

SAUL Timetable

Actions completed since Newsletter 9:

February 2005

- 22–24—*Budapest delegates visit London*

Forthcoming actions:

May 2006

- 30—*Deadline for audited Payment Claims to be received by Lead Partner*

June 2006

- 27–29—*Final conference, Amsterdam*
- 30—*Deadline for Lead Partner Payment Claim/ Report to Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)*

August 2006

- 30—*Deadline for audited Payment Claims to be received by Lead Partner*

September 2006

- 30—*Final Claim and Report to be submitted to JTS*

For further information on forthcoming events, please contact:

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Westergasfabriek City Park (Photo: M. Firet)

**SAUL Final Conference, Amsterdam
27—29 June 2006**

The SAUL Final Conference, 'Vital Urban Landscapes: Towards a new quality of life in city regions', will be held from Tuesday 27, to Thursday 29, June 2006, in various locations across Amsterdam.

Through a combination of site visits, presentations, and discussions, the conference will focus on SAUL's Messages for Europe, drawing on the lessons learned during the project. These are detailed in the SAUL Final Report, which will be released at the conference.

After an evening reception on the 27th, delegates will have a choice of site visits on the second day, which will include SAUL projects Noorderpark and the Amstel Wedge, and *new urban landscapes* in the Diemer Wedge and the northern bank of the IJ. More information about the Noorderpark and Amstel Wedge projects can be found on page three.

The final day of the Conference, addressed by the Mayor of Amsterdam, will be based in the *Culture Park Westergasfabriek*, located near the heart of Amsterdam. The *Westergasfabriek* itself provides a good example of a *new urban landscape*, a former gasworks being redeveloped into a range of multifunctional exhibition spaces, bars, restaurants, cinema, theatre, galleries, and a children's museum. The development includes a contemporary park designed by Gustafson Porter, alongside the existing Westerpark. Tours around the park will be arranged.

Approximately 180 delegates from a range of local, national, regional, and European institutions are expected to attend the conference. Although attendance is by invitation only, some places are still available. Please contact rhiannon.lewis@groundwork.org.uk if you are interested in attending.



Machine building at Westergasfabriek, the venue for the conference (Photo: S. Swart)



Westergasfabriek City Park (Photo: M. Firet)

SAUL Partnership Development: Budapest delegates visit London

One of the aims of the SAUL Partnership is to disseminate the project's experience of *new urban landscapes* to other metropolitan regions in Europe. There is also a specific wish to build links with new member states beyond the North West Europe zone, with the intention of expanding the partnership to include eastern European capital city-regions for the new Objective 3 (Cooperation strand) of EU funding programmes, from 2007-13.



Delegates visit the 'London Photomap' - an aerial view of Greater London at City Hall (photo: M. Marton)

In February, as a follow up to the visit of the SAUL Steering Group to Budapest in September 2005, Groundwork and the Greater London Authority (GLA) hosted a return visit of fifteen delegates from Budapest. As well as demonstrating the impact and findings of SAUL, the visit was used to give an insight into the challenges that face London and how these are being addressed. The first morning focussed on the regeneration of London's South Bank with a walking tour culminating at City Hall, where the GLA led discussions on the London Plan, London's Open Space Strategy, the Strategic Parks Project and the Mayor's 100 Public Spaces. The afternoon focussed on the impact of SAUL in Burgess Park, South London, and ended with a visit to London's regenerated docklands.



Presentation at Groundwork Southwark (photo: M. Marton)

Despite the weather (said by the BBC to be the winter's worst!), the varied programme contributed to an informative and enjoyable visit. The SAUL Partnership hopes to include Budapest in future programmes of work.

Further information about the visit can be found on the 'Downloads' page of the SAUL website, saulproject.net.

Evaluating SAUL's Influence

SAUL was designed from the start to be a learning project, with one of its four key aims to develop a transnational and regional process of learning, known in SAUL as the 'learning region'. This centred on 'learning logs', Joint Planning Group meetings, Steering Group meetings, SAUL website discussions, SAUL Symposia, and the Transnational Review Scheme (see Newsletter 9). John Zetter was commissioned at the start of the project to assess the influence of this learning, primarily through a series of interviews with leading participants in SAUL. John was formerly a senior government official in the UK dealing with international work, particularly the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) and the creation of the Interreg programme in Europe.

