



The Action Plan North Rhine-Westfalia


UrbanLinks 2 Landscape (UL2L)

Unlocking the resources and adaptive capacities of urban landscapes for sustainable growth by inserting new forms of active land use and ecosystem services



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Preamble

The Action Plan of the LVR project „UrbanLinks 2 Landscape“ – UL2L presented here was accompanied and elaborated by the stakeholders of the LVR in several meetings between October 2019 and April 2020.

In the meeting on 13.05.2020, the stakeholders unanimously approved the now presented version of the Action Plan with the selected measures for project phase 2.

The Action Plan was also submitted to the members of the „Europe Commission“ for the purposes of consultation at their meeting on 20.05.2020. The political representation fully supports the projects of the Action Plan and has unanimously approved the submission.



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1. Short overview UL2L

The pressure of use on vacant and brown-field land is a factor that contributes due to an ever increasing demand for space, especially in cities and areas close to cities, towards the competition between different ways of using space.

For example, claims from the areas of housing and infrastructure, agriculture and energy or nature conservation and environmental protection compete for these areas. At the same time, the demands on space are growing, because the high pressure of use means that they have to be multifunctional all-rounders. This applies both to urban and rural areas, but especially to areas in the transition areas between town and country. The UrbanLinks 2 Landscape (UL2L) project is dedicated to this open space development and the issues surrounding the design of areas, taking into account their economic, social and ecological functions and involving local players.

The project also addresses the funding structure EFRE.NRW „Growth and Employment“ 2014-2020, financed by the European Fund for Regional Development (EFRE) and the State of NRW, in order to develop impulses and proposals for a future funding structure and funding criteria.

The project is funded with a volume of €1,004,903 via the Interreg Europe programme of the European Union. The total volume of the project is €1,193,175.00.

The following international partners are involved in the project:

- Rhineland Regional Council (Germany, Lead Partner)
- Surrey County Council (England)
- Silesia Park (Poland)
- Umbria Regional Authority (Italy)
- Kristianstad Municipality (Sweden)
- Kuldīga District Municipality (Latvia)
- Schloss Dyck Foundation (Germany).

In addition to its function as lead partner, the Landschaftsverband Rheinland is involved with its own sub-project.

The duration of the project is four years and is divided into two project phases. The first project phase from 1 June 2018 to 31 May 2020 was dedicated to interregional learning and the preparation of this Action Plan. The second project phase from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2022 is intended for the implementation of the measures of the Action Plan.

This Action Plan presents the structural, methodological and content-related work of the project, the results of the first project phase including the planned measures and provides an outlook on the implementation in the second project phase.



2. From Plan to Action

2.1 Thematic background and project objectives

Free and open spaces are a formative element of the landscape and are of particular value in landscape development. They are carriers of the most diverse ecological, social, economic and cultural functions and are simultaneously subject to constantly changing demands for use. This applies to both urban and rural open spaces, but especially to areas in the transition zone between town and country, which represent a connection between the two landscapes.

The preservation and development of open spaces are always face fierce competition from other utilisation projects. Various sectors and different players, such as housing, agriculture, energy and industry, are showing great demand for land, which leads to a high pressure to use it. This affects in particular fallow open spaces whose subsequent use has not yet been determined and whose design has not yet been decided.

Since the design possibilities and functional allocation of open spaces are the central subject of the project, a project-related definition of the term open space is necessary. The open spaces addressed here are usually cultural landscapes that can be upgraded by targeted interventions and thus a) should be protected from use by competing requirements and/or b) form a network that promotes their sustainable use. If the areas in question have no

functional use, they are also called fallow land; if they are areas whose function assignment is in a state of transformation, they are defined as conversion areas.

In addition to the high demand for space, there is also a high expectation of the type of use – i.e. the demand for a „multifunctional all-rounder“. Particularly with regard to climate change, the awareness of the open space functions of a room is becoming more and more present. The functions of green infrastructure include recreational uses, social expectations, ecosystem services such as fresh air production, heat protection and rainwater infiltration areas, but also the upgrading of land to protect and preserve biodiversity and the cultural landscape heritage. In addition, functions such as health promotion and urban gardening are gaining in importance, as they offer added value for citizens.

These green and social functions are already part of urban and landscape planning measures and support programmes, but the value of open spaces and the importance of their sustainable use must be communicated again and again in view of the continuing consumption of resources and the increase in sealed surfaces. To this end, it is necessary to identify new forms and categories of land use and to create a changed planning backdrop. Integrated urban planning with regard to the triad of economic – ecological – social functions with the participation of relevant decision-makers and civil society can contribute towards sustainable development.



The UrbanLinks 2 Landscape (UL2L) project is dedicated to the development of new approaches to the sustainable design of open spaces and new forms of active land use, including ecosystem services and other functions. As the project title indicates, the focus is particularly on the transition areas between urban and rural areas, as they are malleable spatial units under strong user pressure but also have great potential. Thus, these spaces, occupied with various green functions, can create harmonising transitions into the surrounding cultural landscape and relieve urban settlements, e.g. with regard to the improvement of the urban climate or as a recreational area.

The aim of the project is to develop a sustainable urban landscape with the involvement of international good practices and local players, to identify the potential of open spaces and synergies, to describe the value of natural and cultural capital and to provide impulses for the funding backdrop, mainly ERDF. NRW, with regard to the ecological and demand-oriented development of open spaces.

2.2 Addressed funding structure

EFRE.NRW „Growth and Employment“ 2014-2020 is an operational support programme based in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the State of NRW. It combines European strategies for regional development with regional requirements and the economic, social and ecological situation in NRW. The programme is based on four priority axes:

- Priority 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation
- Priority 2: Improving the competitiveness of SMEs
- Priority 3: Promotion of efforts to reduce CO2 emissions
- Priority 4: Sustainable urban and neighbourhood development/prevention.

Within the UL2L project, priority axis four is addressed. Its specific objectives are 1) the **improvement of the integration of disadvantaged social groups in work, education and in the community**, 2) the **ecological revitalisation of cities and urban-rural areas** and 3) the **development and preparation of brownfield and conversion areas for urban development or ecological purposes** (www.efre.nrw.de).



The content of the UL2L project aims to identify needs, develop appropriate measures and provide impetus for the ERDF.NRW funding programme and the corresponding priority axis.

This will be achieved through the examination of the main themes of the project such as climate change in urban and rural areas, community gardening as a social and ecological form of spatial design or the perception of neglected areas and landscape elements with regard to potential functions, and cooperation with local and international experts and stakeholders.

The Ministry of Economics, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy and the Ministry of Homeland, Culture, Building and Equality of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia have agreed in a letter of support to the LVR to consider the findings and proposals derived from the project.

2.3 Project phase 1: the path to the Action Plan

2.3.1 International cooperation, interregional learning and good practices

The idea for UL2L is partly based on results of the former INTERREG IVC project „Hybrid Parks – Combining abilities, creating synergies, enhancing performances“ (2012 – 2014), in which the Lead Partner LVR was also a partner along with 15 other European regions. The content of hybrid parks was to identify the contribution and potential of parks in the context of environmental and climate requirements and their functions in social and economic contexts, to bundle existing knowledge and to present it as a model for Europe.

