



Urban Links 2 Landscape

Workshop in Kristianstad 3. - 5.04.2019

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Summary

The theme for the second workshop in the Urban Links 2 Landscape project was planning – procedures and criteria. The host, Kristianstad municipality together with local stakeholders and the partners, showed how planning can help to develop green qualities in and around a city and how a city can interact with the surrounding landscape.

Kristianstad is a middle-sized city in the Swedish context with 85 000 inhabitants and situated in the middle of a biosphere reserve. The city is internationally famous for the nature conservation work and has high ambitions when it comes to green planning and interaction between urban areas and the surrounding landscape. Together with the stakeholder group the partner gave lectures and arranged two excursions to the city and to two of the stakeholder areas.

Thus, the workshop fully contributed to all major themes covered by UL2L. There have been innovative concepts for the improvement of green areas in housing areas, also combined to new transport and heating systems. Striking examples have shown the whole range of opportunities and challenges that water bring to a city, to the urban fringes and to landscapes: it can add substantially to the quality of living, boost biodiversity, support leisure and tourism, while at the same time being a major threat caused by heavy rainfalls and flooding in a city located close to the sea and located below sea level.

The potential of urban gardening for the inclusion of immigrants and for creating identification and interaction in a new urban quarter was discussed based on two site visits. While the overall evaluation by the participants was positive, it became obvious that (as at the visited sites) professional support and guidance is a key for success and that the appearance of the sites might profit from a design upgrade when it comes to the attractiveness for those who are not directly involved in the gardening process, but might want to use the sites for a rest or a stroll.

A visit of the city park in Kristianstad and the excursion to Alnarp have shown the unique resources of specially designed gardens for health care and therapeutic measures. Measures in Alnarp have also shown a renowned example for creating an inviting and varied landscape on former agricultural land that unites the qualities of a park and a forest by careful planting and combination of trees and shrubs with water, paths and small-scale infrastructures.

Presentations and discussions help to understand the objectives, strategies and tools used by planners to achieve the results at an individual site. The workshop also confirmed the benefits of an integrative overall planning approach with a long-term strategy for the entire green (and blue) grid of the urban green, urban fringes and the landscapes linked to a city. Green infrastructure as such is essential for a modern city and a prerequisite not only for environmentally sound conditions, but also for social balance and economic growth. As such, this workshop confirmed the planning strategies that the UL2L partner have explored during the first workshop in North Rhine-Westphalia, with the Emscher Landscape Park and the new landscapes to follow the open cast mining at Garzweiler.

Different scales and preconditions, but all of them forward-oriented, balancing and multi-faceted planning approaches that combine local and regional, urban, peri-urban and regional and include new use form for public green and good urban links to landscapes.

Presentation by stakeholders and partners, 3rd of April

The moderator Malin Wildt Persson started the workshop and presented the day and speakers.

The director at Kristianstad Municipality, Christel Jönsson, welcomed the guests to Kristianstad and informed them about some of the special features in the municipality.

Green infrastructure and nature based solutions – uptake and implementation across Europe

Erik Andersson, Stockholm Resilience Centre, had the first presentation and gave an overview on the work with green infrastructure and nature based solutions in Europe. Urban green infrastructure (UGI) is a promising concept when developing multifunctional green space systems to address major challenges of urbanization such as increasing social cohesion, promoting the transition to a green economy, adaptation to climate change and conservation of biodiversity. Erik gave different examples on how cities and organisations work with ecosystem services and what challenges they have in the work.

Green planning in Sweden – challenges, opportunities and practices

Ulrika Åkerlund, Landscape architect at the national board of housing, building and planning (Boverket), presented the work in Sweden with green planning and the national roll in this work. Sweden has a decentralised planning system where the 290 municipalities has monopoly of Town and Country planning. Every municipality should have an updated comprehensive plan for the entire area. To legislate the change in land use they do detailed development plans and each building need a building permit. Most municipalities in Sweden have a relevant document as green structure plan or water structure plan. Boverket has presented guidelines to integrate ecosystem services in planning, building and management.

