

## *Press Release*

### Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks - Successful seminar and intensiv work on Climate Change, Cultural Heritage & Energy Efficient Monuments in Helsinki, Finland

From 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 the partners of the EU-Interreg IVB Baltic Sea Region project **Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks** met in Helsinki, Finland to compile their work of the last five months and to discuss the results with external experts, architects and planners during a one day seminar.

The seminar on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 was opened by Tommi Lindh from the Finnish Ministry of the Environment (YM), Department for the Built Environment / Living with an overview over the various words for built heritage or listed buildings and continued with insights into the development of the built stock in Finland mainly during the last 100 years and the future prospects. Afterwards Kari Kolu, managing director of Renor Ltd presented how his company refurbished an old factory to become a shopping centre, including a geothermal heating system. Mr Wolfram Spehr of Schwan & Spehr Architects presented his experiences of wall tempering systems. These systems are said to save energy and therefore are systems applicable on the inside of buildings and thus not compromising the outer facade. Finally Mr Prof. Ola Wedebunn gave an overview over the long tradition of brick buildings and how it is used in many ways through the centuries up to our days also in modern buildings.

The seminar took place during the regular meeting of the project **Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks** when the partners met to discuss the interim results of the three baseline studies that are currently under preparation in the work packages.

The first one is the work package "Policy Development" where the legal and the legislative situation are investigated in order to assess how this situation can be influenced by the project. In the work package "Technical Innovations" the currently normal practice of energy efficiency refurbishments have been collected. The main result is that in no country the real energy consumption of a building is assessed but only based on calculated values. So it is rather unknown how much energy the listed buildings are actually consuming and hence their actual fraction of the overall energy consumption of the built stock is unknown. And it is hence unknown how much can actually be saved by the historic buildings. Because in **Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks** our focus are the brick walls, the question is, how much energy is lost e.g. through the walls. This will be investigated in the coming research activities in this work package.

In work package "Education and Economic promotion" the draft results of the baseline study of the educational situation in the Baltic States was presented and during the work shop in discussion rounds a questionnaire about the labour market of heritage preservation, especially for craftsmen and planners, was developed and will be sent out to the project partners to be answered.

During an excursion to two government buildings from the beginning of the 20th century and a university building from the 1960ies the participants got an insight into the contemporary way of refurbishment of historic buildings in Finland.

The participants were very satisfied with the working results and are eager to meet the next time in Malmö in December 2011 with a public experts seminar on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

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## Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks - Climate Change Cultural Heritage & Energy Efficient Monuments

### **Project Description**

Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks is a project that is looking for solutions to modernise historical buildings. The aims are to protect their historical value as well as reducing their energy consumption.

The conservation of heritage, in particular of historical buildings, is a common goal in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). Due to the common identity in the BSR it is very important to protect the historical buildings with their individual characteristics; that will preserve the attractiveness and competitiveness of the cities around the Baltic Sea.

Modern heating, thermal insulation and windows of a high thermal standard are the technical solutions for new buildings. In historic buildings the boundary conditions were often not investigated; in many cases serious damages, defects or disadvantages are caused by applying technical solutions for new buildings to existing buildings. In Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks for the first time a combined insulation and heating concept for old buildings is developed and for the first time we are researching the basic conditions of such a heating concept (i.e. the building shell) and challenge the theoretical calculations as well.

Nowadays climate protection goals and heritage conservation are often in conflict with each other. Regarding the restoration of old buildings it is difficult to decide between no/bad climate protection and no/bad heritage conservation. This project, however, aims to find solutions to combine the necessary CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets with technically, administratively and historically adequate approaches to heritage conservation.

Especially the BSR's brick architecture in the former area of the Hanseatic League presents an excellent possibility to find transferable methods and solutions.

### **Basic Project Information**

The project has been granted under the "Priority1: Fostering Innovations" by the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 - 2013. Co<sub>2</sub>olBricks started in December 2010 and runs until December 2013. During this time it has a total budget of 4,3 Mio. €. 18 partners from 9 countries with 9 languages work together.

Furthermore several „Associated Partners“ are involved in the project and support the project in different ways. They also benefit from the project results. Involved partners are foundations, bodies of economy, institutions and associations in the field of heritage conservation and education.

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### Main Aims

The main issue of the project is the following: How to reduce the energy consumption of historical buildings without destroying their cultural value and identity? Every country in the BSR and in the rest of Europe has to face this challenge and has to look for solutions. That is the point the project starts from.

Main objectives are:

### Policy Development

to forward the political discussion on national and transnational level about the installation of new cooperation models between administrative institutions, architects, engineers, housing and building companies and affected building owners.

This cooperation should lead to:

- implementing new strategies for technically, administratively and historically adequate approaches
- creating the political and administrative basis to implement the technical, educational and economical solutions
- declaring a transnational common position.

### Technical Innovations

to find new technical solutions concerning energy saving potentials of historical buildings and to implement, monitor and evaluate pilot projects for historic buildings for optimised energy consumption.

### Education and Economic promotion

to upgrade the knowledge and education of architects, engineers, craftsmen, etc. to harmonise the curricula with the objective of an open market.

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