

Local Action Plan

URBACT REPAIR Rostock (Germany)



**The Local Action Plan (LAP) for the
promotion of the cityfortifications of June
2011**

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1

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

The REPAIR URBACT project () is co-financed by the URBACT II programme (2007-2013). This programme aims to encourage the sharing of experiences between European cities and to disseminate knowledge on sustainable urban development throughout Europe. The REPAIR project has several objectives the most important perhaps to explore how the successful regeneration of former military sites can also act as a catalyst for broader sustainable urban development and to develop concrete policy recommendations to be used at local, national and EU level.

The project is led by Medway, UK; it involves 10 project partners which except for Midway mainly consist of medium-large cities which have large regeneration objectives for their military sites:

- Rostock - Germany,
- Kaunas - Lithuania,
- Karlskrona - Sweden,
- Paola - Malta,
- New Dutch Waterline - the Netherlands,
- Avrig - Romania,
- Opava - Czech Republic,
- Charente-Maritime – France,
- Florence - Italy

These 10 partners came together to define methods for realising extensive socio-economic regeneration of old military heritage sites. The REPAIR partnerships focus on the development of innovative new local policy, which places sustainable urban development at the heart of regeneration action to achieve the socio-economic re-use of redundant military heritage to attain the local delivery of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

The overall project results and outcome are based on a policy framework and recommendations centred around four pillars taken from the principles laid down in EU 2020, the Gothenburg Agenda and EU Sustainable Development Strategy

- 1) energy and waste management,
- 2) preservation,

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- 3) sustainable transport and accessibility and
- 4) local jobs.

The Partners' Local Action Plans relate to these pillars and have thus been discussed and developed using the knowledge acquired by other partners in the Thematic Pillar Working Groups.

In order to make sure that the URBACT projects lead to concrete and realistic outcomes, the URBACT II programme requires specific results from the URBACT project partners:

- Each partner realizes a Local Action Plan, which identifies the measures and actions which will be implemented in order to improve the running policies. It aims to provide pragmatic, precise solutions based on the results of the transnational exchanges. It is jointly produced with the Local Support Group (link) on the local level and with all the project partners on a transnational level.
- All URBACT project partners commit to establishing and leading an URBACT Local Support Group to make sure that exchanges have an impact on local practices and policies. This group assembles the main interested parties and local actors concerned by the project topic and the issues the partner is looking to resolve; the groups include local elected officials, representatives of various local administrative departments, representatives of residents/users, etc.

URBACT Local Support Groups contribute to implementing transnational activities (production/approval of case studies, for example) and producing the Local Action Plan that each partner has to produce as the result of participation in the URBACT II programme.

LAPs are an integral part of the Urbact II approach which pursuant to URBACT II guidelines broadly aims:

- *“To facilitate the exchange of experience and learning among city policy makers and practitioners in the field of sustainable urban development among local and regional authorities. Taking into account the acquis of the URBACT I Programme, it will draw lessons to increase their impact on local policies.*
- *To disseminate widely the experiences and examples of good practice collected by the cities, and especially the lessons drawn from these projects and policies, and to ensure the transfer of know-how in the area of sustainable urban development.*
- *To assist policy-makers and practitioners in the cities and managers of operational programmes under the Convergence and Competitiveness Objectives to define action plans on sustainable development of urban areas, which may be selected for Structural Funds programmes.”*
(URBACT Programme document, Section 3.3.2)

All URBACT II partners are required to elaborate an Action Plan as a result of exchange and learning activities. Hence, each partner city must develop its own

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Local Action Plan as an output of its participation in the network. Local Action Plans shall be the results of the network's activities and shall be elaborated in close cooperation with the local stakeholders in each partner city. The development of LAPs shall involve local key stakeholders concerned by the thematic exchanges implemented within the network through cooperation with the designated URBACT Local Support Group. The Local Action Plan should be rooted in the baseline study of the project.

The Local Action Plan should include a clear outline of the nature and scale of the problem in the Local Action Plan area. A fresh and comprehensive understanding of the existing situation and the problems that exist is essential to enabling the right solutions to be found.

Stakeholder involvement in this stage will expand the way that the problem is perceived and ensure that problems are not merely 'agency' views. It is particularly important to involve the users or beneficiaries (the primary stakeholders) in problem and needs analysis.

The action plan needs to recognise that problems facing cities are complex, intractable and inter-connected. No simple solutions are likely to work and 'business as usual' approaches by existing agencies need to be challenged because they have often failed.

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2

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE OF LAP

2. Scope and Objective of LAP (max 3000 characters)

The preserved parts of its city fortification are in the focus of Rostock's activities in the REPAIR project

The city fortifications with its ramparts, ditches, bastions and city gates were significantly redesigned after the city's defortification in the 19th century and even destroyed in many places.

