

Introduction

Trenčín – City on the River is announced by the City of Trenčín as open anonymous international urban design ideas competition seeking the best comprehensive urbanistic proposals for connecting the city centre with both waterfronts of the River Váh. We expect bold and fresh proposals from teams composed of professionals from architecture, urban planning, landscape design and other related fields, which will form the basis for development of a new Central Zone Masterplan for the city.

The city of Trenčín (57,000 inhabitants) is a compact historic city on the River Váh, forming the administrative centre of Trenčín Region and a natural landmark within the wider area. Strategically, the city is located on the border with the Czech Republic, within an hours' drive from the capital city of Bratislava. Trenčín has a unique panorama formed by the castle fortress on top of a rock and the city has an interesting history and pleasant atmosphere. Currently, Trenčín is facing changes connected with the relocation of the railway track directly within the city centre as part of the modernisation of the European railway corridor, with planned completion in 2016. Through the competition, the City of Trenčín seeks fresh and innovative urbanistic solutions that will overcome transportation barriers and connect the historic city centre with the riverfront, enhancing the city's expression and thus encourage its growth. The winning proposals will form the base for a new Central City Zone Masterplan that the City intends to develop following the results of the competition.

Mission and purpose

The City of Trenčín seeks the best comprehensive urbanistic proposals for connecting the city centre with the river, making use of the space that is currently being transformed due to the modernisation and relocation of the railway track. The proposal should create a compact, animated city with a direct relationship to the river.

The competition Trenčín – City on the River pursues the following mission and purpose:

- To obtain innovative and inspiring proposals that will present a comprehensive solution for the Central City Zone, uncovering and maximising the hidden potentials of the historic centre, the river, riverfront and the wider context into which the site is embedded.
- To purchase the winning proposals and a licence for their use from the author/s, and based on the proposals develop a Central City Zone Masterplan with strong potential to encourage growth of the city as well as the region based on the results of the competition and inspire a new modern identity of Trenčín.

"Trenčín is You" - brief preparation

The competition brief is a culmination of the initiative "Trenčín is You" – a nearly three-year long participatory process involving experts and the general public. As part of this process, the city representatives have taken part in open discussions with experts, multidisciplinary workshops and consultations, as well as discussions with the general public and public opinion surveys.

The entire process of the “Trenčín is You” initiative was captured through meeting minutes, reports, photo documentation and video snapshots, all of which are available mostly in Slovak language on the website www.trencinsity.sk.

A summary of the outputs is presented in a booklet in both Slovak and also English - see section documentation, appendix (12) *“Trenčín is You – City Planning Inspired by Citizens”*. *The origins of the participatory process, results of surveys and expert discussions from 2012 and 2013.*

Architecture students from the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava have developed proposals for the theme Trenčín – City on the River as part of their studio projects during the participation process. Their proposals can be viewed in documentation section, appendix (14) *“Trenčín – City on the River” – catalogue of student proposals.pdf*