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**LIFELONG EDUCATIONAL PROJECT ON BROWNFIELDS - LEPOB
LEONARDO DA VINCI PILOT PROJECT CZ /04/B/F/PP-168014**



Education and Culture

Leonardo da Vinci



The LEPOB project that has been focused on life-long education on brownfield redevelopment has been completed by the end of September 2006. It was a pilot project under the Leonardo da Vinci II program of the EC that was contracted by the University of Ostrava, Faculty of Civil Engineering where the SPECTRA Centre of Excellence was a partner of the project to prepare the module on Planning and Development of Brownfield Areas and to develop courses for the teachers in order to accelerate their knowledge and interactive teaching methods to be able to deliver the course on brownfields either in parts to practising professionals, or the entire course to students. The aim of the teaching demonstration and a brochure for teachers is to help participating teachers to handle the delivery of individual modules in the course on brownfields.

Most Eastern and Central European cities, largely because of their history and state of transition to a market led economy, are heavily burdened with exceptionally large areas of underused and brownfield land. This land represents a "hole" in the urban fabric, with significant losses in economic efficiencies, social cohesion and subsequent loss to quality of life.

At the same time, new developments, sited on previously agricultural land, are contributing to urban sprawl, when location to brownfield land offers a viable, preferable alternative. The Eastern and Central Europe regions' inability to fully deal with these issues could, in the long term, reduce the region's overall economic performance and curtail economic competitiveness. Stakeholders' attempts to reuse a brownfield in the Central European region, have been confronted with a considerable number of barriers. It is surprising, that in the tight and stretched Central European economies, brownfields reuse was less hampered by a lack of finance than by other factors. The simple lack of suitable experience, analyses or a know-how of how to deal with such a problem, or a lack of understanding of another profession's concerns, has often prevented much brownfields' reuse. At other times, it was insufficiency in the local legal framework that has dropped the gate on a brownfields reuse. Often, however, it was the fact that in this region such a complex multi-sectoral issue was not approached in a suitably horizontal manner or under a clear leadership. Alternatively, simply because a suitable provision of education and know-how was missing across the whole spectrum of stakeholders.

The most relevant group which could make an impact on actual local brownfields solutions are the already practising professionals. That is why this Lifelong Educational Project on Brownfields (LEPOB) was set up to particularly assist in subject related horizontal understanding and learning.

9 partners have been cooperating in this project:

- 5 knowledge and educational partners - from UK and Germany and from central European countries (partners that are leaders in brownfields issues or education and are also connected to other existing EU brownfields projects)
- 3 local professional Chambers of Civil Engineers and Technicians of CE countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia)
- 1 coordinating partner
- other local bodies that would substantially enhance the project experience





LEPOB project partners are represented by:

- P1 - VŠB-TU Ostrava, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Czech Republic - the project contractor
- P2 - Institute of Sustainable Urban Development (IURS) Praha, Czech Republic - the coordinator
- P3 - ČKAIT Praha (CZ Chamber of C.E.), Czech Republic
- P4 - Politechnika Slaska Gliwice, Poland
- P5 - SPECTRA Centre of Excellence, FA STU in Bratislava, Slovakia
- P6 - University of Nottingham, UK
- P7 - Projektgruppe Stadt+Entwicklung Leipzig, Germany
- P8 - SKSI Bratislava (SK Chamber of C.E.), Slovakia
- P9 - Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers, Krakov, Poland (withdrawing in March 2006)

The project has produced materials which are suitable for adoption and extension for University graduate education or local authority education across the region. For local dissemination purposes, the project will produce local trainers. All the LEPOB materials were prepared reflecting the Central European region's needs and various levels of related disciplines of understanding.

LEPOB also covers the shortage of brownfields related information and information integration by providing a regional web site, at which the local and international best

practises can be published and at which generic course materials in local language versions are available for free download. LEPOB's outputs are to be fully transferable to other geographical locations, especially those encountering similar problems of restructuring their economic and social base, due to increases in brownfields within their urban area. This will apply to all the Baltic countries where very similar conditions prevail and to other urban areas of Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Partners from these countries are welcome to approach the project promoter with a request for a free reuse of the LEPOB project results.

