

# B-Teamnews

THE NEWSLETTER OF BTEAM PROJECT

#2 JULY-SEPTEMBER 2011



## Message from the Project Manager

**Sabine Kalke**

Project Manager, B-TEAM  
September 2011

In June 2011, the project has published and disseminated the first newsletter. As I have said, this is a step forward in disseminating relevant information to project partners as well as to the general public.

In the current issue, B-Teamnews highlights the events such as the Brownfield Days in Dresden, Germany and the European Dissemination Event in Ruda Slaska, Poland. We have also published the approved Brownfield Pledge of Oulu, Finland as well as the recent "Container Event" organised by the City. There is also an article from the academic partners and a special feature on the children's competition: Bewitch the Heap.

Finally, we would like to thank all project partners and individuals who contributed to this newsletter.



## Dresden

### hosted the 5th European Brownfield Days



The 5th Brownfield Days (BDs) were conducted in Dresden, Germany on 4-7 July 2011. Dresden City is situated in the south-eastern part of the Free State of Saxony, which borders not only on other German regions, but also on the Czech Republic and Poland. Dresden is the centre of the Upper Elbe Valley urban agglomeration that lies in a marked widening of the Elbe valley.

The focus of these Brownfield Days were to share and exchange partners' experiences in Brownfield redevelopment strategies and temporary uses.

Activities included the introduction to the urban development in Dresden and walking tour "Leipziger Vorstadt"- a guided visit to the identified Brownfield area and to selected locations with temporary uses; discussions on the approaches to Brownfield development strategies/theoretical framework, and series of workshops.

The highlights of the BD was the public event and stakeholders were engaged and discussed the results and conclusions of the activity with the partners. The focus of the event was on the alternative opportunities for the redevelopment of the Neustaedter Hafen / Leipziger Vorstadt area.

## Ruda Slaska

### European Dissemination Event held in Poland

The third European Dissemination Event (EDE) was held in Ruda Slaska, Poland on 5-6 September 2011. Ruda Slaska is a city in Silesia in southern Poland and part of Silesian Voivodeship.

The objective of the EDE was to disseminate the results of the B-Team project so far to a broader public.

The results and recommendations from the completed Brownfield Days in Ruda Slaska/ Poland and Dresden/ Germany, as well as the updates of the previously conducted Brownfield Days were presented and discussed with the audience.

There was considerable number of political leaders from partner cities wherein a Political Forum was conducted as part of the overall EDE programme. Resource speakers from local, regional and Europe level also presented their respective topics related to Brownfield regeneration.



## Brownfield Pledge Oulu

The Brownfield Pledge is the concrete result of the project, particularly the conducted Brownfield Days. The BP is a policy transfer document that ensures long-term benefits after the project's completion by committing the partners to the improvement of their actions and policies.

**Strategic level**

- Sustainable city planning:** a) More coherent city structure and active land use on brownfield sites.  
b) More coherent city structure in existing housing areas.
- Versatile land policy:** Planning of city-owned land and convertible areas in co-operation with private land owners, by means of land use contracts and quality agreements.
- Social responsibility and public participation:** Setting up a specific management group for larger regeneration projects. Involving adjacent communities to maximize community benefit, for example *Memorandum of Understanding* (Belfast) or an interaction workgroup.  
  
Regular public events on the development process arranged by the municipality. Open discussion, monitoring process and outcome results available for citizens. Part of the consultation process taking place on-site and in adjacent communities. Encouraging and facilitating the temporary uses by residents in harmony with the final functions.
- Alternative planning solutions:** Assuring the quality of the area by using alternative land use plans. Leaving space for changes in the design concept – it can evolve and change throughout the process. Involving the University of Oulu in creating alternative plans, workshops and research related to the brownfield projects. Architectural competitions can be used as one method to get alternative planning solutions.
- Contaminated soil remediation:** Sustainable methods of soil remediation will be investigated in brownfield areas.
- Financing:** Investigating the possibilities for public-private-partnership, private investors and sponsorship in financing the services and buildings. Consideration of different funding options for the development of public cultural objects (lottery funding, international grants etc).
- Next steps on strategic level:**  
a) A large brownfield area in Pateniemi, a former sawmill with contaminated soil. New Oulu 2013 with merging municipalities; the new area will be investigated for brownfield development sites.  
b) Existing housing areas, for example Kaukovainio.