The current discussion on the design of urban and rural areas, new questions on forms of active land use and the integration of functions such as ecosystem services should be dealt with in a new EU project. Partners from Hybrid Parks, but also from the previous INTERREG project European Garden Heritage Network, a network of European historical and contemporary gardens, as well as other players from the European Union were informed about the new project idea and invited to participate. The cooperation of institutions and organisations from six countries was established:

- Rhineland Regional Council (Lead Partner), Germany



- Umbria Regional Authority, Regional Directorate of Agriculture, Environment, Energy, Culture, cultural heritage and spectacle, Italy
- Surrey County Council, United Kingdom
- Kristianstad Municipality, Sweden
- Silesia Park (Silesia Voivodship Park of Culture and Rest), Poland
- Kuldīga District Municipality, Latvia
- Castle Dyck Foundation. Centre for Garden Art and Landscape Design (advisory partner), Germany.

A central component of the methodological work of the INTERREG project is the exchange between the individual partner countries and the involvement of local stakeholders, experts and influencers. The basic idea is to promote interregional learning, both in the work at international and local level. This was ensured by various measures such as the creation of a database with good practice examples, workshops and study tours in the various partner countries, as well as regular communication and project updates between the project participants, especially in the form of a working group or newsletter.

The **good practices** were identified in advance by the individual project regions and, after inspection and evaluation by the partners, some of them were published on the

project website. Some of these good practices were also included in the Policy Learning Platform of the Interreg Europe Programme after examination and evaluation by the experts of the Programme Secretariat because of their special innovative content.

The good practices are defined as initiatives (projects, methods, processes, etc.) that have been successfully implemented in a priority theme of the programme and have the potential to be transferred to other European regions. These are projects in which fallow, neglected or still free areas and landscape structures have been revitalised and designed with a view to new functions. These functions can be part of green infrastructure, include landscape conservation measures, contribute to the social fabric or serve health care. In any case, they serve regional development, the linking of urban and rural areas and have an added value for the citizens.

An overview of all good practices identified by the project partners is available on the project homepage. The profiles contain a description of the project or the measure, the resources and financial means used and an evaluation of the success of the project.

The good practices selected by the German project management are Nordpark in Pulheim, BernePark in Bottrop and the Garzweiler open-cast mining landscape.



„Mobility parkour“ in Pulheim Nordpark



Orchard meadow with drainage ditches

The **Nordpark in Pulheim** is a designed landscape park whose concept was developed within the framework of the REGIONALE 2010. The first section of the landscape park was opened in 2012, the second sec-

tion opened for visitors in 2014. The project is designed as a generational project and the park will arc around the entire north of Pulheim on one hundred hectares until its completion in 20 to 30 years. The first phase was financed by the ERDF, the urban development fund and the city of Pulheim.

The Nordpark is designed to create a harmonious transition from the settlement area to the adjacent agricultural landscape. To this end, elements of the agricultural landscape such as field structures and drainage ditches, but also elements of the cultural landscape, such as orchard meadows, are taken up. In addition, rest areas with benches and mobility courses were built in to allow for a variety of uses. The park is designed to be barrier-free.

Geographically, the city of Pulheim is located in the catchment area of the city of Cologne. Within this context, the Nordpark also creates a connection between the more rural fringe area of the Rhine-Erft district and the radius of the local recreation area „Äußerer Grüngürtel“ of the city of Cologne.

The conversion of agricultural land into a landscape park and the smooth transition from urban to rural structures has created great added value for the local population. Due to the lack of green spaces in the city centre, Nordpark offers the possibilities of a social space and health promotion. The sustainable and climate-friendly design brings advantages for biodiversity and the

creation of orchard meadows a direct benefit for the visitors. In addition, the park is also important in a regional context, as it is embedded in the green space „Am alten Rhein“ and linked to a cycle route.

BernePark in Bottrop is an old sewage treatment plant site that has been converted into a park with gastronomy and special hotel operations. In 1997, the operation of the sewage treatment plant with two clarification tanks was halted, which is why the site was initially left fallow.

Within the framework of the EMSCHER-KUNST.2010, an art festival, the site was revitalised by artists and landscape architects for around 6 million euros. One of the tanks was preserved and can be accessed via a bridge; the second tank was modelled on an amphitheatre and houses a „theatre of

plants“. A special highlight is the Parkhotel, where accommodation is provided in converted concrete tubes.

The BernePark is an exceptional example of the conversion of old technical facilities. The resulting park is both a place of social and cultural encounter and a tourist attraction. Thanks to its connection to the Emscherradweg and its location between the Gasometer in Oberhausen and the Nordsternpark Gelsenkirchen, BernePark is also of regional importance.

The **Rhenish mining** district is Europe's largest lignite mining area. The early phase-out of lignite mining is of great importance, both in terms of state and federal policy. In addition to an exemplary management of the structural change for the lignite mining areas, the focus here is above all on future-



Follow-up landscape of the Garzweiler opencast mine (www.landfolge.de)



shaping measures in the areas of climate protection, economic development, consequences of use and development.

In 2018, the Federal Government set up the Commission on „Growth, Structural Change and Employment“ to create a broad social consensus on how to shape the coal phase-out based on energy and climate policy and the associated structural change in Germany, and to balance the various interests.

The Federal Government and the Federal States have set up an emergency programme with a volume of 260 million euros for the lignite mining areas in Germany, from which some 90 million euros will flow to the Rhenish mining area in North Rhine-Westphalia (37%). The state of North Rhine-Westphalia will supplement this emergency programme and provide co-financing (ROP).

Strategic future fields have been identified in the Rhenish mining area, which result from the strengths of the region and offer promising potential for structural change. The Garzweiler open-cast mine is located within the Rhenish mining district and is expected to continue producing coal until 2038.

A common, visionary development perspective („script“) was conceived in 2016 by all affected cities and municipalities in the course of a one-week workshop dealing with the economic, settlement and infrastructural, social and ecological effects and offers concepts for a sustainable regional develop-


ment. The local population was involved in this process at an early stage.

In 2017, the city of Mönchengladbach, the city of Erkelenz, the city of Jüchen and the municipality of Titz then founded a special-purpose association for the joint development of the Garzweiler post-mining landscape and its surroundings.

As a body responsible for public affairs, the special-purpose association „Landfolge Garzweiler“ also performs tasks in the statutory planning procedures and carries out the coordination of joint planning, the joint further development of perspectives, quality assurance and joint land development and management.

The above-mentioned script for the elaboration of development perspectives is „the basis for all further planning steps up to the year 2035“ (www.landfolge.de). It also outlines a visionary development perspective up to the year 2085, when the recultivation of the area will be completed. The recultivated landscape will consist of a lake, a real laboratory landscape with return of land to agriculture and energy production as well as to research institutes and an Innovation Valley for testing new forms of business and living. A connecting green structure, probably the „Green Belt“, will link the sub-areas.

The concept presents new approaches to regional development and offers opportunities for both nature as well as for



culture and society. The early participation of the public in strategies for long-term social, economic and landscape solutions and the cooperation between the four association municipalities is exemplary. Despite the large scale of the measures in Garzweiler, individual solutions and innovative concepts can also be transferred to smaller areas, which is why this example offers great potential for interregional learning.

