

What is SAUL?

Open space holds many vital functions for society, however traditional perceptions of open space no longer applies. Patterns of land-use are emerging, as the result of economic restructuring and changing social patterns, which no longer conform to the traditional concepts of either 'city parks' or 'countryside'. The Sustainable and Accessible Urban Landscapes (SAUL) project has been investigating the potentials and pitfalls of these New Urban Landscapes.

SAUL has found that:

- We need to respond to the rapidly changing geographies and economic and social patterns within our city regions
- If managed effectively, New Urban Landscapes can create significant economic and social advantages
- Planning in partnership with public authorities, employees and citizens is essential to creating sustainable spaces within city regions.

SAUL has been running since 2003 and has evolved through SAUL, SAUL Plus and, now, SAUL 2 EXT, which aims to add value to the original work through:

- Gathering evidence to support the claim that if managed effectively, New Urban Landscapes can create significant economic and social advantages
- Demonstrating, through trans-national pilot projects, appropriate and sustainable responses to New Urban Landscapes.

The total budget of the project is €23.4m, which is part funded by Interreg IIIB.

What is Interreg IIIB?

- Interreg III is an EC Community Initiative to promote co-operation between European regions. The aim is to foster economic and social cohesion and ensure that national borders do not act as a barrier to balanced development of the European territory
- Interreg III is funded through European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) and takes into account European priorities such as the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas, and the recommendations of the European Spatial Development Perspective.
- Interreg IIIB encourages innovative forms of transnational cooperation to achieve harmonious territorial integration across the European Community (as opposed to cross border or inter-regional cooperation, which are funded by Interreg IIIA and C respectively).