**Site specific level: project area Toppila Shore II**

- Cultural heritage:** restoring the maritime functions and atmosphere in the area. Checking with local communities what cultural heritage means to them. Ideas for functions include for example a shipyard for boatbuilding and repairs, harbor for cruisers, guest marina, training for youngsters, naval visits, boating, skiing, tourist services, accommodation and history of tar, seafaring, fishing, salmon, seal hunting and industrial activities.
- Sea Centre and marina:** Strong need for everyday use of Sea Centre for tourists as well as for local residents of all ages. Active summer and winter uses that attract people regardless of weather.
- Partnership:** Seeking partners for public-private-partnership regarding the Sea Centre by means of a public procedure.
- Public participation:** *Future workshop* to explore the expectations and aspirations for the development in terms of what benefits could be achieved to improve the wider area and communities. Goals and alternative plans will be included in workshops.
- Connectivity between the functions:** Connectivity between different quarters is the key. Retaining continuous green belts between the areas. Connections to the existing residential areas Meri-Toppila and Toppilansari and Nallikari recreational area as well as access to new facilities, northern areas of the city, city centre and the waterfront are critical. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic and public transport connectivity is important.
- First step – temporary use:** Considering temporary use of space it is critical to begin the process by raising awareness of the area as a resource and by establishing the location in people's minds. Creating opportunities for temporary uses and encouraging existing unofficial users by providing services and facilities (such as containers that can be used by several groups) and by organizing events.

*Taina Pitkänen-Koli*  
Taina Pitkänen-Koli, Technical Committee

The Brownfield Pledge consists of strategic and site specific recommendations which will guide the City in developing their Brownfield sites. The City of Oulu is the first city who has adopted and approved its Brownfield Pledge.

## Brownfield Management for building green space networks

**Stefanie Roessler / Juliane Mathey**

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban  
and Regional Development (IOER).  
Dresden, Germany

### Framework and local situation for “green” Brownfield development in Dresden

The high amount and the diversity of Brownfields within the urban area of Dresden includes – supplementing urban inward development strategies to increase building density and to avoid ongoing usage of greenfields in the urban fringe – manifold potentials to improve and to strengthen the urban green system. Brownfields provide potentials according to needs of adaptation to climate change, to enhance the urban biodiversity and to provide open spaces as part of liveable urban areas. Being aware of these potential benefits green space development of Brownfields is one central issue in Dresden local planning strategies – especially the landscape plan with its vision of a “compact city within an ecological network”. Regarding the lack of public resources according to the growing amount of public green spaces and decreasing budgets of municipalities it is necessary to implement approaches of green space development which are cost-efficient or even profitable.

### New approaches to develop and manage Brownfields as temporary and/or durable elements of an urban green space network

In these terms there are manifold challenges for future urban green spaces – especially on Brownfields – (1) to be attractive and useable, (2) to benefit climate change adaptation and ecological needs and (3) to be payable or even profitable. According to these needs it is neces-

sary to develop new types supplementing our common green space types, as urban parks, playgrounds etc. Therefore urban agriculture, urban forestry, gardens, alternative sport and leisure facilities, sites for events, low maintained public parks, places for nature discovery and urban wilderness may offer strategies addressing the named challenges.

For example large Brownfields on the urban fringe may be suitable for the production of energy crops, like poplars. This may benefit climate mitigation strategies (carbonate storage) as well as climate adaptation strategies (micro-climatic cooling effects of vegetation). On inner city Brownfield-plots urban forests may offer habitats for plants and animals, but also recreation areas for residents.

