Result package

INTEGRATED URBAN PLANNING

Central Baltic programme 2014-2020 projects that support better urban planning in Central Baltic region.

In urban planning, it's a challenge to involve all actors in the process. Live Baltic Campus tested many different approaches whilst working with five university campus areas in Helsinki (pictured), Riga, Tartu, Turku, and Uppsala. The findings are published as five Integrated Campus Development Plans.

Interreg Central Baltic

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

What are result packages?

Result packages are part of the 2014-2020 programmes' capitalisation strategy. They promote programme achievements in logical entities by providing summaries of results and examples of good practices. They are all structured in the same way.

In total, there are 10 packages that summarise different thematics addressed by the Central Baltic programme. The themes of the different packages are:

- Export
- Labour market
- Sustainable management of the coastal and marine areas
- Vocational education
- Sustainable tourism
- ***Integrated urban planning***
- New business development
- The development of transport corridors
- Small ports development package
- Water

The iWater project designed stormwater planning tools and approaches, and developed Integrated Stormwater Management concept that supports sustainable urban planning and create higher quality and more resilient urban environments in the Baltic Sea region. Activities took place in seven partner cities (Helsinki, Turku, Tartu, Jelgava, Riga, Söderhamn and Gävle).

Contents

Scope of the package

This package contains information about Central Baltic project results that support better urban planning in Central Baltic region.

In Central Baltic Programme 2014-2020 "***Better urban planning in the Central Baltic region***" was selected as one of the specific objectives (2.3) under the priority Sustainable Use of Common Resources (2). The specific objective targeted the challenges and opportunities related to improving the urban space via joint urban planning activities. Projects under this SO implemented integrated urban management activities which went beyond the planning activities that are required in the legislation. The projects' activities have included actions that are preceding the official planning processes, complementing, or following them.

- Totally 6 projects have been financed and implemented or ongoing within SO 2.3.
- All together 31 integrated urban plans are developed.

Background

Urban dimension was an important component of Cohesion Policy during the funding period 2014-2020. Urban life covers variety of different dimension – environment, economy, wellbeing, and culture – therefore successful and sustainable urban development can be achieved only through integrated approach. When developing physical urban surroundings all aspects of urban life must be considered. The approach also calls for wide and strong partnerships between citizens, civil society, business, and various actors from governmental bodies.

Central Baltic area covers three larger urban regions – Stockholm County, Helsinki-Uusimaa Region and Riga Planning Region – as well as all capital cities of the region are in the programme area. Urban areas are characterized by several opportunities, but they also have challenges to be solved. In the Central Baltic area specific focus on urban management was put on brownfield areas and other areas with special planning needs, and targeted urban areas were described as areas with more than 50 000 inhabitants with their hinterlands.

Brownfields are defined as sites that have been affected by the former uses of the site in question and the land surrounding it. They may be for example old industrial or military sites, warehouses or abandoned railroads. Brownfields are underutilised, derelict and may have or are suspected of having contamination problems. They are located mainly in urban areas and redeveloping them often leads to higher property values and new jobs, as well as positive impacts on the local economy by creating better urban environment for businesses and residences.

Important element of better integrated urban planning is a planning process as such and how it is implemented. Strong participatory approach is highlighted by involving different stakeholders like public and private actors as well as general public. Participatory planning process can be implemented in several different ways to which culture, history and traditions of the region impacts. Such a setup has given several learning and benchmarking opportunities as well as a platform for newly built development and co-creation practices in cross-border context.

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Timeline

Projects from all 5 application calls of the Central Baltic programme 2014-2020 are included in this capitalisation package, first projects stated in 2015 and the last projects are finalised by the end of the year 2022. (10/2015 – 12/2022)

Timeline of projects

Achieved results and effect

The projects targeted several aspects of integrated urban planning processes, and the physical surroundings of the implemented activities varied between them. Most of the integrated urban plans were created in the areas which are taken for reuse from old brownfield areas; like industrial areas, railroads, port areas. Some integrated plans were also implemented in the areas which has been in the same use for a longer period. A nominating factor for both has been a wide participation of different stakeholders – both from public and private sector as well as general public – who have co-created and jointly planned innovative and sustainable plans for these specific areas. Funded projects developed totally 31 integrated urban plans with following topics:

- **Brownfield area regeneration plans**
- **Campus area plans**
- **Strom water management plans**
- **Sustainable mobility plans**
- **Integrated management plans for resilient cities**
- **Green urban infrastructure plans**

Several planning methods and tools were tested and developed during the implementation of the projects. People's opinions, views and wishes about the development of various neighbourhoods or other geographical areas were asked through data visualisation, scenario calculations and visualisation, different online tools (mentimeter, kahoot, ArcGIS), specific mobile applications, 3D visualisation, virtual reality, mapping, workshops, walkarounds, awareness raising event etc. The methods and tools utilised by the projects during the urban planning processes were seen successful and great value-added potential was found in cooperation across the borders. The tested methods and results are documented in guidebooks or other formats of publications, and they are available to all interested parties.

