



**UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES
Commission on Urban Planning**

**Vision of an Attractive City And City Centre
6th - 9th October 2010 - Siauliai, Lithuania**

Vision of an Attractive City and City Centre in Šiauliai



The UBC Commission on Urban Planning (CUP) and the City of Šiauliai arranged the seminar and annual meeting of the CUP in Šiauliai on 6th - 9th October, 2010.

The theme for the seminar was *Vision of an attractive city and city centre* and it involved social-economic, environmental and architectural aspects of urban planning. The theme of the seminar was developed in the lectures, discussions, presentations and workshops.

Lithuania is a country in Northern Europe, the southernmost of the three Baltic countries. Situated along the south-eastern shore of the Baltic Sea, it shares borders with Latvia to the north, Belarus to the south-east, Poland and the Kaliningrad oblast (Russia) to the south west. The population of Lithuania stands at 3 329 000. Lithuania is a member of the European Union. The official language is Lithuanian, but the seminar language was English.

Šiauliai with a population of 125 000 and total city area 88 km² is the fourth largest city in Lithuania. The city was first mentioned in written sources as *Soule* in Livonian Order chronicles describing the battle of Saulė. Thus the city's founding date is now considered to be September 22nd, 1236. The convenient geographic location resulting from good interconnection with Europe and Russia has been the decisive factor for the city of Šiauliai to become the centre of industry in Lithuania. The city with 110-years-long experience has a well-developed industry and a large number of small and mid-size companies. Among the dominant and most popular industrial sectors are manufacture of TV sets, bicycles,

food products and furniture. Within the last decade, many new businesses have been launched, like manufacture of plastic packing, heating and air conditioning equipment, electrical devises and equipment. Šiauliai city is also a centre of culture and science: Šiauliai University was opened in 1997. Besides the University there are the Music Conservatory, College of Medicine and Technical Studies, Business schools, Vocational Education and Training Centre with 5 departments, over 70 institutions of education like schools, kindergartens, complementary schools in the city.

Šiauliai became a member of the Union of the Baltic Cities in 1994. The Šiauliai City representatives are particularly active in the work of the Commissions of Environment, Urban Planning and Culture.

The seminar was held at Šiauliai City Municipality in the very centre of the city.



Seminar programme

Wednesday 6.10.2010

- 16.45 An UBC CUP Bus from Riga Airport to Siauliai
- 19.30 Arrival in Siauliai, accommodation in hotels Siauliai and Saulys
- 20.00 Get together dinner at "Saulys" restaurant (at hotel Saulys, Vasario 16-osios street 40)

Thursday 7.10.2010

Venue: City Hall of Siauliai, Vasario 16-osios street 62, Siauliai

- 9.00 Opening of the seminar
 - Sirpa Kallio, Chairman of the UBC Commission on Urban Planning
 - Vladas Damulevicius, Director of Siauliai City Administration
- 9.20 Introduction to Siauliai history
- 9.40 Land use, land and real estate ownership, laws and building regulations and traffic in Siauliai
- 10.00 Local youth's vision on an attractive city (Siauliai youth organizations are drafting a presentation of what they want to see in their home town)
- 10.20 Current Urban Planning projects in Siauliai
- 10.40 "Mental Meaning of the Physical Elements in the City", Mara Liepa-Zemesa / City of Riga
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.15 Odense City Center Project, Peter H. Johannessen / City of Odense
- 12.15 Introduction to workshops
- 13.00 Lunch (at the Municipality café at City Hall)
- 14.00 Excursion to workshop areas and the city
- 15.30 Coffee break
- 16.00 Starting with the workshops (group work rooms at 313, 237, 235)
- 19.30 Reception of the City of Siauliai (At Ch. Frenkelis Villa, Vilniaus street 74)

