



Stockholm, 12 February 2008

Dear Colleagues,

With this letter we invite you to participate in the Interreg IVC project application *Climate neutral urban districts in Europe* initiated by the City of Stockholm in cooperation with the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm. We are planning to submit the project application within the second call for proposals with a preliminary deadline in October 2008.

The INTERREG IVC Programme is a part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Structural Fund policies for the period 2007-2013. The Programme details and documents can be found on the Interreg IVC website: www.interreg4c.net.

Public authorities and bodies governed by public law are eligible for co-financing by the ERDF at either 75% or 85% depending on the partner's location. The project budget might be between EUR 500 000 and EUR 5 million.

Project background

Politicians and urban planners in cities worldwide are facing three important challenges. The first one is a fast growth of inhabitants followed with an increasing need for new urban districts with flats, services and workplaces. The second one is an essential risk of changing climate, which requires responsible acting on decrease of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change in the urban planning process. The third one is to attain less use of resources.

The proposed project will be devoted to the following development issues:

Could it be possible to create new climate neutral urban districts in cities? What are the criteria for this? How to analyse the needs for climate change adaptation and mitigation of a specified urban district in different European regions?

- How to find methods to integrate climate change in urban planning process of today, in order to reach less of climate impact in new urban districts.
- What does it practically mean to create a climate neutral district?
 - What type of mixture of living, services and work could be optimal from a climate neutral perspective? How to evaluate transport systems in and out from the area?

- How to evaluate technology and systems for heating, cooling and energy efficiency from a climate change perspective?
- What practical experiences, ideas and planning processes could you find in cities of Europe on these issues?

The project objectives

The overall objective of the project is to support the integration of climate aspects in urban planning process for urban districts in Europe, to make a minimum contribution to climate change. The districts should also be adapted to different consequences of climate change. The aim is to reach Cities, where there is an interest in using climate issues as a platform for development of new urban districts.

The main idea is to test, discuss and exchange experiences and ideas around the on going work in cities to create new climate neutral urban districts in Cities in Europe. The project is aimed on benchmarking of the best practices and creation of practical showcases in Europe. The project will focus on mitigation possibilities, concerning energy use and efficiency in buildings and transports.

The main project activities

- Benchmarking of the best practices on incorporating climate change aspects into a planning process of new urban districts in Europe. This will be done by workshops, study visits, expert meetings e.g.
- Identifying key subjects for acting. Communication with actors.
- Creation of practical showcases in European Cities that are partners of the project, where climate problematic is taken into account or even is used as a platform for development of new urban districts.
- Dissemination of the acquired best practice and experiences as well as guidelines, visions and strategies developed within the project.

As an example, The City of Stockholm will develop its showcase on the base of a new urban district, Norra Djurgårdsstaden. At present this is an industrial area which is to be developed into a mixed urban district with offices and around 5000 apartments. The detailed planning of this area will start during 2008. This district will be a new frontrunner district for the City of Stockholm and a showcase for sustainable urban planning, where the work on development of visions and images of the climate neutral urban district will go in parallel with implementation work.

The project partnership

The project partnership is composed by City Administrations and Universities involved in planning processes for new urban districts and active in local and regional climate change initiatives.

For expression of interest, comments and further information please fill in the attached form, which should be sent to Elisabet Söderström (elisabet.soderstrom@sbk.stockholm.se) no later than January 21, 2008.

We are planning to arrange a partner meeting for developing of the project application in Stockholm on April 24-25, 2008.

Looking forward to your reply,

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