



**Let's do it together!**

Study visit to Nitra  
16-17 October 2024



**URBACT**



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# Study visit to Nitra, 17 October 2024

## Guests

- *Wroclaw, Poland*
- *Loebau, Germany*

## Topics covered

- **Community : Co-design, co-development**
- **Green infrastructure – biodiversity**
- **Circular economy: regeneration of abandoned places and regeneration of historical buildings**

## Agenda

- **In-Habit**
- **Hidepark**
- **Vila K**



## VISIT to HidePark

### A BOTTOM-UP MULTIFUNCTIONAL PLACE ADDRESSING LOCALS' NEEDS

- Initial challenge: Long-term need of independent cultural-community centre,
- Changes it brought: Independent summer cultural-community centre as an important place for sport, culture, art, and ecology
- <https://www.hidepark.sk/>

### Anna Rączka, Wrocław ULG Coordinator:

*“Hidepark is an inspiring example of how an abandoned space can be revitalized into a vibrant cultural and ecological hub. The mix of community-driven projects, from the community garden to the pump track, shows what can be achieved when people come together with a shared vision. It's a space that feels alive with possibility.”*

### Joanna Gańcza-Pawełczyk, Wrocław project coordinator:

*„It was amazing place open to everybody. Users can feel at home there. There is a relaxed atmosphere and a lot of different types of activities. Everyone can find something for themselves! Most of the elements could be transferred in our city, some certainly at our depot.”*



## VISIT to Meadows by the River

### CO-DESIGN, CO – DEVELOPMENT, CO-MANAGEMENT

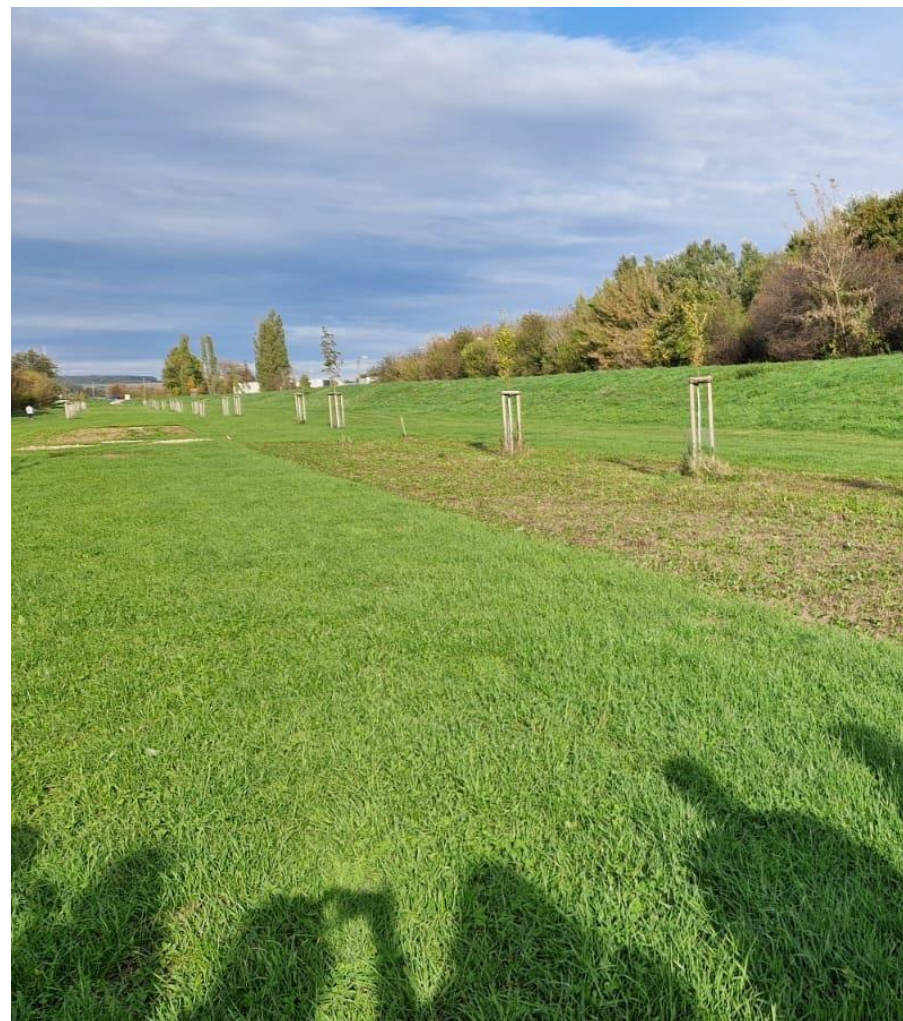
- Initial challenge: Health and well-being of residents by improving the environment,
- Changes it brought: Co-design of a small park, tree planting, permaculture workshops, etc.

