Practical Implementation of Sustainable Urban Management Tools - DTU Orbit
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The paper discusses how to promote the use of decision support tools for urban sustainable development. The interest in decision support tools based on indicators is increasing among practitioners and researchers. The research has so far focused on indicator types and systems of indicators and goals for urban sustainability whereas less focus has been on the context of implementation and even less on what we can learn from practical experiences about the usefulness of urban sustainable indicator tools. This paper explores the practical implementation of urban sustainable management tools. It is generally agreed that in order to make indicators and other sustainability management tools work it is necessary that they are integrated in the relevant urban organisational levels, in a way that creates commitment to the subsequent goals. This includes involvement of organisations, individuals and other urban actors around indicators, goals and actions for sustainable urban development across organizational levels. Hence the key question is how to implement urban sustainable management tools in urban management gaining validity from an expert perspective as well as a lay-man perspective. The paper points to the importance of intermediary actors as bridge-builders between municipal administration, citizens and infrastructure bodies, and their role in anchoring the tool in the local context. We use the Ecological Modernisation as a frame for understanding the need for tools and the development of intermediary actors. The paper is based on the Danish part of the PETUS-project (Practical Evaluation of Urban Sustainability) and the INTERMEDIARY-project (New intermediary services and the transformation of urban water supply and waste water disposal systems in Europe). Further the paper draws on Danish experiences with urban sustainable management tools. The experiences rank from simple approaches of municipalities publishing indicators or green accounts, to more advanced approaches of urban sustainability integrated in environmental management systems.

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