the next 10 years despite the challenges on depleting urban factors they are currently facing.

Focusing on the effect of urban development should be seen as a priority, attempting to seize the opportunities for the integration of designing urban spaces making the most on the scarce resources. As pointed out by the municipality Sokndal municipality can be as more as what it is today, presenting several urban strategies would be able to help the municipality to be on the peak of their development in the long run. Attempting to understand the effects of urban regeneration planning strategies will be put into place to tackle shrinkage as well as on various administrative levels. Being able to evaluate existing theoretical knowledge, compare key points with the main feature of shrinkage and urban regeneration in different case studies can contribute to a better understanding of the questions that the researcher would like to address.

Developing a centre, is often viewed as wanting to create a vibrant environment that people applied for trade, experience, recreation and social gatherings. Looking on the possibilities for Sokndal kommune to sustain their identity by rooting on the culture-led urban development, it would not be impossible as the natural qualities of Hauge I Dalane is a great strength of identity factor that can be further developed for the benefit of today and future inhabitants to create a good living environment, and at the same time, to attract visitors and tourists.

By rooting on these concepts, it will stimulate cultural and creative industries at Sokndal municipality on a higher level, and attract investors of a high class as driver of their development. It could also lead to the potential of inactive urban spaces to reactivate by some changes on the planning system and transformation of urban public spaces.

Considering decline in population as one of the major challenges of Sokndal, measures and plans should be focusing on creating hubs for jobs and increase the well-being of inhabitants through urban community development with the emphasize on densifying the centre. Improvements on the neighbourhood would also have a positive effect among elders in particular and those who are spending most of their lives in the area. Integrating the concepts of creative city intact with the

culture-led urban strategies would be able to sustain the long-term development.

By offering the municipality an effective living environment exclusive for all age groups, this will help them to organize the living conditions and services that everyone would benefit, taking into consideration the roots of their identity. It will also link to a sustainable economic stand attracting investors on different industries, mentioning that Titania as a big factor on their economy. This will be a good basis for the development transforming Hauge i Dalane as a good and vibrant meeting place for all ages and an environment that will develop individual's health and mental well-being.

To sum up, the neighborhood's current condition was seen as lacking the environmental qualities needed for a good everyday life and attractiveness in general, where an area-based interventions can be a factor addressing the social-economic and living standards inequalities in cities. It is intended to create both a better living environment and living conditions, by upgrading physical built of the neighborhood (Stjernberg et al. 2020). The current development model for Sokndal municipality is yet linked to a growth paradigm which is being evaluated as declining and as seen to be wrong to be suppressed at least, and hopefully to gradually change as soon as possible.

 A development model must be directed with urban regeneration strategies to give much importance to the improvement of the neighbourhood's "hardware", including the physical improvement of buildings and infrastructure that leaves the social and economic questions lurking in a deprived neighbourhood have

been very often underestimated (Camarda et al. 2015).

Chapter 4
Context Analysis and Mapping

About the municipality

Sokndal municipality has a lot of significant cultural values, protected by cultural environment located in Sogndalstrand and Jøssingfjord. Sokndal municipality is also known to have a fascinating coastal cultural environments and cultural monuments associated with mining. These characteristics creates a connection and a sense of place and belonging supported by Cittaslow- an organization established in Italy with the idea of slowing down the pace of the people who comes to visit the neighborhood, and prioritize the good quality of life. (Jacobsen 2022)

*Figure 16: Showing the geographical progression within Hauge i Dalane
Source: (Asplan Viak 2020).*

As seen on Fig. xx, (edit this map) a degree of changes in Hauge I Dalane takes place over the last 50 years. The river serves as the natural barrier leading to concentration of housing development on the north side, while the south side remains to be an agricultural land.

Location

Sokndal is the southernmost municipality in Rogaland comprise of villages that offers a picturesque landscape view and reach in cultural identity. It is centrally located by the coast along county road 44 with residential and industrial areas gets to attract people on their way such as the distinctive landscape that makes them more attractive with outdoor opportunities such as fishing. There is a river which flows through Hauge and Sogndalstrand which stands to be a trade centre way back in the previous year (Asplan Viak 2020).

Figure 17. Location of Sokndal on a regional perspective
Source: (Aspla Viak 2020)

Behaviour Mapping

To better understand the urban context of Sokndal municipality, participation of different indicators is necessary to have a view of the local perception that was established among residents and the stakeholders. The participation of the community is in the form of surveys to achieve the necessary information in relation to evaluating the quality of existing urban space within the town centre. Aside from the residents, several technical representatives from the municipality have also participated responding to what are their perception within urban, social, and environmental aspects in the context of Sokndal municipality.

According to the municipal representative when asked about describing the outdoor environment of the municipality, they characterized it as "inactive" leading to people just spending most of their time at home. There are also respondents who describes that the area needs to adapt for better improvement instead of just being barely a skatepark and playground, especially in the Soknatun area where it can be better not only for the cars.

There has been mentioned issues that are prevailing today that for the community is needed to be addressed to increase the attractiveness and quality of life in the area. For example is a facility for youth to exercise their talents would be a reason to avoid unnecessary activities such as vandalisms leading to minor crimes. In relation to this, the municipality is facing a lack of urban elements that draws people out of the centre, and would rather visit a different place. One of the main focuses they would like to address is to improve the street connections and quality

throughout the centre, which they characterized in a negative way at all.

Mostly of the respondents also have come up with the similar to same concerns that a more often public transport trips should also be considered as a way of allowing people to be more flexible going back and forth in the town centre. These concerns hinders the opportunity to be more accessible and establish more businesses to cater different groups of people. It is also an arising concern for the community how their natural resources would be better use of and in what ways the local people would be able to facilitate in preserving their natural resources in a way that they can still use it better- allowing the users to feel their sense of space and belonging.

Their common ideas that several meeting places should be established to open up opportunity within a small area, and an improved streets through the centre where people will feel safe complemented with several meeting places for different age groups. Having a safe environment will in turn develop the zones in a more engaging way increasing the pride living in Sokndal through increased turnovers in trade such practicing the principles in creative industry and cultural initiatives. The insights gathered from the indicators expresses an opportunity to incorporate cultural initiatives and creative industry as a regeneration strategy for Sokndal municipality in a way that active interactions of the society is being prioritized.

Socio-economic
Demographic data

Sokndal municipality have an approximately 3,281

population as of the 4th quarter of 2021 (Statistisk Sentralbyrå 2021). The population is continuously decreasing from the last 30 years in relation between, births, death, and migrations. It is stated from the municipal plan for 2032 that the drastic change in the population is also due to age-related diseases where and there is an increasing proportion of elderly and declining proportion of working age, which weakens the society's age-bearing capacity (Sokndal 2022). It is mentioned that these numbers might positively change in time but in slow progression (Sokndal 2022).

Based from figure XX, it is projected the population had started to decline from the year 2020, and will continue to regress until 2050 under the same circumstances. The increase of number of older people is projected after 2021,which will result in a lasting change in the age structure of the municipality. This drastic change will lead to financing and prioritization challenges that will affect the value creation and welfare development, if the municipality will not be able to address the issue, a need to call for changes in service production should be considered. (Ørsland 2021)
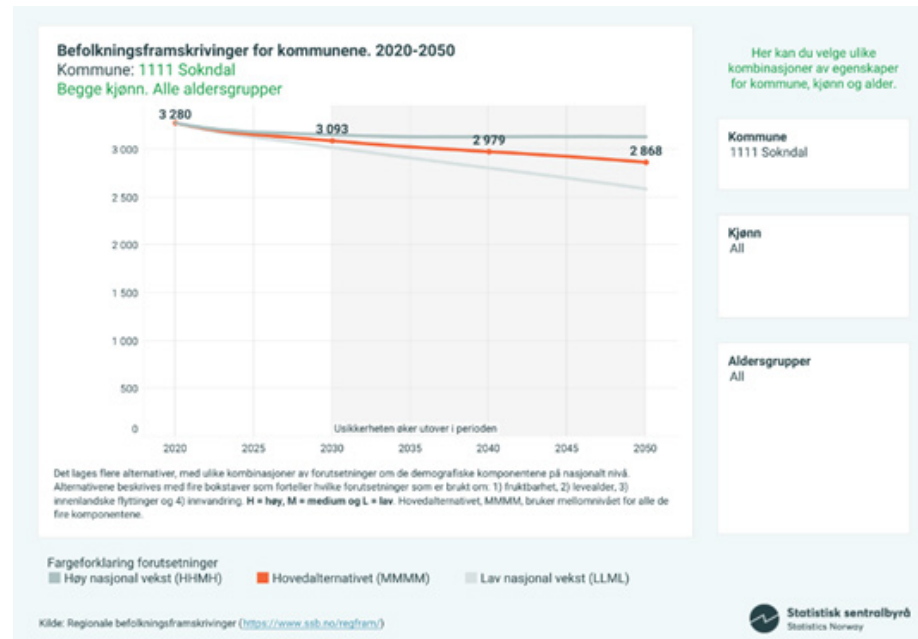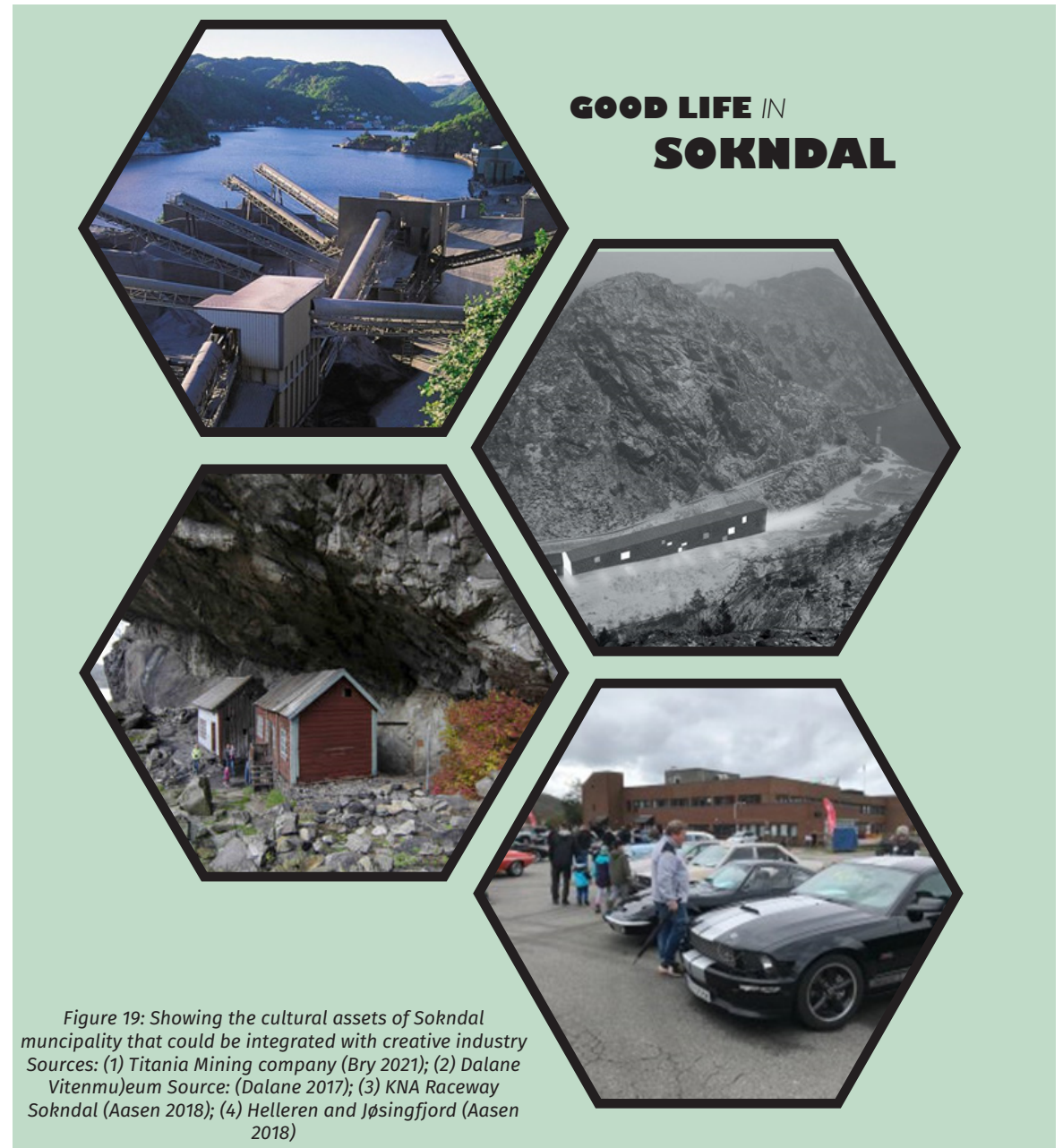