Good examples from Stockholm, Quays to the green

Torbjörn Einarsson, from Arken Architects in Stockholm, presented a project in Järfälla municipality in Stockholm Quays to the green. Several specialists worked together in a Vinova financed project to show how the city and the nature could meet in a new way with high quality for both city structure and the nature. The result is presented in the book “Kajer mot det gröna” – Quays to the green. The project showed that it is possible to build a lot and still secure green qualities but we need to change the modernistic way of urban planning. To bounce the urban development inwards instead of squeezing outwards and to increase the quality of the green space.

The open space of Upper Silesia, on the edge of nature

Krzysztof Rostanski, Professor at Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, Faculty of architecture gave a presentation on the work done in Poland when it comes to green structure. Professor Krzysztof himself have been designing several new parks and restoration of green areas. One park is the cultural zone in Katowice with many innovative ways of creating parks in urban environment. Other examples where from Silesian park in Katowice, Chrobry park in Gliwice, Gloseera Jaworzno, Zabie Doly in Bytom and Bujoczka in Ruda Slaska. Many of those made at old industrial sites.

Environment management of land resources in urban areas

Anna Starzewska-Sikorska who are Ph.D. Chief Specialist at the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas in Katowice, gave a lecture about environment management of land resources in urban areas in Poland. The challenges are mainly excessive land consumption, urban sprawl, soil sealing, brownfields and increase of urbanized areas not proportionally to population growth. To cope with those challenges we need to work with circular land use management, Ecosystem services assessment, integrated site compensation and industrial symbiosis. Anna showed examples of good action in Poland, for example the Lumat project and the Trnava project in Slovakia.

The planning system in the UK

David Greenwood, who are Countryside Partnership and Fundraising Team Leader at Surrey County Council gave the presentation Sara Jane Chimbwandira had prepared but she unfortunately got sick and could not come. The title was Recovering Surrey's Nature in the context of the English Planning System. Several national and regional strategies have been put forward to implement the international convention on Biological Diversity and EU Biodiversity Strategy. One third of the species in Surrey are under threat and action is necessary. One action is to decide Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) as priority areas for targeting biodiversity net gain enhancements. Other examples are Net Gain initiatives and the work with Green Infrastructure (GI).

Trevi cultural landscape – Villa Fabri's garden and olive trees as globally important agricultural heritage system.

Bernardino Sperandio, Mayor of the City Trevi in Italy, presented the municipality and all the work being done to develop the qualities of the cities and the countryside. Among other things he presented the Villa Fabri's garden and the traditional olive-trees cultivation as an important agricultural heritage system. The municipality also has challenges in the planning process with new highways and railroads. The villa Fabri in Trevi became a regional observatory for biodiversity, rural landscape and sustainable design established by the Umbria Region in 2009.



Presentation by Kristianstad the 4th of April

The moderator Malin Wildt Persson started the workshop and presented the day and speakers.

Tommy Danielsson, the head of the environment and planning department at Kristianstad municipality, welcomed the participants to the workshop.

Planning for a sustainable urban development in Kristianstad

Roger Jönsson, the city architect in Kristianstad municipality, gave an overview on the planning situation in Kristianstad and ongoing projects to develop the green qualities. Kristianstad municipality has seen an increase in new buildings and was among the top five municipalities in the province with 729 built apartments in 2018. The city has a big challenge from flooding, situated in a wetland and partly built below sea level. To prevent the city, new walls are built and the city plan to develop on higher ground. At the same time many development projects are going on in the city centre to densify the city and use the city qualities.

Planning for a green and blue city

Per Blomberg, a city planner at Kristianstad municipality, presented the work in Kristianstad with the green plan and green strategy that was decided by the municipality late mars 2019. Per also told some about the work with the regional strategy for green structure he worked with in 2003 and 2011 for the Regional Authority (Region Skåne) together with the municipalities. Kristianstad has special opportunities with the wetlands and nature areas in the city. The Municipality also has good knowledge on the social and ecological values of the nature areas and many areas are protected by national or local legislation.



A city in a Biosphere reserve

Andreas Jezek, who is a limnologist at the municipality, presented the work done in the biosphere reserve. Half the Municipality area is a biosphere reserve and consists of the wetlands as a central part surrounded by sandy grasslands, deciduous forests, coastline and sea areas. The work with the Kristianstad water kingdom started in 1989 and in 2005 UNESCO decided the Biosphere reserve in a global network. This was the first modern biosphere reserve in Sweden and since then four other MAB areas have been designated. The office managing the work is a part of the municipality and work actively with landscape project, information, education, networking and managing the Man and Biosphere reserve.

