

UrbanLinks2 Landscape

Workshop in Silesia 30.09-2.10.2019

- Activities
- Proposal for activities of the Working Group



Workshop 4: „Action Plan Development”

Sunday, September 29th, 2019

Partners arrive in Katowice

20.00 – Dinner (optional) – Suggested restaurant: „Amfora” 1a Francuska street, Katowice

Monday, September 30th, 2019

Location: Cinema RIALTO Ikinoteatr Rialto, 24 Świętego Jana street, Katowice
Participants: UL2L Partners, Stakeholders, Speakers, Invited Guests

09.00 – Welcome coffee
09.10 – Starting of the meeting of UL2L International Steering Group (members only)
11.30 – Workshop opening – Introduction - moderator
11.45 – Welcome speech – Mr. Jakub Chelstowski – Marshall of Silesia Voivodeship
11.50 – Welcome speech – Mr. Tomasz Papał – Silesia Park President of the Management Board
11.55 – Mrs. Roswitha Arnold and Mr. Christian Guessen - Introduction – Action Plan Development
12.10 – Silesia Park – Action Plan Development – presentation
12.25 – „Urban greenery integration for a coherent system within the cities of the Silesia Voivodeship”
– Mrs. Katarzyna Labarzewska - Bureau for Land Planning Marshall Office of Silesia Voivodeship
13.00 – Lunch
14.10 – Surrey – Action Plan Development
14.30 – Kuldiga – Action Plan Development
14.50 – North Rhine-Westphalia – Action Plan Development
15.20 – Transfer (direct public tram service) to Silesia Park
16.00 – guided tour (walk) across Silesia Park to Elka cable car station (round tour)
17.00 – Coffe Break at Silesia Park – „Introduction of the Park and Jessica revitalization project” – presentation Mr. Tomasz Papał
17.40 – transfer to hotels/ Katowice city center (public transport)
18.00 – free time
20.00 – DINNER

Tuesday, October 1st, 2019

Location: Silesia Museum (Muzeum Śląskie) Hall “H”, 1 T. Dobrowolskiego street, Katowice
Participants: UL2L Partners, Stakeholders, Speakers, Invited Guests

08.30 – Welcome coffee
08.45 – Umbria – Action Plan Development
09.05 – Kristianstad – Action Plan Development
09.25 – „Action Plan – creation, development, implementation / good practice”
Mrs. Anna Starzewska - Sikorska Ph.D. Chief Specialist, Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas in Katowice
09.45 – Coffee break
10.05 – Katowice Culture Zone guided walking tour – Silesia Museum, NOSPR Concert Hall, International Congress Center
10.50 – transfer to Jaworzno (Gródek Lake)
11.40 – Gródek Lake and surrounding landscape study tour
13.15 – transfer to Mikołów Silesia Botanical Garden
14.15 – LUNCH
15.15 – Silesia Botanical Garden – „Planning/land arrangement/eco-services/good practices” –
dr Paweł Kojs – Silesia Botanical Garden CEO
16.15 – transfer to Ruda Śląska
17.00 – study tour, Lumat (Interreg) project presentation + newest land revitalization developments
– Mr. Michał Adamczyk – City Hall of Ruda Śląska
18.30 – transfer to Katowice Nikiszowiec – historic district of Katowice
19.30 – DINNER

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019

Location: Teatr Śląski, Sala klubowa, 20 Rynek street, Katowice

08.00 – UL2L working group meeting – conclusion + summarizing of WS4 (members only)
09.00 – transfer to Zabrze
09.45 – Queen Luiza historic coal mine underground boat tour – good practice / industrial heritage preservation
12.10 – LUNCH (optional) + airport transfers

International Workshop No. 4 - Silesia - Poland

The Interreg WS4 - Urban Links 2 Landscape Workshop took place between 30 September and 2 October 2019 in the Silesian Agglomeration

The subject of the fourth workshop in the Urban Links 2 Landscape project was the "Action Plan Development" - (AP for short). The workshop consisted of two parts: presentation of international partners' work progress on individual action plans, and review of local good practices and solutions related to spatial development of the Silesian agglomeration. This took place during study visits as well as presentations of transformed places and facilities.

