



Kristianstads
kommun

UL2L
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

UrbanLinks 2 Landscape

Kristianstad's Action Plan 2020 – 2022

”Green planning in Sweden”



Introduction

For two years, the municipality of Kristianstad has worked intensely with the stakeholder group and the project partners and their stakeholder groups to exchange experiences and learn from each other. We have learned a great amount and been able to incorporate this into the development of guidelines for how ecosystem services and green planning can be strengthened in comprehensive planning according to the Plan and Building Act. Now is the time to implement these experiences and knowledge in our action plan that shows how we will work during phase 2 of the project. In particular, we want Swedish municipalities and regions to make green plans as a basis for the overall planning, but also to lift concepts such as ecosystem services, urban cultivation, climate adaptation and the health prevention opportunities that greenery provides.

During Phase 1, we have produced four documents to cover the commitments we made in the application. Our study on public land has been divided into two reports as it concerns both business operations and compensation in the application. As a basis for the action plan, we have also divided the work into two reports. One report is describing how the municipality integrated its green plan into the comprehensive plan for the city of Kristianstad. The other report is a guide for other municipalities and regions in Sweden and Europe with suggestions on how to work with and implement green planning. Our action plan primarily involves disseminating these four reports in different ways to inspire others and evaluating success at the end of the project.

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1. UL2L project

Kristianstad Municipality is a partner in the Interreg Europe project Urban Links 2 Landscape (UL2L) together with six other partners from the Umbria Regional Authority in Italy, Surrey Country Council in England, Silesia Park in Poland, Kuldiga district municipality in Latvia, Schloss Dyck Foundation in Germany and lead partner Rhineland Regional Council.

The project's main objective is improving local, regional and national policies and related measures with a focus on nature and culture, financed by ERDF or other policies. Within the entire urban green grid, the project has a focus on open urban areas and the areas between urban settlements and the landscape. How can these areas be developed to deliver the best benefits for ecosystem services as mitigation of local effects of climate change, new public demands for urban farming and outdoor healthcare service? Additional information can be found on the project's website <https://www.interregeurope.eu/ul2l/>.

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

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 the 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 Plans.

In the project, each partner has invited a stakeholder group to support the work, to set up a regional Action Plan and help to implement the actions listed in the Action Plan during Phase 2 of the UL2L project, from May 2020 to April 2022.

Kristianstad municipality has a stakeholder group that consists of the National Board on housing, building and planning, the association for municipalities of Scania, Movium, Krinova, Lund and Linköping municipality. In addition, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has actively participated in the work during the second year of the project.

The partners, with support from their stakeholder group, have worked on the improved management of policy instruments and for Kristianstad the Planning and Building law has been the topic.

Kristianstad's action plan will improve the implementation of green planning in comprehensive plans. In addition to the lessons learned by the international cooperation made possible by Interreg Europe and the partners in the UL2L project, the implementation of the action plan will benefit from two studies presented by the partner and stakeholder group - the report on implementation of green planning in Kristianstad's comprehensive plan" and the "guidelines for green planning".

Both studies are of overall value for the partnership and planning as they clarify how public land (municipality-owned land) can be used for commercial activities and how municipalities can work with compensation as a tool for preserving ecosystem services in the city as it expands. The purpose

of the description of how the green plan has been implemented in the comprehensive plan is to provide support to other municipalities in their work with their comprehensive plans. The purpose of the Green Planning Guide is to inspire and strengthen municipalities and regions, in both Sweden and the rest of Europe, in their work on green planning. Both laying as a ground to achieve the overall goal.

2. Goal

To influence how the Planning and Building Act is applied in Sweden to strengthen the planning of the green structure, primarily in comprehensive plans.

3. Lessons learned in UL2L

During the UL2L project many lessons have been learned that have impacted the Comprehensive plan for the City of Kristianstad. During the workshops organized in the project we have been given the opportunity to both see and discuss various good examples of how city and landscape can be better connected, how innovative uses can be designed and implemented and how we can strengthen ecosystem services in the urban areas.

