



UNION OF BALTIC CITIES
COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING

SUSTAINABILITY IN AN URBAN PLANNING CONTEXT

AND

THE FUTURE OF THE UBC/ABC-NETWORK



INVITATION TO A SEMINAR
IN RIGA, LATVIA
(26TH), 27TH - 29TH OF APRIL, 2006

INVITATION

The UBC Commission on Urban Planning warmly invites you to an important seminar which is to be held in Riga, Latvia, from 27th to 29th of April 2006.

The main theme of the seminar will be:

“Sustainability in an urban planning context”.

This is a seminar in the aftermath of the ABC-project. It will on one hand deal with one of the most burning questions in urban planning of today – how to achieve sustainability when working with practical and actual urban planning situations.

The seminar will also deal with the important question of the future cooperation within the UBC Commission on Urban Planning. The network of planners from 27 cities in 8 BSR countries that is established through the ABC-project has a big value, well worth to maintain. It also holds a potential for further development. Unfortunately the application to InterregIIIB for financial support to develop this cooperation into the planned project *Baltic Academy of City Planners (BaltAcad)* was not approved. It is therefore necessary to discuss what activities we should try to have instead within the Commission on Urban Planning for the next coming years. We must also find out possible ways to finance them. In this seminar we will lay the foundation for such further future cooperation. *It is therefore important that as many cities as possible, interested of participating in such a future cooperation, will be represented at the seminar.*

The seminar programme is still in some details preliminary and might be subject to some minor changes. You will receive a final outlined conference programme before the seminar.

The time for preparing the seminar is running short, so therefore it is important that we could **receive your registration form before April 1st 2006.**

Looking forward to meet you at the seminar in Riga! You are welcome!

Gvido Princis

Chairman of the UBC Commission on Urban Planning

UBC & ABC Seminar in Riga, April (26th), 27th - 29th 2006.

Agenda

Urban planning Theme: Sustainability in an urban planning context
Local issue: The Riga Daugava River left bank high rise building project.

Wednesday April 26th

No special programme is arranged, but those who arrives Wednesday can meet at 19.00 in the lobby of Hotel Reval Latvija (or other meeting point later announced) for an informal get-together evening.

Thursday April 27th

From 08.30 Registration at the conference hall;

09.00 Plenum. Conference room

Opening of the conference, welcome and some practical information.
Gvido Princis, chairman of the UBC Commission on Urban Planning

Presentation of the City of Riga
A representative from the City of Riga

10.00 Our competence theme; Sustainability

Dr. Susannah Hagan, head of the MA Architecture; Sustainability, University of East London.

City development and ecological, economic and social sustainability, related to regional conditions. What does it mean? How could we work towards sustainable cities, and why should we? An introduction to the theme.

Lunch

13.30 Afternoon session – work shops. Starting in the conference room

Work shops in smaller groups and excursion to the site; the Riga Daugava River left bank high rise building project.

The work shop questions are; Can such a project be regarded as an example that will contribute to a sustainable future for the Riga City and the surrounding region? Which aspects is to be considered and what tools can be used in an urban planning situation, when doing such an analyze? Can there be improvements to be made in the project to enhance a sustainable development in Riga? How to match a UNESCO listed cultural heritage with a nearby modern high-rise architecture?

Evening Dinner, all together. Informal talks and exchange of experience.

Friday April 28th

09.00 Morning session in plenum. Conference room

An important discussion about the future: What are the 'burning questions' of today and tomorrow for urban planners in the BSR? What kind of future activities should be our focus within the network of cities that are and will be active within the UBC Commission on Urban Planning? What new ways of financing our activities can be found? (Written material to discuss will be distributed before the seminar.)

10.30 Our competence theme; Sustainability

Chris Watts (director Beyond Green, see: <http://www.beyondgreen.co.uk>.)

Looking closer to what (social+economic+ecologic) sustainability means, or could mean, when working with urban planning. Examples and experiences from actual city development projects.