Rialto Theater - Katowice

The workshop began with a closed meeting of the UL2L (International Steering Group) steering committee at the Rialto Theater in Katowice. Current activities and future requirements regarding project financing and possibilities of introducing changes were discussed. The partners' activities to date (regarding regional activities) and planned activities were discussed.

The official part of the workshop at the Rialto Theater began by welcoming participants by Izabela Domogała - a member of the Silesian Province Board and dr Tomasz Papaj - the president of the Silesian Park in Chorzów.



Then, Roswitha Arnold - project manager and Christian Gruessen - project coordinator briefly presented the subject of the workshop - the context and definitions of the AP (action plan). It should cover all items indicated in the Interreg program document template, and clearly link to activities resulting from international experience. The nature of each activity must be clearly defined and should

contribute to the improvement of development programs for green areas. The approved program should focus on implementing specific actions. Such recommendations were included in this speech.

Wojciech Zamorski, from the Silesian Park, presented a multimedia presentation and familiarized the participants with the workshop location, the context of the industrial environment and the origins of the development of the Silesian Park in the centre of an industrialized area. He summarized the current state of works on the Action Plan, discussed activities in cooperation with regional participants aimed at developing major directions for AP, as well as introduced regional partners - cities and institutions from the Silesian Agglomeration. He familiarized the participants with the history of the Silesian Park and discussed the most important functions implemented in its area, such as: Ethnographic Museum, Planetarium, Legendia - Silesian Amusement Park, Zoo and Silesian Stadium.

During his presentation, Mr. Bogusław Hajda from the Spatial Planning Office of the Marshal's Office of the Silesian Province, pointed out that the legal possibilities of the local government authorities' interference (thus, his Office) in spatial development are limited. He presented the current system of documents that allow for the development of the region, including those related to the development strategy and directions of spatial development. He also outlined the origin of the development of such a large cluster of cities related to coal mining and industrialization. He explained that the economic development of this area, which was supported by social changes, as well as legal and organizational changes, took place in an uncontrolled manner without comprehensive planning in terms of creating friendly living conditions. The industrialized area was covered by comprehensive spatial development plans only after World War II. At that time, forest protection zone, recreational areas and other elements aimed at renewing and shaping the natural environment were sectioned. The process of industrial transformation of Silesia is still ongoing. The conclusion from this speech is that there is a need to create plans for integrated relations that allow creating and maintaining green areas that are used by residents.

Mike Waite introduced the Surrey Wildlife Trust as a specialized organization that deals with nature protection, with years of experience and working in close cooperation with local governments. Whereas Sarah Thiele outlined a number of actions taken during previous workshops in Surrey to develop AP. Analysing challenges and opportunities, the Surrey partners focused on key functions of the villages around the cities. The speakers pointed out the importance of taking into account the multifunctional nature of greenery around urban areas. This is especially important for small towns and rural areas located in the outskirts of urban agglomerations. Green areas should be treated as a bridge that connects cities and rural areas.

A representative of the Grupa93 Anita Beikule Consulting Agency from Kuldiga - a city of the candidate for the UNESCO list of monuments, presented problems that together with the city are a challenge in the work on its spatial development. They mainly concern the role of the Venta River flowing through the city. The AP prepared with partners will concern projects related to the development of the river and its banks in urban areas along with balancing aspects of biodiversity, recreation and water management. The key is the fact that the AP is prepared based on good international and local practices. In the case of this partner, it is also important that the AP is developed by a specialized spatial planning office cooperating with local partners.

Roswitha Arnold, UL2L lead partner presented AP plans for North Westphalia. It is to deal with activities related to transition areas between densely populated (main) cities and rural areas. It will focus on

connecting functional areas with green space and its development in a way that stimulates the development of the community living there. Green areas should undergo functional transformation and focus residents' attention (through urban agriculture and gardening, recreation and biodiversity). An important conclusion from this presentation, and at the same time, a recommendation for the Silesian Park and regional stakeholders, is that large urban units within agglomerations need green rings that separate them from each other and at the same time connect them with green arteries.

