

Educational products of the Lifelong Educational Project BRIBAST

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Abstract

Lifelong Educational Project on Brownfields (LEPOB), was the pilot Leonardo da Vinci educational project finished in 2006 with partners from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany and UK. The project generic products were elaborated for international purposes, primarily in English and then translated into partner's languages. The project has aimed to disseminate its results and educational products also to other countries. Two Baltic countries were interested in transfer of the acquired knowledge - Latvia and Lithuania.

The aim of the new project - BRIBAST (Brownfields in Baltic States - Lifelong Educational Project) is to prepare an educational material based on the teaching materials that were prepared within the LEPOB project - the multidisciplinary Handbook and the Courses. The Handbook will be updated with the recent international brownfields reuse trends and supplemented with specifics of Lithuania and Latvia. A special emphasis will be put on understanding of the international professional terminology.

This new material will be made available to professional organizations to help them in their jobs and increase the speed of brownfields regeneration as well. Similarly as currently in the Czech Republic, products of this project could be utilised for educational purposes at Lithuanian and Latvian universities. All the generic products will be made available on the project website for downloading.

1. Introduction

Brownfields are abandoned or disused land within urban fabric which requires an intervention to be return to beneficial use. Brownfields solutions need growing local economy and sufficient know-how, which can supply missing local knowledge and help to form suitable national and local policies and program priorities. The BRIBAST project wants to accelerate gaining of such a local know-how and to supply it where it can be the most pertinent - that is in the hands of the local practising professionals. It focuses on transfer and expansion of knowledge which was initially developed by the partners of the project LEPOB (Lifelong Educational Project on Brownfields no. CZ/04/B/F/PP-168014), supported by the Leonardo da Vinci educational programme). Decision on transfer of knowledge was evoked on the basis of the evaluation of the impact the LEPOB made so far on the new EU member countries, and on the need in Baltic countries for such a type of education.

Baltic partners recommend to update and expand the original generic products of the LEPOB project (this will enable its further reuse for example in Balkan countries) and to make them also available in local languages. Two Baltic countries were selected for transfer of knowledge – Latvia and Lithuania. Their partners from the Czech Republic and Slovakia have quite a wealth of knowledge and experience in the brownfields regeneration issue and can help the target countries to deliver this project's objectives.

The overall aim of this project is to accelerate the sustainable urban development skills. This will be achieved by enabling information and experience in brownfields regeneration to practising professionals, representatives of municipalities and regions as well as to students who may once play an important role in brownfields regeneration after their graduation. The project wants to develop local teachers, capable to teach aspects of this multi-disciplinary subject.



2. Aim of the project

The aim of the BRIBAST project – Brownfields in Baltic States - is to prepare an educational material based on the Brownfields Handbook that was prepared within the LEPOB pilot project as generic product in English language. Handbook will be updated with the recent international brownfields reuse trends supplemented with specifics of Lithuania and Latvia. This updated generic version will be translated into Lithuanian and Latvian. This new material will be made available to professional organizations for distribution to their members as well as for distribution to representatives of municipalities. Handbook will also be available at the project website.

Another aim is to prepare a short teaching course. For purpose of the course, the teaching materials (slides, Teacher's manual) which were elaborated within the LEPOB project, will be adjusted. The course will be prepared in the extent of 8 teaching hours. That means that the extent of slides from LEPOB project will be modified and the Teaching manual will have about 80 A4 pages. Yet again a generic version will be made from which the educational materials will be presented at the seminar in Lithuania and Latvia at Demonstration teaching in the English language. Then the materials will be made country specific and prepared in Latvian and Lithuanian. They will be used by the local universities in frames of a lifelong learning programme and in learning programs of professional organizations in case of their interest. Elaborated materials will also serve as a basis for preparation of a study programme “Regeneration of Brownfields” at Kaunas University of Technology.

The project will provide a multi-disciplinary background in brownfields related knowledge. The main target groups are construction, real estate, planning, land economy, environmental and other professionals that are actively engaged in consulting, research, teaching or working in various national and local institutions within the public or private sector. In particular that means focus on practising professionals, developers, civil servants, academicians and students.

During the project life, the project will be aimed at potential teachers of brownfields courses in the group of students, lecturers, representatives of towns and municipalities and representatives from professional organizations.

3. The project partners

The project partnership consists of 5 partners from four countries. There are 3 universities, one vocational training school and one NGO. Work on the common project will contribute to development of cooperation between partner institutions and will make grounds of good conditions for retaining of cooperation even after the project life.

The partners:

- 1.VŠB-TU Ostrava, Faculty of Civil Engineering , Czech Republic
- 2.IURS (Institute for Sustainable Development of Settlements) Praha, Czech Republic
- 3.SPECTRA Centre of Excellence STU in Bratislava, Slovakia
- 4.Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania
- 5.Rezekne Higher Education Institution, Latvia

3.1 VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava

is a dynamically developing institution with important activities in science and research, inclusive co-operation with industry and business environments. VSB-TU Ostrava is the 4th largest university in the Czech Republic. The Faculty of Civil Engineering offers higher education in the study programmes of Civil Engineering, and Civil Engineering and Architecture. The Faculty is experienced in solving projects by Czech Science Foundation, various Czech Ministries, Development Fund for HEI and participates on international projects such as Leonardo da Vinci, Erasmus.