Krinova Innovation Garden

Charlotte Lorentz Hjort, director at the Krinova incubator and Science park, presented the work at Krinova and the vision of Kristianstad innovation garden. Krinova is a meeting place for innovation and have three profile areas: Food, environment and health. Charlotte showed a film about the Kristianstad Innovation Garden giving a vision about the green city district around Krinova and the University in Kristianstad north west. She also talked about the work with test beds, food hack and other innovation arenas.

Excursion in and around Kristianstad

After lunch the excursion to see examples of urban links to landscape in Kristianstad started.



The health garden – Jenny Hallberg Puertas

The first stop was at the health garden in the city park where the gardener Jenny Hallberg Puertas explained the work in the garden. Every day several groups with different needs work in the garden

to find a healthy lifestyle. The garden also has a friends group supporting the work and helping out on weekends and evenings.

The visitor centre – Sussie Söderlund

We then walked over the bridge to the “naturum” visitor centre where the nature guide Sussie Söderlund talked about the work in the biosphere reserve and visitor centre. The visitor centre was a huge investment from the city which has been paid back by the increase in tourism. In the nice sun the group could sit out in the amphitheatre and watch the cormorants fishing in the pond.



After a coffee break at the entrance to the visitor centre the group took the bus to the north west of the city and Per Blomberg talked about the work to create a new nature and recreation area on the old waste dump close by the visitor centre.

The Gamlegården allotment plots

The bus stopped at the Gamlegården allotment plots where the chairperson of the gardeners organisation had promised to say some words but it turned out he was not so eager to speak. The gardens were in their worst conditions this early in the spring but we got the impression of the important integration work this gardens had helping to do for immigrants living in the Gamlegården housing area. We also could see the old military practising ground Näsby fält where the municipality has the vision to build new houses and create an attractive quay to the green.

The Prästaskogen

The bus passed by a waste green area in the east of the city which is situated almost 2 meter under the sea level and walled to the lake Hammarsjön. Here the city got governmental support to develop a new nature and recreation area for the eastern part of the city.

The Hammarslundsvallen and Pynten pumpstation

Finally, the tour stopped at the wall protecting the city from the flooding in the Helge river and from Lake Hammarsjön. The group had a discussion about how the walls could be developed and how the iron rich water could be cleaned before pumped out in the lake.

Excursions to stakeholder projects in south west Scania, 5th of April

The bus leaved Kristianstad early in the morning to drive one hour south west to Lund.

Brunnshög new city district – Eva Dahlman

The first stop was at the north east of the city Lund, where the new city district Brunnshög is developed. Here Lund University together with several other universities and countries are building two internationally important research facilities for particle science, Max lab IV and Europe Spallation Source (ESS). The city is planning and building a city district for 40,000 persons living and working here. The project manager Eva Dahlman presented the work done by the municipality and how the green areas are integrated in the city district.

The group then walked to the urban farming area but had great problems finding the way because the construction of a new tram line in the area.

Brunnshög urban farming – Janine Österman

During the walk to the urban farming area the gardener Janine Österman explained the work at the gardens. This is not a traditional allotment plot but a community garden where the participants decide where and how they should cultivate. They also have a lot of common activities and share preparation of vegetables, berries and fruits.

Alnarp therapy garden – Sara Kyro Wissler

After a short coffee break the bus leaved Lund for the Agricultural University in Alnarp. Here we stopped at the Therapy garden where Sara Kyro Wissler explained the garden and the work to give patients sick by stress a recovering environment.

Alnarp landscape laboratory – Björn Wiström

The excursion continued to the Landscape laboratory at Alnarp where Björn Wiström, researcher at The Swedish University of Agricultural Science guided us and explained the laboratory. Here they have created over 100 different examples on how forest and meadow habitats can be developed on former cultivated land. The main reason is to show how the recreational values can be created at the urban fringe.



Hyllie new city district – Lotta Hansson

The last stop in the excursion was at the new city district Hyllie in the south of Malmö where Lotta Hansson from the planning and building department at Malmö municipality guided the group and talked about houses, parks and other public spaces. One of these unusual public spaces was the landscape created on the roof of a huge shopping mall by different methods of greening such open space resources.



