



Integrated Action Plan

HEALTHY YOUTH IN A HEALTHY CITY



City of Pula (Croatia)

URBACT



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg



Credits

The City of Pula expresses its deep appreciation to all individuals, institutions, and community actors who contributed to the development of this Integrated Action Plan as part of the URBACT IV Re-Gen project. This document reflects a shared commitment to inclusive, youth-centred, and sustainable urban transformation, made possible through wide-ranging cooperation across sectors.

Leadership and coordination were provided by the City of Pula, with the Department for Social Activities, Sports and Youth acting as the lead body, in close collaboration with the departments for Urban Planning and Development, Property and Legal Affairs, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Communal Services and Maintenance, Finance and EU Projects, and Education and Pre-school Programs. Their joint effort ensured policy integration, operational planning, and institutional support throughout the process.

Crucial to this work was the URBACT Local Group (ULG), which brought together a diverse and engaged network of stakeholders. Civil society partners such as ZUM (Youth Association), Health Life Academy, the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, and the Spektar Sports Club for Persons with Disabilities played key roles in promoting inclusive participation and equity. Educational institutions including Giuseppina Martinuzzi Elementary School, Dante Alighieri Secondary School, Gimnazija Pula, and the School for Upbringing and Education contributed both pedagogical insight and direct student involvement. The Pula Sport Foundation and the City Sports Community supported the inclusion of local sports ecosystems, while parents, youth workers, teachers, and neighbourhood-based actors enhanced the community-based dimension of the plan.

Special recognition is due to the young people of Pula who actively participated in shaping this plan not as observers, but as co-designers and decision-makers. Through workshops, forums, school projects, and public consultations, their ideas, experiences, and expectations formed the heart of the Urban Sport Hubs concept and gave direction to the plan's priorities.

This document belongs to the city and its people. Above all, it is a vision carried forward by the young generation of Pula for a greener, fairer, and more inclusive urban future.



Re-Gen Project Brief

The Re-Gen project in Pula was developed under the URBACT IV Action Planning Network to address critical urban and social challenges through the participatory regeneration of neglected public spaces. The core objective is to create inclusive, multifunctional Urban Sport Hubs that revitalise underused areas while engaging young people as active partners in urban transformation. Anchored in the vision of “Healthy Youth in a Healthy City,” the project seeks to align physical regeneration with youth participation, environmental sustainability, and integrated local governance.

Pula, a city marked by spatial fragmentation and demographic decline, faces particular difficulties in engaging young people in civic life and ensuring equitable access to public space and recreational opportunities. Many urban zones especially those on the city’s periphery or linked to its military-industrial past remain functionally obsolete, underused, or physically degraded. These spatial conditions are mirrored by social patterns: young people report declining participation in sports and cultural activities, limited opportunities for informal recreation, and a lack of influence over public decisions that affect their daily lives.

In response, the City of Pula, together with a broad network of institutional and civil society partners, developed an Integrated Action Plan that reimagines urban space through the lens of youth-centred design and inclusive planning. The plan proposes a pilot-based intervention model focused on the development of Urban Sport Hubs public spaces that combine sports infrastructure, green elements, and communal programming, co-designed by youth and managed through collaborative structures. These hubs will serve not only as physical sites of activity but as social and political platforms for fostering civic responsibility, intergenerational solidarity, and a sense of community belonging.

The first phase of implementation will be tested through three locally grounded actions: a student-led reactivation of ROJC Park; a tactical urbanism initiative at the Valica playground involving youth in low-cost, high-impact redesign; and a city-wide event, so-called the Small Sports Olympics, designed to raise visibility, activate new user groups, and build community interest. In addition to this a hackathon about urban planning was held. These pilots will serve as models for replication in other neighbourhoods and for broader policy uptake.

What distinguishes Re-Gen Pula is its deeply integrated approach. The plan intersects youth policy, education, urban planning, green infrastructure, and social inclusion, building on existing frameworks such as the City Development Plan 2020–2030, the Local Youth Programme 2024–2027, the Strategic Urban Development Plan, and the Green Urban Development Strategy. It aligns with European priorities on just and green cities, youth empowerment, and community-led spatial planning.



Governance is equally central to the project's innovation. The URBACT Local Group (ULG), established during the planning phase, will continue to play a key role throughout implementation. Comprising representatives from municipal departments, youth organisations, schools, sports clubs, and community stakeholders, the ULG functions as a coordination and decision-making platform. The City of Pula's Department for Social Activities, Sports and Youth leads the operational aspects, with support from departments for urban planning, property affairs, environmental protection, communal services, education, and finance.

