



InnoUrba Intermediate Activity and Communication Report 1: Summary

Period: 1st Jan – 31st Jul 2008
Partners: City of Oulu, Municipality of Umeå, Skanderborg Kommune, University of Oulu

InnoUrba's main activities

The InnoUrba Starting Meeting was organized in Oulu 12th-13th March 2008 and the I Workshop in Skanderborg 21st -22nd May 2008. The meetings concentrated on the set-up of the project and launch of activities. Representatives of all the partner organizations participated in both of the events. Two Steering Group meetings were organised, one in the Oulu meeting and the other in the Skanderborg workshop.

During the period covered, all partners organized regular meetings with their internal project groups (3-10 participants per meeting). The InnoUrba Steering Group has been informed about all important matters discussed. In addition, the partners organised other meetings with external participants from different co-operator organisations. The meetings were related e.g. to the project economy, web page design, architectural competition and contracts.

Regarding the activities of the individual partners, as a central activity of the project, the City of Oulu organizes an architecture competition and has invited altogether four architect offices from all the partner countries to take part. The architecture competition starting meeting took place on 1st July. In the meeting there were 24 participants, representing the city organisation, the four architect offices and the construction company involved in the project.

In Umeå, the contents and time schedule concerning Umeå's part Ön have been discussed in detail with the two departments involved in the project.

Skanderborg asked for offers for the further planning of Anebjerg area in March. As the result, in April the company GBL A/S was chosen. The internal Project Group and GBL A/S made an application to Plan09. In June 2008 Skanderborg organised three meetings with three different societies or clubs interested in the Anebjerg planning.

The Department of Architecture of the University of Oulu carried out the first two phases of the research project, the study on the land use planning processes and methods in Oulu, Skanderborg and Umeå, during the reporting period. The first two phases concentrated on the description of the land use planning systems and practices on national and local levels. An important part of the phases was a survey carried out amongst the InnoUrba project organisation. The preliminary results were presented in the Skanderborg workshop and the study report (Land Use Planning Systems and Practices) was completed. The third and last phase will start at the beginning of year 2009.

InnoUrba in media, and other publicity measures

During the reporting period, InnoUrba gained a considerable amount of publicity in media. In Oulu, altogether four articles were published in local newspapers and one in a professional magazine during the reporting period. In addition, the project was mentioned seven times on

the web pages of magazines and organizations. In Umeå, two newspaper articles related to the project were published. The number of articles for Skanderborg was total five, with one of them published in a local, two in regional and two in national level newspapers.

The City of Oulu created the website for InnoUrba. Oulu has also set up a poster at the Oulu Technical Centre information point.

With regard to the resident feedback on matters related to the project, Oulu did not seek for official feedback during the reporting period but the article about the competition in the main local newspaper's web page got about 45 anonymous comments. The comments dealt mostly with high-rise buildings, the opinions being both for and against. The publicity gained has also encouraged representatives of different interest groups to contact the InnoUrba project organisation.

InnoUrba brochures have been prepared and first ones were handed out in Oulu in the Toppila Shore architecture competition starting meeting 1st July. The electronic version of the brochure has been delivered to partners via e-mail and the paper versions will be printed and delivered in the autumn.

Activity plan for the next period

During the next reporting period (1st August – 31st December 2008) Oulu's activities include creating methods for public participation on the web page and presenting the competition results for the public.

In Umeå, discussions have given that a new workshop has to be planned in Umeå, with focus on environment in land use planning. Umeå's projects have also got increased focus on interactive participation for the general public in the planning process. Umeå will launch a survey concerning planning, builders' and architect offices' experience of work in the Nordic countries. Focus will be on obstacles and how international work can be facilitated. Also a workshop with focus on environment land use planning will be planned and realised.

In Skanderborg, the Anebjerg game and the communication program will be planned and put into practice (with participation of different interest groups). Meetings and workshops with internal and external experts will take place in August 2008. In October-December the urban planning for Anebjerg will be realized on the basis of the input got through the Game and the workshops with internal and external experts.

The University of Oulu will finish the study report of the research phases 1 and 2 and deliver and produce it as a part of the Green Paper. The research phase 3, analysis and evaluation of the three alternative planning cases in Oulu, Skanderborg and Umeå, will start at the beginning of 2009.