

EASTERN BRIDGE

Keeping You informed on ENP

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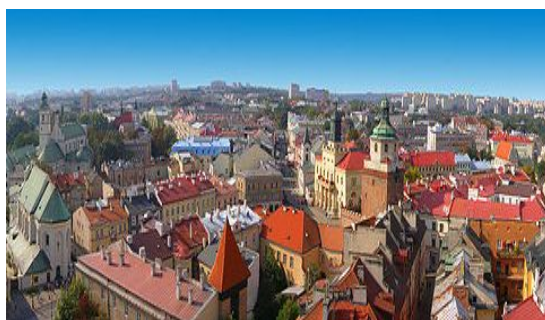
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Lublin City Environment

Lublin is the biggest Polish city on the right bank of the Vistula River, functioning as municipality with township district rights. The city's assets and natural resources considerably influence its development.

There are 13 parks, more than 50 squares and lawns, Botanical Garden, and 45 permanent and temporary allotments around the city. Multidimensional waste management, considered a vital element of the city's ecological policy is an important project implemented by the city and it serves improving the living conditions of its inhabitants.

In 2003 selective waste collection campaign took place, with numerous inhabitants participating in the action. This integrated system, known in Poland as 'Lublin system', covers gradual and carefully planned implementation of the waste management priorities.

Lublin is noteworthy for meeting legal requirements regarding the creation of locally introduced regulations concerning municipal waste management. Only efficient waste management strategies and practices of cooperation between property owners, entrepreneurs and local authorities can live up to these standards, reducing the biodegradable waste store, ensuring advanced recovery and recycling of packages, as well as selective collection of special sort of waste. Cycle lanes construction is another priority. It should be noted that all roadwork's investments carried out by the City of Lublin and subsidized by EU funds are subject to assessment concerning their impact on the environment.

At the moment, 30 km of cycle lanes are available in Lublin, and they are located in local ravines, valleys, and rivers, especially along the Bystrzyca River. The City is also engaged in creating green zones, managing areas which are unattractive for tourists. Among good practices of the city are: protection of old-growth forests and attempts to save black poplar 'Baobab', or fighting horse-chestnut leaf miner. In order to inform the local community about reasons and effects of pollution and ways of protecting the environment,

Within its responsibilities, the Environment Protection Department of Lublin City Hall organizes and finances educational campaigns conducted by non-governmental institutions, such as the League of Nature Conservation, Horse Guards of Nature Protection of Roztocze. These initiatives are realized in cooperation with the Lublin Fund for Natural Environment Protection. All events were supported by community self-government, education centres, and non-governmental organizations. Aforementioned undertakings serve promoting environmentally-friendly behaviours among the city's inhabitants.

Contact: Office for foreign affairs; kkaniowska@lublin.eu

Links of your interest

In the following edition of the bulletin you will get acquainted with the articles regarding to the educational issues based on accessible examples in EU and non-EU cities. Nowadays regions and cities are key players in designing and implementing knowledge society. Your cities keep giving us the reason to cover their work more precisely in the next bulletin.



The Renewable Energy House

The Renewable Energy House is the central point for renewable energy issues in Europe's capital Brussels, close to the European institutions such as the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council. It creates synergies and allows easy access to public information on renewable energy for stakeholders. At the beginning of 2009, the European associations located in the Renewable Energy House employed more than 100 staff. For the first time the Renewable Energy House were grouping together to all major actors in the field of renewable energy in Europe, thereby representing one of the fastest growing economic sectors with an annual turnover of more than 40 billion € employing more than 450.000 people and supplying 8,5 % of Europe's current energy demand. The following associations are located under one roof in the Renewable Energy House: European Renewable Energy Council; European Biomass Association; European Geothermal Energy Council. The Renewable Energy House is the perfect showcase for the integration of innovative renewable energy technologies in an old building, which was refurbished by taking into account renewable energy and energy efficiency considerations. For the first time in Brussels, a 140 year-old building was refurbished so as to minimize the energy consumption and to explore different methods for integrating renewable energy technologies, making it a 100 % renewable energy building. The Renewable Energy House obtains its complete heating and cooling requirements entirely from renewable energy sources. Using a combination of biomass, solar thermal and geothermal energy, the heating, cooling and ventilation system generates high standards of comfort in the whole building throughout the year.

Contact: Renewable Energy House erec@erec.org

Sustainable Management of natural resources



In the ENPI Eastern region, sustainable management of natural resources is one of the six priority areas of cooperation. These countries share a legacy of environmental problems from the past, as well as new pressures as they return to economic growth. Key issues include air and water quality, waste management, nature conservation, climate change, land use and pollution in the Baltic, Barents, Caspian and Black seas. Environmental cooperation between the EU and the neighbor countries has developed mainly through the partnership and cooperation Agreements (PCA) and subcommittees as well as via the TACIS program, replaced in 2007 by the ENPI. In this way, the European Commission has taken steps to ensure that environmental legislation and multilateral environmental agreements have been implemented to support strategic planning and prioritization in light of scarce resources and competing needs. The Commission has also supported the establishment of "Regional Environmental Centers" in order to enhance a regional process of public participation and to strengthen civil society's role in environmental protection. In the ENPI South, the Mediterranean countries have a long history of cooperation in the field of the environment, considered to be a shared value of common interest. Under EuropAid's regional program tackling the environmental challenges is seen as a vital element to ensure the sustainable economic development of the region. The key aims of the region, outlined in the 2006 European Commission Communication establishing an environmental strategy for the Mediterranean, are to reduce pollution levels across the region, promote sustainable use of the sea and its coastline, and encourage neighboring countries to cooperate on environmental issues.

