



September 2012-March 2013

SEEDS

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1

SEEDS stands for **Stimulating Enterprising Environments for Development and Sustainability**. It is funded by the ERDF Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme.

Through the work of its partners, the SEEDS project aims to promote the re-use of vacant sites by working towards new spatial planning strategies that will stimulate regeneration and sustainability across the North Sea Region. SEEDS will find new and innovative solutions for the currently inflexible planning systems; stimulate exciting land use strategies; and overcome the reluctance of landowners/developers to free up their vacant sites. SEEDS partners will facilitate an exchange of ideas and experiences for re-use of vacant sites, helping to create vibrant locations in which to live, work and invest.

By the end of the project we expect to have established an online hub that will support those involved in temporary re-use of vacant spaces, and a working forum which will continue to lobby for the support of re-use of abandoned land and buildings.

Please visit our **website**. You will find inspiration and useful information from a wide range of re-use projects across the EU; a photo 'pinboard' of re-use images to stir the imagination; and lively discussion on the most pertinent land re-use issues of the day.



INTRODUCING OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE

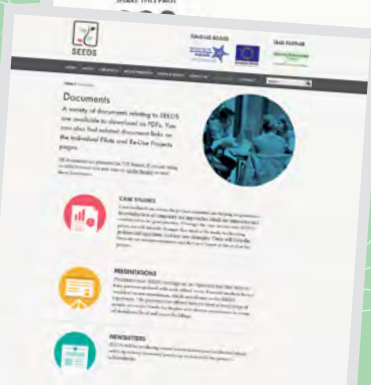
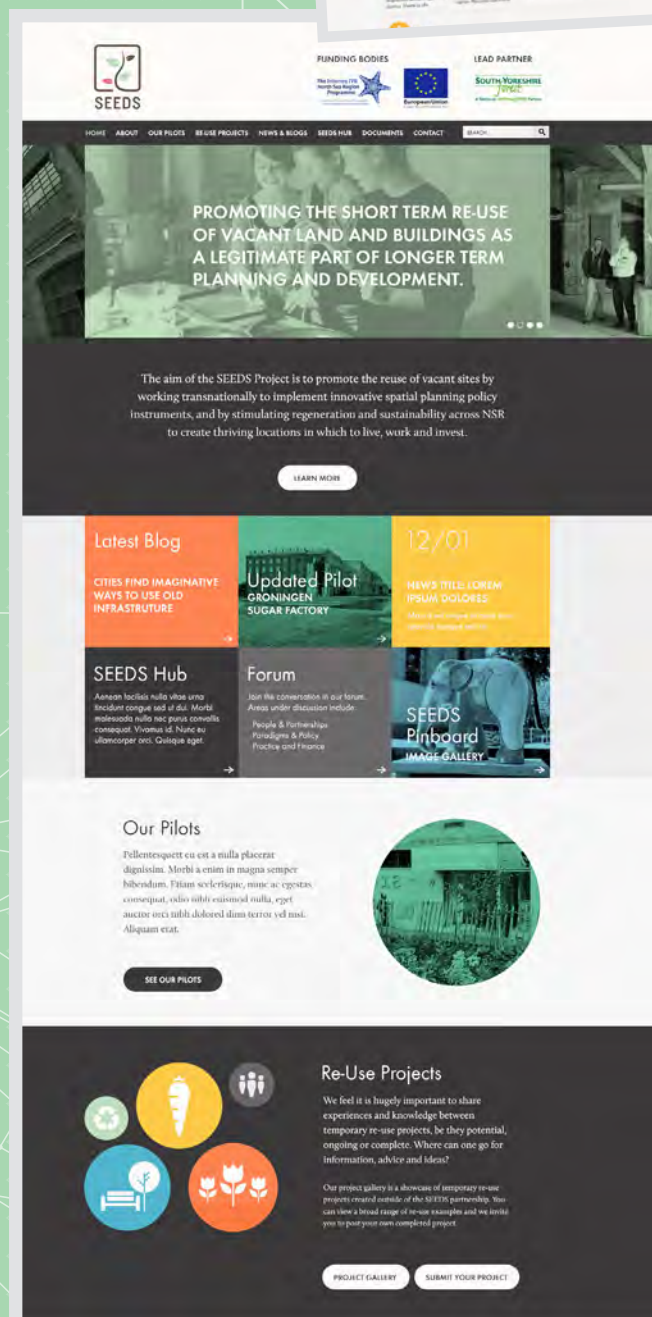
We now have a brand new website, its launch coinciding with our first newsletter. You will find it at www.seeds-project.com. Please visit and take a look around. The website is designed to act as a hub - an online forum, if you like - for people involved in both temporary and longer term land and buildings re-use. Whether you are a community member who wants to see what others have done and how they did it; a planning officer for a Local Authority looking for inspiration around interim uses as a part of longer term planning; a landowner or developer who wants to loan his/her land out for a temporary use until the economy picks up; a politician looking for help on how he/she can support the local community in re-using a vacant plot, we hope you will find the information you need here on the **SEEDS website**.

