

URBANISTIDE UUDISKIRI NR 6 / URBANISTS' NEWSLETTER NO 6
SEPTEMBER 2011



**ESTONIAN
& LATVIAN
URBANISTS'
SUMMER DAYS
2011
SPECIAL!**

FIELD NOTES

Teele Pehk, leader of the Est-Lat urbanists' cooperation project

August 19th: there are 105 names registered to our summer days. No panic! We have an excellent team, friendly guest house people and a hired moderator. The only problem is that we have come up with a number of alternative programs for the following two days with no clear preference from among them. Debating the pros and cons of each one with a professional debate moderator is a true work of art. Making final decisions, on the other hand, is a messy job. When will our Latvian partners Marcis and Sandris arrive at our strategical planning bunker???

August 20th: it's pouring rain and as we drive up to Lemmeranna guest house, we can take a look in the mirrors to see the bus with 40 Latvians following us on the forest path like a bulky boat on waves. Hmm. Starting with a slight miscalculation of the summer days' schedule, we conclude. So, as fast as seven monkeys would do it, as we say in Estonia, (and that means really really fast), we put up the accommodation scheme (that has some hidden integrational aspects to it that you probably noticed) and improvise a registration desk. "Phew!" we would think eloquently, if we had the moment for that. But we do have time to feel forever thankful for the help of our great volunteers and the patience of our great neighbours! Finally all guests are showed to their rooms and the summer days can start with lunch from plastic dishes (next time we will make an extra effort to avoid those – I promise, Ruta!) and opening words. After the succesful completion of a motivation and stamina test in a stuffy attic room – also known as the Pecha Kucha session – the event starts to roll. The rest of the day passes quickly, accompanied with slight confusion among the participants about the concept of the event. As soon as the sauna is ready to be invaded and the DJ puts on the first disco song, all those worries are gone. I get to bed around 3 o'clock, missing the sun-greeting gathering on the beach.

August 21st: the sun is shining and some toughened souls are taking a morning swim in the sea. The somewhat slow (yes, that even for Estonians!) building up our "imagineering" speed, we end up with a buzzing synergy and 23 inspiring cooperation ideas stuck to the wall of the guest house. After two hours we have elaborated 10 of those, some with a detailed implementation schedule, others with catchy slogans.

The organising team is exhausted but

running on a fresh supply of positive emotions. So is everyone else, seems to me. We are more than convinced that Latvians and Estonians have similar interests in the field of urban activism, practices and research. All we need to do now is put the best ideas into **action!** A great theme for the next summer days? Those where we share the experiences and preliminary results of each cooperation project and that – we hope! – will be organised in Latvia!

*

On the following pages you can see what kind of ideas were discussed during the summer days. Out of 23 idea proposals 10 were discussed in smaller groups, developed and presented. After that everyone had two votes – one for the most urgent idea and another for the most inspiring idea. Check out the winners and the rest of the good thoughts! If you are interested in contributing to some or want to follow their progress, please ask me (teele@linnalabor.ee) for contacts.

The Pecha Kucha presentations are available on the project website → [click to view!](#)



Foto: Linnalabor

**WINNER
MOST
URGENT!**

BALTIC INSTITUTE FOR URBANISM

Team: Helena Gutmane, Teele Pehk, Gunta Lukstina, Jonas Büchel, Tiit Sild, Eric Le Bourhis, Tauri Tuvikene, Damiano Cerrone, Maarja Saar, Marc Geldof, Kerli Müürisepp

- national + international collaboration of key actors within the Baltic States
- information source
- non-formal education platform
- partner towards outside Baltic States
- publisher / editing / news
- cross-sectoral
- events: conferences / workshops / exhibitions etc.
- open house philosophy
- next meeting: October / November 2011



RA

**WINNER
MOST
URGENT!**

WEB PLATFORM FOR URBAN ISSUES

Team: Teele Pehk, Liis Palumets, Dace Lasmane, Lita Akmentina, Rihards Rucevics, Kerli Müürisepp, Artis Zvirgzdīns

- current problem = ideas, contacts and information on urban issues are scattered and hard to find
- solution = a web platform for urban issues
- HOW:
 - databases: projects, studies, articles, case studies, resources & links
 - profiles of professionals
 - news feed
 - idea forum (open to everyone)
 - methods
 - SocMap.com



RA



RA

**RUNNER-UP
MOST
URGENT!**

- NEEDS:
- funding
 - project team
 - correspondents
 - editors
 - name!

NEXT STEPS:

- follow us on Twitter: @weburbanism
- to be launched in September 2012

LOCAL INHABITANTS' ACTION PLATFORM & FUND

Team: **Marcis Rubenis, Jekaterina Kotello, Iveta Zalite, Irbe Vecenane**

Municipalities and communities! It's time to shake hands!



RA

**WINNER
MOST
INSPIRING!**

FUNSCAPE

Team: **Guntis Stirna, Liis Palumets, Viola Karule, Martin Allik, Jekaterina Balicka**

OFFLINE ACTIVITIES:

- using public space for guerrilla sports activities

- city-game

ONLINE PLATFORM:

- = killing internal censorship
- = pushing mental boundaries



RA

**SECOND PLACE
MOST
INSPIRING!**

ARCHITECTURE BOOK FOR KIDS

Team: **Kadri Klementi, Zane Zajanckauska, Laura Cimža, Siiri Treufeld**

A series of books about architecture and the city for children and youth. First book launch in 2014!

