

The Kick-Off Conference of the project Urb. Energy Summary

The Kick-Off Conference of the project Urb. Energy took place in Potsdam on the 15-16 of June 2009 under the title “Integrated Urban Development for Future-Proof Cities - Improving the Energy Performance of Buildings and Urban Quarters”.

The conference was divided into two days.

On the first and main conference day, nearly 80 participants from the Eastern European partner countries and Germany took part. The conference was opened by Christian Huttenloher, representing the Lead Partner of the Urb. Energy project, together with the hosts of the conference, i.e. Peter Busch, Ministry for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning Brandenburg and Torsten Stehr, Chamber of Industry and Commerce Potsdam.

The first session dealt with the strategic background of Urb. Energy. Dr. Wolfgang Eckart from the Federal Ministry of Transport Building and Urban Affairs explained in his presentation the German national support policy as regards energy efficiency and integrated urban development. Afterwards, Jurate Juozaitiene, State Secretary in the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment, stressed in her speech that the participation of Lithuania in Urb. Energy is very valuable for the country, as although in her country the energy efficient renovation of the housing stock has started, there are currently no examples of integrated urban development in Lithuania. In the next presentation, Peter Busch spoke out climate protection and integrated urban development strategies in Brandenburg. Afterwards, Barbara Berninger and Peter Wollschläger, Berlin Senate Dept. of Urban Development, presented the predecessor project of Urb. Energy, i.e. the BEEN project.

In the next session, the project Urb. Energy was jointly presented by Petra Schwarz, Lead Partner and Britta Schmigotzki, Project Coordinator.

The third session served to introduce to the audience the thematic background of Urb. Energy. Therefore, the three main topics of the project were presented by partners working on these issues in the three content-related work packages. The topic ‘integrated urban development’ was presented first via three presentations depicting recent developments and projects in Brandenburg as regards integrated urban regeneration. Afterwards, Simona Irzikeviciute from the Lithuanian Housing and Urban Development Agency and Rasa Budryte from Siauliai City presented the current situation as regards urban development in Lithuania and Siauliai City. The issue of ‘energy performance of buildings and energy supply systems’ was depicted through a presentation of Thorsten Stehr, Chamber of Industry and Commerce Potsdam and of Benita Freliha, representing the Riga City Council. In her presentation she explained the current situation and municipal policies as regards energy efficiency in the Latvian cities Riga and Jelgava. Afterwards,

three presentations on the topic 'financing instruments' were given. At first, Wolfgang Schulz, Ministry of Science, Economics and Transport presented relevant findings of the BEEN project. The next speaker, Dr. Annette Fritz from the KfW bank presented the support programmes of the bank in the field of energy efficiency. In this context she also referred to the possibility of introducing revolving loan funds to finance energy efficient housing refurbishment. The last presentation was given by Mirja Adler, Estonian Credit and Export Guarantee Fund. She explained in her presentation the new Estonian loan programme to fund energy efficiency in the housing stock.

After the official part of the Kick-off conference was concluded, a meeting of the capitalisation group took place.

Day, Date (- Place)

10:00 **Topic**
Name Speaker, Organisation, Country