Projects created platforms for learning and benchmarking opportunities among the participating regions. Legislation and practices that impacts on planning processes differs country by country, but also several similarities exist. Cross-border co-operation led to opportunities to harmonization of practises in forms of shared definitions, planning tools and processes.

Experiences and lessons learned

The projects implemented planning processes which had a complementary nature and they brought added value to obligatory planning processes which take place based on the legislation. The project activities gave an opportunity for wide participation of different stakeholders to the planning processes of the cities and municipalities. These activities also gave a change to try new and innovative methods in the planning of city and municipality areas.

The better the complementary planning activities were integrated in the topics of the current planning processes the more successful the project activities were. The complementary planning activities could take place in any stage of the ongoing city/municipality/region planning activities – there were projects which clearly contributed for pre-planning phase, but also brought added value to almost finalised plans. It seems that there is a clear need to create forums and platforms where a wide participation can be guaranteed. Successful urban planning needs variety, co-creation, inclusion and voice of all people.

Development after the projects ended

Each project brought added value to the city planning processes. Most parts of the developed integrated urban plans were accepted and adopted to wider city strategies or smaller targeted city plans. Some of the projects have also complemented each other both from the geographical and methodological perspectives. The co-operation and synergies from different projects have given even greater impact in strategically important city areas.

Participating projects

- **Baltic Urban Lab**
  http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/13

- **Live Baltic Campus**
  http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/24

- **iWater**
  http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/26

- **HEAT**
  http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/78

- **Augmented Urbans**
  http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/83

- **B.Green**
  http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/122

A UNIQUE PLANNING TOOL FOR BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT

Shortened from the original interview written by Annika Holmström, national Contact Point for Sweden.

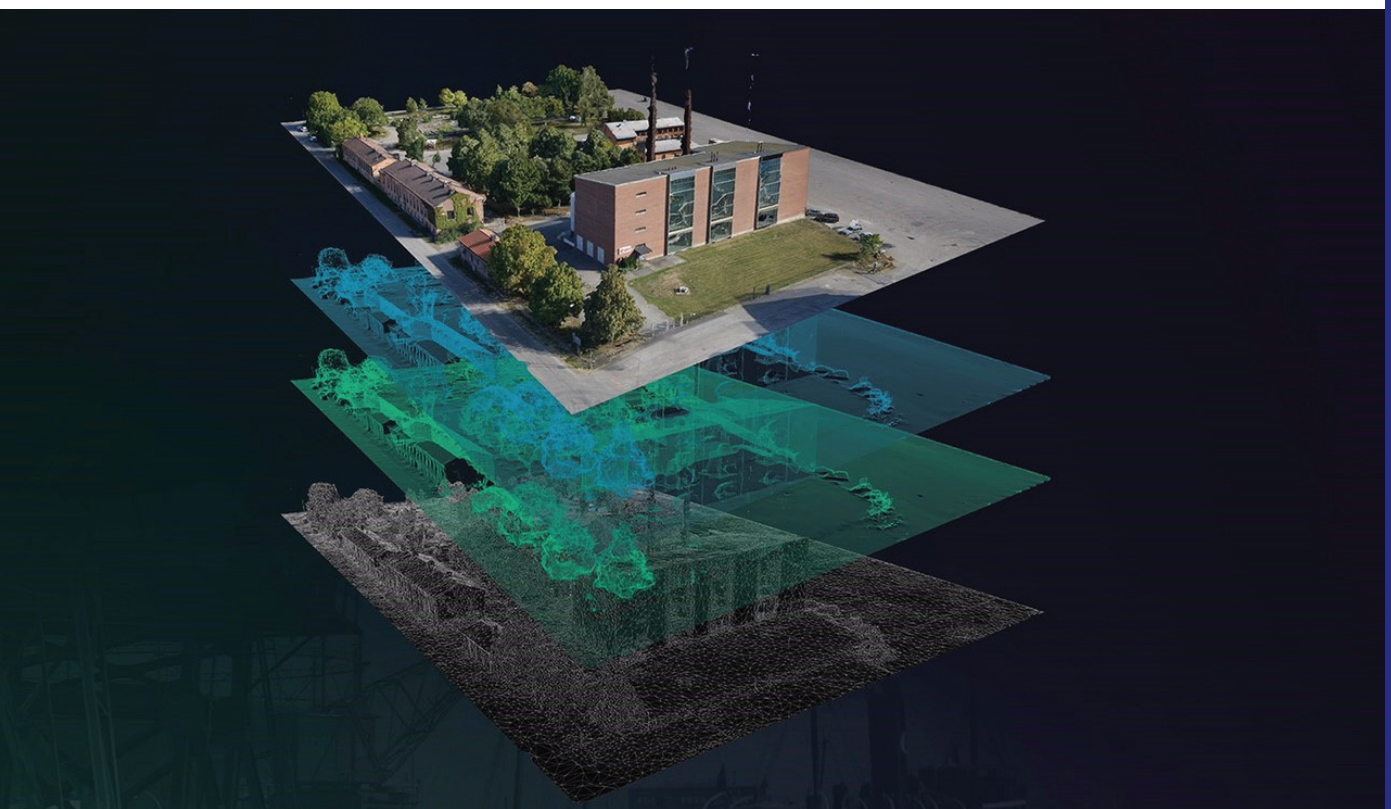
How can urban planning methods be improved, and how could un-used industrial land, or brownfields, be utilized in a better way? That is questions the project **Baltic Urban Lab** is looking into; New planning tools and models are developed and tested on selected un-used industrial lands in four project cities – Norrköping, Tallinn, Turku and Riga.

