



sustainable & accessible urban landscapes

Quarterly
Newsletter 1
January 2004

Welcome to the SAUL Newsletter

The SAUL project started in April 2003 with detailed planning and development of the project. SAUL Partners have now begun to deliver their local 'Strategy', 'Action' and 'Investment' projects which will test the SAUL issues:

- **The vital role of socially inclusive spaces in the sustainable development of metropolitan regions**
- **Regional identity, following economic and social changes, and the importance of regional spatial planning**
- **Planning through partnerships, leading towards a new planning culture**
- **The transnational value of the 'learning region' approach, leading to stronger integration between regions**



The SAUL Partner Regions

SAUL is a transnational project, with projects being planned through Joint Planning Groups (see page 3) made up representatives from all SAUL Partner Regions. SAUL will draw together the results of the projects and produce Joint Good Practice Guidance on planning through transnational partnerships towards the end of the project.

The quarterly SAUL Newsletter, distributed in paper form to all interested parties and posted on the SAUL website, will focus on the progress of a varying selection of the SAUL regional projects. This first Newsletter provides a summary of the main activities which have taken place over the last six months or so. Project activity on the ground has been at the planning stage, however these projects are now getting underway and the next quarterly newsletter will cover the first stages of project delivery. The SAUL regional projects are:

London - London Parks & Green Spaces Forum; Leamouth and Bow Creek Community Access; Virtual Reality Landscape Design & Visioning, Heathrow; Burgess Park; Inner Thames Marshes; Wandle Valley New Country Park.

Frankfurt/Rhein-Main - Regional Park Rhein-Main; Route of Industrial Culture; Hohe Strasse Partnership project; Bringing Places Back into Public Realm.

Rhein-Ruhr - Nordrhein-Westfalen Planning System; Emscher Urban Landscape
Saarland - Regional Park Saar; Saarkohlenwald From Green Peripheries to New Urban Parks.

Luxembourg - South Luxembourg Regional Planning Strategy; South Luxembourg Partnership Building.

Amsterdam - Amsterdam Regional Planning Strategy; Central Park North; Amstel River Wedge.

Transnational project - Training, Employment, Maintenance and Sustainability (TEMS) - see page 3.

SAUL Timetable

Actions Completed

- April 2003—SAUL website launched—Joint Planning Group (JPG) Saarland
- May 2003—JPG Frankfurt Route of Industrial Culture—First Claim/Report to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)
- June 2003—JPG Amsterdam Central Park North—JPG Frankfurt Regional Park—JPG London South Central—JPG London Thames Gateway—JPG West London—JPG TEMS—SAUL Launch Conference—Second Claim/Report to JTS—SAUL Steering Group Meeting (in London)
- August 2003—JPG Amsterdam Amstel River Wedge
- September 2003—JPG Frankfurt Regional Park—SAUL Steering Group Meeting (in Dortmund)
- October 2003—Rhein-Ruhr Symposium—JPG Rhein-Ruhr—JPG Luxembourg
- November 2003—JPG Frankfurt Route of Industrial Culture
- December 2003—Third Claim/Report to JTS
- January 2004—JPG Amsterdam Central Park North—JPG Amsterdam Amstel River Wedge—SAUL Steering Group Meeting (in Amsterdam)

The SAUL website - www.saulproject.net

The SAUL website is now fully operational. The website is a key part of SAUL communications and learning and all those involved and interested in SAUL are invited to access the site. The website has 3 levels of access:

Level 1 is accessible to any interested parties and registration is not required:

- What is SAUL? - provides an overview of the SAUL project and regional projects.
- Links - gives links to interesting/useful websites.
- Press & Media- downloads available of media briefings and press releases.
- Contacts - full contact details of SAUL Partners.
- Feedback - allows feedback to be given on the SAUL project and the SAUL website.

Level 2 is accessible to any interested parties although on-

screen registration is required:

- Downloads - allows key documents, standard forms, conference speeches, etc to be downloaded.
- Discussion Forum - provides an interactive discussion forum for each JPG, intended to allow discussion on local project planning and delivery in between meetings. A 'General' Forum allows discussion on any issues not specific to a JPG.

Level 3 is accessible to Steering Group Members only:

- Partner Reporting - allows online completion of Activity Reports and Payment Claims.
- Partner Budgeting - gives up to date budget information for each Partner's budget.

Please make as much use of the website as possible as this will help to spread SAUL learning. The website is easy to use - please don't be afraid of using it!!!

The SAUL Launch Conference

Over 60 delegates attended the SAUL Launch Conference which took place on 23-24 June at the Barbican, London, with a reception at the Greater London Authority's City Hall and a visit to the London Eye.

The conference focused on the SAUL issue of 'Planning through Partnerships'. It also provided an introduction to the SAUL 'Action' and 'Investment' projects, and included workshops on engaging stakeholders and local people in spatial planning. Amongst the speakers were Professor Robin Thompson, special consultant to the Mayor on spatial planning and the London Plan; Ken Warpole, consultant and author; and Harry Knottley of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

All speeches and presentations from the conference are available on the 'Downloads' page of the SAUL website.



Launch Conference: Dinner on HQS Wellington

The Rhein-Ruhr Symposium—A Sense of Place?

The metropolitan City regions of North West Europe are facing major identity challenges as a result of the unprecedented speed of change in recent decades.

Over 50 delegates met at the SAUL project's first international Planning Symposium in Dortmund, Germany on 1 October to address these challenges and discuss how best to create a 'sense of place' in different regions.

Delegates, including strategic planners, policy-makers and professional landscape practitioners, agreed that the need to develop regional strategies was becoming increasingly

important as urban land-use and social patterns get more complex. It was widely acknowledged that regional parks and other green spaces will play a crucial role in both the creation of an identity and in helping to improve the quality of life in the area.

