

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND DEVELOPMENT

FOR DEPOPULATING AND PERIPHERAL LOCALITIES
IN THE EUROPEAN NORTH

A Study of Cross-Border Areas: Ödeshög–Tranås

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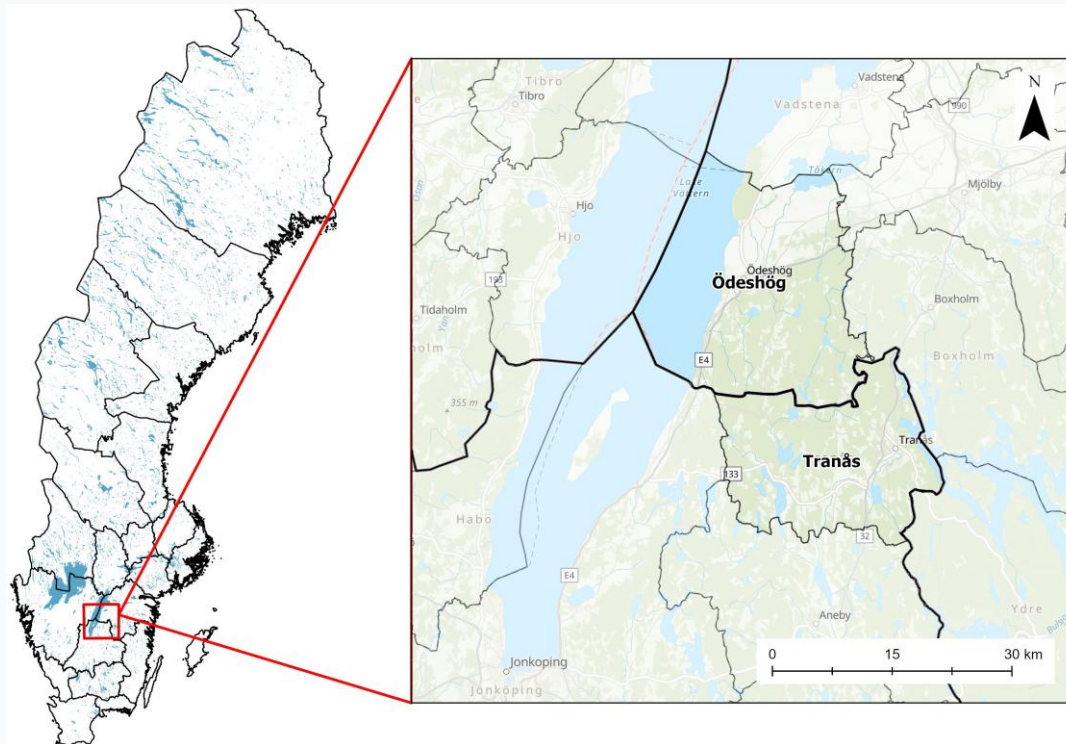
Overview of Study Area

Ödeshög and Tranås

Characteristic	Ödeshög	Tranås
Population size	~5,300	~19,000
People in rural areas	~2,600 (49%)	~5,000 (27%)
Work in home municipality	53.22%	76.75%

Key Findings

- Large proportion of elderly
- Proportion of youth and working-age adults is bigger in Tranås than in Ödeshög
- Outmigration outweighs immigration in both areas
- Young people leaving · Elderly moving to urban centers



