

Roundtable 4: The Future of Town Policy

SIAULIAI, 18 SEP 2009, 11:00-12:30h

Moderators: Mr Busch/ MIR (DE); Ms Reinecke/B.&S.U. mbH (DE)

Summary

**Topic: Different roles of stake holders (government, municipalities, inhabitants, investors);
Top-down-policy**

Key questions: Priorities, Strategies, Organisation, Involvement, Responsibilities?

Results:

- Lack between general planning and municipality planning
- Lack of implementation of the different instruments on the different levels
- Lack of involvement (especially of the inhabitants)
- Lack of responsibilities (politicians, inhabitants)
- Lack of political stability
- Lack of finances (politicians, inhabitants)
- Lack of possibilities for taking action, due to private ownership

Key terms from Poland:

- Planning facilitates investment decisions
- Decision makers are seldom educated in the field of spatial planning
- Need of an instruments for involvement of the minority (often the "decision – blocker")
- Different groups are affected => need of a joint decision

Key terms from Latvia:

- Instable political situation (no knowledge about the government strategies in the future)
- Population is getting older and they don't want to invest in building refurbishment
- Inhabitants have no interest in loans
- Inhabitants are not ready for taking responsibility for their environment ("it needs time")
- Most flats are privately owned, the government has no budget for buying
- Government should find ways for affordable living environment
- Lack of cooperation between state, municipality and inhabitants
- How to implement the instruments (role of involvement, when should involvement takes place?)

Key terms from Belarus:

- Has a development plan for the city and an general construction plan for each town

Key terms from Estonia:

- Need of funds or financial systems (for the government and inhabitants) to support refurbishment
- Problems: individual ownership, political objectives counts
- Municipalities ask for more power and they get the power step by step → more independence for the municipalities through the bottom-up-princip



Key terms from Lithuania:

- Need of sustainable development of the region, need of professionals (intermediary/ independent) and awareness
- Existing strategies and plans →no implementation on small scale level, no participation of inhabitants, no communication between government and inhabitants

Key terms from Germany (Mr Duvigneau):

Idea of creating a fund: shared ownership (municipality and inhabitants).