The SAUL Symposium was hosted by the two Rhein-Ruhr SAUL Partners: ILS-NRW, the State Research Institute for regional development, and Emschergenossenschaft, the organisation which is responsible for the ecological regeneration of the Emscher River and effluent system.

SAUL Joint Planning Groups

SAUL Partners have now formed eleven Joint Planning Groups (JPG's) in their regions. The JPG's are made up of local practitioners and project workers as well as experts from other SAUL Partner regions.

JPG's will help to plan, design and implement their local 'Action' and 'Investment' projects, and they also promote learning and transfer of knowledge and experience transnationally.

JPG's have three or four on site meetings during the course of the SAUL project and members communicate in between meetings via the 'Discussion Forum' on the SAUL website, which allows experience, information and learning to be shared. JPG members complete 'Learning Logs' after each meeting and post them on the Discussion Forum of the website. Any registered user can access the Discussion Forum to see the communication and learning taking place under each JPG.

Further information on Joint Planning Groups is contained in the 'JPG Toolkit' on the 'Download' page of the SAUL website.



Frankfurt Route of Industrial Culture Joint Planning Group Members

Evaluating SAUL's Influence

John Zetter, who is working on a freelance basis with the SAUL Lead Partner team in London, has begun work on the evaluation of the SAUL project.

Unlike many of the formal external evaluations of projects which you may have experienced in the past, this approach is designed to be an integral part of the project from this early stage, through to its conclusion in 2006. The results of the work will form part of a SAUL Toolkit and a SAUL Final Report.

The intention is to capture the learning that is taking place within SAUL, to help everyone involved think about what they are doing, and to ask if, and how, the work on regional and local projects and in the Joint Planning Groups, is having an influence on the Partner regions, and how it is contributing to the aims of SAUL. Above all, this transnational project will be contributing to the SAUL objective of the "learning region".

Steering Group members, JPG leaders, and some JPG members will be interviewed by John over the coming year. The thoughts of all JPG members will be captured through 'Learning Logs', completed after each JPG meeting.

John will also be attending some JPG meetings and Symposia, as well as Steering Group meetings. There will be a discussion on the progress of the evaluation at a Symposium later this year.

John Zetter was formerly a senior government official in the UK dealing with international work, particularly the European Spatial Development Perspective and the creation of the Interreg programme in Europe, so he brings highly relevant experience to our SAUL project.

A page for Evaluating SAUL's Influence will be appearing on the website shortly.

What is TEMS?

TEMS stands for Training, Employment, Maintenance and Sustainability. To address the problems of sustainability of new urban landscapes, TEMS will establish whether it is feasible to develop a programme for construction and long-term care and maintenance, by training and employing people suffering the consequences of long term unemployment, and economic and social exclusion, by using intermediate labour market, transitional employment or social enterprise models, to form new community-based maintenance teams.

TEMS is initially being developed in London by two Groundwork Trusts, Groundwork Camden and Islington (placing clients with employers for work experience) and Groundwork West London (using an Intermediate Labour Market model), with the Saarland SAUL Partner close behind.

Other SAUL Partners will be developing their own regional TEMS projects over the next few months.

SAUL Lead Partner:
Groundwork UK (Groundwork London)
1 Kennington Road
London SE1 7QP

Phone: +44 (0) 20 7922 1230
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7922 1219
Please direct any comments or queries on
this newsletter to Martin Jones
Email: martinR.jones@groundwork.org.uk

We're on the Web!
www.saulproject.net

Dates

3-4 March - JPG Rhein Ruhr

29-30 March - JPG Luxembourg

30-31 March - Luxembourg
Symposium

1 April - SAUL Steering Group
Meeting (in Luxembourg)

For further information please
contact:
helen.rawlins@groundwork.org.uk



The SAUL Project

Sustainable & Accessible Urban Landscapes (SAUL) is a transnational partnership project part-funded by the European Union's Interreg III B programme for North West Europe (NWE). Interreg encourages closer co-operation and integration through transnational spatial development initiatives, which promote sustainable development. Further information on the Interreg III B programme for NWE can be found on the website www.nweurope.org

Six Metropolitan regions of North West Europe are represented in the SAUL Partnership: London (with two partners); Saarland; Frankfurt/Rhein-Main; Nordrhein-Westfalen (the Rhein-Ruhr region, with two partners); the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; and the Municipality of Amsterdam. This partnership has evolved from an earlier project under Interreg IIc.

Sustainable & Accessible Urban Landscapes is the development phase of the successful Interreg IIC project, *New Urban Landscapes*. Based on that experience, SAUL tackles a key issue of transnational relevance:

The vital role of socially inclusive spaces in the sustainable development of metropolitan regions.

In the IIC project, we also identified three contributory issues common to metropolitan regions:

- Regional identity, following economic and social changes, and the importance of regional spatial planning**
- Planning through partnerships, leading towards a new planning culture**
- The transnational value of the 'learning region' approach, leading to stronger integration between regions.**

SAUL will seek practical solutions to these challenges through joint transnational projects, which apply the principles of co-operative spatial planning, by testing and demonstrating methods and processes for involving local people in the planning and realisation of actions for land use, to the lasting benefit of all the partner regions.

Joint Good Practice Guidance on planning through transnational partnerships for new urban landscapes will be published for wider dissemination throughout NWE and elsewhere in Europe.



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Intérieur

Planungsgruppe
agl

MAYOR OF LONDON

EMSCHER GENOSSENSCHAFT
LIPPE VERBAND



Planungsverband Ballungsraum
Frankfurt/Rhein-Main



staatsbosbeheer