The anticipated impact of Re-Gen Pula extends beyond physical improvements. It is expected to foster greater youth participation in public life, improve health and well-being, promote social cohesion, and strengthen institutional capacities for collaborative planning. By enabling young people to take ownership of their urban environment, and by demonstrating a replicable model of participatory regeneration, the IAP positions Pula as a forward-looking city within the URBACT network one capable of translating strategic policy into local transformation.



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The City of Pula

Pula is the biggest city within the Istrian Peninsula, serving as a hub for economic, cultural, and administrative activities. Its location, historical importance and amenities also attract visitors, bolstering its role as a key tourism destination and makes it a vital part of the regional network of settlements. It is situated in the southwestern part of the Istrian Peninsula in Croatia and features a coastal plain sloping towards the Adriatic Sea, surrounded by low-lying hills covered in Mediterranean vegetation. Enjoys a Mediterranean climate characterised by mild winters and hot summers.

The city holds a rich historical and cultural heritage, tracing its roots back to ancient Roman times when it was established as the Roman colony of Pietas Iulia during the era of Caesar. Pula was historically a very significant military port and it integrates ancient Roman structures, like the amphitheatre Arena, and abandoned military areas, into the natural landscape. Pula's economy primarily revolves around the service sector, with a diverse economic landscape encompassing trade, hospitality, processing, construction, and technical services. Over the centuries, Pula has faced demographic fluctuations and challenges, influenced by epidemics, wars, and changes in governance. More recently, the city has experienced a decline in population, especially among its younger residents seeking better employment prospects elsewhere. This demographic trend highlights the need for initiatives that could revitalise the city, potentially leveraging sports as a catalyst for social engagement and community development.

The City of Pula-Pola, according to the latest census (2021), has a population of 52,411 and offers a wide range of sports and recreational facilities for all age groups. The city is home to 23 kindergartens and 36 sports and recreational spaces. It features 60 children's playgrounds, 3 fenced dog parks, and outdoor fitness areas at 11 locations. There are multifunctional courts at 6 locations and bocce courts at 4 locations. Sports fields for football, volleyball, or basketball are available at 9 locations, and trim trails are set up at 3 spots. Additionally, Pula offers skate parks at 2 locations and a rock climbing wall at one site.





Executive Summary

The City of Pula's Integrated Action Plan (IAP), developed within the URBACT IV Re-Gen framework, outlines a strategy for transforming underutilized urban spaces into multifunctional Urban Sport Hubs. Anchored in the vision of "Healthy Youth in a Healthy City," the plan seeks to enhance youth participation, foster active lifestyles, and strengthen community ties through the regeneration of neglected public areas.

Pula is grappling with a combination of demographic decline, spatial neglect, and low youth engagement in sports particularly in lesser-known disciplines. These challenges are compounded by uneven infrastructure distribution and limited inclusivity for people with disabilities. Despite these issues, Pula demonstrates strong foundations for urban renewal, including participatory youth governance structures, inclusive education practices, and experience in mobilizing EU funding.

The IAP articulates four strategic objectives: to assess the interests of young people; to adapt sports offerings to better reflect those interests; to promote lesser-known sports through targeted outreach; and to improve access to sports infrastructure. These objectives are supported by a coherent logic that integrates youth policy, urban planning, and community engagement.

A participatory governance model underpins the IAP. Key stakeholders include city departments, youth organizations, schools, sports clubs, and civil society actors. Their collaboration ensures alignment with existing local and national strategies, including the City Development Plan 2020–2030 and the Local Youth Program, while promoting shared ownership of implementation.

To operationalize the plan, four pilot actions will be tested: the Rojc Walk, involving students in the co-design of a central park; Tactical Urbanism at the Valica playground, encouraging youth-led improvement of sports areas; the Presentation of Small Sports in schools; and the Small Sports Olympics, a citywide event promoting lesser-known sports through inclusive activities.

The plan emphasizes integration across spatial levels and policy domains, with particular attention to social inclusion, environmental sustainability, gender equality, and digital access. Performance will be tracked through clearly defined indicators related to participation, infrastructure upgrades, event implementation, and accessibility improvements.

In sum, the IAP proposes a strategic, inclusive, and evidence-informed approach to urban revitalization in Pula. By foregrounding youth engagement and sustainable development, it aims to transform neglected areas into active, community-centered spaces that contribute to the city's long-term vitality.



