

Background

An integrated approach to urban development combines various sectoral planning approaches for a city or neighbourhood. It aims to sustainably improve all dimensions of urban life in a specific area. The underlying idea is to avoid conflicting policies and concepts and to create synergy effects by dealing with all relevant topics and sectors in one planning concept. The various fields of action comprise a good and practical foundation for embracing the dimensions of spatial, social, economic and ecological urban development.

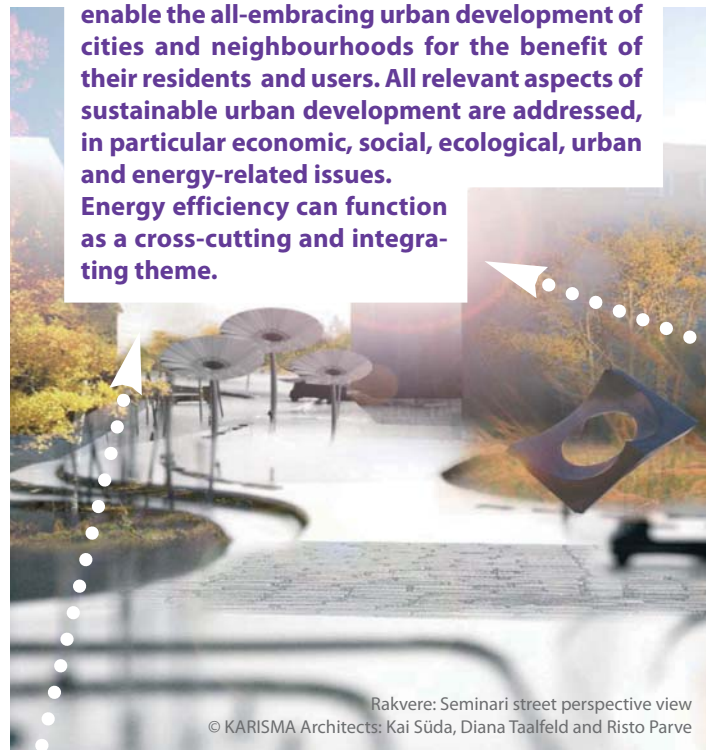
Integrated urban development is a holistic approach interlinking various themes like construction, transport, economy, social matters, education, culture and environment, which have an individual as well as a combined impact on urban development. In summary, integrated urban development means being:

- Comprehensive in the necessary field of actions,
- Cross-thematic in looking at the relevant themes,
- Cross-sectoral in developing the concept with different departments and
- Communicative and participative by involving private stakeholders in the development and implementation process.

Integrated urban development concepts have proven to be an instrument that enables the integration of cross-sectoral topics like climate and energy into urban development at strategic level. Therefore they can introduce new issues such as energy efficiency, the reduction of energy consumption and the use of renewable energy resources into urban development.



Integrated development concepts (IUDCs) enable the all-embracing urban development of cities and neighbourhoods for the benefit of their residents and users. All relevant aspects of sustainable urban development are addressed, in particular economic, social, ecological, urban and energy-related issues. Energy efficiency can function as a cross-cutting and integrating theme.



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Work package 3 (WP 3) focused on the application of integrated urban development concepts (IUDCs) as an important conceptual basis to improve the energy performance of urban districts. The activities in WP 3 included the analysis of existing urban development approaches as well as the introduction and partial implementation of IUDCs in six selected target areas. The results are summarised in this leaflet.



Integrated Urban Development – Improvement of Energy Performance in Residential Areas

The project Urb.Energy aimed to develop integrated concepts and strategies for the energy efficient renewal of residential areas in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

To reach this target, the project focused on three main topics: integrated urban development, energy efficient building renewal and innovative financing schemes.

The project covered the countries Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and the non-EU Member State Belarus. The project duration was 3 years (01/2009 – 01/2012).

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Project Work

The integrated urban development approach has barely been applied in residential areas in the new EU Member States so far. The Urb.Energy partners took the opportunity to develop integrated urban development concepts for selected urban areas, the so-called “target areas”, and to exchange experience and know-how on the transnational level. The concepts are regarded by the partners as a key component in local development. Based on the local situation, the integrated urban development concepts addressed the most pressing problems of the residential areas and dealt with different field of actions:

Rakvere (EE) The city, which aims to become the leading city in energy saving in Estonia, planned the energy efficient upgrading of a linear neighbourhood. The integrated urban development concept for the target area included the improvement of the energy performance of residential buildings and the redesign of public space, i.e. by reshaping an over-dimensioned street to an urban landscape with a high level of pedestrian comfort.

Riga Jugla (LV) The IUDC supports the district in reducing energy consumption and to implement measures to upgrade the residential environment. The communication strategy is seen as a first step for the planned urban management company.

Jelgava (LV) The city used the IUDC to develop a vision for enhancing the attractiveness of the city centre, whose approx. 20,000 inhabitants represent one third of the total population of the city as a whole. The planned measures include the energy efficient renewal of buildings and of the supply infrastructure as well as the modernisation of the residential environment.

Siauliai (LT) In a city with very low general refurbishment rates, the municipality widened the scope of energy efficiency measures in two target areas. They developed IUDCs that provide solutions to upgrade the quality of public space, green areas, and the accessibility of transport and infrastructure.

Piaseczno (PL) The measures developed in the IUDC aim to improve the energy performance of the buildings and supply infrastructure and to combine this with the upgrading of open spaces. Based on a residents survey, they also focused on the improvement of the residential environment and public space.

Lida (BY) As the only non-EU project partner, the city aimed to enhance living quality in their area. The IUDC includes the promotion of the use of local and renewable energy sources as well as the modernisation of the district heat supply system.

Berlin (DE) Berlin wrote a comprehensive case study and carried out an analysis of the IUDCs developed in the past 20 years for two Berlin residential areas “Frankfurter Allee Süd” and “Kaskelkiez”. The know-how gained was shared with the project partners.

Brandenburg (DE) The project partner evaluated projects for increased energy efficiency in the context of integrated urban development in Brandenburg. In addition, recommendations for actions and strategic approaches for energy efficient and climate-friendly urban development were made.

The IUDCs that were developed clearly showed that the efficiency targets agreed on in the EU can only be achieved by taking the systematic link between buildings, the energy infrastructure, settlement structures and the associated social as well as economic conditions into account. Demographic trends, economic growth, the behaviour of users and types of financing are particularly important in this context.



Rakvere: Seminari street axonometrics view
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Findings and Recommendations

- Improved energy performance in an urban context cannot concentrate on single buildings or individual actions – various fields of action and measures need to be combined.
- Integrated urban development concepts (IUDCs) are suitable instruments to realise the potential for energy efficiency in urban areas.
- In order to address the specific local conditions of an urban area, a thorough analysis of the current situation, potentials and deficits needs to be carried out.
- IUDCs provide the opportunity to optimise the “planning culture” by working together in cross-sectoral teams and involving groups of relevant private stakeholders to establish a balance between bottom-up and top-down strategies.
- Round table discussions help to establish a dialogue between the various stakeholders involved and those who are “affected”. This dialogue allows for trust to be developed, enabling further discussions.
- IUDCs need the approval, active support and commitment of the local council, administration departments and energy suppliers.
- Information campaigns are crucial instruments to activate stakeholders and to achieve acceptance for energy efficiency and the related modernisation measures through the provision of information on benefits and economic feasibility of energy efficient urban development measures.

Further recommendations can be found in the Urb.Energy Policy Recommendations.