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Urb.Energy seminar on Integrated Urban Development Concepts

Berlin, 21-22 October 2010

Documentation of the Experience exchange about the preparation of Integrated Urban Development Concepts in the Urb.Energy Target Areas

Introduction:

At the Urb.Energy seminar in Berlin an internal workshop was carried out to organize the experience exchange among the partners about the preparation of Integrated Urban Development Concepts. The focus of the discussion was in particular on the implementation of integrated concepts as well as on the respective implementation structures and procedures.

After the presentation of the current stage at the different Target Areas, three parallel working groups were organized to exchange in detail about the topics:

- Implementation structure and procedures
- Participation and information
- Enhancement of energy efficiency of the neighbourhood

The following pages are a summary of the results of the discussion.



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Minutes – Working Group 1
“IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES”
(Andreas Lindner, Petra Reinecke)

“Implementation structures and procedures for the Integrated Urban Development Concepts” was the topic of the Working Group 1.

Adapted to the different framework conditions, the Target Areas have chosen different structures and procedures to implement the Integrated Urban Development Concepts (IUDC). However, the experience shows that a ‘binding status’ of the concept, involvement of stakeholders and political legitimating and commitment or financing are common key factors that have to be considered already at an early stage of the planning process to guarantee the later implementation of the planned measures

The objective of the Working Group 1 was therefore appropriate structures to implement IUDC in the Target Areas.

The principal question of was therefore:

- What are the key factors regarding the planning and implementation process of an IUDC for a successful implementation of the planned measures?

In particular the participants were focusing on the topics like:

- Legal status and binding force of the IUDC
- Integration of stakeholders into the planning process:
- Shared responsibility of planning, implementing and financing measures:
- Framework conditions with impact on the implementation of the IUDC:

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION RESULTS

The participants of the working group considered the proper linkage between the content related planning and the financial planning as one of the most crucial but also most challenging points respective the implementation of the IUDCs. The representatives of the Target Areas in Riga and Rakvere pointed out the existing discrepancy between the integrated (cross sectoral) planning approach – as they carry out in their cities – and the budget allocation as well as final physical and financial implementation of measures by sectors. Therefore a coordination of the investments among the different sectors (based on the integrated planning of the neighbourhood) is necessary.

In the case of Riga e.g. there have not been yet assigned resources to the different measures of the IUDC. A subsequent assignment of financial means turned out to be very challenging.

From the point of view of the discussants it is crucial to clarify right at the beginning of the process the financing possibilities. In this regard it is important to point out not only the municipal budget lines or financial support possibilities for private owners, but also to identify possibilities to activate the carriers regarding the financing of the modernization of the supply infrastructure.

A further key point identified by the participants of the working group was the clarification of the binding force of the IUDC. The present representatives of the Target Areas in Riga and Rakvere favoured a legal binding status of the IUDC and a legitimating of the concept by the city council, in particular with regard to the financing

In the beginning of the project in Rakvere favoured a not binding document. The IUDC was supposed to be an indicative concept. During the planning process this point of view changed and the concept will be now submitted to the city council for approval. The participants agreed on the need to create local bylaws in case that the legal framework conditions are not sufficient. This has to be clarified beforehand of the start of the planning process.

However, it was also stressed out that a legal binding force is important but that on the other hand the early participation of residents and different stakeholders is crucial for the acceptance – and consequently for the later implementation – of the concept.

For the successful implementation of an IUDC it is necessary to inform residents and the different stakeholders about objectives and results of the planning or planned activities and to create the framework for a proper participation. Nonetheless, in some Target Areas the interest of residents to contribute – or even take part in information activities – was rather low.

To reach a common understanding within the administration – and to coordinate the different measures in an IUDC – it is important to involve the other sectors of the administration.

From the experience of the Target Areas it is important to have a broad agreement about the planned activities already before the political legitimating.

During the discussion it was suggested to integrate into the IUDC additional instruments to increase the degree of compulsion of the concept. In particular were named the instruments like a sustainability appraisal or a strategic environmental impact assessment.

Minutes – Working Group 2
“PARTICIPATION AND INFORMATION”
(Thomas Knorr-Siedow, Dovile Pauplyte)

“Participation and information (Target Areas)” was the theme of the Working Group 2 during the WP3-seminar in Berlin on October 22.

The involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders in a neighbourhood is one of the most important features of integrated planning processes. The different Target Areas have chosen a number of different approaches to inform residents and owners, to give them the possibility to participate in the planning process and to involve institutionalised stakeholders (such as different departments of the city administration, national and regional bodies, energy suppliers, etc) into the elaboration of the Integrated Urban Development Concepts (IUDC). Working Group 2 was targeting on the knowledge exchange among the project partners about the different chosen approaches for participation and based on the experiences in the Target Areas the identification of most appropriate approaches.

