

STUDY TRIP: SUSTAINABLE BUILDING AND RENOVATION IN LIECHTENSTEIN AND VORARLBERG

07. – 09.11.2013

SHORT REPORT

1. LESSONS LEARNED DURING SPEECHES AND VISITS

- Sustainable material (Rosemarie Gantner):
 - o Different ways of classifying building materials
 - o Life cycle costs: how to calculate them
 - o Example of an long-term building: the national archive building of Liechtenstein (Vaduz)

- Refugee center of Liechtenstein (Vaduz):
 - o Architecture can influence the quality of life of the refugees
 - o Little costs despite good quality of the wood work
 - o Temporary project is still used after 15 years: next time planning on long term
 - o One of the first projects with wood as construction material in Liechtenstein

- School Giessen
 - o How to keep architectural elements of interest in a renovation
 - o Good quality of life is not only regulated by the norms
(old surfaces are not adapted to today's standards but can still have a positive impact on life quality)

- Housing complex Nüziders
 - o Presentation of 16 year old project: good integration in the landscape, high quality of life, energy efficiency...
 - o Density of the construction, event in rural areas, is important
 - o Discussion about new building with no heating – no cooling: buildings of the future will be without machines

- Municipal center Raggal
 - o Wood of the communal forest, craftsmen of the region
 - o Integration of the landscape
 - o Cooperation architect - municipality
 - o No passive house label but good project: sustainable materials, energy efficiency, quality of life.
 - o Different activities in one building: tourism info, music local, child-care, possibilities

- of events...
 - o District heating connected to 5 other buildings
- Atelier Lehm-Ton-Erde
 - o Combination of ancient materials and techniques with modern use
 - o Sustainability of the material "earth" and its architectural and static possibilities
- Municipal center St. Gerold
 - o New building + need of a central square in the municipality
 - o High level of ecology
 - o Role of the mayor for changing habits of craftsmen
 - o Cooperation and service package «Nachhaltig:Bauen» («Sustainable:Building») explained
 - o Possibilities of funding
 - o Floor made of natural wood: cultural perception to change! (floor is dirty, but it is not a problem)
- City hall + fire men station in Lorüns:
 - o Architectural choices (2 buildings, no wood inside...)
 - o Renewable energy
 - o High quality of the material used, no solvents and toxic products
 - o Simple project but efficient
 - o Strong engagement of the municipality with support

2. SERVICE PACKAGE AND FINAL DISCUSSION

Questions and remarks of the participants

1. Is it possible to propose the service package in our municipalities (South Tirol, Slovenia)?
 - o Umweltverband cannot offer the service package in other regions because:
 - Umweltverband is an association of municipalities in Vorarlberg. They have been working together for a long time and have a very trusty relationship.
 - It is a very specific offer, adapted to regional needs, experts, mentality and offer
 - What we do in MountEE: local actors try to develop their own "service package" and the experts of Vorarlberg can coach them. But it won't be a copy of the service package of Vorarlberg. It has to be adapted to the local context and involve local stakeholders.
2. How can municipalities be motivated to invest budget in the service package?
 - o Counselling is around 1 % of the budget. Overall costs (sustainability and ecology) are 3%. But at the end, it is a "good project" with a long term vision and calculation.
 - o Political will: If the mayor is not motivated, it doesn't make sense. Sustainable building is still voluntary!

- Projects should be adapted to the inhabitants. As a result they build up identity and a connection.
 - Message of an efficient cost of the building in the long term is a good argument.
 - Of course in Vorarlberg people are very aware for environmental issues and good quality of buildings. It will take more time in other regions with a different cultural context.
3. Concurrence and EU rules: How do you manage to use local materials and local enterprises? How do big enterprises react? For example in Slovenia, Austrian companies with more experience are more competitive.
 - With wood from the municipality: no competition rules needed.
 - For craftwork there are competition rules have to be applied. Sometime big enterprises with low quality win the call for tender. Vorarlberg focuses on good quality of the work: that's why the local SMEs are working a lot on public projects.
 - Small and medium enterprises can be supported if we focus on the good quality and on their flexibility. Big enterprises deliver only standard products and services. Small enterprises can work with more flexibility and with a better quality. Public owners in Vorarlberg focus on that.
 4. Sustainability includes also transparency. Processes and choices from public authorities have to be transparent. In Slovenia a step has been made. We do not talk only about energy efficiency but sustainability as a whole.
 5. Participants were very interested in how they can learn from the examples seen at the study trip and use (and adapt) the gained knowledge for implementation of similar architecture at home.



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