URBACT GreenPlace. Let's do it together! network
Restoring "forgotten" urban areas into valuable places FOR and WITH residents

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URBACT GreenPlace. Let's do it together!
Handbook on restoring "forgotten" urban areas into valuable places FOR and WITH residents

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1. Foreword

In the face of the intensifying effects of the climate crisis, dynamic urbanisation, and uncertain geopolitical situation, the restoring of "forgotten" urban areas — including urban greening — is becoming a key tool for improving the quality of life for residents. Green cities not only mitigate the negative effects of climate change by improving water retention, reducing the urban heat island effect, and purifying air, but also improve public health and social integration. Transforming the urban landscape through the introduction of green corridors, parks, and infrastructure based on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) enables adaptation to rapid environmental changes and contributes to the construction of more resilient urban structures. Green cities, based on a holistic approach to sustainable development, provide space for recreation, environmental education, and strengthen social ties, which is the foundation for building sustainable local communities.

"Forgotten" urban areas constitute a specific category of space that, on the one hand, poses a significant challenge and, on the other, a missed opportunity for urban development. As a result of socio-economic changes, many cities face the challenge of abandoned, neglected, or underutilized areas that once served important functions—industrial, commercial, residential, or social. *Transforming such "forgotten" areas into sustainable development spaces, including green spaces, offers an opportunity to revitalise urban areas, improve the quality of life for residents, and strengthen cities' resilience to climate change.* Greening "forgotten" urban areas is crucial not only for improving environmental quality but also for public health. Transformed areas can serve recreational, educational, and social functions, becoming spaces that foster community integration, and also play a role in protecting biodiversity by restoring natural ecosystems in cities. However, designing such areas requires a specialised approach that considers both ecological and social aspects, as well as the technical challenges of removing pollutants and improving soil quality.

Social participation plays a key role in the green transformation process. *Resident involvement in decision-making, spatial design, and the implementation of urban greening activities is fundamental to success.* Public participation enables the collection of valuable information about local needs and opportunities, as well as building a sense of responsibility for shared spaces. Low-cost initiatives based on the use of local resources and resident knowledge are an effective method for implementing change in areas with limited budgets. The *GreenPlace. Let's do it together!* project places significant emphasis on participatory methods – workshops, consultations, resident meetings, and educational activities – which not only mobilize the local community but also enable the creation of solutions tailored to the specific conditions of a given area. This approach not only reduces investment costs but, above all, builds lasting relationships and trust between various entities – local governments, NGOs, and residents. This allows the transformation of post-industrial areas to take on both a technical and social dimension, which is essential for achieving long-term results.

2. About the *GreenPlace. Let's do it together!* network

For the programming period 2021-2027, URBACT IV builds on the legacy of past Programmes and includes even more opportunities for cities to make positive change. The current Programme integrates the crosscutting EU priorities of digital, green and gender-equal policy-making into its activities. The programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a budget of EUR 79 769 799.

GreenPlace. Let's do it together! is a European project implemented under the URBACT IV (Action Planning Network) programme from June 2023 to December 2025. The network brings together partner cities with a common goal of developing a set of actions for restoring "forgotten" urban areas through social activation, greening, and adaptation to climate change. The project responds to the contemporary challenges of the climate crisis, urbanisation, geopolitical tensions, and financial constraints by promoting a sustainable and cost-effective approach to existing urban resources. Instead of creating new investments from scratch, the project focuses on restoring the social, ecological, and spatial functions of degraded and neglected areas.

The activities of the network are focused on:

- *Public participation* where residents play a key role in diagnosing problems and creating solutions;
- *Greening* as a tool of climate change adaptation;
- *Contextual approach* which takes into account local social, spatial, and economic conditions;
- *Integration of environmental issues with local urban policy*;
- "*Space restoring*" by giving new functions to existing urban structures.

The *GreenPlace* network consists of nine (formerly ten) partners representing different regions of Europe, which enables a multidimensional exchange of experiences and testing of solutions in different local contexts, including:

- Wrocław (Poland);
- Boulogne-sur-Mer Développement Côte d'Opale (France);
- Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (Romania);
- Cehegín (Spain), the partner operated within a limited time frame and scope during the project implementation
- Limerick (Ireland);
- Löbau (Germany);
- Nitra (Slovakia);

- Onda (Spain);
- Quarto d'Altino (Italy);
- Vila Nova de Poiares (Portugal).

During the project, experts supported various tasks including the design and facilitation of workshops on inclusive design, assisting partners with the creation and review of Integrated Action Plans, delivering a MasterClass on indicators and monitoring, contributing to a session on Peer Review of IAPs, presenting IAP guidelines, providing overall feedback, and offering individual support and targeted advice for each partner's draft. Marcelline Bonneau, as a Lead Expert, prepared Baseline Study.

GreenPlace uses greenery as a key factor in reducing the effects of climate change in cities, treating vegetation not only as an aesthetic component of space, but also as a tool for improving the quality of life, water retention, protecting biodiversity and reducing the urban heat island (UHI) effect.

The project's methodology is based on the planning cycle: *diagnosis – testing – planning – implementation – evaluation*. Each partner city creates its own ***URBACT Local Group (ULG)*** – a local forum for cooperation between residents, activists, public institutions, researchers, and local government officials. These groups have a decisive influence on the design and implementation of activities. The cities meet regularly for study visits and networking workshops, sharing experiences and jointly developing tools that can be adapted to various local realities. Each city also implements a so-called pilot action – a small, low-budget intervention in a selected urban space, the purpose of which is to test participation tools, observe residents' reactions, and gain experience and data for further planning. These activities serve not only to improve the quality of the space but, above all, to build relationships and social engagement around specific places. The final result of each city's work is an *Integrated Action Plan* (IAP) – an operational document containing: a diagnosis of the initial situation, a description of challenges and goals, a catalogue of actions to be implemented, proposed sources of financing and a method for monitoring and evaluating the effects.

GreenPlace. Let's do it together! is a project that answers the question: how can we reclaim forgotten urban spaces while respecting the environment, on a low budget, and with the participation of residents? By combining theory with practice, and local activities with European exchange of experiences, the project inspires reflective and sustainable urban policies. This handbook documents this path, but also invites its further development in other cities and communities.

3. About this Handbook

This handbook was developed under the URBACT *GreenPlace* Network and serves as a support tool for cities, local communities, urban planners, officials, and activists who want to restore "forgotten" urban areas and green degraded urban spaces in a systematic and inclusive way. It contains both theoretical knowledge and practical solutions and tools.

The handbook was prepared based on documents and materials published under GreenPlace:

- Baseline Study,
- Integrated Action Plans,
- Testing Action Cards,
- Quarterly Network Reports,
- Study visits reports,
- Practice Fiches,

and other materials from the URBACT *GreenPlace* Network.

It reflects the experiences of nine (formerly ten) European partner cities and their local stakeholders, who tested various approaches to greening neglected spaces through low-cost, participatory methods. Each chapter of the handbook connects insights from fieldwork with a broader understanding of urban transformation and sustainability.

The structure of the handbook follows the logic of the *GreenPlace* project itself — from an overview of challenges and local contexts, through comparative analysis, to actionable tools and inspiring case studies. In Part I, readers are introduced to the project's rationale and methodology. Part II presents profiles of each "forgotten" urban area, showing the diversity of spatial and social conditions. Part III offers a comparative analysis, highlighting common patterns, tested participation tools, and lessons learned. Finally, Part IV provides step-by-step models and decision-making tools for planning local green transformations.

This is not a prescriptive manual, but a flexible and adaptable resource. The tools, models, and examples presented can be tailored to different urban realities — from large metropolitan areas to small towns — and used by both experienced urban practitioners and those just beginning their greening journey.

Ultimately, this handbook is a call to action. It invites cities and communities to reclaim unused urban spaces not only through greenery, but through collaboration, creativity, and local engagement — turning forgotten places into vibrant, inclusive, and climate-resilient urban environments.

Part II

“Forgotten” urban areas included in the project

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4. Comparative characteristics of the areas included in the project

Over the past decades, urban spaces across Europe have undergone rapid transformation. As cities evolve and densify, land use has become increasingly competitive, often rendering certain sites obsolete. Economic shifts, social change, and urban sprawl have left a wide array of buildings and areas abandoned or underutilised. These include former industrial zones, railway infrastructure, factories, construction sites, outdated healthcare and social service facilities, shopping centres, office blocks, incomplete buildings, and even parks and greenfields. Once vital to the functioning of the city, these places have gradually been overlooked or *forgotten*.

Yet, as urban space becomes more scarce and valuable, these areas hold significant untapped *potential*. Beyond their practical reuse, such as revitalising existing infrastructure, they offer unique opportunities for reimagining the city. They can serve as platforms for artistic expression, community-led initiatives, social interaction, and innovative environmental solutions. These forgotten places can be catalysts for regeneration, breathing new life into neighbourhoods, empowering residents, and contributing to more inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient urban futures.

This chapter presents the nine "forgotten" areas identified by the partner cities of the *GreenPlace* network. Each city profile follows a consistent structure of: general description – history – current usage – main challenges & potential – local policy context – URBACT testing actions – greening plans – other plans. This approach not only allows each city's story to be told clearly but also makes it easier to compare the common challenges and diverse strategies across the network.

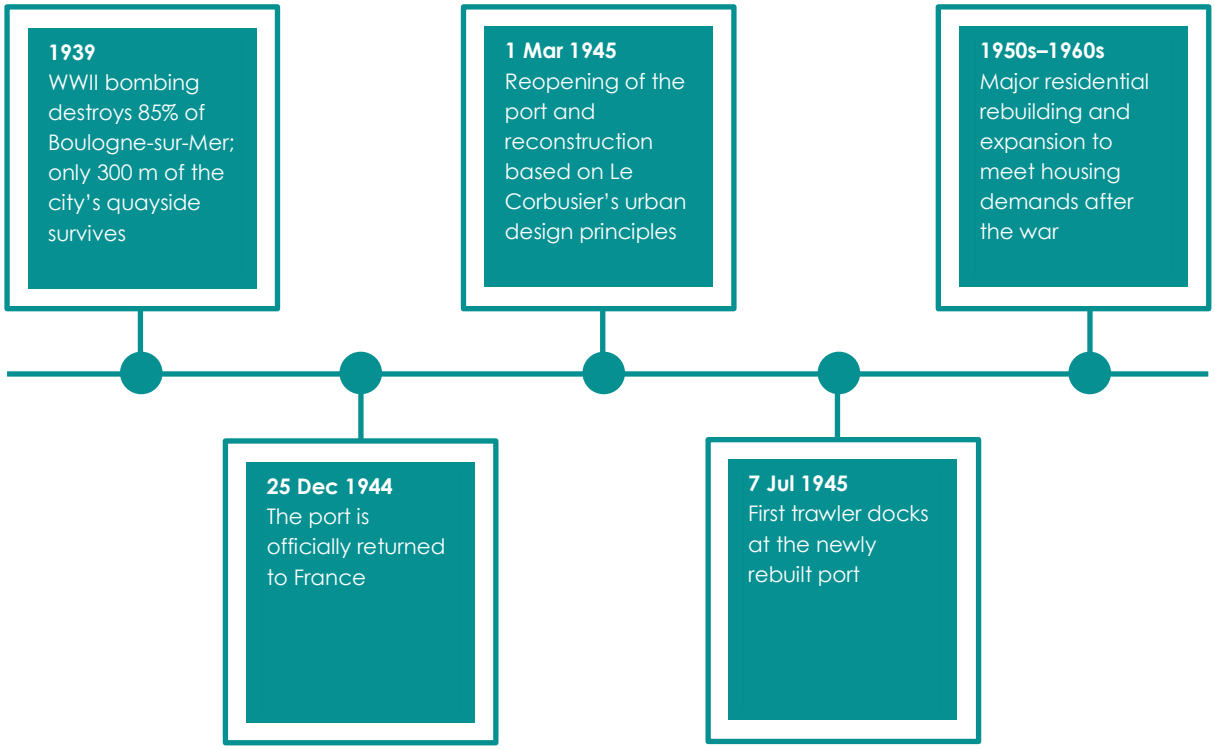
The *GreenPlace* project has brought together a wide variety of Urban Local Groups (ULGs) across participating cities, each shaped by local contexts, governance traditions, and community dynamics. While some municipalities are building on previous experiences of citizen engagement, others are creating ULGs for the very first time. Despite these differences, all cities share the common goal of fostering collaboration between municipal authorities, experts, institutions, civil society, and residents in order to co-create strategies for greener, more inclusive urban spaces. Importantly, every city made use of URBACT tools to identify, map, and engage the most relevant stakeholders in their ULGs.

4.1. Boulogne-sur-Mer. Gare-Bréquerecque quarter

Background

BOULOGNE-SUR-MER GARE-BRÉQUERECQUE QUARTER		
City	Total area [km^2]	8,42
	Number of residents	40 910

For the coastal Boulogne-sur-Mer, a port city of around 44 000 inhabitants located along the River Liane (northern France), the focus area lies in the western part of Bréquerecque, a former industrial district occupying 6.5 hectares on the southern edge of the city, directly adjacent to the river. This zone, known as the **Gare-Bréquerecque quarter**, consists of partially abandoned industrial buildings with limited economic activity, including temporary repair workshops, storage facilities, and a provisional fire station (in use until 2026). Despite neglect, the area holds architectural value, particularly modernist structures recognised by the French Chamber of Architects. The site's key issues are its weak connectivity to the city centre, lack of green space, and minimal grassroots initiatives. Its greatest potential lies in its riverside location, the presence of adaptable buildings, and its existing, albeit limited, uses.



Current situation

The area is currently marked by disused facilities, including the historic BIC Conté pen factory, a bus depot, a sweet factory, a tyre repair shop, and municipal storage buildings. A few economic activities persist, such as a temporary repair firm, warehouses, and private businesses. The fire station currently occupies part of the site but is set to relocate by 2026. The ownership structure is evolving, with the public land agency EPF having already signed agreements to acquire parts of the quarter and transfer management to the city.

MAIN CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL
• Poor connectivity to the city centre despite geographic proximity • Low share of permeable and green surfaces • Lack of community-driven initiatives and low social capital • High costs related to building renovation • Difficult collaboration due to stakeholder disengagement and conflicting priorities • Demographic challenges in the city and wider region	• Proximity to the River Liane and its banks • Cultural and historic value, especially of the BIC Conté factory • Existing uses that can serve as a foundation for renewal • Potential for multipurpose use of the buildings • Manageable ownership structure enabling coordinated intervention

Boulogne-sur-Mer has adopted several climate- and heritage-focused urban strategies. The **Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan** promotes pedestrian and cycling networks across the city. Additionally, the city holds the status of "**Ville d'Art et d'Histoire**" (City of Art and History), which facilitates funding for the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings, including those within the Bréquerecque quarter. These designations align with broader ecological and cultural goals for the area.

URBACT GreenPlace & future plans

In Boulogne-Sur-Mer, the Urban Local Group is a new structure created specifically for the *GreenPlace* project. A coordinator, landscape architect, was appointed in December 2023 to lead the group. Meetings are planned to take place within the framework of existing committees, scheduled when necessary and in connection with the project's progress and transnational exchanges. The ULG brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including elected representatives, local and regional authorities, universities, the social housing sector, cultural institutions, business associations, and local inhabitants. Although residents have not yet been actively consulted or involved, there are plans to integrate them during the testing phase of the project.
The foreseen ULG members are:

- Elected reprsentatives
- Pas-de-Calais Département, State, Region Hauts-de-France
- Communauté d'Agglomération du Boulonnais (CaB) and Ville de Boulogne civil servants
- IUT du Littoral Côte d'Opale - Campus de Dunkerque (ULCO)
- Social housing sector
- Etablissement Public Foncier (EPF)
- Chambre de Commercie et d'Industrie (CCI), CMA
- L'auberge de jeunesse? (youth hostel)
- Local retailer association
- Culture stakeholders: Rollmops et Faïencerie
- Local inhabitants including Mobicap

Boulogne-sur-Mer's ULG (led by the development agency) has innovated in stakeholder engagement. It developed a custom "card game" workshop for its local ULG members to co-design activities on the Station-Bréquerecque brownfield site. During this workshop, in November 2024, ULG participants formed teams and planned two years of programming using thematic cards (cultural events, environmental actions, etc.). The results were highly positive. Participants volunteered to lead several of the proposed activities, and the city reports it will "organize some of the selected activities in 2025 and beyond". In summary, the Boulogne ULG workshops generated numerous concrete ideas and strong commitment from local actors to revive the vacant site.

Figure 1 Set of example card games (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

In 2025, Boulogne-sur-Mer would implement three URBACT testing actions aimed at revitalising the area and introducing various practices and uses of available facilities and spaces into the district:

- **Student Support Project**: A six-month collaboration with Littoral Opal Coast University involving urban studies and participatory design to develop a temporary spatial plan;
- **BIC Conté Workers Exhibition**: A public exhibition of archival materials and photos related to the local pen factory, aimed at activating community interest and site identity;
- **Heritage Days**: A two-day public event featuring guided walks and landscape interpretation to help residents rediscover the district's character and value. The overarching goal of these activities is to energize the area and reintroduce diverse uses and community engagement.

Figure 2 Photo of the BIC Conté Factory and surrounding area from the air (source: City Boulogne-sur-Mer)

Figure 3 Visit to the temporary garden (source: City Boulogne-sur-Mer)

The city plans a comprehensive set of greening initiatives aimed at enhancing environmental performance and liveability of the focus area. The URBACT Integrated Action Plan furthermore expects additional initiatives with regard to the Gare-Bréquerecque quarter:

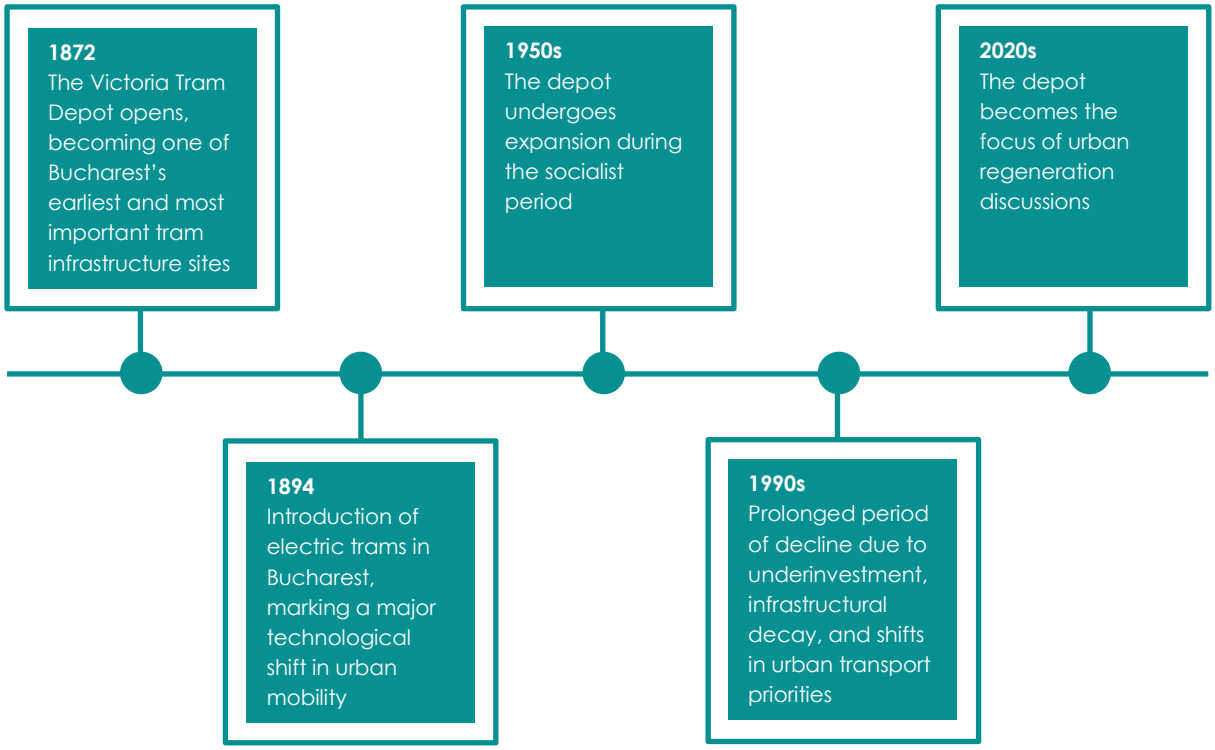
GREENING INITIATIVES	VARIOUS
• Increasing the share of permeable, shaded, and vegetated surfaces • Removal of concrete paving and installation of green infrastructure • Installation of green building façades • Introduction of plant signage and environmental education tools • Launch of a "Water and Nature in the City" campaign • Employment of a design assistant to oversee greening dynamics • Usage of "Planting Permits" to encourage citizen-led initiatives • Hosting of interdisciplinary meetings with experts from nature-based, water management, and civic sectors • Fostering close cooperation between city services, NGOs, and ecological organisations	• Environment & Climate Adaptation: Promoting shared use of buildings and improving ecological performance of the area • Cultural and Social Value: Establishing community spaces and cultural events to enhance the quarter's attractiveness • Housing and Economy: Supporting the development of new housing options and promoting local economic growth • Connectivity: Enhancing sustainable mobility options within the district • Heritage Integration: Preserving architectural fragments and incorporating heritage elements into future public spaces

4.2. Bucharest. Victoria tram depot

Background

BUCHAREST VICTORIA TRAM DEPOT		
City	Total area [km^2]	240
	Number of residents	1 721 784
	Urbanised area [m^2]	201 360 900
	Building area [m^2]	40 201 600
	Hardened surface [m^2]	143 177 900
	Biologically active area [m^2]	74 919 400
	Area of forests and woodland above 1 ha [m^2]	41 829 800
Focus area ("forgotten" urban area)	Total area [m^2]	35 400
	Hardened surface [m^2]	31 200
	Biologically active area [m^2]	4 200

Bucharest, the capital and largest city of Romania, is home to over 1.8 million residents and serves as the country's political, economic, and cultural centre. Like many post-socialist cities, it faces the challenge of reintegrating neglected industrial and infrastructural sites into the contemporary urban fabric. One such location is the **Victoria tram depot**, situated in the northern part of the city's inner ring. Although historically significant – having supported the development of public transport since the late 19th century – the depot has fallen into disrepair and remains largely underutilised today. Its strategic location, in close proximity to residential areas, cultural institutions, and existing transit routes, makes it a key opportunity site for green and community-oriented redevelopment.



Current situation

The site, first opened in 1872, played a pivotal role in the early development of public transport in Bucharest. Today, the depot accommodates 40 trams, though only 24 remain in operational use. The rest are either decommissioned, dismantled for parts, or abandoned.

The area suffers from several structural and functional issues, including degraded infrastructure, decaying heritage buildings, weak connectivity, and poor public awareness or engagement. Despite this, the depot offers strong potential for transformation thanks to its central location, generous surface area, and secured funding for future development.