The considerations on the subsequent use of the Garzweiler open-cast mine and its topics reflect a number of characteristics of the project content of UL2L; the development and implementation of measures from the Action Plan presented are of great interest to the players.

Good Practices and international exchange

Just as the German good practices differ in type, design and scale, the good practices from the other partner regions also show great diversity. Since interregional learning is an essential part of UL2L's work, the diversity of the examples results in a colourful pool of possibilities and ideas. Thus, international concepts can be adopted and project approaches can be transferred in the design of the own measures. Besides the good practices, various events also served the international exchange.

In the first phase of the project, five workshops were held, one of which was dedicated to the topic „good practice examples and challenges within the partnership and

outside“, three others to the topics „Planning Procedures & Criteria“, „Accessibility & Design“, „Business Partnerships“ and the fifth to „Interregional Exchange on the Action Plan“. In addition, a three-day study tour is still to take place, during which intensive work will be carried out with the good practices of the region.

The **workshops and study tours**, organised by the respective partner country, serve not only for the thematic exchange on project contents, but also to discuss problems and challenges within the project and to establish an international network.



2.3.2 Cooperation with the stakeholders

The work within the North Rhine-Westphalian project team not only took place in exchange with the international partners, but especially with local stakeholders who were won over to participate in the project. The stakeholders, representatives of various of political and non-political institutions, on the one hand acted as experts for identifying local problems and opportunities, exchanging and reflecting on content developments of the project and on the other hand as partners in the development and implementation of measures for the Action Plan in the field of open space development.

In order to be able to provide high-quality and diversified work, stakeholders from different institutions and with different perspectives on space and spatial development were selected.

These are:

- Ministry of Homeland, Municipality, Construction and Equality (function: Letter of Support), Evamaria Küppers-Ullrich (Head of Department), Ingeborg Summer Houses
- Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (function: Letter of Support), Christian Roesgen
- Schloss Dyck Foundation, Centre for Garden

Art and Landscape Cultivation (function: Advisory Partner), Jens Spanjer (Executive Board), Martin Wolthaus (Public Relations)

- Office for Landscape Management and Green Spaces of the City of Cologne, Dr. Joachim Bauer (Deputy Head of Office)
- Office of Parks, Cemeteries and Forestry of the State Capital Düsseldorf, Doris Törkel (Head of Office)
- Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL), Office for Monument Preservation, Landscape and Building Culture in Westphalia, Department for the Urban Preservation of Historical Monuments, Garden Culture, Conservation of Garden Monuments and Cultural Landscape Development, Dr. Dorothee Boesler (Head of Department)
- Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL), Office for Monument Preservation, Landscape and Building Culture in Westphalia, Mediation and Building Culture, Udo Woltering (Head of Department)
- Region Köln/Bonn e.V., Reimar Molitor (Managing Director)
- Zweckverband LandFolge Garzweiler, Volker Mielchen (Managing Director)
- Regionalverband Ruhr (RVR), Regional Park/Emscher Landscape Park/Open Space Protection Department, Frank Bothmann



and

- Rhineland Regional Council (LVR), Cultural Committee, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Wilhelm
- Rhineland Regional Council (LVR), Cultural Committee, Prof. Dr. Leo Peters (Deputy Chairman)
- Rhineland Regional Council (LVR), Environmental Committee, Rolf Fliß (Chairman)
- Rhineland Regional Council (LVR), European Commission, Lars Oliver Effertz (Chairman).

was possible to create a highly differentiated content, to bundle resources and to contribute experiences in order to ensure a better use of public open spaces and a sustainable regional development.

The cooperation with stakeholders was mainly based on regular working meetings. In these meetings, project contents and progress were discussed and debated. In some cases, stakeholders were also involved in the international meetings.

In addition, interviews were conducted with the stakeholders in preparation for the Action Plan. These interviews served to identify important issues concerning the development of open spaces and to discuss the functions of these spaces. Furthermore, the planned measures were developed in close consultation with the stakeholders.

Thanks to the different project partners and the involvement of the local stakeholders, the cooperation at local, regional and international level as well as due to the different professional backgrounds of the participants, it



3. The Action Plan

3.1 Content design and evaluation of the expert interviews

In the first phase of the project, good examples for the design of urban green and urban open spaces were defined. In addition, the processes underlying the examples were discussed during the LVR stakeholder meetings and in interviews with individual stakeholders. The results of the framework and content discussion are presented below.

Some topics have already been identified as important in the project design. These included the development of open spaces with regard to ecosystem services, health, urban gardening and regional identity. In the regular debates of the stakeholder group and also the international working group, it quickly became

clear that these framework issues reflect only a part of the currently pressing developments. For this reason, the spectrum of topics was expanded during the course of the work on UL2L. In the course of expert interviews with the respective stakeholders, not only the topics defined in the project proposal were discussed, but also a number of other focal points. All topics relate to the development of open spaces and were rated by the stakeholders on a scale of 1 = very important to 4 = not important.

Due to the time required, the interviews were only conducted with a part of the stakeholders, but, due to the high professional diversity of the conversation partners, they provided a good basis for evaluation.

The evaluation of the topics by the stakeholders is as follows:

Rank	Subject	Value
1	Climate change adaptation	1,25
2	Participation procedure	1,88
3	Social inclusion	1,93
4	Ecosystem services	2,06
5	Cultural landscape	2,13
6	Health	2,13
7	Regional identity (sense of community)	2,19
8	Urban gardening/community gardening	2,25
9	Sports activities	2,25
10	Climate change mitigation	2,57

*Results of the stakeholder consultation
Ranking of the topics according to average rating;
rating from 1 = very important to 4 = not important, 0 = not specified.*



1 Climate change adaptation

Stakeholders have clearly identified adaptation to climate change as the most pressing issue with regard to the development of open spaces. It is evident that despite the different standards from which stakeholders view the issue, there are converging problem descriptions. For example, it was pointed out that green and open spaces, both in the city and in urban and suburban areas, take on new functions. Be it the park in the city, which is planted with climate-adapted trees and shrubs and provides infiltration areas for precipitation, or the areas around the cities, which are used for fresh and cold air production. The interaction between urban and rural areas is also increasing in the wake of climate change, as people seek cooling and access to water. The demand for open spaces is therefore increasing strongly in view of climate change. This leads to the conclusion that climate adaptation measures should always be taken into account when redesigning or converting open and conversion areas.

2 Participation procedures

Participation procedures come in second place. The integration of affected citizens and other stakeholders represent a major challenge in the targeted planning for the development of open spaces. The usage needs of citizens should be met by early participation in the conceptual design to ensure that the space is used and accepted accordingly. Participation processes are thus an import-

ant element that contributes toward the success of the design of open spaces and to the appropriation of space by the citizens, since they have or can develop a direct relationship with the space. Failure to participate can be damaging in retrospect.

