**Sustainable development ideas: combination of practical and cognitive experience of RCE –Nizhny Novgorod (Russia)**

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During 4 years of existing RCE –Nizhny Novgorod saves up different experiences of SDE activity. Most interesting are two of it.

**First.**

Sustainable development ideas for architecture and building construction are realized in the “Wyksa District of Tomorrow” project, what is a sister project of the District of Tomorrow, has been launched and the first test house is ready in Netherland/ It’s the first experience of a 0-energy house renovation in Russia.

In Netherlands the renovation was completed in 2010. During presentation the first day the front facade replaced by two prefab, facade high panels, second day the back facade and third day the roof.  The inhabitants can stay in their house during the process. After evaluation of the test house, and applying improvements, from April on 150 houses will be renovated to passive and 0-energy standards. Now in Netherlands are own 2 real scale testing facilities: a new and a renovated house! A EU project has been awarded to develop education modules for master students and professionals, based on the design process of the District of tomorrow buildings. 15 universities throughout Europe are involved.

The District going Inernational: Researchers and students from Russia works among Finland, China, Spain and Nepal students. They are doing internships and research at the District.

The District of Tomorrow has attracted attention of RSE-Nizhny Novgorod and Nizhny Novgorod government. The Design atelier at Zuyd University has become international and changed to the English language: Russian students have joined, and more expected to come.

The Russian District of Tomorrow is under development, in the city of Wyksa (Nizhegorodskaia Oblast). Students from Nizhny Novgorod state Civil Engineering and Architectural University are designed first winning house and a temple for Russian orthodox church. Prof. of Zuyd University and member of the Steering Committee of RCE -Nizhny Novgorod J. Spaubeck supports this practice. Prof J. Hermans together with Prof. J.Spaubeck have participated in the meeting with governor of Nizhegorodskaia Oblast Valery Schantcev and discussed prospective of the District of Tomorrow project in the region.

The target group of this project: students of architectural, building construction faculties, regional management and local government/governance education programs.

**Second.**

The permanent student colloquium with topics on cognitive modeling of sustainability for socio-political processes with Prof. Andrey Dakhin as the head. There was several programs, what have held in VVAGS: "Cognitive modeling of sustainability of socio-political processes and a factor of collective memory" (2009), “Cognitive modeling of sustainability for regional business space” (2010), “Cognitive modeling of sustainability for regional NGO activity” (2011), “Cognitive modeling of sustainability for regional governance space” (2012). These events goal was to draw students in to modeling complicated social processes related to the sustainable development of the social sphere of the region.

 The target group of this project: students of regional management, local government/governance, public policy and regional policy education programs.