Border Area

Scarcely Populated

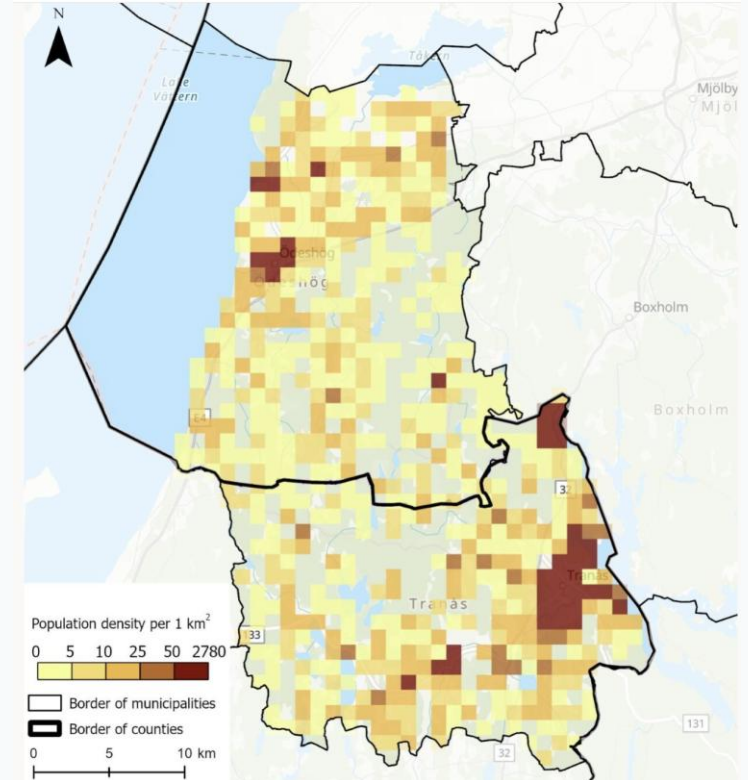
Very low population density across the cross-border zone

Far from Urban Centers

Limited proximity to larger cities and regional services

Poor Transportation

Bad transportation options and no main roads connecting the area



Population Density Map of Research Area

Research Questions

1

How does quality of life and contentment with one's way of life relate to local development, collaboration, and reliance on neighboring municipalities?

Aims:

Determine rural lifestyle

Determine locals' perception of quality of life in respective municipalities

2

How are the municipalities of Tranås and Ödeshög working with developing the border areas and is that in compliance with the reality of the situation?

Aims:

Assess how the current reality works in compliance with their planning

Identify challenges, opportunities, and what is currently working

Construct solutions and suggestions

Methods

01

**Document
Analysis**

02

Interviews

Semi-structured

Unstructured

03

Survey

04

Observations

**Undersökning
om
landsbygden
och framtida
utveckling**

**Gränsområdet
mellan Tranås-
Ödeshög**

 Nordplus
Enkäten är aktiv från: 16-20 april 2026



SKANNA HÄR FÖR ATT DELTA I
10-MINUTERSUNDERSÖKNINGEN

Denna undersökning är en del av ett internationellt studentforskningsprojekt om landsbygdsutveckling i gränsområdet Tranås-Ödeshög. Vi vill förstå livskvaliteten, tjänsterna och framtida behov.



För mer information, kontakta: justas.pamparas@chgfstud.uvt

Document Analysis

Planeringsstrategi för översiktlig planering – mandatperioden 2022–2026

Planning Strategy for Comprehensive Planning – Electoral Term 2022–2026

Prepare for a community of 6,000 inhabitants

55% of residents live in the urban areas of Ödeshög and Hästholmen; 45% in rural areas

Strengthen the main town, neighboring village Hästholmen and local nodes to improve public transport and services

Function and development of rural nodes: service points, commuter parking, local transport etc.

Dialogue with residents must be an integral part of this work

Document Analysis

Översiktsplan för Tranås kommun – Comprehensive Plan for Tranås Municipality

"A sustainable development is one that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

25,000 inhabitants by 2040

80% of the population in the Tranås urban area; 20% in rural areas and smaller settlements (Sommen & Gripenberg)

2030 - fossil-free municipality with sustainable transport solutions, blurring boundaries between town, countryside, and region

Sustainable urban and rural development that grows in balance with natural resources, creating places where people want to live, work, and thrive

Adelöv, Linderås, Gripenberg, and Sommen designated as local centres

Interview Results

Main Theme	Main Findings
Transportation	Strong dependence on cars due to weak public transport
Housing & Quality of Life	Affordable housing but limited services
Community	Strong local belonging, but aging engagement
Education & Youth	School pressure and fewer youth opportunities
Nature	Major positive factor for identity and tourism



Survey Results

The survey aimed to understand how residents perceive quality of life, accessibility, services, and belonging in the cross-border area.