3 Social inclusion

Social inclusion, i.e. the social acceptance and participation of all people regardless of age, origin or physical limitations, was also rated highly by the stakeholders. Thus, it is currently evident how extensive open and green spaces can contribute to a more inclusive society. Whether through community gardens, civic engagement or events that open up space for different social groups. The potential of open spaces for social inclusion is high and has not yet been exhausted. This is especially true in the urban context.

4 Ecosystem services

By listing the services provided by green spaces, such as the production of fresh air or the percolation of precipitation, ecosystem services offer the possibility of making green spaces comparable to other forms of use, such as roads. These considerations can strengthen the perception of green and the arguments for green, but the problem is that the services are often not recorded. Areas such as rainwater infiltration, the preservation of biodiversity or the binding of CO² by different woody plants cannot always be precisely quantified. Nevertheless, the popu-



lation has already recognised the value of ecosystem services and is calling for increased functional use of the potential of green, for example in climate issues.

5 Cultural landscape

The relevance of the cultural landscape with regard to the development of open spaces is acknowledged by the stakeholders. Important cultural values can be included in the new or further development of open spaces or even new cultural landscapes can be created. Thus, urban structures such as Cologne's green belt are also part of the cultural landscape.

6 Health

The health benefits of open spaces are considered important by stakeholders. They offer opportunities for recreation and exercise, which are taken up by various population groups. Thus these spaces serve the health and quality of life of sports enthusiasts, children and old people. Not least through the production of fresh and cold air, the function of health can also be counted among the ecosystem services. Another important point is the mental recovery for residents from dense urban areas. However, this benefit is no longer anchored everywhere in society – quote from the Stakeholder Meeting: „In particular, larger open spaces at medical facilities, e.g. hospitals, are increasingly seen as merely potential extension areas for the facilities. Their function of contributing towards the recovery of patients is no longer used.

7 Regional identity

The identification with open and green spaces is described as a consequence of the use of the green structure. This identification is promoted by a variety of aspects, starting with the hobby teams in the park, the use of local squares as meeting places and the feeling of belonging in entire districts or even regions, such as the Rhineland, Westphalia or the Ruhr area. In addition to the possibility of identifying oneself regionally across the area, the smaller ones also mention local identity as a cultural prerequisite for good togetherness. A liberal planning of the areas allows for the most individual use and appropriation possible and thus promotes identification.

8 Urban gardening

Urban gardening, including gardens in the city or community gardens, is considered important by stakeholders, but ranks eighth in the list of ten themes to be evaluated. The approach that urban gardening should not be over-planned is countered by the demand for more public support. There is general agreement on the importance of allotment garden culture in connection with urban gardening. This offers great potential and enables many people to become gardeners, alone or in groups, despite their cramped living conditions. Young families in particular can impart knowledge about nature and plants to their children through gardening in the city and grow their own vegetables. The appropriation of the areas and the social interaction also



creates identity for the citizens. People can engage in positive activities and social spaces are opened up.

9 Sports activities

Sports facilities play a role in the development of open spaces and can provide both health and entertainment benefits to people via outdoor gyms, playing fields for football, basketball or similar. It is recognised as problematic that many sporting activities are subject to changing fashion trends and therefore greater investment in sports facilities must be well thought out. The sealing of surfaces by artificial turf pitches, for example, and the not always high utilisation of the sports infrastructure, are also criticised. The importance of green spaces for individual urban sports is also reflected in the fact that in Cologne, for example, 70% of sportspeople do not practice their sport in clubs but in public spaces.

10 Climate change mitigation

Climate change mitigation as a topic for open space development is rated by stakeholders tenth out of ten ranks ranging from important to less important. It is recognised that green spaces, for example through strongly CO₂ binding woody plants, have a function here. However, the issue of climate change mitigation is more one for larger scales. The regional forests are part of the CO₂ balance, but can only be seen as small measures in a global context.

General findings

In addition to the assessments of the various topics, structural insights can also be gained from the work in the stakeholder group and the expert interviews. For example, one aspect frequently mentioned is the increase in the number of functions to be fulfilled by an open/green space. Accordingly, there is no longer just one defining function, but rather the area is defined by the sum of its functions.

For example, a green space should no longer serve the purpose of recreation only, but should also be available for the infiltration of rainwater or serve health through sports activities. However, the increase in function not only refers to areas that are to be newly designed, but also plays a role with regard to existing areas. Looking at the interviews with the stakeholders, this increase in function is already evident in the generally high rating of the requested topics. Hardly any function can be neglected or appears to be less important, resulting in a demand on open spaces to fulfil several functions.

Further fundamental findings are the need to create green spaces in conflict with other usage possibilities, such as settlement construction or agriculture and a frequently mentioned criticism of the over-regulation of land. Fundamental criticism has been levelled at the concept of open space used here, since every area is already assigned a function, i.e. it is never really free. In the context of this



project, open spaces should therefore be understood as designable surfaces or surfaces that can be used for new or changed function assignments. These areas can thus represent a single park or a larger, coherent concept of space, such as the Cologne green belt.

In addition to the evaluations of the topics and the findings described, exciting, future-oriented contributions were achieved. With regard to existing areas and the increased demand for functions, it can be assumed that, also from a social and ecological point of view, the landscape and green spaces (will) increasingly develop into the city.

The future potential is therefore not necessarily to be sought only in the new design of green and open spaces, but rather by taking a creative look at the existing and rethinking green in the existing structures.

3.2 The measures

The following measures were designed and elaborated by the stakeholders during the project in cooperation with the project team. The stakeholders' knowledge of local needs in green space development forms the basis of the concept. From the international good practices and the knowledge gained within the project and from the interviews, innovative approaches were developed which were linked to local needs. From this, the measures with implementation plans were developed in the second project phase. In selecting the measures, emphasis was also placed on different scales in order to show that interventions are meaningful and sustainable in both large and small contexts. All measures take up at least one of the thematic areas that must be taken into account in future open space design:

-> **Climate change adaptation:**

environmental education, selection of building materials/woods, identification and promotion of ecosystem services

-> **Changing perspective and scale:**

participation of different players, value of green infrastructure, integration into planning, large scale consideration, connecting areas

-> **Multifunctionality of the areas:**

reflection of functions, function supplementation with area upgrading without overloading the area



-> **Strengthening social and environmental aspects:**

participation of the user group, strengthening social commitment in the area, joint gardening

The measures of the LVR at a glance:

