FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY, ART AND DESIGN
DEPARTMENT OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Driving Urban Transitions

Why Don´t Teens Ride Bikes?

Exploring youth mobility and accessibility – Early stages of the HANGOUT Project

Daniel Piatkowski, PhD; Associate Professor. (danielpi@oslomet.no)

Ioannis Kosmidis, PhD; Researcher

OSLO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
STORBYUNIVERSITETET

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HANGOUT: Fostering youth-inclusive cities and strengthening youth engagement in shaping cities

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Community Partners

- Holbæk, Denmark (Living Lab)
- Lisbon, Portugal (Living Lab)
- Asker, Norway
- Barcelona, Spain

HANGOUT Activities and Deliverables

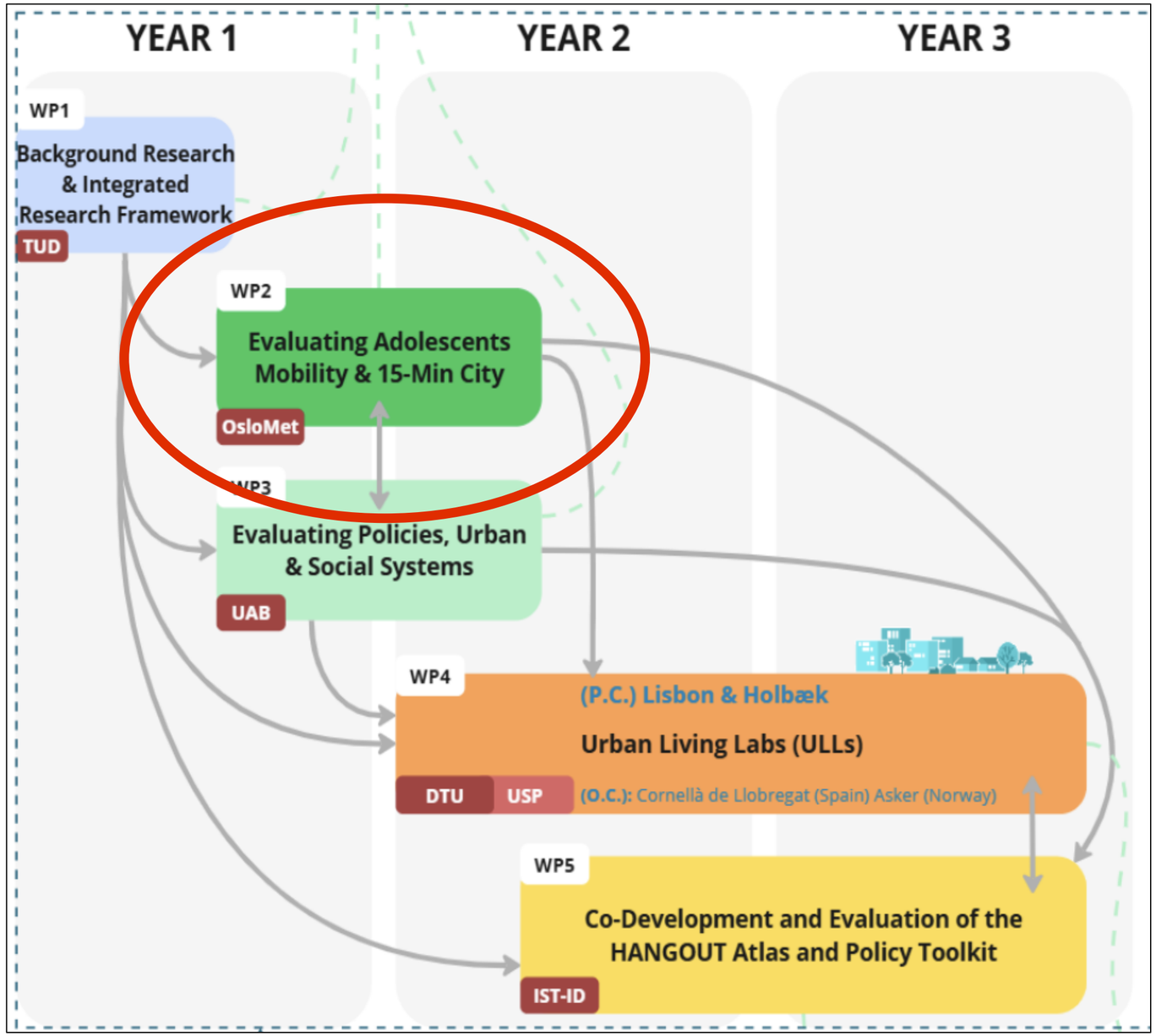
- Utilizing **Urban Living Labs** to involve youth directly mobility solutions.
- **Ultimate Goal:** Supporting a climate-neutral and inclusive urban transition
    - (Youth = Approx teenage years (i.e., 13 – 18))



The Digital HANGOUT Atlas: An open-access tool for visualizing and analyzing youth-specific spatial justice and accessibility.