Figure 18: showing the decline in population based from 2020 projection
Source: (Ørsland 2021)

The population growth has therefore a great importance on how these incomes will further develop in the future. As mentioned in the municipal plan, those who are moving out of Sokndal are mostly students to attend their studies. And it is therefore important to get this group back after they graduated. An overarching plan is to provide a good housing offer and provide an access to work (Ørsland 2021).

Economic data

Sokndal Municipality has a varied business life such as industrial trades and cultural industries. They area also very dependent on Titania- which makes most of the workplaces are connected to mining, crushing plants, and industrial services (Ørsland 2021). On the top of that, the municipality has established a regional motorsports centre and a science museum which adds value on the economic sector of the municipality. Furthermore, there have been a decision to expand the national tourist routes in Jøssingfjord to pass through the town centre and working on this will be central to the development of tourism in Sokndal (Sokndal 2022).

The geological characteristics of Sokndal are considered special resulted to a defined characteristic of landscape, which left a special geological heritage that cannot be found anywhere else. This geological resources on the form of ore lakes have resulted in the establishment of Titania-a mining company which known as the world's largest depositor of ilmenite that takes part on the municipality's economic growth (Wikipedia 2021).

GOOD LIFE *IN*
SOKNDAL

Figure 19: Showing the cultural assets of Sokndal muncipality that could be integrated with creative industry Sources: (1) Titania Mining company (Bry 2021); (2) Dalane Vitenmu)eum Source: (Dalane 2017); (3) KNA Raceway Sokndal (Aasen 2018); (4) Helleren and Jøsingfjord (Aasen 2018)

Challenges

1.   Depopulation

One of the challenges that Sokndal municipality is hardly working on relates to inactive youth, low participation in organized activities, overweight, and obesity. On the top of that, there is also an increased number for mental disorders especially among young people. It is discussed that NIPH highlights that one factor that contributes to this is lack of physical activities (Sokndal 2022). In this regard, the municipality need to work on providing an arena such as outdoor active places for activities that these mentioned problems can be addressed. According to the assessment that the municipality had conducted, factors such as development of housing, business, culture, and upbringing strategies can influence the population increase over a period of time.

2.   Economic decline

Many businesses had been relocating outside of the municipality that leads to the loss of important resources for value creation. As a result, they are facing consequences of inactive economic movement that affects their competency and local community development. Agriculture, for some instance is an important industry in Sokndal municipality, which faces several challenges that are being identified by the national and international authorities, and the potential offers that agriculture has could increase the value creation and business development through investment in tourism and the like. (Sokndal 2022)

3.   Flooding

Flooding is one of the challenges that the municipality is looking into. As shown on figure XX, the entire town centre is located on the danger zone, where it covers almost the entire centre. The studies shows that these uncertainties on flood situations and future measures can be challenging to assess the opportunities within the town centre at Hauge. This problem put the external environment and critical sanitary functions of the area in danger. This dilemma explains why there is a

little development in Hauge over the last years, until today as they view that high risk on the development takes place. It is mentioned in the municipal plan that flooding will continue to be a problem over the next 10 years and bigger challenges lies ahead. (Sokndal 2022)

Figure 20: showing the areas that will be highly affected by flood, especially the town centre.
Source: (Sokndal 2022)

Building Functions And Typology

Sokndal municipality manages significant buildings, such as the cultural heritage along Jøssingfjord and Sogndalstrand. The cultural environment and monuments are all associated with mining way back years ago where this also connects to the identity of the community and strengthen their pride and identity. Most structures from the late 60's still stands today and used on multi purposes such as converting it to retail shops.

In the town centre, establishment of Soknatun and sports field resulted on an increased use of access roads (Asplan Viak 2020). Cittaslow movement is helps to preserve its vibrant characteristics and at the same time allowing people to practice daily activities and not be threatened with eviction and decay. Specifically, in Gamleveien, it is evident from the side streets the historical characteristics of Sokndal from the mixed-used zone that creates an active ground floor consisting of restaurants, merchandising shops, and cafes while the second floor is

Existing Built-Up Spaces In Sokndal Town Centre

The establishment of Soknatun and sports field is one of the reasons that resulted on an increased use of access roads in the town centre, which resulted on the developmet of business areas on certain parts. (Asplan Viak 2020)

In this map, shows the degree of occupied spaces acording to a specific use. Residential spaces are highly built up on the North side of the area, while acivity generated spaces such as institutional, commercial, and recreational are located on the focus area of the research. There are also open areas that are being used as parking spaces whih gives an inactive environment and less value at all.

Understanding the locations of these spaces is vital to the creation of successful link between areas that reflects the relationship between one another and how it will strengthen the value of these spaces through developing the external public grounds, integrating the concepts of creative industry and the principles of culture-led development. This will also be an advantage of maximizing the potential of natural asset such as the river looking on how it will possibly connected through road networks and mobility pattern.
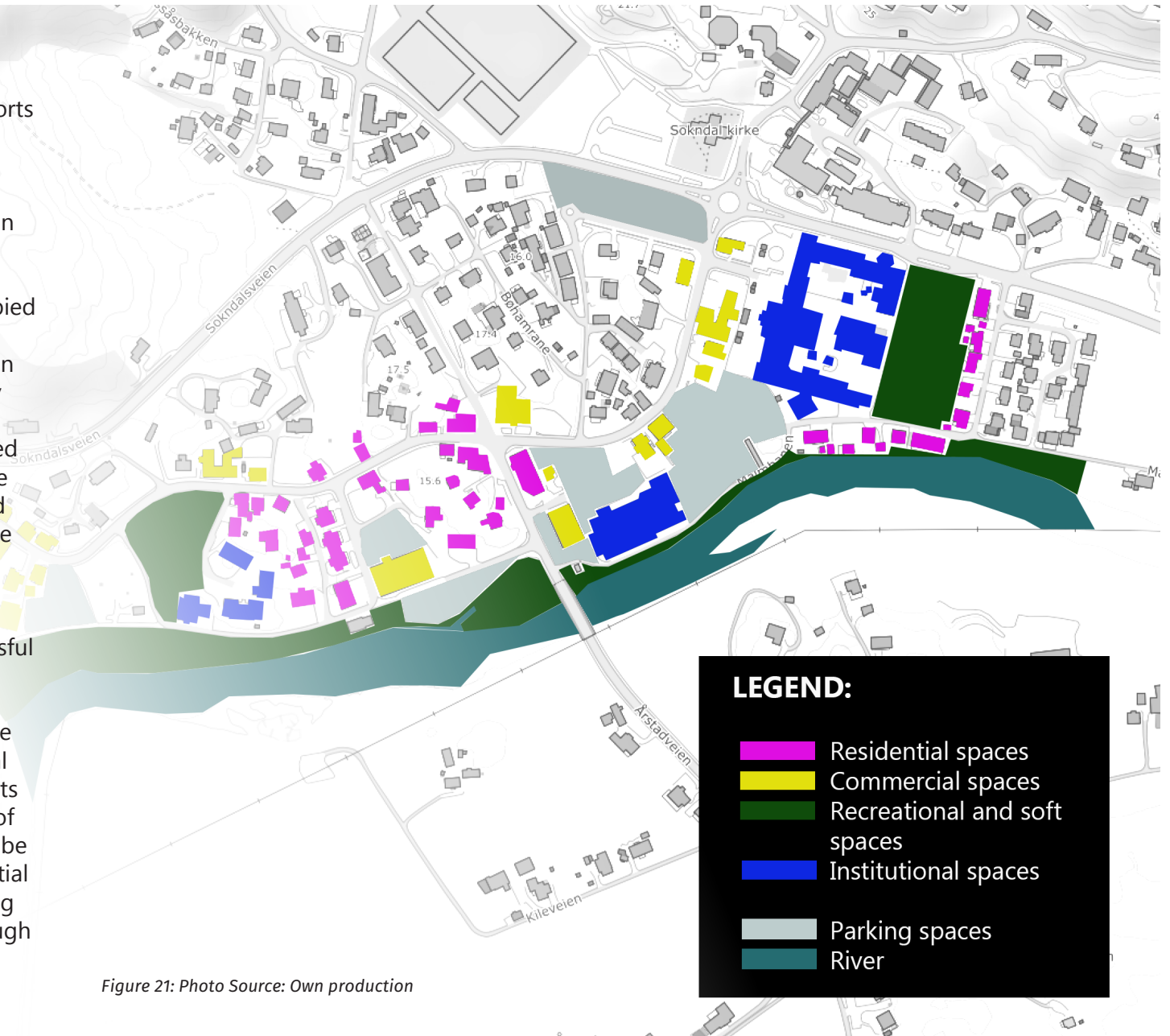
Figure 21: Photo Source: Own production

LEGEND:

- Residential spaces
- Commercial spaces
- Recreational and soft spaces
- Institutional spaces
- Parking spaces
- River

mostly occupied as residential spaces.
These advantages are beneficial for services that the municipality is needed to address such as the economic gap, due to poor allocation of resources.

Mixed-used buildings

In the town centre, establishment of Soknatun and sports field resulted on an increased use of access roads (Asplan Viak 2020). Cittaslow movement is helps to preserve its vibrant characteristics and at the same time allowing people to practice daily activities

and not be threatened with eviction and decay.

