

# Study visit to Löbau, Germany

## Landesgartenschau and New Park

### 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2025



**GreenPlace**

**URBACT**



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# VISIT TO LÖBAU, 7th April 2025

## Guests:

- *Slovakia: Denisa Halajová, Lenka Lazorová*
- *Spain: Claudia Muzzati, Antonio Lecha Sanguesa*
- *Romania: Cristina Pavelescu, Iulian Canov*
- *Ireland: Carmel Lynch, Sharon Lynch*
- *NUP Germany: Lilian Krischer*

## Topics covered:

Landesgartenschau and New Park in Löbau:

- *From factories to a big park for all.*
- *Remembering the past with green solutions.*

## Agenda

- *Landesgartenschau*
- *Trade Fair & Exhibition Park*
- *New Park*
- *Schminke House by Hans Scharoun (site visit)*
- *Noodle Factory (site visit)*





# VISIT TO LANDESGARTENSCHAU AND NEW PARK

**Name of the practice:** *From factories to a big park for all – Landesgartenschau and New Park in Löbau*

*Development of the «Landesgartenschau 2012» in Löbau (Saxon State Horticultural Exhibition) and revitalization of a brownfield near the city centre (500 m from train station).*

## **Guest 1: Slowakei (Denisa)**

- I was inspired by the transformation of an abandoned brownfield into an accessible city park for everyone.
- I would use unused spaces to create green areas close to the city center.
- I would involve more local residents in the park design from the beginning.
- Main takeaways- transforming neglected areas can improve quality of life and strengthen community.

## **Guest 2: Spain (Claudia)**

- The large-scale transformation of a post-industrial area into a multifunctional park with nature restoration, cultural and leisure spaces, and new green links to the city.
- As we are planning a very similar transformation in our city, this case offers an excellent reference and inspiration for our own approach.
- We would adapt the project to our local context, with different vegetation and the use of ceramic materials linked to Onda's identity.
- Urban green regeneration can link nature, culture and public space while promoting health, biodiversity and local identity.



# VISIT TO LANDESGARTENSCHAU AND NEW PARK

## Name of the practice: *Remembering the past with green solutions*

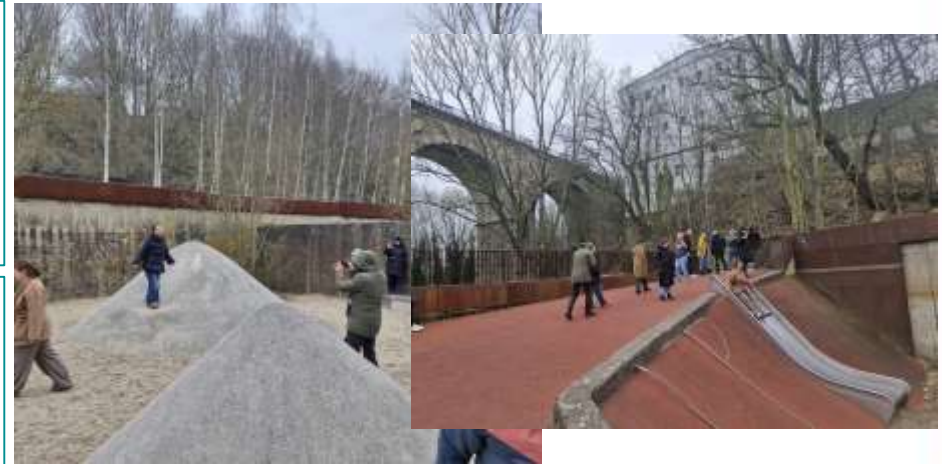
*Integrating remains of the industrial past into the New Park and looking for different environment-friendly, sustainable and green solutions. E.g.: turning the old beetroot soaking pools into fishponds and playgrounds.*

### Guest 1: Romania (Cristina)

- What inspired you from this practice? The way the administration was very involved and knew how to take advantage of existing opportunities. The way the system works as a big event place but also for activities for the population
- What would you do similarly in your city? Bucharest needs places for very big events and I think something like this, with a lot of green places and alternative activities would be nice
- What would you do differently in your city? Maybe more activities to maintain visitors the whole year and on many hours of the day

### Guest 2: Ireland (Sharon)

- What inspired you from this practice? Really liked the use of the historical aspects of the site for play, how the theme of sugar was used to shape play mounds and cubes for climbing. How the slope incorporated the slides and the musical elements of the playground.
- What would you do similarly in your city? Limerick has a number of traditional historical industries, In particular Limerick is known for its ham, and holds an annual festival called Pigtown. We would look to create similar types of relevant play features to create a link back to this heritage.
- What would you do differently in your city? To maybe incorporate more flowers/colour.
- What are your main takeaways? That an area can be given a new function without losing the links to its past, you can keep that past visually alive for residents, as well as creating new habitat for wildlife and areas for play.





## SITE VISITS: NOODLE FACTORY AND SCHMINKE HOUSE

As part of GreenPlace, the city of Löbau wants to revitalise the site with new multifunctional uses (culture, education, business, ...) and use the international attention and tourist value of Haus Schminke as well as the existing local memories of the site for positive development.