MAIN CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL
• Lack of an established framework for revitalising complex post-industrial sites • Absence of a strategic development plan for the tram network • Poor visibility, inaccessible from the main road, and often overlooked as it remains "hidden." • Legal uncertainties and institutional fragmentation • Low levels of public awareness and engagement • High land value, creating tension between public interest and private market pressure • Deteriorated infrastructure and high renovation costs • Conflicting interests among stakeholders	• Location in the center of the city, in a historically rich and densely populated district • Significant usable surface area with flexible reuse potential • Presence of architecturally valuable heritage structures • Public land ownership facilitating coherent planning • Dedicated public funding for regeneration • Growing interest in sustainable mobility and green infrastructure at the local policy level

The redevelopment of the Victoria tram depot aligns with Bucharest's key planning frameworks, including the **Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan** (SUMP) for the Bucharest–Ilfov Region, which encourages the reuse of obsolete transport infrastructure to enhance connectivity, accessibility, and environmental performance. The city's **General Plan** (*Planul Urbanistic General*) provides the regulatory basis for land use, zoning, and the preservation of cultural heritage, all of which are critical for the adaptive transformation of the depot. The project also takes inspiration from the principles of the **New European Bauhaus**, aiming to integrate sustainability, aesthetics, and community inclusion.

URBACT GreenPlace & future plans

In Bucharest, the ULG is made up of a broad partnership of stakeholders representing public authorities, NGOs, community organizations, transport agencies, and academic experts. Among these are the City Hall's departments for urban projects and transportation, the public transport company STB, and the Metropolitan Transport Association. They are joined by civil society organizations such as Asociatia Metroul Usor, Fundația Comunitară București, and NOD Makerspace, alongside researchers and architects.
The foreseen ULG members are:
Public authorities

- Nicușor Dan, Mayor of Bucharest
- Mădălina Râmnicianu, Urban Projects Bucharest City Hall
- Alexandru Nistor, Transportation Department Bucharest City Hall
- Mihai Iacovici, ADIZMB- Mobility departments
- STB – Public Transport company
- Regional Development Agency
- TPBI (Metropolitan Public Transport Association
- Andrei Panaitescu- District 2 vice mayor

NGOs

- Asociatia Metroul Usor
- Fundația Comunitară București
- BAZA
- NOD MAKERSPACE
- APUR
- MATCA

Researchers, experts, consultants
Aura Răducu, Consultant

- Mihaela Negulescu, University of Bucharest, transportation expert
- Order of Architects
- Matei Smădu

In 18-19.06.2024 Fourth Core Network Meeting was hosted in Bucharest, including a study visit on June 20. Topic covered: Circular cities and Governance.

Moreover, the ULG has led a large participatory process for the Victoria Tram Depot. Between Oct 2024 and May 2025, the ULG co-designed a public survey (with ATU and the Urboteca Fellowship) asking residents to imagine uses for the depot site. This inclusive process (ethnographic research, video, questionnaires) elicited 658 survey responses, exceeding expectations. These survey results provide concrete feedback to shape the depot's upcoming urban zoning and reuse plan.

Figure 4 Participants of the meeting during study visit to Hala Laminor – industrial halls (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

The Test Action titled "**Public Participation and Co-Creation for the Future of the Victoria Tram Depot**" focused on building awareness and fostering public engagement in the site's future. This was particularly relevant in the Romanian context, where civic participation in urban planning remains limited. Its main objectives were to:

- Understand public perceptions, preferences, and ideas for the site's future;
- Stimulate public involvement and challenge assumptions about civic disengagement;
- Reconcile conflicting stakeholder interests through inclusive dialogue;
- Demonstrate the value of participatory planning processes in drafting a future zoning plan (PUZ);
- Develop a transferable model for similar revitalisation projects;
- Test outreach and communication strategies;
- Create space for expert-level dialogue on mobility, regeneration, and public space.

Figure 5 Participants of the meeting during study visit to Victorei Tram Depot (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

The city plans a very general set of greening initiatives helpful in restoring the value of the focus area. The URBACT Integrated Action Plan furthermore expects additional actions to be taken with regard to the Victoria tram depot:

GREENING INITIATIVES	VARIOUS
• Establishing new areas of urban green space • Improving environmental quality through nature-based solutions such as parks and gardens • Supporting urban biodiversity • Enhancing recreational opportunities for residents • Strengthening green connectivity across the city • Promoting sustainable urban design and construction practices, including energy-efficient technologies and environmentally friendly materials	• Cultural heritage and identity: Preserving and restoring historic depot buildings and artefacts; highlighting the site's heritage through adaptive reuse and public exhibitions • Community involvement: Ensuring long-term civic participation in planning, designing, and managing the area; strengthening the sense of ownership among local residents • Mobility and accessibility: Enhancing public transport access without compromising heritage or ecological values; encouraging walking and active travel through improved site permeability

4.3. Cehegín. Lost *ejidos*

The city participated in the early project work. It prepared a contribution to the Baseline Study. Organised with the city Onda an international meeting in March 11-14 2024. Moreover, wrote an article and participated in international meetings. The city withdrew its further participation in the project for organisational, personnel and technical reasons.

Figure 6 A fragment of the city of Cehegin seen from above (Source: Marcelline Bonneau - lead expert).

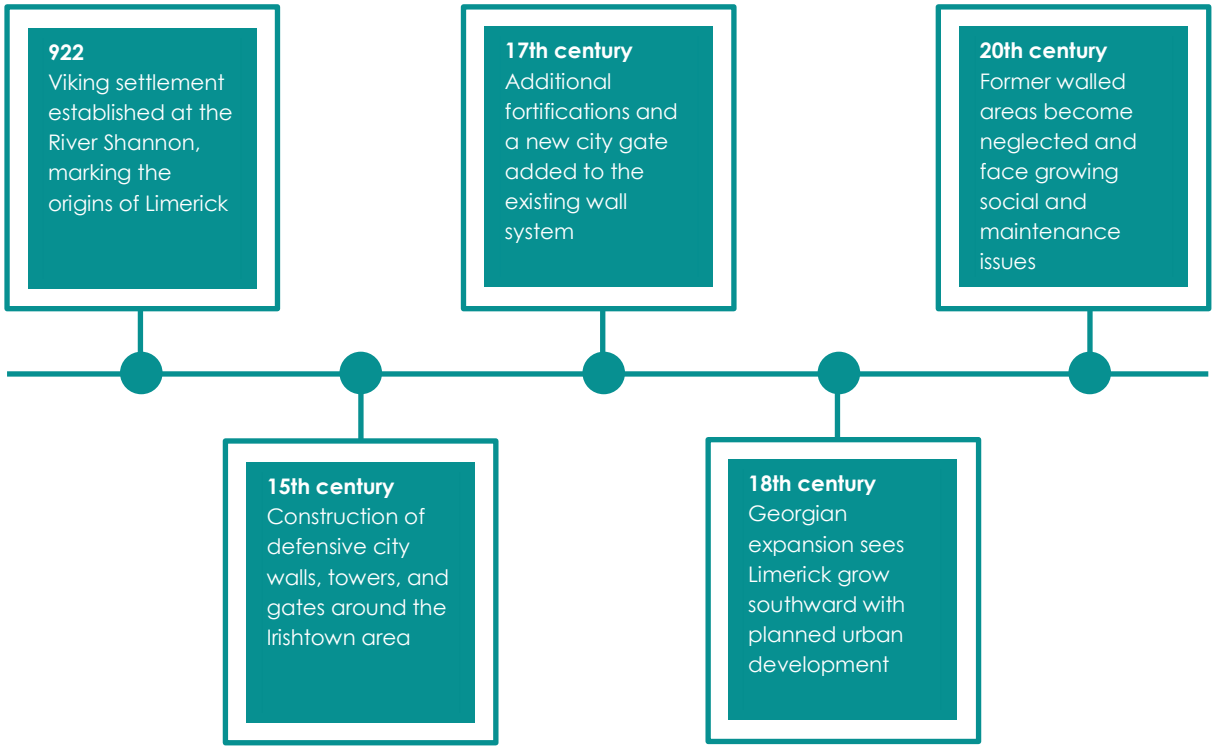
4.4. Limerick. Old city walls

Background

LIMERICK OLD CITY WALLS		
City	Total area [km^2]	20,79
	Number of residents	approximately 210 000

Limerick is a historic Irish city with approximately 210 000 inhabitants, located on the River Shannon. The focus area for the *GreenPlace* project is a stretch of the **old city walls** between Old Clare Street and New Road, a medieval site currently undergoing conservation works. These walls – comprising five medieval gates and seven towers – are part of the *Irish Walled Towns* network and are currently undergoing conservation supported by the city and national funds. Today, the walls are largely disconnected from daily life, but hold great potential for reactivation through green and cultural integration.

The city stands out for its high per-capita green space (73 m² per resident), strong biodiversity, and active commitment to integrating green infrastructure into urban policy. Although the area around the wall suffers from neglect and anti-social behaviour, it holds strong potential for ecological and social regeneration due to its historical significance and proximity to expansive green and blue networks.



Current situation

The city walls of Limerick, particularly in the Irishtown area between Old Clare Street and New Road, are currently undergoing conservation works supported by the ***Irish Walled Towns*** network and the Limerick City and County Council. Though parts of the walls remain physically intact, the surrounding environment has become neglected, with issues such as antisocial behaviour, underuse by residents, and unmanaged vegetation threatening both the walls' condition and the safety of the area. Efforts are now underway to stabilise and protect these historic structures while exploring ways to better integrate them into the daily life of the city and improve their immediate surroundings.

MAIN CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL
• Discontinuity between standing sections of the historic city wall, reducing walkability and visual cohesion • Underused existing open areas • Anti-social behaviour, drug-related activity, and perception of the area as unsafe, particularly due to poor lighting and lack of public presence • Low employment levels contributing to the area's marginalisation within the city	• Abundant urban green spaces per resident, offering strong capacity for nature-based urban development • Extensive urban river network along with wetlands, meadows, woodlands, and the Park Canal, providing for green connectivity and biodiversity enhancement • Undergoing temporary greening actions within the city • Historical and touristic significance of the city walls

Green infrastructure is a central feature of the city's spatial and environmental planning. The **Limerick City and County Development Plan** sets out goals for the preservation of open spaces, the development of community-accessible green areas, and protection of natural soundscapes. Limerick's **Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy** guides the sustainable use of

land and water resources, complemented by its **Biodiversity Plan**, which aligns with national biodiversity and pollinator plans. Local initiatives like **GoGreenRoutes** and temporary greening projects reflect the city's experimental and participatory approach to public space. A dedicated **Place-making Department** reinforces these priorities. Limerick's approach also resonates with the values of the **New European Bauhaus**, integrating sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusion into spatial transformation.

URBACT GreenPlace & future plans

In Limerick, the ULG was built through a collaborative process involving both municipal staff and local organizations. Many departments of the City and County Council became engaged, with particular emphasis on the environment, parks, housing, planning, arts, and public realm. Alongside them, social and educational institutions such as Mary Immaculate College, St. John's Hospital, the Limerick Sports Partnership, and various community groups play an important role. The group places strong emphasis on citizen participation, ensuring that residents' voices shape the direction of the project and that expectations are managed collectively. One of the key outcomes of this consultation process was the decision to prioritize improving public access to the historic city walls in Irishtown. The group is coordinated by a dedicated leader who organizes quarterly meetings, where stakeholders are updated and consulted using URBACT's analytical tools.
The foreseen ULG members are:

- the Planning, Environment and Place-making Directorate (responsible for policy and strategy related to the environment, parks, greenspaces and green infrastructure and archaeology)
- Social Directorate (responsible for policy related to Healthy Limerick, sports and recreation
- Economic Development Directorate (responsible for development policy in the city and county)
- The Parks and Greenspace management staff
- Elected Representatives from the Metropolitan District.
- Limerick LCDC - Membership includes local authority elected members and officials; State health and education services; local development companies; community and voluntary organisations; and other representatives of civil society, including business interests
- Public Participation Network – a local formal structure that has representation from voluntary groups, local organisations formed to protect the environment and groups representing people who are socially excluded
- Department of Public Health
- Local third level institutions (including University of Limerick)
- Limerick Local Sports Partnership
- Limerick Civic Trust (responsible for maintenance of many of the city's greenspaces) o Limerick Chamber of Commerce, city traders
- Local guardis
- Schools
- Community groups: Resident Associations, Schools, Families, Stay-at-home moms, Elederly people, Dog lovers, History fans, Teenagers, sports fans.

Limerick's *GreenPlace* ULG has been activating the Irishtown wall area with public events. In March 2024 (National Tree Week) the city and residents planted a mini-orchard of native apple trees by the wall. This hands-on "tree-planting day" helped engage young and old in

reclaiming the space. In May 2024 a medieval-themed street fair was held along Grattan Court to spark interest and collect ideas. Event organizers distributed questionnaires and leaflets to attendees, gathering feedback on what the community wants from the wall area. These inclusive gatherings — blending culture, history and citizen consultation — have raised awareness of the Irishtown site and provided the ULG with clear community input (via ideas and survey responses) to shape the upcoming action plan.

Figure 7 Participants during the National Tree Week (source: city Limerick)

The purpose of the testing actions set out by Limerick was to make connections with the community, the inhabitants of Irishtown by using the Old City Walls as a neutral factor to engage. A total of three events were carried out in 2024 to increase activity in the area around the standing section of the wall in Johnsgate/Grattan Court and the Clare Street areas to increase movement, in particular pedestrian movement:

- **National Tree Week**: The community in Johnsgate came together and got hands-on experience planting some native Limerick heritage apple trees, creating a mini orchard in their area;
- **Medieval May Fair**: A child friendly community event, with medieval pop up re-enactors, sword play, music, theatre, face painters and historical walks/talks;
- **Irishtown Heritage Festival**: Part of National Heritage Week; community street party.

Figure 8 Participants during the Medieval May Fair event (source: city Limerick)

Figure 9 Participants during the LCCC Irishtown Heritage Fest (source: city Limerick)

The *GreenPlace* vision positions urban greenery as a medium to reactivate Limerick's historic walls – not only by preserving heritage, but also by transforming it into a socially and ecologically vibrant corridor. Greening aims to reframe the site's image from marginal and

neglected to safe, attractive, and active. The city envisions a walkable linear park that re-establishes connections across urban neighbourhoods and strengthens local identity. The city's URBACT *Integrated Action Plan* furthermore expects additional actions to be taken with regard to the focus area:

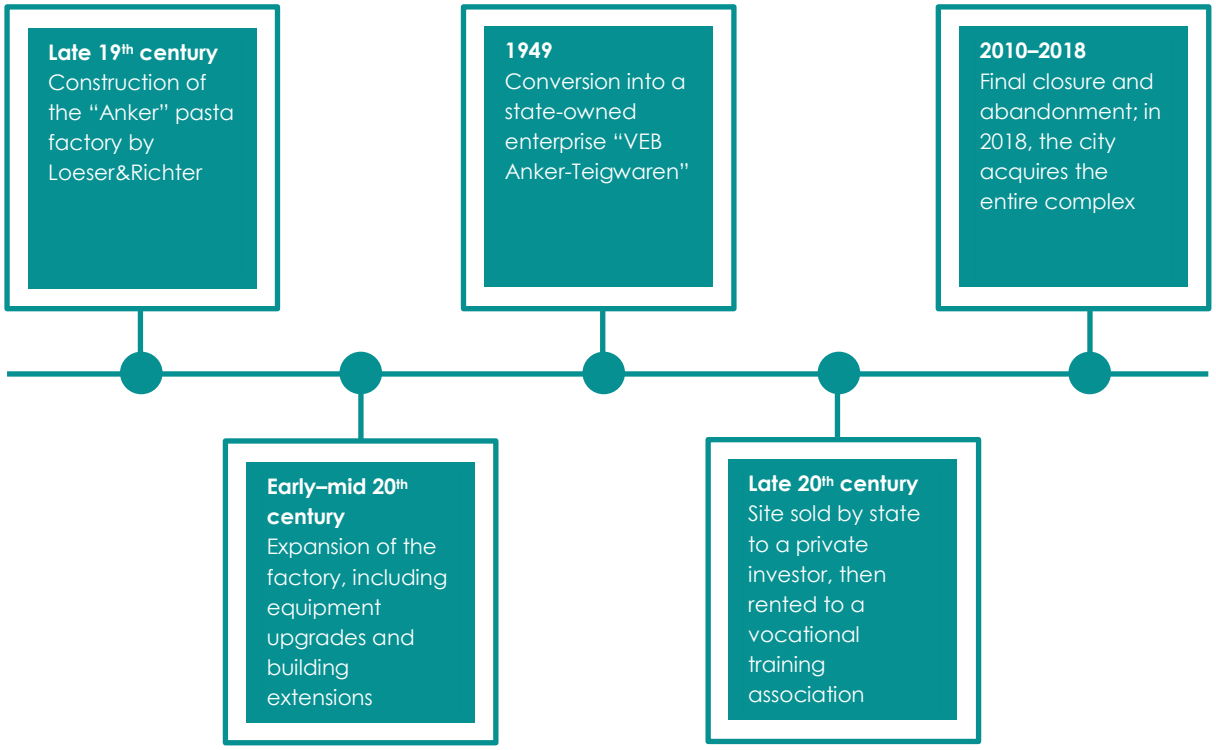
GREENING INITIATIVES	VARIOUS
• Revealing and enhancing the potential of the walls • Transforming the area into a more welcoming and resident-friendly environment • Changing the perception of the site from neglected to active and positive • Creating stronger connections between different parts of the city through green links • Increasing urban green coverage by developing green corridors in and around the wall	• Tourism: Integrating the historic wall into the local tourism strategy • Recreational: Integrating amenities like play areas, quiet zones, and sports infrastructure into public spaces to support physical activity and community well-being • Heritage: Protecting and activating heritage by embedding it into daily urban life as a socially, culturally, and ecologically valuable space • Community engagement: Encouraging walking along both the inner and outer sides of the city wall; Using community engagement tools, including apps and online surveys, to gather feedback and encourage participation in local spatial planning

4.5. Löbau. "Anker" pasta factory

Background

LÖBAU "ANKER" PASTA FACTORY		
City	Total area [km^2]	79.8
	Number of residents	14 500
	Urbanised area [m^2]	9 160 000
	Hardened surface [m^2]	12 830 000
	Biologically active area [m^2]	65 520 000
	Area of forests and woodland above 1 ha [m^2]	6 110 000
Focus area ("forgotten" urban area)	Total area [m^2]	9 420
	Hardened surface [m^2]	6 200
	Biologically active area [m^2]	3 220

In the northwestern part of Löbau, a small town in Saxony, lies the abandoned **"Anker" pasta factory** – a vast complex of over 7 000 m², situated next to the world-renowned modernist Schminke House. Despite its strong architectural potential and community sentiment, the site suffers from weak regional economic dynamics and limited investor interest, posing a challenge for its revitalisation and green transformation.



Current situation

Today, the entire factory complex is owned by the City of Löbau. The neighbouring Schminke House supports tourism, education, and community engagement. The Anker factory hosts a variety of occasional events and external projects, with strong civic interest demonstrated by initiatives like "**FABRIK! reanimiert**" and "**TOPOMOMO**".

MAIN CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL
• Facing peripherality in a post-industrial region hit hard by the 1990s transition • Lack of nearby urban centres and investor market • Requiring structural reconstruction of some buildings	• Collaborating with the adjacent Schminke House • Highlighting architectural qualities for tourism and cultural use • Tapping into local emotional connection and civic engagement • Enjoying strong accessibility via public transport and walkability • Benefiting from flexible internal layouts and structurally sound buildings

The regeneration of the Anker factory aligns with broader strategies outlined in the **Integrated Urban Development Concepts** (INSEK, SEKo), the **"Living Centres" funding programme**, the regional **Cohesion Policy** (SZP), and the ESF-funded **Social Urban Development programme** (2021–2027). These frameworks guide revitalisation, promote climate-conscious reuse of urban space, and ensure access to social infrastructure in Central Upper Lusatia. The *GreenPlace* activities complement the aforementioned city-supported projects such as **"FABRIK! reanimiert"**, **"TOPOMOMO"**, and various cultural events.

URBACT GreenPlace & future plans

In Löbau, the *GreenPlace* project marks the first time the municipality has created a formal Urban Local Group. While local governance usually relies on short communication lines and direct contacts in this small city, the ULG now provides a structured space for regular dialogue and information-sharing. The group includes municipal leaders such as the mayor and city officials, as well as local cultural foundations, environmental associations, educational institutions, and utility providers.
The foreseen ULG members are:

- Marketing, Head of Finance, Clerk
- City Manager
- the Schminke House Foundation
- The association "Löbaulebt" (Löbau lives)
- Messe- und Veranstaltungspark (Trade Faire & Exhibition Park)
- Kultur - und Weiterbildungsgesellschaft mbH (Culture and Education Society)

Citizen engagement and consultations has already taken place in the frame of the "Fabrik reanimiert" Project.

The study visit to Löbau on April 7, 2025, explore the transformation of former industrial areas into vibrant green public spaces. Topic covered: From factories to a big park for all and Remembering the past with green solutions. The program focused on the "Landesgartenschau 2012" and the subsequent development of the New Park, highlighting sustainable approaches that integrate industrial heritage into urban renewal—such as converting old beetroot soaking pools into fishponds and playgrounds. Participants also visited the Schminke House, an architectural landmark, and the former noodle factory, where discussions emphasized new multifunctional uses for culture, education, and business. The meeting underlined the role of the ULG (Urban Local Group) in connecting local history, community needs, and innovative green solutions, showcasing how collaborative initiatives can support sustainable urban development.

Figure 10 Photo of the Noodle Factory and surrounding area from the air (source: Gunter Binsack)

In spring 2024, within the "FABRIK! reanimiert" project, the city launched a public call for **temporary testing of seven spaces within the Anker factory**. A special permit agreement was coordinated with the regional building authority to ensure fire safety and electrical standards. Applicants were required to integrate community involvement into their proposals to maximise visitor flow and social inclusion.

The testing served two parallel goals:

- Assessing building potential for diverse uses;
- Evaluating user perception and community interaction with the space.

Activities included: **yoga classes**, **music lessons**, **seniors' sports**, **children's art sessions**, **creative workshops**, **a temporary radio station**, **digital labs**, **a pop-up café**, and **a garage bar**. Feedback was collected through on-site poster questionnaires and interviews. The pilot demonstrated a need for a long-term mixed-use model.