Specifically, in Gamleveien, it is evident from the side streets the historical characteristics of Sokndal from the mixed-used zone that creates an active ground floor consisting of restaurants, merchandising shops, and cafes while the second floor is mostly occupied as residential spaces. These advantages are beneficial for services that the municipality is needed to address such as the economic gap, due to poor allocation of resources.
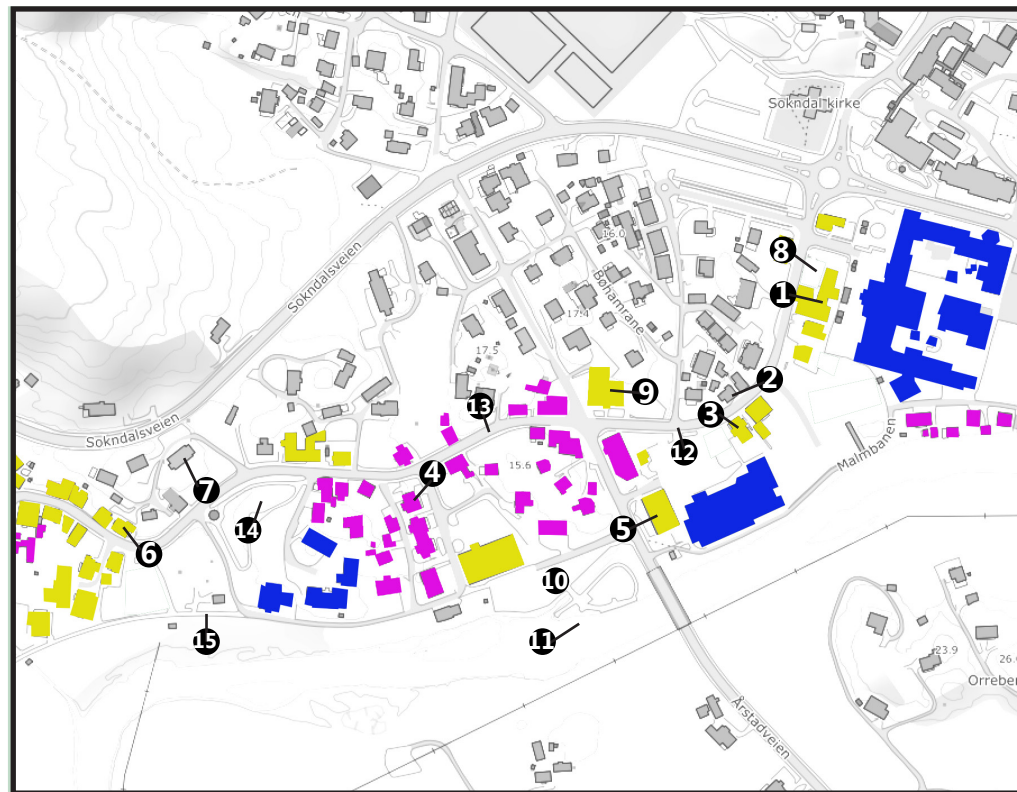
Map 1: Showing the distibution of buildings according to different uses. Source: Own production

Figure 22: Posible ground floors that can be converted into business areas for creative industry. Source: Own Photo

Non- functioning buildings

Currently, there are three (3) buildings that are not being used which is previously caters businesses such as bank, community centre, and a retail shop which turned out not functioning at all. This is brought by the economic challenges leading the owners to go for internal migration. One of the buildings is privately owned and there are plans to renovate it for commercial purposes in the future. And two (2) of the buildings are municipality owned, which the area fits to cater business activities.

Public realm

Public realm in Sokndal town centre is characterized with poor quality connections, wide unused spaces and scattered open parking slots that occupy almost all the open hard surfaces. This creates an imbalance atmosphere within the environment, especially for the residents. There are several soft spaces which are characterized to be on its bare potential due to lack of street elements, imprecise space relationships, and broken value of these areas- as the result of slow progression on urban development initiatives.

As seen on the map, each open public spaces are reachable through walking distances and connected through the main street of Gamleveien- the major traffic road crossing the town centre. That indicates the possibility to promote a good flow of foot traffic and accessibility between spaces creating a societal value.
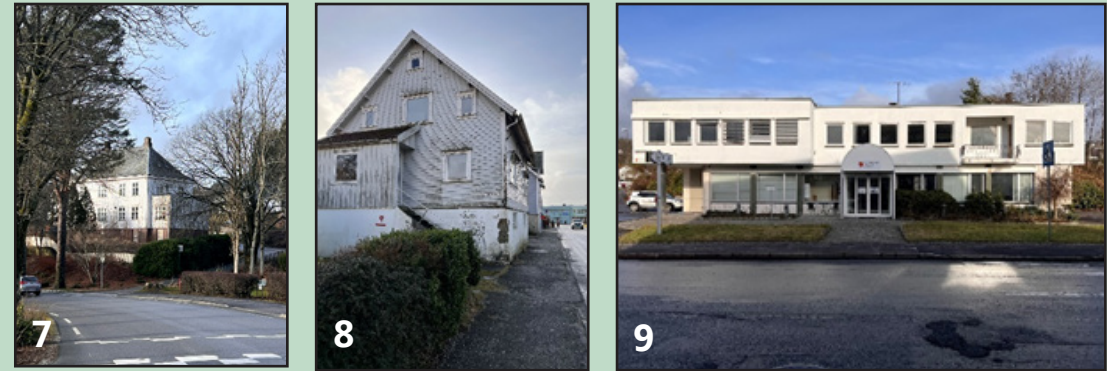

Figure 23: Posible grounds floors that can be converted into business areas for creative industry. Source: Own Photo

Figure 24: Different public open areas with inactive environment characterized with wide open spaces . Source: Own photo

Connectivity

There are three (3) level of connectivity emerged in the area – high, middle and low connectivity forming the main street networks. The spaces within Gamleveien are well connected through the main street allowing the different types of mobility to have an access around the corner such as buses, private cars, and bikes.

Bus

Bus is the main public transport mobility type that passes through the Gamleveien road – which is the main access road along the subject areas. Within the compound of Soknatun, it is also where the transport terminal lies. There are 2 bus stops along the main line of road connection which gives an easy access to passengers to reach Sokndal town centre, and at the same time, located on two different areas - one is located along Egersundveien, where the industrial facilities are, and one which is the main terminal lies in the compound of Soknatun and the hospital. A bus route which is E39 that comes every 1 hour and within a limited period of time.

Some measures are needed to take into consideration especially the number of bus trips circulating in and out of Sokndal to promote the accessibility in a regional degree, allowing tourists and the residents to have an open access and flexible time taking the public transport.

LEGEND:
High density road
Medium density road
Low density road
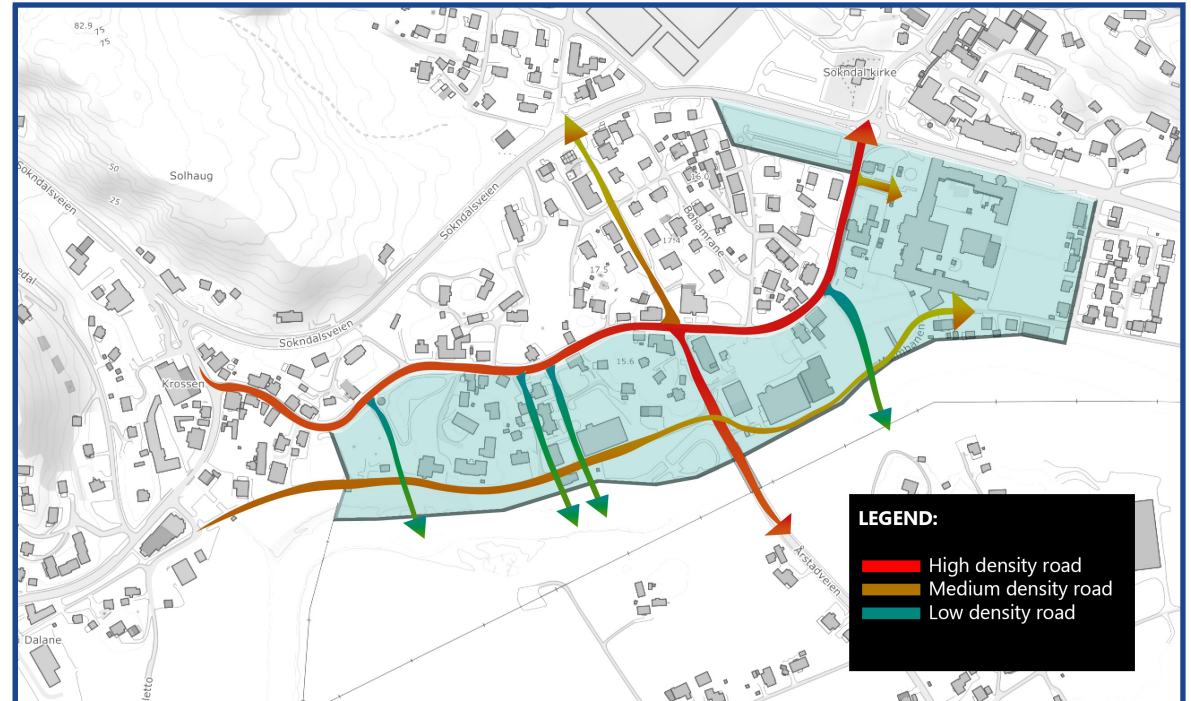
Map 2: Showing the existing different network pattern as being characterized with level of density. Source: Own Photo
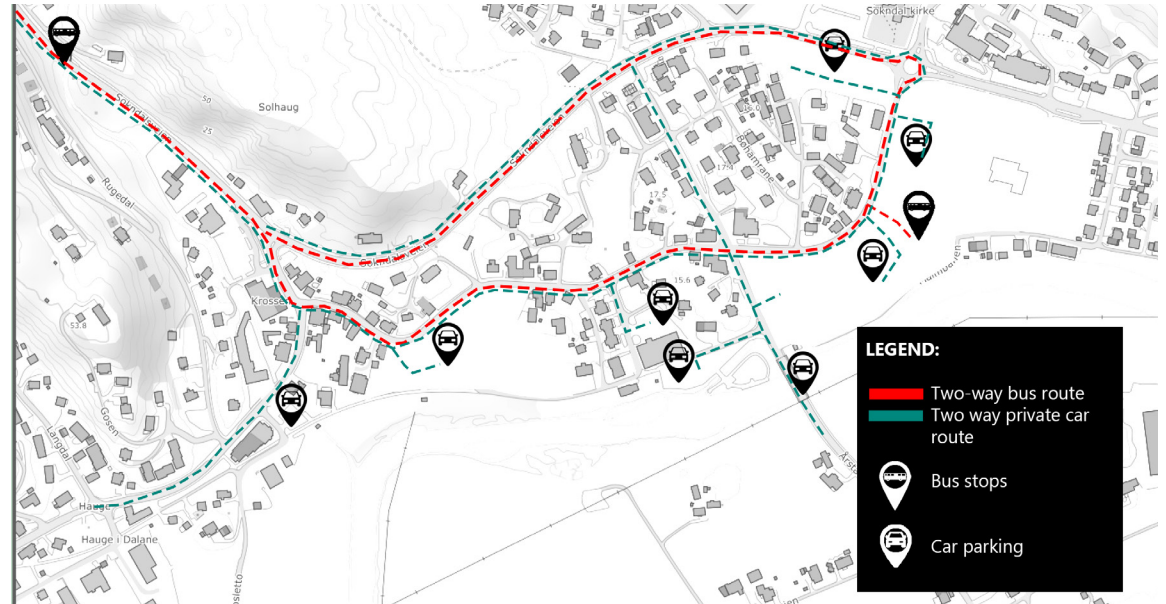

Figure 25: Showing the existing location of permanent and temporary bus stops. Source: Own Photo

Private car

Private cars are the primary mobility type of the residents and tourists in Sokndal due to the fact that there are limited bus travelling on the area, and the nearby places where tourists' attractions are quite far from the centre which for the commuting tourists are difficult to reach. It is by the fact relative to the concern that many elderly people are left in the town and that owning a car would be way better for them to travel within areas than walking on streets and they feel safer.