3.2 IURS o.s.(Institute for Sustainable Development of Settlements)

is a Prague-based non-profit civic association registered under the Czech law at the register of the Czech Ministry of Interior. IURS is devoted to the advancement of more sustainable urban development in Central and Eastern European cities. IURS builds broad coalitions and initiated projects in the interest of restraining urban sprawl, facilitating the reuse of previously urbanized land (brownfields) and is working on increasing local communities' sustainable urban development skills. IURS was the key knowledge partner and an initiator of the original LEPOB project.

3.2 The Central European Research and Training Centre

The Central European Research and Training Centre - SPECTRA of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava was established in 1998, based on international co-operation as a form of interdisciplinary research and training unit. The Centre develops its own research activities, based on interdisciplinary research of the issues of complex spatial development, with the emphasis on the problems of development of settlement structures. Research focus is not only concentrated on basic research, but also on applied research in the field of methods and instruments of spatial planning, redevelopment, expertise and assessment. It is taking part in several projects of the 5th FP under the key action City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage of the Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development thematic programme.

3.3 Kaunas University of Technology (KTU)

The university takes its roots in 1920. More than 20000 students study there, almost 1200 lecturers and researchers (160 professors, 450 associate professors, 680 doctors, and 120 doctors habilitus) work at KTU. The mission of KTU is to be an important part of the global university community and one of the most significant centres of the Lithuanian science, to be involved in development of the information and knowledge-based society. Traditionally, the University carries out research and experimental activities in the field of environmental engineering, energy, computer science and others. KTU actively participates in Lithuanian High-Tech and Priority research and experimental development programmes. Over many years, the University has gained the unique research facilities, skilled specialists and experience.

3.4 Rezekne Higher Education Institution

The mission of RHEI is to develop education, culture, science and business environment and environmental engineering in Latgale region and respectively in Latvia as well. The strategy of RHEI envisages that in 2010 it will be a regional university with competitive academic, research and public activities in the educational space of the European Union. The heads of Latgale region municipalities as well as entrepreneurs are members of RHEI Convention. In cooperating with local authorities RHEI has worked out national projects, for example, Rezekne Special Economic Zone project. The academic staff of RHEI in cooperation with Latgale Regional Development Agency has worked out Latgale regional development plan, Rezekne regional tourism development concept and other projects

4. The BRIBAST project products

4.1 Brownfields Handbook

The project partners will work on adjustment and supplementation of single thematic areas of Brownfields handbook from the pilot project LEPOB.

Following chapters of the multidisciplinary handbook will be adjusted:

- Introduction (brownfields)
- Planning and development section
- Technical and environmental section
- Legal and liability section
- Economic and Management section

- Financial section
- Social issues and participation section

Considering the fact the handbook will serve mainly for self-study, the introduction of every chapter will include a short description of what the reader can learn in the particular chapter. Every chapter will be ended by a system of question that will concentrate on the chapter content and thus can help the students find out whether they have adopted the issue well.

For better orientation in the issue the chapters will be supplemented with pictures, schemes, graphs and photographs.

Very significant contribution of the English version is transfer of information out of the Baltic countries and possibility for persons out of the target countries to get into the issue but it will also enable all interested students to acquire knowledge of internationally used terminology in the issue of brownfields regeneration.

4.2 Teaching course about brownfields

The aim of this product is to prepare basic materials for the teaching course based on the adjusted Handbook. Expected extent of the course will be 8 teaching hours. For this course about 120 Powerpoint slides will be prepared as well as a Teaching manual for lecturers in the extent of about 80 pages.

The purpose of the course is to provide as clear information on the issue of brownfields regeneration as possible in as short time course. It will be focused on the aspects that are difficult to obtain by self-study. Good understanding of the issue can be checked during the simulation game called "What to do with it?" For lecturers who will present the course the Teachers manual will be of great help. It is expected that the course participants will deepen their knowledge by self-study of the handbook.

4.3 Demonstration teaching seminars

In the frame of this product two seminars will be organized. One will take place in Kaunas (Lithuania) and the second will take place in Rezekne (Latvia). The seminars will have educational character of teaching courses. Representatives of municipalities, professional organizations, students and other interested persons-potential lecturers will be invited to the seminars.

The seminars will be organized in accordance with the structure of the Teachers manual. Due to questionnaires the solving team will get an idea on particular expectations of seminar participants in single countries which will reflect in the adjustments of the language versions.

4.4 Project website

To achieve as high rate of awareness on the project to as wide group of those interested as possible, a separate internet project website fast10.vsb.cz/bribast was created. . This website will include information on the project and its partners as well as single project products.

Within cooperation with professional organizations in target countries it is expected to transfer the electronic version of the handbook and other project products to all their members in local languages.

4. The project added value

The principal added value of the BRIBAST project is modification of existing materials (Handbook and Courses) and enriching them with new information on the issue that has appeared in this dynamic field in the last years as well as acceptance of those materials on local legislative and financial conditions in Latvia and Lithuania. The existence of language versions of the materials is also very notable as the English version can help the users in orientation in internationally used terms.

The main purpose of this educational project is to contribute by knowledge transfer to a positive movement in the field of brownfields regeneration projects preparation and their realization. The amount of brownfields areas that represent the all-society problem could increase as quickly as possible. This positive transfer is aimed at not only the target countries Latvia and Lithuania but also other countries that can have any use of the products.



Appropriate capability of English language as a concept provider, represents a substantial part of the whole product.

References

LEPOB (2006)- Lifelong Educational Project on Brownfields (CZ/04/B/F/PP-168014)
supported by the European Commission under the LEONARDO DA VINCI action programme on vocational training