Figure 11 Participants the music lessons activity (source: city Löbau)

The city's URBACT *Integrated Action Plan* expects the following actions to be taken with regard to the focus area:

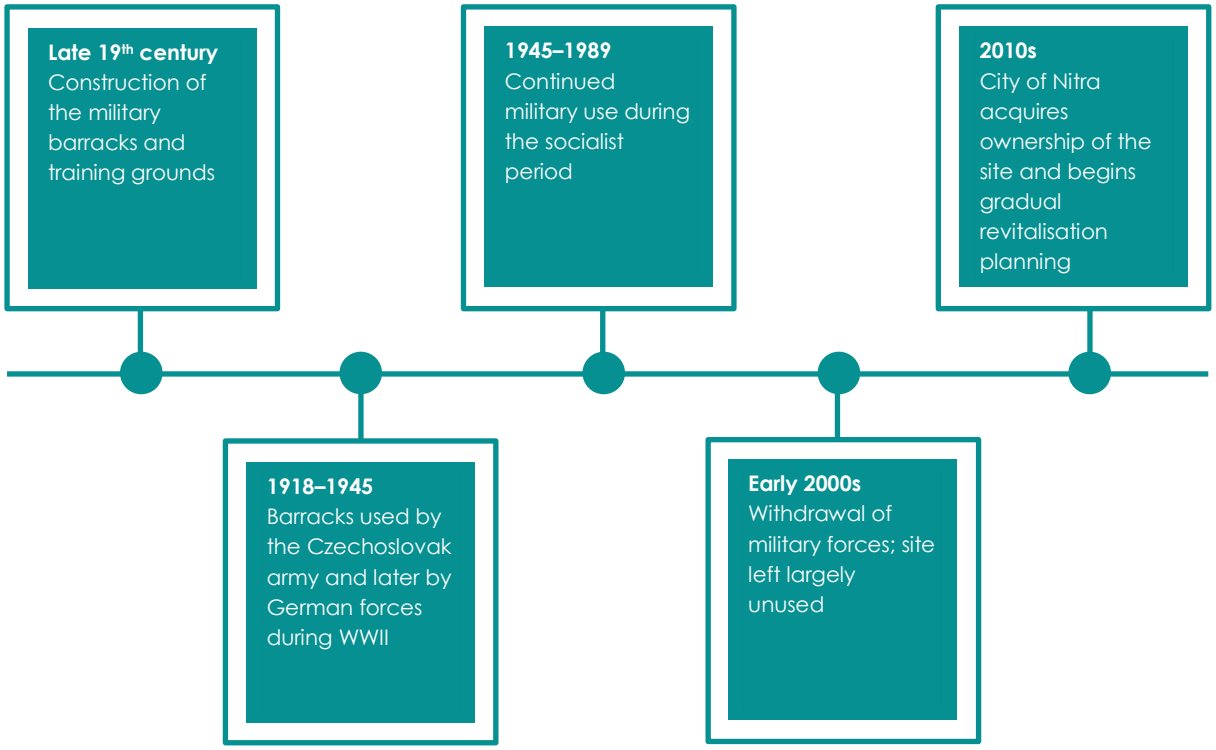
GREENING INITIATIVES	VARIOUS
• Revitalising the pond and orchard areas • Restoring original factory green leisure spaces • Opening green areas to public visitors • Introducing educational programmes focused on ecological awareness • Installing small-scale infrastructure to support visitor comfort and recreation	• Heritage: Preserving original building layout and phasing renovation based on inventory and structural assessments • Economy: Maximising rentable space through energy-efficient upgrades and utility improvements • Tourism: Strengthening ties between the factory and Schminke House for tourism development; Launching communication and storytelling strategies around the "Scharoun List" heritage buildings • Planning: Establishing a sustainable management structure and long-term user community through space-use planning, prototyping, and inclusive stakeholder engagement

4.6. Nitra. Barracks under Zobor

Background

NITRA BARRACKS UNDER ZOBOR		
City	Total area [km^2]	100.32
	Number of residents	75 945
	Building area [m^2]	3 220 606
	Biologically active area [m^2]	19 616 614
Focus area ("forgotten" urban area)	Total area [m^2]	212 000
	Hardened surface [m^2]	47 703
	Biologically active area [m^2]	164 297

Nitra, a historic city in western Slovakia, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in Central Europe. The focus area for the URBACT *GreenPlace* project are the former military **barracks under Zobor** (St. Martin's Hill), a complex on the eastern edge of the city centre. The site comprises multiple historical buildings from the 19th and early 20th centuries, once used by the Czechoslovak army. Although structurally intact, the buildings and the surrounding area have suffered from neglect and underutilisation since the army's departure in the early 2000s. The city aims to transform the area into a vibrant, multifunctional space with a strong focus on civic, cultural, and sustainable uses, including greening and revitalisation initiatives.



Current situation

The former military barracks area is now fully owned by the City of Nitra and hosts a growing number of civic, educational, and cultural activities. It currently hosts a **kindergarten** operated by the city, the **Creative Centre** which provides space for artistic and community activities, and the **Archeopark**, an open-air educational site showcasing reconstructed historical dwellings. These institutions form the foundation of the site's current usage and serve as anchors for further development. Several buildings remain unused or in need of renovation, while others host occasional events organised by local NGOs, artists, and schools. The site's proximity to the city centre, natural surroundings, and accessibility by public transport make it a valuable and promising location for future revitalisation and greening.

MAIN CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL
• Technical condition of the buildings and surrounding infrastructure • Lack of maintenance and coherent management of the area • Transport limitations: poor accessibility of the site, no possibility to build new entrances to the barracks, no possibility to build new parking spaces for the redeveloped buildings • Condition of existing green areas • Safety within the barracks area (technical condition of buildings and the presence of homeless people)	• Historical value of the buildings and the size of the green areas, together creating the *genius loci* of the place and offering significant potential for the Zobor district, as well as for the entire city and region • Existing or emerging amenities (kindergarten, Creativity Centre, Archeopark) • Favourable location within the city (proximity to the city centre and the Zobor district)

The City of Nitra has developed several strategic documents that frame its approach to sustainable urban development and public space revitalisation. These include the **Climate Adaptation Strategy for the City of Nitra**, which addresses resilience in the face of environmental change; the **General Plan of Urban Greenery in Nitra**, which guides the protection and expansion of green infrastructure; and the **Public Space Manual for the City of Nitra**, which promotes quality, inclusive urban design. In addition to these, other relevant local plans and frameworks support the integration of environmental, cultural, and social goals into urban planning processes.

URBACT GreenPlace & future plans

In Nitra, the development of the ULG followed a strongly co-creative process in collaboration with the NGO SPOLKA, which began in mid-2023. The municipality identified 54 stakeholders, divided into groups according to their level of relevance and engagement. This process included interviews, workshops, guided tours, and a large citizen survey that attracted an impressive 1,700 responses. The main stakeholders in the ULG are the Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, which owns and manages much of the project area, the Roman Catholic Bishopric, the City of Nitra, and the Regional Monuments Office. Other partners include NGOs, architects, academic institutions, and community organizations such as the "Bees of Zobor." Nitra's approach builds on experience from earlier co-design projects, reinforcing the city's commitment to citizen participation and shared decision-making.
The foreseen ULG members are:
The core team : Štefan Lančarič, Denisa Halajová, Monika Reiskupová, Vladimír Ballay, Miroslava Hanáková, Juliana Janíková
Other civil servants: Milan Csada (chief architekt od City), Lenka Lazorová (Department of the Chief architect), Alexandra Buči (Department of the Chief architect), Katarína Živanovič (Director of the Creative Center), Lenka Mareková (PR), Beáta Nirianska (Department of Culture)
Other users of the space:

- The Institute of Archaeology of the Slovak Academy of Science in Nitra (director)
- Roman Catholic Bishopric in Nitra (director of office)
- Other stakeholders
- Hidepark – independent cultural and community centre in Nitra and IN-HUB
- COMIN- contact point for foreigners and Blue Dot -UNHCR and UNICEF
- ZAN Association of Nitra architects (Tibor Zelenický, Lenka Kompasová)
- Nitra Creative Center (Katarína Živanovič)
- SPOLKA

Nitra organized a study visit (October 2024) focus on Nature-Based Solutions and Equality & Inclusivity. The topics covered: community - Co-design, co-development, Green infrastructure – biodiversity, Circular economy - regeneration of abonded places and regeneration of historical buildings.

Nitra's ULG has actively co-organized public pilot events to advance its *GreenPlace* plan. In summer 2025, the city hosted two ULG-driven "open space" events at Martin's Hill (the former military barracks). An Open Day (July 4) and an ethnographic walking tour (August 2) involved archaeologists, NGOs (like Zobor Bees and Martin Museum), farmers and families in envisioning the site's future. According to Nitra's report, these events "revealed how [Martin's Hill] can become a multifunctional green and cultural space accessible to all". The ULG's stated goals were to put Martin's Hill "on the map," improve its visibility, and involve local residents in defining

uses (activities like planting, heritage events, energy generation). Over 200 participants from school groups and community organizations took part, helping to shape the city's Integrated Action Plan.

Figure 12 Meeting with ULG partner NGO "Zoborské včely" and tour of The City Apiary in the former barracks area (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

As part of the URBACT *GreenPlace* project, the City of Nitra implemented testing actions focused on activating the historical barracks area on St. Martin's Hill in two events, mentioned above: **Open Days on St. Martin's Hill** (held as part of the three-day Cyril and Methodius celebrations) and **Architecture Days on St. Martin's Hill** (part of the broader Architecture Days in Nitra). These actions aimed to:

- Spread awareness about the barracks among the city's residents and promote the area;
- Present the existing offer and potential of the barracks site;
- Showcase the opportunities provided by the Creative Centre located within the barracks complex.

Figure 13 Guided tour of the former military barracks area (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

Figure 14 Open Day at Martin's Hill. Educational activities about the life of bees at the city apiary (source: https://urbact.eu/nitra-brings-green-and-creative-spaces-life-two-urbact-greenplace-pilot-events-martins-hill)

The city's URBACT Integrated Action Plan plans the following actions to be taken with regard to the focus area:

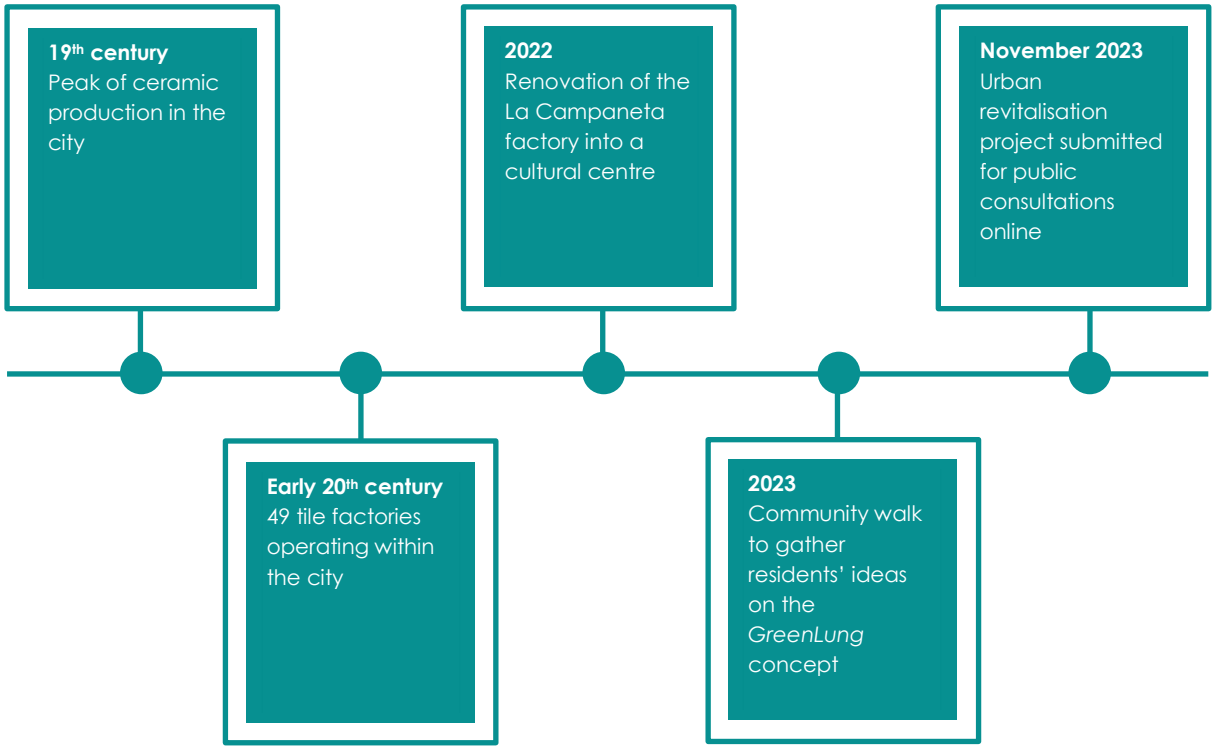
GREENING INITIATIVES	VARIOUS
• Preserving the historical value of the park within the barracks area by developing a comprehensive restoration plan • Supporting biodiversity through regular arboricultural care, removal of invasive species, tree planting, establishing flower meadows and pollinator-friendly vegetation, leaving deadwood to decay naturally, maintaining hedgehog hibernation zones, and promoting composting • Advancing community gardening by creating a shared garden and orchard for local residents • Introducing small-scale water retention solutions, including underground tanks and polders during building renovations, to capture and reuse rainwater	• Infrastructure: Restoring historic barracks buildings for civic, cultural, and educational use • Heritage: Phasing renovation works to prioritise safety and heritage; Integrating cultural heritage with innovative and inclusive urban uses preservation • Economy: Attracting long-term anchor tenants from creative and nonprofit sectors • Community engagement: Establishing a participatory management model for the revitalised site

4.7. Onda. *GreenLung*

Background

ONDA *GREENLUNG*		
City	Total area [km^2]	108.84
	Number of residents	25 817
	Urbanised area [m^2]	7 697 500
	Building area [m^2]	3 031 000
	Hardened surface [m^2]	10 728 500
	Biologically active area [m^2]	65 304 000
	Area of forests and woodland above 1 ha [m^2]	12 180 000
Focus area ("forgotten" urban area)	Total area [m^2]	188 576
	Hardened surface [m^2]	96 673
	Biologically active area [m^2]	91 903

Onda is a historic ceramic-producing city of around 25,000 residents in eastern Spain, known for its 19th and early 20th-century industrial legacy. At the heart of its revitalisation efforts is a large, formerly industrial zone located between the once outer Monteblanco and Tossalet neighbourhoods, now embedded in the urban fabric. This area, soon to be redeveloped and renamed ***GreenLung***, contains significant ceramic heritage structures, including 16 Moorish ovens, multiple other kilns, and six tall chimneys. Notable historic factories include La Campana (already renovated into a cultural space), La Fabriqueta, and El Bólido. Much of the site is currently in poor condition or partially abandoned, with some newer temporary buildings, degraded infrastructure, and contamination concerns from asbestos materials. The area poses mobility and safety challenges, including a known traffic accident blackspot, and acts as a barrier between peripheral neighbourhoods and core urban services.



Current situation

The area contains 16 Moorish kilns, one tunnel kiln, one chamber kiln, a reverse flame kiln, enamel kiln, enamel warehouses, and eight industrial chimneys. Three former factories – La Campaneta (**now a cultural center**), La Fabriqueta, and El Bólido – are prominent landmarks. New buildings exist under temporary permits and early revitalisation works are ongoing to implement the *GreenLung* concept.

MAIN CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL
• Degraded industrial landscape embedded in residential areas • Social issues: unemployment, inequality, poverty • Presence of asbestos cement on buildings harmful to health and environment • Problems with traffic and mobility, including existing accident blackspots	• Rich landscape resources enabling green corridor creation • Valuable industrial heritage for adaptive reuse • Central location allows increased access to green spaces and urban connectivity • The successful revitalisation of La Campaneta

The concept of *GreenLung* originated within Onda's broader urban regeneration strategy aimed at transforming former industrial zones into sustainable and inclusive urban spaces. The city's efforts are aligned with its **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)**, which promotes decarbonisation, energy efficiency, and climate adaptation. Onda also follows the **2030 Agenda** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to guide its long-term development goals, particularly in areas such as mobility, green infrastructure, and circular economy.

Additional relevant frameworks include the city's **General Urban Development Plan** and **Smart City strategy**, which support better land use, green connectivity, and digital tools for managing public services and environmental monitoring.

URBACT GreenPlace & future plans

In Onda, citizen participation is seen as the cornerstone of the *GreenPlace* project. Two separate working groups were formed: an internal one composed of municipal staff and politicians, and an external one composed of representatives from society at large. This external group forms the ULG and meets monthly, often alongside transnational exchanges. Using URBACT's stakeholder analysis tools, the city identified a diverse set of partners, including the University Jaume (UJI), College of architects, the local chamber of commerce, business associations, NGOs, schools, cultural institutions, and companies involved in utilities and waste management. The variety of members ensures that the project benefits from a wide spectrum of knowledge, resources, and perspectives.
The foreseen ULG members are:

- University Jaume I (UJI)
- College of architects
- APECC Association of construction businessmen
- Gain EGM Management and modernisation company of industries
- Chamber of Commerce
- Cooperativa d'Onda
- NGO Quisqueya
- Onda Centre Comercial
- Primary Schools
- Secondary Schools
- FACSA (Company for the management of public water installations)
- SIMETRIA Group
- FCC Medio Ambiente (Company for the management of cleaning of the municipality)
- RECIPLASA (Company for the waste treatment)
- Museum of ceramics
- Regional Government "Generalitat Valenciana".

In March 2024 Onda hosted the *GreenPlace* transnational meeting (with Cehegín), where local ULG members joined international partners in workshops. Onda's presentations highlighted its "Green Lung" project: municipal staff outlined plans to remove asbestos from a degraded hillside and reforest it, creating a broad green corridor linking suburbs to downtown. Several workshop sessions took place at sites tied to the ULG (the Quisqueya day centre and the local cultural centre), focusing on citizen participation and heritage. Throughout these meetings Onda's ULG helped translate *GreenPlace* ideas into local context, drawing on the city's recent Urban Agenda process. The events affirmed Onda's commitment to community-driven green regeneration, with ULG members engaged in shaping the implementation of the city's plan.

Figure 15 GreenPlace partners and Onda ULG members planting a tree in the Olympic Forest (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

Onda planned an event called ***Hackathon – Circular Marathon*** as its main testing action, aimed at engaging local students, including those from The Jaume I University of Castellón, in the early development of the *GreenLung* project. The event would focus on promoting sustainability awareness and gathering youth-led ideas and solutions for the future of the area. Expected outcomes included increased community engagement, fresh perspectives on environmental challenges, and stronger connections between young residents and the revitalisation process. The event also aimed to foster collaboration and a sense of ownership among participants.

Figure 16 Participants during the 3rd Circular Architecture Marathon activity (source: city Onda)

The city's URBACT *Integrated Action Plan* plans the following general actions to be taken with regard to the focus area:

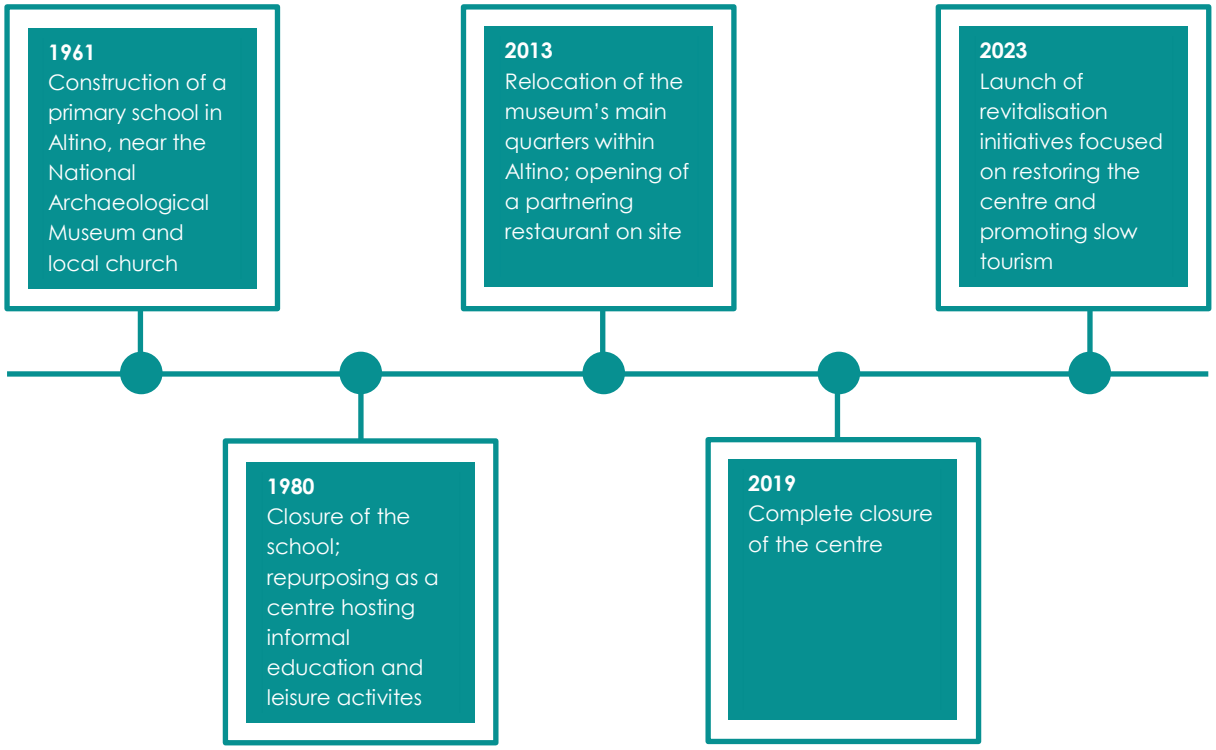
GREENING INITIATIVES	VARIOUS
• Revitalising a degraded post-industrial area through ecological regeneration and adaptive reuse of existing structures • Reconnecting peripheral neighbourhoods with the city centre via accessible green corridors and improved mobility • Expanding public access to green spaces by developing new parks, walking routes, and recreational areas • Promoting environmental awareness by involving residents, especially youth, in sustainability-themed activities and education • Preserving and integrating heritage elements (such as chimneys and ovens) into the landscape design as cultural and visual anchors	• Land ownership: Acquiring remaining private lands to enable integrated and coherent urban planning • Heritage: Preserving and reactivating the central church and adjacent social centre as community anchors; Highlighting industrial heritage by conserving iconic features like the six chimneys and repurposing historic building materials • Mobility: Designing a new mobility network with roads, pedestrian routes, and cycling lanes to ensure better accessibility • Housing: Retaining selected residential structures on the outskirts of the area to maintain social continuity and housing diversity

4.8. Quarto d'Altino. Civic centre of Altino

Background

QUARTO D'ALTINO CIVIC CENTRE OF ALTINO		
City	Total area [km^2]	28
	Number of residents	7225

Quarto d'Altino is a small town in the Veneto region of northern Italy, located near the Venice Lagoon. Approximately 5 km southwest of the modern town lies the abandoned medieval city of Altino, a site of considerable historical and archaeological value. At its heart stands the disused **civic centre of Altino** – a mid-20th-century building originally built as a school. Despite its potential, the area suffers from poor accessibility, limited visibility, and institutional fragmentation. The green regeneration efforts focus on restoring the centre and its surroundings, improving promotion and management mechanisms, and anchoring the revitalisation to the principles of slow tourism – encouraging nature- and heritage-based, sustainable experiences.



Current situation

Currently, the civic centre is abandoned and unused. However, a wide network of stakeholders – including local associations, museums, archaeological authorities, universities, restaurants, SMEs, banks, and religious institutions – have joined forces in the ULG to help plan its revival.

