

Urb.Energy Midterm Conference took place in Warsaw at June 10

Integrated approaches and financing possibilities for the energy efficient rehabilitation of urban areas was the focus of the Urb.Energy Midterm Conference. The event was hosted by the City of Piaseczno, the Polish “National Energy Conservation Agency” (NAPE) and the National Economy Bank (BGK) of Poland and took place in Warsaw at June 10.

The project Urb.Energy aims at the elaboration and partly implementation of transferable integrated concepts and strategies for a sustainable and holistic rehabilitation of residential areas. In doing so a special emphasis is given to the energy efficient refurbishment of the housing stock and the energy supply infrastructure. The first part of the conference was therefore dedicated to experiences in Poland, Germany and Latvia on integrated sustainable urban development approaches that provide as “framework strategies” a basis for sectoral planning, projects and funding.

The second part of the conference was focusing on possible financing instruments to support the implementation of energetic issues in the framework of integrated urban development concepts. A special attention was given to EU financing tools like JESSICA and ELENA.



Picture: Bernd Schwarz/PIXELIO

In the final discussion the potential and challenges of the energetic upgrading of neighbourhoods has been discussed. It became clear that comprehensive approaches – that are focusing on the overall development of a clearly defined residential area – offer opportunities to combine actions for energy efficiency (like e.g. construction measures but also awareness raising activities to influence user behaviour) with actions for the general upgrading of the urban areas (especially green spaces and social meeting areas) in order to raise acceptance and commitment of owners and residents.



Pictures: Initiative Wohnungswirtschaft Osteuropa

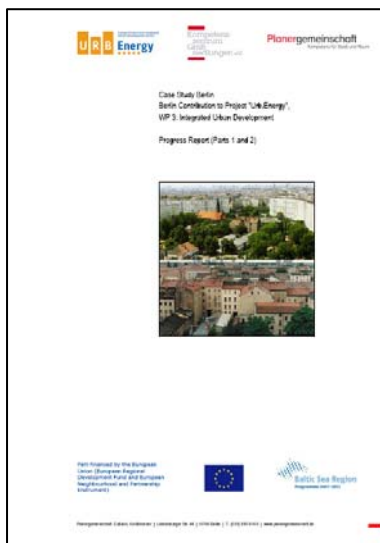
The documentation of the Midterm Conference is available at:

<http://www.urbenergy.eu/134.0.html>

Experiences from Germany about integrated urban development

How to enhance the sustainable use of energy in neighbourhoods? That's the focus of two studies recently developed in the frame of Urb.Energy and now available at the result section of the project's website. From two different perspectives the two project partners Center of Competence for Major Housing Estates and the Ministry for Infrastructure and Agriculture of Brandenburg are assessing and documenting experiences that have been made in Germany in the last two decades.

Case Study Berlin – Integrated and energy efficient development of neighbourhoods Part 1



evaluation will deepen the issue of energy efficiency as an integrated planning matter. For this purpose a balance of the energy consumption between 1991 and today will be calculated.



Pictures: Planergemeinschaft
Dubach, Kohlbrenner

The first part of the documentation of the case study is available at:

http://www.urbenergy.eu/fileadmin/urb.energy/medias/partners_section/Partner_Outputs/PO-WP3/Berlin-WP3_01.pdf

The first results regarding energy efficiency implications of integrated urban development are available at:

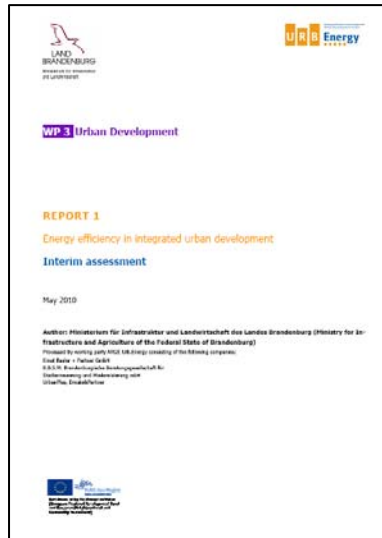
http://www.urbenergy.eu/fileadmin/urb.energy/medias/veranstaltungen/warsaw/Piaceczno/UrbEnergy_Piaseczno_2010_WP4_CSBerlin.pdf

The "Case Study Berlin" documents an example of an integrated urban development process with focus on energetic measures. The case study area is composed of a large housing estate (Frankfurter Allee Süd) and a historic building area (Kaskelkiez).

The study comprises a survey of the initial state in the early 1990ies and a documentation of the discussions and various planning steps until today. A detailed analysis on the function, contents and results of integrated urban development concepts will be provided. A critical



Energy Efficiency and Integrated Urban Development – The Brandenburg Case



The comprehensive document describes and analyses the experience in developing an integrated approach to urban development and housing over the last two decades. The regional structure of Brandenburg, a federal state of app. 2.5 million inhabitants, is characterized by a small number of larger cities and many small towns. While the population in the metropolitan region around Berlin is growing, it is drastically shrinking in the peripheral regions due to migration and demographic change. The urban structures are characterized by many older urban cores, housing estates from the state-socialist period and a considerably sprawl of older and new housing around the towns.

The report documents the development after the political turn and German unification, which was during the early 1990s dominated

by ad-hoc measures to improve the housing and infrastructural malaise of the post war to 1990 period. Energy and water efficiency were not so much a problem of climate protection, but an issue of keeping housing affordable under market condition. New homes were built that served quality demands and the run down inner cities as well as the panel estates saw a first round of rehabilitation.



