



Press release

International land use planning professionals meet in Oulu, Finland:

InnoUrba – The Living and Working Environment for the Future – Project Final Conference 28th – 29th May 2009

The Nordic land use planning development project *InnoUrba – the Living and Working Environment for the Future* is a joint project of the cities Oulu from Finland, Umeå from Sweden and Skanderborg from Denmark, and the Department of Architecture of the University of Oulu. The project studies and compares the land use planning practices and its key objective is to facilitate the opening of the Nordic markets for planning offices and businesses.

The project's Final Conference will be organized on 28th – 29th May 2009 at the Conference Centre Lasaretti, Oulu.

The event is directed to planners, constructors, decision-makers, representatives of universities and research organizations and media. Everyone interested in land-use planning is welcome.

The main themes of the two-day conference are innovations and interaction in the planning of urban living and working environments, architectural competitions as a planning method and sustainable land use planning.

The first conference day covers expert presentations that approach urban planning and construction from different angles. Special emphasis will be on sustainable land use planning and the principles of resident-friendly construction that promotes wellbeing. The Finnish keynote speaker of the day is writer, Lic.Pol.Sc. Osmo Soininvaara who has contributed significantly to the Finnish welfare society whilst serving in several high-level positions. Architect, professor, Mr Kai Wartainen speaks about innovation and design culture.

On the second conference day the presentations focus on land use planning practices and the importance of internationalization and innovation for different interest groups from local perspectives. Denmark could be called the Nordic forerunner in the field of land use planning that takes the different interest groups into notice. In his presentation Adjunct Professor Steffen Gulmann from Copenhagen Business School will discuss dialogue in planning. The Swedish architect office White Arkitekter discusses the international and innovative themes in modern architecture. The office has realized several innovative projects in the Nordic countries and around the world. Mr Jukka Akselin from Technopolis Plc. presents the features of innovative planning of working environments. The results of the InnoUrba project will be presented during the day, including the Green Paper report with recommendations for the harmonization of Nordic planning practices.

The Lead Partner of the project is the City of Oulu. The project will end in June 2009 and it is partly financed by the Nordic Innovation Centre. The project has three locally implemented sub-projects. The Danish Skanderborg focuses on planning a new green residential area in Anebjerg. In Umeå, the largely un-built island Ön located in the city centre is being developed. The Oulu sub-project examines using a Nordic architectural competition for developing a significant shoreline residential area in the Länsi-Toppila district. The competition results will be published 23rd April 2009 and presented also in the Final Conference.

The conference programme and registration information are available on the project website. The registration is open 22.4.-15.5.2009. The event will be organized in the Aurora-room of the Conference Centre Lasaretti. Participation fee: 50 € +VAT 22 % /person/2 days.

Registrations: The electronic conference registration form can be completed on the project web site, address www.ouka.fi/tekninen/innourba.

Welcome!

Further information: Jere Klami, InnoUrba Project Manager, tel. +358 44 703 2412, firstname.surname@ouka.fi
www.ouka.fi/tekninen/innourba