MAIN CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL
• Insufficient connectivity of the area (especially regarding public transport), leading to a feeling of isolation in Altino • Relatively low awareness of the history and significance of Quarto d'Altino and Altino among residents and potential tourists • Inadequate (outdated) road signage making access to tourist sites difficult • The size of the old Altino centre limiting the capacity to accommodate larger numbers of tourists – lack of accommodation, parking spaces, and venues for bigger events • Difficulties in cooperation between institutions and stakeholders • Lack of promotion	• Location within the Venice metropolitan area and proximity to the coast – benefits for both tourists and residents • Well-developed network of cycling routes and related infrastructure – potential for further development of cycling tourism • Proximity to the Sile River park, rich in biodiversity and accessible via a network of bike paths • Opportunity for further growth in slow tourism, encouraging exploration of the region's natural and historical heritage • Historical, archaeological, and aesthetic value of the Altino centre • Inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage site "Venice and its Lagoon"

The concept of regenerating Altino stems from the city's broader commitment to green transition and cultural heritage valorisation. The city's PAT (**Territorial Planning Document**), updated in 2019, emphasises the sustainable reuse of existing structures, protection of landscapes, and enhancement of ecological networks. In the municipality there are 17

degraded or abandoned areas identified under the **Regional Law 1/2013**. Regional and city-level strategies for 2023–2025 highlight specific actions in Altino, including the renewal of cycling routes ("History Trail," "Green Road of the River Sile," and "Via Crete"), energy audits of public buildings, and redevelopment of social centres. Quarto d'Altino is also a partner in the **Po Valley Air Quality Agreement**, supporting coordinated climate action.

URBACT GreenPlace & future plans

The Municipality of Quarto d'Altino has created a new group of stakeholders for this project, the first of its kind. The ULG will be coordinated by a stakeholder, Mario Defina, on a voluntary basis.
The foreseen ULG members are:

- Associations: La Carta di Altino, partner of the project and available on a voluntary basis
- Museums and Superintendencies: National Museum and Archaeological Areas of Altino (Directorate of the Archaeological Museums of Veneto), Superintendence of Archaeology, fine arts and landscape for the Municipality of Venice and the Lagoon, Superintendence of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the Metropolitan Area of Venice and the Provinces of Belluno, Padua and Treviso
- University: Iuav Venice, Ca' Foscari Venice (prof. Sperti), University of Padua
- Metropolitan City of Venice: Councilor Simone Venturini
- Campaign owners and managers: General Insurance, F.lli Pesce agricultural company, The courageous bread (Mirko Visentin and Damiano Visentin)
- Restaurateurs: Le Vie restaurant, Vecchia Altino restaurant, Ca' delle amphorae, At Odino
- Tour operators: El bragozzo va
- Merchants: Association of merchants of Quarto d'Altino, Quarto d'Altino trade consortium, Altinonline
- Medium-large companies: H Farm, Albertini windows and doors, Pixartprinting
- Banks: Intesa Sanpaolo, Cooperative Credit Bank, Unicredit
- Parish: Parish of Quarto d'Altino, Parish group of Altino, Parish group of Portegrandi

Quarto d'Altino's ULG, after an initial co-design phase, "worked intensively to translate the project's principles into concrete actions" for the riverside area. They helped formulate a citywide communication plan for Altino (thematic signage along the canal, guided explorations, a short promo film, new cultural events) to raise awareness of the site. A second major initiative is restructuring the local Civic Centre as a co-managed community space: the ULG proposed a shared-governance model (coordinating events, optimizing spaces, involving voluntary associations) to animate the centre for arts and culture. These planned actions aim to "build an inclusive identity for residents" around Altino's heritage. In summary, Quarto's ULG has defined detailed initiatives (communication, governance, events) to reconnect citizens with the formerly neglected zone.

Figure 17 The Brenta river landscape in Quarto d'Altino, the focus area of the ULG's work (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

The city planned a series of one-day testing actions at the unused civic centre of Altino, aiming to reconnect the community with the site and promote its historical, environmental, and social value. Planned activities would include:

- **Guided walks** and **Nordic walking tours**;
- Afternoon **workshops presenting the URBACT *GreenPlace* project**;
- **Evening recreational events**.

These actions aimed to reactivate the site and explore how cultural and ecological layers can coexist in a sustainable model of development.

Figure 18 Participants of the bicycle guided tour (source: https://urbact.eu/greenplace-quarto-daltino-building-green-and-smart-hub-archaeology-nature-and-community)

Figure 19 Historical and archaeological presentation before walking activities (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

The green regeneration efforts are based on enhancing both the civic centre building and its surrounding area. Greening goals and broader, non-greening measures include:

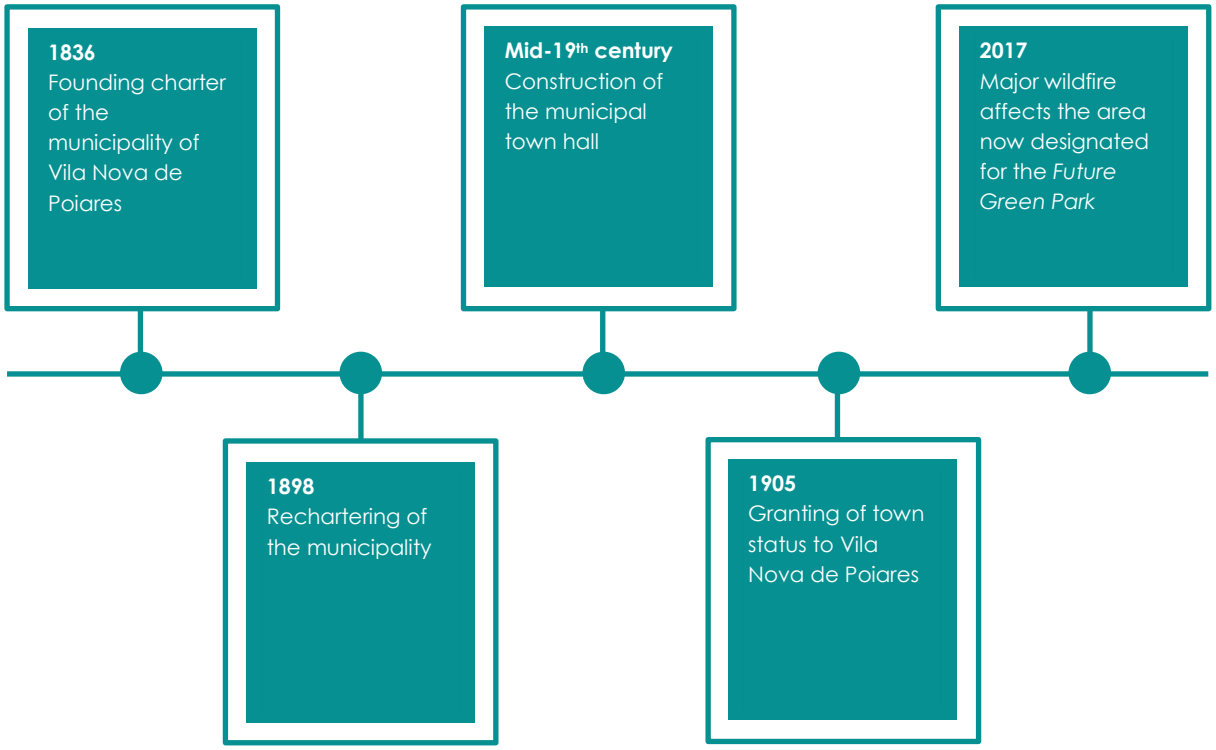
GREENING INITIATIVES	VARIOUS
• Cleaning and maintaining the green space behind the Centre to make it visitor-friendly • Restoring small patches of lowland forest typical of the historical Po Valley ecosystem • Developing a concept for a future national park in the area • Promoting slow tourism and environmentally responsible experiences • Reconnecting nature with culture in a cohesive urban-rural strategy • Increasing ecological awareness among residents and visitors	• Infrastructure: Renovating the building with basic improvements (painting, sanitation) • Community engagement: Expanding public programmes and turning the site into a community hub • Mobility: Creating transport links (bus, train, boat) to improve accessibility • Tourism: Developing a tourist map of Altino and Quarto d'Altino • Sustainability: Reusing local heritage materials (e.g., stones from old walls) • Governance: Enhancing coordination with state bodies managing archaeological sites; Strengthening formal and informal governance for shared land use and event management

4.9. Vila Nova de Poiares. *Future Green Park*

Background

VILA NOVA DE POIARES *FUTURE GREEN PARK*		
City	Total area [km^2]	84.57
	Number of residents	7 200
	Urbanised area [m^2]	2 500 000
	Building area [m^2]	350 000
	Hardened surface [m^2]	750 000
	Biologically active area [m^2]	1 500 000
	Area of forests and woodland above 1 ha [m^2]	60 000 000
Focus area ("forgotten" urban area)	Total area [m^2]	5 097
	Hardened surface [m^2]	1 200
	Biologically active area [m^2]	3 897

Vila Nova de Poiares is a small municipality in central Portugal, located near the university city of Coimbra. On its western edge lies an underutilised green area – once forested but now abandoned – situated between the town centre and an industrial zone. This location, earmarked for the development of the ***Future Green Park***, presents both environmental and socio-economic challenges. The area is currently characterised by unmanaged vegetation, invasive species, and strong vulnerability to natural disasters such as wildfires and floods. It also lies in proximity to both residential and industrial areas, which underscores the need for better integration and greener, multifunctional spaces.



Current situation

The problematic area currently functions as an abandoned green zone. Overgrown and unmanaged, it poses significant environmental and safety risks while also representing a major chance for redevelopment into a multifunctional ecological and social space.

MAIN CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL
• The condition of the green zone as a potential environmental hazard • Land management issues • Condition of flood protection infrastructure and watercourses within and around the problematic area • Biodiversity threatened by the spread of invasive species (presence and rapid expansion of eucalyptus, silver wattle, acacia, broom, pampas grass – all highly flammable) • Low water retention capacity of the area	• Location of the green zone as a buffer between the urban and industrial areas of the city • Ecological and aesthetic value of the green zone • Attractiveness and ecological, biological, and productive benefits of nearby watercourses • Active local community with experience in co-creating local plans

The city of Vila Nova de Poiares has committed to several local, national, and EU frameworks for sustainability and biodiversity. The **Green City Accord** is one of the primary policy references, focusing on improving green infrastructure and controlling invasive species. The **Our Forest Programme** supports the replacement of invasive species like eucalyptus and mimosa with native vegetation. Environmental education is promoted through a **Strategic Environmental Education Plan**, the **ECO-Schools program**, and a local initiative called **School for the Environment**, which fosters intergenerational knowledge exchange and ecological awareness.

Institutional cooperation is key, with the municipality, Coimbra Polytechnic, the Public Participation Network, and civil protection agencies all working together to manage fire risks, flood prevention, and sustainable land use. These efforts are also supported by EU-funded initiatives like the **Regional Operational Programme** and **Human Capital Operational Programme**.

URBACT GreenPlace & future plans

In Vila Nova de Poiares, the ULG brings together stakeholders from local government, academia, the private sector, and the wider community. The group is structured around a core team of municipal leaders, supported by technical staff such as engineers for urban planning, environment, and civil protection. External experts, architect, high education, parish councils, schools, entrepreneurs, and digital technology companies add further depth to the group.
The foreseen ULG members are:

- The core team : Jani Ferreira, Project/ULG Coordinator (Municipality)
- Elected representative: Sr.Presidente João Henriques, Mayor of the City
- Other civil servants: Ângela Ferreira (Finance Manager), Ana Dias (Urban Planning Engineer), Elizabete Paulo (Environment Engineer), Luis Sousa (Civil Protetion Engineer), Andreia Rodrigues (Forest Engineer), Ricardo Peneda (Sports Department)
- Architect of the space: Arquiteto Miguel Pinheiro, TUU Architect
- Other stakeholders:

Erica Castanheira (IPC Polytechnic of Coimbra – University)
Sónia Chelinho (IPC Polytechnic of Coimbra – University)
Eduardo Sequeira (AVENP Schools Headmaster)
João Feteira (Parish Council President S. Miguel)
Loide Liliana (Parish Council President Lavegadas)
Cláudio Carvalheira (IOTECH Digital Technology Company)
Filipe Portela (IOTECH Digital Technology Company)
Silvia Pelham (AEDP Director Association of Entrepreneur)

Vila Nova de Poiares has deeply engaged its ULG in practical environmental projects. A flagship is the "Our Forest" invasive-species removal program: local volunteers (coordinated by the ULG) clear mimosa, gorse and other weeds, even using goats in steep areas. The ULG actively spreads awareness and involves residents in these efforts. The Local Group also contributed to planning a future "Parque Verde" – a multifunctional park on former industrial land – which was showcased when Poiares hosted the 6th GreenPlace Core Meeting (13-14 May 2025). ULG members presented local practices (e.g. a Nature 3.0 educational trail, environmental sports routes) and committed to advancing green regeneration in collaboration with partners.

Figure 20 ULG Meeting with Lead Expert Marcelline Bonneau (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

Figure 21 An app to enjoy nature while practicing sport (source: https://urbact.eu/shaping-urban-regeneration-together-vila-nova-de-poiares)

As a part of its URBACT testing phase, the municipality organized **Open Days for the Future Green Park**. The event served multiple purposes:

- Testing selected urban design solutions;
- Encouraging public visits to the area;
- Activating local community engagement;
- Identifying viable future planning directions.

Figure 22 From invasive greens to a central recreative park (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

Figure 23 Guided tour of Green Park, Vila Nova de Poiares, 4 June 2024 (source: https://urbact.eu/how-can-cities-activate-unused-green-spaces-and-buildings, City of Vila Nova de Poiares)

The following developments (both greening and non-greening oriented) are intended to transform the space into a multifunctional, community-oriented park that supports environmental, educational, and social goals:

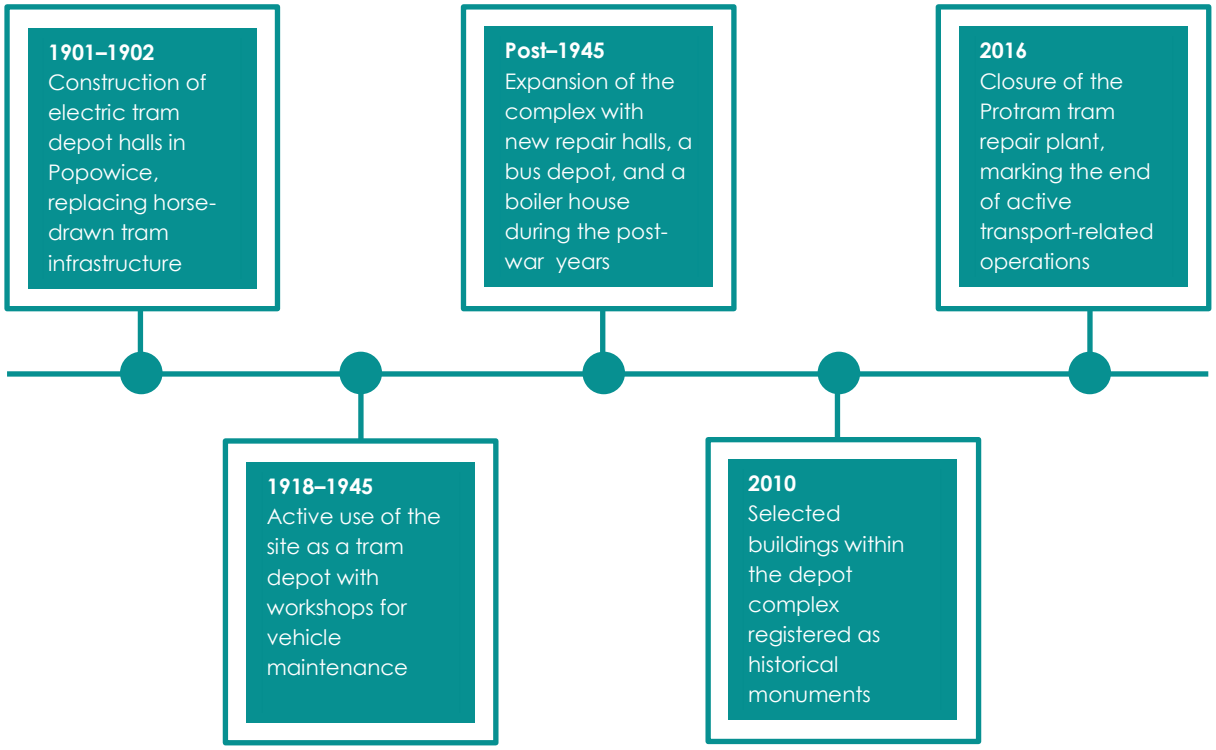
GREENING INITIATIVES	VARIOUS
• Reforesting with native species to replace invasive ones and reduce fire risk • Creating pedestrian and cycling paths to connect residential and industrial zones with soft mobility options • Developing green infrastructure to mitigate flood risks and enhance water retention • Designing recreational and social spaces for both residents and workers to use • Establishing a green buffer zone that supports ecological and social cohesion • Resolving land ownership issues to allow coordinated management and implementation	• Infrastructure: Building cycling paths and parking zones • Designing structured and unstructured areas for sports and recreation • Creating avenues, clearings, and community gathering areas • Constructing a tunnel with pergolas and thematic educational trails • Developing a recreational area with picnic spots, fitness zones, and a playground • Introducing ponds and wetland-focused education areas

4.10. Wrocław. Popowice tram depot

Background

WROCŁAW POPOWICE TRAM DEPOT		
City	Total area [km^2]	292,8
	Number of residents	672 882
	Area of forests and woodland above 1 ha [m^2]	22 862 100
Focus area ("forgotten" urban area)	Total area [m^2]	approximately 30 000
	Hardened surface [m^2]	19 013
	Biologically active area [m^2]	8702

Wrocław, URBACT *GreenPlace* project lead, is a vibrant and historically rich city in western Poland, known for its dynamic urban development and active cultural scene. Within the project, the city has chosen to focus on the transformation of the former **Popowice tram depot**, a 3.5-hectare post-industrial site situated between the Popowice housing estate and one of Wrocław's largest green spaces, Park Zachodni. Although surrounded by natural greenery, including Popowicki Park and numerous lawns, the depot itself is largely covered by sealed surfaces and rooftops, contributing to the urban heat island effect. The site, historically used for public transportation services, is currently managed by the municipal unit Municipal Resources Board and hosts various cultural, social, and artistic initiatives. However, it is not available to residents on a daily basis. The surrounding Popowice estate presents a diverse demographic mix – from long-term senior residents to younger families – and faces challenges related to civic engagement and social participation. The revitalisation of the depot aims to create an inclusive, multifunctional space that integrates nature-based solutions, meets intergenerational needs, and strengthens local community networks through participatory planning and sustainable design.



Current situation

Currently, the Popowice depot no longer serves an active public transportation function. The site is home to various social organisations, such as: TRATWA Centre for Disasters and Natural Disasters, Umbrella Foundation with Sector 3 Centre, Municipal Transport Enthusiasts Club (KSTM), Wrocław Enthusiasts Society (TMW), Neon Side Wrocław-Old Neon Signs in Wrocław (Stare Neony We Wrocławiu), Wrocław Kyokushin Karate Club and the organisational unit of the Municipality - Wrocław Youth Sports Centre with a skatepark, as well as entrepreneurs involved in the renovation and restoration of historic vehicles, among others. The facilities located within the Depot are not open to the public due to their use by the above-mentioned entities. In addition, free movement within the Depot is restricted due to the movement of historic and other vehicles (for safety reasons).

The depot garages vintage and historic vehicles used in Wrocław's public transport system, belonging to the Municipality of Wrocław, KSTM and TMW. The vehicles stored at the Popowice Depot are either already restored and used to transport residents and tourists, including as part of the Wrocław Tourist Lines WRO-TA, or are undergoing renovation or awaiting renovation. The WRO-TA brand was created during the implementation of the project entitled 'Find Your Greatness: Europe's first strategic brand building program for smart cities' as part of the Urbact III programme co-financed by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund and the city budget. WLT WRO-TA is implemented by the city in cooperation with non-governmental organisations. Passengers travelling on historic trams or buses can learn about the city's most important architectural monuments, as well as its natural assets and other attractions (the ZOO, Hydropolis, the 'Zajezdnia' History Centre).

A large group of passengers, but also all events dedicated to historic rolling stock, are transport enthusiasts. The municipality of Wrocław owns the oldest electric tram system in Poland.

The tram depot complex at ul. Legnicka 65a in Wrocław is covered by the decision of the Provincial Conservator of Heritage of 7 April 2010, entry in the Register of Monuments (No. A:/ 1971). This requires high expenditure on renovation and conservation work. The amount of funds required is a challenge for the Municipality of Wrocław. However, construction and renovation work on the buildings is being carried out gradually and in stages, including repairs to roofs and gates. A lot of construction work is planned, including a pilot project to supply water to a sprayer wagon for watering Wrocław's green tram tracks without burdening the city's water supply system. The system involves collecting and reusing rainwater harvested from the roofs of industrial buildings.

MAIN CHALLENGES	POTENTIAL
• Located on the main city arterial road and in heavily urbanised residential areas • The amount of expenditure required to change the function of the buildings and land • Surface Urban Heat Island and lack of coordinated rainwater management • Lack of resident-friendly areas within the depot • Limited greenery • The need to revitalise buildings and the area to meet the needs of residents, as identified during public consultations	• Single administrator for the entire facility • Necessary urban infrastructure • Convenient location and varied space, suitable for various functions • The depot area is covered by the Local Spatial Development Plan • Historic vehicles (trams and buses) used in Wrocław's public transport system are stored in the historic halls • NGO operations in this area • Prepared functional and economic analyses concerning the complete revitalisation of the depot complex • Preliminary public consultations have been held regarding the future development of the area. The buildings and the area are currently used occasionally as a venue for alternative cultural events, such as exhibitions, performances and film plans • In small green areas – biodiversity

The transformation of the Popowice tram depot is closely aligned with Wrocław's broader strategic goals in climate resilience, sustainable urban development, and civic engagement. A key reference document is the **Wrocław 2030 Strategy**, which emphasizes environmental protection, inclusive urban growth, and increased public participation in decision-making processes.

In the environmental sphere, the **Wrocław Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2030** supports the implementation of blue-green infrastructure, addressing challenges such as urban heat islands, air quality, and rainwater retention.

URBACT GreenPlace & future plans

In Wrocław, the *GreenPlace* ULG builds on experience from a previous URBACT project, "Find Your Greatness," and has been expanded to suit the new objectives. Meetings are organized before and after each core network session, and stakeholders remain in contact through emails and phone calls. The group includes municipal departments, universities, cultural institutions, NGOs, and professional associations, as well as organizations focused on public transport and civic participation. Wrocław has a strong tradition of involving citizens in decision-making, and consultations have already been held in connection with the redesign of the

Popowice Depot. This experience reinforces the city's capacity to link technical planning with broad-based civic engagement.
The foreseen ULG members are:

- Foundation Art Transparent
- Convention Bureau Wrocław
- The Center for Young Culture and Local Initiatives CZASOPRZESTRZEŃ
- Lower Silesian Chamber of Architects
- Public Transport Supporters Club (Klub Sympatyków Transportu Miejskiego)
- Society of Wrocław Lovers (Towarzystwo Miłośników Wrocławia)
- Wroclaw University of Science and Technology
- Municipal Resources Management
- The Municipal Greenery Board Municipality
- The Memory and Future Centre with "Depot" History Center
- Municipal Transport Company (Miejskie Przedsiębiorstwo Komunikacyjne Sp. z o.o.)
- Foundation for European Studies
- Umbrella Foundation and Sector 3
- Green Gaya Foundation

Wrocław (lead partner) launched the *GreenPlace* project by organizing the first Core Network meeting on September 26-27, 2023. During this meeting, all nine partner cities, along with the lead expert and the URBACT Secretariat, met for introductory workshops and field visits, which were attended by members of the URBACT Local Group (ULG).

