

The Final Conference of the MATRUSCHKA project report

The Final Conference of the MATRUSCHKA project took place in St. Petersburg on 17-19 March 2009 that summoned not only project partners, but also all interested in the results of the project. The program of the Final Conference was very intensive as during three days the city management method Synaps was introduced, roundtable Integrated Management System for the Russian cities – MATRUSCHKA with 73 participants from 5 countries was held and the results and further perspectives of the project MATRUSCHKA were presented.



The first day of the conference was mainly devoted to a presentation of the city management method Synaps by Charlotte Bock, while the second day given for the roundtable “Integrated Management System for Russian Cities – MATRUSCHKA”. The roundtable had 73 participants from five countries (Russia, Finland, Sweden, Latvia and Lithuania) representing 20 different local authorities/organizations. In the roundtable representatives of the partner-cities demonstrated the importance of the stakeholder involvement for local authorities in particular and the success of the MATRUSCHKA project in general. The project partners told about their examples of active stakeholder involvement in city management and the fruitful results of this direction of activity. The two main outcomes of the project MATRUSCHKA – Good Practice Database and Stakeholder Involvement Toolkit were launched at the roundtable and participants were encouraged to use these resources. During the roundtable the participants evaluated the project actions through several methods. This developed new ideas for innovative approaches. The roundtable resulted in introduction of three finding that will be used for city management plans of the local authorities, namely:



- commitment from politicians and civil servants to carry out actions with increased stakeholder involvement. Without the commitment no actions will take place.
- well managed stakeholder involvement process that enables the use of the results for the benefit of the entire organization.
- new methods of involvement that encourage active participation and engage the stakeholders into the process.
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The third day of the Final Conference started with presentation of Stella Aaltonen, after which the further activities of the project partners were discussed and their feedback of the project in general was given. All project partners highly evaluated the significance of the MATRUSCHKA project for their city management process and shared their expectations to continue productive cooperation among city-partners.

After the Final conference the project partners were full of enthusiasm to apply the outcomes of the MATRUSCHKA project - Good Practice Database and Stakeholder Involvement Toolkit in their further city management work and to elaborate the final version of the strategic program for the sustainable development of their city.