Friday 8.10.2010

Venue: City Hall of Siauliai, Vasario 16-osios str. 62, Siauliai

- 9.00 "Perceptability of metropolitan regions/how to make metro regions visible and the development strategies in Hamburg Elbphilharmony / HafenCity", Jakob Schmid / HafenCity University Hamburg
- 10.00 Urban Development in Gdansk, Agata Piszczek and Monika Rosciszewska / the City of Gdansk
- 10.15 Urban Development in Umeå, Isabella Forsgren, Lars-Göran Boström and Pernilla Helmersson / City of Umeå
- 11.20 Coffee Break and Workshops
- 13.00 Lunch at café Bela Italija, pizzeria (Vilniaus Street)
- 14.00 Workshops
- 15.30 Coffee break
- 16.00 Excursion to Hill of Crosses, city sightseeing (guided tour)
- 19.00 Dinner at restaurant Arkos (Vilniaus street 213)

Saturday 9.10.2010

Venue: City Hall of Siauliai, Vasario 16-osios str. 62, Siauliai

- 9.00 Finishing time for workshops' result presentations
- 10.00 Results of workshops, discussion (max. 20 minutes for each group)
- 11.20 Presentation of the next seminar city Växjö, Sweden: Anna-Karin Persson
- 11.40 Closing of the seminar
- 12.00 Lunch at café Municipality
- 13.00 Bus to Riga Airport



The Frenkelis Villa in Šiauliai City, Vilnius street.



Vladas Damulevičius, the Director of City Administration expressed his hope to receive professional proposals from the participants how to make Šiauliai attractive for citizens and visitors.



Rasa Budryte, chief architect of Šiauliai City Municipality presented the regulations and its requirements on land use, land and real estate and construction in Lithuania, transport issues in Šiauliai, city planning projects.



The aim of the seminar is to find ways how to make the city centre attractive and dynamic. The City needs to be dynamic with its individuality said Sirpa Kallio, the chairman of the UBC Urban Planning Commission.



The seminar was acknowledged also in the Lithuanian media.

The Local Youth's Vision of a More Attractive Siauliai



L. Barcyte, project leader of Siauliai City Municipality, presented the city's youth's approach towards the attractive city vision.

In 2009, population of Siauliai City was 126 228 inhabitants, and 31 668 of them were young people aged 14 – 29 years. Siauliai has an active student community as Siauliai is a university city with approximately 12 000 students. There are over 95 different youth organizations in Siauliai.

The aims of the Siauliai Youth Centre are:

- to create the possibilities of self-understanding, realising a person's own needs;
- to encourage the initiatives of the youth;
- to create the conditions for youngsters to gain communication, coordination skills;
- to develop the voluntary activity of the youth;
- to unite the non-governmental youth organizations for the work with the city youth.

The Siauliai youth want to point out that the young are the drivers of community activities. They want to encourage the city inhabitants to look at youth as a resource but not a problem – useful co-operation between youth organizations, local authority and community will result in creating Siauliai future.

The Siauliai youth also presented its own vision of the Central park in Siauliai.

The excellent location of the park should serve for children, parents, youngsters and everyone enjoying wonderful, comfortable and cozy environment. The Youth's vision of the future park:

- Playgrounds and skateboard tracks
- Dimensional statues facilities for climbing
- Outdoor chess playground
- Rent of bicycles, tricycles, or scooters
- Cafes, cinema
- Stages for concerts and other events

Odense City Centre Development Project



Peter H. Johannessen / City of Odense

The temporary city or temporary use of an area may very broadly be defined as anything that is temporally bounded. The following is primarily focused on applications that go beyond single events.

Temporary use points to and supports a vision and is about:

- To spend the time "While we wait" actively
- To build an urban identity through stories, events and the people who use the sites
- To test the vision for an area
- To "tell the good story", share information of new urban space

The temporary city spaces and experiments extend our understanding of the city and create new opportunities for creative entrepreneurs in the culture and experience economy.