The ULG, established as part of the project, brings together representatives of city authorities and local stakeholders to develop an Integrated Action Plan for the redevelopment of "forgotten" urban areas. The ULG in Wrocław meets to develop revitalization strategies (e.g., incorporating green infrastructure and community input).

11-12 June 2025 Wroclaw organized a study visit which covered topics: nature-based solutions, green infrastructure & biodiversity. The most important topics discussed during this visit were related to, among other things, green space maintenance and ecological solutions for park revitalization.

Figure 24 Study visit participants in Wrocław on June 11-12 2025 (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

As a part of its URBACT testing phase, the ULG carried out one preparatory action (hekaton) and one test action:

- The preliminary **workshop (hackathon)**, were preceded by an inventory of the depot. As part of the preparatory work, workshops were held on green-blue infrastructure that could help reduce the heat island effect and be introduced at the Popowice Depot, as well as workshops on possible functions for the Depot site. Both workshops provided for a social participation component and were accompanied by potential mapping;

- **Green Boiler House**, the testing action supported by the Wrocław Municipality and implemented by a selected NGO through an open call, aims to transform the area around a boiler room into a green, inclusive community space. Planned activities include removing fences to create barrier-free access, organizing the site, establishing a community garden, installing small architectural elements, painting a mural, and using rainwater for irrigation. The initiative seeks to foster social integration in a silence and natural setting, encourage public engagement with the depot, and offer an inviting alternative waiting area for parents whose children attend extracurricular activities nearby.

Figure 25 The workshop participants at the Popowice Depot (source: https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace)

Figure 26 Participants of the festival opening the Green Boiler Room (source: https://www.wroclaw.pl/dla-mieszkanca/zielona-kotlownia-sektor-3-tratwa-skatepark-wroclaw)

As part of the project, the Department agreed with the Institute of Ecology of Industrial Areas (IETU) in Katowice, which covered several methodological and diagnostic activities. On this basis, in 2024, an analysis and recommendations were developed for solutions related to minimising the urban heat island effect, introducing greenery to post-industrial areas and restoring them to their residents, for the area of the Popowice depot in Wrocław, as well as

good practices as inspiration for the development of other depots in Wrocław, such as Ołbin, Dąbie and Centrum Historii Zajezdnia.

The greening and non-greening initiatives aimed at revitalising the Popowice tram depot in the future are as follows:

GREENING INITIATIVES	VARIOUS
• Creating community-based green infrastructure, including gardens, vertical gardens, green roofs, and pergolas • Introducing green mobile elements, such as movable tree nurseries and green architecture integrated with small urban furniture • Increasing rainwater retention, through rain gardens, retention tanks, and permeable paving • Engaging the community in greenery maintenance, by transferring care responsibilities to local groups or organizations • Integrating greenery into planning regulations, by embedding greening guidelines into local development plans and investment procedures	• Promotion: Creating multimedia stages and organizing cultural events • Community engagement: Developing market spaces and leisure zones for local residents; Organising workshops, classes, and training sessions • Collaborations: Facilitating collaboration with local businesses and community organizations • Mobility: Enhancing accessibility by removing fencing and creating pedestrian pathways

In 2021, work was completed on the functional and spatial concept for the comprehensive adaptation of the former Popowice Depot building complex at 65 Legnicka Street to new functions.

During internal consultations and public consultations entitled 'Let's talk about the depot at Legnicka' concerning the work carried out in stages, a final preconcept for the development of this area was obtained, together with the designation of implementation phases for the planned functions and recommendations for financial mechanisms enabling the implementation of the project. The study aimed to select the most advantageous solutions based on a functional and economic analysis.

Ultimately, there are plans to redevelop the Depot area while simultaneously revalorising the historic buildings, designating them for the exhibition of the historic collection of public transport vehicles owned by the Municipality of Wrocław. Under the working name 'WROCeK', or Wrocław Centre for Communication and Culture, it is to be used as a centre for local and community activities for residents, while also associating various non-governmental organisations. It will create new spaces for city-wide cultural and tourist activities.

Part III

Analysis and tools for participatory greening of “forgotten” urban areas

Co-funded by the European Union

5. Case study comparison. Conclusions from the analysis of partner cities

This chapter presents a concise summary of the findings from the analysis of actions carried out in nine (formerly ten) partner cities participating in the international project *GreenPlace. Let's do it together!*, focused on the participatory greening of "forgotten" urban spaces.

The comparative analysis made it possible to identify key challenges, as well as differences resulting from local social, spatial, and economic conditions. It also helped to capture recurring patterns of action, along with effective methods and tools for greening urban spaces. Due to the broad geographical scope and the diversity of local contexts – ranging from large post-industrial cities to small peripheral towns – the analysis allowed for the identification of both universal success factors and the importance of context-specific, place-based approaches. The collected insights serve as a practical guide and a source of inspiration for cities facing similar challenges in revitalizing and greening "forgotten" urban areas.

The analysis was based on the results of pilot actions carried out by the partner cities, network meetings, project documentation, and the experiences of local stakeholder groups (ULGs). This approach made it possible to capture not only "hard" data, but also the social context and the dynamics of participation specific to each city.

5.1. Main similarities and joint challenges

Despite significant geographical and socio-economic differences, the cities participating in the *GreenPlace! Let's do it together!* project faced similar barriers. Among the most commonly identified challenges were:

- **Degradation of infrastructure and technical monuments**, often of historical significance (e.g. Bucharest, Nitra, Onda, Vila Nova de Poiares, Wrocław – old depots, industrial halls requiring urgent revitalization);
- **Low accessibility and poor visibility of degraded areas** within the urban fabric (e.g. Boulogne-sur-Mer, Bucharest, Löbau, Nitra, Quarto d'Altino, Wrocław);
- **Lack of social engagement and low trust of residents in institutions**, which hindered participatory processes (e.g. Boulogne-sur-Mer, Bucharest, Quarto d'Altino);
- **Legal and organizational problems** related to land ownership and coordination of actions among stakeholders (e.g. Bucharest, Löbau – weak regulations regarding the revitalization of post-industrial areas; Boulogne-sur-Mer, Limerick, Quarto d'Altino – various stakeholder groups, such as authorities, residents, investors; Vila Nova de Poiares);
- **High revitalization costs and limited access to financial resources**, despite EU support (e.g. Boulogne-sur-Mer, Bucharest).

The common goal of all partners was to improve the quality of life for city residents by creating sustainable green infrastructure that enhances biodiversity and integrates "forgotten" spaces into the existing network of urban green areas.

The table below presents a summary of the key characteristics of pilot revitalization areas in partner cities, taking into account local challenges, forms of resident engagement, and the outcomes of actions.

Table 1 Characteristics of pilot areas and participatory activities in partner cities

CITY	TYPE OF PILOT AREA	LOCAL CHALLENGES	FORMS OF RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT	MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE PILOT
Boulogne-sur-Mer (FR)	Port area	• Lack of social engagement, • High renovation costs	• Urban studies, • Educational activities with students, • Cultural and artistic events	• "Card game" workshop
Bucharesz t (RO)	Railway areas	• Lack of access to green spaces, • Informal use, • Low level of social engagemen, • High renovation costs	• Problem mapping (surveys), • Neighborhood meetings	• Temporary recreational area
Limerick (IE)	Post-industrial area in the city center	• Antisocial behaviour, • Unused open spaces	• Cultural events	• Idea of creating a walkable linear park
Löbau (DE)	Area near the old factory	• Spatial isolation	• Artistic and sports activities, • Surveys	• Participatory planning – a need for a long-term mixed-use model
Nitra (SK)	The area of the former military barracks	• Spatial isolation, • Condition of buildings and surrounding infrastructure, and green areas	• Cultural events, • Guided walks	• Community educational garden, introducing underground tanks and polders during building renovations
Onda (ES)	The area near the former brickyard	• Low attractiveness, • Lack of social functions, • Environmental pollution	• Intergeneration al activities with students	• Greenery integrated with pedestrian and bicycle traffic
Quarto d'Altino (IT)	Post-industrial areas near the city center	• Spatial isolation, • Low level of social engagement, • Lack of promotion	• Participatory design, • Field walks, • Workshops, • Recreational events	• A citywide communicatio n plan for Altino, restructuring the local Civic Centre as a co-managed community space
Vila Nova de Poiares (PT)	The area situated between the	• Presence of invasive alien species,	• Grassroots initiatives,	• Micropark "Parque Verde"

	town centre and an industrial zone	• High susceptibility to natural disasters (fires, floods)	• Residents' own efforts	with integrative functions, • Greenery integrated with pedestrian and bicycle traffic
Wrocław (PL)	The area of the former tram depot	• High revitalization costs, • Lack of greenery	• Public consultations, • Design workshops, • Pilot activities ("Green Boiler House")	• Creating community-based green infrastructure, • New social functions of the area

5.2. Differences resulting from local conditions

Although the challenges related to revitalization are often similar, local conditions significantly influence the nature, course, and effectiveness of the actions undertaken. Each city faced specific challenges and opportunities shaped by its local context – such as climate, land ownership structure, level of community engagement, or existing urban policies. Key differences were observed in the following areas:

- **Scale and type of revitalized areas**

The scope and nature of the areas undergoing revitalization varied greatly – from large, degraded post-industrial complexes such as depots and factories (e.g. Bucharest, Wrocław), to small rural or peri-urban sites (e.g. Vila Nova de Poiares, Quarto d'Altino).

- **Level of social participation and socio-economic diversity**

The ability to engage residents and local stakeholders depended, among other factors, on the tradition of civic involvement and the strength of local social capital. Cities with an industrial past and a strong working-class identity (e.g. Limerick, Wrocław) often demonstrated higher levels of community organization and social activity. In contrast, smaller towns with an agricultural profile (e.g. Vila Nova de Poiares) required more effort to initiate and sustain dialogue. Medium-sized cities (e.g. Nitra) generally showed a moderate level of participation, with potential for further development in this area.

- **Legal frameworks and urban policies**

National regulations regarding spatial planning, heritage protection, and land management varied significantly between countries, directly influencing the scope of possible interventions. For example, in Löbau (Germany), strict heritage protection laws limited certain types of interventions, while Onda (Spain) benefited from more flexible regulations that enabled faster implementation of actions.

- **Financial support and access to funding**

The availability of funding – whether from EU, national, or regional sources – was crucial for the quality, scope, and pace of revitalization efforts. Some cities, such as Boulogne-sur-Mer, benefited from stable regional support, which enabled them to plan comprehensive and long-term interventions. Others, like Vila Nova de Poiares, faced challenges in securing funding, which significantly slowed project implementation and limited their scale.

5.3. Effectiveness and diversity of participatory tools

The cities participating in the *GreenPlace. Let's do it together!* project employed a variety of participatory approaches in the process of greening degraded areas. An analysis of their experiences makes it possible to identify the key factors that determine the effectiveness of such actions, as well as to highlight models that – when properly adapted – can serve as inspiration for other cities.

Key factors for effective participation:

- aligning tools with the local context (both social and spatial),
- building trust and long-term relationships with residents,
- flexibly combining online and offline methods,
- broadly engaging various stakeholder groups (local authorities, NGOs, experts, community leaders).

Models developed within the project:

- URBACT Local Groups (ULGs) as permanent platforms for dialogue and cooperation,
- pilot and temporary interventions as a way to test solutions,
- integration of greening efforts with cultural heritage protection,
- cross-sector collaboration as a condition for sustainable outcomes.

A detailed overview of the tools and methods applied by the project partners can be found in Chapter 6.

5.4. Lessons learned from case study comparison

The comparative analysis of the *GreenPlace* network showed that effective revitalization of "forgotten" urban areas through greening requires not only appropriate tools but, above all, a strategic approach that integrates various levels of action – from spatial planning to the involvement of local communities.

Among the most important conclusions, the following principles emerge:

- **Local adaptation of strategies** is the foundation of effective greening — there is no universal solution; methods must take into account local social, economic, and legal conditions.
- **Social participation builds a sense of co-ownership** — resident engagement not only improves project acceptance but also influences the durability and long-term effectiveness of revitalization efforts.
- **Cross-sector collaboration** (local authorities, residents, experts, NGOs) facilitates effective conflict resolution and efficient project management.
- **Flexible and phased planning of activities** allows for responding to changing conditions as well as gradually building trust, social capital, and infrastructure.
- **Green infrastructure** serves multiple roles — ecological, recreational, and cultural — which increases its value for both the community and the city as a whole.
- **Environmental education and raising residents' awareness** encourage their active participation and long-term support for greening initiatives.

URBACT Local Groups (ULGs) played a significant role in the participatory processes, becoming forums for dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders. Their operation demonstrated that well-designed inclusion mechanisms can significantly enhance the relevance and

effectiveness of undertaken actions — ULGs enable the creation of solutions that truly address community needs. **Ultimately, a city's ability to adapt, learn from one another, and remain sensitive to local needs proves to be the most crucial factor for success.**

In summary, the *GreenPlace. Let's do it together!* project shows that participatory greening of "forgotten" urban areas is a process that requires a complex approach, flexibility in tool selection, and building lasting relationships with residents, but delivers sustainable and multifaceted benefits for cities and their inhabitants.

6. Action plans. Decision tools

The *GreenPlace. Let's do it together!* Handbook is not only a record of pilot activities, but also a practical tool supporting cities in planning the green transformation of degraded and forgotten areas. Part III focused on a comparative analysis of the experiences of partner cities, highlighting both common challenges and diverse local conditions. Chapter 6 moves into the practical stage – showing **how to translate analysis into action**, that is, how to plan, launch, and coordinate the process of participatory greening in the city step by step.

Transforming "forgotten" urban areas is a multi-stage process that requires the involvement of various stakeholders, flexible planning, and the adaptation of tools to the local context. The cities participating in the *GreenPlace* project tested different models of action – from quick interventions to long-term strategies, from initiatives led by local authorities to bottom-up processes initiated by residents.

In this chapter, we present a **step-by-step model of action, decision-making tools, effective forms of participation, as well as practical guidance on creating URBACT Local Groups (ULGs).** The materials included here are intended both for cities that are just beginning their work on green transformation and for those seeking inspiration or wishing to organize their activities into a coherent strategy. The proposed tools and pathways are based on the experiences of project partners, but they are designed to be **easily adaptable to different urban contexts,** regardless of city size, ownership structure, or stage of advancement.

6.1. A step-by-step model of action – how to plan a green transformation?

Greening degraded and "forgotten" urban areas is a process that requires a well-thought-out approach – from identifying the potential of a given place, through building public support, to the implementation and maintenance of changes. Based on the experiences of the partner cities in the *GreenPlace. Let's do it together!* project, a **step-by-step model of action** has been developed, consisting of five main stages. This model can be easily adapted to local conditions, resources, and needs.

Stage 1: Diagnosis and site identification

The aim is to understand the place and its potential – physical, social, and symbolic.

- **Context analysis:** Examination of the spatial, social, and environmental surroundings.
- **Formal recognition:** Determining land ownership, legal constraints, and possibilities for development.
- **Stakeholder identification:** Indicating key groups such as authorities, residents, NGOs, and institutions.
- **Preliminary consultations:** Conducting, for example, exploratory walks or problem mapping.

Stage 2: Stakeholder engagement and building a local group

The aim is to build trust and a sense of shared responsibility for the future of the site.

- **Establishing a ULG:** Creating a URBACT Local Group (ULG) or another working team.

- **Defining objectives:** Setting common goals, expectations, and values.
- **Planning cooperation:** Designing the dialogue process and determining the frequency of meetings.
- **Community integration:** Initiating activities that bring residents together, such as workshops and outdoor events.

Stage 3: Designing solutions and testing

The aim is to verify in practice how the community responds and what the actual needs and constraints are.

- **Organizing sessions:** Conducting design workshops, creative sessions, and both online and offline consultations.
- **Developing concepts:** Preparing ideas for greening that take into account social, ecological, and cultural functions.
- **Pilot actions:** Implementing temporary interventions to test solutions, such as mobile greenery elements, micro-installations, or planting actions.

Stage 4: Implementation and consolidation of changes

The aim is to introduce lasting changes in the space and anchor them within the local community.

- **Plan preparation:** Developing the final design concept and obtaining formal approvals.
- **Securing funding:** Acquiring resources from the municipal budget, EU funds, grants, or community contributions.
- **Implementation:** Introducing changes in the space – ranging from low-budget actions to comprehensive revitalization projects.
- **Community involvement in maintenance:** Engaging residents in the upkeep of the new space (e.g., through micro-volunteering, school programs, or NGO activities).

Stage 5: Monitoring, evaluation and adaptation

The aim is to ensure continuity and to learn from experience.

- **Appointing a coordinator:** Designating a person or team responsible for monitoring and evaluation (e.g., a green coordinator or "green assistant").
- **Assessing results:** Analyzing the outcomes of activities – both "hard" (e.g., greened surface area) and "soft" (e.g., level of resident engagement).
- **Maintaining contact:** Continuing meetings with stakeholders, such as regular ULG sessions or local events.
- **Adapting plans:** Adjusting solutions based on collected data and feedback.

Why is the step-by-step model of action effective?

This model brings a number of benefits that increase the chances of success in transforming "forgotten" urban areas:

- **Transparency:** Provides residents with clarity and predictability of actions.
- **Flexibility:** Enables testing and adjusting solutions before final implementation.
- **Relationship-building:** Creates lasting bonds between stakeholders.
- **Risk reduction:** Limits the risk of investment errors through prior testing.
- **Responsiveness to needs:** Ensures that the space is better aligned with actual social and environmental needs.

In the following subsections, tools supporting the implementation of each of these stages will be presented, including decision-making tools and forms of public participation.

6.2. Decision tools

Effective greening of urban areas requires making a number of complex decisions – from selecting the appropriate site, through defining the functions of the new space, to choosing specific design solutions. The use of **decision-support tools** increases the transparency of the process, facilitates cooperation with stakeholders, and improves the quality of actions undertaken.

Within the *GreenPlace. Let's do it together!* project, partners tested various approaches and tools that can be easily adapted at the local level. Below, selected practical solutions – both digital and analogue – are presented, supporting different stages of the transformation process.

Tool 1. Map of potential and constraints

Aim: Identification of opportunities and barriers in the development of a given site.

Description: A simple map prepared jointly with stakeholders during workshops or exploratory walks. It includes:

- Spatial aspects (e.g., accessibility, shading, existing greenery),
- Social aspects (e.g., user groups, meeting places),
- Technical and legal aspects (e.g., land ownership, access to utilities).

Advantage: Builds a shared understanding of the site and takes into account different perspectives.

Figure 27 Example of a potential map – a campaign to collect proposals for locations where green points (urban green acupuncture) could be created. The map was developed as part of the SALUTE4CE project, Interreg Central Europe, IETU (source: https://ietu.pl/miejska-zielona-akupunktura-w-chorzowie-zaproponowano-55-punktow-ktore-moga-sie-zazielenic/)

Tool 2. Priority and value matrix

Aim: Jointly determining what matters most in the planned intervention.

Description: A workshop tool that helps stakeholders organize expectations. The matrix allows for comparing different action options against criteria such as:

- Social impact,
- Ecological value,
- Implementation and maintenance costs,
- Alignment with city plans.

Advantage: Facilitates transparent decision-making and helps reduce conflicts.

Figure 28 Example of a priority and value matrix (source: https://routemap.cloud/blog/prioritization-matrix/)

Tool 3. Digital participation platforms

Aim: Gathering residents' opinions and enabling online co-design of public space.

Description: Tools such as Maptionnaire, Commonplace, or Participatory GIS allow users to:

- Create interactive online maps where they can mark problems, needs, and ideas,
- Collect data through surveys and voting,
- Develop spatial scenarios based on input gathered from residents.

Advantage: Expands the group of engaged participants, especially those who do not attend in-person meetings.

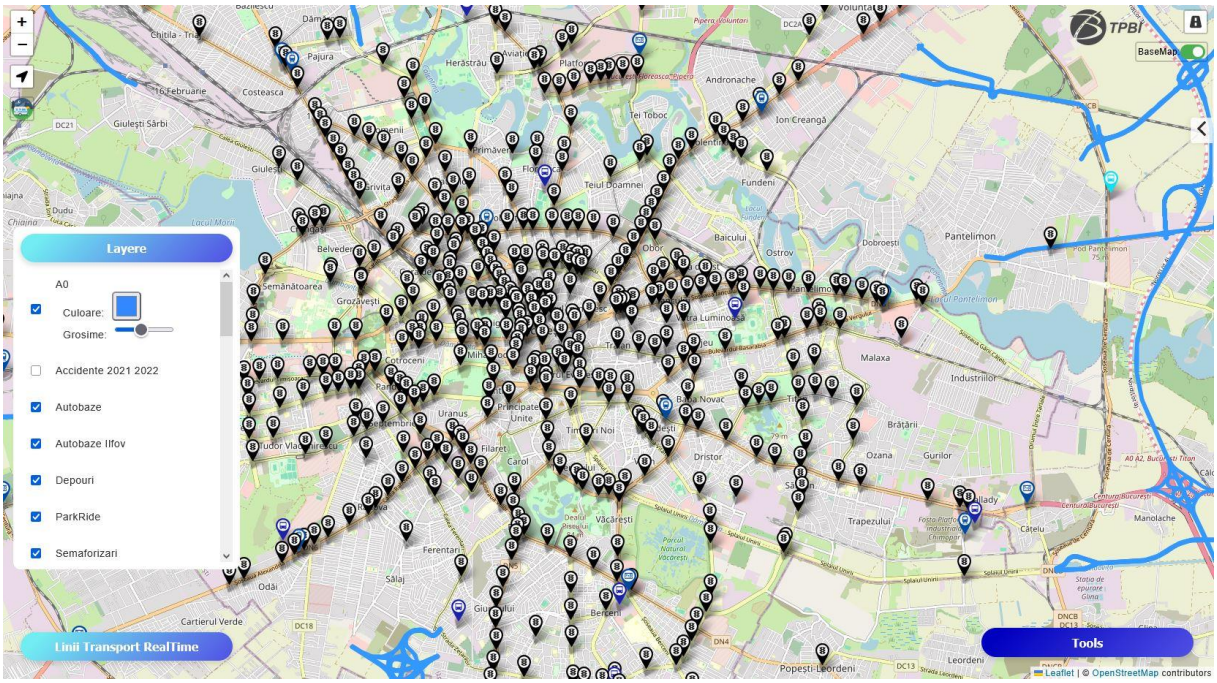


Figure 29 Example of a digital platform designed to improve urban mobility in the Bucharest region (source: https://maps.mo-bi.ro/ and https://urbact.eu/enhancing-urban-mobility-real-timetransit-and-traffic-tpbi)

Tool 4. Option cards

Aim: Supporting the decision-making process among residents and stakeholders.

Description: Simple graphic cards presenting various possible solutions (e.g., types of greenery, small architectural elements, forms of recreation). Used during workshops or meetings, they help to:

- Visualize different options,
- Understand the consequences of choices (e.g. costs, maintenance),
- Enable constructive debate and compromise.

Advantage: Supports decision-making in groups with diverse levels of expertise.

Figure 30 Use of the "Option cards" tool in Boulogne-Sur-Mer during the ULG meeting (source: https://urbact.eu/how-involve-your-ulg-members-using-card-game)

Tool 5. Variant assessment sheet (multi-criteria analysis)

Aim: Objective evaluation of different development scenarios or options.

