

## minutes from the first series of workshops 25-26th Jan

### I. Title of the thematic area

**ENVIRONMENT**

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### III. Participants:

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2. Ms. Natalia Fidorów-Kaprawy, PhD Eng. – expert, PL  
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# DiverCITY<sup>4</sup>

ŚRODOWISKO /  
ENVIRONMENT

POLITYKA  
SENIORALNA /  
SENIOR POLICY

DOSTĘPNOŚĆ /  
ACCESSIBILITY

MIESZKALNICTWO /  
HOUSING

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#### IV. Workshop #1 (two days):

- defining thesis and problems;
- narrowing the scope, choosing the most interesting topic
- presenting different points of view by the experts
- setting the goals for the next Workshops (1<sup>st</sup> decade of March)



Chart 1. Structure for reaching final conclusions.

During the first day The Environment Team had a possibility to meet each other. Each of 3 experts had an opportunity to present the main scope of their professional life and present the prepared topic. Main area of the discussion was contained in agenda that was sent to each Expert by the group leader. During the workshop, also the Observer from the



Association of Polish Cities was present. Additionally, the representatives of the Ministry and Municipal Office joined the meeting.

First day was focused on the discussions around the presentations that were afterwards the foundations to clarify the direction of the final conference outcome.

Presentations:

1. Ms. Svava Svanborg Steinarsdóttir: „Air Quality – actions, information and prevention“
2. Dr. Natalia Fidorów-Kaprawy: “Energy consumption of buildings in Poland and in Wrocław”
3. Dr. Magdalena Baborska-Narożny: “Planning revitalization activities taking into account the needs of building users. Challenges for Polish cities”

Main discussions on the first day were focused on subjects presented by the Experts in order to develop a shared understanding and find common points for further discussions. The Experts were deeply interested and involved in exchanging their experiences. The final conclusion of the first day was that despite major differences in the air pollution levels between urban areas in Poland and Iceland there is a potential for exchange of knowledge and best-practice.

Second day was focused on the further discussion. Additionally, a field trip was organised to the central urban district of Wrocław where the key air pollution sources are accumulated. The aim was to get a contextualised understanding of all those present at the workshop of the scale and complexity of the challenge facing a major Polish city such as Wrocław.

The first workshop enabled a discussion on the status quo of air quality challenge in the countries represented at the workshop and the kind of issues that need to be tackled, how the local authorities and local regulations can support the householders in lowering air pollution; policy tool box developed in Reykiavik to target air pollution, exchanging the knowledge of local policies toward supporting the householders in thermomodernization of existing buildings and exchanging of inefficient heat sources; air quality monitoring; lowering emission from traffic and encouraging citizens to use bikes and public transportation.

#### **Workshop #1 main points and conclusions:**

Discussion on identification of common challenges in the area of reducing air pollution in cities taking into account the social, financial and national aspects

- There is a need to define crucial areas in the cities in terms of air pollution (heating systems, traffic)
- Long and short term goals should be defined.
- The complex view on the problem is necessary – smaller and faster actions are not convenient – it has to be systematic and complex approach.
- It has to be taken into consideration also the social costs of society bad condition. Air pollution affects the health and individual income – it is better to prevent than cure (ex. in Island there is a very good health care system and very good support for poor people)



- It is important to combine outdoor air with an indoor air quality.

Sharing "good practices" in the area of supporting the exchange of heat sources burning solid fuels for more ecological ones.

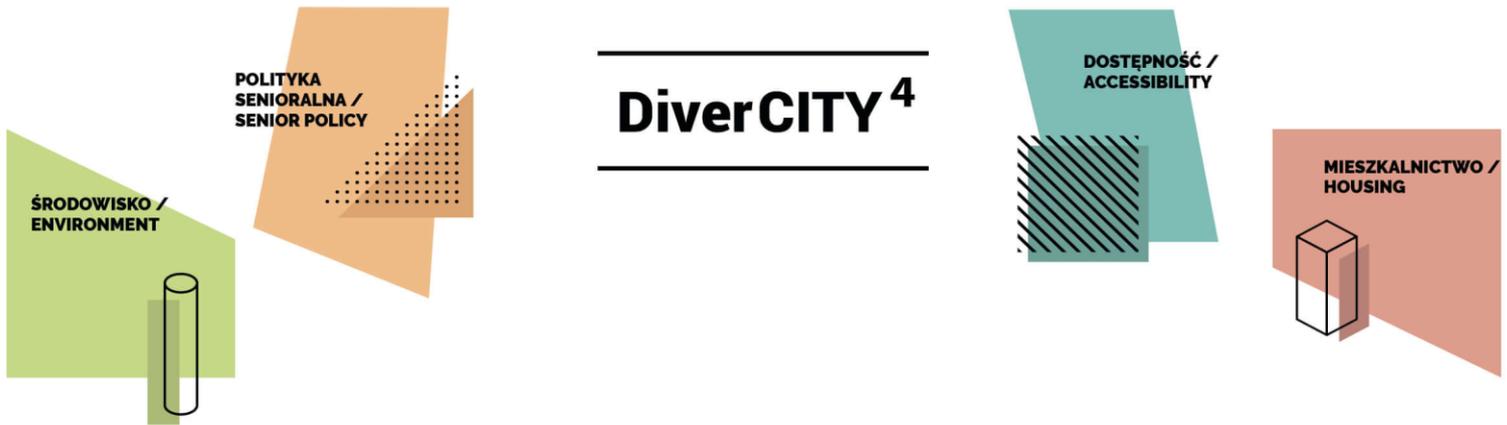
- The problem rather not exist in Island – heating system is cheap, rely mainly on geothermal direct sources; in rural area people use oil or electricity (hydropower); however apartments are expensive and poorer people live in worst housing conditions.
- In Island great emphasis is placed on thermal properties of buildings (additional insulation)
- Every change needs time, example 10 years. There are always limited resources (people, money, ect.)
- We have to remember that matter of housing cannot be treated purely as a business. We have to always think about people, their health and well- being first.