Temporary use is:

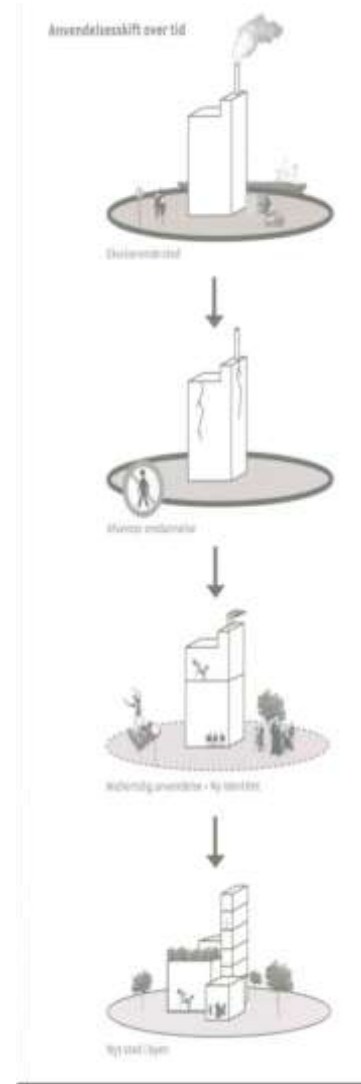
- Both the big dynamos who are new linchpins of a development, and dynamos that create linkages and relationships with the surrounding city
- And the little quirky experiments going on in between
- Exploring the sites' potentials
- Challenging the conventional notions
- Create public awareness
- Creating value for citizens, the municipality and landowners

Temporary use can be well-planned or spontaneous



Temporary use or projects can be merged into the Broad permanent plan.
This creates a far more robust experimental and playful city.

Temporary use or projects links the city's various players being cultural, business, education etc., thereby creating among other added value economically, spatially, socially and culturally.



To the Port of Odense there will be developed a new housing area called Byens Ö by the sea. Mr Johannessen also told the seminar participants about the city plans of the new area.



Perceptibility of metropolitan regions - how to make metroregions visible / Development strategies in Hamburg



Dipl.-Ing. Jakob F. Schmid, HafenCity University Hamburg

The lecture gave an insight into the latest debate on large-scale concepts in Germany and Europe and the strategic aim of German cities to represent themselves and their surrounding rural areas as »European metropolitan regions« in global competition. In light of the seminar topic the importance of vibrant and attractive urban centres as anchor points for a collective regional identity – as a precondition for collective regional action - and their role as spatial catalysts for regional development was also highlighted.

Based on a short review of Hamburg's large-scale development strategies and »spatial doctrines« in past and present, the lecture outlined the impact of Hamburg's large-scale projects »HafenCity« - as currently Europe's largest inner-city development project that will have expanded today's city center area by 40 within about the next 25 years - and the »Internationale Bauausstellung 2013.«

The Mental Meaning of Physical Elements in the City



Mara Liepa-Zemesa, Riga City Council, City Development Department / The Riga Technical University, The Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning

The most important prerequisite for designing all forms of architecture and construction layout is cognition on the base of human perception. Human's physical perception cannot be separated from mental perception. Besides direct information, which is collected during direct contact with the object, experience and knowledge participates in the process of perception, too. Physical environment becomes abstract in the various stages of perceptual process.

Apprehension and attitude towards the environment consists of:

1) **Objective factors:** cognitive judgments.

The knowledge is acquired through inheritance and reflects the structure of human body and organs of sense. These judgments relate to the formal properties of spatial structure, which focuses on the physical characteristics of the object and how they contribute the aesthetical reaction, such as structure, size, shape, scale, etc.

2) **Subjective factors:** emotional judgments.

Subjective factors are based on personal appraisal and feelings. These are memories, accumulated during lifetime, which reflect an individual's cultural level, emotions, taste, etc. Human consciousness develops certain stereotypes and each new intake of information is compared with them. These judgments attribute to the symbolic characteristics of spatial structure and they discuss factors, which, through experience, create side meaning, such as apprehension, clarity, identity, etc.