Private cars characterized as under middle connectivity where access is limited within several networks such as the main road in Gamleveien which is a 2-way road and street roads which allows them to have access in residential areas.

LEGEND:

Two-way bus route
Two way private car route

Bus stops

Car parking

Map 3: Existing transport routes and domination of parking lot within different areas.
Source: Own Photo

Figure 25: Showing 2 way major roads characterized with a wide space
Source: Own Photo

Cycling

A cycling network is somehow not clearly evident along Gamleveien, and shows a gap between several areas. The discrepancy is due to road networks are not consistently designed with a separate portion of cycling tracks especially along the road in Soknatun down to both crossings.   Cyclist's networks are mixed up with several mobility means such as private transports and pedestrian paths which does not reflect the segregation from each other. In that case, a safety for cyclists and pedestrians is also not visible in the in Sokndal's urban context, and clear road network needs to be redefine to cater the complexity and create interaction within these networks, provide high connectivity and more routing choices, providing resilience in many ways. (Batty 2013; Salat 2017) (Nel, Bruyns, and Higgins 2018)

LEGEND:

Cycling oute

Cycling parking
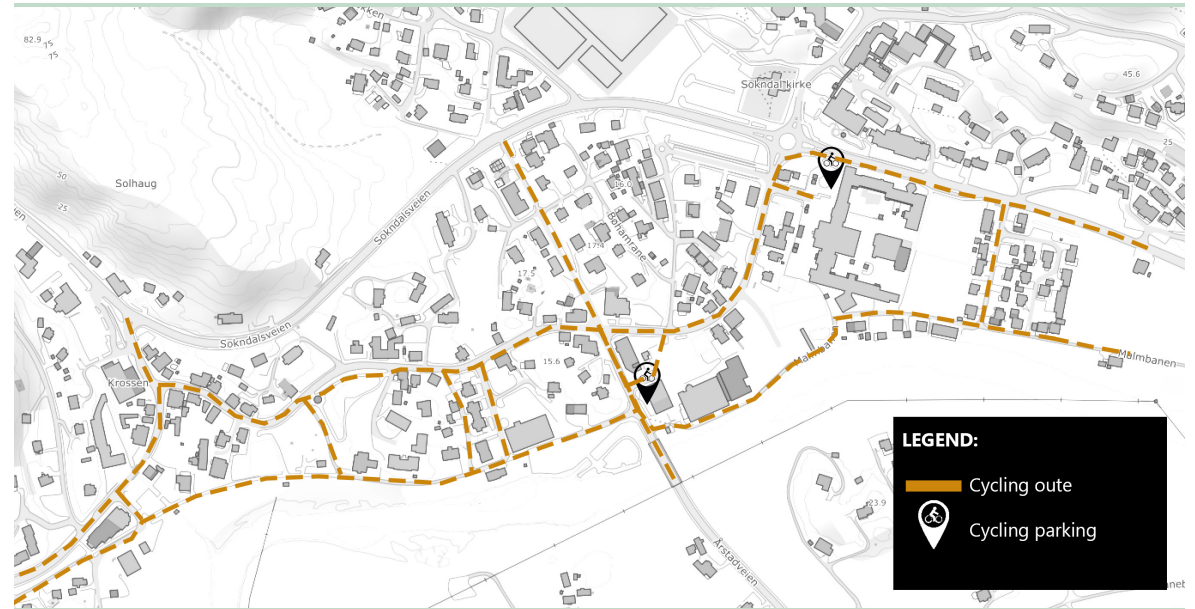
Map 4: Showing the existing pattern of bicycle routes passing through major and minor roads. Source: Own Photo

Figure 26: Showing the characteristic of wide roads which does not reflect a segregation for cars and bicycle.
Source: Own Photo

Pedestrian routes

The pedestrian network interact through a complex of network and shared paths which makes the mobility modes complex. The street paths within the subject spaces does not represent a good interaction between built environment and the pedestrian due to the fact that it does not have a clear definition and separation between spaces and creates a gap such as the link-nodes and obstructions for movement. Despite the uncertainties between connections, each zoning blocks creates an efficient path allowing pedestrian to have an access between spaces. The routes for pedestrians in most of the chosen area is associated with accessibility which is one of the significant factors and independent of other built environment such as the hard and soft ground surfaces.

LEGEND:

━━ Pedestrian route

🚶 Pedestrian crossing
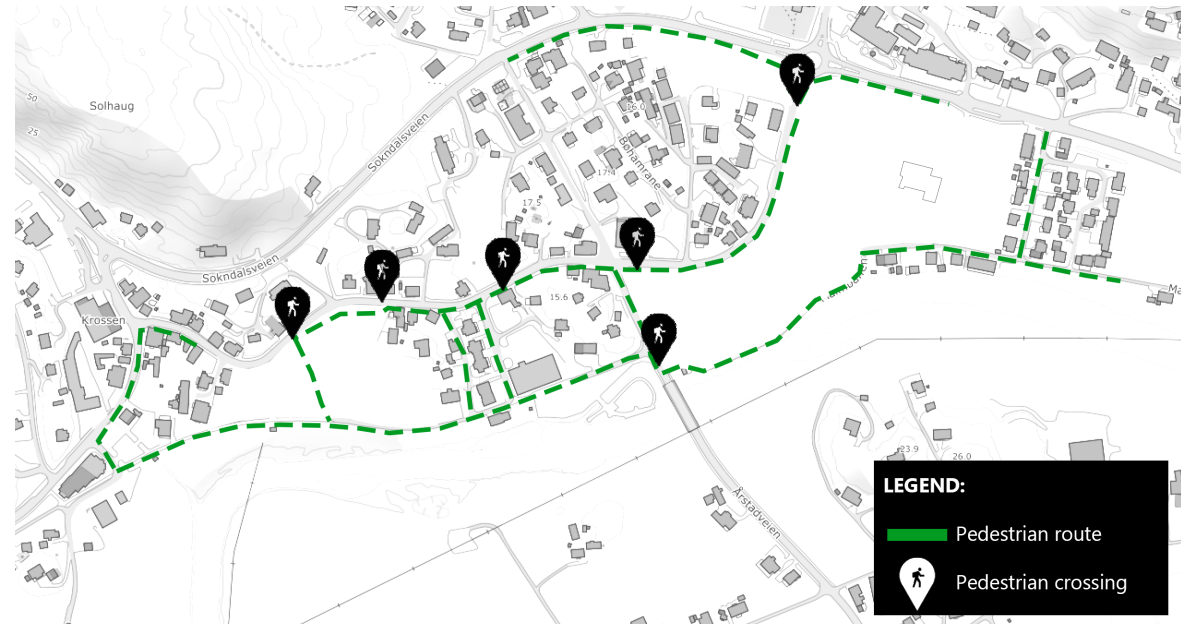
Map 5: Showingthe existing pedestrian walkinng network and the designated road crossings.
Source: Own Photo

Figure 25: Showing pathways characterized with uneven road level, broken paths, and unclear segregation marks
Source: Own Photo

Chapter 5
Design Guidelines and Planning Policy

Development of Municipal Planning Policy

Figure 26:UN's Sustainable Development Goals Source: (Partnership for action and green economy 2013)

In Norway, strategic planning and management was introduced in the last three decades. Majority of the municipality used the national strategic planning and management which leaves an overall positive impact on the development. (Hinderaker and Nikolaisen 2016) In the context of Scandinavian local government, they have large and strategic planning management where both the motivation and opportunity to reform public sectors who's putting effort on the success of development are expected to adapt on this regulations. In this way, planning and management in the Scandinavian cities are in a centralize way of implementing this policies creating a huge impact on achieving the target goal for each municipality.

The municipality's goal towards the development focuses on four (4) priority areas such as housing, balanced life cycle, environment, and business development. (Sokndal 2022) The plan is anchored by long term-strategies aiming to establish interventions on the current

challenges and improved municipal capabilities and to achieve the goal by prioritizing the community's participation. (Sokndal 2022) One of the highlights in the municipal plan is to address the consequences of increasing proportion of elderly combined by the declining proportion of working age- leading to weakening the society's age bearing capacity and economic stability. (Sokndal 2022) This could be possible by creating a sustainable development in the labor market and change in the migration flow anchoring the international standards set by UN which will be further discussed under this section.

The planning strategy is anchored with UN's sustainability goals and UN Convention on the rights of the Child – aiming to achieve a good balance between people, environment, and the economy. Aside from targeting the international standards, Sokndal municipality is also a member of Cittaslow movement which aims to preserve the diversity and its distinctive feature by improving the quality of life, identity of the place, hospitality and sustainable development (Sokndal 2022) – these characteristics are good foundation in establishing the brand of Sokndal in regional and international level by rooting on the three (3) values of Cittaslow movement such as openness, generosity, and co-creation – a vital factor towards the promotion innovative industries rooted on local identity and history. (Sokndal 2022)

European Commission and Member States in 2016 is focusing on a 10-point manifesto aiming to refine the quality of living in rural areas. (Raugze and Daly 2017). Understanding the fact that an economic stability lies on the villages where services and infrastructure are concentrated, introducing a multi-settlement strategic planning is vital to address the shrinking problems in which goal is to make the services shared within accessible locations forming a multi-functional service hub, optimizing a shared-resources and maximizing the impact of services provision. In fact, the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 provide supports for promoting poverty reaction, social inclusion, and economic development in rural areas driving towards the national and regional scheme. (Raugze and Daly 2017).

Chapter 6
The Proposal

Public spaces are characterized as a collective social use and accessible by everyone. Its term can be applied in a variety of social environments such as urban streets and sidewalks, shopping malls and theatre and the like. A public space should provide a setting for spontaneous meeting place for the neighborhood than can help strengthen the social fabric of a community and broaden the individuals' perspective. In this research the priority areas were identified where it is possible to establish livelihood initiatives, outdoor activities, and potential projects where people would choose to engage themselves on a daily basis.

The nature of the public spaces lies in the production of infrastructure for creative innovation. Such as educational institutions, art galleries, and co-working spaces are an opportunity for creative interaction and exchange of ideas. Although in reality, public realm is not designed to be active throughout. Some functions 24/7 which enables certain parts of the district to be active through the night. Planning for a night-time economy allows auxiliary functions such as café, supermarkets, to generate activity. Activities such as bicycle rentals, food stalls, art exhibitions, seating spaces are the major pull towards the district (Ramakrishna 2020)

Design development framework

The design framework is vital part of the planning system to assist the researchers and planners in developing local action plans and initiatives within a strategic context. The importance of each specific factors should be established systematically

to clearly interlinked all planning initiatives that are being conceptualized in the context of Sokndal municipality. It is with regards to help the community to setting up an all over urban design direction on the particular case of the area so then it would enable the planners to map out the important factors in addressing the particular issues in relation to environment, urban fabric, social structure and economy.

