

The first stage of public evaluation of Andrejsala and Eksportosta detail plan has concluded

The first stage of public evaluation of Andrejsala and Eksportosta detail plan took a place from June 20 to July 18 in Riga. Inhabitants of the city were appealed to come up with their opinion and suggestions about the territory development proposal worked out by Grupa 93, Ltd. in cooperation with "Jaunrīgas attīstības uzņēmums" Ltd. The proposed territory development vision proposes to completely regenerate Andrejsala by integrating nowadays partly degraded and incompletely used territory in cities' space and transforming it into harmonic part of the centre. In the future there will be culture, social and business objects as well as will be developed residential function of the island. Especially significant for the city is the proposal to enable accessibility of the waterfront of Daugava by developing foot-passengers' promenade in the length of all Andrejsala. Important factor of Andrejsala development could be in Riga development plan project included Hanza crossing because its solution would foster comfortable access to Andrejsala, connection with Ķīpsala and other parts of the city.

Eksportsosta still will fulfil functions of port but their specifics will radically change – it is prescribed to change Eksportostu mainly in passenger port thereby expanding and diversifying its use, disposing in its direct neighbourhood business and service enterprises, among them hotels and entertainment objects. In the territory of Eksportosta is also located Northern crossing that is intended in Riga development plan.

During public discussion suggestions for territories development gave three private persons and five juridical entities. Most of the participants of public discussion supported developing of residential, business and culture centre. Planners are suggested to develop the biggest part of coverage as apartments. For hotels and entertainment places could leave about fifth, but for offices just 10% of all buildings. It is necessary to plan for kindergartens, playgrounds, and foot-passengers' promenade, bicycle road along the waterfront as well as places of social services. There has also been received a suggestion to build foot-passengers' bridge across Daugava to Ķīpsala that would attract tourists.

Critics of Andrejsala and Eksportosta development plan pointed out that it is intended to build sailboat port where are placed two several millions worth deepwater halts with necessary infrastructure for port. Carrying out development project can endanger port business and turn off stream of cargos to competitors of Riga port.

Grupa 93 Ltd., developers of detail plan, are not the only ones thinking about reorganisation of the island in a residential and business territory. "Jaunrīgas attīstības uzņēmums" Ltd. also has ordered preparation of expert evaluation to real estate consulting firm Colliers International. This firm works on its own vision how to gainfully develop the island from business point of view. Colliers International also consults reorganization of industrial territories elsewhere in the world.