10

responses collected

Car Dependency

Strong reliance on private vehicles across the study area

Nature & Community

Generally positive view of natural environment and local community

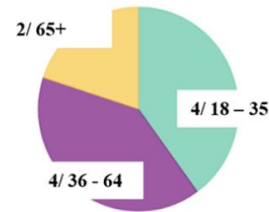
Cross-border Interaction

Limited interaction between residents of the two municipalities

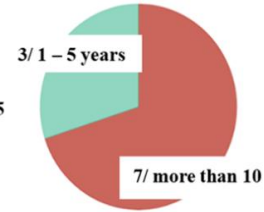
Social Ties

Social ties appeared stronger than attachment to place

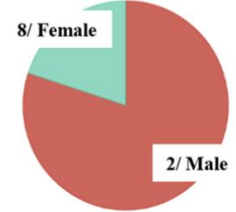
What is your age group?



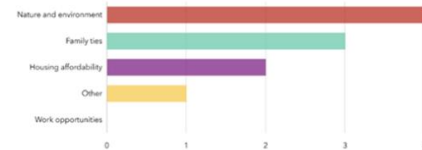
How long have you lived in this area



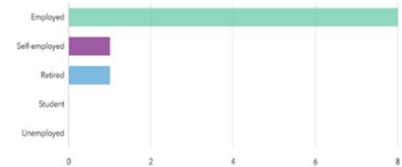
What is your gender?



What is the main reason you live here?



What is your occupation?



Spatial Structure

Structured around two main centers:
Tranås and Ödeshög

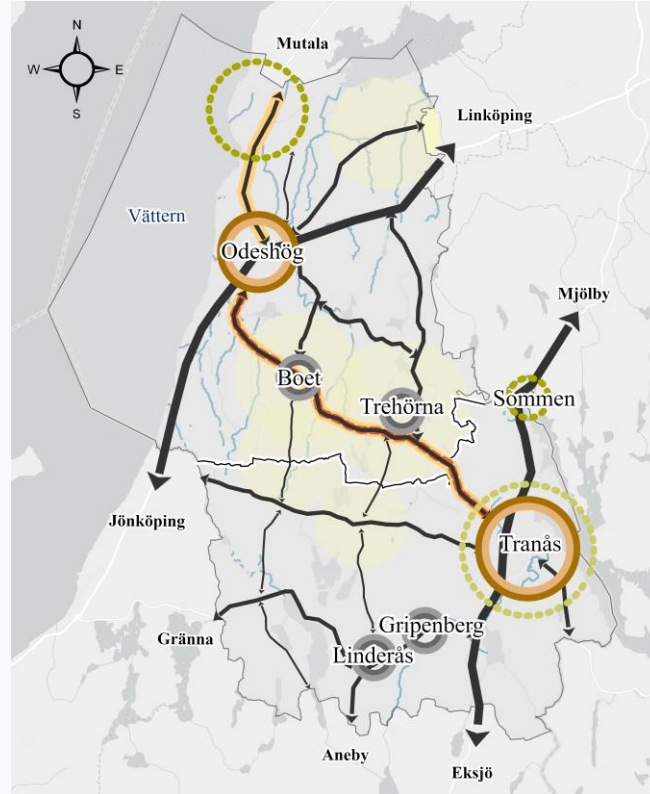
Smaller settlements depend on these
centers for services and connections

Clear center–periphery pattern visible
across the territory

Main challenges: road safety issues,
limited public transport, and service
accessibility gaps

Peripheral areas are more difficult to
access without a car

Development potential is uneven across
the territory



SPATIAL STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY AREA

SPATIAL STRUCTURE

- Regional centers
- Local centers
- Local connection
- Regional connection
- National connection

INTERVIEW - BASED CHALLENGES

- Road safety constraints
- Public transport constraints
- Service accessibility gaps

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

- Regional potential
- Local potential

HYDROGRAPHY AND BOUNDARIES

- Municipalities
- Border area
- stream

0 5 10 Km

The map highlights spatial challenges identified in interviews, including unsafe road connections, limited service access, and dependence on external centers.

Analytical layers: author's interpretation based on semi-structured interviews.