MAPPING WASTELAND

Team: **Friedrich Kuhlmann, Krista Zake, Ruta Vimba, Ulrika Rosenblad, Tarmo Pikner, Veronica Blumentals**

= website/platform with waste resources and upcycling methods from the Baltic States

AIMS:

- gathering information about available waste, incl. household waste, industrial waste, abandoned places (military bases, factories, farms)
- motivating the Baltic people to report & participate
- providing solutions in different scales - elements, building, spaces

TIME:

- research, crowdsourcing (until Sept 2012)
- creating the platform, involving people, developing collaboration (until Dec 2012)
- maintaining the platform & the network



RA

**RUNNER-UP
MOST
INSPIRING!**

(-) SÜDS

= Sustainable Urban Drainage System

Team: **Lita Akmentina, Martins Geršmanis, Fernando Blumentals, Triin Talk, Janis Kinasts, Yuri Kondratenko, Gen Mandre**

- capacity building



RA

- case studies
- communication



RA

SHORT DOCS ABOUT URBAN ISSUES

Team: **Gunita Kulikovska, Elo Talvoja, Lidia Zarudnaya, Kadri Vaher**

TV SCHEDULE

- 25.09.2012 21:30
New development projects in Tallinn
 - 02.10.2012 21:30
Riga's urban gardening
 - 10.10.2012 21:30
Local community activism in Kalamaja
 - 21.10.2012 21:30
MA thesis topics from Riga University
 - 03.11.2012 21:30
Urban Professionals Day in Tartu
 - 12.11.2012 21:30
New issues in urban theories from Estonian Academy of Arts (Chair of Urban Studies)
- STAY TUNED!



RA

SAŠA

= Secret Agency of Social Ambition = big father

Team: **Liina Einla, Andres Lindemann, Terje Ong, Guntis Stirna**

- corporation Planeta
- space food planetarism:
 - 1) mobile: private trailer-gardens
= "Take your carrot field with you anywhere!"
 - 2) fixed: *Life boat*
= Social sector vegetable gardening in public space: eat together, grow food together, socialize together, sleep together
= share & care
- Facebook > Spacebook
- space age



RA

FACEGARDEN

Team: **Andis Zilans, Aleks Blumentals, Margarita Miklaša, Anna Slosberga, Aili Elts, Laura Uibopuu, Ieva Skadina, RenĀte Pablaka, Krista Petersone**

= transient spaces of cohabitation for human and nonhuman species.

Saša →
 map →
 stories →
 photos →
 videos → FaceGarden
 tradition →
 celebration →
 co-operation →
 follow the garden →



Foto: *Reio Avaste*

Other ideas listed on the wall at the Idea Fair:

- Toolkit of methods on how to facilitate platforms for exchanging skills & knowledge (Ruta)
- Baltic architecture & urbanism website / platform ("Baltic Identity") (Artis)
- Est-Lat urbanists' winter days @ Ruhnu: Ice-hiking marathon (Madli, Toomas, Tiit)
- Estonian-Latvian-Lithuanian urbanists' summer days 2012 (Teele)
- Urban gardening community in Riga (Helena)
- Citizen involvement: making city for citizens with them (Richard)
- Club where people demo large group methods and games that they work with. Looking for partners from Est&Lat to organise such events in Estonia (Marcis, Sandris)

- Identity. Place. Genius Loci. Reading the city (Artis)
- Public garden houses. Less taxes for landlords with active gardening within the property. Baltic region program for "tutorial gardening" (Damiano, Sandris)
- Web platform for collective planning shames: things not to do (Lita, Dace, Anna)
- Map-based platform for putting down ideas for better urban life so that everyone could see it, express his opinion and cooperate with others to make ideas come true (Rihards)
- A "first" European seminar for urban moderators (Jonas, Marcis, Teele, Regina, Gunita, Kerli M)
- Utopineerism university



RA



RA



DC



RA



DC



RA



RA



RA



RA



RA



RA



RA



RA



RA



RA



RA



RA



RA



DC



RA



RA



KK



RA



KK



KK



KK



KK



RA



KK



RA



RA



RA



KK



DC



RA



RA



DC



DC



DC

SEE U NEXT YEAR! (IN LATVIA?)

Anyone willing to contribute to keeping alive the tradition of urbanists' summer days (that came to life in 2010), do not hide your enthusiasm! If

not earlier, then let's discuss the topic at our next meetings in spring 2012 – there will be a 3-day study trip to Riga for Estonian urbanists (most probably in March) and a 2-day counter-trip to Tartu for Latvian urbanists, funded by the Est-Lat cooperation project.

*

Thank you, colleagues and friends, for being there! Thank you, Bart, for making our work so much easier! And thank you, all volunteers, for running around and taking so good care of our guests!

The organising team:

Teele Pehk, Kerli Müürisepp, Kadri Klementi, Marcis Rubenis, Sandris Murins



Foto: Linnalabor



Linking Estonia and Latvia
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



European Union

The Estonian-Latvian cooperation project "Est-Lat urban activists", running from June 2011 to April 2012, is initiated by Linnalabor from Estonia and Fonds Society Technologies from Latvia with the aim to improve urban development and citizen education in both countries. The project is funded by the EU Estonia-Latvia Programme (www.estlat.eu).