The Policy Toolkit: A practical set of methods and recommendations to help municipalities integrate youth perspectives into urban planning.



HANGOUT Timeline

<u>OsloMet (WP2) Tasks:</u>

1. Stakeholder workshop
2. **An online survey**

Pilot-testing: Now
Data collection: Oct – Nov

Background of Youth mobility



From independent, active travel to dependent, chauffeured travel (Easton & Ferrari, 2015)



Literature review – school travel

Journey-to-School (UNECE, 2026)

- 30-55% of 11-15 yr olds walk
- Declines from 70%+ a generation ago

Youth Cycling last 30 years (Schmassmann, et al., 2023)

- 4x less cycling in Lille, France
- 15% down to 2.1% in Ireland
- 32% down to 19% in Switzerland
- 2% down to 0.8% in USA

- Likely replaced by chauffeured car trips

Gaps

- Non-school travel
- Placing transport in "Hangout" context

“Hangout” Context? – Role of Transport

Instrumental role in lives of youth: The example of skateboarding

- Shaping identity, claiming space, social bonds and place attachment (Zervas, 2026; Todd & Archer, 2025)
- Transport independence and autonomy related to development and well-being ((Delbosc &Vella-Brodrick, 2015)

- *How does autonomy and access in youth shape adulthood?*



Source: Hugh Holland, 1978

Task 1: Exploratory Workshop (May 2026, Lisbon)

HANG OUT

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Task 1: Workshop Findings

Observations: Accessibility and Mobility

- Youth want independence and autonomy
- E-scooters are popular, bicycles are not
- Youth can be reckless
- Significant urban/rural/suburban divides

Outsanding Questions?

- *Where do youth go/want to go?*
- *Growth in “hybrid” socializing?*
- *Can transport for youth lead to more engaged youth?*