Pictures: Ernst Basler + Partner GmbH

During a second phase, urban and regional policies were established under the impact of spatial polarization between the metropolitan space and shrinking peripheral regions. With regards to energy efficiency, this meant understanding the interdependence between socio-economic development and demand and the need to qualify methods so that towns could become more sustainable entities. Only since 2006, more than 15 years after the political turning point, the third phase of a deliberately integrated policy started with the master-plan for Urban Regeneration. To introduce its tools, like the Integrated

Urban Development Concepts (INSEK), new forms of governance had to be established between public and private actors to work towards the joint goal of an active development, which is at the same time sensitive to the human and natural environment.

The report follows these developments in detail and provides material about a number of case studies about a climate aware urban



change and the respective building projects. How to design a city-vision process is described as well as cases of the conversion of older building to make them meet the demands of a changing society and at the same time to reduce the CO₂ footprint of municipalities. Not only success stories are described, but also the pitfalls that were encountered on the way.

The report is available at:
http://www.urbenergy.eu/fileadmin/urb.energy/medias/partners_section/Partner_Outputs/PO-WP3/Report_MIL_WP3_EN.pdf

Initiative started to intensify exchange among BSR-projects dealing with sustainability

The representatives of the five projects BaltCICA, Longlife, PEA, SPIN and Urb.Energy signed on 11 August 2010 a Memorandum of Understanding about an enhanced future cooperation.

Objective of the intensified exchange among these projects is to inform each other about the proceedings and the results of the projects and to use possible synergies for a mutual benefit. In the frame of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 the five projects are dealing with strategies for a sustainable development with a special focus on energy and resource saving issues in consideration of the climate change.

As a first step of the co-operation the project Longlife invited the other projects to present their current work at the international conference of Longlife that took place in St Petersburg on 24 June 2010.

Based on this first activity the lead partner of the five projects will identify in the coming months intersections between the thematic works of the projects and assess the possibility of a further capitalization of results.

In order to introduce the five cooperating projects to the Urb.Energy partners we would like to use the opportunity of the present newsletter and give you a short overview about the focal point of the projects' work and contact data.



Climate Change: Impacts, Costs and Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region

Focus of the project:

Improve the ability to deal with the impacts of climate change, assess impacts of the climate change and elaborate adequate response mechanisms.

www.baltcica.org



Sustainable, energy efficient and resource saving residential buildings with consideration of unified procedures and new and adapted technologies

Focus of the project:

Longlife optimizes methods for buildings and construction, adapt and implement new technologies and harmonize building procedures. These will lead to reduction of the energy consumption and minimize the operational costs during the building's lifecycle. Longlife will also tackle financing of sustainable residential buildings through various EU funds

www.longlife-world.eu



Public Energy Alternatives - Sustainable energy strategies as a chance for regional development

Focus of the project:

To foster regional development through reduction of energy related costs as well as promotion of value chains based on renewable energy resources and sustainable technological innovations.

www.pea-baltic.eu



Sustainable Production through Innovation in SMEs

Focus of the project:

Support of small and medium-sized enterprises to implement eco-innovations. The key issue of the project is the transnational matchmaking of offer and demand of such innovations by SPIN instruments, e.g. innovation database and industry workshops

www.spin-project.eu



Energy Efficient and Integrated Urban Development Action

Focus of the project:

Development of integrated concepts and strategies for the comprehensive energy efficient renewal of existing residential areas in the Baltic Sea Region.

www.urbenergy.eu

Upcoming Urb.Energy Events:

The Berlin Seminar:

Experiences about Integrated and Energy Efficient Upgrading of Neighbourhoods

21/22 October 2010 - Berlin

The Berlin Seminar will cover and deepen the topic of energy efficiency within an integrated urban development process.

On the first day of the seminar the Berlin concept of integrated planning will be presented on the bases of the Case Study Berlin. A review of the integrated planning process from 1990 until today will be given while the integral elements of energy efficiency and financial instruments will be recessed. Scientific experts, political and societal stakeholders as well as representatives of the housing industry will present cutting-edge results.

On the second day an excursion to good practice examples in the Land Brandenburg will be undertaken and a workshop will be held within the frame of WP 3 with all respective partners. Hosts of the Berlin Seminar are the Center of Competence for Major Housing Estates and the Ministry for Infrastructure and Agriculture of Brandenburg.

WP4-workshop in Grodno

17/18 November 2010 – Grodno/Lida

The workshop in Grodno offers the possibility to reflect Belarusian urban development approaches in relation to EU experiences.

Host of the workshop will be the Grodno Oblast Executive Committee, Housing Department



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www.urbenergy.eu

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The Urb.Energy Project Partner:

GERMANY:

- German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development (Berlin)
- Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (Berlin)
- Center of Competence for Major Housing Estates (Berlin)
- Ministry for Infrastructure and Agriculture, Brandenburg (Potsdam)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Potsdam
- Ministry of Science, Economics and Transport, Schleswig-Holstein (Kiel)

POLAND:

- City and County Piaseczno

LITHUANIA :

- Housing and Urban Development Agency (Vilnius)
- Siauliai City Municipality Administration

LATVIA:

- City of Riga
- City of Jelgava

ESTONIA:

- Credit and Export Guarantee Fund KredEx (Tallinn)
- City of Rakvere
- Baltic Union of Cooperative Housing Associations (Tallinn)

BELARUS:

- Grodno Oblast Executive Committee, Housing Department

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The newsletter is available for download at the Urb.Energy website