



Brownfield Regeneration Know-How Transfer – Lifelong Educational Project “BROWNTRANS”

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1. Introduction

1.1 Lifelong Educational Project on Brownfields (LEPOB)

Based on the Lisbon European Council of March 2000 and adoption of the Communication on Making a European Area of Lifelong Learning a Reality by the Commission on 21 November 2001, lifelong learning has become a guiding principle for the development of education and training policy. Lifelong learning is a core element in strategies for social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development. Lifelong Educational Project on Brownfields – LEPOB, applying those principles has been developed, focused on multidisciplinary issues. This pilot project financed by the EU Leonardo da Vinci action programme had run for 2 years, finished in 2006.

The LEPOB project was incited by the situation in the most of Eastern and Central European cities, which 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.

9 partners collaborated on the pilot project; 3 from the Czech Republic (VSB-TU Ostrava, Institute for Sustainable Development of Settlements and Czech Chamber of Civil Engineers), 2 from Poland (Politechnika Slazska Gliwice and Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers) 2 from Slovakia (STU Bratislava and Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers) and 2 know-how partners: University of Nottingham UK, and Projektgruppe Stadt+Entwicklung Leipzig, GE.

LEPOB partners have realized that it was necessary to produce the needed know-how in formats accessible to the local markets. This accessibility is important not only from the point of view of the recipients of such education, but also from the point of view of the development of local teachers, who should teach the brownfields related agenda. They needed to improve their cross-professional understanding and horizontal knowledge linkages that are so typical in brownfields reuse. Up till the LEPOB project started, there were no local educational brownfields products available in Poland, Slovakia or the Czech Republic. The LEPOB project aim was to change it and so it delivered :

- a. Generic English Brownfields Handbook covering in 12 chapters the essential know-how related to brownfields reuse
- b. Generic English Brownfields Course reflecting in 6 modules content of the handbook
- c. English Teachers manual
- d. Teaching of certified teachers
- e. Country specific Handbook and the course in Polish, Slovak and Czech languages

The Leonardo da Vinci pilot projects are bound to dissemination. Decision on transfer of knowledge was evoked on the basis of the evaluation of the impact the LEPOB made so far on new EU member countries, and on the need in Baltic countries for such a type of education.

1.2 The BRIBAST Lifelong Educational Project

Lifelong Educational Project Brownfields in Baltic States (BRIBAST) represents the first realized dissemination of the pilot project LEPOB and had run from 10/2008 till 10/2010.

Two Baltic countries were selected for transfer of knowledge – Latvia and Lithuania. Their partners from the Czech Republic and Slovakia who had worked on LEPOB project were able to help the target countries to deliver this project’s objectives.

The aim of the BRIBAST project – Brownfields in Baltic States – was 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 was updated with the recent international brownfields reuse trends supplemented with specifics of Lithuania and Latvia. Elaborated materials are currently serving as a basis for preparation of a study programme “Regeneration of Brownfields” at Kaunas University of Technology.

The principal added value of the BRIBAST project was the 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. 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.

2. The BROWNTRANS project

This project, which has started in December 2011, is the second dissemination of the pilot project LEPOB, enriched with experiences of the BRIBAST project. The project No:11310 1614, supported by Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning Programme Multilateral projects – Transfer of Innovation Project, is called **Brownfield Regeneration know-how Transfer (BROWNTRANS)** and is aimed to Bulgaria and Romania.

The Browntrans project is based on the principle of transfer of knowledge and experience. As already mentioned the project draws from the LEPOB and the BRIBAST project. The educational materials will again be adjusted and supplemented with not only local conditions of Balcan countries but also with new information that has appeared recently in the field of brownfields regeneration.

The principal purpose of the project is to provide sufficient information basis for providing of lifelong learning in the field of brownfields regeneration through prepared educational materials. The project is focused on professionals in the field of civil engineering, developers, reality agents and technicians as well as people working at municipalities and their managers.

Bulgaria, similarly to other new EU member states undergoes rapid economic development, new economic conditions raised new conditions for land property and use. As a result of the collapse of the planned national economy, urban areas in Bulgaria have inherited big territories of unused land. The digest of available literature sources and personal communications have revealed that there is no reliable statistics on brownfields in Bulgaria. Public awareness and understanding of the brownfields issue is very low. Professionals in urban planning and architecture were the first to start national discussions on brownfields. The development of methodological materials in Bulgarian should be considered as a task of great importance. Experience and best practices from other countries should be transferred to national legislative and daily routine.

In Romanian territory in the socialist time heavy and other types of industry were very large and sky-high developed. In this time sustainable development or environmental protection issues were the last factor in total industry sphere. Polluted brownfields land remains as an unsolved problem as well other environmental problems, which are connected to brownfields restrain an opportunity for their beneficial reuse. In line with the EU regulations polluted territories are one of the priorities in Romania, environmental legislation.