Silesia Park in Chorzów

Korzystając z komunikacji miejskiej uczestnicy przejechali pod stację kolejki linowej, ulokowanej na terenie Parku Śląskiego. Jadąc w wagoniku kolejki linowej pokonali przestrzeń ponad infrastrukturą parku, jej poszczególnymi obiektami znajdującymi się na tym terenie, w tym nad parkiem rozrywki, zoo, ogrodami kwiatowymi i kompleksem sportowym ze Stadionem Śląskim.



Using public transport, the participants drove to the cable car station located in the Silesian Park. In the cable car, they covered the space above the park infrastructure, its individual facilities located in this area, including the amusement park, zoo, flower gardens and sports complex with the Silesian Stadium. At the headquarters of the Silesian Park, participants met again with its host, Dr. Tomasz Papaj. He discussed in detail the organizational principles of this one of the largest city parks in Europe, with an area of over 600 ha. He presented projects aimed at restoring the park's functions to provide residents with quality leisure, culture, education, sport and recreation. He emphasized that the sustainable development of the entire Park is aimed at guaranteeing the implementation of a number of revitalization projects and the assignment of new functions to previously peripheral areas.

He indicated that the Park's aesthetics will be improved and its potential enhanced. This will happen through the implementation of over 20 related tasks co-financed from various programs and external resources. President Papaj noted that the facility is a cultural centre of the Upper Silesian conurbation and contributes to the increase in the quality of life in the entire region. The presentation met with great interest of participants who emphasized the scope and comprehensiveness of projects, as well as were interested in the conditions related to the management of such a complex. They were interested in the impact of the Silesian Park on transferring good practices to regional stakeholders of the UI2L project.



Silesian Museum in Katowice

The next day began with a meeting in the complex of the Silesian Museum in the centre of Katowice. It is a regional museum, a cultural institution co-run by the Marshal's Office of the Silesian Province and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. It is located in the former mining areas. Presentations of partners and invited guests were held in the educational room located in the facility's underground.



The meeting began with a presentation of the experience and state of work of a partner from the Umbria region. The speakers presented a list and involvement of regional participants of consultations in Umbria - local governments, representatives of the scientific community, including the University of Perugia and a group of students. The problems that arose in the discussions concerned both technical measures related to the planned activities and bureaucratic difficulties in preparing the AP. It was emphasized that the selection of a group of external experts who would support the institutions and stakeholders involved in developing the AP had just began. The partners hope to develop guidelines for the effective planning of suburban areas as well as related new uses and functions of open spaces (especially in landscapes near city centres), diversification of rural areas, biodiversity and social inclusion in the urban renewal process.

This partner's experience shows that it is important to involve the scientific community in this type of projects, whose representatives monitor the substantive and methodical correctness of the AP development process. It was similar in the case of the LUMAT project, in which dr. Starzewska-Sikorska and prof. Rostański were engaged. The inspiration for the Silesian Park and regional stakeholders may be the approach to therapeutic gardens and hortitherapy developed with the scientific community. In this context, the role of the Silesian Park as a coordinator of this type of projects in the region may be important. They can contribute to the process of revitalizing facilities, as well as strengthening its role in the region.

Representatives of the city of Kristianstad, a Swedish partner, have reported that up to now their stakeholder groups have met three times to discuss the project, its development and create action plans. Participants of these meetings were local self-governments, organizations and institutions interested in sustainable urban development and the Krinova science park entrusted with work on the AP. The document that is being prepared will contain the experience gained during the first four

workshops. The comprehensive planning program at Kristianstad will consist of fifteen strategies, four of which are directly related to UL2L - i.e. recreation and health, climate impact and adaptation, ecosystem services, and city and landscape. A report on ecological planning in Sweden will be prepared in cooperation with external experts.

The Swedish partner operates in different legal and organizational conditions, which he emphasized during the presentation. The regional development management system is also different, as are the planning documents. For regional partners and recommendations in the scope of the Regional Operational Program of the Silesian Province for 2021-2027, it may be important to approach the arrangements with investors for the percentage share of greenery in the total area. The inclusion of relevant provisions in the ROP SP would require investors to increase the area of these territories in planned investments.