Figure 27: The conceptual framework of culture led urban development integrated with creative industry Source: (Novo 2019)

Design Development Stage

The research will only be focusing on point A to point B of Hauge I Dalane. Part of the objective and subjective indicators are the local participants to identify the uses of the spaces in the neighbourhood. Behaviour mapping is also included in this study referring to the observations within the current setting. Thru behavioral mapping, the research will be able to indicate the activities happening in public areas, the time that the participants spent in each location, and whether there are differences between population group's behaviour. The supplementary inputs from this research is also gathered from the documents offered by the municipality and internet.

Design Principles
Conceptual design framework and place-making

A conceptual design framework serves as the foundation of the project vital to the regeneration process of Sokndal municipality. In this framework, it shows the overall design principle of the project on the process of place-making and developing this urban spaces. These principles should therefore translated on an urban designer's perspective and develop more with visible results through developing urban spaces leading to economic development and establish a solid characteristic of the built environment, rooted mainly on the urban regeneration strategies that are applied in the context of Sokndal, focusing on the principles of Cittaslow, culture-led development, and the formation of creative infrastructure.
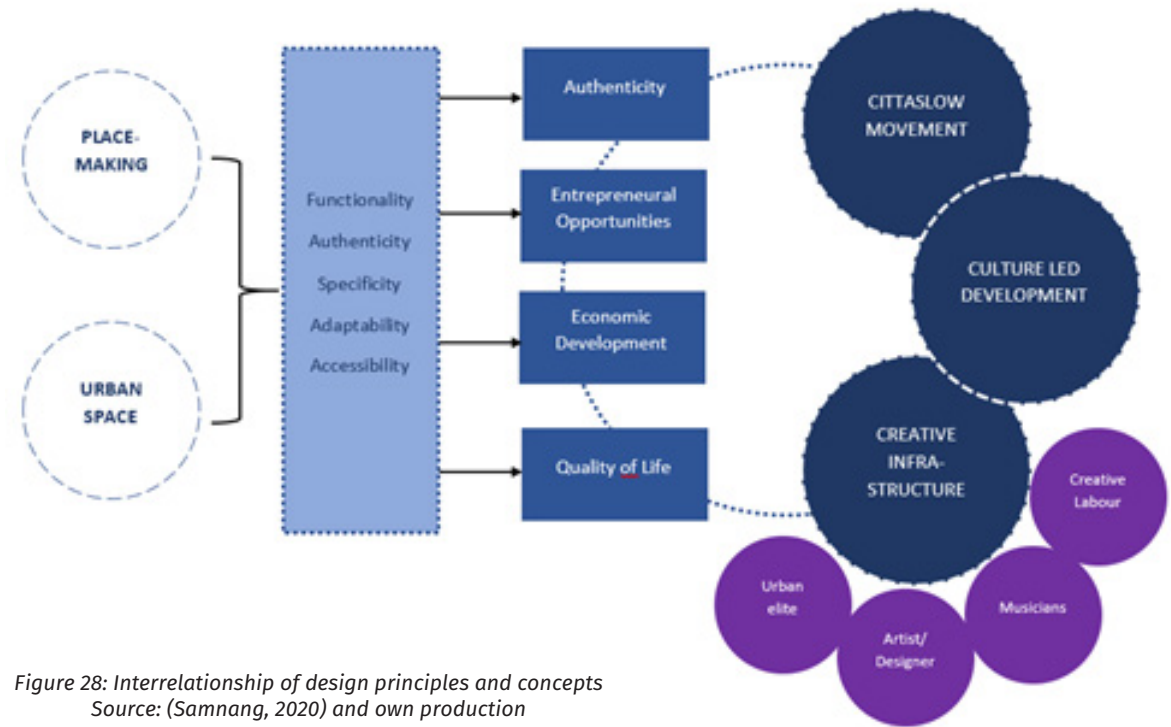

Figure 28: Interrelationship of design principles and concepts
Source: (Samnang, 2020) and own production

Principles of External public spaces

Alongside the design principle and concept, it is also important to look on a more comprehensive relationship of these urban spaces that will contribute on establishing the local identity of Sokdnal municipality.

First and foremost, understanding the characteristics and network of the public spaces is an important element of urban spatial structure which plays a vital role of providing a good quality of life and welfare of people living in the community. The mentioned characteristic and public networks of public spaces above, will be the focus of this project, interwoven with the fundamental design principles that contributes on establishing the local identity of the municipality. The principles that were established has the intention to derive design elements from them, and to acknowledge how successful public spaces

and their contribution to the establishment of local identity. (Thang 2020)

Sokndal municipality development is rooted on the principle and values of Cittaslow movement which focuses on improving the quality of life of inhabitants and creating an identity for the municipality. This also entails the freedom of the community to achieve the good conditions of growing up through leaning on the educational facilities and leisure amenities.

vTo establish a stronger foundation of local identity and development of economy, an introduction to culture-led development and creative industry will be tied up with the current Cittaslow principles, which based on the knowledge from the theories will improve the different aspects of the public spaces establishing a stronger foundation of the local identity.

Industrial aesthetics for some instance is an important component of the developing urban identity. The expressive role of the building is a representation of the historic past of the city. Within design districts, the juxtaposition of the industry compound and the factory building narrate a strong industrial character, making it ideal for artistic display (Ramakrishna 2020)
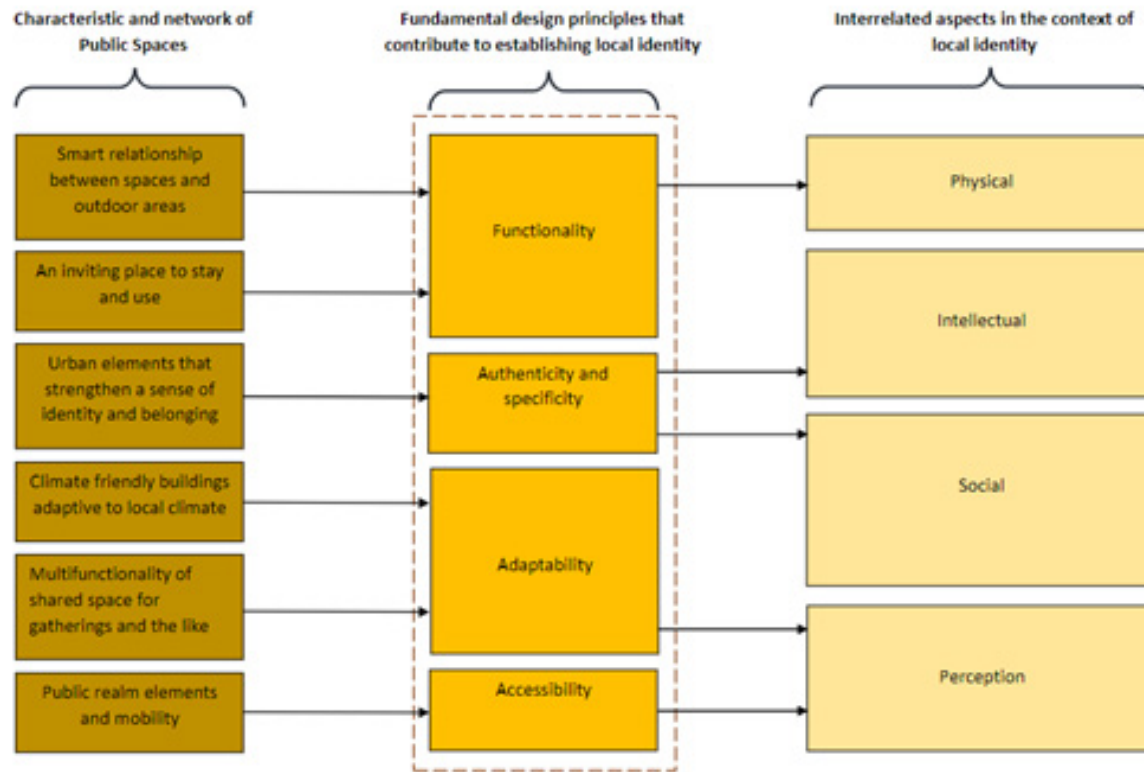

Figure 29: Fundamental design principles that contribute to the local identity of Sokndal town centre
Source: Source: (Samnang, 2020) and own productio n

Area of the Development

The focus area of the development runs through the part of the centre which is the street of Gamleveien, divided into 4 zones. The zones are consisting of institutional, recreational, residential and commercial zones. These zones should reflect the mobility pattern which goal is to activate the external public grounds leading to building up the cultural identity and economic grounds of the area.

Public Realm

According to the notion which is strongly supported by Tuma, people visit and choose to stay and invest in a place, primarily because of the experiences they have in the public realm. Streets and urban spaces are the foundation of different experiences. Transforming the street into a pedestrian friendly spaces, could transform major traffic routes, and this samples have been evidently transform perceived liveability and attractiveness of cities. (The urban developer 2017)

Centre development is not just about focusing on building and politics, but rather prioritizing individual's relationship to the centre from the place they are living in.

A clear structure for the public realms had been driven land uses and events activation strategy. Activities for the community for example is a unique opportunity to develop the unused spaces generating different cultural and creative activities with the community's participation improves the public realm and therefore improve the value of the area. This is rooted and could be possible with objectivity such as:

Figure 30: showing the focus are of the proposal
Source: Own production

» Good streets, parks, and places where people can meet.
» Providing an area where people can take good education, shops, jobs and services
» They feel safe, well managed, and maintained.
» Consideration on affordable and market housing for start-ups and youths
» Create an identity where people are proud to live in.
»

Problems from the dual function of primary transport and commercial corridors for some instance will likely be solved through more efficient use of right of way by shifting space between the various transportation modes, and use of new operational technologies. (Uptown community 2014)

Problems from the dual function of primary transport and commercial corridors for some instance will likely be solved through more efficient use of right of way by shifting space between the various transportation modes, and use of new operational technologies. (Uptown community 2014)

Adaptation within the spatial environment

The focus of the project is to activate the public external grounds of Sokndal town centre through establishing the concepts of cultural identity and creative industry. The measures intended are reflected through provisions on greenery, creating more room for people engagement leading to enhancing spatial qualities and boosting value creation. This also in line to mitigating the impact of major problems with regards to flooding. Furthermore, there are several measures that can be combined with other sustainability pursuits, such as creating a healthy living environment with a minimal impact on the societal structure. The adaptation on spatial environment is vital to open up more opportunities only if the adaptation strategies are in the context of Sokndal case, mitigating the impact of the development through impoving the relationship of different zones.