In October 2017 I met with representatives from the City building and Development office in the Municipality of Norrköping, to find out about their role in this interesting project and which methods they are working with. For this interview, I talked with **Frderik Wallin** from Norrköping City, **Erik Telldén** who develops the visualization tool and **Ellinor Källhom** who works with city communication.

I asked them to explain what kind of planning tool they have developed.

- The tool functions like the famous interactive autopsy table where you can interact with the table, but this time it is the ground that is dissected instead of the human. The table is called Earth Autopsy. You choose which parts of the land in the inner harbor of Norrköping city you would like to look at, and then go down layer by layer

A 3D visualisation of the ground showing different layers. Image credit: City of Norrköping.



to see what kind of contaminants there are in the ground. You can also see cross-cut what the ground looks like in different areas.

- The tool is a new way to communicate and show environmental data in visualizations to different kinds of groups in the society, like for example decision makers, politicians and the public. Initially we did not know if it would be possible to develop a tool like this, we just had a loose outline, so now we are very proud of having developed this.

How is it possible to know for sure which kind of pollutions there are in the ground in the inner harbor of Norrköping city, layers and layers down?

- It's hard work behind the results. We have drilled in the ground down to 30 meters depth at every meter in the areas that we are analysing. So we have a substantial amount of information regarding the pollutions through the years to add to our visualization tool, which is displayed in a 3D model. There the findings at different depths are visible, like e.g. cyanide and arsenic.

The project started in autumn 2015 and will end in December 2018. How do you think this visualization tool could be used after the project has ended?

- For our part, showing the pollutants in the ground in the inner harbour was the first step in the development of this environmental tool. Furthermore, we will be able to add and visualize how, for example, noise and particles are spread in the city - information that so far only has been visible in dull charts.

What has this Central Baltic project meant to you? Have you appreciated to being a part of it and the cross-border cooperation?

- Without this project the visualization tool would never have been developed as we would not have had the needed resources to put into the work. The vizualisation tool will definitely be very important for our future work with city planning. The experience exchange with the other project partners has also been very valuable.

There are also thoughts about further cross-border collaboration already – even outside the programme region. Fredrik tells, that he is already thinking about project 2.0 which could include collaboration with West-European operators.

Baltic Urban Lab

Programme Priority: P2 Sustainable use of common resources
Duration: 01.10.2015 - 31.12.2018
ERDF: €1 697 128
Key results: Participatory spatial planning for brownfield areas, four successful pilots, policy brief to improve the planning proces