Initial findings from the study were assessed at the half-way point in SAUL's programme, and proved to be valuable in strengthening the learning process. At that point it was also decided to attempt to capture the institutional learning that was taking place, in addition to the learning of individuals.

The 'Evaluating SAULs Influence Final Report' was presented to the SAUL Steering Group in January 2006. The Report concluded that "there is no doubt that the transnational learning process continued and intensified as SAUL progressed". It also identified three phases in the learning process:

- Initially, a better understanding emerged of the reasons why policies and programmes in a region took the form they did,
- Next, moves were made to improve the operation of existing policies and programmes,
- Finally, innovative changes took place, introducing new policies and programmes.

The study was also useful in informing the findings of the SAUL Final Report, and will have a sustained influence in ensuring that future projects developed by the SAUL Partnership are better than they might otherwise have been.

Further information can be found on the 'Evaluating SAULs Influence' page of the SAUL website, www.saulproject.net.

* *Evaluating SAULs Influence Final Report* - Zetter, J. (2005)

SAUL in Amsterdam: Reaching Conclusions

Now that the current funding for SAUL is coming to an end, both Amsterdam projects, the *Noorderpark* and the *Future of Amstelland*, have had the opportunity to reflect upon, and celebrate, recent achievements.



Alderman De Wild Propitius presents the Noorderpark book to members of the feedback group (Photo: Emiel van Lint)

Noorderpark

Following SAUL-funded consultation and planning with local residents and young people, the council of the borough of Amsterdam-Noord has now approved the design of the new Noorderpark. By building bridges over the highway and the canal, the existing Florapark and Volewijkspark will be connected, thus creating the Noorderpark. This park will be the new heart of the borough, providing a meeting place for all residents and visitors, and a variety of attractions.

The passing of the design was celebrated at the end of February with a boat tour along the canal attended by the architect, the council, the community, and all those involved in creating the park. Alderman Chris de Wild Propitius presented the first copies of a beautifully designed Noorderpark book containing the story of the new park, to residents who had helped to develop ideas for the park's design. Landscape architect Adriaan Geuze from West 8, the company that won the competition for designing the new park, explained the design and fireworks completed the party.



Alderman Maij presents the project results of Future of Amstelland to Kees de Ruiter (Photo: Geert Timmermans)

As well as contributing to the consultation and planning process, SAUL funding has been used for enabling works ahead of the implementation of the designs.

Future of Amstelland

The Future of Amstelland project aimed to find new and sustainable ways to develop multiple uses for the area and to strengthen the bonds between city and countryside. A wide variety of stakeholders, including farmers, politicians, citizens, artists, historians, civil servants, and entrepreneurs discussed their ideas for a development strategy and potential projects. Seventeen projects were selected, and most have now been completed. These include a book to publicise Amstelland, a network of farms open to visitors, new

ferries, Global Positioning System-routes, and the Amstel fund, a partnership between farmers and local companies, to ensure long-term funding.

An exhibition of all of the projects followed the opening of the pedestrian ferry and bird watching cabin. Alderman Hester Maij and chair of the Future of Amstelland steering committee presented the project results to Kees de Ruiter, Director of Countryside from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. Alderman Maij emphasised that the area had now left behind the era where the city formed a threat to the countryside and that joining forces would lead to a prosperous future for both. Kees de Ruiter concluded that when agriculture no longer provides a basis for maintaining open space, there are opportunities to develop the countryside in ways that attract city dwellers.



Newly opened self-service ferry at the River Amstel (Photo: Geert Timmermans)

Amsterdam is now looking forward to hosting the SAUL conference in June 2006. Conference delegates will have the opportunity to view some of the SAUL Amsterdam projects, and to meet the people involved.

With thanks to Geert Timmermans, Project leader Future Amstelland, and Suus Boerma, Staatsbosbeheer, for compiling this information

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SAUL Notice-board

- For more information about any aspect of this newsletter, or if you have any comments or queries, please contact:
rhiannon.lewis@groundwork.org.uk
- Please remember to return completed registration forms for the SAUL Final Conference to:
rhiannon.lewis@groundwork.org.uk
as soon as possible!
- If you have any photographs of SAUL projects, meetings and seminars, please send these to:
steve.turner@groundwork.org.uk
so that they may be used in future publicity

The SAUL Project

Sustainable & Accessible Urban Landscapes (SAUL) is a transnational partnership project part-funded by the European Union's Interreg IIIB 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 IIIB 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.

