InnoUrba - the Living and Working Environment for the Future

is a project about developing land-use planning methods and solutions for new urban environments in Nordic cities.

- Three case studies: Umeå, Skanderborg and Oulu
- Related research work: University of Oulu, Department of Architecture
- Resident participation

Benefits of the project

- Innovative, inspirational and user-friendly environment
- Best practices for planners and consultants across national borderlines
- Increasing the residents’ influence on urban development
- Cross-border co-operation

Outcomes

- Green Paper of best practices in planning
- Project Implementation through case studies
- Sharing experiences

The project is funded by Nordic Innovation Centre.

Umeå - Ön

 Ön is a strategically situated island in the Umeå river in Umeå town centre. It is currently a rural area with less than 300 residents. A Master Plan for the area has been started in 2002. Four different scenarios have been created by an architect consultant and dialogue with citizens and organizations carried out through public workshops, seminars, website and a Google Earth 3-dimensional model.

InnoUrba goals, activities and work packages in the Ön Island project area:
- To find new easy ways to communicate with residents by utilizing a GoogleEarth application
- To create a sustainable society by ecological planning and building. A design program will cover public space, streets, parks and other green spaces.
- To realise a pilot function, pathfinder for international entrepreneurs, builders and contractors involving large and small companies and consulting to gain visibility for the Ön project.

Skanderborg - Anebjerg

Anebjerg is a new urban area to be developed near the town of Skanderborg. Today Anebjerg is a private property agricultural area that has been reserved for housing, public services and spare-time activities in the General Plan. The area will be developed during a several years period to form an entity of new residential areas with about 1300 housing units and a new 325-acre nature and forest part. Anebjerg will be characterised by the forest areas, which will, in addition to offering the residents a health-promoting environment and recreational experiences, allow the existing communities to avoid merging and function as protection of the groundwater resources. In the area’s development, sustainability principles will be followed in all aspects.

InnoUrba goals and activities in the Anebjerg project area:
- To test new interaction methods in the planning process
- To get Nordic contribution to the plans

Oulu - Toppila Shore

Toppilansalmi Strait has a long tradition as a harbour area for Oulu. As the main harbour of the city and other industrial activities are planned to be relocated, Toppilansalmi Strait will be ready for a new use. In the General plan of Oulu for the year 2020 Toppila Shore is an area of housing and services. Toppila Shore offers an excellent opportunity for densifying the city structure, enhancing the valuable estuary area cityscape and high quality urban living near the waterfront. An international architecture competition will be organized from July to November 2008.

InnoUrba goals and activities in Toppila Shore project area:
- To test a Nordic architecture competition as a method on a residential area with special values
- To get fresh ideas for the planning of the buildings and environment
- To use a Nordic reference group as an external commentator in the evaluation phase

University of Oulu, Department of Architecture

Comparison of Land Use Planning Processes and Methods Oulu-Skanderborg-Umeå (“CompOSU”)

A research project that aims at analysing and comparing land use planning processes and methods with an objective to point out and report good practices.