

SAUL Frankfurt/Rhein-Main Joint Planning Group The Landscape Gap



The Landscape Gap viewed from above

developed on the neighbouring site of the former fruit market. A 30 metre wide corridor is reserved for open green space in order to link the Landscape Gap. The challenge for the project and the JPG is to consider how to engage the business sector, and in particular those involved in the development of the Bank, in the completion of the Green Belt.

The JPG was introduced to the Landscape Gap through a presentation and walking tour of the area, culminating in a discussion of the project and its challenges. Discussion focussed on how to secure stakeholder support, in particular from private investors.

The full report of the JPG meeting is available on the Frankfurt Green Belt discussion forum (online at www.saulproject.net).

For further information on the Landscape Gap project or the Frankfurt JPG, please see the SAUL website, or contact:

rhiannon.lewis@groundwork.org.uk, or
beate.schwarz@planungsverband.de

The first Joint Planning Group (JPG) under the SAUL Extension (SAUL 2 EXT) was held in Frankfurt on 27-28 March. The focus of the project is the 'Landscape Gap' - the missing link in the Green Belt (GrünGürtel) that runs around Frankfurt.

The Landscape Gap runs for about 2km between the River Main and the attractive Ostpark. The area is currently run-down, although this will change dramatically in the coming years as the new headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) is being



Development site of the European Central Bank



JPG members discussing the Landscape Gap issues

SAUL Extension Joint Planning Groups - Objectives and Procedures

Joint Planning Groups - Headline Issues

Luxembourg

Demonstrating the importance of spatial qualities to improve the economic and social vitality of South Luxembourg by developing new instruments within formal planning.

Amsterdam

Demonstrating an approach to show how investment in public space can contribute both to the economic development of areas and to the social integration of neighbourhoods.

Saarland

Urban landscapes and their potential for renewable energy production.

Frankfurt

Demonstrating an approach to engaging the business sector in the development and completion of the Frankfurt Green Belt.

London

Demonstrating an approach to engaging the private sector and their employees, alongside other key stakeholders, in the development of the regional park.

Arnhem-Nijmegen

Extending SAUL lessons to the Lingezege Park, not only in terms of the park development, but also about engaging inhabitants and setting up a strategy to combine present and future economic developments within the park.

Transnational working is at the heart of the EU Interreg IIB Community Initiative, which provides funding for the SAUL project.

Transnational working allows countries to co-operate on mutually beneficial or shared projects and to tackle issues that go beyond national borders. It develops best practice case studies that are transferable across different countries, and speeds up the process of innovation through the sharing of expertise and development costs.



JPG discussions in action

Participating organisations benefit through accessing new skills and ways of working, and increasing their connections to European networks.

One of the key mechanisms for transnational working in SAUL is through Joint Planning Groups (JPGs). These bring together practitioners from all SAUL partner regions, to jointly contribute to the planning and implementation of the regional projects by focussing on a certain element of the project. The headline issues being explored by Joint Planning Groups in SAUL 2 EXT are outlined on the left. These headline issues are underpinned by specific objectives for the JPG to address, and all of these relate directly to the specific objectives of the SAUL Extension project.



Outputs of JPG meeting

The most important aspect of a JPG is that the transnational learning and exchange that occurs will enable group members to creatively modify the way they plan, design and implement urban landscape projects. This will in turn contribute to the shaping of New Urban Landscapes in European regions.

Each JPG consists of

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

approximately ten people and during the SAUL Extension project each JPG will meet twice between February and November 2007. Each meeting takes place over two days and consists of an introductory session for members to get to know one another, and familiarise themselves with the project, followed by a site visit and workshop.

After the meetings, participants complete a Learning Log to record what they have learnt and how they will apply this to their own work. The success of the first round of Joint Planning Groups was acknowledged through an evaluation by an external consultant during the closing phase of the original SAUL project.

The newly updated SAUL website (www.saulproject.net) also plays an integral role in the Joint Planning Groups as online discussion forums provide the main means of communication for JPG members in between meetings. This also allows the Lead Partner to monitor the transnational exchange and record the learning that takes place.

North West Europe Interreg IVB Launch Event

Hosted by the Joint Technical Secretariat, and attended by over 600 project partners, politicians and Interreg officials, the North West European Interreg IVB programme was officially launched in Lille on 5 - 6 March.

The event aimed to showcase the achievements of the Interreg IIIB project, as well as provide an early launch for the IVB programme.

