

Greenspace Strategies for Urban Landscapes – Experiences from the GreenKeys Project

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Abstract

GreenKeys is an *INTERREG IIIB Project* and this means that it is partially financed from the European Union. Twenty partners (seven scientific partners, one NGO and twelve city partners from seven countries) are collaborating in order to define and implement adequate strategies for the improvement of urban green spaces. The official project title is *GreenKeys – Urban Green as a Key for Sustainable Development* (project website: <http://www.greenkeys-project.net>). Lead partner of the consortium is the Municipality of Dresden – Department of Urban Green and Waste Management.

Some of the main project goals are the enhancement of urban green spaces' recreational value, the support of ecological functions and a better social cohesion.

A big amount of money in GreenKeys is spent for practical measures in so called *pilot projects* (see http://www.greenkeys-project.net/en/pilot_projects.html). The pilot projects on site level are part of a complex *urban green strategy* on city level which is developed from the city partners. They are assisted and guided from scientific partner institutions. One of them is the UFZ. The strategies will enable the city partners to foster the quality and quantity of urban green spaces. In this context governance and financial aspects are among the most important framing conditions (further explications and illustrations:

see my presentation under http://www.urban-landscape.net/porto_seminar/outputs.php).

In the project structure of GreenKeys trans-national learning processes (e.g. via a webboard, several meetings/conferences, a task force group, external experts) and the interplay between science and practice (e.g. good examples for public participation and stakeholder integration) are effectively implemented. The *Final GreenKeys Conference* is open to participants with different backgrounds (administrative and scientific backgrounds and to the interested public). It will be held in Sofia from 17th until 18th of April 2008.