Measures	Implementation	Project subjects	Reference projects
Workshop landscape park Mönchengladbach- Wanlo <i>Entrance to the Garzweiler greenbelt</i>	Landfolge Garzweiler, Region Köln-Bonn e.V., MWIDE* MHKBG* *Ministry of Economic Affairs, In- novation, Digital Affairs and Energy NRW *Ministry for Homeland, Culture, Building and Equality NRW	Climate change adaptation Ecosystem services Participation procedu- re Sports activities Regional identity	Greenway, Umbria, Italy Climate for Silesia, Poland The Water Kingdom Kristianstad, Sweden The Landscape Labora- tory, Alnarp, Sweden
Perspectives workshop Inclusive foot and cycle path in climatic landscape <i>Real laboratory between Schloss Dyck and Jüchen-Süd</i>	Schloss Dyck Foundation, Landfollowing Garzweiler, MWIDE MHKBG City of Jüchen	Social inclusion Climate change adap- tation Ecosystem services Sports activities Healthcare	Saint Francis Wood, Umbria, Italy Greenway, Umbria, Italy Climate for Silesia, Poland
Seminar Park maintenance <i>Joint gardening in the park</i>	Westphalia-Lippe Regional Council (LWL) Rhineland Regional Council (LVR)	Urban Gardening Social inclusion /Regional identity Cultural landscape Healthcare Ecosystem services	Participatory photography work- shop, Umbria, Italy Climate for Silesia, Poland The Health Garden, Kristianstad, Sweden The vegetable gardens of St. Peter, Perugia, Italy
Workshop Planners <i>New perspectives for old cultural landscapes Integration of historical cultural landscapes into current planning</i>	LWL LVR	Climate change adaptation Cultural landscape Ecosystem services Participation procedure	The release of biodi- versity in Trevi, Um- bria, Italy Participatory photogra- phy workshop, Um- bria, Italy The Landscape Labora- tory, Alnarp, Sweden



3.2.1 Workshop Landscape Park Mönchengladbach-Wanlo: Entrance to the Green Belt Garzweiler

The Mönchengladbach district of Wanlo is located in the immediate vicinity of the edge of the opencast mine. After the end of the open-cast mine and the flooding, however, the town will have a very favourable location as a lake district. The idea of designing a landscape park is to create a connecting space between Wanlo and the emerging lake. What such a landscape park could look like, which functions it would have to fulfil and which demands the residents have on the developing area will be worked out in two workshops. The conception and implementation of these workshops is organised by the Zweckverband LandFolge in collaboration with the Region Köln/Bonn e.V., the Ministry of Economy, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy (MWIDE NRW) and the Ministry of Homeland, Municipalities, Construction and Equality (MHKBG NRW).

1. Reference projects from UL2L

Learning from good practices

a) The Water Kingdom (Kristianstad, Sweden)

The Water Kingdom is a nature reserve adjacent to the city centre. A visitor centre offers educational opportunities and drives local and regional tourism. The city's view of the wetland has been changed very positively through the development. The conceptual focus of the project is on the topic „Man and Biosphere“.

The city is now proud of the wetlands and has developed a strong profile from it.



Entrance to the visitor center

b) The Landscape Laboratory (Southern Sweden)

The laboratory shows over 100 different forest and meadow habitats. It thus offers space for learning, research, recreation and open-air workshops. The diversity of vegetation is shown, such as urban forests, agricultural nature, parks, gardens and street vegetation, and can be explored and studied. In addition, opportunities for active cultural landscape design are demonstrated and people are informed about how landscape areas of very different character (wild or quiet) can be created with identical means (e.g. bushes).



Part of the Landscape Laboratory



c) Greenway (Umbria, Italy)

The Greenway is a network of footpaths and cycle paths to connect municipalities in Umbria. It runs along some riverbanks where vegetation typical of the area has developed again. The Greenway is an open-air laboratory dedicated to sustainability and biodiversity.



Footpath and bike path along the river

d) Climate for Silesia (Silesia, Poland)

The Silesia Botanical Garden offers expertise in the revitalisation and planting of post-industrial wasteland. These include activities such as workshops on environmental education, laboratory studies, creativity and gardening, but also scientific lectures, field trips, educational campaigns and exhibitions.



Exhibition in the botanical garden

Due to the planning character of the workshop, further „good practices“ from the UL2L project or outside the project can be included. The ones shown here offer an overview of interregional learning with a focus on gardens and park landscapes.

Findings from the work with stakeholders

The priorities set by the stakeholders in the discussions should also be taken into account when implementing the workshop. Here, for example, the general increase in requirements for a space to be designed can be mentioned, but also very specific functions such as a stronger adaptation of green spaces to the effects of climate change should be taken into account.

2. Description of the measure

Workshops with decision-makers from politics (representatives of the municipalities), civil society and participating institutions as well as the energy industry (RWE) are to prepare the competition procedure. Due to the special situation at the edge of the open-cast mine and the associated ongoing changes in the landscape, this is a particular challenge.

The workshops are to be held with 15 – 20 participants. The first workshop part (summer 2020) will deal thematically with the development of new landscape parks as well as with the core topic „Connection of town and country“. It is to be designed deliberately open. In the second part of the workshop, with the support of a planning office and possible jury



participants, site-specific criteria can be specified and the competition procedure prepared.

3. Stakeholders involved

a) LandFolge Garzweiler

The LandFolge Garzweiler as a special-purpose association is the cross-municipal player for the development of the post-mining landscape and its surroundings during and after lignite mining. In addition to the conception of the entire area, LandFolge also deals with the planning of projects in sub-areas. The „Green Belt“, into which the Wanlo Landscape Park is to be integrated, is a landscape structure surrounding the open-cast mine and linking up the surroundings, which includes agricultural uses in addition to green structures and also structures urban development areas.

b) Region Köln/Bonn e.V.

Region Köln Bonn e.V. develops concepts for the regional development of the Rhineland and has, for example, large regional references in mind via the agglomeration plan. The embedding of the landscape park in larger contexts can be ensured here.

c) Ministry of Economics, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy (MWIDE NRW)

MWIDE NRW is responsible for the OP EFRE NRW and has a coordinating function within the framework of the promotion of structural change in the Rhenish mining area.

d) Ministry for Homeland, Municipal Affairs, Construction and Equality (MHKBG NRW)

The MHKBG NRW is a central player in the development of a concept eligible for funding for the competition procedure and also beyond that as a provider of funding for future individual projects of the municipalities.

4. Time frame

October 2020 – May 2021

- Autumn 2020 – first workshop
- Winter 2020/2021 – commissioning of a planning office
- Winter 2020/2021 – second workshop
- Spring/Summer 2021 – start of the competition procedure

5. Indicative costs

A preliminary cost estimate of approximately €6,000 to €6,200 for a one-day workshop with international speakers is given; for the second workshop without international participation approximately €5,000 is given. This results in a total amount of about €11,000 – €11,200 for the measure.

The estimated costs per workshop are as follows:

a) Professional moderation	€1,200
b) Rental space	€250
c) Preparation and follow-up (incl. documentation)	€2,000
d) Materials	€50
e) Catering	€500
f) Travel expenses (international speakers)	€1,200
g) Fees (for five speakers)	€1,000

6. Indicative sources of funding

The „Green Belt“ project was submitted to the Zukunftsagentur Rheinisches Revier GmbH (ZRR)/MWIDE as a project outline in the so-called relief package. It is intended to include the two-day workshops and the competition procedure for the Mönchengladbach-Wanlo Landscape Park as a measure.

Funding of the actions from the ongoing ROP has not been searched for as the stakeholders and their partners have funding available which can easier been made available for the actions.

Current status of ERDF NRW and future calls:
The aspects and foci for the new period of ERDF in Germany and so in North-Rhine Westphalia are in currently discussion. The relevant policy objectives for Germany and North Rhine-Westphalia in the future, in line with the investment guidelines of the EU are: “a more intelligent Europe”, “a more green and sustainable Europe” and a “Europe closer to citizens”. Sustainable urban planning will even be closer to the citizens. These goals are already integrated in the new period of urban development funding in Germany and North Rhine-Westphalia which started in 2020. The eligibility requirements make a condition for the development of green infrastructure and projects for adapting to climate change.

