



NEW POST-SOCIALIST CITY:
COMPETITIVE AND ATTRACTIVE

ReNewTown

Newsletter



Dear Reader, we are very pleased to present the fourth issue of the ReNewTown project Newsletter. The issue introduces key facts about the project and its current implementation. ReNewTown is also a platform for discussion on urban regeneration problems reaching beyond the project's own case studies research. It focuses on the most interesting urban regeneration examples in countries involved in the work of ReNewTown (Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Germany). Therefore this issue also presents a bottom-up initiative, the aim of which is the to 'defeat the ugliness of post-communist public space in Poland'.

The fourth issue contains the following articles:

THE RENEWTOWN PARTNERSHIP MEETING IN KARLSRUHE

The meeting in Karlsruhe was held under the motto 'Urban Regeneration through Bonding'. The seminar discussed issues related to forms, advantages and limits of citizens' participation in urban regeneration projects. During the seminar, external experts presented the results of already implemented projects, which included the involvement of citizens in urban regeneration processes.

THE PILOT ACTION OF THE RENEWTOWN PROJECT

The Museum of socialist curiosities in Hnusta is an initiative of the Agency for Development of Gemer Region and one of four pilot actions realized within the ReNewTown project. We seek to find a model of developing new and innovative functions of public buildings constructed in the socialist era, as well of increasing the cultural and social offer in districts with socialist burden.

RENEWTOWN FOLLOWS OTHER INITIATIVES

We present the, 'Mass Movement' bottom-up initiative which aims to 'defeat the ugliness of post-socialist public space in Poland' i.e. the gloomy, socialist housing estates and kitsch motley tower blocks.

THE INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND SYSTEMS ANALYSIS (ITAS)

We present the profile and role within the ReNewTown project Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) located in Karlsruhe, Germany.

THE RENEWTOWN DATABASES AND RENEWTOWN - PROJECT IN BRIEF

The creation of databases on good practices, initiatives and experts in the field of regeneration urban areas built during the socialist period are one of the key results of the ReNewTown project. The 'project in brief' section presents the project's time plan, partnership, budget and contact information.

THE RENEWTOWN PARTNERSHIP MEETING IN KARLSRUHE

1st – 2nd OF FEBRUARY 2012

The technical meeting in Karlsruhe was held under the motto 'Urban Regeneration through Bonding' – both an important as well as a manifold topic on how decision-making processes in urban regeneration contexts are carried out, participation is realized and control is exercised.



ReNewTown Team technical meeting

The 1st day of the meeting started with experts' presentations on urban regeneration covering a wide range of experiences and insights. Starting with an academic approach on urban regeneration under the condition of shrinkage, participants were then introduced to forms, advantages and limits of citizens' participation. This was followed by a presentation of already implemented projects in Berlin, where stakeholder involvement had successfully come to life. The experts' presentations were prepared by Prof Sigrun Kabisch (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig), Dr Matthias Bernt (Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS), Erkner) and Ms Cornelia Cremer (UrbanPlan GmbH, Berlin). The experts' knowledge was instantly incorporated in the afternoon's group discussions, where the pilot actions were discussed in the light of stakeholder involvement and governance issues.



ReNewTown Team in Karlsruhe

The 2nd day of the meeting was accompanied by a study visit to the MiKa project - a bottom-up project in Karlsruhe, where four former military units were transformed into residential apartments for a community-based, inter-generational and sustainable way of living. During the study visit the conference participants had the opportunity to experience the project's vision and to learn from the it's experience based on stakeholder-led approach and collaboratively elaborated decision-making policy.

More information available on: www.renewtown.eu

MUSEUM OF SOCIALIST CURIOSITIES IN HNUSTA

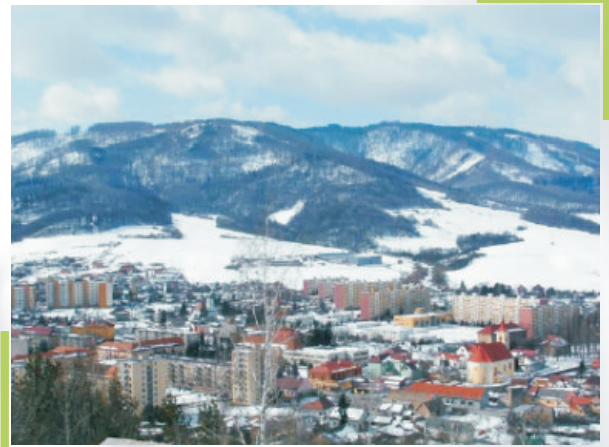
The pilot action of the ReNewTown project

Museum of Socialist Curiosities

The main aim of the pilot action project is to establish permanent exhibition of the people's ordinary life during the socialist era in Hnusta and the surrounding region. The implementation of the pilot action under the ReNewTown project directly corresponds with one of the main project's aims, i.e. identifying ideas for new/modern functions for public buildings created in socialist era.