It is studied out that important and fundamental constancy of the same place can be observed in the perception of different viewers. This constancy is formed from:

- common biological basis of perception and cognition,

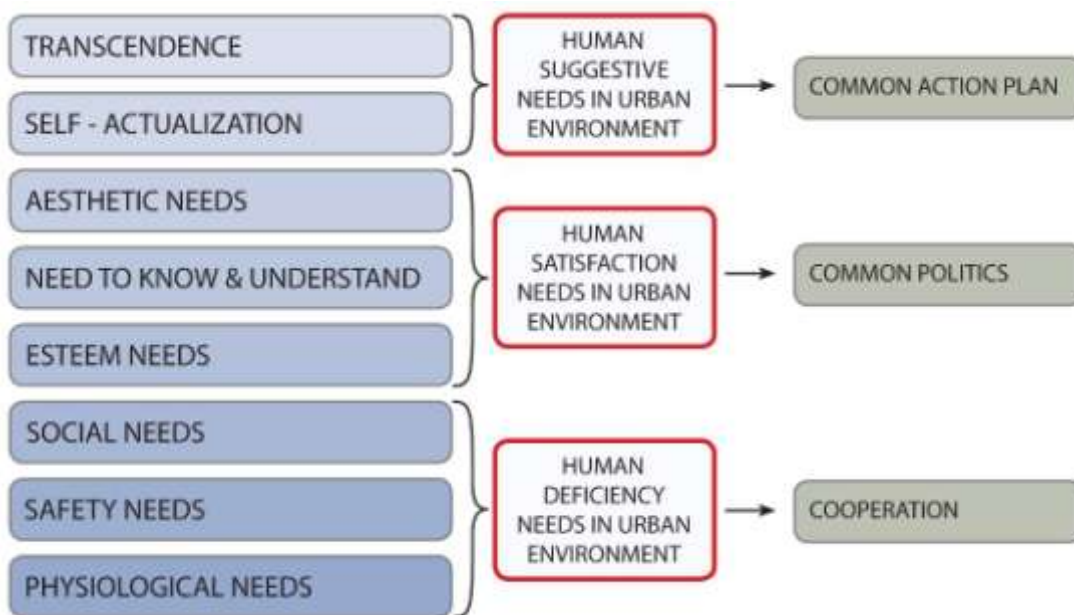
- common experience in the real world and common cultural norms, which can be observed between people who use the same place in the usual manner.

These subjective factors can express values, which are important to one group of people, but are unacceptable to another. This means that these subjective factors can be measured too, taking into account certain details about persons who use specific space of the city.

Culture is based on traditional ideas, ideologies and values. It consists of experience in derivatives, which are taught by individuals and society and includes images and interpretations, as well as meanings, adopted from previous generations, modern society and have formed individually for everyone. Transformation of values is a cultural initiative. This means that values are public order. Architects, unlike other professions, which see value as a real estate, see other value, too.

Cities have formed over the centuries and this process was affected by different societies, which have developed cities not only to satisfy their practical needs, but also social and aesthetical requirements.

Human desire for order is based on a psychological theory, developed by Abraham Maslow (1908 – 1970) in 1943 and complemented in 1954. The theory is based on a hierarchy of human needs, which becomes topical gradually one after another. Needs from a certain level become motivating if needs from the previous level have been satisfied. I have studied out a derivate of Maslow's pyramid, which portrays human needs in urban environment.



Important role is for every level of the scheme for satisfaction of human needs and giving motivation for further actions in urban development planning. Only a person who loves his home and the neighbourhood will take interest in other urban populations' problems.

On the basis the analysis about human perception in urban environment criteria basing on which it is possible to appreciate urban aesthetical quality are defined:

- 1) **Integrity:** city is an organic formation.
- 2) **Semantics:** spatial structure is subjected to a certain function.

- 3) **Orientation:** explanation of the city order.
- 4) **Image:** impression about the physical structure.
- 5) **Diversity:** options.

Criteria given above cannot exist by themselves. Making the assessment and planning of urban landscape they need to be viewed in one context because only by joining the meanings it is possible to obtain comprehensive assessment of urban spatial environment. These criteria can be used only to describe a certain place analyzing society which uses this place. Using them, the current situation or project can be described. Criteria can be used for urban planning of both: the whole city and certain parts of it.