The action plan of the project UL2L will inspire future calls for proposals. It aims to fulfill the requirements for future funding in Germany

and North Rhine-Westphalia and will develop best practices. The good practices of UL2L and the AP support the objective of bringing planning closer to the citizens.

7. Policy learning

From the workshop results, focal points for the future design of landscape parks can be derived. These results can be attributed to the acute development of the support policies of the Rhenish mining area, the final implementation of the current NRW ERDF OP (including the implementation recommendations in the context of municipal projects funded or due for funding) and the development of the funding structure of the coming NRW ERDF OP, particularly in the areas of land use planning, the reuse of brownfield land and measures in the field of ecosystem services.



3.2.2 Inclusive footpath and cycle path in a climatic landscape: real laboratory between Schloss Dyck and Jüchen-Süd

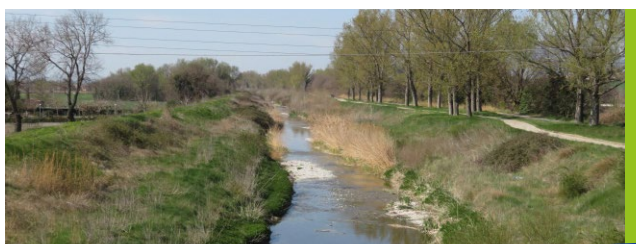
Within the framework of a perspective workshop, a concept for an inclusive „climate cycle and footpath“ can be developed. The path is to connect the „green belt“ around the Garzweiler post-mining landscape with Schloss Dyck and present and explain landscape elements such as rows of trees and avenues, wild shrub hedges, wild herb borders, flower strips and water body renaturation. Other topics from the context of climate change, such as rainwater retention, „smart houses“, renewable raw materials or textile shading systems, can be added to this. Two striking open spaces will serve as test fields and demonstrators to show that climate adaptation and climate protection can be combined well with attractive design.

1. Reference projects from UL2L

Learning from good practices

a) Greenway (Umbria, Italy)

The Greenway is a network of footpaths and cycle paths to connect municipalities in Umbria. It runs along some riverbanks where vegetation typical of the area has developed again. The Greenway is an open-air laboratory dedicated to sustainability and biodiversity.



Footpath and bike path along the river

b) Climate for Silesia (Silesia, Poland)

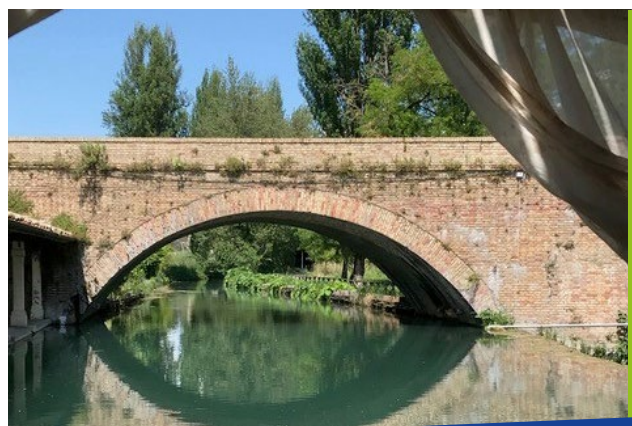
The Silesia Botanical Garden offers expertise in the revitalisation and planting of post-industrial wasteland. These include activities such as workshops on environmental education, laboratory research, creativity and gardening, but also scientific lectures, field trips, educational campaigns and exhibitions.



Path at the lakeside in Szczakowa

c) Saint Francis Wood (Umbria, Italy)

The area around the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi, which consists of park-like areas and forest areas, was maintained and restored to make the area accessible. A newly constructed pedestrian walkway connects the site with the historic city centre. The cultural, ecological and social value of this landscape is to be communicated to visitors and sustainable tourism is to be promoted.



Topino river in Bevagna, close to St. Francis Wood



Findings from the work with stakeholders

A cycle and footpath used by excursionists, sportsmen and commuters between the town of Jüchen, the nearby open-cast lignite mine Garzweiler and Schloss Dyck is an excellent match for the UL2L project and offers added value for many citizens due to its precisely fitting functional layout. The thematic focus on climate change is in line with the preferences of the stakeholders. In the interviews, the interviewed stakeholders evaluated the climate change adaptation as the most important topic for the development of open spaces at present.

2. Description of the measure

For the development of a concept for an inclusive „climate bike/footpath“, a perspectives workshop with local and regional decision-makers is to take place. The cycle and footpath is to be connected to the adjoining green structure around the open-cast mine, the „Green Belt“, which runs about 6 km from Schloss Dyck around the mining and recultivation areas of the Garzweiler open-cast lignite mine. The path forms the backbone for the upgrading and redesign of this connecting landscape area. For this purpose, the existing green axes along the valleys of the Jüchener and Kelzenberger Bachs are being further linked up with landscape elements in the form of rows of trees, avenues, wild shrub hedges, wild herb borders, flower strips and water body renaturation. The climate-resistant trees and vegetation forms tested in the Schloss Dyck model project will be transferred to the landscape and urban

structures of the Jüchen urban area. Other topics from the context of climate change, such as rainwater retention, „smart houses“, renewable raw materials or textile shading systems, can be added. Traversing the city of Jüchen, the climate cycle/footpath is to provide a link to the new Jüchen West district and the railway station. Here, two striking open spaces are to be designed in the sense of test fields and demonstrators for climate adaptation and climate protection. The inclusive character results from the consistently barrier-free planning of the cycle and footpath to ensure that both visually impaired people and wheelchair users can benefit from the newly designed space.

3. Stakeholders involved

a) Stiftung Schloss Dyck (Advisory Partner)

As a centre for garden art and landscape culture, the Schloss Dyck Foundation is one of the few unique institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia and in Europe that combines historical gardens and cultural landscapes with current topics of landscape culture and urban development in practice-oriented research and makes them tangible on its own premises and in the local environment. In addition, the foundation has the many years of expertise required for the selection of climate-resistant trees and vegetation forms along footpaths and cycle paths.

b) LandFolge Garzweiler

The LandFolge Garzweiler as a special-purpose association is the cross-municipal player



for the development of the post-mining landscape and its surroundings during and after lignite mining. In addition to the conception of the entire area, LandFolge also deals with the planning of projects in sub-areas. The „Green Belt“, to which the footpath and cycle path is to be linked, is a landscape structure surrounding the open-cast mine and linking the surrounding area. In addition to green structures, it contains agricultural uses and also structures urban development areas.

c) Ministry of Economics, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy (MWIDE NRW)

MWIDE NRW is responsible for the OP EFRE NRW and has a coordinating function within the framework of the promotion of structural change in the Rhenish mining area.

d) Ministry for Homeland, Municipal Affairs, Construction and Equality (MHKBG NRW)

The MHKBG NRW is a central player in the development of a concept eligible for funding.