Reinvent Hnusta

The location of the pilot investment is Hnusta city. During the socialist era, Hnusta has been one of the most prosperous heavy industry center in the region. Nowadays the city is experiencing recession. Nevertheless still a lot of old and abandoned socialist buildings can be found there. The socialist architecture is considered as cultural heritage of the city and through this pilot action project, part of it will be preserved for future generations.



The city of Hnusta



Examples of museum exhibits

The building, which is planned to be a museum, was built in 1985 by the citizens of Hnusta in frame of the program known as "Action Z", that is an action, where the citizens work on the building for free. Therefore the building is of great memorial value. It was primarily constructed as a grocery store for people living in the suburbs of Hnusta city – which offered supply of food without the need to travel to the center – core of the city. Nowadays there is no interest in investing in the building and it is therefore in the state of proceeding deterioration.

Local Coordinator:

Agency for development of Gemer region in Hnusta
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MASS MOVEMENT PROJECT

Defeating the ugliness of post-communist public space

One of the fundamental problems of large housing estates of the socialist period is their ugliness, monotony and architectural monumentality.



A bad example of the facade renovation
© pospoliteruszenie.com

Currently more and more large housing estates constructed in the socialist period in Poland are a subject of small-scale refurbishment and revitalization. The process is usually driven by housing cooperatives, and, in most cases, it refers to buildings' insulation and restoration of the facades.



A good example of the facade renovation © Kolektyf.com

Unfortunately, the process occurs without a coherent strategy, often with strange colors of facades that transform Polish cities into patchy and aesthetically destroyed areas. The 'Mass Movement' (Pospolite Ruszenie) initiative aims to increase public awareness of this problem and to refurbish as many buildings as it is possible in order to change the image of the urban landscape in Poland.



A bad example of the facade renovation
© pospoliteruszenie.com

The 'Pospolite Ruszenie' is a bottom-up initiative, which was created in 2011 by two young Polish artists L.U.C and Sokół. Its aim is to 'defeat the ugliness of post-communist public space in Poland' i.e. the gloomy, socialist realist housing estates and kitsch motley tower blocks and, consequently, regain the space from post-soviet indifference and passivity.



A good example of the facade renovation © Mieczysław Michalak

More information on:
<http://pospoliteruszenie.com>



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THE INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND SYSTEMS ANALYSIS (ITAS)

ITAS

Institute for
Technology Assessment
and Systems Analysis



The Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS), founded in 1995, is a German research facility of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), which is one of the largest research and teaching institutions in the world.

The organizational roots however go back to the 1950. ITAS is the largest interdisciplinary scientific institution in Germany dealing with technology assessment (TA) and systems' analysis in theory and practice. In the past decades the institute extended its portfolio now covering also foresight, innovation studies, sustainability research and Life Cycle Assessment. Today, there are more than 90 scientific staff members; approximately half of them are natural scientists or civil engineers, the others represent the humanities and social sciences. The three main activities of the Institute are: interdisciplinary research, scientific policy advice, and university teaching.

Within the ReNewTown partnership, ITAS acts as a knowledge provider pooling knowledge from its multi-disciplinary capacities and expertise in project design, development and dissemination, drawing on its long-term experience in national and European R&D projects. The ITAS team, consisting of the local project leader Dr Krassimira Paskaleva-Shapira and the researchers Dr Ian Cooper and Mrs Christina Götz, is particularly interested in re-invigorating socialist heritage by bounding urban districts and neighborhoods with their people and businesses. This requires the rethinking of the post-socialist heritage in a holistic way - linking tangible and intangible riches with an outlook to the future and a new framing of the post socialist city by re-inventing the past and joining up for a new vision of urban transformation.



More information on:
<http://www.itas.kit.edu>

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Page 6



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THE RENEWTOWN DATABASES

One of the key results of the ReNewTown project is the development of databases containing good practices, initiatives and experts in the field of regeneration urban areas built during the socialist period. The databases are still in elaboration and new cases will be added soon, nevertheless they already contain a lot of valuable information. It is also possible to suggest a good practice, which you consider as valuable to include in the database. In that case please contact: decmagda@gmail.com



Project summary

RenewTown project 'New post-socialist city: Competitive and Attractive' is funded under Central Europe Programme and runs from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014.

ReNewTown partnership consists of eight public institutions from Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. It will result in four pilot actions implemented in Nowa Huta in Krakow, Jizni Mesto in Prague, Velenje and Hnusta. The lead partner is Polish Academy of Sciences, Stanisław Leszczycki Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization

Total budget: EUR 1.514.061,60

ERDF co-financing: EUR 1.271.020,36

Contact

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Page 7