



Integrated Energy Efficient Renewal of Residential Areas

Urb.Energy Midterm Conference on sustainable urban development planning and financial approaches

The Urb.Energy Midterm Conference was held in Warsaw on 10 June 2010. Around 70 participants from the project partner countries and representatives from different Polish regions and institutions took part in the event. It was hosted by the City of Piaseczno, the Polish "National Energy Conservation Agency" (NAPE) and the National Economy Bank (BGK) of Poland.

After a welcome of Andrzej Rajkiewicz, NAPE, the conference was officially opened by Jozef Zalewski, the Mayor of Piaseczno. Afterwards, Christian Huttenloher, representing the Lead Partner organisation DV e.V., and Marcin Murawski, vice-president of the board of the BGK, gave an opening speech.

In the first lecture, Andreas Lindner, representing the Lead Partner organisation of the project, introduced the participants to the background of Urb.Energy and the current stage of work. In this connection, he also described the obstacles for the energy efficient urban development of residential areas, which have been so far identified for the project's target areas.

The **first session**, with the theme **approaches of sustainable urban development**, was moderated by Britta Schmigotzki, IWO e.V., project coordinator of Urb.Energy. The first lecture was held by Ph. D. Krzysztof Domaradzki, from the Warsaw Technical University, Dept. Architecture, who presented the experiences with sustainable urban development planning in Poland. To illustrate existing planning approaches in Poland, Ph. D. Domaradzki, presented the development of the local zoning plan for the residential neighbourhood "Stegny" in Warsaw. In his lecture the necessity was stressed, to include the residents and their needs in the planning process.

In the following presentation, Thomas Knorr-Siedow, Institute of Regional Development and Structural Planning, Germany, gave an overview on the main principles of energy efficiency and integrated urban development planning and afterwards presented the German experiences after 1990. He noted that a special attention should be given to demography, e.g. the problem of a shrinking and aging population.

Peter Busch, Ministry for Infrastructure and Agriculture Brandenburg, Germany, presented integrated urban development in the context of the strategy for climate protection and energy of the federal state of Brandenburg. In his presentation he stressed that in the Brandenburg programme for climate protection and energy, the priority is on private households as end-users.

After the three lectures, two Urb.Energy partner cities were presenting their **case studies**. First, Ph. D. Marcin Malinowski presented the approaches of integrated urban energy optimisation in the target area of the city of Piaseczno. In his presentation he stressed the need to take into account all that have an influence on the shape of a city and he described the results of an opinion survey with the residents.



The next case study was presented by Martins Menniks, City of Riga, Latvia, who introduced the participants to neighbourhood planning in Riga and the urban development strategy for Jugla neighbourhood.

After the lunch break, the **second session on financing tools for sustainable urban development** started. The session was moderated by Andrzej Rajkiewicz, NAPE, Poland. In the first presentation, Andreas Dördelmann, Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein, Germany spoke about financing tools for sustainable urban development and the experiences made so far within the Urb.Energy project. He briefly referred to the results of the predecessor project BEEN and described the new tasks in Urb.Energy, which are e.g. the development of financing schemes for urban development and the identification of financing sources.

Afterwards, Marcin Idczak, from the European Investment Bank (EIB) spoke about two innovative instruments to support energy efficiency in cities, the EU financing instruments JESSICA and ELENA. In his presentation, he introduced the participants to the main features of the two instruments, explained the role and activities of the EIB and presented examples for the use of the instruments.

Next, two presentations on financing tools for urban development in Poland were given by representatives of the National Economy Bank (BGK), Poland. The BGK is the only state-owned bank in Poland and is providing the Thermal and Refurbishment fund in Poland since 12 years.

In the first BGK presentation, Boleslaw Meluch, Director of Housing Funds Department in the BGK, introduced the participants to thermal and refurbishment subsidies in local government policy in Poland. He presented the main features of the thermal and refurbishment fund, incl. the subsidy scheme, the number of applications for thermal subsidies in the past ten years and conditions to receive the state support.

The second BGK presentation by Marek Szczepanski, Director of Regional Development Department, focussed on the Polish experiences regarding financial instruments for energy efficiency and revitalisation of cities. Thereby, he explained the role of EU funds in urban revitalisation financing in Poland and presented some first observations on JESSICA in Poland.

The final presentation of session II was given by Simona Irzikeviciute, Housing and Urban Development Agency, Lithuania, who presented the experiences with the implementation of the JESSICA instrument in Lithuania. As the instrument is very new and has just been introduced in Lithuania, the main activities so far, have been the selection of commercial banks, promotion and information activities as well as the conclusion of agreements with multi-family buildings. So far, 15 agreements to prepare investment projects (using JESSICA tool) were made.

The **third conference session** has been a **panel discussion** on the challenges and potentials of energy efficient renewal of neighbourhoods in the context of integrated development concepts. It is documented in a separate paper (available for download online).