### Anna Rączka, Wrocław ULG Coordinator:

*“From this experience, I can see the value in creating multifunctional green spaces that encourage interaction with the environment, as well as thinking creatively about how to utilize tricky locations like floodplains by the river.”*

### Joanna Gańcza-Pawełczyk, Wrocław project coordinator:

*“It's great that the municipality wants to enrich the functions of the polders with recreation and additional plantings. I think the idea is transferable to other cities as long as it does not disturb the basic function of these areas.”*



## VISIT to Vila K

### Preservation of cultural heritage

- Initial challenge: the need to save one of the few functionalist villas in Slovakia.
- Changes it brought: the creation of a cultural center that provides space primarily for the city's community of architects and artists, but also revitalized the street with a café, increased awareness of residents of Jewish origin in the city.
- <https://www.vilak.sk/en/>

### Anna Rączka, Wrocław ULG Coordinator:

*“The visit to Vila K was inspiring in how it blends historical preservation with a modern cultural purpose. It showed how reimagining historic buildings as community hubs can bring heritage to life. We hope this experience will lead to a future collaboration between Vila K and the modernist WuWa housing estate in Wrocław.”*

### Małgorzata Markiewicz, Wrocław:

*„Villa K is a significant historical building. Its unique architectural style, which blends modern and classical elements. I was inspired by minimalism and functionality of the space. A combination of modernity and respect for the historical context of the place. An example in our place is the Wuwa settlement, which uses functional solutions - simplicity of form and adaptation of space to the needs of residents.”*



## VISIT to Vila K (cont'd)

### Julia Bojaryn, Löbau ULG Coordinator:

*„We were very excited to be able to visit the Vila K for all the connections to the Schminke House in Löbau that we take care of. It was astounding to see how well heritage conservation can work, if you find the right people and support them as what they are doing is important for the public. The private owner of the Vila K took huge measures to make this house a very good example for heritage preservation and a sensitive reconstruction, even without a clear vision for its use in the future.*

*It is clear that the most important thing in the preservation of our built heritage is to make the importance, the potentials but also the general benefits understandable for the public. We were very happy to see this great place and get to talk with the staff there. ”*

### Anna Gumbert, City of Löbau:

*“It was an amazing experience to see this wonderful house, Vila K with many similarities to Haus Schminke. It is also cool that in this building, you can also sit down, have a coffee and soak up the wonderful atmosphere of the 1930s. Recommended for anyone interested in architecture who plans to visit Nitra or Bratislava.”*



## HOSTS' TAKEAWAYS

### Denisa Halajová, City of Nitra, ULG coordinator:

*“The added value of welcoming guests was the opportunity to exchange experiences with community projects in the area of urban greenery (community gardens), experiences with projects to increase biodiversity in the city (Zielony Worclaw) and with the restoration of significant architectural monuments of functionalism (Osiedle WuWA in Wroclaw). The participants confirmed the importance of both natural and architectural objects, which after restoration can serve the community.”*

### Katarína Melichová, In-Habit, Hidepark, SPU, ULG member:

*“The Polish team was particularly interested in examples of community work on transforming a former abandoned green space into a Hidepark community center with a JEŽ community garden. They were interested in forms of co-design and possibilities for financing activities. They were also interested in the outputs of the IN-Habit project, such as flower meadows and picnic areas, which were also created through co-design along cycle routes A and B. Their goal is to improve the quality of life of residents. We discussed the possibilities of participating in HORIZON projects.”*



## WROCŁAW'S TAKEAWAYS

### Joanna Gańcza-Pawełczyk, project coordinator:

*„Amazing places! They showed us that grassroots initiatives work best. They create places that live, enjoy and serve people.”*

### Anna Rączka, ULG Coordinator:

*“It was inspiring to see practical examples of sustainability, collaboration, and creativity in action, offering valuable lessons for future projects in our city.”*

### Małgorzata Markiewicz:

*“I could find out about creating green spaces. It was great to see examples of transforming neglected areas into modern and sustainable places.”*





**GreenPlace**

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More information about GreenPlace:  
<https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace>