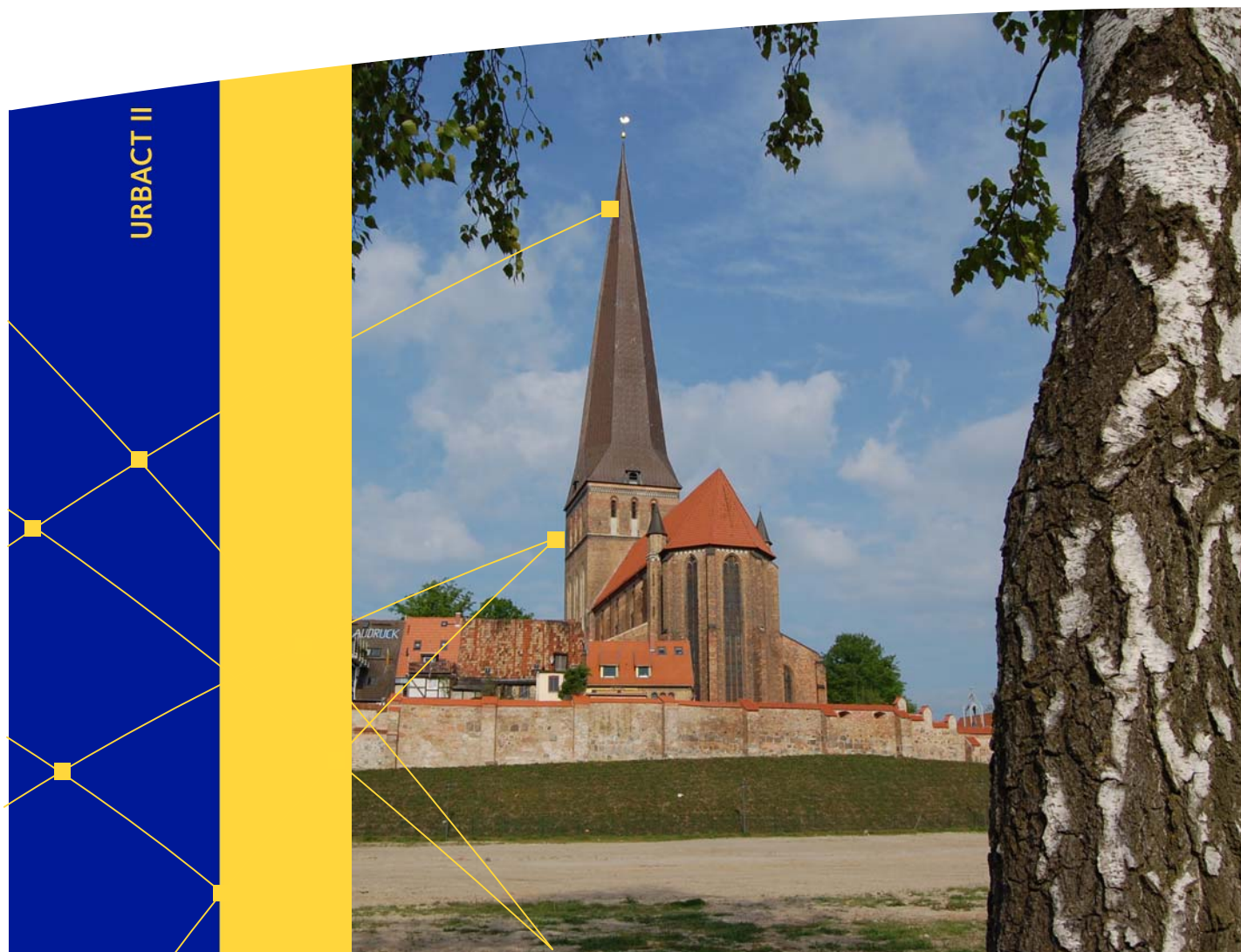




REPAIR Good Practice Example: Rostock, City Wall



Connecting cities
Building successes



The restoration of the southern area of the city wall did not create any new jobs directly but it has confirmed that Rostock is the most important retail centre in the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern today.

After the German reunification huge malls were built on the outskirts of the city leading to empty areas downtown; jobs in retail sector were reduced.

For that reason the city started to refocus on its old centre. Historic aspects needed to be maintained and modern ones integrated.

In the nineteen nineties Rostock City Centre was still recovering from the destruction caused by the World War II. At the same time it was seen as a reconstruction site. There were unresolved problems concerning traffic and parking and in many cases the structure of the buildings was not good.

Stopping the serious decay of the historical structure, restructuring the historic parts of the city and developing a vital regional metropolis for 500,000 people living in and around the area was the aim of urban renewal in 1991 and, of course, still today.

It has taken strong will and a lot of energy to reach this aim and in the area of the historic city centre it has been essentially realised. In the urban renewal area measuring about 151 hectares, approximately 80% of all public places, streets and green areas been restored or newly built.

Between 1991 and 2008 more than 200 million Euros coming from public funding was put into the Old Town. Calculations show that in urban development areas every one Euro from public funding requires private investment of at least 5.5 Euros – resulting in an investment during the time scale of about 1.1 billion Euros.

In terms of public funding, 91 million Euros came from the government of the Federal Republic and the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. More specifically funding came from the "General Urban Development Support Programme", the "Urban Monumental Heritage Support Programme", the "Urban Renewal East Support Programme" and the "Urban Development Support Programme" installed by the government of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

The City of Rostock contributed about €30 million up to the end of 2008 as its investment to the urban development.

Many projects – various buildings that represented a high degree of monument heritage status – could be supported by additional financial means from the Urban Redevelopment Funds. As a consequence the main part of the historic building fabric could be saved from decay.



The most evident result of the urban renewal in Rostock is the upturn of the city centre. Both Kröpelinier Street and Lange Street are inviting the public to stroll, shop and to stay and discover the area.

With the restoration came the reconstruction of a number of new retail and historic sites.

The main redevelopment sites include Rostocker Hof (Rostocker Courtyard), the Hopfenmarkt (the Hops Market) and department stores such as Galeria Kaufhof, Peek & Cloppenburg, C&A, H&M, Jakobi-Passage (Jacob Passage) and Kröpeliner-Tor-Centre (Mall Kröpeliner-Gate-Centre).



Within the near fully restored and newly built premises there are not just big malls but also a number of small and high-level shops, restaurants and service providers.

Today the pedestrian zone with almost 70.000 square meters of sales area is a first level position and the city centre of Rostock is once again an attractive place to shop with an interesting and diverse mix of businesses.

One of the biggest success stories of the Rostock city restoration is the preservation,

or rather the rebuilding, of the city's ground plan, dating from the 13th century, and its important "main cornerstones".

So all three monasteries, the city wall and the city gates literally gleam with the brightness of the old age. The huge brick churches are about to be restored as well.



Last but not least, in the city centre we succeeded with the effort and the help of the supporting funds of the monument heritage authorities, to maintain hundreds of buildings (for both business and living) from different centuries keeping their original appearance intact together with their history.



Today the old centre of Rostock has rediscovered its distinct identity with the diverse building styles and significant heritage of all ages.

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URBACT II

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 181 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants.

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