



InnoUrba II Workshop 12th -13th March 2009, Umeå

The contents and outcomes of the workshop

The second InnoUrba project workshop was organised in Umeå 12th - 13th March 2009. The main objectives of the workshop were to discuss the current state-of-play in the project activities, including the partner cities' case studies and the green paper that will be created. Special attention was paid to the Final Conference that will be organised 28th - 29th May 2009. Representatives of all InnoUrba participant organisations were present in the workshop.

Project activities and case studies

Skanderborg's representatives presented the results of the Anebjerg game session that was organised in November 2008. The game turned out to be a very useful and multifunctional means for increasing public participation and bringing new views to land-use planning procedures. The game will be utilised also in the future in the planning of other locations.

Oulu's special activity in the InnoUrba project, the Toppila Shore architectural competition has come to the phase that the jury has finished working with the proposals. The competition works were presented to the InnoUrba workshop participants whose feedback was also collected.

In Umeå, the participatory process that used new ICT tools on the Ön island planning was finished during autumn 2008. Sustainability is a key focus in the planning, and Umeå has created a network on the theme to bring together actors from all different land-use planning and construction interest groups.

The project organized a Business and Market implications survey for different land-use planning and construction actors at the end of 2008 for finding out the possible barriers and problems in cross-border cooperation in the Nordic countries. Legislation and different regulations and lack of information on them were generally considered one of the main difficulties with entering the markets in the neighbouring countries. The cities were hoped to facilitate the information flows, both about the regulations and the market opportunities offered. Naturally the Swedish and Danish actors recognized language as one of the key barriers in setting up business in Finland.

The round-table session led by the representatives of the Department of Architecture / University of Oulu concentrated on looking at the innovation on the InnoUrba case studies. Especially the methods (Oulu: International architectural competition; Skanderborg: interactive planning game; Umeå: Communication based on new information technology) were discussed in detail from the innovation perspective.

Final Conference

The Final Conference was discussed in detail in the project Steering Group meeting on Friday 13th March. Decisions were made on contents and structure of the programme and the speakers who will be invited. The preparation, invitation and registration processes schedules were fixed.

The first information on the Final Conference will be sent to the interest groups on weeks 12 and 13. The programme of the conference will be published, official invitations will be sent and registration will start on week 17. The registration for the seminar will end on Sunday 10th May 2009.