4. Time frame

June 2020 – September/October 2021

5. Indicative costs

A preliminary cost estimate of around €5,000 is being made for the implementation of a perspective workshop. The financial range will depend on the number of participants, which has yet to be defined.

The estimated costs are as follows:

a) Professional moderation	€1,200
b) Rental space	€250
c) Preparation and follow-up	€2,000
c) Materials	€50
d) Catering	€500
e) Fees (for five speakers)	€1,000

6. Indicative sources of funding

After consultation with the MHKBG and the office responsible for the promotion of the Rhenish district, the planned measure of the perspective workshop can be subsidised within the framework of the financing of the Rhenish area. The „Green Belt“ project has already been submitted to the Zukunftsagentur Rhenisches Revier GmbH (ZRR)/MWIDE as a project outline in the so-called relief package – the prospects workshop for the footpath and cycle path should be included as a measure.

7. Policy learning

The measure can, through the innovative use of cycle paths as a real laboratory and learning location for climate change, serve to further shape the funding structure of the Rhenish district. In addition, an influence on the currently valid funding structure of the NRW ERDF OP is possible. The climate focus of the measure is of great importance both economically and socially. The playful approach to the topic of climate change shows ways for a future integration of the topic into classical measures, such as the development of the mobility infrastructure.

3.2.3 Park maintenance seminar: communal gardening in the park

Together with the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL), park maintenance seminars are being planned, at which volunteers under professional guidance will take over maintenance work and new planting in listed parks. Furthermore, there will be cooperation with partners from the Netherlands, where joint park maintenance is already established. The two-day seminar addresses people of all ages and is open to people with disabilities. A cultural evening programme on the first day of the seminar rounds off the content aspects. Subsequent seminars are limited to one day. The event will be advertised on and accompanied by social media. The aims are to promote transnational exchange, to raise awareness of the structure and plants in parks, and to strengthen commitment in public spaces, which supports the transition from sporadic measures to planned continuity.

1. Reference projects from UL2L

Learning from good practices

a) The Health Garden (Kristianstad, Sweden)

The Health Garden in Kristianstad is located in an old park area and has been integrated into the historic city garden as a new component. The garden was constructed with the support of the municipality and local organisations and NGOs. The garden was designed to be inclusive, so that the park is accessible and usable as a public space for visitors with special needs.



Health Garden in Kristianstad

b) The vegetable gardens of St. Peter (Perugia, Italy)

In this project, with the help of the local population, various NGOs and in cooperation with the local university, an abandoned area around an old Benedictine monastery, St. Peter's in Perugia, was restored and designed. Within the framework of this Urban Gardening project, vegetable gardens and a vineyard were created on the one hand, and on the other hand, the jointly planned design also provides space for joint activities such as working in a wood workshop or spending time and eating together in the park.



Vegetable Garden of St. Peter

c) Participatory photography workshop (Umbria, Italy)

A group of 14 students, led by the Ciuffelli Agricultural Institute, was involved in a planning process focusing on new functions of public spaces. The aim was to improve the pupils' understanding of landscape, to sharpen their view and to enable them to participate in a planning process. Methodologically, participation via photography functioned according to the guiding principle „learning by doing, learning by shooting“.



Project presentation

d) Climate for Silesia (Silesia, Poland)

The Silesia Botanical Garden offers expertise in the revitalisation and planting of post-industrial wasteland. These include activities such as workshops on environmental education, laboratory research, creativity and gardening, but also scientific lectures, field trips, educational campaigns and exhibitions.



Lakeside in Szczakowa

Findings from the work with stakeholders

With the park maintenance seminar, old parks can be revitalised with the involvement of a broad group of people, consisting of experts, members of NGOs and citizens, and the participants' perspective on historical structures and current and future challenges can be shaped. This practical approach combines many of the topics that the stakeholders identified as important in the discussions. Thus people are sensitized to the consequences of climate change, the participation of all is strengthened, as is the sense of community and relation to one's own environment. Finally, the importance of ecosystem services is demonstrated.

2. Nature of the measure

Within the framework of this measure, a two-day park maintenance seminar is carried out in a park or garden in which a considerable maintenance backlog or developmental delay has been identified. Under guidance, in addition to experts such as landscape architects and professional gardeners, volunteers from NGOs and the interested public are called upon to provide support in park maintenance. In addition, an exchange with Dutch partners and volunteers is to take place, both professionally and actively in the maintenance of green spaces.

Raising the awareness of the (urban) population is an important aspect of the challenges of preserving green cultural assets, especially listed gardens and parks. Due to their originality and authenticity, these require a conservation



or restoration approach, which must be scientifically sound. The measures and tasks derived from this approach must be made comprehensible to the layperson in order to promote their acceptance. In addition, the perception of the consequences of climate change and the difficulties and challenges associated with it in our historical gardens and parks should be strengthened, thus giving a decisive emphasis to the ecological responsibility of each individual.

Another important aspect of the event is the transnational approach with colleagues from the Netherlands, who have many years of experience with volunteer work in various fields. In addition to the environmental and nature conservation activities that we also have, the contribution to the preservation of art and cultural assets in particular plays a major role. We want to benefit from these experiences on an informative and practical level.

When recruiting volunteers for the park maintenance seminars, the focus lies on an intergenerational approach. In addition to the mostly elderly people working in home care, the youth lodge of the Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz with its volunteers, most of whom are around 20 years old, will also take part. The local scouts and members of the volunteer fire brigade should also be addressed. The event is open to people with disabilities.

The use of social media should play an important role in the promotion and general public relations work in connection with park maintenance seminars. The aim is to achieve the best

possible linking of local players, committed professionals and interested laymen in direct exchange with neighbouring Dutch experts.

The long-term goal is to create a lasting network of people interested in gardens and monuments at a supra-local, cross-border level and thus to create a sense of community. This will create a network that can also be used in other joint projects as required.

In the winter of 2020/2021, the park maintenance seminar in the castle park of Haus Stapel is planned together with the municipality of Havixbeck and the owner. About 60 volunteers are expected to work for the park in a two-day assignment including an evening event.

3. Stakeholders involved

a) Westphalia-Lippe Regional Council (LWL)

The Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe is a local authority association that provides services in the areas of monument preservation, landscape and building culture in the Westphalia region. This includes the Office for Monument Preservation, Landscape and Building Culture in Westphalia with the department for urban monument preservation, garden culture, garden monument preservation and cultural landscape development.

b) Ministry for Homeland, Municipal Affairs, Building and Equality of the State of NRW

The MHKBBG NRW has various funding pools, including the promotion of the homeland.



c) Rhineland Regional Council (LVR)

As a municipal association, the Landschaftsverband Rheinland perceives services in the areas of culture and cultural landscape conservation. The Department of Cultural Landscape Management with its Gardens and Parks project is dedicated to national and international exchange for the valorisation of historical and contemporary facilities.

Time frame

The park maintenance seminar is scheduled to take place in the winter season 2020/2021, probably in February. A follow-up seminar could be planned for the 2021/2022 winter season.

5. Indicative costs

A preliminary cost estimate of approx. €32,000 per seminar is made for the implementation of the park maintenance seminars. The financial range will depend on the number of participants, which has yet to be defined. Due to the necessary planning of a development concept as well as safety precautions and clearing of trees more resources are needed in the first seminar.

