

Eurbanlab Newsletter



February 2014 Issue 3

Dear reader,

Two weeks ago we held our first Eurbanlab conference open to everybody interested in urban innovations. In this newsletter we report on some of the highlights of the conference held at the Crystal in London.

Another aspect of Eurbanlab worth sharing is our contribution to education. We are proud to introduce to you to an intern working for our project.

And last, but not least, we would like to share the results of the scientific review of our assessment method B4U.

Enjoy reading!

Anne-Marie Spierings
Project lead

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**Eurbanlab Winter Conference 2013
29 January 2014**

In the heart of London at the historical Victoria Docks, Eurbanlab organised its first open conference in the Crystal. After welcoming the attendees from across Europe and giving a short introduction to Eurbanlab, more than 50 attendees were invited to listen to some inspiring speakers.



Raphaëlle-Laure Perraudin (Jourda Architectes Paris) - "Finding new ways of construction"

Raphaëlle-Laure Perraudin works at JAP, an architect's firm specialized in energy efficient construction. Raphaëlle took the audience through how the "Halle Pajol" in Paris, France was reconstructed. The building is directly connected to the railroad, but the main challenge was to reconnect it to the city. The architects were able to realise a functional interaction and mixed uses within the building, which is now home to an auditorium, a youth hostel, a public library and a range of retail outlet and offices. The main ambition was to unify people with various backgrounds. The solar plant on the roof completed the whole picture.

Following this inspiring story of a successful innovation, members of the Eurbanlab team elaborated on the ambitions and goals of Eurbanlab, the Eurbanlab library, the assessment method and the community building of Eurbanlab. The participants joined the conversation with many interesting questions and some good advice. Also in the morning programme, Julie Alexander of Siemens, briefly explained why Victoria Docks are the ideal place for Siemens' urban innovations department and why the Crystal is just the right place for this conference.

One of the respondents of our survey on the conference wrote:
'I liked the insight to the development of the Eurbanlab business model. It is exciting to see it progressing on several strands'

After lunch the conference participants enjoyed a tour of the Crystal, where Siemens has an exhibition explaining the risks of Climate Change and the ways in which technology can help us achieve a sustainable future.



Two slides from Siemens' interactive exhibition

Simon Mills (City of London) – "We are all bitizens now"

Simon Mills is the head of Sustainable Development of the City of London, a district which houses 7,500 residents and 9,000 businesses. 'We live in a resource constrained world', says Simons Mills. In cities, new products and services are the driving force behind urban life. According to Simon governments should have an enabling role in the development of these new products and services. A good example is the electronic circuit boards in street lighting. This simple technology makes it possible to automatically switch the lighting off and on, which saves money and provides improved amenities for residents and businesses.



Mini-assessments on Urban Innovations

An exciting element of the conference was the demonstration of two live Eurbanlab Mini Assessments. The Mini Assessments gave the participants a good grasp of how an assessment looks like. In addition, they provided Eurbanlab team a chance to gain some feedback on the assessment methodology.

One of the respondents of our survey on the conference wrote:

'It was good to see the open minded characters, the willingness to receive feedback and (constructive) critics to the B4U and gallery of innovations'

After this mini assessments were completed Daan Roosegaarde presented his keynote speech.

Daan Roosegaarde (Studio Roosegaarde) – "Show your sustainable ideas to big companies"



Daan Roosegaarde delivers unimaginable technology to the world, in the most literal way. With studio's in Rotterdam and Shanghai, he develops innovative, interactive landscapes that are accomplished through the objective of pulling technology 'out of the screen'. He uses technology to make places more human.

During his impressive presentation, Daan took the conference through a number of his current projects – including the 'Glow-in-the-Dark Road' which replaces energy consuming street lighting. Together with Heijmans, Studio Roosegaarde is developing this road now.

The Eurbanlab Winter Conference ended with networking drinks and diner. Attendants who were present at the Eurbanlab community event in May 2013 said they were impressed and delighted about the progress the Eurbanlab project had achieved in the last eight months .

Education in Eurbanlab

Young people are our future

*Nathalie Kerstens, 26 years
Master Construction
Management & Engineering
(University of Technology,
Eindhoven, The Netherlands)
Internship at ARCADIS*



Why did you want to do an internship for Eurbanlab?

Eurbanlab offers a nice intersection between the masters I am currently following and my personal interests. The masters program, Construction Management & Engineering, has a strong focus on sustainable urban development and my personal interests are discovering innovative solutions for the challenges that cities face in becoming energy neutral. Doing this internship offers me a broad insight on available urban innovations and their practical implementation.

What is the topic you are focusing on?

I am concentrating on the development of sustainable business models for the Eurbanlab start-up and for KIC innovation projects in general. These business models are characterized by a long (financial) viability as well as a minimum impact on the environment. Next to this I also want to identify key criteria that are crucial for the transformation of an innovation project into a successful start-up.

