

Lubica Vitková

## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE "E - CITY"

for PhD. students at the Faculty of Architecture STU in Bratislava in the frame of the EU programme FUTURE - "Future Urban Research in Europe"

Faculty of Architecture STU in Bratislava started a series of events under the EU fellowship programme FUTURE - Future Urban Research in Europe, by the international workshop taking place 23 - 30 September 2005 in Bratislava. It is a 6RP project "Structuring the European Research Area" under the call FP6 - 2002 - Mobility - 4 Maria Curie Actions - Maria Curie Conferences & Training Courses. The contents of the project are joint professional activities of young researchers and PhD. students. The objective of the series of workshops and conferences is to create space for the exchange of information from the selected areas of current urban research as well as presentation of the results in the form of papers and their publication in the proceedings.

The partners of the project are: Bauhaus Universität Weimar (coordinator of the project, Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, and Swedish universities Escuela de Arquitectura, Blekinge Tekniska högskola/Blekinge Institute of Technology and University in Örebro.

Project FUTURE focuses on education of young researchers and PhD. students in relation to future changes of urban structures in Europe. The key idea of the FUTURE project exceeds national and regional significance of cities and therefore it is focused on the European integration. It is devoted to the idea of better understanding of different features of urban life in Europe. Among the most important issues to follow are: main trends of societal development, development of European economic space, improvement of transport, information and telecommunication technologies, impacts of demographic and social changes in transformation of Europe and its urban base as well as cultural uniqueness of European cities.

The awareness on importance of urban European policy is growing but the lack of knowledge, especially in the two principal questions is obvious:

- Which methods of the European policy can support the specific image of the cities in the process of globalisation?
- Which methods are suitable to apply in the practice, based on best practice experience of European cities and with possible application in similar urban areas?
- The participants of the project will search for the answer to these questions in the frame of the main topics of the project:
  - Electronic City
  - Urban Governance
  - Culture and the City
  - The Ethnically Diverse City.

The workshop in Bratislava started a 4-year period of the project (2005 - 2008) with the topic - The Electronic City. The objective of research is to follow the use of new information and communication technologies and their impacts for urban life. The FUTURE project will particularly focus on:

- E-Government and new forms of political participation
- E-Commerce and the consequences for the consumer
- E-Learning and the improvement of the knowledge society



There were 30 participants from all over Europe (Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland, Finland, Italy, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Poland, Greece, Romania), among them also PhD. students from the FA STU (Lubomír Nosko, Zuzana Černáková, Anton Stolar). The agenda of 8-day workshop was demanding and included short presentations of the thesis as well as lectures from methodology of research on the principles of writing professional texts, on philosophy and ethics of research, on European urban policy, on European integration and its impact on changing the cities. Small group workshops were running under the supervision of young lecturers Jun. Prof. Frank Eckardt, Arno Schmickler, Joachim Astrom, Carlos Balsas.

Professional agenda of the workshop was enriched by sightseeing of historical downtown of Bratislava, by sightseeing of new developments of Bratislava and by wine tasting route of *nakonec po obnovenej malokarpatskej vínnej ceste* - as an example of the development of the region. The agenda and sightseeings have been organised by PhD. students from FA STU (Juraj Berdis, Oľga Melcerová, Jana Turčeková).

In February 2006 (3-5. 2. 2006) the international conference will be held at the FA STU that will close the topic of E - City. The participants will present the results of the work started at the workshop in September. Currently a lively communication is going on between the participants and the lecturers through the Online Training.