Cultural Mapping

Center development is not just about buildings and politics, but rather improving the individual's relationship to the centre and the place they live in. It is important in the case of Sokndal town centre to perceive it as an attractive and a place where people can meet with a strong connection on cultural
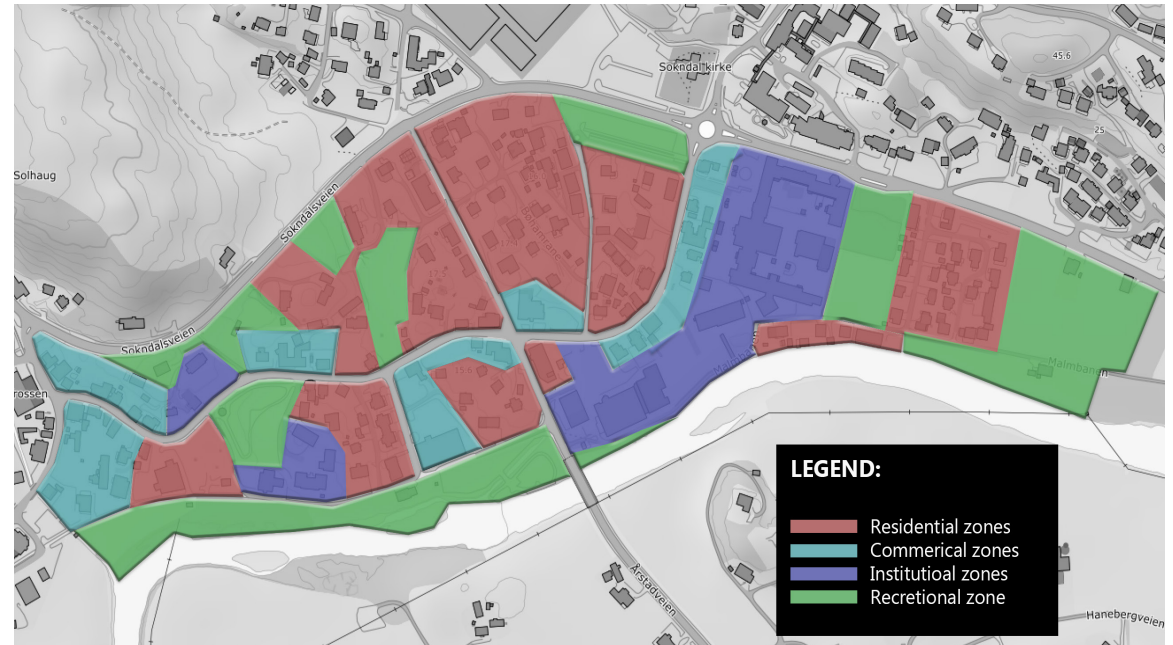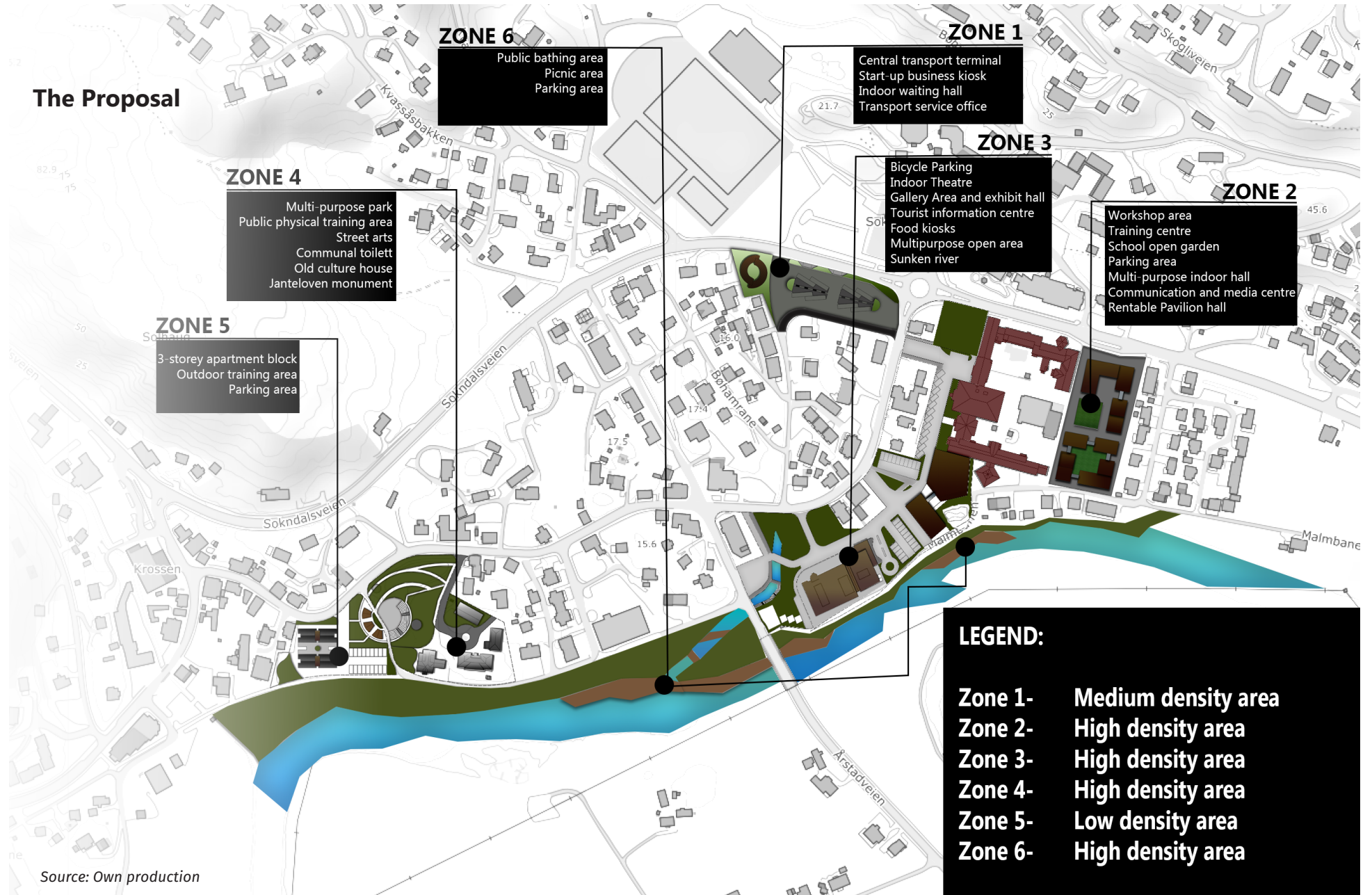

Figure 30: Existing zoning plan
Source: Own production

Cittaslowv | Softscapes | Recreational area | Community Art | Industrial History

Source: Own production

The Proposal

ZONE 6
Public bathing area
Picnic area
Parking area

ZONE 1
Central transport terminal
Start-up business kiosk
Indoor waiting hall
Transport service office

ZONE 3
Bicycle Parking
Indoor Theatre
Gallery Area and exhibit hall
Tourist information centre
Food kiosks
Multipurpose open area
Sunken river

ZONE 4
Multi-purpose park
Public physical training area
Street arts
Communal toilett
Old culture house
Janteloven monument

ZONE 2
Workshop area
Training centre
School open garden
Parking area
Multi-purpose indoor hall
Communication and media centre
Rentable Pavilion hall

ZONE 5
3-storey apartment block
Outdoor training area
Parking area

LEGEND:

Zone 1-　　Medium density area
Zone 2-　　High density area
Zone 3-　　High density area
Zone 4-　　High density area
Zone 5-　　Low density area
Zone 6-　　High density area

Source: Own production

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environment. Heritage buildings along Gamleveien creates a unique environment where people feel the strong identity through the help of Cittaslow movement. The heritage buildings are distributed on different areas where it is a good opportunity to strengthen the concentration of people creating a balance environment and to make sure that community's specific needs are being addressed.

Outdoor areas

Open spaces on the town centre are characterized by short distances and could be easily reached by walking. Given the proximity and network of this spaces, it is possible to make the centre more alive where local traditions and history are brought out to strengthen and build up the identity that they had. The outdoor spaces generally connects one zone to another reflecting a strong relationship and access all through which also defines the character of the space according to its function.

Meeting places for some instance are strategically good to locate on these areas, to keep the user's volume balanced. Meeting places are divided into 3 level: 1st, the one located in the Soknatun compound is basically intended for cultural, galleries, and multipurpose halls that are open in public, that could also be rented out by private companies for example. Secondly, is the gathering area down to the cultural houses where different kinds of events can be held at. The area is proposed to be a mini Amphitheatre- adapting the yearly traditional event happening in Jøssingfjord. The open theatre can be a venue of cultural activities where it is accessible in public. This has something to do with establishing the
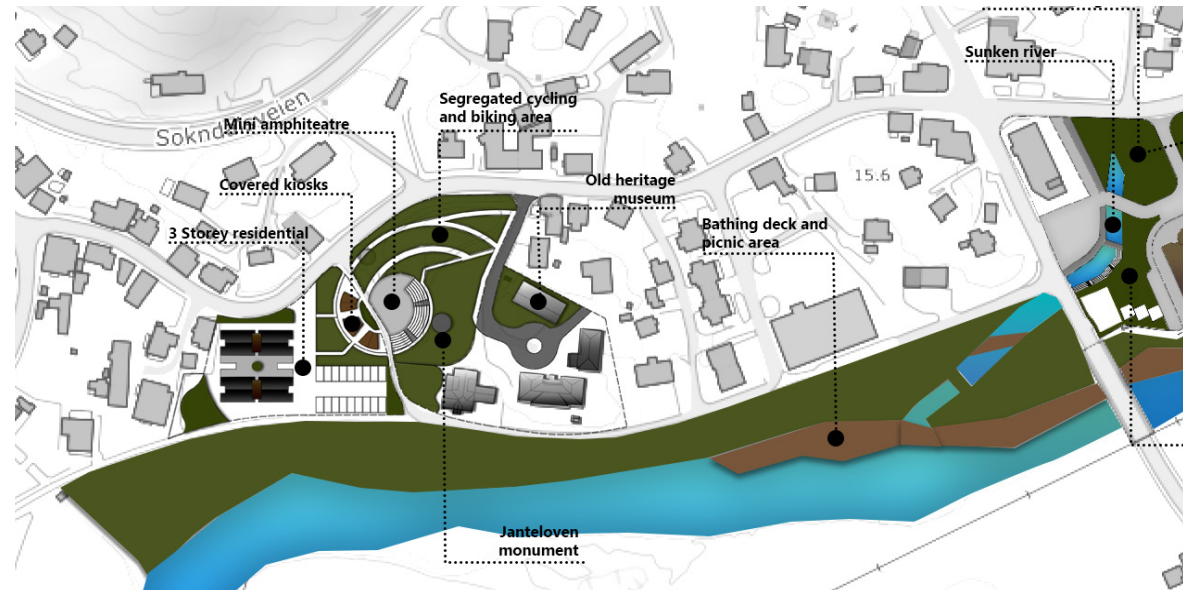