Urban Development in Umeå

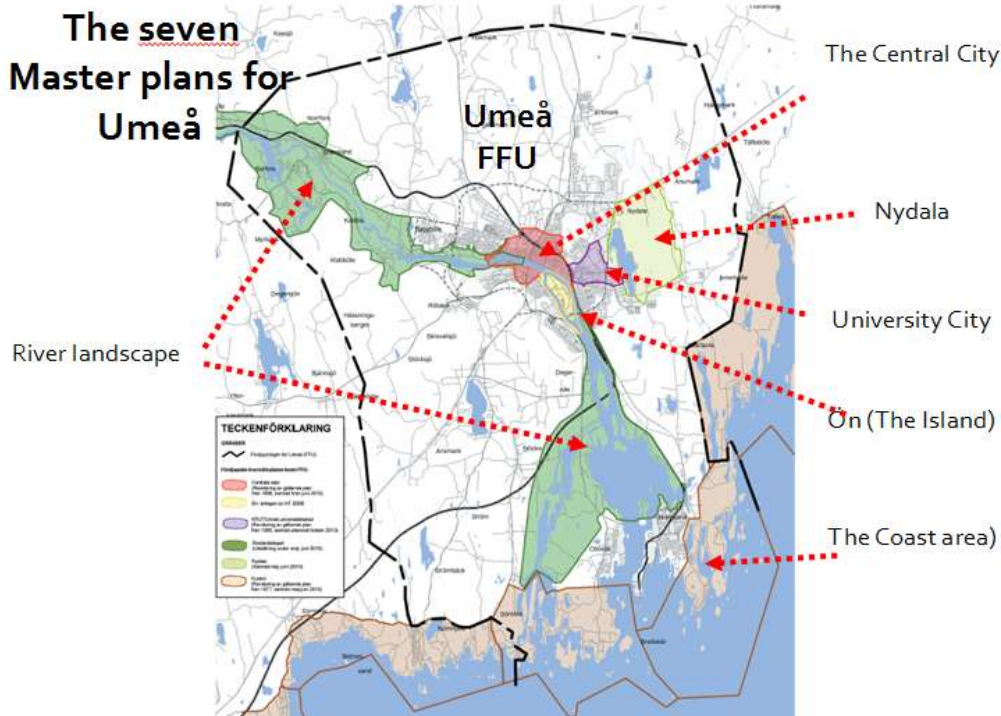


Chief planner Isabella Forsgren and urban planners Lars-Göran Boström and Pernilla Helmersson presented some examples of recent urban development activities in Umeå, Sweden.

Umeå is one of the fastest and most steady growing municipalities in Sweden. The growth is 1-2 % per year and the population is at the moment about 115 000 inhabitants. The adopted municipality goal, which is a challenge for the urban planners to handle, is to achieve 200 000 inhabitants by year 2050.

Therefore a major renewal of the Municipality master plan is right now under construction and will be processed with public consultations and supposed to be adopted by the municipality council during 2011.

The new master plan is put together by seven different partial plans, which together are covering all of the city area and its closer surroundings.



The new master plan is built on six principles:

- “The 5 km city” – keep most of the expansion within 5 km from the center of the city
- “More city” – add new buildings into the areas between existing ones
- A more dense city – build closer and higher than the existing 3-4 story buildings
- Develop public space and parks to be more attractive
- Use a democratic and transparent planning process that involves the inhabitants
- Complete the ring road around the city – then renew and use the regained traffic spaces to local streets and building areas.

One of the shown examples was the plan for Ön (The Island) that on a large island in the middle of Umeå will create a new and dense neighborhood, with low priority for car traffic but with a short distance on bridges across the river for walking and biking to the nearby city center and to the large working places at the university and the hospital area, (illustration, below)



There are also a number of different major city revitalization projects that are recently finished or under planning/building process.



- A new travelers center for the just opened Botnia Railway, (picture, above)
- A large renewal and increase of commercial area in the most central block of Umeå, with a 13 storey building as a “crown jewel” in the middle of the block,
- Two large hotel projects in city centre, one with also a 13 storey high rise building.
- A renewal project of the river bank area in the city center with a quite spectacular idea for a cultural center, designed by Snohetta (who among other things has designed the opera house in Oslo and national library in Alexandria), (volume study, below)



- Plans for a large Multi-Arena project (to compare with the Siauliai arena)



- A new central spa-project in combination with shopping and business facilities, right in the middle of the city center (illustration, above)
- Also some more examples and ideas of projects that are meant to contribute to a “city center revitalization” was shown.