The major part of fortification has been restored over the last fifteen years and redesigned again. By 2012, the architectural and restoration process will be nearly completed with the recreation of the environment of the "Kröpeliner Tor", one of the former city gates. In the beginning of the REPAIR project, we intensified our efforts to develop projects and measures to document the historic meaning and original function of the rampart and city wall facilities publicly. For this, different measures and projects of the ULSG and departments of the city administration of Rostock were developed and have partly been finalized by now. Monument preservation objectives were elaborated for the major part of the rampart facilities and the city wall and have already been applied during these area's recreation and restoration.

"The ramparts as well as the fortifications and gates that were located here in former times served for defense but also for representation of the city. These days, the functions, that will remain relevant in the future, are the following:

- City-structuring function
- Connecting function between suburbs, inner city and harbor area
- Stay and recreation function
- Representative function: Entrance to the inner city
- Market function (Christmas market) and
- Bioclimatic function

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The idea is to strengthen the currently only badly developed connection and orientation function of the area to improve the stay and recreation function.¹ As the ramparts and the city wall are located in the very city center and possess a high-level of living quality and recreation potential for Rostock's inhabitants and visitors, we are and even more will be confronted with the task to meet the expectations towards this area sustainably and regarding monument preservation issues. Thus, function concepts are currently developed for those particularly demanded areas, such as the monastery garden located directly next to the city wall. In addition, monument preservation objectives shall be elaborated for this area. Medium-term, the use of the monastery garden as recreation area and open air theatre location shall remain intact. Likewise, we intend to intensify the public presentation and explanation of the monument preservation aspects of already implemented or still pending recreation measures. We have already spoken about this with committees of Rostock's city council and made related public presentations.

3 CITY PROFILE

3. City Profile (max 4000 characters)

The construction of Rostock's city fortification was started in the 13th century. The period from 1265, when the construction of the city-enclosing wall was started, to the end of the 16th century is referred to a historic stage of medieval city fortifications. The City of Rostock turned into a flourishing trading center over the 14th and 15th century. The city's importance started to fade in the 16th century in relation to the decline of the Hanseatic League.

The period from the beginning of the 17th to the end of the 18th century is referred to as historical stage of fortifications' extension. Due to the new weaponry and the Thirty Years War, the fortifications underwent significant modifications by the beginning of the 17th century. Even in 1613, Johann van Valckenburgh, a Dutch fortress builder appointed as engineer of the Joint

¹ Dr. Stefan Pulkenat: Monument preservation objectives. Western rampart facilities. Rostock 2011

Hanseatic Cities, presented first fortification extension plans. In 1624, Valckenburgh elaborated modified plans. The city started the extension works in 1626, after Valckenburgh's death. Still, his plans were only partially implemented. The deterioration of the facilities began by the middle of the 18th century when, due to the advanced weaponry, the facilities had become obsolete. The period from beginning to end of 19th century is referred to as the historical period of defortification with the fortifications being partly pulled down and horticultural recreated.

The cityscape changed significantly during the 19th century with Rostock outgrowing the medieval city walls. The defortification and recreation was done step by step and without an overall plan. The city became narrower and narrower which increased the longing for outdoor stays among the population. The rampart facilities were used for walking as they offered a good view to the area around.

Parts of the fortifications were destroyed further by bunker constructions and bombing during the Second World War. The modifications carried out in the 1960s and 1970s are no longer adequate from nowadays perspective as they did not take aspects like family friendliness, handicapped accessibility and age-appropriateness into account.

The increasing share of elder persons in the population confronts Rostock with new challenges the community will face in due time. All efforts aim to enable an active participation in social life as well as self-determined ageing in dignity. Due to this, the recreations implemented during the last years put special emphasis on accessibility. The ramparts are green space according to the city's land utilisation plan.

The city fortifications are located outside the inner city restoration area. Urban development funds of the state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern have initiated a rapid urban development process in this area from 1991 on as it is unique in Rostock's history. About 224 Mio Euros from urban development funds flowed into the restoration of Rostock's city centre from 1991 to 2008.

Funding is provided as well for recreating the area in front of the "Kröpeliner Tor". New benches and walls to sit on will invite visitors to linger, the pedestrian zone will be modernised. Sufficient bicycle parking places are provided. The costs for this measure amount to 1.7 Mio Euros, 1.4 Mio Euros of them come from urban development funds.

Members of the ULSG presented the monument preservation aspects related to the recreation of the "Kröpeliner Tor" surroundings publicly. After implemented recreation, the orientation guidance inside the rampart facilities will be improved by the ULSG.