Figure 31: Showing the area distribution for proposed recreational space
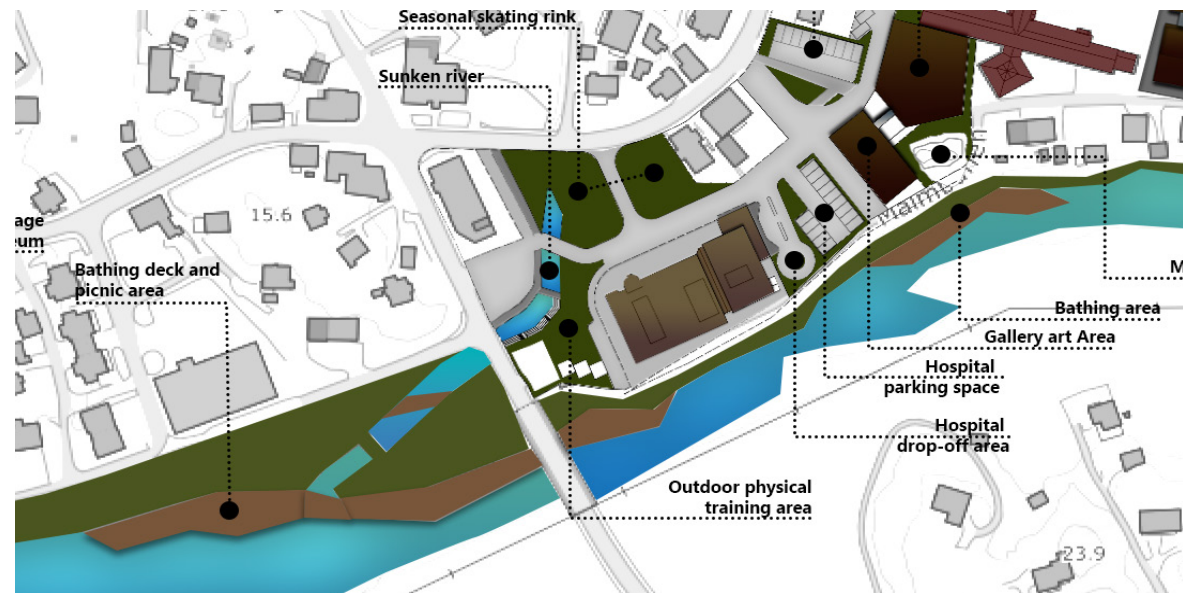*Source: Own production*

Figure 32: Showing the area distribution for proposed recreational and institutional space
Source: Own production

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characteristic of the open public grounds, and at the same time, it is a good attraction for people especially for tourists to engage themselves into some sort of events.

Cultural Spaces

There are 4 proposed cultural spaces to be established within the chosenzones. These are the culture house, open gallery museum, the Janteloven Amphiteatre It is a prerequisite towards building the strong ground of cultural identity by providing facilities where they can showcase the traditional practices of Sokndal as a municipality. These cultural spaces will serve as an arena of establishing the knowledge and changing the perception towards Sokndal what it can offer in different fields such as the richness of its historical background, arts, heritage and natural resources that has haven't been promoted.

Creative Spaces

The proposed creative spaces are comprised of training centres for youths and middle ages who wants to start up businesses in Sokndal. Establishing the creative industry requires facilities to cater the skilled personnel especially the locals who wants to pursue further their business opportunities in their industrial and agricultural economy. By providing a productive environment such as training centres would potentially encourage business minded people to become a pioneer of their own. Since Sokndal is known for fishing, agriculture, and industrial, these will be the focus of the development. Aside from the training centres, the creative industry will also be reflected on public galleries, performance halls for the
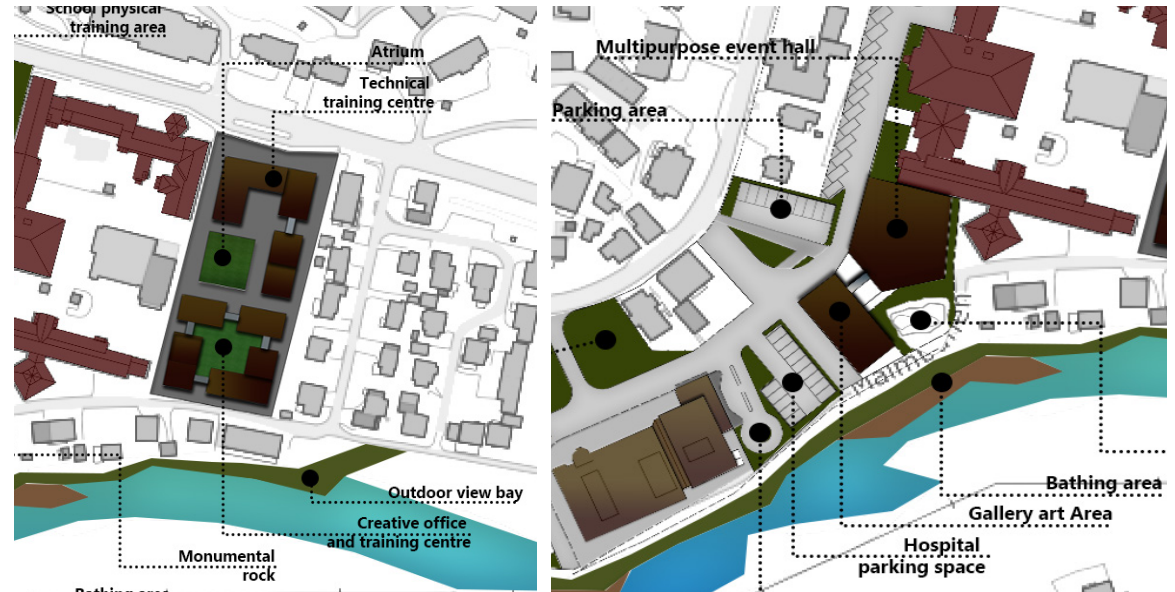

Figure 33: Showing the area distribution for proposed recreational space
Source: Own production

Figure 34: Showing the build form of proposed new cultural house and training centre for creative industry
Source: Own production

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start up artists, for example- as it is also takes part on the cultural practices in Sokndal. The engagement of creative stakeholders is vital to establish an effective creative industry by providing an arena and engaging environment through offering an interactive outdoor spaces- such as showcasing the products from the training programs in kiosks where it is accessible to the public. This guarantees the opportunities of growth and welfare condition of the society in general. It is also compose of areas where citizen engagement is extended- including school children and young adults.

Green spaces

Softscapes are distributed in different zones to create a harmonious and balanced built environment. The locations chosen aims to create a soft transition between places stimulating the unique characteristic of each space. The specific character of the municipality, and its particular identity, derives from a particular intensity and reciprocal combinations of landscapes. Urban corridors, agricultural areas, rivers, etc represents a particular territorial feature of the town. This removes the barrier between people and the environment and would lead to increase engagement elevating the values between series of prominent spaces. Art galleries installations are also be incorporated in the green spaces such as the monuments of important personalities that established Sokndal as a municipality.
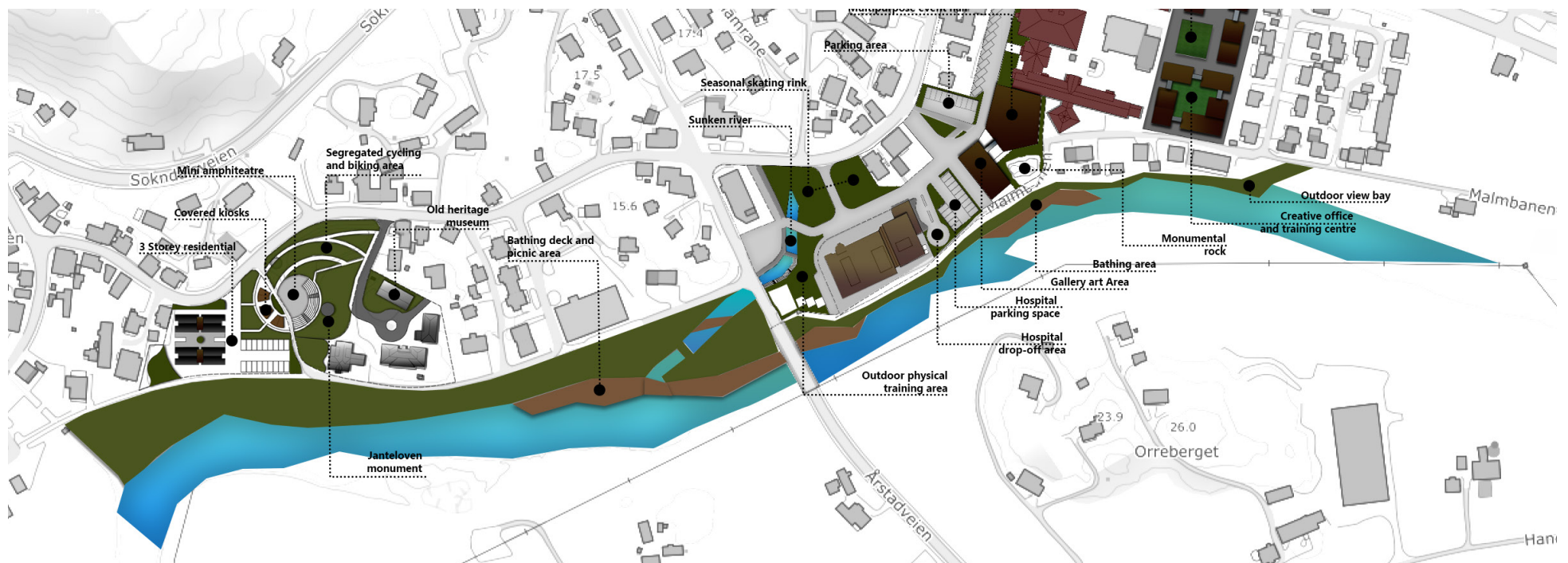

Figure 36: Showing the distribution of green spaces within the proposed areas
Source: Own production

Growth nodes

On a wider view, the overarching plan for Sokndal includes the development of connectivity of National tourist routes through providing a spectacular quality of life and building of the identity of Sokndal through architectural facades. (Sokndal 2022). In a more compact zone, growth nodes are identified in the town centre as seen on the map. These zones are characterized to develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem focusing on the creative industries that are proposed to establish ensuring the compatibility of growth and development of the town. This is composed of local entrepreneurs and start-ups as a foundation of social ventures having the most opportunities to become a business hub and for the residential community to establish the areas which problems arises such as traffic, slow progression of the development, and environment.