The estimated costs are as follows:

a) Professional instruction	€500
b) Preparation and follow-up	€10,000
Tree maintenance	€20,000
c) Materials	€1,000
d) Communication	€500

6. Indicative sources of funding

The measure is financed by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe. In addition, funding can be applied for, e.g. through the Heimatförderung or the NRW-Stiftung, through the involved Heimatverein. The district government of Münster is looking forward to an application.

7. Policy learning

The joint gardening in the park shows that, despite a comparatively small area, many approaches to sustainable land development can be combined and realised: voluntary participation, social space for people of different ages and origins, monumental maintenance and adaptation to climate change as well as the mediation of historical and ecological structures. The measure can help link the promotion of the homeland and the support of projects with voluntary participation more closely to ecological and cultural-historical concerns of neglected areas that are to be designed. Due to the favourable cost-benefit ratio from a social, economic and ecological point of view, such measures can be established as a condition for corresponding funding (in open space development) or at least be positively assessed in the evaluation procedure for funding applications.

3.2.4 Planning workshop: new perspectives for Old Cultural Landscapes – Integration of Historical Cultural Landscapes into Current Planning

Organised by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL), a workshop for planners will take place in which participants will be sensitised to historically valuable landscape structures and learn about possibilities for integrating these into current planning. The workshop will include an active/creative part in which the use of current digital media will be tested by means of business games and field trips, thus creating a different approach to the landscape and its elements.

1. Reference projects from UL2L

Learning from good practices

a) Participatory photography workshop (Umbria, Italy)

A group of 14 students, led by the Ciuffelli Agricultural Institute, was involved in a planning process focusing on new functions of public spaces. The aim was to improve the pupils' understanding of landscape, to sharpen their view and to enable them to participate in a planning process. Methodologically, participation via photography functioned according to the guiding principle „learning by doing, learning by shooting“.



Project presentation

b) The Landscape Laboratory (Southern Sweden)

The laboratory shows over 100 different forest and meadow habitats. It thus offers space for learning, research, recreation and open-air workshops. The diversity of vegetation is shown, such as urban forests, agricultural nature, parks, gardens and street vegetation, and can be explored and studied. In addition, opportunities for active cultural landscape design are demonstrated and people are informed about how landscape areas of very different character (wild or quiet) can be created with identical means (e.g. bushes).



Healing Garden in the Landscape Lab



c) The release of biodiversity in Trevi (Umbria, Italy)

A large crossroads at the entrance to Trevi has been renovated to preserve and increase biodiversity. The transition area was redesigned in terms of the functions ascribed to it: the connection of individual ecological spaces, the hydrological stabilisation of the soil and the recreational function for the citizens. At the same time, passing vehicles are to be slowed down and attention is to be drawn to the attractiveness of the landscape they pass through or to the elements that determine it (e.g. olive trees). In the long term, this should also have a tourist effect (short getaways, overnight stays, weekend trips, etc.).



New planting at the crossroad in Trevi

Findings from the work with stakeholders

The thematic priorities of ecosystem services and cultural landscape are given special consideration in the implementation of this measure. Participants will be sensitised to the (historical) cultural landscape elements and the ecosystem services of cultural landscape structures.

2. Nature of the measure

In order to sensitise planners to the importance of historical cultural landscapes and, in addition, to provide methods and tools for incorporating the concerns of historical cultural landscapes into landscape and spatial planning, a two-day workshop is to be organised for planning offices, nature conservation authorities and project sponsors.

The workshop will provide information on historical cultural landscapes in North Rhine-Westphalia and on their recording and evaluation. In addition to the theoretical lectures, there will also be a practical and creative workshop part consisting of business games and excursions into the landscape.

Furthermore, with the help of new digital media and digital information systems, the historical cultural landscape elements will be tracked down on the computer and in the terrain. The practical reference should contribute towards sensitising the planners to reading and understanding the landscape.

The workshop will probably be designed for 25 workshop participants. The aim of the workshop is, with the help of the participants as multipliers, to bring the concerns of the historical cultural landscape to the planning offices, authorities and decision makers.



3. Stakeholders involved

a) Westphalia-Lippe Regional Council (LWL)

The Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe is a local authority association that provides services in the areas of monument preservation, landscape and building culture in the Westphalia region. The Office for Monument Preservation, Landscape and Building Culture in Westphalia with its department for urban monument preservation, garden culture, garden monument preservation and cultural landscape development is part of the workshop.

b) Rhineland Regional Council (LVR)

As a municipal association, the Rhineland Regional Council provides services in the fields of culture and cultural landscape conservation. The Department of Cultural Landscape Management with its Gardens and Parks project is dedicated to national and international garden heritage.

4. Time frame

June 2020 – September/October 2021.

5. Indicative costs

For the realisation of a two-day planner workshop, a preliminary cost estimate of approx. €9,000 to €10,000 has been made. The financial range will depend on the number of participants, which has yet to be defined, and the scope of the excursion.

The estimated costs are as follows:

a) Professional guidance	€1,500
b) Rental space	€500
c) Preparation and follow-up, documentation	€2,000
c) Materials	€250
d) Catering	€500
e) Fees (for five speakers)	€5,000

6. Indicative sources of funding

The workshop is funded by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL) and participant contributions. The Rhineland Regional Council, through the Department of Cultural Landscape Management, perceives cooperation and financial participation favourably. Providers of digital media, for example virtual reality, could present their technical solutions without paying a fee.

7. Policy learning

From this measure, the necessity arises to also consider the linking of digitalisation and new media with landscape planning activities and efforts in climate change adaptation. In addition, the value of multipliers with new planning approaches must be recognised and promoted more strongly.

4. Putting into practice what has been learned: outlook for the second project phase

With the completion and submission of the action plan by 31 May 2020, the first project phase ends, in which the project participants have dealt with the contents and issues of UL2L and developed innovative measures based on interregional learning. The second project phase is entirely dedicated to the implementation of the designed measures. The project team will work closely with the relevant stakeholders who plan and prepare the implementation of measures and subsequently monitor their execution.

At a final conference, the project results of all partners from UL2L will be presented. The two-day conference will be hosted by the

Lead Partner LVR and thus be held in Rhineland, probably in September/October 2021.

In addition to the project partners, German and international stakeholders, representatives of the INTERREG Secretariat, science and politics as well as visitors from the interested public will be invited.

The aim of the conference is not only to look back on the three and a half past project years, but in particular to identify outstanding issues and future problems and, in this context, to create a perspective for new projects.

The project contents, results and findings will be documented in the form of a final report, which will be financed by the Lead Partner's own funds.

Picture credits:

Front: Zweckverband LandFolge Garzweiler

Back: Zweckverband LandFolge Garzweiler

Page 9: Prost, 2019

Page 21: Gruessen, 2019

Page 22: Gruessen, 2019

Page 25: above Gruessen, 2019

below and right Arnold, 2019

Page 28: Gruessen, 2019

Page 29: Arnold, 2019

Page 32: Arnold, 2019

Page 33: Gruessen, 2019