The examples were shown to perhaps be of interest as sources of inspiration and subjects to discuss, and maybe also to be compared with planning and development situations in Siauliai and in other medium sized UBC cities around the Baltic Sea.

WORKSHOPS

Two complicated city districts were presented to the 4 working groups. There were 2 working groups for both of the workshop areas, namely the 1st area between the Chestnut Avenue and Aušros Avenue “Target area Aušros” and the 2nd former leather factory area “Target area Frenkelis”. In the practical workshops the city planners discussed the workshop areas, made plans for the areas and presented their visions how to adapt the areas to the city’s needs.

1 Target area Aušros



Challenge: How do we make this space urban and attractive?



The today's view of Aušros alley



Looking around the Aušros area

The Aušros workshop participants provided the proposals not only for the target areas but for the city centre as well. They proposed e.g. that the city could consider of installing work places for the artists close to Vilnius Boulevard, anticipating the territory for the university, and separating a culture zone. The individual spaces could be separated by decorative water streams and planting next to them some greenery.

Also, the group of urban planners coming from the Baltic Sea cities had a completely new approach towards the territory of the Chestnut Avenue. They proposed to extend the trade premises of the trade house Senasis dvaras (the Old Estate) converting it into a big, modern integral shopping centre with an underground parking place. Also they proposed that the present area with garages could be converted into an area built up with small garden cottages or that it could be transformed to a green zone with playgrounds for children.



2 Target area Frenkelis



Challenge: What activities could be developed here in the future? How to make it attractive?

The Frenkelis area is located close to historical and administrative centre of Siauliai. The area is bordered by important streets. The Frenkelis area plays an important role in city representation for visitors. The local city planners have had an idea to develop the area to a new “City Gate”. Also, the area is part of nature frame embedded in Siauliai master plan, but in present the Frenkelis area’s main function does not correspond to the requirements of nature frame use. The area’s location in regard to the city centre and Vilnius street vicinity demands for proper representation. Part of the old leather factory area has buildings of historical importance.

Sustainable planning recommends a mixed use for the area, respecting the density recommended for nature frame and the needs of city representation.

Existing values of the territory and its surrounding:

- Heritage
- Network of landmarks and visual connections
- Pedestrian connection
- Preconditions for quality network of public spaces in whole city of Siauliai



A short walk near the target area of workshops 3-4, the Frenkelis leather factory

Moments of the work



Seminar participants

Jakob F. Schmid
Research assistant, planner
Hafen City University Hamburg Germany
e-mail: jakob.schmid@hcu-hamburg.de

Mara Liepa-Zemesa
Territorial planner
City Council, City Development Department
Riga Latvia
e-mail: mara.liepa@riga.lv

Solvita Kalvite
Project Manager
City Council
Riga Latvia
e-mail: solvita.kalvite@riga.lv

Sirpa Kallio
Chairperson of the Commission on Urban Planning,
Project Manager
Economic and Planning Center
Helsinki Finland
e-mail: sirpa.kallio@hel.fi

Monika Rosciszewska
Urban planner
Development Agency
Gdansk Poland
E-mail: mprojekt.monika@wp.pl or
zum@brg.gda.pl

Agata Piszczek
Urban planner
Development Agency
Gdansk Poland
e-mail: zum@brg.gda.pl or agat@nsm.pl

Algimantas Jukna
Member of Siauliai Regional Council
Siauliai Regional Council
Siauliai Lithuania
e-mail: a.jukna@mail.com

Marek Karzynski
Director
Gdynia Municipality, Planning Office
Gdynia Poland
e-mail: m.karzynski@gdynia.pl

Barbara Marchwicka
Urban Planners' Assistant
Gdynia Municipality, Planning Office
Gdynia Poland
e-mail: b.marchwicka@gdynia.pl

