

Internationale Bauausstellung  
Fürst-Pückler-Land GmbH

## **Letter of Intent**

(pass on to the national representations of the member states)

The Internationale Bauausstellung Fürst-Pückler-Land GmbH (IBA) is the lead partner of the project REKULA - Restructuring Cultural Landscapes. REKULA is supported under Interreg III B in the CADSES spaces. One major outcome of REKULA by 2005 shall be a European Manual, a tool for steering and managing redevelopment of cultural landscapes that were disturbed in the industrial age.

IBA initiates in this context a European-wide discussion process in order to take available experiences, ideas and examples and use such as a basis for encouraging a targeted technical discourse about management strategies. The dimensions in terms of spaces and resource that are required for such a gigantic restructuring process make it appear reasonable to think strategically about the redevelopment of disturbed cultural landscapes and use available capacities as sensibly as possible.

One model for such a comprehensive steering and management process interdisciplinary touches also tasks and targets of different functions in the European Commission and European institutions. Discussions shall deliberate findings and proposals to ensure the effective and future-shaping application of earmarked public funds. Thus, grants of structural fund moneys could be under the proviso that a high interdisciplinary level is required already in the planning phase to prevent additional funding in a later phase. Another key element are experiences gained that are of importance for the future member states from Central and Eastern Europe which are at the beginning of a much more complicated process to help avoid considerable friction losses.

One objective of the European discourse for the enlarged Europe are proposals for new (possibilities of) existence and a new- sustainable - future orientation of the inhabitants of disturbed cultural landscapes. Also migration shall be curbed which already depopulates whole regions.

The European discussion process shall cover demands to disturbed landscapes during their revalorisation, the fundability of such large-dimensioned and deep-rooted processes of change, the pertaining structural change and - not least - the experiences and results of the International Exhibition of (Landscape) Construction and Architecture, in order to identify to which extent a European influence on the

redevelopment of regions is possible and reasonable (e.g. management structures).

The REKULA project partners include the Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche and the regional administration of Veneto, the city of Zabrze and Gliwice University in Upper Silesia as well as further institutions and stakeholders that are engaged in the above-mentioned problems, such as rehabilitation companies, universities, colleges and education institutions. The exchange of experiences among the REKULA partners to date has shown that the current specialist planning requirements and guidelines for redevelopment of smokestack industry regions issued by the EU are not suited to adequately ensure the strengthening of the concerned regions.

The *Land* of Brandenburg supports the process of landscape reclamation and conversion and the European discourse in numerous ways and hopes for suggestions and impulses for a structural change in large area, ravished by lignite mining - high aesthetic criteria to landscape redevelopment and ideas for employment and existence opportunities.

Now we should like to ask you to help us in our search for further partners and interested parties beyond our partners in the INTERREG III B project, such as public institutions, colleges and universities, enterprises that are engaged in similar rehabilitation processes.

Our next event within the scope of this project is the international convention of partner regions „Landscape International“ from 5 to 10 September 2004 with colloquiums on the five subjects of Energy - Landscape - Region, Housing, Disturbed Cultural Landscapes, Industrial Culture and Water Resources Management. We should like to invite you kindly to attend these events.

For further information and contact partners for the event „Landscape International and REKULA Project“ go to [www.rekula.net](http://www.rekula.net).

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