Description: A table in which various options are scored based on their alignment with predefined criteria (e.g., functionality, cost, social acceptance, environmental impact). The tool can be used by the project team or the URBACT Local Group (ULG).

Advantage: Helps identify the most balanced and sustainable solution.

Objectives and criteria	Objective Weights	Option Scores			
		1	2	3	4
Objective 1: Efficiency and reliability	**0.4**	4.1	3.3	3.0	2.6
Objective 2: Health and Safety	**0.4**	3.6	3.1	5.0	3.8
Objective 3: Cost and related risks	**0.2**	2.5	2.5	3.5	2.5
Weighted Average Score	**1.0**	**3.58**	**3.06**	**3.90**	**3.06**
Rank		2	3	1	3

Figure 31 Illustrative example of the MCA matrix (source: https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-07/Assessment%20Framework%202021%20Guide%20to%20multi-criteria%20analysis.pdf)

Tool 6. Green budget, estimated cost plan

Aim: Realistic planning of the budget and human resources.

Description: A simple template or Excel sheet that includes:

- Investment costs (e.g., planting, earthworks, infrastructure),
- Maintenance costs (e.g., watering, care, management),
- Potential funding sources (e.g. EU funds, participatory budget, local sponsors).

Advantage: Facilitates discussions with decision-makers and helps avoid underestimations.

							BUDGET	ACTUAL	UNDER/OVER
							#ADR!	#ADR!	#ADR!
		LABOR		MATERIALS		FIXED COST			
TASK	VENDOR / CONTRACTOR	HRS	RATE	UNITS	$/UNIT	AMOUNT	BUDGET	ACTUAL	UNDER/OVER
PERMITS									
Building Permit							$ -		$ -
Zoning Permit							$ -		$ -
Environmental Permit							$ -		$ -
Temporary Construction Permit							$ -		$ -
Other							$ -		$ -
							$ -	$ -	
OTHER REQUIREMENTS									
Plans & Specifications							$ -		$ -
Survey							$ -		$ -
Impact Fee							$ -		$ -
Administrative Costs							$ -		$ -
Financing Costs							$ -		$ -
Legal Fees							$ -		$ -
Engineering Fees							$ -		$ -
Other							$ -		$ -
							$ -	$ -	
SITE PREP									
Demolition (Remodel)							$ -		$ -
Dust Control, Surface Protection							$ -		$ -
Job-Site Security							$ -		$ -
Dumpster & Removal							$ -		$ -
Tool/Equipment Rental							$ -		$ -
Other							$ -		$ -
							$ -	$ -	
EXCAVATION & EARTHWORK									
Cut & Fill							$ -		$ -
Removal of Stone/Dirt							$ -		$ -
Rough Grading							$ -		$ -
Culverts							$ -		$ -
Swales							$ -		$ -
Retaining Walls							$ -		$ -
Ponds							$ -		$ -
Other Site Drainage							$ -		$ -
Backfill							$ -		$ -
Compaction							$ -		$ -
Top Soil							$ -		$ -
Finish Grading							$ -		$ -
Seeding/Sod							$ -		$ -
Other							$ -		$ -
							$ -	$ -	
TOTAL							**#ADR!**	**#ADR!**	

Figure 32 Example of a budget – estimated project cost plan (source: modified after https://www.smartsheet.com/content/excel-construction-budget-templates?srsltid=AfmBOoonbiBCDL87ZIyC7ThQiKz-JZhj4i48jFDmJwLTffK1rK_h-9vv)

Tool 7. Implementation timeline (Gantt chart)

Aim: Step-by-step planning of the implementation process.

Description: A classic Gantt chart outlining tasks, responsibilities, and deadlines. It can be developed jointly with stakeholders, for example during planning workshops.

Advantage: Organizes activities and highlights their interdependencies.

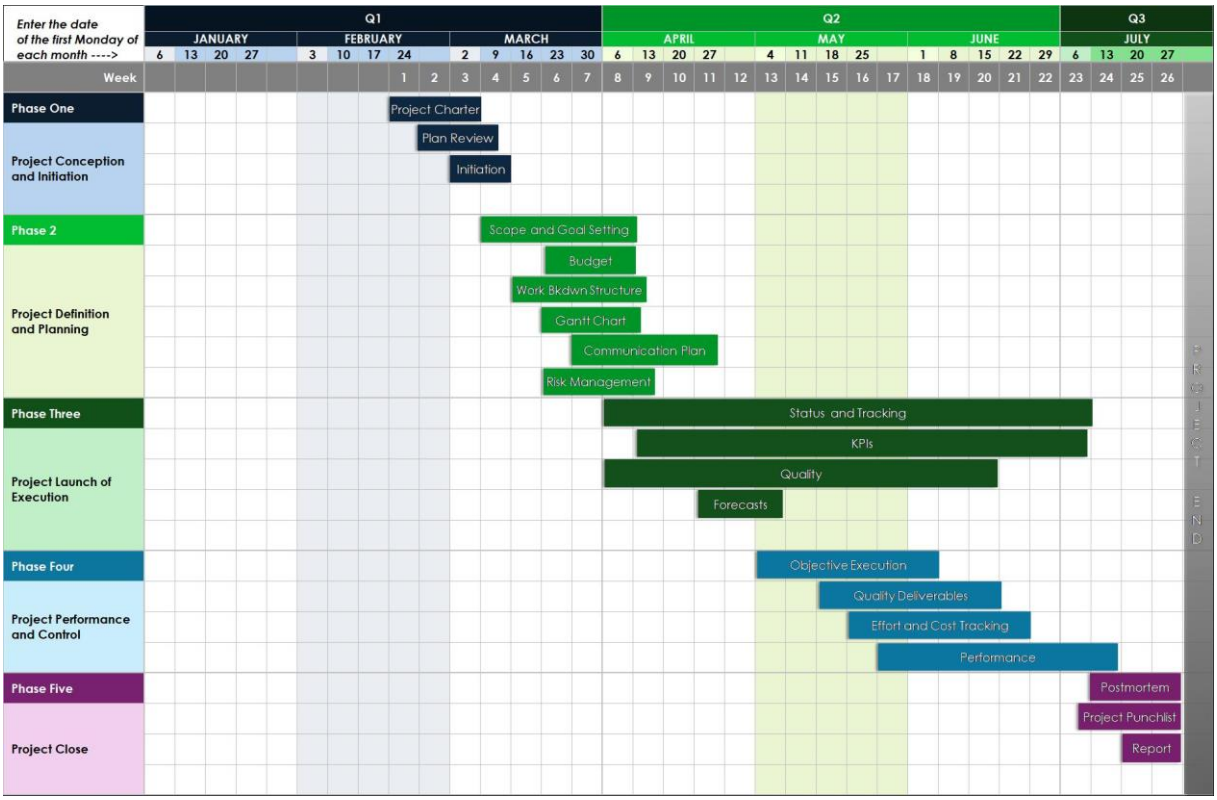


Figure 33 Example Gantt chart in project management (source: modified after https://www.smartsheet.com/gantt-chart-excel-templates)

How to choose the right tools?

There is no single ideal tool – the choice should depend on:

- **Stage of the process** (e.g. diagnosis, design, implementation),
- **Target group** (e.g. municipal staff, residents, young people),
- **Available resources** (e.g. budget, digital skills),
- **Complexity of the specific case.**

6.3. Effective participation tools – examples from partner cities

Based on the analysis of activities carried out within the *GreenPlace* project, key tools have been identified that support the transformation of "forgotten" urban spaces through public participation. The following overview can serve as a practical guide for planning, implementing, and evaluating actions that engage the local community in greening and revitalization processes.

Table 2 may be used as a ready-to-use framework. It includes recommendations, examples from partner cities, and guidance on implementing specific tools to help tailor the strategy to local conditions.

Table 2 Set of participation tools – implementation recommendations

TOOL	DESCRIPTION & FUNCTION	WHEN TO USE?	IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS	EXAMPLES FROM CITIES
Workshops and public consultations	Dialogue, exchange of opinions, co-creation of solutions	Diagnosis, planning, concept testing	• Moderation and space conducive to openness, • Engagement of local leaders and experts, • Working with real data (maps, visualizations)	• Wrocław, Bucharest – regular workshops with residents and experts
Pilot actions (test interventions)	Temporary greening, prototyping solutions, community activation	Before large-scale implementation	• Visible and accessible locations • Time for residents' observation and response • Documentation of results	• Limerick – pilot greening, • Boulogne-sur-Mer – "Water and nature in the city" campaigns, • Bucharest – participatory workshops
Open-air events and open days	Social integration, education, project promotion	At the stage of promoting and building support for changes	• Organization within the project area, • Linking with animations and artistic activities, • Collecting opinions in an informal form	• Boulogne-sur-Mer – picnics and open days in post-industrial areas
Digital platforms and social media	Communication, online consultations, idea gathering	At all stages	• Simple, intuitive platform, • Interactions in social media, • Regular updates of information	• Nitra – application for public consultations
Cross-sector cooperation	Integration of activities of authorities, NGOs, universities and residents, mediation, reaching underrepresented groups	At all stages	• NGO with local roots, • Inclusion in the project and communication, • Enabling grassroots activities (e.g. plantings)	• Bucharest, Quarto d'Altino – NGOs supporting education and dialogue
Participatory mapping	Collection of local data, user observations	Diagnosis, project update	• Walks with residents and experts, • Interactive maps for collecting opinions, • Documentation and publication of results	• Quarto d'Altino
Education and information campaigns	Building and raising social awareness	At all stages	• Thematic campaigns (e.g. on water, greenery), • Partnership with media and schools, • Educational materials	• Boulogne-sur-Mer, • Buchareszt

Design Thinking – a user-centered approach to effective participation

One of the key participatory methods used in the *GreenPlace* network – especially in the Wrocław project – was **Design Thinking**. This approach focuses on deeply understanding users (residents and stakeholders), analysing problems from multiple perspectives, and experimenting with solutions through prototyping and evaluation.

The Design Thinking process applied in the project followed five iterative stages:

1. **Empathise**

Understanding the needs, motivations, problems and experiences of users in relation to the site or building (user experience). This stage involved detailed analysis and consultations with URBACT Local Groups (ULG), which helped define the scope of challenges identified by each partner in the context of the European Green Deal 2030 and related policies.

2. **Define the problem**

Synthesising insights from the empathy stage to clearly identify key challenges and opportunities. This step included tools such as SWOT analysis, problem tree exercises and future-oriented workshops (e.g. "the newspaper of tomorrow").

3. **Idea generation**

Generating creative solutions and proposals with the active involvement of ULG members, local experts and project partners. This phase concluded with the development of prototypes for green interventions co-designed with stakeholders and experts.

4. **Prototype**

Developing models or pilot activities (so-called Testing Actions) to experiment with solutions in real-life conditions. Pilots were prepared with the input of URBACT experts and local experts/stakeholders to refine the concepts.

5. **Testing**

Implementing pilot actions, collecting feedback, evaluating outcomes and applying improvements. The lessons learned were incorporated into this Handbook and the Integrated Action Plans (IAP).

Design Thinking Hackathon – An Intensive Creative Workshop as Part of Design Thinking

An important component of the Design Thinking process implemented in Wrocław was a **hackathon** – an intensive, multi-day workshop aimed at rapidly generating and refining ideas for revitalising and greening the former Popowice tram depot. The hackathon began with a site visit to the depot, allowing participants to get a sense of the location's context, potential and limitations. The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including ULG members, local experts, students and institutional representatives.

The structure of the Wrocław hackathon included:

- Identifying the area's potential – analysing the site's assets that could be used for green interventions,

- Mapping the area – visualising green and blue infrastructure elements to highlight priority locations for action,
- Designing social activities – planning events and initiatives that would engage residents,
- Conflict analysis – identifying possible tensions between proposed solutions to anticipate and resolve them.

Throughout the process, working groups had the opportunity to present ideas, receive feedback and co-develop proposals. The hackathon provided an excellent platform for combining academic knowledge, practical expertise and community insight.

The result of the hackathon was a collection of actionable ideas that formed the foundation for the Testing Actions. Moreover, the event helped strengthen cooperation among diverse stakeholders, increasing the likelihood of success for future greening efforts.

The Wrocław Example in the Context of the Full Design Thinking Process

The application of the Design Thinking process in Wrocław included the following steps:

- Establishing the URBACT Local Group (ULG), which collaborated on SWOT analysis, problem tree mapping and visioning exercises (e.g. the "newspaper of tomorrow").
- Organising a hackathon that allowed for ideation and co-creation of Testing Action proposals,
- Selecting pilot actions based on these ideas, refined with support from experts and included in the analysis prepared by the Institute of Ecology of Industrial Areas (IETU) in Katowice. At the request of the city of Wrocław, the IETU carried out comprehensive methodological, diagnostic and strategic work aimed at assessing the potential and limitations of former tram depots in Wrocław, especially the Popowice depot area. The result of this work is a document entitled "Analysis and recommendations of solutions related to minimising the urban heat island effect, introducing greenery to post-industrial areas, and restoring them to residents for the area of the Popowice depot in Wrocław and of good practices as inspiration for the development of other depots" (2024).
- Implementing the Testing Actions – temporary green interventions at the Popowice tram depot site.
- Integrating outcomes and feedback into this Handbook and into the Integrated Action Plan (IAP).

What to consider when planning participation?

Effective participation is a process that requires careful planning. It is therefore important to keep in mind several key principles that increase the likelihood of success:

- **Understand the local context and stakeholders,**
- **Combine online and offline tools,**
- **Ensure clear communication and documentation,**
- **Promote inclusiveness and diversity among participants,**
- **Maintain regular contact with residents throughout the project cycle**

The set of tools described above demonstrates that **participation can take many forms – from workshops to artistic activities or digital consultations.** The key to success lies in **adapting the tools to local conditions** and ensuring that residents have a genuine influence on decision-making.

In the next subsection (6.4), we will explore **how to build and manage URBACT Local Groups (ULGs)** and how to effectively coordinate actions among project partners.

6.4. How to build URBACT Local Groups (ULGs) and coordinate activities?

In the process of revitalizing and greening "forgotten" urban areas, **effective coordination and the involvement of local stakeholders play a key role.** The URBACT Local Group (ULG) model enables an integrated approach to designing and implementing actions — combining the knowledge of residents, municipal staff, NGOs, experts, and other actors shaping urban space.

Below we present proven principles for building and managing ULGs, based on the experiences of cities participating in the *GreenPlace* network.

What is a URBACT Local Group (ULG)?

A local working group **supports the design and implementation of the action plan, creates a forum for dialogue** between different sectors and interest groups, **ensures that activities are locally rooted** and responsive to the real needs of residents, and **enables the testing and evaluation of ideas** before broader implementation.

Who should be part of a ULG?

The selection of participants should **be balanced and tailored to the local context.** The group should include representatives of:

- **Municipal or local government** – departments of urban planning, public greenery, environmental protection, and mobility,
- **Local non-governmental organizations and civic initiatives,**
- **Residents and community leaders,**
- **Experts** (e.g. landscape architects, urban planners, sociologists),
- **Educational and research institutions,**
- **Landowners and site managers,** where applicable.

It is important that the group is **inclusive, diverse, and has an operational character** rather than merely an advisory role.

Stages of establishing and operating a URBACT Local Group (ULG)

Table 3 Stages, actions and guidelines for building and managing a ULG

STAGE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS	PRACTICAL GUIDELINES
1. Diagnosis and stakeholder identificatio	Analysis of who influences a given space and who is affected by the changeS	• Apply stakeholder mapping, • Take into account the perspectives of underrepresented groups
2. Invitation and group formalization	Selection of members, definition of roles and rules of operatioN	• Define working rules and meeting frequency, • Encourage co-responsibility
3. Building trust and collaboration	Integrative and workshop activities	• Apply moderation and facilitation methods, • Support informal relationships
4. Co-creation of action plans	Defining objectives, timeline and priorities	• Use visual tools, • Include different perspectives
5. Testing, implementation, monitoring	Participation in pilot activities and evaluation of results	• Document the process, • Involve the group in evaluation and adaptation of activities

Role of the ULG coordinator (Local Greening Assistant)

The local coordinator acts as a liaison between the municipality, the community, and the URBACT network. Their responsibilities include:

- Organizing meetings and facilitating internal group communication,
- Supporting participation and inclusiveness,
- Documenting activities and cooperating with the international network,
- Collaborating with the project team and local authorities.

Recommendation: It is advisable to equip the ULG with digital tools that support collaboration (e.g., shared drives, group chats, meeting calendars, consultation platforms).

Good practices related to URBACT Local Group

- **Boulogne-sur-Mer:** Organization of joint exploratory walks with residents as part of the trust-building process within the group.
- **Bucharest:** ULG as an "ideas laboratory" — joint design of greening pilot actions with the involvement of local NGOs and experts.
- **Limerick:** Strong role of the local coordinator, who ensured continuity of communication and access to information for all group members.
- **Wrocław:** Integration of the ULG with existing municipal green space teams — strengthening interdepartmental cooperation.

What to pay special attention to when managing a ULG?

- Avoid creating a ULG "on paper" – ensure **genuine participation** and motivation among its members.
- Treat the ULG as a **process rather than a fixed structure** – openness, flexibility, and readiness to adapt are essential.

- Ensure **transparency of actions and decisions** – for example, by publicly sharing the group's outcomes.
- Support **continuity of collaboration beyond the project** – for instance, by transforming the ULG into a permanent cooperation platform.

The ULG model can become not only a working tool within the *GreenPlace* project, but also a **lasting element of the local system for spatial management and resident engagement.** It is worth developing it as a form of sustainable governance and trust-building.

6.5. Summary: key recommendations for implementers

Implementing revitalization and greening initiatives in degraded or "forgotten" urban areas is a complex process that requires not only adequate resources, but also a well-considered strategy, flexibility, and the involvement of multiple actors. Based on the experiences of *GreenPlace* network partners, the following **key recommendations** have been compiled to support cities and municipalities in successfully delivering similar initiatives.

1. Act step by step, but consistently

- Treat greening as a **long-term process**, not a one-off project.
- Include different phases: diagnosis, testing, implementation, maintenance, and evaluation.
- Allow actions to "grow" alongside increasing community engagement.

Tip: Start with a pilot – a small intervention can trigger broader change.

2. Root actions in the local context

- Adapt tools to the **spatial and social characteristics of the area.**
- Take into account existing social networks, local traditions, and available resources.
- Support grassroots initiatives, even if they are small or informal.

Tip: What worked in one city may not work in another – adapt, don't copy.

3. Collaborate across sectors

- Build **partnerships with NGOs, schools, cultural institutions, and businesses.**
- Work with residents, not just "for" them.
- Involve public institutions from the outset – this will help ensure lasting results.

Tip: Establish a working group or a platform for knowledge and information exchange between institutions.

4. Ensure efficient operational tool

- Prepare a set of **ready-to-use forms, contract templates, and procedures.**
- Develop an **action timeline** with clearly defined phases and milestones.
- Appoint a **local project coordinator** or a team responsible for implementation.
- Facilitate residents' access to materials, spaces, and support.

Tip: Simplified procedures encourage participation and action.

5. Integrate education and communication

- Inform, educate, and explain – **transparency builds trust.**
- Use diverse communication channels (both online and offline).
- **Learn together with residents** – create spaces for sharing experiences (e.g., through participation in knowledge exchange networks such as URBACT or national urban forums).

Tip: An information campaign can be just as important as the intervention itself.

6. Monitor and learn from experience

- Develop **simple indicators** to assess outcomes (e.g., number of users, condition of vegetation, level of engagement).
- Produce **implementation reports.**
- **Document successes and challenges** – they will be valuable for future initiatives.
- **Stay flexible** – adjust the plan in response to new insights and test different solutions.

Tip: Regular evaluation helps avoid mistakes and scale up effective approaches.

7. Think systemically and long-term

- Greening is not only an environmental action – it is also a social and spatial policy.
- Integrate project activities into the **city's strategic documents.**
- Plan how to sustain results and embed them in municipal structures.
- Define the **role of residents and partners** in caring for public space (e.g., through land adoption schemes, microgrants, educational programs).

Tip: Partnership with municipal units responsible for green spaces is key to long-term impact.

Key success factors for implementation

- **Political support and alignment with municipal policies,**
- **Community involvement from the very beginning,**
- **A clear vision and a flexible action plan,**
- **Effective coordination and communication,**
- **Good practices from other cities as inspiration, not as a template,**
- **Ongoing learning and openness to change.**

Successful implementation of greening initiatives requires a **combination of technical knowledge, social skills, and management competencies.** Cities that are able to create conditions for collaboration and active participation have the greatest chance of achieving lasting and high-quality transformation of forgotten urban spaces.

7. Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the analysis of *GreenPlace* project partners, several key strategic conclusions and recommendations can be formulated for cities planning to revitalize and green "forgotten" urban areas:

1. **Early engagement of local communities and stakeholders** is crucial to the success of revitalization and greening projects — participation builds social capital and helps reduce conflicts.
2. **Integrating actions with the city's strategic plans** for mobility, environmental protection, and cultural heritage ensures coherence and greater impact.
3. **A flexible approach to the adaptation of spaces and buildings** allows for diverse uses of post-industrial areas and better alignment with residents' needs.
4. **Leveraging cultural heritage as an added value** in the revitalization process enhances the attractiveness of the area and can attract tourists and investors.
5. **Creating green infrastructure and improving access to green areas** has both environmental and social benefits — positively impacting residents' quality of life and health.
6. **Monitoring and documenting greening processes** through dedicated coordinators (greening assistants) facilitates project management and ensures continuity of actions.
7. **Supporting grassroots initiatives** through tools such as planting permits and educational campaigns promotes long-term change.

Recommendations for other cities:

- **Don't copy – adapt.** Choose tools and solutions that match local conditions.
- **Build partnerships.** Cooperation with NGOs, universities, and residents enhances effectiveness.
- **Plan as a process.** Greening is not a one-off intervention, but a long-term transformation.
- **Document and share experiences.** Monitoring and evaluation help improve future projects and inspire others.

The analysis of nine (formerly ten) *GreenPlace* partners highlights the universality of challenges associated with transforming "forgotten" urban areas, as well as the broad range of tools and strategies that can be effectively applied in various urban contexts. Synergistic collaboration between different stakeholders and active participation of local communities are essential. This ensures that greening processes not only improve urban spaces but also strengthen place identity and create conditions for sustainable urban development.

Greening urban area is not just a physical transformation — it is a social, institutional, and cultural change. The key to success lies in collaboration, transparency, and the courage to implement innovative participatory methods.

Part IV

Good practices of partner cities

IETU URBACT Co-funded by the European Union Interreg GreenPlace

8. Good practices of partner cities. Case studies of greening

8.1. Circular cities

A Smart City for a Smart Use of Resources (Onda, Spain)

Main theme: ***Smart city - monitoring, data-based space management (temperature, water consumption, etc.)***

Challenge: Onda needed to improve its urban management efficiency and the quality of life for its citizens while addressing environmental challenges.

Solution: The city developed a Smart City plan with measures covering activities in several areas: energy, environment, tourism, and mobility. This involves data collection and analysis to identify and implement actions, using sensors for traffic monitoring and managing, air quality and noise, and digital information.

Impact: The strategy improved citizens' quality of life, optimized public services, enhanced environmental sustainability, and enabled better municipal decision-making through data.