### *Guest 1: Germany (Lilian)*

- As National URBACT Point in Germany I was especially inspired by the participatory process used to develop ideas for the reuse of the former noodle factory. It ensures that the needs of residents are considered and prevents the project from feeling like an isolated 'UFO' landing in the city.
- Other German cities could learn from this approach and the creative participation formats, such as the photo exhibition where people could leave comments, community activities like Christmas celebrations to collect ideas for the usage or pilot usages.
- My key takeaway: it's crucial that residents can identify with a previously vacant site. The connection between the Nudelfabrik and the nearby Haus Schminke, which already serves as a local point of identity, significantly enhances the site's overall value and sense of place.

### *Guest 2: Romania (Cristina)*

- What inspired you from this practice? How such a small team can take care of the spaces and push forward for things to happen
- What would you do similarly in your city ? Revitalize abandoned industrial places, we have many
- What would you do differently in your city? Nothing, maybe hire a person just to search for funding, as the places require costly interventions
- What are your main takeaways? Industrial heritage matters and it should be on the local politicians agenda



## HOSTS' TAKEAWAYS

### Quote from the host (Anna Gumbert, Communication Officer):

We were proud to be able to present our City Treasures to interested representatives from different cities and share our knowledge and experiences from these important projects.

### Quote from an elected representative (Albrecht Gubsch, Mayor):

It was an interesting experience, how such an exhibition like Landesgartenschau after so many years can currently generate still such interest.

### Quote from a ULG member (Julia Bojaryn, ULG Coordinator):

It was wonderful to present the Landesgartenschau, the Haus Schminke and the Noodle factory! And it is so much easier to explain and talk about your projects on site when our guests could actually see the park and the buildings.



## SLOWAKEI'S TAKEAWAYS

### Quote from the host (Denisa Halajová, ULG coordinator):

Visiting this Project Partner provided real-life insight into how urban transformation and green infrastructure can successfully revitalize former industrial areas. We learned how strategic planning, public events like the Landesgartenschau, and community-oriented design can turn neglected spaces into inclusive and sustainable public parks.

### Quote from the host (Lenak Lazorová):

Visiting Löbau offered valuable firsthand experience of how a smaller city can creatively regenerate industrial brownfields into inclusive, multifunctional green spaces. It highlighted the importance of long-term vision, cross-sector collaboration, and how events like the Landesgartenschau can serve as catalysts for sustainable urban transformation. Seeing the physical results and hearing from local stakeholders added depth that cannot be captured through documents alone. We learned how integrating historical memory, landscape design, and public engagement can reshape a city's identity and improve quality of life. Their approach emphasized that even modest cities can lead ambitious and impactful projects when local assets are activated thoughtfully.





## SPAIN'S TAKEAWAYS

**Quote from the host (Claudia Muzzati, Project Coordinator):** Visiting Löbau was very valuable for us, as it allowed our team to see a successful example of how a small city can transform a former industrial area into a multifunctional green space. Löbau gave us concrete ideas and confidence to move forward with our green lung project in Onda, adapting their approach to our climate, culture and materials.

**Quote from an elected representative (Vicente Bou, Councillor for European Projects and Innovation)**

Löbau showed us that even small cities can lead ambitious urban transformations when there is a clear vision and strong public support. Visiting this project partner gave us valuable insight into how to turn industrial heritage into an opportunity for environmental recovery, social use and civic pride.

**Quote from a ULG member (Marina Sanchis, Municipal Architect):**

I found it particularly valuable to see how Löbau integrated landscape, heritage and urban connectivity in the regeneration of a former industrial site. We learned how thoughtful design can transform a degraded area into a meaningful public space that reinforces both environmental quality and social cohesion.





## ROMANIA'S TAKEAWAYS

### *Quote from the host (Cristina, urban planner):*

- *What was the added value of going to this Project Partner? What did you learn from them?*

I found it amazing that such a small team can do such a meaningful work and that if you want to have good results, with impact on the community you need engaged and enthusiastic people.

### *Quote from the host (Iulian, urban planner):*

- *What was the added value of going to this Project Partner? What did you learn from them?*

The conversion and revitalization of industrial or technical infrastructure is a theme that we share with the GreenPlace project in Löbau. Visiting the noodle factory and learning first hand about the testing actions that the Löbau team has organized here, are a valuable experience and experience for us. Also we found a lot of inspiration and useful ideas for defining our IAP.



## IRELAND'S TAKEAWAYS

### Quote from the host (project coordinator, Carmel Lynch):

It was interesting to see how the former sugar factory was converted to a parkland with symbolic play features provided. This is something we would like to replicate in Limerick. Also interesting was the level of engagement on the Noodle Factory which was very inspirational.

### Quote from a ULG member (ULG coordinator, Sharon Lynch)

The trip was very well hosted and organised, we saw so many interesting and inspiring actions in our short visit.

Löbau demonstrated how an industrial past can remain visible both in an attractive and functional way, preserving the memory for future generations.

A very interesting opportunity to learn about architectural modernism, and how citizens can be involved in participation plans/actions, working together to shape the future of historical sites.





## NATIONAL URBACT POINT GERMANY TAKEAWAYS

### Quote from the host (Lilian Krischer, NUP Germany):

- As National Contact Point for Germany, it was particularly valuable to witness how much the participating European cities benefited from the knowledge exchange. Partners were able to experience first-hand how measures are implemented locally and what impact they have. It was inspiring to see how cities reflected on their own approaches and actively explored how they could transfer what they had learned to their local contexts.
- Content-wise, I found it especially compelling to see how a regional garden exhibition (Landesgartenschau) can leave a lasting impact on an entire region, and how a formerly vacant factory can once again become a place of identity and connection for local residents.



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## GROUP PICTURE!