If you can't find an answer to your question, or you would like to ask more detailed questions on the projects showcased here, you can do so in our **forum**. This is the place where you can discuss the issue of the moment with others who are involved in temporary re-use. Or perhaps you have been a part of one of our working groups or have attended one of our workshops, and want to continue the discussion. You can do that here too.

If you are running a re-use project and you would like to showcase your achievements, you are welcome to do so; just submit your details in the **re-use projects** section. Have you seen an interesting re-use project, or an exciting opportunity for a project? Share your photos on our **pinboard**.

Keep up with the latest developments related to temporary use or site re-use, or comment on our blog. You can view our most recent articles and posts **here**.

You can also sign up for our regular newsletter which will keep you up to date with the latest project developments. All you have to do is to **register with us**. This will also give you the freedom to join the conversations in the Hub; ask and answer questions; and upload your photos. Do please join the online SEEDS community at www.seeds-project.com.



EVENTS^{AND} ACTIVITIES



SEEDS Mid-term Conference in Hamburg, DE.

In June SEEDS held its mid-term conference, hosted by our partner Lawaetz Foundation and HafenCity University. It was particularly exciting because 2013 is the presentation year of the International Building Exhibition (IBA). You can read more about IBA [here](#).

IBA's latest efforts have been concentrated in Hamburg and the 'Leap Across the Elbe' to the island of Wilhelmsburg in the river Elbe. Wilhelmsburg is the home of the University of the Neighbourhood, one of SEEDS' pilots.

The conference featured speakers from the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, IBA, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and HafenCity University in the morning, followed by an afternoon visiting several re-use projects on the island. These included **The Soul Kitchen**, a club venue named after a famous German film of the same name, **Rialto Lichtspiele**, a 1920s cinema, **The Energy Bunker**, a wartime building used for shelter now used to generate power, combined with a visitors' centre and café, and **Veringhöfe**, a building currently under reconstruction which will be used to house artisans.





Workshop on People and Partnerships, EU wide

The SEEDS project recognises three main issues when working with temporary re-use projects: **people and partnerships; paradigms and policy; and practice and finance**. To try and gain a better understanding of the problems and opportunities surrounding these themes, SEEDS is holding workshops on each of them to enable further discussion. The results will help to form a set of recommendations – SEEDS' Re-Use Charter – that will be presented to the EU and to national governments. The first workshop on people and partnerships took place in April 2013, and involved a mix of people involved with re-use projects: community members; Local Authority; academics; and charities. A lively discussion on the difficulties of engaging people ensued, helping to identify those who need to be involved in a successful re-use project and how they can be attracted to help facilitate successful re-use on derelict sites.

Our second workshop on paradigms and policy is planned for August and will be reported on in our next newsletter. If you would like to come to our workshops, please **contact us**.



Dialogue Café, Göteborg SE

The Dialogue Café is the brainchild of Urban Nexus, a project funded by the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) which concentrates on improving networks between organisations across Europe that are involved in integrated sustainable urban development. In April, Urban Nexus hosted a Dialogue Café in Göteborg, which presented the opportunity to connect with other organisations and individuals working on re-use of vacant land and buildings. There was a lot of interest in SEEDS, and the event presented the project with the chance to exchange ideas with a range of organisations outside the North Sea Region. If you would like to read more about Urban Nexus, take a look at their **website**.



VISIT US ON FLICKR

View our gallery on Flickr and see what we've been taking part in.

Interested in joining in? [Get in touch](#)

PROJECT GALLERY

PILOT PROJECTS

SEEDS has 20 pilot projects across the North Sea Region.

These are the pilots that have made recent progress. You can find out about all 20 of our pilots on our [website](#).