Of particular importance to Kristianstad's Action Plan and its activities to enhance the comprehensive plan are four examples from the UK, Germany, and Italy.

Presentations given by experts from Surrey showed the challenges for urban planning in Surrey being a substantial part of the London green belt, which connects important green areas around great London. Surrey has agreed on a specific policy instrument, the Surrey Rural Statement, to ensure that values of nature and landscape can be maintained or enhanced for the benefit of Surrey and London, its people and the environment. A similar green belt (Kölner Ringe) was also presented and visited by the partners during the visit to Cologne in 2018. It is maintained as such over 90 years now. We were informed about the losses of these green structures as well as the plans and measures to add to this green structure and to complete the ring expanding to and across the river Rhine. This has inspired the Comprehensive plan in Kristianstad to preserve green areas west and east of the city and connect those in a ring around the city.

Both during our workshop in Rhineland in Germany and Katowice in Poland we were shown how former industrial land were converted into green areas. Silesian Park in Katowice is a clear example of this, where one of Europe's largest parks has been created on former industrial land and where today all sorts of qualities - from wild forest to an amusement park can be found. In Ruhr area (Germany) we visited Berne Park that was a former sewage water treatment and transformed into a park including artworks and tiny houses serving as hotel rooms. In Kristianstad we have a former waste dump that recently have been completely covered and will be transformed into a green area. The two examples from Poland and Germany have contributed with inspiration on how the area can be developed.

In the Rhineland (Germany), we were shown the Nordpark Pulheim making a buffer between the village and the cultivated countryside. The same goes for the improvement of recreation and biodiversity in Trevi (Italy) between the new section of Trevi located in the cultivated plain around the hill where the old city is situated. It was interesting to know that the concept of urban gardening was not well used by the local people in Pulheim, as most of them have a private

garden and to learn that in Trevi, the connection between the new and the old quarters will also be used for educational purposes (on biodiversity) and for tourism and economic objectives (to promote the local olive oil). The city of Kristianstad is also surrounded by agricultural land and the transition from the city to the countryside by a green area is valuable and has inspired the Comprehensive plan to propose new green areas in the transition zones.

From the Working Group Meeting with the project partners and experts, in particular the last one held in Cologne in January 2020 also provided inspiration and knowledge to incorporate in our action plan. The discussions showed that the conditions, resources and legislations make it impractical to develop, as initially planned by UL2L, a model for best locations for specific uses in the cities and landscapes. It is however possible to develop some overall guidelines or to give some inspirations for planning activities and measures that can be considered in most cases or locations. It is much about thinking twice if there might be other solutions that might have an additional benefit or be more sustainable (than the more traditional measures).

All this and many other sites visited as well as the discussions with partners and local experts influenced the work on the Action Plan by the team and stakeholders from Kristianstad and is reflected the studies, recommendations and plans and in the following actions worked out during Phase 1 of the UL2L project. More information about this can be found in the two reports in the appendix.

4. Actions

1. Guide to green planning

The guide to green planning was developed by Kristianstad municipality with help from Movium at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science with support from the other stakeholders. The guide is a solid report based on, and includes good examples and recommendations from many municipalities in Sweden but also from partners in the UL2L project. The guide also includes information about why green planning is important, how it is related to laws and legislation from a national and international perspective, how to prepare for conflicting goals, the process of developing a green plan and how to successfully implement the green plan. The goal with the guide is to simplify why and how municipalities can include green values and structures in physical planning hence supporting the overall goal of influence how the Planning and Building Act is applied in Sweden to strengthen the planning of the green structure in comprehensive plans. The guide is presented as pdf-files in both Swedish and English for dissemination in both international and national contexts.

During Phase 2 of the UL2L project, which runs from May 2020 until April 2022, Kristianstad municipality and its stakeholder group will disseminate the green planning guide to Sweden's municipalities and regions to inspire more people to develop green plans to strengthen the planning of the green structure, primarily in the comprehensive plans.