Working Group



During the UL2L workshop at Schloss Dyck in October 2018 the World Café discussion found three topics covering the subject of Urban Links 2 Landscape:

1. Communication and cooperation in the planning process
2. Good practice collection
3. Tools and vehicles to publish our result

It was also decided that the project's Working Group should discuss these three sets of questions during the Kristianstad workshop and then further address these topics one by one in one of the three following workshops.

The agenda for the meeting on the 3rd April 2019 (9:00-12:00) included:

09:00-09:10 Introduction and presentation of the goal of the working group and the topics in the application. (Christian Gruessen)

09:10-09:20 Short inspirational talk about **communication and cooperation in the planning process** (David Greenwood)

09:20-10:00 Group discussions about the topic

10:20-10:30 Short inspirational talk about **good practice in planning** (Christian Gruessen)

10:30-11:00 Group discussion about the topic

11:00-11:20 Short inspirational talks about **tools and vehicles to publish result** (Per Blomberg, Martin Wolthaus)

11:20-11:50 Group discussion about the topic

11:50-12:00 Conclusions and next steps

David's presentation showed that the planning procedures in the UK are characterized by an almost "nonexistence of formal plans" - compared to Germany for instance – and on a much stronger use of interaction and debate with the public, the owners and stakeholders during workshops etc. The skills of the "planners" to prepare such meeting, to mediate workshops and to draft plans that can be agreed by a wide majority are most important. In the UK a plan is a text rather than a map (as in Germany or Sweden).

The discussion confirmed the variations in planning across all partner regions. In some countries for instance the public sector (including non-profit organisations etc.) is much more active in providing affordable housing than in other countries and can have a stronger influence on the providing and designing related open green areas. The advantage of having clear, stable and legally binding regulations concerning the limitations and options for the future use of land became obvious during the short discussion too. Speculations by landowners concerning a possible increase of land values a most profitable future uses are narrowed down, and land is easier to be acquired for green infrastructures.

As one of the results, the partners agreed that the UL2L Action Plans to be agreed in each region are important tools in the way forward to achieve the objectives and improvements defined by UL2L.

Introducing into the second topic, Christian showed some first examples from the ongoing work on the case study for UL2L focussing on good practice examples in Europe. First results show that:

- There are a number of innovative uses for public green spaces at the transitional zones between urban settlements and open landscapes.
- For UL2L and its consideration of the entire urban green grid, there are also good examples within the core areas of the cities that might also work well at the urban fringes and contribute to attractive new option for uses.
- Based on the above, you many say that it can be the location that creates a link between urban and landscape, but there are also (more mental) relationships, based on the characteristic/appearance of a site. Designs can bring landscape elements into an urban area. That might be new for many people, but all of us are used to find infrastructures and other elements in the landscape that are urban or serving the needs of urban areas.
- In addition to the dominant understanding that it is the city that defines the development of the fringes with the landscape and possible links, first examples have been found where such development strategies have been started based on the needs and capacities of the landscapes (close to a city or between cities).

The presentations by Martin and Per covered the requirements to communicate UL2L and its activities and outputs on the project's website provided by Interreg Europe as well as on social media. Martin as the project's communication manager, summarized what has already been

achieved, but – more important- named some opportunities and examples for improvements. It was confirmed that the project's communication relies on and can profit most from local/regional activities. Each partner is obliged to use these events for local/regional/national communication activities and to contribute to the project's overall presentation and communication.

Additionally, it was discussed how, more traditional, printed material will help to spread the news about the project and the outcomes that are relevant to a wider group of practitioners, stakeholders and owners within and outside the partner regions. The group came up with the idea to produce a kind of a toolkit helping both the partner region and other regions to evaluate their territory on how to implement action identified by UL2L as innovative, promising or as good practice.

Some publications from Sweden (one published by Kristianstad) were shown that follow a good approach and attractive and practicable design. In this context the decision by the JS not to support the publication of a final report or such a guidebook was criticized.

Next steps:

It was agreed that the next meeting of the working group should focus on exchange of experiences, on opportunities to enhance the learning process and on communication, but with a strong focus on the action plans as one result of internal communication and the best tool to ensure sustainable outcomes and results of the project's first phase.