Key note speakers included the president of EU Committee of the Regions, Michel Delebarre, and Jan Olbrycht, MEP and Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Regional Development committee.



SAUL stand at NWE launch event

The event was also an opportunity to view project ideas and meet with potential partners through informal networking sessions. Potential project proposals were also on display and many existing partnerships, including SAUL, exhibited information stands.



Networking at the NWE launch event

The size of the Interreg IVB programme has increased slightly, to around €355m ERDF. It is now expected that the first call will open for applications in the autumn of 2007, with a first deadline for submissions likely to be early 2008.

Project promoters are already beginning to post ideas online, which are available to view at www.nweurope.org. The SAUL Partnership will be developing their own project ideas in the coming months - further information will appear in future newsletters.

What is SAUL?

In 2003, partners from across North West Europe formed the Sustainable and Accessible Urban Landscapes (SAUL) Project to explore the role of socially inclusive spaces in the sustainable development of metropolitan regions. Led by Groundwork London, and with partners representing Amsterdam, Frankfurt/Rhein-Main, London, Luxembourg, Rhein-Ruhr, Saarland, and more recently Arnhem/Nijmegen, the project has evolved to incorporate work under the headings of SAUL, SAUL Plus and, currently, SAUL 2 EXT. The project is part-funded by the European Union's *Interreg IIIB Programme for North West Europe*. Interreg encourages closer European co-operation and integration through transnational spatial development initiatives which promote sustainable development.

Sustainable and Accessible Urban Landscapes

The SAUL project is the practical response to an earlier research project carried out by the same partnership, under the name of New Urban Landscapes. This concluded that spatial planning needs to respond to the changing patterns of land-use that are emerging across Europe as a result of economic restructuring and social change. The SAUL project was designed to test the assumptions identified during this work via a series of action and investment demonstration projects, involving all partners.

SAUL Plus

In 2005, the project was awarded further Interreg funding and was extended to form SAUL Plus. This allowed for a greater range of demonstration projects.

SAUL's five key messages

The achievements of SAUL and SAUL Plus were marked by a Final Conference in Amsterdam in June 2006, and the release of a Final Report containing the partnerships five key messages:

- In Europe's economic heartland, new urban landscapes are now a reality with a vital impact on people's quality of life in city regions. Their unique

challenges and opportunities need innovative approaches by drawing transnationally on examples of good practice.

- Sustainable regions are ones where people want to live, now and in the future. Regional spatial strategies, based on visions widely shared, give people a stronger sense of belonging, locally and regionally.
- The impacts of globalisation and social change mean that Europe's citizens increasingly demand to be in the driving seat of shaping their future environment. Partnerships with the people offer a new approach to planning and governance for Europe's urban landscapes.
- Transnational partnerships can unlock learning, transferable knowledge and greater understanding. A strong transnational partnership is greater than the sum of its parts and can deliver shared objectives in Europe.
- Competitive city regions are ones that can attract and retain viable businesses and their employees by offering a good quality of life. New urban landscapes are an essential element in building Europe's future economic structures and social well-being.

SAUL Extension (SAUL 2 EXT)

Since the Final Conference, the project has been successful in securing a further extension to the project, known as SAUL 2 EXT. This is an extension of the original work and brings the total project budget to €23.4M (€10.7M ERDF). SAUL 2 EXT will run until June 2008 and will build on the experience and findings of the SAUL and SAUL Plus issues through six practical projects, and associated strategic work. The main aims now are to:

- Demonstrate the significance of New Urban Landscapes to the economic vitality of city regions, and the importance of engaging businesses in partnerships with public authorities, employees and citizens to maximise the potential of any developments.
- Show that involving citizens of all age groups in developing New Urban Landscapes can empower them to take responsibility for their future environment and lead to greater social cohesion.



SAUL Lead Partner:
Groundwork UK (Groundwork London)
18-21 Morley Street
London SE1 7QZ
Phone: +44 (0) 20 7922 1230
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7922 1219
rhiannon.lewis@groundwork.org.uk
www.saulproject.net



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Intérieur
et de l'Aménagement du territoire



Gemeente Amsterdam
Dienst Ruimtelijke Ordening

planungsgruppe
agl

Planungsverband Ballungsraum
Frankfurt/Rhein-Main



MAYOR OF LONDON

IS
NRW

EMSCHER
GENOSSENSCHAFT



GROUNDWORK
CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

Saarland
Ministerium für Umwelt