As a first action the guide was presented in a webinar on June 17 2020 with 100 participants from municipalities all over Sweden to inspire municipal employees and politicians to start their work on green planning.

During autumn 2020, Kristianstad municipality, Movium and the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning will spread information about the guide on their websites and in their own newsletters. There will also be articles in professional magazines, now scheduled for April or May 2021.

In the week 43 of the year 2020, Kristianstad municipality and Movium will present the guide at a big national conference organized by Formas (a state-financed organization for research and innovation) to further spread information and show the importance of green structures in the physical planning process.

Of course, the green guide will also be available from the UL2L website and will be promoted in the newsletters distributed by the project for the international interest. Here Kristianstad will prepare the main content for one newsletter focussing on the AP and Swedish activities in December 2020 to be distributed via the next UL2L newsletter.

During the workshop in Kuldiga during autumn 2020 the guide will be presented to the partners to show how they can benefit and use the guide as an inspiration in their local context.

The rest of the budget from the UL2L budget that should be used to finalize the action plan of semester 4, consisting of 10 000 Euros have due to Corona been postponed to semester 5. This money will be used for communication activities for the spreading and development of the green planning guide. For all other activities the costs will be covered by Kristianstad municipality and the government agencies.

<i>Responsible actor</i>	<i>Activities and dates</i>
Kristianstad Municipality, in cooperation with Movium, with the association for municipalities of Skåne, with the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.	Dissemination via the stakeholders websites, newsletters, conferences and daily media.
1. Kristianstad Municipality, in cooperation with Movium, with the association for municipalities of Skåne	1. A webinar on June 17 2020 when 100 participants are expected to attend.
2. Kristianstad Municipality, in cooperation with Movium,	2. A national conference in October 2020 organized by Formas in Stockholm.
3. Kristianstad Municipality and the association for municipalities of Skåne	3. The homepages of Kristianstad municipality and The association for municipalities of Skåne will present the guide in September 2020.
4. National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.	4. The newsletters of NBHB and SEPA will present the guide in October 2020.
5. Kristianstad Municipality	5. The UL2L homepage and newsletter will present the report by December 2020 prepared by Kristianstad.
6. Kristianstad Municipality	6. Two articles will be published in the magasin Stadsbyggaren and PLAN for Swedish planners before May 2021.
7. Kristianstad Municipality	7. During the workshop in Kuldiga the guide will be presented to the partners to show how they can benefit and use the guide as an inspiration in their context.

2. National guidance on green planning

Until today, the guide to green planning (as above) has been published and presented to the professional audience in Sweden. It has been well acclaimed and agreed to be taken forward. Therefore, this Action Plan also includes a number of activities to continue the work with the guide to green planning to become an official national guidance to green planning in Sweden. Here the responsible bodies, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency intend to achieve this new status in the spring of 2021 (June). Kristianstad municipality will support this activity by acting as managing organisation, e.g. by communicating and discussing the guide with the National Platform for Sustainable Cities, which includes many representatives from many national agencies.

Kristianstad's main responsibility will be to get all actors on board for the support of the guidelines and to adjust the existing contents according to the input given by the bodies involved. Kristianstad municipality will support the process based on all the experiences given by the UL2L project and will include the knowledge and experiences from UL2L in the national guide to green planning.

One final result will be an agreed and binding national guidance on green planning published on the websites of The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. This will give the guide to green planning developed by the UL2L project chance to influence how the Planning and Building Act is applied in Sweden to strengthen the planning of the green structure, primarily in the comprehensive plans.

In the context of this action and its activities, Kristianstad municipality will organise and analyse the outcome of four meetings of the project group for the national guidance. The group will meet four times during the autumn 2020 and spring 2021. Two of these meetings will be bigger workshops with invited experts, regions and municipalities. The goal for these meetings is to coordinate the work, exchange knowledge and experience as well as nationally agree on the model of the guide.