Author: Justas Pamparas

Observation Results

Map of Observation Points in Research Area

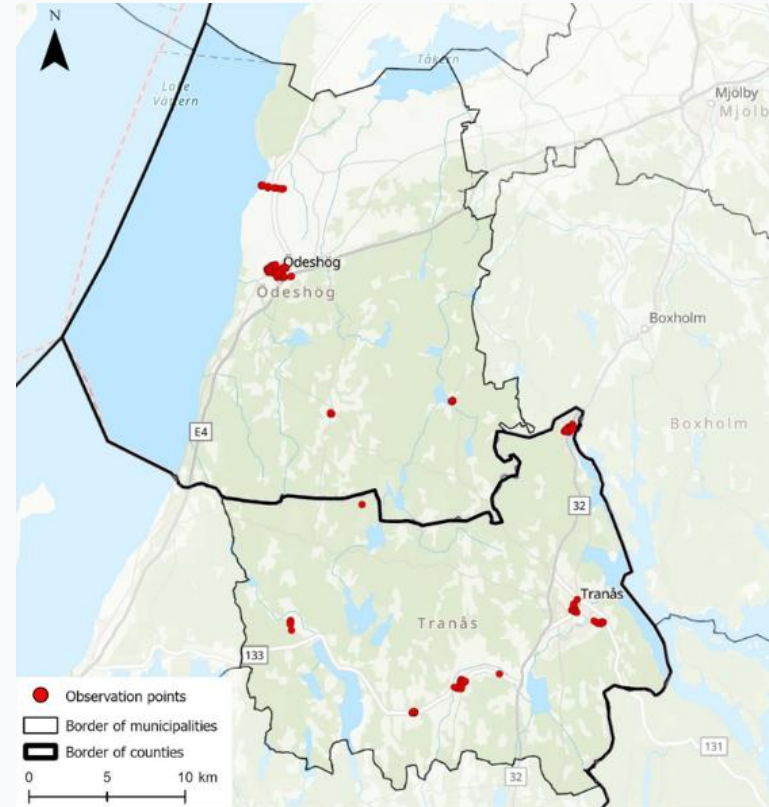
Participant Observation

Structured tabular recording of observed phenomena and activities in the field across multiple locations and time periods.

**130+ observation points
collected across the research
area**

ArcGIS Field Maps

Digital mapping tool used to collect and geo-reference over 130 observation points across the study area.



Field Observations 1



Ödeshög industrial area on Monday morning.



Linderås village on Friday evening.

Field Observations 2



Boats in backyards or being towed by trailer.

Signs in Sommen, showing language usage.

Field Observations 3



Construction sites in Ödeshög and Tranås.



Observations in public transport hubs.