Sharing experience in the implementation of selected urban programs, projects and local initiatives on improving air quality in cities.

- Given the scale and urgency of the change required in terms of building retrofit and eradication of solid fuel combustion some level of gentrification seems unavoidable and even beneficial to those mostly at risk of fuel poverty. One of the options would be to identify fuel poverty risk and encourage mobility to better quality flats but not in the city centre. Those who want to buy the exiting apartment in more attractive areas of the city need to have an obligation (in the agreement) to renovate the flat to the certain standard.
- There should be discussion which part of the building stock can be renovated and which part needs to be demolished – this decision should be based on multi among others also from economic point of view.
- Encouraging people to use public transportation by additional benefits and discounts.
- To lower the particular matters in the air - campaign against studded tires, the tire washing stations nearby construction sites, searching for new components used in top layers of the roads.

Developing directions in which the city's policy of supporting thermo-modernization programs and exchanging heat sources for residents (not only municipal resources), making the city better, and as a result improving the quality of life of residents.

- The actions should not rely on individual decisions of the household owners – this has to be well considered plan covering the local/national policy and the technical and financial support for citizens otherwise the change will take too long. The deadlines for the support and the rush are not good advisors. The support programmes need to be well considered and supported by research evidence.
- The level and form of the support for citizens needs to match the capabilities of those it is intended for. Otherwise the uptake of support will be below expectations.
- Simple selling the apartments in tenement houses to individuals unlikely bring the intended effect of elimination of fossil fuels as heat sources in existing buildings. It is only transposition of the responsibility to individuals, therefore the complex support and solutions are needed.

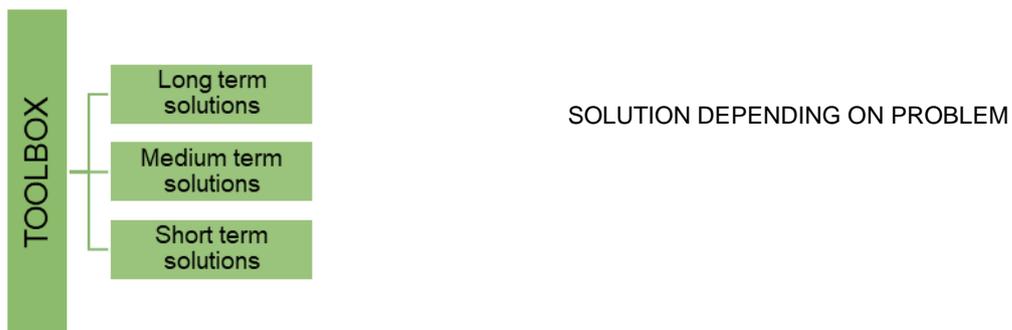


Searching for a common vision of a city free of smog, and friendly to the environment and residents from different social groups

- Offering the poorer but still young people to move to more energy efficient social houses further way from the city centre. Elderly people could stay where they lived whole life.
- Some additional benefits for citizens using bicycles and public transportation + supportive cycling policy.
- Identifying areas in the city where the car traffic can be limited; lowering speed in crucial areas.
- Extra fees for the ownership of second car.
- Creating car parks (park and ride) for people from outside the city and suburbs in the location well communicated with public transportation.
- Solutions for high air quality cannot be left for individuals, it has to be top-down solution, strongly supported by the policy.
- Financial support for individuals to undertake termomodernization actions cannot be in the form of repayment. This has to be supported form very beginning.
- There is a need for more supporting offices who assist the citizens. Now these offices are mostly focused on social aspect.
- Environment cannot be a business.
- The change in the policy and form of the support will not be popular among people, but these change in thinking and approach to the aspect of good air quality has to be done from the point of view of the health. It has to be understood by politicians.
- It is important to have clear master plan of lowering energy consumption for the future.
- Clear guidelines how to make the change is needed.

**What's next?**

Offering the toolbox that contains the collection of solutions to be use when problem appears:



Those solutions may be incorporated parallely.

Additionally:

- Environmental problems must be solved taking into consideration all scales of problems.

- We need to incorporate solutions that have positive effects in the future; e.g. in buildings, first energy demand have to be lowered not the heating system replaced.
- Mass exchange of heating systems have to be organized by authority; e.g. in Iceland the exchange from coal and oil to geothermal district heating have been performed by authority