Jussi Kautto
Senior consultant
SaFa Union of Finnish Architects
Helsinki Finland
e-mail: jussi.kautto@ruoholahdenpuisto.fi

Katarzyna Wisniewska
Town planner
Elblag City Planning Department
Elblag Poland
e-mail: wisniewska_k@o2.pl

Anna Hyypä
Architect
Tampere City
Tampere Finland
e-mail: anna.hyypa@tampere.fi

Lars-Goran Boström
Urban Planner
Umeå Municipality
Umeå Sweden
e-mail: lars-goran.bostrom@umea.se

Isabella Forsgren
Chief Planner
Umeå Municipality
Umeå Sweden
e-mail: isabella.forsgren@umea.se

Pernilla Helmersson
Urban Planner
Umeå Municipality
Umeå Sweden
e-mail: pernilla.helmersson@umea.se

Tuija Rönman
Urban planner
City of Tampere
Tampere Finland
e-mail: tuija.ronman@tampere.fi

Indrek Ranniku
Head of Urban Planning Service
Tartu City Government
Tartu Estonia
e-mail: Indrek.Ranniku@raad.tartu.ee

Aire Priks
Urban Planner
Tartu City Government
Tartu Estonia
e-mail: Aire.Priks@raad.tartu.ee

Mati Raamat
Head of Engineering Service, City Engineer
Tartu City Government
Tartu Estonia
e-mail: Mati.Raamat@raad.tartu.ee

Ingrid Perner
Urban Planner
Tartu City Government
Tartu Estonia
e-mail: Ingrid.Perner@raad.tartu.ee

Zane Skrūzkalne
Urban Planner
Tukums Region Council
Tukums Latvia
e-mail: zane.skruzkalne@tukums.lv

Lauri Hooli
Communication Coordinator
UBC Commission on Environment
Turku Finland
e-mail: lauri.hooli@turku.fi

Mattias Bjellvi
Architect / City Planner
Halmstad Municipality
Halmstad Sweden
e-mail: mattias.bjellvi@halmstad.se

Peter H. Johannessen
City of Odense
e-mail: pehjo@odense.dk

Eija Muttonen-Mattila
Head of Building Supervision, Architect
City of Tampere
Tampere Finland
email: eija.muttonenmattila@tampere.fi

Henrik Pedersen
Architect
Municipality of Århus
Århus Denmark
e-mail: henrikp@aarhus.dk

28 Anna-Karin Persson
Planner
Växjö Municipality
Växjö Sweden
e-mail: anna-karin.persson@vaxjo.se

Gun-Mari Bäck
Planner
City of Vaasa
Vaasa Finland
e-mail: gun-mari.back@vaasa.fi

Ugis Kaugurs
Architect
Liepaja
Liepaja Latvia
e-mail: ugis_k@apollo.lv

Rasa Budryte
Head of the Department of Architecture and
Urban Planning
Siauliai City Municipality
Siauliai Lithuania
e-mail: r.budryte@siauliai.lt

Egide Butke
Deputy Head of the Department Architecture and
Urban Planning
Siauliai City Municipality
Siauliai Lithuania
e-mail: e.butke@siauliai.lt

Vladas Markevicius
Deputy Head of the Department Architecture and
Urban Planning
Siauliai City Municipality
Siauliai Lithuania
e-mail: v.markevicius@siauliai.lt

Audrone Jaugelaviciene
Department of International Relations
Siauliai City Municipality
Siauliai Lithuania
e-mail: a.jaugelaviciene@siauliai.lt

Šarunas Sabaliauskas
Architect, Chairman of the Lithuanian Architect
Union Siauliai Branch
Siauliai Lithuania
e-mail: sarunas.sa@splius.lt

Vytenis Rudokas
Architect
Siauliai City
Siauliai Lithuania
e-mail: vytenis.r@takas.lt

Giedre Mendoza
Architect
Siauliai City
Siauliai Lithuania
e-mail: giedre.mendoza@gmail.com

Photos: Sirpa Kallio & Jussi Kautto



