



COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING

ACTIVITY REPORT 2012-2013

Meetings

Seminar in Halmstad, 9-11 May 2012, “Re-vitalize the city for sustainability”

The seminar in Halmstad was the 25th seminar in the history of the Commission on Urban Planning. The anniversary was celebrated together with the commissions on Energy, Transport and Environment, and in this way it was the first joint seminar. First but not the last!

The holistic approach to the society and the development of the city is here to stay. The seminar involved social, economic, environmental and architectural aspects of sustainable city development and raised questions on how to overcome physical and mental barriers in sustainable urban planning and how to create synergies between the sectors. The seminar facilitated discussions and practical work on how to create mix-used areas, accessibility, challenges arising from traffic, industry and energy, how to approach climate changes effects and how to decrease harmful environmental impacts.

The focus was – as every were and every time – how to create and develop an attractive city.

Seminar in Elblag, 1-3 October 2012, “Elblag City Centre 2040”

Elblag is a city with a glorious history, but the success and the development of the city was interrupted by World War II. The city was almost totally destroyed during a siege.

Currently the Old Town in Elblag is rebuild in retroversion way. During the seminar we different lectures and discussion about this way of city reconstruction and further steps of this subject in Elblag.

Together we looked mainly at the old town, downtown and Granary Island of Elblag and tried to find “the soul of the city” and to make it more friendly and attractive to it’s citizens. During the seminars we learned about the reconstructions in Gdansk, Rostock and Stralsund and the different philosophies through-out the decades. As usual there were workshops on concrete areas and subjects.

Seminar in Umeå, 26-29 May 2013, “Building the Inclusive City”

The Umeå-seminar was a joint seminar with the Gender Equality Commission and had its focus on “city planning with gender equality and children’s perspective.

Umeå has a long tradition of involving gender issues in the physical and social planning and the university of Umeå has a Center for gender studies which is appointed as one of three “Centers of Gender Excellence” in Sweden.

At this seminar we focused on accessibility issues, children’s perspective and gender equality perspectives and had a special attention on shared space and how to densify the city Center in the same time you make it a good environment for children to grow up in.

The seminar involved practical work, discussions and presentations illustrating good examples together with a bus tour to interesting places in Umeå with a focus on gender equality and a child’s perspective.

The old railway terminal and an old cavalry (military) were chosen as workshop areas.

Seminar in Kolding, 15-18 September 2013, “Cities in Transformation”

Together with the Commission on Culture this seminar focused on “Creating potentials for City Life”.

“Cities are changing rapidly around us, from industrial towns to cities based on knowledge. The increase in human and digital mobility is a challenge that demands cooperation between many levels within the planning world.

So how do we face these challenges?

We can start by adding broader perspectives in the different planning processes to end up with more qualified projects – but how?

What is “best practice” when choosing alternative paths to create places for new city life to unfold? And how can we use urban planning and culture as a joint driver for urban development?”

These were some of the questions being asked in the invitation to the seminar.

The seminar presented different methods to create potentials for change and new developments in the cities. We learned about methodologies from cultural planning and we saw interesting examples of how former industrial buildings and sites have been transformed adding value and new identity to the local area surrounding them as well as to the city on a larger scale. We saw and discussed how small scale cultural projects can have a huge impact on how we experience the city around us. The workshops focused on local challenges to bridge and connect very different areas in Kolding, trying to enhance their individual identity and make them part of the living city – creating potentials for city life.

ACTION PLAN 2014-2015

Coming seminars

The Commission on Urban Planning will have its 29th seminar in Örebro, Sweden in May 2014. It will be a joint seminar together with the Commissions on Environment, Transport and Energy.

In autumn 2014 the seminar will be in Riga, Latvia.

At the moment, there are no host cities for 2015.

About the Commission on Urban Planning

The Commission on Urban Planning (CUP) is a network of professional planners, researchers, architects, engineers and sociologists around the Baltic Sea Region.

The CUP

- Wants to keep the Baltic Sea Region cities on the map of Europe and the world by supporting local planners' professional skills and sharing knowledge
- Supports city servants in their work of building better cities, increases awareness of urban planning, architecture and construction

Also in the activity period of 2014-2015 the CUP will have the following goals in its activities:

- Better quality of life in cities in the Baltic Sea Region
- Positive economic development in cities by initiating dialogue between city residents, private (commercial& industrial) and public sectors
- Sustainable development in the Baltic Sea cities

Urban planning and construction that reflects the socio-economic, cultural and political life of the cities is a tool to achieve these goals.

In the future the CUP will continue the principle of low cost seminars and not collecting seminar participation fees.

The Steering Group

Since autumn 2011 there have been no changes in the steering group. The members are Mara Liepa-Zemesa from Riga, Marek Karzyński from Gdynia, Isabella Forsgren from Umea and Niels-Peter Mohr from Aarhus (chairman).