Contact: ENPI Info Centre; www.enpi-info.eu



Association of Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine

Association of energy efficient cities of Ukraine was created to facilitate the promotion of energy efficient principles among member municipalities. The main point is transforming existing local economies into sustainable communities with an emphasis on information, exchange of useful ideas and experience, new technologies and managerial know-how in resource allocation. The inception of the idea to form an association has taken place within the Monitoring of Energy Performance of Public Buildings in Ukraine project during 2004 -2006. The project was financed by the European Commission within the framework of the Partnership Program for Institutional Development (TACIS, IBPP). Awareness raising campaigns, informational support, seminars, workshops, consulting sessions and projects are meant to help with the following: improve efficiency of energy consumption and lower energy bills, improve the quality of energy services weather extended or received, as well as forecast the demand for energy; increase the amount of investments within the scope of project in municipal energy efficiency and related infrastructure, as well as pioneer new financing methods; develop more effective institutional frameworks within local communities and implement efficient approaches to managing energy consumption, supply and production; broaden relevant communication, meet new partners to share experience. The main partners are; Minister for Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Association of Ukrainian Cities, Association of European local authorities Energy-Cites and Tbilisi City Hall (Georgia)

Contact: Executive Director:
akopets@enecities.org.ua

Covenant of mayors and Tbilisi



The Covenant of Mayors is a commitment by signatory towns and cities to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reduction in CO2 emission through enhanced energy efficiency and clearer production and use. On November 4,

European Commission held the introductory meeting to Covenant of Mayors in Brussels; and Tbilisi City Hall was among the honorable participants invited to the meeting. It was aimed as a tool for the cities to contribute the development strategy in the field of energy security and climate change. The Covenant of Mayors is expected to be one of the Eastern Partnership's flagship initiatives. Europe Aid is currently developing a proposal for a project that will support those cities that have joined the Covenant of Mayors in preparing for the undertaken commitments such as the sustainable energy action plan, motivations for sustainable energy actions, better quality of life for citizens.

Contact: Economic Policy Agency of Tbilisi City Hall, g.iremashvili@tbilisi.gov.ge

Climate change week in Tbilisi



Climate change is the most important environmental and social challenge in the world. The 15-th conference concerning the climate change will be held in December in Copenhagen, Denmark. Various preliminary events connected with the conference were organized in most cities of the world including Tbilisi. In the activities

carried out during arranged climate change week, together with "Georgian Green Movement", various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and Tbilisi City Hall were involved. On October 24 climate change week was publicly opened in Tbilisi, the manifestation was organized from Cultural Centre of Tbilisi (Philharmonic Hall). Simultaneously, events of similar character took place all over Georgia. On October 27-28 a regional conference referring to climate change was held in Tbilisi. The conference focused on reinforcing possibilities of Southern Caucasus NGOs and possible risks caused by the climate challenge. The event spotlighted preparation steps for the overall position for the 15th conference, which will be held in current year in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Contact :Georgian Green Movement, lelacheishvili@gmail.com

Promoting Sustainable Energy in the Regions



During the last few decades, energy consumption in the EU has increased steadily. And yet, the energy crisis is becoming ever more acute, emphasizing the vulnerability of Europe that depends strongly on imported fuels. Therefore, in March 2007, European Council made a solemn commitment to increase the share of renewable energy in the EU's global energy portfolio up to 20% by 2020. European leaders expressed on the same occasion their readiness to boost the use of bio-fuels in transport to 10% by the same date. These binding targets were considered as a starting point on the path to establish a common energy policy.

Contact :General Secretariat of AER, secretariat@ aer.eu



Conference in Riga

On November 26, 2009 within the frames of Eastern Partnership a conference was arranged in the capital of Latvia, Riga. The main point of the conference was Energy Efficiency and renewed energy for countries involved in Eastern Partnership. On behalf of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia the representatives of Tbilisi City Hall and non-governmental organization "Georgian Center of Energy Efficiency" were officially invited. In the meantime representatives of Embassies, Municipalities, Non-governmental organizations, and Commercial structures of Latvia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova were involved in the conference. The leading point of discussion was a new initiative in the field of energy security and responsible part of implementing outstanding initiatives. Within the frames of the conference, various mechanisms were considered which will give the opportunity for EU and non-EU countries to collaborate in the field of pursuing renewable energy sources. Under the umbrella of the conference various presentations were displayed in the field of implementation of energy efficiency in Latvia, Belarus and Ukraine At the same time new technologies in the frames of Energy-Efficiency produced by Latvian commercial structures were offered for participant countries.

Contact: Economic Policy Agency of Tbilisi City Hall. M.salukvadze@tbilisi.city.hall

Thanks for reading:

Economic Policy Agency
Tbilisi City Hall
7 Shartava str.; 0160
Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel.: +995 32 378 278
Fax: +995 32 378 225
www.Tbilisi.gov.ge

Publisher
EU Programs
Coordination & International
Organizations
Cooperation Department
Economic Policy Agency
Tbilisi City Hall

You are invited to cooperate and contribute to preparation of the next issue with your ideas and comments!
eu@tbilisi.gov.ge