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What has happened lately...

Cobraman Meeting and 6th Training Seminar: Urban planning and Sustainability

Ljubljana / Slovenia
May 16th–19th 2011

The partners from Ljubljana, the Urban planning institute of the Republic of Slovenia (UIRS), hosted the 6th and last of the training seminars for future Brownfield redevelopment managers. Over 40 participants joined the training at the Urban planning institute in Ljubljana.

The Monday morning session was devoted to introduction of urban planning and contemporary urban planning, presented by prof. dr. Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews from the UIRS, followed by workshops where participants presented various aspects of transition of knowledge into practice.

Integrated urban design – urban design criteria and urban planning specifics for brownfield redevelopment were the focus of the afternoon session. Lectures were held by prof. dr. Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews, and dr. Matej Nikšič, both from UIRS, and dr. Thomas Ertel, from Et. environment & technology.

In the workshops, participants were divided into three groups, where each tried to implement



Group work in the urban planning game

»new« knowledge in a planning game on the test area of Nove Poljane in Ljubljana. The planning game showed that communication between stakeholders is especially important in the planning process. Planning game by workshops proved to be an effective method for transferring large amounts of information to participants in a short period of time.

UIRS organised a public event on the second day – COBRAMAN Project conference: Brownfield regeneration, where the benefits and good experiences from COBRAMAN and other project about brownfield regeneration were promoted to the general public in Slovenia. His Excellency Andrew Page, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presented the biggest brownfield regeneration project in Europe – The London 2012 Olympic Park. Dr. Thomas Ertel presented a summary of the previous EU projects related to brownfields and prof. dr. Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews presented the trends in urban restructuring in Slovenia. The second half of the conference was devoted to recent regeneration

projects in Slovenia, such as the Tobacco factory regeneration project, Rog factory revitalization (CENTRAL EUROPE project - Second chance) and COBRAMAN pilot project in Kranj. Overall about 100 participants visited the event. After the presentations, many conference participants contributed to a very lively discussion, especially about problems and opportunities for brownfield regeneration, mostly in Slovenia. Due to the high interest of local stakeholders for the conference, there was a parallel study tour of successful regeneration projects in Ljubljana organized for future brownfield managers of the COBRAMAN team. After the conference, the remaining team joined the study tour to the Nove Poljane area, a case study from the training seminar, which was extended to one of the biggest brownfield redevelopment projects in Ljubljana – the shopping center BTC and an excursion to Koper, where the representatives of the City of Koper presented the brownfield redevelopment area of the northern edge of the old city center, adjacent to the Port of Koper.

The third day was devoted to internal project issues focused on the preparation of the core project outputs, financial and reporting issues, promotion and dissemination activities and project coordination.

Cobraman training seminars a final Wrap-up

Vienna / Austria
October 12th–14th 2011

The series of training seminars for brownfield managers has been completed by a final wrap-up held in Vienna on 12th October 2011. The training seminars included:

- 6 classroom seminars
- 6 site visits to partner's pilot project sites
- 2 web-based trainings
- field trip to UK
- the final wrap-up.



Brownfield manager trainees with certificates of completion of the training

In Vienna three main issues were set on the agenda. First, a round tour covering the key aspects tackled with the 6 preceding seminars and illustrated via the local pilot projects of the partners. Second, deepening the practical aspects of the application of management tools according to the participants experiences made throughout the project. Third, a discussion round on cornerstones for future training seminars and lessons learned from this exercise in COBRAMAN.

Finally the seminar leader dr. Thomas Ertel, Germany, handed over the certificates to the participants. In total 30 colleagues, coming from different departments of the organisations within the partnership, could receive their certificates after this seminar. They were confident about their preparedness for future challenges in brownfield regeneration activities in their cities.

2nd local workshop in Most

Most / Czech Republic
October 3rd 2011

The project partner the City of Most organised the 2nd local workshop of the COBRAMAN project on 3. 10. 2011. The workshop was attended by local government representatives led by the responsible official for development, investment and urban services. The project manager of the project partner the City of Most, Karel Bořecký, introduced the content of individual studies prepared as outputs of the project. The studies include technical solutions for the Most site, economic evaluation of the locality, marketing improvement and brownfield

management system. Representatives of cities, regions, but also the Ministry of Trade and Industry expressed great interest in the project COBRAMAN and its outputs in the ensuing discussion. Other options of investment from the EU, state and Usti region in the pilot locality Lake Most were discussed at the end of the workshop.

At the EXPO REAL 2011 brownfields were an attractive issue

Munich / Germany
October 2011

The 14th trade fair for property and investment opportunities in Munich, Germany, showed many new initiatives in the property market. The COBRAMAN was present at the exhibition by Tereza Dostálová and Marta Šaškova from the City of Ústí nad Labem, who in two days visited all the six halls devoted to the event and spoke to various exhibitors and other visitors in search for brownfield related professionals and developers.

The brownfield manager position establishment, brownfields inventory, GIS layer and Ústí

Brownfield Regeneration Strategies well were widely appreciated among the above mentioned public. There was a sincere interest in the COBRAMAN project partnership and its results and in the Central Europe programme that enabled such innovative activities in brownfield management in the specific European region. Attend the EXPO REAL was useful for the COBRAMAN project, especially for networking, experiencing communication with property managers and discussing financial and feasibility questions of brownfields.

Public event on Stuttgart's pilot site „Schoch Area“

Stuttgart / Germany
October 15th 2011



Open day at the "Schoch Area"

15th of October 2011 the City of Stuttgart opened the doors of their pilot site in Stuttgart-Feuerbach called „Schoch Area“. Because of private ownership the former industrial buildings were not accessible to the public for years. Since July 2011 the City owns this property and intends to establish new uses for this area as the “gateway to Feuerbach”.

