The presented document is the first report undertaken within the COBRA MAN project which one of the core output is to set up a knowledge data base about previous brownfield regeneration projects. The idea of the data base is to create an effective decision support tool which will be useful for all direct and indirect beneficiaries of the brownfield redevelopment areas first in the Partners’ and next in all Central Europe countries.

The report is also an important document with the main objective defined as the description of the existing concepts and tools in the previous brownfield regeneration projects.

The reason why the concepts and tools developed in the previous EU projects on the brownfield regeneration are presented in the report is looking for inspiration on how the brownfield management matrix should look like.

- This matrix, being one of the milestones of the COBRA MAN project will be discussed in details during the Workshop assessing existing concepts and tools on brownfield regeneration which will take place in Bydgoszcz on October 5th – 7th 2009.
- The Authors took into their investigation and research the following, among others, projects which dealt with the brownfield regeneration issues: BERI, CABERNET, INCORE, LUDA, MAGIC, NORISC, PROSIDE, REKULA, RESCUE, REVIT, SEBCO.

The report consists of three chapters.

The first one contains the description of the importance of revitalization issues in the Partners’ countries and widely in the Central Europe. It also underlines the threats and opportunities associated with practical aspects of revitalization projects in different countries. Besides described difficulties, brownfield regeneration becomes more and more important issue for stakeholders in EU countries. The situation is caused by the large number of cultural and historical importance sites, which has been destroyed mainly because of the economic transformation process in the Central Europe.

The second chapter contains descriptions of particular EU revitalization projects. It starts (point 2.1) with the description of diagnosed problems connected to undertaken research on brownfield regeneration issues. Next (2.2) is a characteristic of the above listed projects and contains the following data: general information about each project, place and time where it had been undertaken, its budget, key objectives and additional sources of information.

The Authors tried to concentrate on the best practices of the following dimensions developed by the described projects:

- Environmental
- project management
- economic and financial
- technical solutions
- legal
- social
- marketing
- heritage
The last part of this chapter (2.3) concentrates on the description of relevant concepts and tools in brownfield regeneration. The Authors presented the most important models and tools in the field putting emphasis on their theoretical and technical aspects. Unfortunately, the Authors were not able to receive all necessary information, and this is the reason, why the models and tools descriptions are sometimes lack of important data.

It was difficult to identify all concepts, models, and tools developed by the above mentioned projects partially because there was not a proper definition what can be regarded as a new concept, model or tool in the brownfield regeneration.

The Authors tried to present only the new concepts, models, and tools developed as an effects of the particular UE projects.

The last chapter concentrates on practical relevance, usefulness and applicability of the concepts, models and tools which had been developed as outputs of the projects described in chapter 2. These tools are to be practically used, so therefore they had been categorized into the following groups:

- Conceptual models in brownfield regeneration & learning (7 models and tools)
- Management & marketing dimension (10 models and tools)
- Economic and financial dimension
- Environmental dimension & Technical solutions (4 models and tools)
- Social dimension (6 models and tools).

The Authors decided to use tables for the models and tools presentation.

Report has been created on the basis of the informations from similar brownfield regeneration’s projects.

Below we would like to highlight all source of informations which have turned out to be an asset for us and had a huge impact for the progress of creating that report:

- Final reports
- Brochures
- Links to relevant internet sites
- Databases
- Best practices guidelines

Brownfield sites in Central Europe:

A brief introduction to problems and potentials

The Deindustrialisation Context: For more than half a century, the cities west of the former Iron Curtain have experienced a massive process of change and restructuring in spatial, social and economic terms. Under the influence of digitalisation and rationalisation and even more significant in the context of globalisation industrial activities have undergone considerable changes.

In particular, significant impacts are seen in the downsizing of enterprises and the complete loss of whole production industries and industrial centres. Growth in other service industries and transformations in the urban lifestyle have also led to significant changes in land use.

1. These processes have led to the creation of brownfield sites in urban areas.
2. This process of deindustrialisation has resulted in wide scale dereliction in some areas and scattered temporal declines in other cities.
3. Overall these changes have left Europe with a significant legacy of brownfield sites.

The persistence and distribution of brownfield sites represents a significant trans-European urban management problem. Despite of the long legacy and massive scale, there still is no standard definition for brownfield sites across Europe. However, common usage of this term would subscribe to the
definition applied in the CABERNET report, stating that brownfields are sites “that have been affected by the former uses of the site and surrounding land; are derelict and underused; may have real or perceived contamination problems; are mainly undeveloped urban areas; and require intervention to bring them back to beneficial use”.