Linnéstaden, Göteborg SE

This pilot is a local urban food gardening project in the Linnéstaden area of Göteborg. The area has just one green open space, part of which is earmarked for housebuilding and was thus derelict. Until such time as the development begins, the site has been overhauled to provide a small urban garden and a dog walking ground for local inhabitants. Work on this is now complete, and people are beginning to take ownership of the small raised beds. The site is managed by the local gardening organisation Skans Hill Growers Association, and the gardens are now fully let. The dog walking ground is proving popular, and is a successful mitigation for the loss of the old terraces where people walked their dogs.



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Visit our website to read about these and other recent SEEDS Pilot Projects. Follow their progress and watch them develop.

PROJECT GALLERY

River City, Göteborg SE

The River City pilot aims to provide a recreational area for young people. Until recently there has been much discussion regarding its location within the River City area of Göteborg. Göteborg Stad originally wanted to provide space for younger children to have an adventure playground, but this proved difficult due to the distance from the proposed areas to where the children lived. A rethink has led to the city now providing somewhere for young people for whom the distance is less of a problem. The pilot has been narrowed to two potential sites, Polstjäernegatan and Lundbybadet. The next step will be to hold a workshop to finally decide on the site.



Cultural Warehouse, Hamburg DE

The Cultural Warehouse began life as a warehouse, but its latest incarnation was an Erotic Museum. As a balance to the gentrification of the Bernhard Nocht area where the building is situated, the Cultural Warehouse will become a hub for local artisans and other community members. Structural work on the warehouse is progressing well and the cultural programme is already being drawn up in anticipation of its opening.



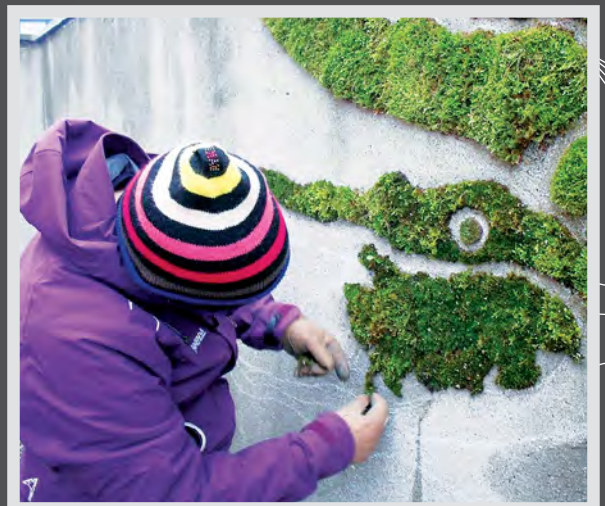
A11, Zeebrugge BE

One of our two rural sites, this pilot concentrates on land consolidation where landowners and the farmers on their land are adversely affected by the proposed new trunk road the A11. There have been many meetings between the Flemish Land Agency (VLM) running the pilot and the farmers affected, ensuring they are included in the consolidation process. Preliminary investigations have taken place on site prior to construction work beginning, and a new plantation has been created as a mitigation measure.



Smedetoften, Bispebjerg DK

This pilot is working with local disenfranchised young people in partnership with the area's after school club. Together the young people have learnt to harvest their own wood from a nearby forest and make their own garden furniture and planters, along with learning to create a 'moss wall', and grow plants from seed.



Living with Nature, Sheffield UK

Living with Nature is run by our sub-partner Sheffield Wildlife Trust, and concentrates on bringing forgotten parcels of land back into use while bringing nature closer to those that live nearby. There are eight sites altogether; with the help of local communities the designs are already drawn up and three of the sites are ready for redevelopment. One of the key principles is to create play value within a natural landscape using natural features across a site rather than putting up a fence and play equipment with the provision that children must play there and nowhere else. There have been some 'quick wins', including bulb planting with local children; creating climbing frames using felled trees; and planting new cherry trees.

Smedestræde, Valby DK

Smedestræde is a pilot located in the Valby district of Copenhagen and is an old carpark and car dealer's that was to be bought and developed as a supermarket. The local people fought hard against this as they wanted a cultural space incorporating a theatre and a library. So far they have been successful in stopping the sale and gaining the support of the local authority which is paying 'reservation rent' to keep the site and has given money towards the design of the new theatre and library.



RE-USE PROJECTS

We feel it is hugely important to share experience and knowledge. You can read about successfully completed re-use projects on our website.

[PROJECT GALLERY](#)

PROMOTE YOUR PROJECT

Do you have a project you're undertaking?
Would you like to share your experience?

[SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT](#)

GET IN TOUCH



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Miljøpunkt Valby DK

Gemeente Leek NL

Gemeente Noordenveld NL

Gemeente Assen NL

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