The key questions of the discussion were:

- Which participatory approaches/ activities TA are considering as especially important for the successful implementation of an Integrated Urban Development Concept for the energetic upgrading of neighbourhoods?
- What challenges TA are facing regarding the participation process and what the possibilities to react on these challenges?

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION RESULTS

Sherry Arnstein’s ladder of citizens’ participation, reaching from ‘manipulation’, via ‘information’ towards consultation and delegation of power, was used to define, where in within the process of involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders of a neighbourhood the projects (target areas) would at present see themselves and where they would want to go. Most target areas at the moment are on the level of information/consultation, but they are intending to reach the level of partnership within the Urb.Energy project.

Good examples within Target areas (TA’s) consultation and informing are:

- involving inhabitants into planning by using media: creating websites, blogs, local TV, newspapers;
- election of local representatives;
- constant and moderated dialogue with residents, such as regular meetings with inhabitants;

- involving institutionalised stakeholders (departments of the city administration, national and regional bodies, energy suppliers, etc.).

To reach the next step such as partnership Target areas face some challenges. Firstly, it may be hard to make inhabitants “the real actors”, in such way as creating local “parliaments”. However, it must also be seen that in the case of non-participation in decision making, residents and other actors might decide against important elements of the project, e.g. not to take part in certain measures to collaboratively reduce CO2 output. Secondly, responsible institutions need to find more ways to include people in their energy consumption strategies, by convincing them about the need for improvement of technologies and behaviour in the attempted energy saving measures. One of the ways could be the motivation by reducing energy costs or more actively involving energy suppliers into the planning and implementation processes. Contractors should also be more involved. One of possible solutions could be the establishment of local funds where decisions are made by residents.



Minutes – Working Group 3 “ENHANCEMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD” (Simona Irzikeviciute, Kathrin Senner)

“Enhancement of energy efficiency of the neighbourhood (Target Areas)” was the theme of the Working Group 3 during the WP3-seminar in Berlin on October 22.

A significant part of the Integrated Urban Development Concepts (IUDC) will address different approaches and measures to improve energy efficiency of the Target Areas. The experience shows that there is a great variety of possibilities of specific construction measures, information activities to initiate a change of behaviour and legal adaptations of framework conditions. The Working Group 3 aimed at the exchange of experiences of the project partners about the different approaches that could be transferable to other neighbourhoods.

The **key questions** which should structure the discussions were:

- What are the appropriate measures/activities to enhance the energy efficiency of a neighbourhood in the framework of an Integrated Urban Development Concept?
- Which framework conditions on local, national or EU-level are particular in favour or in unfavourable to implement the selected measures/activities?



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION RESULTS

The group identified – in addition to the already known measures of refurbishment, which have been discussed in detail within the Work Package 4 meetings – some major activities to enhance the energy efficiency of the Target Areas:

- Participation: **Enhancement of awareness of the residents**
 - o Consultancy to address the residents personally and inform them about intelligent energy consumption and energy saving measures (e.g. supported by helpful instruments such as a thermometer which visualises the ideal ambient temperature)
 - o Provision of a web communication platform for residents to exchange their experiences with energy efficiency measures and consumer behaviour, to provide information about energy saving measures and



- to describe the effects of refurbishment measures by giving examples of the situation before and after refurbishment
 - Introduction of smart metering to illustrate the individual energy consumption
 - Communication of the improvement of quality of living by energy efficiency and energy saving measures
- Regulations: **Adaptation of certain EE standards and certifications**
 - E.g. building certification and building directive
 - E.g. BREEAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) (UK) or LEED green building certification program (USA)
- Building level: **Energy efficiency measures**
 - e.g. biomass plants, solar panels, combined heat and power plants (CHP), two pipe (heating) systems, intelligent approaches to energy storage of renewables (e.g. biomass or solar panels)
 - (where possible) decentralisation of the grid (if necessary by implementing a pilot project to gain more detailed knowledge)
 - Information brochures about and implementation of small scale solutions to initiate the process of energy efficiency
- Holistic approach: **Linkage of refurbishment measures at the building with appreciation measures in the neighbourhood (e.g. public space)**
 - Focus needs to be the development of the neighbourhood, and not just the building itself

Concerning the framework conditions on different political levels the group emphasised that the importance of a mixture of bottom-up and top-down approach is particular in favour to implement the selected measures and activities.

- top-down: e.g. by passing a refurbishment plan, Energy Saving program for the housing stock or municipal energy strategy
- bottom-up: e.g. by setting energy efficiency priorities that would be thought viable from the perspective of the inhabitants

