

InnoUrba project workshop in Skanderborg – international cooperation in land-use planning

InnoUrba – the Living and Working Environment for the Future is a joint development project of three Nordic cities. The project has received funding from the Nordic Innovation Centre. In cooperation with Umeå in Sweden, Skanderborg in Denmark and the Department of Architecture of University of Oulu, the City of Oulu will study and compare land-use planning practices. The aim is also to open Nordic markets for planning offices.

In Skanderborg's project, a new, nature-oriented part of town will be planned in Anebjerg close to the east coast of Jylland. Umeå's planning site is an island called Ön located in the middle of the city. Ön is a mostly unbuilt area, where new residential construction will be planned. The special theme of the Umeå planning project is the residents' participation in the planning. In the planning work of Ön island, the Google Earth application has been used as a tool in presenting a three-dimensional model of the plans. The project site of Oulu is a residential block located close to the waterfront in the area of Toppila Shore. The competition will be organized as an invited competition that will start in July and end in November 2008. The city plan of the area is being created at the moment and it is in the draft phase. Through the Nordic competition, the aim is to get fresh ideas for the planning of the buildings and environment of the residential block located on a significant site in the shore proximity.

The Department of Architecture of the University of Oulu will carry out research work related to the InnoUrba project. The purpose of the work is to analyze and compare land-use planning processes and methods and find good practices. The research on the planning sites will be realised through case studies, surveys and seminars related to the project. The research activities will be led by Professor Helka-Liisa Hentilä and the research work carried out by architect Leena Soudunsaari.

The InnoUrba project's first workshop will be organized on 21st – 22nd May 2008 in Skanderborg. The workshop's agenda includes a project Steering Group meeting, discussion session on the research work, and discussion on the planning sites and methods. The InnoUrba Starting Meeting was organized in Oulu in March 2008.