2.1 The project partners

The contractor of the BROWNTRANS project is STU in Bratislava. The other Slovak associated partners are SKSI (Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers) and SAS (Slovak Architects Society).

Czech partners are VSB-TU of Ostrava, FCE, that has been involved in the management of the previous LdV projects and the NGO, IURS, that has played an active role in preparation of regeneration of brownfields areas in the Czech Republic.

The partner in Romania is Technical University of Iasi. Over many years, the University has gained the unique research facilities, skilled specialists and experience; it holds a leading position in many areas of technological, physical, and social sciences in Romania. TUI is represented by the Multimedia Training and Research Centre for Education.

The partner organization in Bulgaria is Bulgarian Development Agency. The aim of the partner is to develop education, culture, science and business environment and environmental engineering in Bulgaria with the staff who are important consultants in many fields of environmental engineering subjects.

2.2 Outputs of the BROWNTRANS project

The project outputs will be adjusted Brownfield Handbook, Brownfield Teaching Course and E-learning, Teaching Manual for Lecturers, Demonstration Teaching Seminars, Intensive One Day Seminar Material, Brownfields Regeneration Brochure, Website of the project (<http://browntrans.vsb.cz>.)

The aim of the project is to prepare educational materials that would come out of Brownfield Handbook that was prepared within the BRIBAST project and will be modified to be useful at local conditions and translated to Bulgarian and Romanian. Based on this new handbook (including comparative study of Czech and Slovak financial and legal situation) will be prepared "Brownfields regeneration brochure" in Slovak language. This new materials will be proposed to professional organizations for their members as well as to municipalities. It will be available also on project website. Another aim is to prepare and adjust the teaching course.

Thematic areas of the Handbook and the Teaching course:

1. Introduction to brownfield issue
2. Brownfield Redevelopment Planning
3. Construction and technical aspects
4. Brownfields environmental aspects
5. Economic and Management aspects
6. Financing Brownfield Redevelopment, comparison between CZ and SK
- 6a. Financing Brownfield Redevelopment in Bulgaria
- 6b. Financing Brownfield Redevelopment in Romania
7. Legal aspects related to brownfields regeneration, comparison between CZ and SK



- 7a. Legal aspects related to brownfields regeneration in Bulgaria
- 7b. Legal aspects related to brownfields regeneration in Romania
- 8. Social and Cultural Issues and Participation in Brownfield Redevelopment
- 9. Public participation in brownfield redevelopment
- 10. Example of Brownfields regeneration in Europe, CZ, SK
- 11. Polyglot glossary of terms

The added value of the content will be the also Polyglot glossary of terms in English, Bulgarian and Romanian, because terminology might be a big problems for understanding whole process.

The course aims at providing as clear information on the brownfields regeneration issue as possible in as short time course and in the form of e-learning. It will be focused mainly on the aspects which are difficult to obtain by self-study. Good understanding of the issue can be checked during the simulation games called "What to do with it?" and "What is more important". For lecturers who will present the course the Teachers manual will be of great help. For potential lecturers and applicants Demonstration teaching seminar will be organized.

Brownfields regeneration in the target countries is in the majority of cases in the early beginnings and therefore it is possible to assume that also knowledge on regeneration will not be too high within the broader professional public. Presentations will be prepared in the way to acquaint with the main issues in the form of short sentences and references to the chapters in the Brownfields Handbook in order to motivate the interested professional to further study. Slides for courses will be based on simple sentences in English due to which the English language ability of the participants has not to be perfect and also due to the existence of other products (brownfields handbook, teachers materials). This concise know-how transfer will also be prepared in the form of e-learning.

2.3 Dissemination of the project

To achieve as high rate of awareness on the project to as wide group of those interested as possible a separate internet project website <http://browntrans.vsb.cz> will be created. This website will include information on the project and its partners as well as single project products (Website languages - English, Slovak, Czech, Romanian, Bulgarian). Contacts with municipalities and universities mainly of the target countries, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania, as well as in Czech republic, will occur through local conferences and meetings. Another important activity will be meetings with representatives of municipalities and professional organizations at Demonstration teaching seminars. From the aspect of popularization and availability they will be given the Teacher's manual in country specific versions (printing materials with CD) and Intensive one day seminar materials "Transfer of Know-how in brownfield regeneration" in English and Slovak language. Possibly also with an electronic version of the Brownfields Handbook in English, Romania and Bulgarian and " Brownfields regeneration Brochure" in Slovak. Representatives of local professional organization will provide their members with the materials on CD.

References

- [1] LEPOB - Lifelong Educational Project on Brownfields No. CZ/04/B/F/PP-168014
- [2] BRIBAST - Brownfields in Baltic States No. CZ/08/LLP-LdV/TOI/134005.
- [3] BROWNTRANS - Brownfield Regeneration know-how Transfer No. 11310 1614