Which urban innovations that you have come across is most appealing to you?

Because I believe a good strategy for the implementation of urban innovations starts at district level, I think Västra Hamnen (the Western Harbour) in Malmö, Sweden is a nice initiative. This area claims to be Europe's first energy neutral neighbourhood and was an old polluted shipyard that was transformed into a sustainable knowledge area. It is powered by 100% local renewable energy, the local busses are fuelled by

biogas from residents' waste and cars are rare objects in this scene, since the residents are also stimulated to develop a sustainable culture. This neighbourhood is the result of a successful public private partnership between property developers, energy companies and the local government and is a good role model for other European neighbourhoods.

*Pauline Jaquot, 24 years
Environmental Sciences
(Master student,
Wageningen University,
The Netherlands)
Internship at TNO*



Why did you want to do an internship for Eurbanlab?

As a continuation of my MSc Thesis during which I studied energy-efficiency measures in buildings (and their implication towards the Copenhagen 2° target), I saw an opportunity with the Eurbanlab to extend my knowledge on sustainable built-environment. I wanted to discover for instance the extent of efforts made in Europe towards "green living", learn about integrated approaches and the range of techniques used in modern sustainable urban projects.

What is the topic you are focusing on?

During my internship I did not focus on a particular topic but executed several different tasks:

- collect interesting cases of low-carbon innovations for the Library of Innovations;
- update one indicator of the B4U assessment method and process the changes in the Excel tool;
- undertake the assessment of the urban renovation project Gårdsten-Solar Buildings in Goteborg, Sweden: find appropriate literature, get in contact with involved professionals and

make interviews while visiting the site in Sweden. Write two assessment reports: the Innovation Template and the Executive Assessment Report;

- participated in the assessment of the renovation project of the Quartiers Vauban in Freiburg, Germany;
- Assist to the Eurbanlab Winter Conferences in London and write a report on the scientific review meeting;
- make an analysis of the current state of the urban innovations library.

Which urban innovations that you have come across is most appealing to you?

Among the urban innovations that I came across during my internship, I was most appealed by two harbor redevelopments currently under-implementation in Sweden: the regeneration of Stockholm Royal Seaport into an environmental mixed use district and the Bo01: City of tomorrow project, a rehabilitation of the western part of Malmo's harbor. Both projects are in my opinion very interesting in the context of the Eurbanlab as they are ambitious, focus on optimizing (not extending) urban land and have been designed with an integrated perspective.

Eurbanlab B4U under Scientific Scrutiny
by Peter Bosch (TNO) and Roger Toussaint
(Utrecht University)

In January the Eurbanlab assessment method 'B4U' was reviewed the by a committee of four academics from France, the UK, Finland and Germany. The day after the Winter Conference they discussed their conclusions with each other and with the Eurbanlab team. Coming from different disciplines and backgrounds, the panel was able to compare the Eurbanlab B4U with available assessment methods.

The panel considered the Eurbanlab method B4U "interestingly different" within the large variety of methods that are available on the market today. Most assessment methods have a very limited focus: looking either at the financial viability of projects or its technical aspects. The holistic scope of the B4U, evaluating impact, process and propagation were found to be of value.

The review has also provided the Eurbanlab team with specific points of improvement, especially with future market developments and comparable tools in mind. Since the method will also be used for assessing planned projects, the possibility for stakeholders to tweak weighing factors and indicators according to the user's needs would need to be included. Moreover, describing the method more transparently can help stakeholders to determine its applicability and to engender trust in its validity. Other suggestions were aimed at the need to introduce versatility in the B4U methodology so that the tool can be used in the variation of projects, so as to avoid the limited focus of comparable tools. At the moment the indicators are geared towards the built environment, and especially the construction of residential buildings. Other innovative urban projects such as Smart City developments, or transportation projects, are not covered enough with the current set of indicators. The recommendation was to try the B4U on different types of innovations in the coming months to measure its applicability.

In conclusion the review made clear that Eurbanlab B4U is clearly different from what other actors are offering on the market. The methods deviates in the Process and Propagation categories, and has a similar basis in People, Planet & Profit. The balance between its holistic approach and manageability that is being struck in Eurbanlab, makes it an interesting tool on the market.

Eurbanlab Accelerating Urban Innovations

Eurbanlab is co-funded by the European Climate Knowledge and Innovation Community (Climate-KIC). An initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), Climate KIC has a mission to create sustainable growth by addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation. As Europe's largest public-private innovation partnership Climate-KIC integrates education, entrepreneurship and innovation. By bringing together a wide community of organizations, it helps transform knowledge and ideas into economically viable products or services that help to mitigate climate change.



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