



OPEN CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL E2 -TIMBER DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION IN KOUVOLA, FINLAND

The city of Kouvola is launching a E2 (Ecology and Economy) concept competition to design and construct wooden multi-storey residential buildings in cooperation with the Finnish Forest Industries association, the Finnish Forest Foundation, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, KSS-Energia Oy and the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso. A pilot site based on the winning team's proposal will be constructed on the shore area of the river Kymi in Kuusankoski.

The organizer of the competition selects a maximum of four from the registered multidisciplinary teams to participate in the design competition. The initiative has been noted with great interest also abroad, e.g. in Northern America. The organizers expect also proposals from international teams collaborating with Finnish partners.

The city of Kouvola aims at fostering new solutions for industrial production of wooden multi-storey buildings. In this context also a Centre of Competence in Timber Construction, a so called "Wood-Inno" is being planned in Kouvola. A further goal here is to develop innovative timber products to tackle the structural change which the Finnish forest industry is facing. The concept competition is expected to offer energy efficient solutions which reduce the carbon foot print, and furthermore, which could help Finland to take the leadership in the field of timber construction worldwide.

Wood as raw material in the building material production brings a double benefit: remarkably reduced emissions in the production and improved energy efficiency of the buildings. This, subsequently, multiplies the value of wood for sustainable development and environment protection.

Mr. Jukka Noponen, Director of the Energy Programme of Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund, says that the timber competition is an important initiative which is going to play a crucial role in increasing the sustainable construction both in domestic and global markets. Sitra is one of the funding bodies of the competition.

The teams are requested to register to participate in the pre-selection by the 22.9.2010. The teams which will be selected to participate in the competition will be published in a press conference on the 28.9.2010 at 10.00 o'clock. Visit here for more information: www.kouvola.fi/E2 or www.hilma.fi

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