

LANDSCAPE LABORATORY 2.0

1. Aim and idea

The project aim was to further **develop the Landscape Laboratory (LL)** in Alnarp as an infrastructure for research, design, education and PR.

The idea was to get together people who are interested in working in and with the LL, and **facilitate cross-disciplinary initiatives** using the LL, to promote discussion, and highlight the importance of the LL as an SLU infrastructure.

2. Activities

Two large workshops to raise awareness, and share thoughts concerning the LL were held during the project in 2018, one on March 23rd, and one on April 25th-26th, during the Landscape Days in Ultuna. These workshops hosted an external expert facilitator in Alnarp and an external expert in Ultuna. There were also several smaller meetings between the Core Team members.

3. Outcomes

The project offered a platform and fueled discussions as expected. The main outcomes can be listed as:

- 1) The two large workshops reached people across campuses, disciplines, and included also municipal actors.
- 2) An idea and a way forward to realize a LL office
- 3) Application to urban futures gave 50000 kr to prepare a MOVIMUM application
- 4) The creation of a new course: Alnarp Campus Lab
- 5) Inputs to the Alnarp campus plan
- 6) Planning a research project related to the LL
- 7) Meeting with the Dean

The two CFI workshops were planned as continuation to a workshop held in March 2017. Based on this earlier workshop, eight themes were framed for further development, representing a variety of potential targets and activities in and for the LL. The working methods were chosen so as to facilitate everyone to speak up their ideas and help concretize the themes and define steps to reach the targets. The main ideas were narrowed down to five themes for the Landscape Days in Ultuna. There are several initiatives and groups formed as a result of these workshops and the work of the Core Team.

A main outcome is a clear signal that in order to be able to maintain and develop the LL in Alnarp as an important infrastructure for teaching, research, design experiments and PR, **there needs to be a supporting LL Office** that is recognized throughout the campus and in relevant networks outside the campus as well. Importantly, it was concluded that a joint LL Office for several outdoor facilities - Västerskog/Tor Nitzelius/Klaus V together with e.g. Rehab-garden, Trädgårdslabbet, and Sortimentsträdgårdarna – would be most efficient and beneficial. Even satellite Outdoor labs like Snogeholm could be involved. The practical tasks of the office would include the coordination of activities (research, management, teaching, etc.), fund raising, opening of data, PR (including guided tours). The main argument for the

office is that more work time allocation is needed to guarantee continuation of experiments, for data management (cf. TILDA open data system at SLU), for easy access from outside SLU, and to facilitate collaboration e.g. with municipalities. Furthermore, while the LL is world-known among researchers, it is important to profile it at SLU.

Outcomes

- The first step to achieve a LL Office was a **successful application to UF Open Call that received 50 000 SEK**. This money will provide time allocation to write an application, potentially Movium, for employing a LL office manager and/ or a PhD student, who in turn will seek opportunities to apply for increasing the staff (Vinnova, Formas, European level grants), including more PhD students. A follow-up meeting with Caroline Dahl, head of Movium, has clarified the framework for a Movium application. Next step is to identify who can drive the set-up of this application and to hire the right person to build the consortium and draft the application.
- Another outcome is a **Planning Project course, MSc level** 15, Landscape Architecture Period 1, Sept-Nov 2018, currently taught by Gunilla Lindholm, Lisa Diedrich and others. This project will provide ideas by one of the main user groups, the students, for the development of **Alnarp as a Lab Campus**, centrally located in the knowledge region of the Öresund, and on the forthcoming Alnarp train station. The Dean has agreed to discuss the students' strategic spatial designs on the final course presentation on 26 October 2018.
- Furthermore, the uniqueness of outdoor laboratories at SLU has been presented to the committee involved in the **Alnarp Campus Plan revision**, and is expected to be followed up by the faculty and by SLU Urban Futures.
- **A research idea has been drafted in the workshops**. The aim is to develop an interdisciplinary problem-driven research plan together with the municipalities. External funding will be applied, and if granted, the project will focus on defining the concept of nature-based management and in testing the concept in practice in the LL. The LL will serve as a test bed for e.g. deadwood inclusion, biodiversity enhancement, grazing animals, experiential quality, and change of value over time. In practice the project will include interdisciplinary learning by doing, e.g. co-design and co-management via on-site planning and design experiments in the LL with students, and practitioners in landscape planning, design and management.
- Finally, a **FORMAS-funded book project** on the LL Alnarp has proceeded in parallel with this CFI project, led by Anders Busse Nielsen and Lisa Diedrich, and discussions between the projects offered fruitful cross-fertilization of ideas both ways.