These nodes also have a unique characteristics leading to the access on the river. Such as every zones have a wider network pattern directing to the use of river for some instance. Wider networks tend to bring up a larger vistas for the users to have a visual attraction on the direction towards the river with minimal obstruction. This is a good opportunity to distribute the users on different areas with the river line.
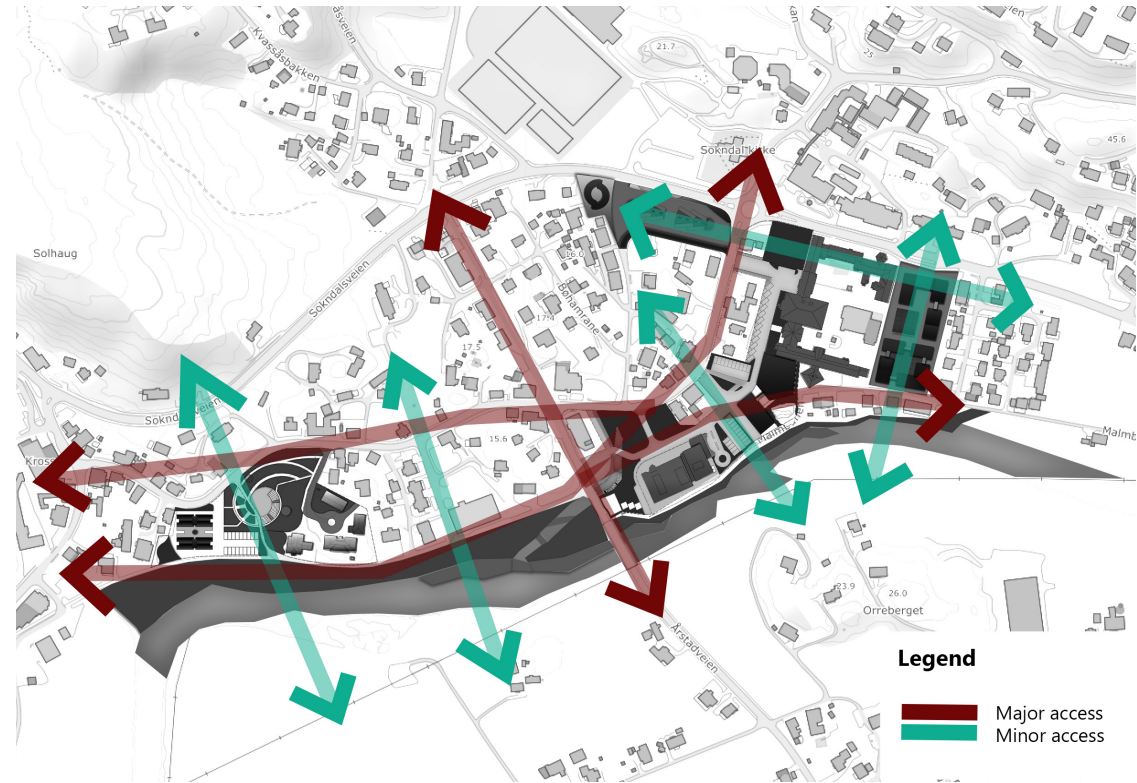

Legend

Major access
Minor access

Figure 36: Showing the distributed connection passing through the different areas of development. Source: Own production

Chapter 7
Discussion and conclusion

Shrinkage has become a reason for many cities and regions to pursue urban and regional development. This is brought by the changes on a physical, and socio- economic environment specially the demographic change gives a direct and significant impact on urban shrinkage: coming from the evolution, migration and aging. Large urban distressed areas are highly affected from the pressure rooting to industrialization, economic competence on local economy and lost function on environmental quality by lack of power on policies to make a social integration.

Such as in rural areas in Nordic cities, where a major challenge for future urban policy maker and urban researchers was set, in which a continuous growth of population is concentrated in urban centres which brought a population decline or stagnation in many rural municipalities remaining them economically uncompetitive. Urban shrinkage is described as incompetence to meet the aspects of multidimensional phenomenon of the development such as housing, labour, and economic indicators which must be taken into account on the broader picture. It is vital to make an intervention of reversing the economic decline and generate new strategies for economic and demographic growth for them to enable to adapt on the development- such as implying the concept of culture and creative industry.

Counteracting city shrinkage through urban regeneration needs the establishment of urban competitive power, fostering urban central functions to extend the employment, and conserve historic and cultural environments. This helps to secure settlement for the community, and manifested differently according to the context and its local characteristics. Cities have chosen culture as a basis for strategies for change and as an alternative to traditional industry and industrial development. This is among one of the main reasons of how the quality and attractiveness of a city both in the physical living condition and the cultural environment gained new meaning that positively affects the

standard of wealth and welfare in cities. Local community initiatives and efforts are vital in promoting an effective neighborhood development to achieve a better quality of life considering how spaces should be planned and used. Urban regeneration process brings up a different driving force on the transformation, like culture in particular bringing an extensive sustainable requirement. It is important to be aware that urban development is not finite. It is a continuous process where development's focus and goals can change over time, where it takes place in a specific local context. It is therefore important that local strategies should be clearly related to the local context and must be flexible enough to deal with such changes for better opportunities – such as the referential studies that has been used o develop the knowledge particularly in the case of Sokndal municipality.

The idea applied in Kvineslad that even a small industry could possibly exploit cultural aspects and incorporate in urban planning. Such as making these small towns a hub of cultural services allowing the creation of cultural activities by engaging the local community to legitimize the strategy and actively practice these cultural deeds and establishing of active organizations as a support group. This could also be a strategy for a small town such as Sokndal to gain more attention from people leading to tourism opportunities and be more competitive with value creation as reflected through how the proposed masterplan have been carefully distributed the spaces to bring back the people in the town centre, by improving the network pattern and working to make an attractive street. In that way, it could potentially make a huge impact on the overall economy of the municipality and the surrounding areas.

Heritage infrastructure for example could also be an asset providing the town an opportunity towards the decline caused by the industrialization. The economic decline was being backboned with economic development strategies focusing on the town's existing assets, One among the strategies that seems to be effective is the development of the downtown providing services and amenities that attract tourists and locals. The adaptation was brought by the need to

survive the rail industry which effectively formed jobs, and new model for local development. Linking these strategies to hauge I Dalane, the opportunities that have opened could be a driving force to introduce creative industries as part of regeneration process and establishing the character Sokndal municipality. This could also lead on the potentiality that existing businesses and industries will further expand. Looking into that Sokndal is known to being a cultural and industrial town, on a wider perspective this could improve and leverage the town's economic, civic, social and environmental gains.

Using the development principles such as Cittaslow could also be one way to integrate and strengthen urban regeneration process such as in the case of Kristinestad, which nowadays the town is characterized as a very culturally diverse of inhabitants leading to an active and rich lives. With integration of culture and business, the service sector, the retail trade and small business plays an important part in the local economy. The development in Kristinestad nurtures the unique, local identity that concentrate on the local products and own resources which offers a good quality of life among residents and sustaining their economic capabilities generating tourist all year round. And Sokndal as alsoone of the members of Cittaslow, this gives a notion that they already had established a good characteristics and values where we can incorporate to the principles of culture and creative industries in urban planning. This development could lead to improving the whole neigbhorhood which will impact the community's everyday life and attractiveness in general and is evident to address socio-economic and living standard inequalities in the town.

So, the question that whether the jobs follow the workers, or the workers follow the jobs is rarely discussed or not well understood. Based on the findings, we cannot answer this question by simply privileging only one of their individual locational choices in response to the locational factors as mentioned on urban morphology section. Neither of forms or individual worker can dominate in this geographical production process. This must be understood as a complex recursive interaction between the location of firms and the spatial movement of the people.

It would also be possible to apply the temporality of masterplan in some parts of the development area, which the idea in spatial planning that allows flexibility within the urban dynamics. Not having permanency as part of the solution to place-making serves as an opportunity to address the current needs of the community. Vacant spaces give the opportunity to create flexible activities, working in conjunction with the acccents, and open up to host social gathering spaces, food stalls, and the like. Therefore, anchoring the public realm further beyond the formal institutions. v

Population development is a basic prerequisite for long-term planning. This could potentially influence through housing project, businesses, culture including the up-bringing policies and it is not impossible for Sokndal municipality to achieve this in the long run only if they will be focusing on strategies that generates population such as focusing on the existing resources that they have. Integrating the principles of Cittaslow movement in urban regeneration process could potentially increase the quality of life of the community, establish a strong foundation of identity and hospitality of the place. (Sokndal 2022) As per the interviews and documents from the municipality, there are still many committed residents showing that it is still possible to achieve development and highlights what the locals should be proud of. This contributes to the vigilance around Sokndal's opportunities. With the culture their culture, it is still able to create well-being that can make the existing community stay and at the same time, to bring new people, new knowledge, and new ideas to the development of Sokndal. The municipality has chosen collaboration as they want to build values in order to work on their target vision of portraying a good life. Innovation and knowledge will take place through several actors with different types of knowledge and skills. One must therefore look at the business development within a large scope that where social, cultural, and geographical context must take into account.

The concepts of culture-led and creative industry could create a vibrant

environment which people could will be encourage to facilitate on trading, explore with the experience, recreation and social gatherings. These possibilities are quite close in the case of Sokndal to sustain the identity, which its natural qualities are great strength to be identified for the benefit of today and future inhabitants creating a good living environment and attracting people back.

Conclusion

To address the main question of how cultural initiatives and creative industries enable urban regeneration of small towns such as Sokndal, the masterplan will be the representation of the solutions which reflects the development of public open grounds integrating the concepts of culture led development and creative industry. This reflects that a careful designation of areas would likely help to create a balance between build up spaces, and a build-up of the population according to the space usage. It is also important to establish the focal points leading to bringing back the people in the town centre through regenerative activities that would give impact to their lives such as providing facilities on training skills. It is vital to how this creative areas are being put into place such us in regenerating buildings, economic development, social renewal solidifying interactions to achieve a more comprehensive development of Sokndal town centre promoting an active urban areas strengthening neighbourhood's characteristics.

Managing public spaces is an important blind spot of urban planning and design. This is where major transitions and challenges are happening such as climate, energy, circular economy, mobility, and governance where substantial changes in public spaces are happing over time. It requires big efforts to maintain its potential on opportunities being a venue of transition of a society. An effective management of open public spaces are vital and it requires for more integral-strategic approach on management.   A neighborhood is not only about the physical structure but very much into developing one's social life and its content – from relationship between individuals, as well as between individuals and the importance they put into spaces for public activities and interaction. Neigbhorhood development is a way of organizing and balancing not just the social life, but also, it's a way to balance private interests with the public ones.

The question of how culture led would be able to accelerate opportunities in town was address through intergrating creative hubs for some instances as an effective mechanism of culture-led urban regeneration that offers multitude of possibilities for small town revival and present solutions for societal and economic problems. They are characterise as diminishing physical and mental barriers associated with the abandoned and neglected urban zone, attracting diverse group of people, improving the city's economy and inspiring collaboration. Sokndal town centre can be a fertile ground for the culture-led regeneration, with its many abandoned zones in need for revival, and the community is open to welcome these kinds of creative endeavours.

The types of cultural initiatives and creative industries identified on this research was based on the characteristics and culture of the people of Sokndal. As the area is known for being an industrial community, and artists from the past years, it is essential to strengthen these characters by giving a possibility to people and the community to participate on such activities leading to development of knowledge and skills with the right facilities and interaction. It can be concluded that the relationship of creative businesses with their location is a complex balance of factors. For example, the urban land resulting from this complex locational decision process is shaped by at least 5 interrelated dimensions such as (1) hard infrastructure referring to locational theory, (2) soft infrastructure featured by social networks, image or identity of the place, presence of meaningful traditions, creativity, (3) development path that closely relates to the local urban development, (4) market which not only refer to the product demand, but the labour market, and (5) governance that exerts its influence through land-use regulations, planning and policy.

If culture-led development must survive the hype stage, it's necessary to ask under what conditions culture works as an economically effective, socially sustainable developmental factor that may be become the leading growth engine in some circumstances. There is a clear perception that culture and creativity are in a global mainstreaming momentum as far as policymaking is concerned.

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