



LOCAL AGENDA PROCESS IN LAHTI

Local Agenda 21 really started in 1993-94 with a partnership between many NGOs, some enterprises and city of Lahti. The aims are to develop strategies and carry out pilot projects which lead to a long term sustainable development. Lahti has the biggest experience in developing of Local Agenda process in Finland.

The objectives of Lahti Environmental Forum have been:

- to make sustainable development a matter of everyone, at home, work and leisure
- to work out an action and participation-oriented Local Agenda 21 for the Lahti Area by the year 1996
- to activate wide sectors of society in order to participate in sustainable development

Today Local Agenda process is made together by Lahti, St. Petersburg and Leningrad oblast, These cities are starting „The Local Agenda 21 Forum” on the Baltic Sea Region. Naturally UBC is involved in this process.

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Danish UBC Cities met in Aalborg

The UBC Member Cities of Denmark held their first National Meeting on Friday, March 20th, 1998 upon the invitation of the city of Aalborg. The discussions focused mainly on UBC strategies and policies. The importance to further develop UBC to a modern and effective organisation was stressed. It was decided to carry out Danish UBC National Meetings once a year in the future.



THE GLASS PALACE IN HELSINKI - OLD BAZAAR TURNED INTO A MEDIA CENTRE

The Glass Palace Film and Media Centre (Lasipalatsi) in Helsinki has been nominated an Urban Pilot project for the years 1997 - 1999 by the EU. With a total cost of 6,5 million ECU's the project will turn this old temporary bazaar building into a proud showcase of modern Finnish information society.

A Mixture of Good Ideas

In EU's decision to support the project with 2,7 million ECU's a special emphasis was put on innovation, combination of urban culture and historical aspects, preservation of architectural heritage, utilisation of information technology and cooperation of the public and private sectors. In its future use the Glass Palace will offer a lot to many. Innovative multimedia and network companies will use it as a testing ground for new technologies, big media companies will be there to get in the middle of the people, it will give the citizens a free access to the networks. And indeed, the primary aim of the project is to find new functions for a historical building.

A Remarkable Building in the Right Place

The Glass Palace was built in 1935 as a temporary bazaar building. Now, after decades of dispute, it is one of the most prominent examples of functionalist architecture in the center of Helsinki. Across the street is the completely new Museum of Modern Arts, a block away an old Olympic building, Tennis Palace, which is going to be an Ethnographic Museum and Movie Centre. In the early years of the next millennium the neighbouring bus terminal square is going to be rebuilt into a new business and shopping centre. Hundreds of thousands of citizens will then pass the Glass Palace every day, and many of them will not just pass by.

Further information:

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