To promote further development in the Schoch Area the Stuttgart COBRAMAN team organised a “Day of the open Schoch Area” to inform the local public, politicians and potential investors about facts, challenges and chances of the plot. Mayor Matthias Hahn opened the event at 10:00 am. During 5 hours, about 40 members of the municipality from different departments showed site-specific aspects (such as remediation issues), the condition of existing buildings was

shown in guided tours and urban development projects at an exhibition.

In parallel all involved heads of departments gave lectures on the local situation and the upcoming intensive participatory process. Around 500 people visited the event and participated in the discussions concerning the future of the location.

The public event was the first impulse of an open discussion with inhabitants of the districts and other interested stakeholders, which will bring in new ideas for the development of the space. In 2012 – after the end of COBRAMAN project – the process of participation will be continued by the administration of Stuttgart, the aims being higher standard and successful marketing.



500 people visited the event

Transitional Learning

One of the COBRAMAN project results, achieved during September and October, was a teaching assignment in the Erasmus Programme by two members of the COBRAMAN team.

In September Agnieszka Goździewska from the University of Economy in Bydgoszcz stayed for a week at the VŠB - Technical University of Ostrava. In the COBRAMAN project she is responsible for postgraduate studies on “Brownfield Management” and the e-learning course for future brownfield managers. During her stay

Agnieszka Goździewska presented a lecture on brownfield project management. The topic was prepared for students of landscape regeneration and ecology. Besides the lecture, Agnieszka spoke with the faculty about further cooperation between universities and the possibility of joint implementation of similar projects.

During the third week of October mr. Roman Danel (PP5, VŠB – Technical University of Ostrava) visited the University of Economy Bydgoszcz (Wyższa Szkoła Gospodarki) on a

teaching assignment. In the COBRAMAN project his primary responsibility is IT support. During the week Roman Danel held two lectures titled “Relational Database and Business Intelligence” and “Management of Technological Processes”. He also participated in a Computer Science Seminar at the Institute of Informatics and Mechatronics where he presented a lecture titled “Risk Analyses in IT Security”. During his stay, possibilities for further cooperation between both universities were discussed also in joint projects, scientific research and publications.

The way to move on with brownfields

Ústí Brownfield Strategy



Demolition works in brownfield area

On visiting the city of Ústí nad Labem, one can notice that within the urban fabric there is a high incidence of run down and dilapidated properties and a large number of buildings, which are empty or used in an inappropriate way. All makes one think, what is the reason for this state of affairs?

On closer observation, it is not only the bad image that is endangering the city of Ústí nad Labem's development potential, but there are also several other negative features which follow from it - such as increased criminality, drop in residents' numbers, issues of social stratification and the lowering of property market prices. These are serious threats for the city of Ústí nad Labem and this is why the City is participating in the COBRAMAN project, which focuses on tools helping to fight off threats of brownfields.

During 2010, a detailed brownfields inventory was completed in the city and its surrounding areas, all under the auspices of the COBRAMAN project. Analyses of the collected data have shown that the number of brownfields located within the City and their total area are so high that they call for a long-term specific, focused and strategic solution. Finally the Ústí Brownfield Strategy was approved by the City Council in May 2011 after a creative process of defining priorities and activities by the Strategic Development Department of Ústí City Hall, external experts from the Institute of Sustainable Development of Settlements and discussions with brownfield owners and the public. The document called The Brownfield Strategy of the City of Ústí nad Labem demonstrates the commitment for the next 4 years. The strategy has set measurable indicators, assigned responsibilities and established the post of a brownfields manager, whose responsibility will be to deliver the strategy and monitor its outcomes.

The Ústí brownfields manager's job in the following period will be to deal with the tasks defined by the Strategy. The manager will coordinate the work on a study of the brownfields' influence on Ústí's image, on the research conducted in the residential districts facing problems connected to brownfields and on the creation of the Study on „Krásné Březno Peninsula“. Another important opportunity for



GIS as part of brownfield regeneration strategy in Ústí nad Labem, ...

Ústí brownfields regeneration to be focused on are possibilities of planting greenery and their interim use.

Frequently, brownfield ownership represents huge barriers to brownfield reuse and redevelopment. The role of the brownfields manager will be to apply the Building Act and all the formal and informal municipality tools towards brownfields owners and also to improve the communication between all the stakeholders concerned. The scope of work of the brownfields managers will also involve preserving the architectural and historic value of some of Ústí's brownfields, thus commemorating its industrial history.

The City of Ústí nad Labem recently joined the Czech Brownfields Partnership, a platform for sharing the experience in brownfield regeneration, where the City can demonstrate its brownfield strategy and how it works.

Eager to know what could be done with degraded areas?

Some interesting solutions can be found within ReSource: Internet knowledge database on utilization of post-mining potentials.

Check out ReSource project results at www.resource-ce.eu, section Core outputs: Post-mining knowledge database.



What will happen shortly...

Final Conference

Bydgoszcz / Poland / April 16th – 18th 2012



The final conference of the COBRAMAN project will take place in Bydgoszcz, Poland from 16th till 18th April 2012 and will be organised by the project's Lead partner, the City of Bydgoszcz. Results of the international cooperation and current findings in brownfield regeneration will be presented by the project partners and other relevant actors in the brownfield regeneration sector. During the conference, participants will be able to get information about successful stories of previous and ongoing brownfield regeneration projects in Europe. The conference will continue with workshops about contamination, management instruments, brownfield education and strategy of brownfields.

The conference will be interesting for public authorities, real estate developers, environmental and civil engineers, urban planners, architects, geologists, academic institutions, students and other stakeholders in the process of brownfield regeneration.

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Visit for project updates

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