More information: https://www.onda.es/ond/news/new.php?id=422

Figure 34 Sensors for digital information, monitoring and managing (source: Practice Fiche)

A Seasonal Attractive Garden at the Heart of the Old Town (Boulogne-sur-mer, France)

Main theme: ***Seasonal garden in main square old town***

Challenge: The old town of Boulogne-sur-mer was overwhelmed by cars, negatively impacting its appeal for inhabitants and tourists.

Solution: Since 2007, the city has annually transformed a central square, previously a car park, into a seasonal garden. Each year features a new theme, with plants produced by municipal staff and furniture either made or rented.

Impact: This transformation created a new dynamic in the city center, fostering recreational activities, improving accessibility with mineral paths, and becoming a tourist attraction. It also supports biodiversity.

More information: https://jardins.boulogne-sur-mer.fr/2014-parfum-de-paradis/

Figure 35 Seasonal garden in main square old town (source: https://jardins.boulogne-sur-mer.fr/2014-parfum-de-paradis/)

A green park for all replacing ruins in the City Centre (Cehegín, Spain)

Main theme: ***Green revitalization***

Challenge: An abandoned area in city's old town was derelict, causing problems of a safety and visual perceptions, and a lack of communication between city parts. The area also lacked green spaces and public facilities.

Solution: The garden project transformed the abandoned area into a green space with platforms and ramps for accessibility. It incorporates ponds that purify wastewater for irrigating green areas, creating an urban ecosystem. Parking spaces and a municipal office building were also created.

Impact: The garden became a safe meeting place, reconnected the area with the city center, and serves as a business incubator. It also contributing to mitigate climate change and uses natural resources.

More information: https://arquitecturaviva.com/obras/jardin-el-coso | https://comocrearhistorias.com/proyecto/la-misteriosa-historia-del-jardin-que-produce-agua/

Figure 36 The city's old town green space with platforms and ramps (source: https://arquitecturaviva.com/obras/jardin-el-coso)

Natural Play Sites (Limerick , Ireland)

Main theme: ***Health, sport and recreation***

Challenge: Limerick's green spaces were fragmented, poorly maintained, and lacked amenity value. There was also a demand for more natural and cost-effective play areas.

Solution: The city repurposed felled trees from other projects into natural play sites, using them as climbing frames, stepping stones, and seating. Living willow structures were also incorporated.

Impact: These natural play sites increased recreational activities, and promoted engagement with nature. They offer a minimal impact alternative to traditional playgrounds, often made from synthetic materials.

More information: https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/business-and-economy/eu-programmes/gogreenroutes

Figure 37 Preparatory work for planting new trees (source: https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/business-and-economy/eu-programmes/gogreenroutes/community-tree-planting-workshop)

Changing an Old Tram Depot into a Circular, Cultural, and Local Initiatives Center (Wroclaw, Poland)

Main theme: ***New function for the abandoned area***

Challenge: The abandoned tram Depot in the historic building stood empty and deteriorated. Its location in a post-industrial area, very underutilized and lacking both an identity and a sense of connection to local residents, made it difficult to give it new functions.

Solution: The city leased the depot to a non-governmental organization in cooperation with scientific units. This has allowed the area to be transformed into a hub for cultural and social activities. Income from commercial events finances not only the organization of its initiatives but also partially covers the maintenance and renovation of the facility. Supporting the renovation work requires additional subsidies from the city.

Impact: The Depot has changed into The Center for Young Culture and Local Initiatives. The center hosts a variety of events organized by various social groups. In addition to the usual initiatives, the place has operated as a magazine and hub for helping during crises.

More information: https://czasoprzestrzen.org/

Figure 38 A visit to a permaculture garden (source: https://urbact.eu/articles/lets-revitalise-forgotten-urban-spaces-green-cities-together)

8.2. Nature-based Solutions and Green Infrastructure

Combining land availability opportunities in the city centre (Boulogne-sur-mer, France)

Main theme: *Multisolving solution*

Challenge: The city faces several challenges, including flooding and poor water quality due to heavy rains overwhelming the sewage system, poor connectivity between the central bus and train stations, and a lack of playgrounds for children in the city centre.

Solution: A multi-level solution was implemented to minimize the problem of flooding, provide new services for families in the city center, and relocate the bus station. In the first stage, the bus station was moved closer to the train station. At the site of the relocated station, at the lowest point of the city, a 4,000 cubic meter retention reservoir was built. A playground for children was built at the top of the reservoir.

Impact: The approach has solved the water management problem, moreover, there is a new park in the city centre, and the bus station is in a better localization.

More information: https://www.proludic.fr/inspirations/etudes-decas/une-aire-de-jeux-sur-le-theme-de-la-baleineboulogne-sur-mer-france/

Figure 39 A playground for children at the top of the reservoir (source: Practice Fiche)

Blue infrastructure for better city connexion (Boulogne-sur-mer, France)

Main theme: ***New function for the city area***

Challenge: There is a high-speed road running close to the city center, connected to the motorway. At the same time, the city lacks bicycle paths and sports amenities, and on the other hand, there is low sports activity among residents.

Solution: The high-speed road was relocated further away from the city center. The old road was narrowed to one way. The remaining free space was used to create a bicycle path, pedestrian paths, and sports and recreational amenities along the river.

Impact: A cycle and walking route was created between the city centre and its southern part, encouraging more residents to become active. New leisure facilities were built: a skatepark, sports ground, picnic areas, etc.

More information: https://www.aggloboulonnais.fr/information/publications/aggloraman13-1132 | https://www.agglo-boulonnais.fr/fileadmin/5-Medias-WEB/Publications/Agglorama_mag/Agglorama-21.pdf

Figure 40 A pedestrian path along the river (source: Practice Fiche)

Abandoning instead of revitalising for nature outburst (Bucharest, Romania)

Main theme: ***Nature Park within the city***

Challenge: An abandoned area where 30 years ago there were plans to create an artificial lake and a water sports complex. Currently, it is an informal settlement and, at the same time, an illegal waste dumping.

Solution: Inspired by the uniqueness of the area, a group of enthusiasts formed a non-governmental organization with the aim of transforming the site into a wildlife sanctuary within Bucharest. The idea was also accepted by the residents. In 2016, the Nature Park was established and became the first urban nature park in Romania, as well as the largest continuous green area in Bucharest.

Impact: The creation of the nature park has transformed a long-neglected area into a vital urban oasis, benefiting both nature and the city's residents. The area has been cleaned up and large amounts of illegal waste have been removed. It is now a popular destination among residents as a place for recreation, education and raising environmental awareness.

More information: https://www.apnv.ro/

Figure 41 The part of Nature Park within the city (source: https://www.apnv.ro/galerie-foto/)

URBACT III Health and Greenspace, Connecting Health & Green Spaces (Limerick, Ireland)

Main theme: *Co-creation of the Green Spaces*

Challenge: Green infrastructure, including that in the streetscapes, is poorly developed, and its health and environmental potential is limited. It needs to be maintained, developed and integrated into a more coherent system. Further development of cycling and walking infrastructure in the city would also be beneficial.

Solution: The city procured a landscape architect who, as part of the project, was responsible for co-creating green spaces with stakeholder groups and residents. Numerous activities were carried out within the framework of the tasks performed, such as community interest walks, pop up food markets stalls and music, inclusive programmes and events, and culture related or place-based workshops. For one of the locations, three orienteering courses of different technical levels were developed using an app, along with training workshops on orienteering.

Impact: The Integrated Action Plan were produce. The document will provide the basis for future plans concerning green areas in the city. The implementation of acts will enable the integration of green areas, increase social engagement and physical activity, and enhance biodiversity. A number of projects created by a landscape architect have received funding and are currently being implemented.

More information: https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/business-and-economy/eu-programmes/healthgreenspace

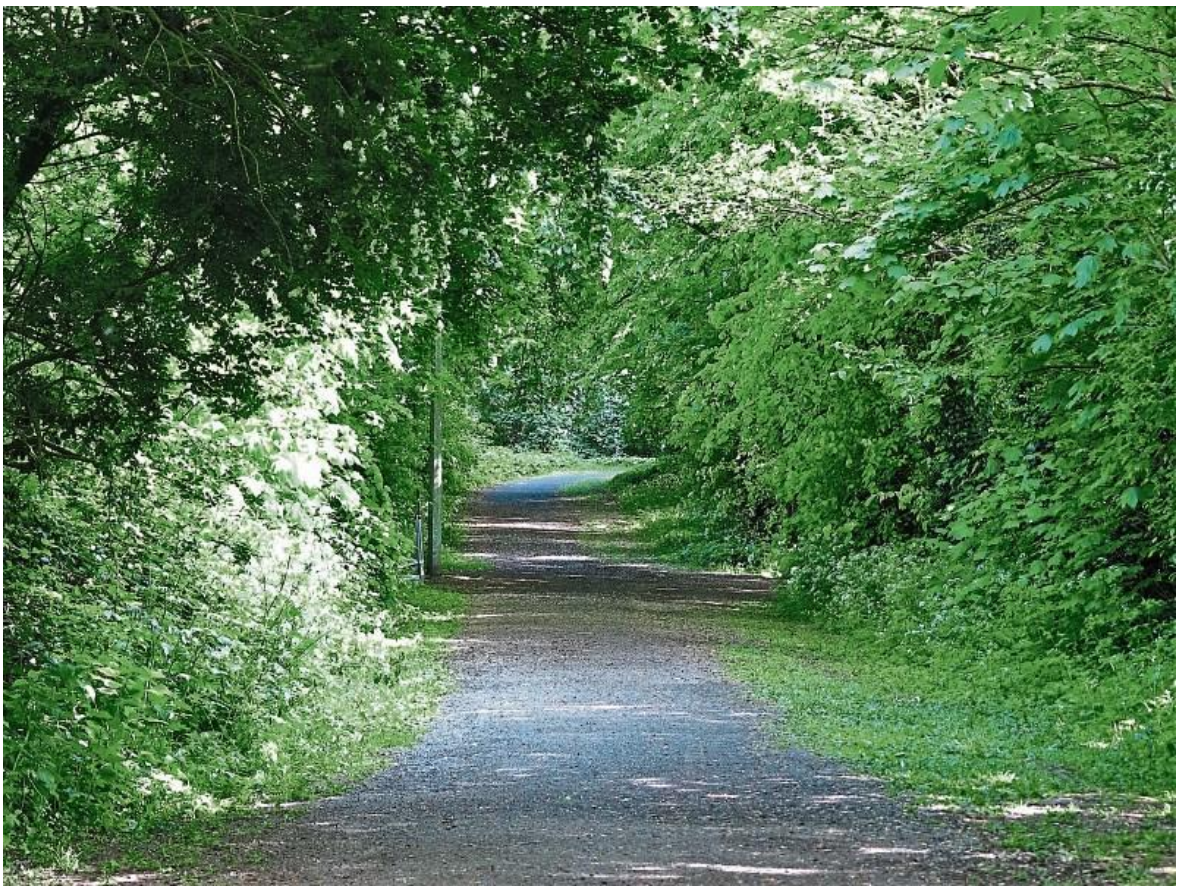


Figure 42 The Baggot Estate is an oasis of calm (source: https://www.limerickleader.ie/news/wild-about-wildlife/660339/wild-about-wildlife-going-wild-in-baggot-estate.html)

Mobile Tree Forest (Limerick, Ireland)

Main theme: ***Mobile tree forest***

Challenge: The city centre needs more trees, improved public spaces and placemaking.

Solution: A mobile tree forest was chosen from several greening initiatives due to its multiple benefits, including mobility, visual appeal, integrated seating, and use in event-related road closures. The Council partnered with a local business to develop a prototype of the solution. Planters was made from sustainable marine plywood, ensuring it could be manually moved by two people, with lockable wheels to prevent theft. Seventy planters—each weighing about a tonne when planted—were produced. Solution allowing flexible configurations for various events.

Impact: The overall appearance of the urban area has been improved by adding planters with trees. The planters are movable, which has made it possible to use them during various events. This has improved the appearance of the urban area, raised public awareness of the impact and importance of trees, and created a relaxing environment. The mobile forest of trees also serves as a mobile nursery where young trees can take root before being planted in their final location. For this reason, new trees are added to the urban area every year.

More information: https://www.limerick.ie/council/newsroom/news/experience-limerick-city-centre-never-pop-mini-forests-appear

Figure 43 Pop-up mobile mini forest on Catherine Street and Sarsfield Bridge (Pic: Don Moloney)(source: https://www.limerick.ie/council/newsroom/news/experience-limerick-city-centre-never-pop-mini-forests-appear)

GO GREEN ROUTES – Transforming a brownfield site into a natural play space and biodiversity area (Limerick, Ireland)

Main theme: ***New function for the brownfield site***

Challenge: There was no assigned any additional function/purpose for the brown space site apart of the walkway cycle lane, which is located in a suburb of the city connecting a number of schools and residential estates with local amenities.

Solution: A project was implemented to improve an existing popular cycling route with sensory trails encouraging an active lifestyle and environmental awareness. A 'brown space' is now a sustainable co-created nature park that is underpinned by Nature Based Solutions (Sustainable Urban Drainage, swales), outdoor learning (sculptures, art, natural play), and enhanced biodiversity (native woodland). A space that now encourages users to take some time in nature, promoting enjoyment, well being and leisure activities.

Impact: One innovative outcome of this project is the delivery of the first and largest co-created green space in Limerick that is truly a low carbon site focused on sustainable climate resilience. The benefits of the realized project are: the opportunity for recreation, physical activity and nature connection on the greenway which did not exist prior to this project. People now have opportunities for physical exercise, benefit their health & wellbeing, increase social interaction, engage in cultural experiences and educational opportunities.

More information: https://gogreenroutes.eu/cities/limerick

Figure 44 The brown space site near of the walkway cycle lane (source: Practice Fiche)

From factories to a big park for all (Löbau, Germany)

Main theme: ***New function for the post-industrial area***

Challenge: Near the city centre, there are two large (20 ha) post-industrial sites in poor condition.

Solution: To revitalize area, the city applied to host horticultural exhibition, transforming 20 hectares into a park with different plant sections and landscapes. Elements of the site's industrial past were integrated into the design of the new concept. After the exhibition, the space was turned into a permanent public park for all.

Impact: The brownfield was successfully turned into a park with different areas, playgrounds, activities etc. The site is established as new event locations/venues for events and concerts of different sizes. However, its maintenance is a big challenge and the city has to deal with vandalism from time to time.

More information: https://www.messepark-loebau.de/

Figure 45 Mühleninsel during the National Horticultural Exhibition (source: https://www.messepark-loebau.de/unternehmen/gel%C3%A4nde%C3%BCbersicht/)

Remembering the past with green solutions (Löbau, Germany)

Main theme: ***Solutions combining historical elements of the site with new ones***

Challenge: The post-industrial areas were to be transformed into a park, but the park concept should also take into account the history of the place, i.e. the infrastructure elements remaining from the former sugar factory and textile factory. A small river flows through the revitalised area, which should also be included in the project.

Solution: As part of the transformation of post-industrial areas, several remnants of the industrial past are planned to be integrated into the new park. An example of this are the old beet soaking pools, which have been converted into fish ponds with long footbridges that allow visitors to walk above the water. Several playgrounds have been designed using shapes and/or materials that refer to the industrial past. Individual sections of the park have been named according to their previous use. A wide variety of plants and flowers have been selected for the park to ensure a very broad range of natural species.

Impact: The former brownfields were successfully changed into an interesting park with connections to the industrial past. Through the different sections and wide variety of plants there is an increased biodiversity. The park still exists but has a high maintenance level. Therefore, not all of the attractions could be kept until today.

More information: https://www.messepark-loebau.de/

Figure 46 Part of the park with remain of the features of the former factory (source: Practice Fiche)

Homage to biodiversity (Nitra, Slovakia)

Main theme: ***Enhancing the value of the existing park***

Challenge: The renovation of the city's central park was intended to improve biodiversity and increase its aesthetic value. The park was also to be perceived as a kind of architectural work of artistic value.

Solution: In addition to planting trees and creating flower meadows, several artworks were proposed to highlight biodiversity and the connection between humans and nature. Sculptures along with animal-themed benches, were designed to complement the park's natural setting.

Impact: The installation of sculptures in the park and benches with nature motifs has mainly increased the attractiveness of the park for residents and increased its attendance. In addition, local artistic were supported. Promotion of the topic of biodiversity and its protection in the urban environment is also important.

More information: https://www.nitralive.sk/vystavba/infrastruktura/66850-novy-park-na-sihoti-prechadza-revitalizaciou

Figure 47 Example of a work of art installed to highlight biodiversity (source: Practice Fiche)

Reducing heat waves in streets (Nitra, Slovakia)

Main theme: ***Improving public space using new technologies***

Challenge: The important topic is the need to reduce the heat island effect in the city as well as to improve the quality of sidewalks. Street repairs provide space not only for improving technical parameters, but also for the use of greenery.

Solution: Shading streets with tree canopies is essential, as trees are the most effective vegetation for mitigating climate change. However, their lifespan in urban areas is decreasing due to heat, drought, and pests, requiring better growth conditions through technologies like soil cells or structural soil with biochar. Choosing water-permeable, durable paving materials is also crucial to support healthy tree development.

Impact: Planting trees on streets and improving the quality of paving have contributed to the improvement of public spaces.

More information: https://www.nitralive.sk/vystavba/infrastruktura/66927-v-pondelok-zacne-rekonstrukcia-chodnika-na-mostnej-a-kmetkovej-ulici

Figure 48 Trees planted on the streets (source: Practice Fiche)

A gravel for all pedestrian paths in municipal parks (Nitra, Slovakia)

Main theme: ***Renovation of paths in the park***

Challenge: The city began comprehensive renovation of the park. The goal was to improve the natural conditions for the growth of trees and retain as much water as possible in the area.

Solution: The solution was to remove all the old asphalt pavements and use new compacted gravel roads. This type of road surface is able to retain water in the area. An important aspect in the selection was also that it is a natural recyclable material of local origin. Moreover, this pavement surface is a typical surface in historical parks from the period when this city park was founded.

Impact: The solution brought about an improvement in the quality of public space, water retention, and an increase in the number of park visitors.

More information: https://nitra.sk/stary-park-v-nitre-zacali-po-rozsiahlej-obnove-otvarat/

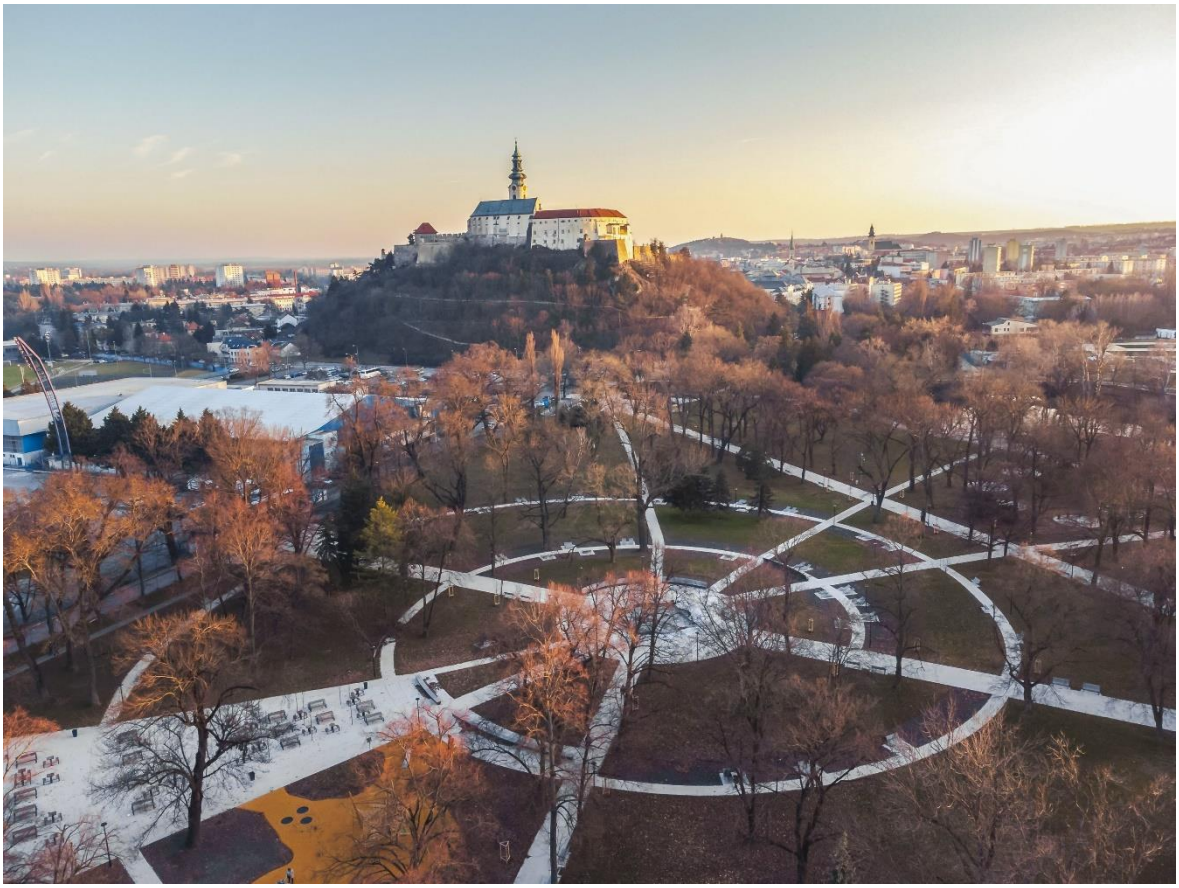


Figure 49 Roads in the parks after renovation (source: https://www.nitra.eu/8640/mestsky-park)

Coconut nests and geocell on The Castle Hill (Nitra, Slovakia)

Main theme: ***Renovation of green space in castle hill***

Challenge: Castle hill, a popular green space and shortcut to the castle, has been closed for the past ten years due to poor path conditions and maintenance challenges. Although centrally located and tree-covered, the area has become inaccessible despite its former role as a social and recreational spot.

Solution: After the agreement of the owner of the territory a complete renovation of the park was started. The renovation of all paths from compacted gravel and the repair of stone retaining walls, bridges and stairs was proposed. New viewpoints, furniture and lighting were added. In steep places, the paths were replaced with metal stairs. Various solutions were proposed to solve soil erosion on steep rocky slopes. Geocells, coconut nets, wooden fences were used, and all this was supplemented with the planting of ground cover plants.

Impact: The park's restoration brought stabilisation of the slopes and thus increased the safety of the area. The park was reopened to the public after decades, and the city thus gained a new attractive place for recreation and tourism.

More information: https://www.nitralive.sk/vystavba/infrastruktura/66922-nitriansky-hradny-kopec-caka-komplexna-revitalizacia

Figure 50 Coconut nets preventing soil erosion on steep rocky slopes (source: Practice Fiche)

A forest to compensate the Olympic Games (Onda, Spain)

Main theme: ***Fostering a tree canopy by planting native species***

Challenge: Due to its insufficient tree cover, the municipality is striving to increase it, including through innovative solutions that integrate nature with the environment.

Solution: The Olympic Forest was created using native species, and its main task is to offset the carbon footprint generated by Spanish sport. The forest will also strengthen local biodiversity and improve air quality in the region. Local residents have been invited to actively participate in the initiative.