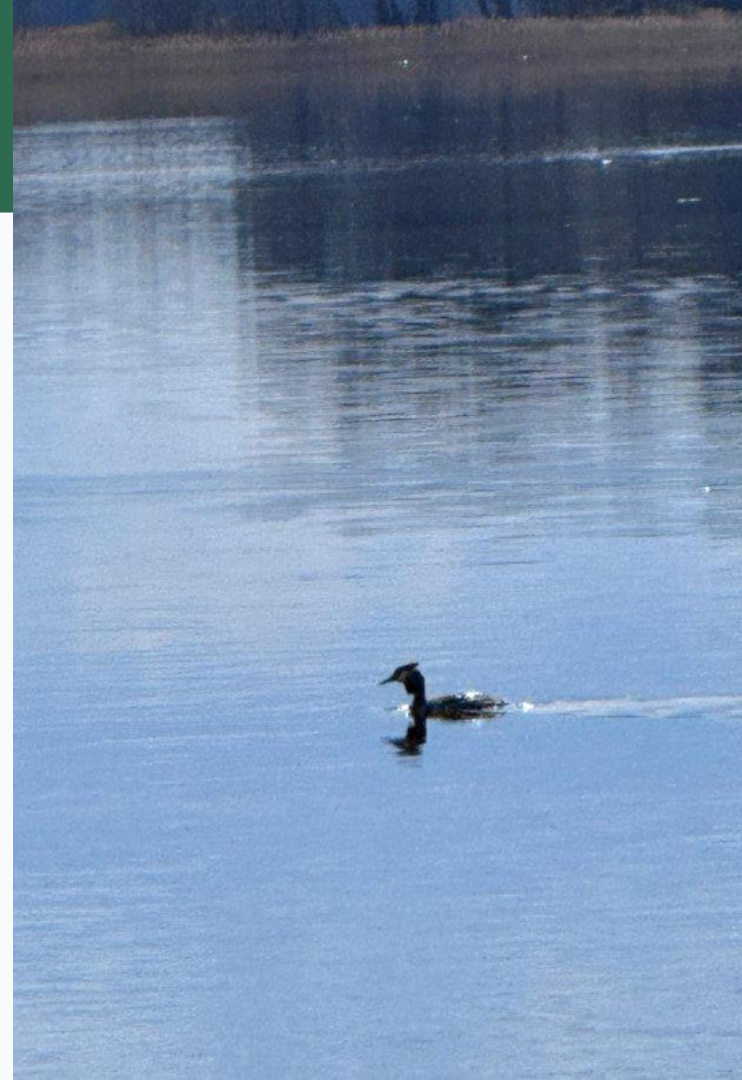
Discussion

Major themes were education, transport, ecological sustainability and contentment

Findings reflected previous research in comparable peripheral areas

People who stay are happy — but what about the people who move?

The view of the border area differs between residents and between municipalities



Suggestions

Collaboration between different governmental bodies

- Public transportation
- Municipality–Region and Region–Region cooperation

Transport & Infrastructure

- Public transportation improvements
- Road maintenance
- Electric vehicle support

Sustainability & Energy

- Reducing carbon emissions in car-based communities
- Fair distribution of revenue from renewable energy
- Addressing fuel poverty
- Sustainable energy solutions

Tourism & Local Economy

- Promote tourism opportunities
- Support local cafes and small businesses



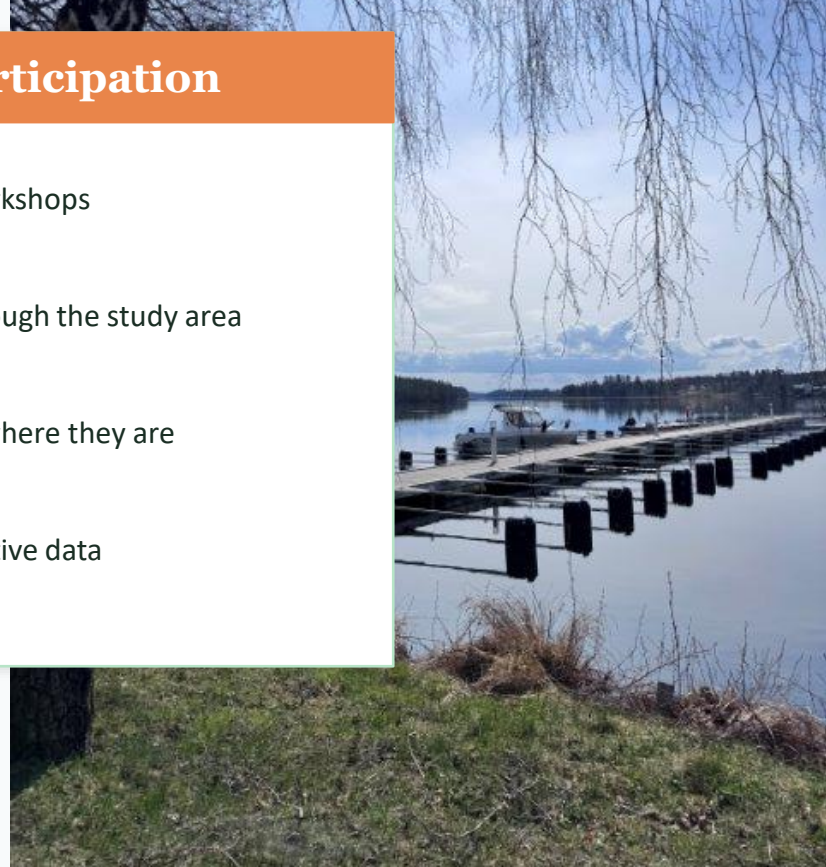
Methodology Suggestions

Survey

- 1 More focused and targeted questions
- 2 Different ways of reaching participants
- 3 Address limited response rates

In-Person Participation

- 1 Meetings and workshops
- 2 Guided walks through the study area
- 3 Meeting people where they are
- 4 Collecting qualitative data



References

Ödeshög municipal council. (2024). Planeringsstrategi för översiktlig planering mandatperioden 2022-2026.

Tranås municipal council. (2022). Översiktsplan för Tranås kommun.



Ödeshögs kommun



Thank You