### Sensitive implementation to ensure sustainability

A sensitive implementation of these several types is necessary to ensure acceptance of the population and to maintain urban qualities. The following issues needs to be considered: size of the area, ground (quality of soil, sealing proportion, contamination), current ecological state, appropriateness related to the urban surrounding (inner city or urban fringe), costs of establishing and costs of maintenance also concerning long-term responsibilities, duration or availability according to ownership and building law and the legal framework. Regarding this framework, “new” green spaces on Brownfields can strengthen the green space system of the city of Dresden.



## Bewitch the Heap Children's Art Competition

**Agnieszka Kubica,**  
City of Ruda Slaska, Poland



At the beginning of May 2011 Ruda Slaska B-Team started to make preparations for EDE in our town. The plan was simple, on the one hand we wanted to do our best to get ready with all organisational issues which were necessary on the 5th September and on the other hand we tried to take this opportunity and invited all inhabitants to work with us in B-Team.

From the previous Brownfield Days' experience, Ruda Slaska B-Team has decided to offer our Brownfields sites, coal mining areas and coking plants, to the children and teenagers of the City. The children's art competition was announced by the Mayor of Ruda Slaska, Ms. Grażyna Dziedzic on 1st June 2011 where in Poland we celebrated the Children's Day.

The rule of the competition was defined by Ruda Slaska B-Team. There were two age groups in the competition, children to the age of 12 years it was called "Bewitch the heap" and for teenagers at the age between 13 and 19 years old - "Reset the heap". However, there were not enough entries in the second group.

The competition was opened from 1st June till 26th August. It was set that the arts will be marked

through two juries all B-Team partners and Ruda Slaska inhabitants. What is the most surprising that in these two types of voting the same picture won: "Land of the happiness" created by 5 years' old Kasia Lewandowska. We decided to award a second price to 9 years' old Roksana Belzyt for "Magic heap", because she was always right next to the podium. The price for the both winners is a special unlimited subscription card for every swimming pool in our town which is valid until the end of the B-Team Project. The idea of price was build as example of teamwork, because the children have taken a part in a competition but the award is for all family members.

Generally, there were 17 pictures in the competition and all of them were simply amazing. The principles were to invite children to work with us. We asked them to use imagination because we wanted to see the heaps through their eyes.

At the beginning we thought that children's ideas will be unreal, but now when I'm looking at these pictures proudly, I have to say that they are well designed. Theatres, planetariums, rob parks, zoo, playgrounds it can succeed and with children's charm it makes amazing mixtures. In my opinion these pictures should be a milestone for us in thinking of the heaps' future.



## Doors open towards the sea Oulu's Container Event

**Jere Klami**  
City Planning Architect,  
Oulu, Finland.



How to involve local communities of the brownfield area? How to make the first step? According to the partner recommendations and the Oulu Pledge it is critical to raise awareness of the area as a resource and by establishing the location in people's minds. Also creating opportunities for temporary uses by providing facilities such as containers and by organizing events was considered important.

Ranta-Toppila is a former sawmill area. It will be planned as a new maritime housing and services area. In the plans are also a Sea Centre, a guest marina and a harbor for cruisers and naval visits.

The first sign of the change and a start of the co-operation is a container located at the shoreline. It is a platform for interaction of various stakeholders and an event

of exhibitions, brainstorming and other interactive activities.

The opening event was held on August 18th. It included speeches by the Deputy Mayor, Chairman of the Technical Committee and a member of the City Board, as well as live music, theatre and art workshops. Steamship Oulu made a visit to the area. 40 participants attended the successful event.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Brownfield Days  
Vilnius, Lithuania.**  
3-6 October 2011

**Brownfield Days  
Hajdú- Bihar, Hungary.**  
5-8 March 2012