Impact: New green areas have been created for residents, improving their quality of life and encouraging outdoor activities. Furthermore, this project has contributed to increasing local biodiversity, enriching the ecosystem and promoting the conservation of flora and fauna. The active participation of residents in planting trees has strengthened the sense of community, fostering a closer connection between people and their natural environment.

More information: https://urbact.eu/onda-beats-green#:~:text=The%20exchange%20days%20counted%20with,representatives%20from%20Onda%20City%20Council

Figure 51 Planting native species (source: Marcelline Bonneau – lead expert)

"Catch the rain" to manage rainwater (Wroclaw, Poland)

Main theme: ***Support for solutions improving water management***

Challenge: Growing concerns about rainwater waste, inadequate retention. There was a need to act due to the lack of effective methods for managing rainwater during heavy rainfall resulting in floods and reduced quality of water.

Solution: In 2019, a programme financed from the city budget was launched for rainwater management systems, such as above-ground gutter tanks, underground rainwater tanks, soakaways or rain gardens, and their integration into the urban landscape. These systems are available to residents, housing cooperatives and associations, as well as public spaces.

Impact: Support for residents who want to implement eco-friendly solutions through funding and access to tools that highlight their positive aspects.

More information: https://www.wroclaw.pl/zielony-wroclaw/zlap-deszcz-2024-wnioski-wroclaw-znow-zacheca-do-zbierania-deszczowki

Figure 52 Example of a reservoir integrated into the landscape (source: Practice Fiche)

Greening the tram tracks to cool the air (Wroclaw, Poland)

Main theme: ***Greening the tram track***

Challenge: The City of Wroclaw is increasingly facing urban heat island effects and poor water management, leading to rising temperatures, poor air quality and high noise pollution. Yet, it also desires to improve urban aesthetics.

Solution: During the renovation and construction of a new tram line, sections of the tracks were planted with ground cover plants. The project, carried out in cooperation with green infrastructure specialists, also included other nature-based solutions, such as planting drought-tolerant plants.

Impact: The expansion of green tram tracks has brought significant environmental and aesthetic benefits. The tracks have reduced urban heat, improved water retention, lowered noise pollution, and enhanced air quality. The track vegetation absorbs carbon dioxide, retains water, and enriches the urban greenery.

More information: https://www.wroclaw.pl/komunikacja/zielone-torowiska-we-wroclawiu-przybyly-dwa-kilometry

Figure 53 Part of the green tram tracks (Pic. Janusz Krzeszowski) (source: https://www.wroclaw.pl/komunikacja/zielone-torowiska-we-wroclawiu-przybyly-dwa-kilometry)

Small-scale blue and green infrastructure for citizens throughout the city (Wroclaw, Poland)

Main theme: ***Small-scale blue and green infrastructure***

Challenge: The part of the city with a densely developed inner-city district with limited green spaces, facing the impacts of increasingly frequent heatwaves and droughts exacerbated by the urban heat island effect.

Solution: A green oasis network project was developed: blue-green courtyards, a green tram stop and a green street. When selecting locations for greening, the opinions of residents, climate data, spatial constraints and ownership issues were taken into account. Workshops were held to involve residents in the co-design, implementation and maintenance of these green spaces.

Impact: Former car parks have been transformed into lively courtyards, which, thanks to the involvement of residents, serve as meeting places, and the solutions used have enabled highly effective rainwater management. In addition, the project has influenced the city's spatial planning, promoting nature-based solutions and green infrastructure.

More information: https://growgreenproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GrowGreen_Wroclaw.pdf

Figure 54 Example of the small-scale green infrastructure (source: Practice Fiche)

Permaculture in a former tram depot (Wroclaw, Poland)

Main theme: ***Greening tram depot***

Challenge: An abandoned tram depot site with soil contamination issues and a lack of community involvement.

Solution: The project transformed the area behind the halls of the former tram depot into a vibrant permaculture garden. Initiated by a local NGO with strong community involvement, it combines sustainable gardening with workshops and training, creating a thriving hub that connects residents with nature and showcases the impact of grassroots urban greening.

Impact: The garden has strengthened community bonds, promoted social inclusion, and supported a small-scale circular economy through composting and seed sharing. It provides residents with hands-on gardening experience, access to healthy food, and meaningful connections with nature in a revitalised urban space.

More information: https://www.wroclaw.pl/dla-mieszkanca/powstaje-ogrod-spoleczny-inicjatywa-stowarzyszenia-tratwa

Figure 55 Permaculture garden (source: Practice Fiche)

8.3. Cultural heritage as a resource

Combining art and nature through an exhibition in a park: Circular Art (Cehegín, Spain)

Main theme: ***Green areas as exhibition space***

Challenge: Little known to residents is an ecological park with exceptional values. The main problem is the poor communication of this place with the city.

Solution: In order to attract residents, the Biennial of Art and Nature - an exhibition of artworks in the natural environment - has been organized. The artworks are made of recycled materials and are linked to the natural environment of the ecological park. The number of artworks on exhibition will be increased with each edition of the event. The project is supported by private sponsors.

Impact: The site, through the added attraction, is being visited more often by local residents and there is a growing awareness among them about material circulation. The city hopes that, through future editions of the event the site will be more willingly visited by foreign tourists as well.

More information: https://cehegin.es/2023/09/22/el-parque-ecologico-del-coto-de-las-maravillas-de-cehegin-un-gran-museo-al-aire-libre/

Figure 56 Example of the exhibition in the natural environment (source: https://cehegin.es/2023/09/22/el-parque-ecologico-del-coto-de-las-maravillas-de-cehegin-un-gran-museo-al-aire-libre/)

Exposing the City Defences (Limerick, Ireland)

Main theme: ***Spatial management***

Challenge: Within the city, there are remains of medieval walls, and although they could be an attraction for residents and tourists, they are not safe places.

Solution: The local authorities in Limerick are aiming to protect the town defences and plot layout by supporting the Irish Walled Town Network, which has funded four conservation projects since 2020. Measures are also being taken to increase the accessibility and attractiveness of the defensive walls, including improving public spaces, engaging the local community and removing barriers to access. Residents are actively cooperating with the authorities by participating in clean-up and greening activities in the area.

Impact: The development of walking routes together with the promotion of the historic walls has increased footfall and improved the overall appearance of the area. Activities have also had an impact on mitigating anti-social activity in the area.

More information: https://www.limerick.ie/

Figure 57 Part of the town defences (source: Marcelline Bonneau – lead expert)

Combining art and environment (Nitra, Slovakia)

Main theme: ***Landart***

Challenge: Challenges related to the health and well-being of residents.

Solution: The municipality participated as a partner in the EU Horizon 2020 project IN-HABIT, which aimed to identify visionary and integrated solutions to support health and well-being in small and medium-sized cities. One of the project's activities was a participatory artists residences at a former landfill. Twenty-four people participated in the activity, which co-designed the first large landart object implemented in the pilot area.

Impact: The primary effect is cooperation between the artistic community and residents in shaping the environment and urban planning.

More information: https://www.inhabit-h2020.eu/first-site-specific-art-piece-was-co-created-and-introduced-to-public/

Figure 58 Landart object implemented in the pilot area (source: https://www.inhabit-h2020.eu/first-site-specific-art-piece-was-co-created-and-introduced-to-public/)

8.4. Community engagement

Co-design, co-development, and co-management (Nitra)

Main theme: *Co-design green areas*

Challenge: The city lacks a unified vision of health and well-being.

Solution: The city, in cooperation with the university and an NGO, implemented a project aimed at promoting inclusive health and wellbeing in small and medium-sized cities. The project uses a complementary approach based on co-design, co-development, and co-management, involving stakeholders and residents through expert-led workshops.

Impact: Several co-design activities used to develop green spaces, including a community garden, a school garden, and areas along a river and cycling corridor. Local residents, experts, and city representatives collaborated in planning.

More information: https://www.inhabit-h2020.eu/nitra-slo/

Figure 59 Installation example – insect house (source: City Nitra)

A bottom-up multifunctional place addressing locals' needs (Nitra)

Main theme: ***New functions for abandoned land***

Challenge: Need for a separate cultural and community centre

Solution: On a private meadow abandoned by its owner, where an illegal rubbish dump had appeared, a group of enthusiasts organised Hidepark. It supports various communities and informal associations, creating an informal platform for their activities.

Impact: The cultural community centre is an independent space driven by volunteer enthusiasm, where people come together around sports, culture, art and ecology. It organises a variety of events, from concerts and theatre to lectures on, for example, sustainability, alongside a community garden that empowers locals to grow crops based on permaculture principles. By offering a space for civic groups and individuals to thrive, the centre addresses both immediate and long-term community needs, contributing to a broader movement of citizen-led urban solutions.

More information: https://www.hidepark.sk/en/

Figure 60 Community garden (source: Practice Fiche)

Hackathon for the co-design of a public square (Nitra)

Main theme: A temporary architectural intervention

Challenge: The goal is the need to solve the problem of an empty, sunny but windy square in the city centre, and transform it into a more pleasant place for people.

Solution: In order to transform the city centre into a more people-friendly place, a temporary architectural intervention was decided upon. Time, organisational and financial considerations dictated this. For this purpose, a hackathon was organised, i.e. an intensive competition in the form of several days of workshops with the participation of volunteer architects (students and professionals), aimed at solving a specific problem. At the end, the results of each team were presented to the public. The result was a selection of various minor architectural interventions, which the city decided to gradually implement.

Impact: Inhabitants and tourists have started reusing this space for leisure, meetings and enjoying the city. The city centre has become more vibrant, more connected, and the past of this concrete square is slowly being transformed into a green area.

More information: https://nitra.sk/takto-sa-zmeni-svatoplukovo-namestie/ | https://mynitra.sme.sk/c/22728600/v-moduloch-na-namesti-uz-mozete-sediet-osadene-su-aj-plachty.html | https://tvnitricka.sk/hackathon-o-centre-nitry/

Figure 61 Temporary green installations in the main square (source: Practice Fiche)

A transitionary parklet towards pedestrianisation (Nitra)

Main theme: ***A temporary intervention***

Challenge: The city is considering extending the existing pedestrian zone in the city centre to include another section of the street, which is very busy and cannot yet be closed to traffic.

Solution: The city approached the need to transform a busy road from a place for cars to a place for people with a quick and cheap temporary solution, which consisted in moving the existing parking lot off the street. The area of the parking lot now provides an area to create terraces for the surrounding gastro businesses.

Impact: This temporary solution is a test of the possibilities of the target desired state. The solution brought the desired changes, namely the slowing down of traffic and the return of people and life to the street.

More information:
https://www.facebook.com/nitramesto/posts/430448329122723?fbclid=IwAR1abV7nmCkyXQR6dcREujv9NuUDIMigSCPuW0RlX1ZNk0hP1y07JSdNhyo_aem_AV41BWycq4X_SNO9OIZYOroHtVoshaH2g_i-6otuwqAPs-Wy7gy8IaH7MydZnIJOS0AxjB5UPTfskqUu6jqNj8gy

Figure 62 Temporary installations in the section of the street (source: Practice Fiche)

Walk for Onda & contribute to the Greenlung (Onda)

Main theme: ***Involvement of the local community***

Challenge: Involvement of the local community in consultations related to the revitalisation of the town centre, to increase the level of acceptance of the proposed solutions and enrich the project with new ideas.

Solution: The municipality took the opportunity to consult during a walking tour organised to to discover the city and its landscape. 700 people from across the town and its suburbs took part in the walk. Afterwards, participants were asked about their vision and expectations for the regeneration project. The consultation lasted 1.5 hours and was funded by the municipality.

Impact: Thanks to this consultation, the municipality knows the opinion of the citizens for its future project. The high participation of the attendees in the walk is the best proof that justifies the need to undertake the green lung project: local residents need green spaces and recreational areas.

More information: https://www.onda.es/ond/news/new.php?id=2031&idioma=1

Figure 63 Ideas gathered from residents during consultations (source: Practice Fiche)

From brownfield to intergenerational gardens (Onda)

Main theme: ***New functions for abandoned land***

Challenge: An abandoned and unused area on the outskirts of the city.

Solution: City Council rented one of these abandoned plots and decided to turn it into a large intergenerational garden: an area where neighbours can grow their own fruit and vegetables and where the transfer of agricultural knowledge from the elderly to the young is encouraged.

Impact: This initiative has successfully fostered growth, learning, and collaboration among individuals aged 29 to 84 working on over 20 plots. It also involves local students and offers training in organic farming. A survey revealed that residents view the garden as a space for teamwork, healthy eating, mental health improvement, intergenerational knowledge sharing, and combating loneliness.

More information: https://participacio.onda.es/huertos-intergeneracionales

Figure 64 City garden (source: Practice Fiche)

Volunteers to improve the forest (Vila Nova de Poiares)

Main theme: ***Forest maintenance with the support of volunteers***

Challenge: Maintaining and protecting native species, enhancing accessibility to forest trails, and promoting physical activity in the surrounding natural environment.

Solution: Interventions focus on enhancing pedestrian and cycling routes by improving maintenance, accessibility, comfort, and promotion to encourage both local and global usage. Through a volunteer European Solidarity Corps (ESC) program, the city engages young people in solidarity activities that foster European identity, active citizenship, and community cohesion. The project promotes healthy habits and outdoor activities, with volunteers from various countries participating alongside local youth.

Impact: Maintenance and increasing of routes accessibility, control measures for invasive species, create content and make interventions for promotion of the ESC, the EU and pedestrian and cycling routes

More information: https://cm-vilanovadepoiares.pt/1374/active-forest

Figure 65 A group of volunteers supporting forest maintenance (source: Practice Fiche)

A tree for each newborn (Wroclaw)

Main theme: ***Increasing the number of trees***

Challenge: Increasing the number of trees in the city and the sense of belonging and engagement among residents.

Solution: The "Growing in Wroclaw" project allows families to honor the arrival of a newborn by planting a tree in the city's parks, with planting events held twice a year. Organized by the Wroclaw Center for Social Development and supported by the city, the project has seen increasing participation since its launch in 2018, with over 3,400 trees planted. This initiative fosters community engagement, encourages environmental care, and strengthens local roots.

Impact: Participating in this initiative benefits both the city and the environment through the high number of trees planted. It provides a unique way to commemorate the arrival of a new family member, fostering a sense of belonging, environmental awareness, and social connections. The event combines fun with learning, strengthening community bonds and encouraging environmental care.

More information: https://www.wroclaw.pl/zielony-wroclaw/wrosnij-we-wroclaw-posadz-dziecku-drzewo-wiosna-2024-zapisy | https://zzm.wroc.pl/wspolpraca-projekty-dzialania/wrosnij-we-wroclaw/

Figure 66 The family after planting their tree (source: https://www.wroclaw.pl/zielony-wroclaw/wrosnij-we-wroclaw-posadz-dziecku-drzewo-wiosna-2024-zapisy#zdjecie_artyku%C5%82owe)

Creating a safer recreational area through green revitalisation (Wroclaw)

Main theme: Green revitalisation of the river banks

Challenge: A forgotten, neglected area along the river with an area of 2.96 hectares. For many years, it has been perceived as a dangerous and unfriendly place for residents due to its reputation as a meeting place for alcohol consumption. In addition, it is inaccessible to disabled and elderly people.

Solution: The renovation of the riverbank transformed the area into a recreational and safe space for residents, preserving its natural beauty. Key solutions included the addition of wooden footbridges, benches, lighting, pedestrian and bike paths, a roller skating track, a flower meadow, and a water playground for children, as well as a beach area. The use of natural materials, such as wood, sand, and stone, alongside accessibility adaptations, made the space both welcoming and sustainable.

Impact: Residents of different ages visit the riverbank regularly, strolling or biking with kids, and also playing in the area. The wharf is much prettier, safer and more secure both during the day and the evenings. It has become a meeting place for the residents.

More information: https://zzm.wroc.pl/obiektyzzmcp/promenada-nad-olawa/

Figure 67 River banks after revitalisation (source: https://zzm.wroc.pl/obiektyzzmcp/promenada-nad-olawa/)

Green revitalisation for and with inhabitants (Wroclaw)

Main theme: Green revitalisation of the squares surrounding the buildings

Challenge: Limited access for residents of multi-family housing areas to extensive green spaces near their homes. Small, neglected squares are located near these types of buildings.

Solution: Residents of apartment buildings and tenement houses surrounding the squares can apply to the city for permission to care for the nearby greenery. If approved, a three-year contract is signed. For areas under 350 square meters, the resident pays a small annual rental fee.

Impact: The following changes in residents' behaviour were observed: creating a greater relationship with the place, strengthening the relations and cooperation in the neighbourhood and transforming the place to be more friendly for inhabitants and the environment.

More information: https://zzk.wroc.pl/

Figure 68 Squares surrounding the buildings after revitalization (source: https://zzk.wroc.pl/index.php/2025/07/31/koniec-prac-w-oficynie-na-podworku-im-wszystkich-mieszkancow/lukasinskiego-3of-250724-4/)

Relying on volunteers to make a place alive (Wroclaw)

Main theme: New function for the abandoned area

Challenge: Abandoned, without identity or connections to local residents, the tram and bus depot area also contained a historic building that was falling into deterioration.

Solution: The facility has been leased to a non-governmental organisation as part of a partnership with universities. The partnership is led by an NGO association, which has transformed the old depot into a centre for culture and social initiatives. The association raises funds by organising commercial events – plant, fashion and local product fairs, as well as commercial concerts. The funds raised are used to maintain and renovate the facility and to organise its own events. A municipal grant has also been allocated for the renovation.

Impact: The former industrial depot has transformed into a cultural hub, with events and initiatives organised by volunteers, local leaders, and artists. During the pandemic, it served as a storage and distribution centre for supplies, and later became a hub for humanitarian aid to Ukrainian refugees. The space continues to thrive with ongoing community activities, exhibitions, and workshops, fostering creativity and volunteerism.

More information: https://czasoprzestrzen.org/

Figure 69 Open Day at Popowice depot (Pic. Łukasz Kuczewski) (source: https://urbact.eu/planning-green-future-wroclaws-popowice-depot)

8.5. Governance

Place Making and Public Realm Department (Limerick)

Main theme: ***Spatial management***

Challenge: The concept of public space was not seen as a priority, and no particular emphasis was placed on aspects of its design in the projects implemented.

Solution: The city has remodelled its management approach to focus on creating a more liveable environment that is attractive to work and visit. This led to the creation of a new department for Public Realm & Place Making which was also coupled with the Planning and Environment & Recreation departments and a Director in charge of these departments.

Impact: This change has had a significant impact on how public space is shaped in various projects. The city has developed a Public Realm Strategy with clear objectives and guidelines for improving spatial order. This approach has also ensured consistency in design and use of materials, while promoting cooperation between departments. The city has also increased funding for public space initiatives, which promotes economic growth.

More information: https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-placemaking/placemaking-%26-public-realm

Figure 70 Example of planning in an urban area (source: https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2017-11/Limerick%202030%20-%20An%20Economic%20and%20Spatial%20Plan%20for%20Limerick.pdf)

Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy (Limerick)

Main theme: ***Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy***

Challenge: The main challenge was the lack of a strategic document that would provide guidelines for the management of green and blue infrastructure, as well as a lack of coordination in terms of planning and land use. There was also a lack of sufficient information on the municipality's assets, development opportunities, and a strategic assessment of gaps in green spaces and biodiversity management.

Solution: The city engaged a consultant to prepare a blue and green infrastructure strategy for the entire metropolitan area. The strategy included an assessment of existing blue and green infrastructure, mapping of all green and blue areas, and a detailed action plan with key priority actions/objectives within the strategy.

Impact: The strategy emphasized the value of green and blue spaces, integrating them into various council departments and guiding future development for both recreation and biodiversity. It identified ten key actions to enhance green spaces, ensuring they were considered in the planning of major projects, and resulted in a toolkit to support developers in this effort.

More information: https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/environment-and-climate-action/climate-change/limerick-city-and-environs-green-and

Figure 71 Title page of the Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy (source: https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2023-05/Limerick%20City%20and%20Environs%20Green%20and%20Blue%20Infrastructure%20Strategy.pdf)

GreenLeafaward (Limerick)

Main theme: A Green Leaf Award as a benchmark

Challenge: The city faces significant challenges in balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability and quality of life. Key issues include managing compact development, reducing traffic congestion, addressing climate change impacts, improving waste management, and ensuring a clean, healthy environment. The city council is committed to empowering citizens to actively participate in addressing these challenges.

Solution: The city is dedicated to sustainability and environmental improvement, using the European Green Leaf Award as a benchmark to identify areas for further progress in protecting natural resources. The council continuously seeks innovative ways to engage citizens in these efforts.

Impact: As a Green Leaf city, the council aims to lead by example, inspiring others through initiatives like becoming the first Lighthouse City and engaging citizens through online platforms and major events. The city has focused on communication, supported by an award-winning digital platform. This approach has played a key role in building environmental awareness and organising events aimed at informing and motivating the community.

More information: https://www.limerick.ie/european-green-leaf-city

Figure 72 A Green Leaf Award (source: Practice Fiche)

Regulation for inclusive green spaces (Nitra)

Main theme: A manual for developing public spaces that support social inclusion

Challenge: The city has identified numerous communication barriers within its spatial areas and has therefore decided to take action to create spaces based on the principle of inclusion, i.e. designing with the most vulnerable in mind.

Solution: The city promotes inclusivity by prioritizing sustainability, resilience, safety, and accessibility in its public spaces, with a focus on eliminating physical and mental barriers. Since 2019, it has worked with experts to develop a Design Manual that emphasizes destroying stereotypes, avoiding barriers, and ensuring spaces are designed inclusively for all user groups.

Impact: Projects at all stages, i.e. initiation, planning and implementation, will be reviewed for the applicability of the principle of inclusiveness.

More information: https://nitra.sk/manual-tvorby-verejnych-priestranstiev-pre-mesto-nitra/

Figure 73 A section of the park with benches for resting (source: https://nitra.sk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NITRA-VIDITELNA-Manual-tvorby-verejnych-priestranstiev-pre-mesto-Nitra-%E2%80%93-Analyticka-cast.pdf)

Green City Accord (Vila Nova de Poiares)

Main theme: ***Implementation of environmental standards***

Challenge: The city recognised the urgent need to take action to implement integrated policies and programmes promoting circular economy practices, reducing waste and noise pollution, and protecting biodiversity in the city.

Solution: The city took action to meet environmental standards by joining the Green City Accord. The aim is transforming the city into a cleaner and more resource-efficient environment. This initiative involved stakeholders such as local government, experts, and citizens. The actions included projects aimed at improving air and water quality, expanding green spaces, and promoting sustainability.

Impact: The city has made significant strides in achieving its environmental objectives outlined in the Green City Accord. These efforts have resulted in tangible benefits for residents, including improved air quality, increased access to green areas, and enhanced community engagement in sustainability. Environmental indicators have improved, and positive feedback has been received from stakeholders.

More information: https://cm-vilanovadepoiares.pt/1703/green-city-accord

Figure 74 The part of the green area in the city (source: Practice Fiche)

Internet sources

IETU URBACT Co-funded by the European Union Interreg GreenPlace

Internet sources

https://urbact.eu/networks/greenplace

https://www.wroclaw.pl/

https://www.limerick.ie/

https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/business-and-economy/eu-programmes/greenplace

https://www.onda.es/ond/web_php/index.php

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https://www.cm-vilanovadepoiares.pt/

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