<i>Responsible actor</i>	<i>Activities and dates</i>
<p>The National Board of Housing, Building and Planning and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency with Kristianstad municipality managing and facilitating the activities in cooperation with Movium.</p>	<p>Implementation of the guide to green planning into a national guidance for green planning in Sweden.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During the autumn 2020 two workshops will be arranged with key players and internal work with authorities to implement the guidelines for green planning. 2. In the spring 2021 another two meetings will be arranged with the project group to adjust the input given from the national bodies. 3. The final national guidance will be presented in June 2021 on the homepages of NBHBP and SEPA. 4. Presentation of the final national guidance for partners and stakeholders on final conference in June 2022.

3. Implementation of the Green Plan in the Comprehensive Plan

Parallel to, and with inspiration from the work on the UL2L project, Kristianstad Municipality has been, and is working, on a new Comprehensive Plan as the framework for future planning in Kristianstad.

As the first element in this process, Kristianstad produced a report describing how green policies and measures have been/not been respected in the existing comprehensive plan and should be included in the new one. The green plan was not finished when the UL2L project started and we managed to collect input from the early workshops. Since then it has been implemented in the comprehensive plan as shown in the report on implementation.

The main concept of the implementation of the green plan is to show how the three structures building-, communication-, and green structure can be developed without decreasing the value of the green structure. With proper planning, it is much easier to secure and develop both the qualities of the green structure and the other two socially important structures without depleting essential ecosystem services. The injury mitigation hierarchy (four steps: avoiding damage, diminish damage, adjusting damage and compensation as the last step) and the balancing principle have a significant role in finding solutions that both strengthen the green structure as well as develop building- and traffic infrastructure. The comprehensive plan for Kristianstad city and the report shows how development can be done through densification and on poorly utilized land in the urban area to

reduce encroachments on agricultural land and invaluable green areas. It also provides guidance on how the green structure can be developed and provide ecosystem services to the city by adding new qualities and improving existing ones. The report also concludes that by having a green plan when doing a comprehensive plan the green values and municipality ambitions when it comes to green planning is more clear and have a political approval by the ratification.

In this work the experiences gained during the UL2L project have provided a kind of benchmark to evaluate own measures and to inspire the provisions and to impact designs for new green measures in the new comprehensive plan. It is not primarily that good practice examples from UL2L can or will be transferred to Kristianstad, but to open the mind for new approaches and as a confirmation that innovative policies are possible and will bring improved benefits, but need time and continued support.

The comprehensive plan has been on public consultation during spring 2020, when the best practice examples from UL2L could sometimes be used to illustrate the plan’s intentions during public discussions. The comprehensive plan will now have an authority examination during the autumn of 2020 and probably be decided in early summer 2021.

The municipality will make the report available to other municipalities in Sweden and Europe by the municipality homepage and the UL2L project homepage by September 2020. The European municipalities and regions will mainly get inspiration on how to merge the green plan with building and traffic development. Kristianstad will also publish articles about the report in the magazines for planners in Sweden, Stadsbyggaren and PLAN during semester 5 (2020) and 6 (2021).

<i>Responsible actor</i>	<i>Activities and dates</i>
Kristianstad Municipality.	<p>Spreading through websites and newsletters of the UL2L and in articles in magazines for planners in Sweden.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish articles in Stadsbyggaren and PLAN during semester 5 and 6. • Publish information on the municipality homepage and UL2L homepage and newsletter in September 2020. • Presentation on the municipality homepage in September 2020. • A presentation by a representative of Kristianstad on workshops in autumn 2020.

5. Evaluation of results

An evaluation of the result from the project will be conducted in 2022 where all municipal comprehensive plans in Sweden will be reviewed on how green structures have been incorporated into the plans produced in 2020-2022. This will be compared with the same criteria made for comprehensive plans produced in 2018-2020 with a hope of an increase in the number of plans including more green perspectives for the plans later produced.

All stakeholders in the project support the action plan and will assist in the implementation process.

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5. Appendix

- Guidelines for green planning (report 115 pages)
- Implementation of green planning in the comprehensive plan (report 17 pages)