Task 2: Creating a Survey

Sample

- Youth
- Parents/Caregivers
- Four partner cities

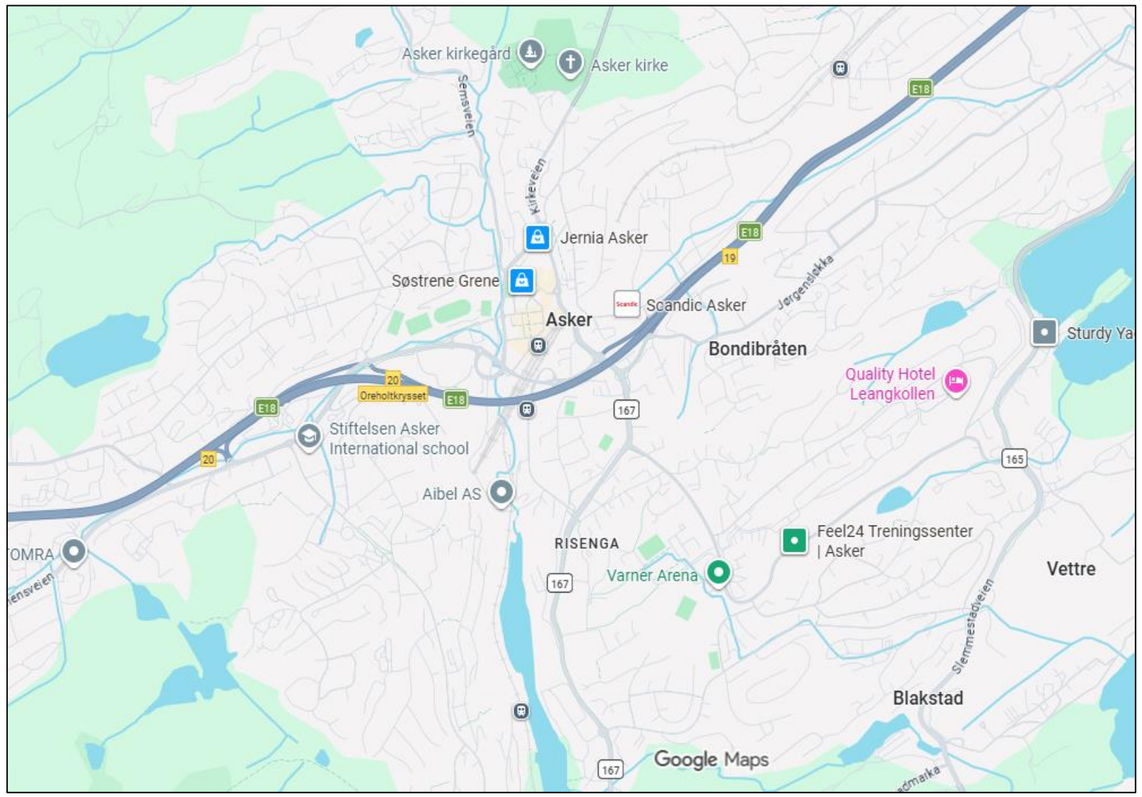
Measures

- Travel patterns (outside of school!)
- Attitudes
  - Mode choice
  - Safety and security
  - Autonomy and independence
  - Spatial and virtual accessibility
- Map-based questions

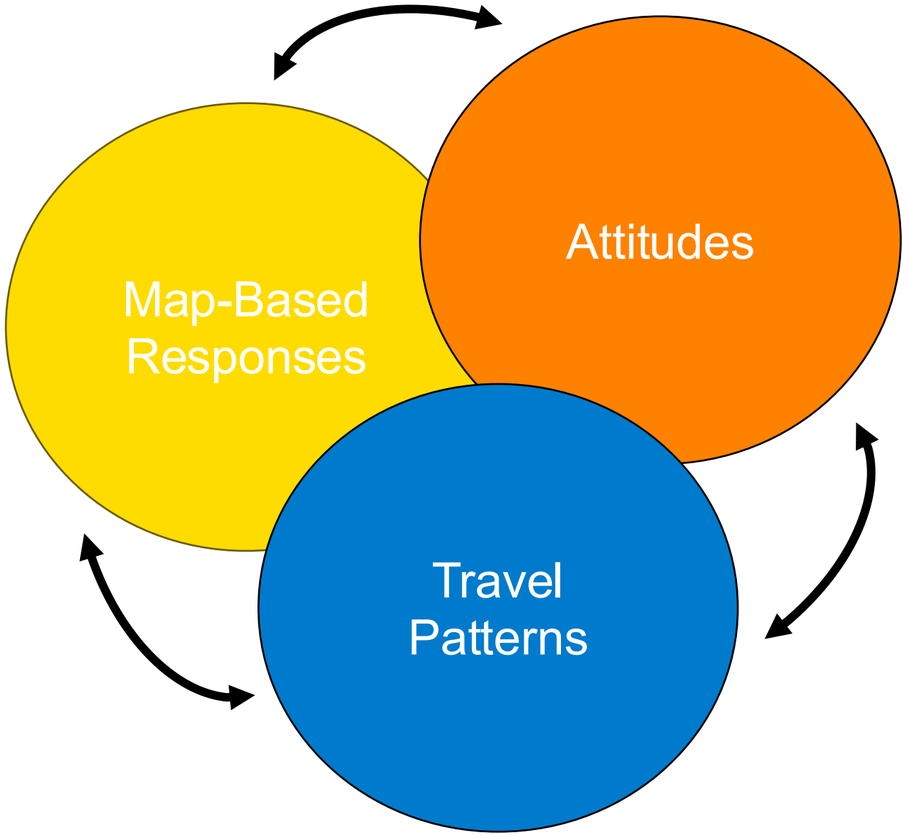
Task 2: Creating Map-based Questions

Questions

- *“Where do you go in your free time?”*
- *“Places you wanted to go but didn´t?”*
- *“Places you wish existed (in your community)?”*



Task 2: Proposed Survey Analysis



Outcomes

- Existing and Desired Behavior
- Comparison to parent/caregiver
- Implications for research and Living Labs

Conclusions: Challenges and Goals

Challenges: Design and Sampling

- Complex behaviors but also short (and fun?)
- Different countries, cultures, contexts
- Complex sampling

Goals: Baseline Understanding (and implications for cycling)

1. Quantifying youth travel
2. Comparison to parents/caregivers
3. Transport (and transport independence´s) role for youth?
4. Why do/don´t teens ride bikes?

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Comments or Questions?

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