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LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP (ULSG)

4. The Local Support Group

The Urban Local Support Group comprises of representatives of the city administration, of the Rostockean Society of Urban Renewal and Restoration and of associations.

In several meetings, the ULSG agreed upon how to accompany the process of recreating the previous fortifications. The primary target groups for making the facilities more attractive were discussed – for instance, the target group tourists was dealt with.

Tourists do not know the ramparts very much even though they are an attractive area. That is why the ULSG want to invest in an information system. It will be develop and publish information material for inhabitants and guests in cooperation with the association called “Geschichtswerkstatt”, residents and interested people. The existing signposts will be improved optically and if necessary replaced. At the moment some signposts are not clearly visible, therefore the placing of signs containing information must be reconsidered. To date various departments and organizations place signposts. This causes confusion. Thus, another effort must be to coordinate them with the objective of signpost unification which will make the orientation easier.

Other actions considered to increase the area’s attractiveness for tourists are the use of visual means which will hopefully make the information more interesting to perceive.

The largest measures will be the redesign of the area around the “Kröpeliner Tor” that belongs to the Northern entry of the ramparts. At the moment this entry is characterized by stairs, pollards and litter. These obstructions will be removed – here the aspect of being barrier free as well for handicapped people as for cyclists is an important focus.

The main aim is the improvement of accessibility of the main entrances ramparts. There are some plans for the improvement in preparation.

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Because of the reduction of the subsidies for urban development by the federal republic in the current and in next years the funding of these measures will be difficult.

A planning based on the key objective turned out to be hardly implementable in Rostock as many recreation measures have already been completed. In addition, almost no jobs are created in relation to the rampart facility utilisation.

Nevertheless the recreating of the area in front of the "Kröpeliner Tor" will offer new benches and walls to sit on. In consequence visitors will feel invited to linger, the pedestrian zone will be modernised. Sufficient bicycle parking places are provided. The costs for this measure amount to 1.7 Mio Euros, 1.4 Mio Euros of them come from urban development funds. The development from Rostock hasn't yet finished.

The city refortifications with its ramparts are partly surrounded by parks and other green areas. Therefore they are important for the environment especially in the generation of clean air.

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5

EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND BEST PRACTICES

5. Exchange of Knowledge and Best Practices

Representatives from Rostock have taken part in all workshops, among them Anarit Lorenzen-Schmidt as a NGO representative of the ULSG who attended two of the events. Inspirations were taken back regarding volunteer commitment and citizen participation, e.g. from the work of the Chatham Dockyards.

Rostock itself has presented a best-practice example with the renaturation of the woodland "Rostocker Heide". At Rostock`s doorstep there is one of the biggest complete woodland near the German Baltic Coast – it is 6000 hectares big, the Rostock Heath. Besides the economic use in the 20th century the Rostock Heath became more and more an important factor for recreation and health for the people. During and especially after the Second World War the military use of the woodland started. Barracks, artillery and firing ranges, bunkers, dumps and protective devices were built. In 1989 more than 50% of the wood was military area. The actual owners only had restricted access. After the German reunification the militarily used woodland was given back to the City of Rostock on the 1st of January 1992. With the reassignment of the wood the City of Rostock was confronted with the task to dispose buildings and walls, to remove ditches and paths and to scrap military equipment.

The manpower and the financial means needed for that task exceeded the possibilities of the municipality.

By the EU support of the programmes KONVER I and II a bigger part of the former military area could have been renaturated

The use of wood as a renewable resource is without alternative from the ecological point of view it provides people with jobs in the wood, in transport and trade as well as in the wood-working industry and generates earnings for the City of Rostock.

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6 KEY ACTIONS

6. Key Actions

We intend to publish information material for inhabitants and guests within the course of the REPAIR project. In addition, an information panel has been produced. (Picture is added) but still we haven't agreed about the exhibition site. We're looking forward to realize this point soon. Unfortunately the required relevant permissions have not yet been issued. The long-term financing of the information panel shall be ensured by donations and sponsoring. The further implementation of the planning shall be based on voluntary work.

7 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

7. Financial Resources

Most of the actions are initiatives of NGOs and of the municipality. The NGOs will take part in the further actions without fee and employees. The municipality will take part during their working time or voluntary. The outputs, f. e. information panels shall be financed by sponsors.

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Annex

SWOT Analysis

Annex: SWOT analysis

	Positive	Negative
internal factors	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
	establish a ULSG for the project improves the social networking in cultural Affairs	the influence from the URBACT policy could be intensified on local policy
external factors	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
	kick off for the whole Project in Phase 2 with the entry of Partner 5,7,8,9	domination of the experts in all meetings
	new partners are offering fresh input	less possibilities for the partners cause their interests are minor important