Dr Anna Starzewska-Sikorska from the Institute of Ecology of Industrial Areas in Katowice briefly presented the LUMAT project related to activities that strengthen the integrated environmental management in functional urban areas (FUA) through sustainable land use and the development of ecosystem services. This project was implemented as part of the Interreg Central Europe program. The expert discussed the methodological, substantive and organizational approach to creating the AP for which she was responsible. The Plan included 25 places selected in Chorzów, Ruda Śląska and Świętochłowice, where pilot projects were implemented that were part of a comprehensive revitalization. The LUMAT project aimed to strengthen and expand green infrastructure, which was associated with the integrated regeneration program of the functional area of these cities by 2030. The speaker emphasized that the original concept of the AP required extending the said revitalization program to better meet the needs of residents related to green infrastructure. She noticed that thanks to this, the AP implementation increased the project's resistance to climate change.

The implementation of the project can lead to conclusions concerning the inclusion of projects related to green infrastructure in the regional development planning, as well as linking these projects with plans for comprehensive revitalization of degraded urban spaces. The development of linear and network connections, as well as partnership cooperation of local governments, allow for a more effective use of financial resources.



After the presentations, the participants learned more about the place of the workshop, its history, functioning as a cultural centre and activities that led to the transformation into a museum while preserving old industrial architecture. While walking around the museum, the participants learned about the specificity of mining in Silesia and the Culture Zone located in the very centre of the city, next to the "Spodek" Sports and Entertainment Hall. It consists of a complex of facilities performing various cultural, recreational, educational and social functions. The guests had the opportunity to see the building of the new philharmonic, learn its history and architecture, as well as be inspired by the possibilities associated with the approach to the revitalization of former post-industrial facilities. Representatives of North Rhine-Westphalia noticed a similarity to projects that are implemented in the Ruhr Region, which has a similar history and problems with the development of degraded post-industrial areas.

Gródek Park in Jaworzno

The next destination on the program was a bus ride to Jaworzno, to Gródek Park. The walk to the water reservoirs created at the excavation site of the former cement plant was interesting due to breaks during which regional partners from Jaworzno communicated information about its creation and answered questions. They familiarized the participants with the industrial nature of the area and plans related to the revitalization of various types of post-industrial areas for places of rest, but also geological education and relaxation.



The Gródek Park is formed by the remains of former excavations of cement plants and dolomite plants. The former quarry was flooded with water and backwaters surrounded by rocks were created here. Nearby, paths, footbridges and arbours were created, and plants fill the former degraded space. Water reservoirs are an example of the creation of green enclaves, a place of rest and recreation (including a private diving school). Similar projects are being developed at excavation sites in Germany (e.g. around Leipzig), as pointed out by German partners.

Geopark Jaworzno

The Geopark in Jaworzno was the next goal of the study visit and a presentation of undertakings of regional stakeholders of the UL2L project. It is also an example of the implementation of projects aimed at restoring degraded areas. The GEOsfera Ecological and Geological Education Centre in Jaworzno is located on 8 hectares of a former limestone quarry. Walking routes, viewpoints and themed playgrounds are places to learn about history and geology. The theme park is a place of rest, entertainment, education and recreation. The Geosfera Park has a sensory garden with aromatic and touch-sensitive plants. What is more, paths with educational boards, a teaching and exhibition room, a pond, a clock of the seasons, and a meteorological station were built here. Another attraction is the reconstruction of land animals, including the Notosaurus, whose remains were discovered a few years ago, and thanks to the models, visitors can see how the former quarry looked millions of years ago, when it was the bottom of the tropical sea¹.

¹ jaworzno.pl/pl/natura/geosfera (dostęp: 21.10.2019).



Silesian Botanical Garden in Mikołów

The next stop on the program was a trip to Mikołów, where in the area of Sośnia Góra (329 m above sea level), the Center for Nature and Ecological Education (CEPiE) of the Silesian Botanical Garden was created. In the past, it was an area of strategic importance with a rocket unit. Thanks to the commitment of naturalists, it was transformed into a botanical garden. The remaining infrastructure was adapted for new purposes and from the tower above the main building of the garden, participants could see almost the entire area of the Silesian Agglomeration, including the southern Beskids. Large industrial plants stand out in the surrounding landscape - mine shafts and power plant chimneys. The Silesian Botanical Garden, which was presented by director Paweł Kojs, aims to protect biodiversity and preserve the natural heritage of Silesia, raise ecological awareness and strengthen pro-ecological attitudes among the inhabitants of this region. The project covered an area of approximately 21 ha. The main compositional assumption of land use is botanical collections and educational paths. Vegetation collections were connected by paths with a total length of over 2.5 km. The shape of the paths reflects the local landscape. The garden has a large playground and service and catering facilities².

