

Warszawa, dnia 13 kwietnia 2007 r.

This year, the 7<sup>th</sup> European Biennial of Towns and Town Planners will be taking place between 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June at the Europa Conference Centre in Budapest, Hungary.

Organised through the Hungarian Society of Urban Planners (MUT), this is a flagship event for planning and planners across Europe. It will bring together hundreds of practitioners, developers, consultants, architects, engineers, politicians, designers, community activists and policy makers from around the world, for three intensive days, to explore how effective practices of spatial planning can play a key role in designing urban places and spaces and in delivering social, environmental, community and economic agendas at a national and international level.

Krajowa Izba Urbanistów is supporting the Biennial through its work with the European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP), and planners from Poland will be attending.

The theme for this year's Biennial is 'Making Places', with a focus on designing the urban environment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Some time this year we will reach the point where more than half the world population will live in towns and cities rather than in rural environments. Nearly three-quarters of the European population already live in urban areas.

Planners and planning have a central role in shaping the quality of urban life. Fifty years after the world's first Urban Design Conference, this Biennial now explores the role that urban design can and should play in shaping 21<sup>st</sup> century European cities to be socially and culturally attractive whilst maintaining their economic competitiveness.

The Biennial will encompass a broad range of plenary sessions interspersed with workshops, seminars, exhibitions and study tours, with plenty of time also for networking and social events in beautiful Budapest. Topics will include sustainable practices, future visions and concepts, generic skills, community concerns, effective controls and the role of culture and innovation, looking at the challenges that urban planners face in the process of creating liveable and memorable places. Alongside these sessions will be an exhibition of some of the best examples of urban design projects from all around Europe, including the winners of the 2006 European Urban & Regional Planning Awards.

Workshops will range from examination of regeneration projects around Budapest to an exploration of Hungarian Art Nouveau, garden suburbs, the Bauhaus, arts projects and even a heritage beer factory. And for those of you whose memories stretch back to 1953, there will also be a study tour on the renewal of Budapest's sporting centres including the Puskas stadium.

For more details and to register online, please go to the Biennial website: [www.makingplaces.hu](http://www.makingplaces.hu).