Lunch

13.30 Afternoon session Work shop groups, continued from Thursday.

Answering the questions put to the work shop groups.

How do the ideas of sustainable city development influence our future work as urban planners?

Evening Dinner, Hosted by the City of Riga

Saturday April 29th

Session in plenum. Conference room

09.00 Workshop result presentations

10.00 UBC future: An action plan

We conclude the discussion from Friday, the goal is to outline an action plan for the next 2-3 years.

Lunch

Goodbyes and departure for airport or other transport.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

PARTICIPATION AND COSTS

The invitation directs itself in the first place to all the ABC-project and proposed BaltAcad partner cities that are urged to send at least one representative to the seminar.

The ABC-project has no longer enough financial resources left in the project. Each city representative therefore must pay their own travel and accommodation. The UBC Commission on Urban Planning will however, together with the remains of the ABC project, take the costs for the seminar arrangement, so there will be no seminar fee. Transport to sites and some meals during the seminar will also be provided without charge.

The seminar is open also for other members of the net-work of UBC Commission on Urban Planning and for other representatives of the UBC. The total number of participants is though for practical reasons limited to about max. 40 participants.

WEATHER

The weather in Riga in the end of April is rather shifting, but with a bit of luck it can be quite nice. The temperature is about 10-15 degrees Celsius.

BORDERS

Latvia is a member of EU. No visas needed for representatives from EU countries.

CURRENCY

Latvian national currency is Lats. 1 Lats ~1,36 € [EUR]
Credit cards are accepted in most places and cash dispensers are widely available.

INFORMATION ABOUT RIGA ON THE INTERNET

www.riga.lt

http://www.riga.lv/EN/Channels/About_Riga/default.htm

TRANSPORT

By air:

Arrival at Riga Airport on the evening of Wednesday, April 26th or early on the morning of Thursday, April 27th. Bus or taxi will take you to Riga City. Information if a joint transport can be arranged will be given later (when we find out what time most of the participants will arrive). A taxi to Riga city would cost some 10-12 lats (~13-15 €). The distance from airport to the city is about 10km.

SEMINAR MEETINGS

General meetings will be held in conference rooms at (*location not yet decided*).
The group work will be arranged in the same locations. Visits to the sites under discussion will be arranged.

STAY

Rooms will be reserved, if possible, at the same hotel for all the participants who will send in their registration forms before April 1st. One alternative is preliminary Reval Hotel Latvija, situated in the very heart of Riga just a short walk from the Old Town. The hotel was fully refurbished in 2001 and there are 382 rooms on 27 floors. You can find more information about the hotel on <http://www.revalhotels.com/eng/latvija/>

At the moment search is also done for a less expensive alternative hotel. Information about that will be given later, as soon as possible. Since the participants will pay their own hotel costs, other hotels can of course be booked by the participant themselves, see for example <http://www.bookings.net> or other similar booking web-sites.

If you are booking your own hotel, please tell that in the registration form.

HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US:

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Registration forms should be **sent by e-mail** to: gvido.princis@riga.lv

and also: by fax to +371 7012 922
or by ordinary mail to
Gvido Princis, Riga City Development department
Amatu 4
RIGA
LV-1050
LATVIA

Registration forms should be sent in at latest by April 1st

REGISTRATION FORM UBC /ABC RIGA SEMINAR
27th – 29th April 2006
(one person per form only)

First Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms (please indicate)
Family Name:	
Position:	
Official postal address:	
City:	
Country:	
Personal E-mail:	
Tel. / Fax	

Arrival date:		Approx. time:	
Departure date:		Approx. time:	
Transport (indicate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Flight (to Riga)	<input type="checkbox"/> By Car	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

I want to participate in (please indicate)

Notes and requests of special food etc:

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If hotel/accommodation is booked by the participant him/her self, please note that

here:.....
.....

Date / Signature

This Registration Form must reach Riga latest April 1st 2005.
Please, send it to Gvido Princis, fax +48 58 668 83 42 AND e-mail: gvido.princis@riga.lv