The former garages include, among others, lecture rooms where participants learned more about the history of the garden and its planned activities (e.g. a golf course). The walk around the garden described the role of the garden in the education of children and youth and a place of rest for the

² obmikolow.robia.pl (dostęp: 21.10.2019).

inhabitants of Silesia. The park is being expanded with more areas. The scientific staff cooperates with local government units to adapt flora to revitalized areas, such as lakes in Jaworzno, in a cheaper, better and more efficient way.



The former Orzegów coking plant in Ruda Śląska

The next place that the participants visited was the mining residential part of Ruda Śląska, where the history of changes in this area, processes and problems related to areas degraded by industry were presented, and in this case, it was a coking plant operating for over 70 years. The coking plant area is degraded and contains poisonous substances. The participants got acquainted with the project being implemented to restore this area to use. Representatives of the City Hall in Ruda Śląska presented projects aimed at revitalizing the said areas, including participation in the LUMAT project. Ruda Śląska received EU funds for land reclamation after the former Orzegów coking plant, founded in 1900 and closed in 1976. Almost 5 ha of degraded area will be cleansed thanks to these activities. In the future, green areas with alleys, benches and an educational trail will be formed here. The coal tower building and the first coke battery line will be restored. Regional partners of the UL2L project showed guests a presentation containing visualizations of the target state.



Zinc dump in Ruda Śląska

The next point was the revitalized area of the zinc dump in Ruda Śląska. The activities that are carried out there are partly related to the LUMAT project, which was discussed by Dr Anna Starzewska-Sikorska. When revitalizing the dump for the first time on such a scale, phytostabilization was used, i.e. planting of plants whose task is to protect against escaping heavy metals and stabilize the slopes of the dump. The dump in Ruda Śląska is also the largest object of this type so far, which from a degraded condition has been transformed into a safe green public space. After the stabilization of the dump surface and the earthworks that formed it, a network of walking paths with modern LED lighting, resting places - traditional benches and hammocks - as well as special cubic cubes with mounted seats were created. Playgrounds, a climbing wall and an illuminated toboggan hill and a bicycle track have been prepared³.

Mining estate in Nikiszowiec - Katowice

The last point of the visit that day was the workers' mining settlement in Nikiszowiec (established in 1911-1919, and in 2011 recognized as a historical monument). It was designed for employees of a nearby mine and is a compact and legible urban composition. Changes in the state system and mixing of the local population with the influx of people after World War II, along with the weakening of support by the surrounding plants in which its inhabitants worked, gave birth to many social problems, which the local self-government is trying to solve successively⁴.

³ rudaslaska.pl/ruda-slaska/aktualnosci/2019/04/16/modelowa-rewitalizacja/ (dostęp: 21.10.2019).

⁴ katowice.eu/miasto/o-mie%C5%9Bcie/informacje-o-mie%C5%9Bcie/historia-miasta/historia-nikiszowca (dostęp: 21.10.2019).

Meeting of the Working Group - Silesian Theater in Katowice

On Wednesday, 2 October, a meeting of the UL2L Working Group was held in Katowice (Work Group Meeting). The participants of the meeting summed up the workshop, thanking the hosts for an interesting and intensive visit program. It was decided that there was a need to organize an additional working group meeting to intensify the coordination work on the Action Plan. It was agreed that the meeting would take place in Cologne on 9-10.01.2020. The organization of subsequent international workshops in Latvia was also discussed. Partners from Kuldiga confirmed the date of the workshop on 13-15.04.2020. Partners from Surrey provided information that the planned study visit under the project would probably take place on 18-20.05.2020. At the end of the meeting, the principles of cooperation in the field of communication and project promotion were discussed.

The Adit of Queen Luiza in Zabrze

At the end of the workshop, international partners went to Zabrze to visit the Adit of Queen Luiza, which is part of the Coal Mining Museum in Zabrze. The former infrastructure of the mine was adapted to new tourist needs and to an underground tourist route, which was enriched with underground rafting by boats.