

**Draft – January 11, 2007**

**BMBF REFINA and U.S. EPA Practitioners Cooperation  
On Sustainable Revitalization**

**A Workshop of the U.S.-German Bilateral Working Group  
Stuttgart, Germany – April 23 and 24, 2006**

**Overview**

There is growing recognition in Germany and the United States that revitalization of communities by meeting regional economic, environmental, and social demands is a priority. This awareness is grounded in the appreciation that the sustainability of the human and natural environment relies on improving linkages among public health, environmental quality, economic development and ecosystem integrity. At its core, sustainable regional revitalization incorporates a flexible balance of social, economic, and environmental interests and objectives in the evolution of cities (growth and shrinkage) to preserve natural systems. Achieving this balance is increasingly important for the continued availability of natural resources for future generations.

In order to encourage cleanup and revitalization that includes a balance among social, environmental, and economic sustainability, it is important for local communities in Germany and the U.S. to have access to practical strategies and tools that match best practices to local conditions and achieve the right balance for the particular region. This workshop of the U.S.-German Bilateral Working Group will focus on sharing approaches, tools, and ideas which incorporate community needs and values and the concepts of sustainable revitalization practices under development by BMBF through the REFINA Program and by EPA with a group of revitalization practitioners.

This workshop initiates Phase 4 of the U.S.-German Bilateral Working Group research cooperation. It will focus on the identification, review and testing of sustainable revitalization strategies on a regional level. It represents the first in a series of workshops between the U.S. and Germany that will highlight approaches toward sustainable regional revitalization. Information on past activities of the U.S.-German Bilateral Working Group can be found at the Bilateral website: [www.bilateral-wg.org](http://www.bilateral-wg.org).

**Areas of Joint Interest for Sustainable Revitalization:**

The focus of this workshop is to identify, review and apply information, tools and concepts developed in the U.S. and Germany that promote sustainable redevelopment on contaminated properties and regional revitalization. Topical areas of interest for Phase 4 include comparing strategies for:

- Comparative Liability/Risk
- “Green” Buildings
- Natural Systems Protection
- Shrinking Cities
- Optimizing Infrastructure
- Regional Governance
- Financing Issues
- Brownscape Design

## **Workshop Goal and General Outline:**

The aim of the 2-day workshop is to present the BMBF REFINA projects and the U.S. practitioner projects through small group exercises. These exercises will develop a specific and actionable list of areas of mutually beneficial interest to both the German and U.S. participants.

The workshop will incorporate the following general outline:

- Background presentation on bilateral success – specific cooperation and information transfer resulting in SMARTe and German products
- Presentations by U.S. and German practitioners
- Breakout sessions to identify long-term mutually beneficial cooperation and measurable outcomes
- Incorporating the results of cooperation into the REFINA and U.S. projects
- Capturing products in SMARTe

## **Workshop Participants**

As with previous U.S.-German Bilateral workshops, a workshop atmosphere will be maintained by encouraging interactive discussions. Representatives from the German REFINA projects and the U.S. practitioner projects will play a key role in this workshop. Members of the bilateral working group will also be present, in addition to revitalization practitioners from both the U.S. and Germany including selected experts experienced in sustainable revitalization practices from both countries. Total number of participants is expected to be 25.

## **Workshop Product**

Apart from sharing experiences, new ideas, and strengthening bilateral contacts, the workshop will result in a definitive list of areas of interest and action items for future cooperation under Phase 4. Future U.S.-German cooperation will be focussed around these areas of interest and will support improved performance of the REFINA and U.S. projects and enhancement of tools and content for SMARTe.org. In the U.S., a white paper will also be produced for distribution and posted on the Bilateral website ([www.bilateral-wg.org](http://www.bilateral-wg.org)). The white paper will contain the workshop summary, a list of the specific and measurable action items for the near future, and the working programme for the next 3 years.