The Action Planning Process

The development of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Pula was rooted in a collaborative, iterative, and inclusive process that brought together institutional actors, civil society, educators, and, most importantly, young people. The process followed the URBACT IV methodology, combining local diagnostics, participatory design, pilot testing, and policy alignment.

The **URBACT Local Group (ULG)** played a central role from the outset. Composed of representatives from the City of Pula's departments (youth, urban planning, education, environment, and finance), youth organisations (notably ZUM), schools, sports associations, and social inclusion experts, the ULG met regularly to identify needs, define objectives, co-design interventions, and coordinate stakeholder input. Young people were directly involved throughout, both via formal bodies like the Youth Advisory Council and through co-creation workshops and forums. Their perspectives shaped the project's priorities, such as accessibility, alternative sports, and the importance of informal public space.

The IAP process included **testing actions** (see annexes for details) which served to ground the plan in real-life experimentation. Four pilot interventions were launched: the student-led redesign of ROJC Park; tactical urbanism at Valica playground; school-based promotion of small sports; and the big Sports Event. These actions allowed the city and its partners to test methods, build trust, and refine concepts based on real user experience.

Planning was conducted in iterative cycles. Following initial needs assessments and site mapping, the ULG used participatory workshops and working groups to draft and validate goals, actions, and governance structures. Strategic alignment with Pula's local development plans, youth policy, and environmental strategies was ensured through internal reviews and expert support.

Sharing took place at local and transnational levels. Within the city, project updates and participation opportunities were communicated through social media, school platforms, and community events. Regionally and across the URBACT network, Pula shared its progress and learned from peer cities in the Re-Gen project, strengthening the quality and scalability of its action plan.

The process ultimately resulted in a robust, community-driven plan that reflects both the strategic ambitions and everyday realities of Pula's youth and urban stakeholders.



PART 1 - Background

1. 1 Challenges Addressed and Anticipated Solution

The Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for the City of Pula addresses a complex set of interconnected urban, social, and infrastructural challenges that hinder the active inclusion of young people in urban life and limit the functional, inclusive, and sustainable use of public space. These challenges fall into three main domains: youth participation and well-being, sports infrastructure and culture, and urban spatial governance.

Key Challenges

1. Disengagement of youth from physical activity and urban life

Youth in Pula, particularly those aged 10–19, are increasingly disengaged from structured sports and outdoor activities. Factors include a limited offer of accessible, diverse, and affordable sports infrastructure, a lack of awareness about available opportunities, high costs for participating in less mainstream sports, and weak integration of youth perspectives in the design and management of public spaces. Mental health concerns and sedentary lifestyles are increasingly prevalent, underscoring the need for active, inclusive, and youth-led interventions.

2. Underutilised and degraded urban spaces

The city has numerous public spaces many of them former military zones or older neighbourhood parks that are either neglected or poorly adapted to contemporary social needs. These spaces lack multifunctionality, adequate lighting, accessibility, and inclusive design features. The fragmentation of green infrastructure and legal ambiguities over land use further complicate efforts to rehabilitate these areas.

3. Institutional fragmentation and lack of coordinated planning

Responsibility for youth services, sports facilities, urban regeneration, and environmental sustainability is divided among multiple departments and stakeholders. While the city has a strong policy foundation (e.g., Local Youth Programme, Green Urban Renewal Strategy, City Development Plan), coordination across these domains has been limited. This has resulted in gaps in implementation, a lack of innovation in spatial planning, and insufficient engagement of civil society.



Anticipated Solution: The Urban Sport Hubs Model

The IAP proposes an integrated, participatory response in the form of Urban Sport Hubs repurposed public areas that will serve as inclusive, multifunctional spaces designed around the interests and needs of young people. These hubs are conceived not merely as sports facilities, but as anchor points for youth engagement, community interaction, and urban revitalisation. Their development will involve youth in the design, programming, and governance of the spaces, thereby enhancing ownership, relevance, and sustainability.

The Urban Sport Hubs model is grounded in four strategic objectives:

1. To assess youth interests and spatial needs through participatory diagnostics;
2. To adapt and diversify infrastructure and programmes based on these preferences;
3. To promote lesser-known sports and non-formal activities through outreach, education, and events;
4. To improve physical and social accessibility through better lighting, inclusive design, and community co-management mechanisms.

This model not only addresses immediate infrastructure and programming gaps, but also builds long-term resilience by fostering civic engagement, cross-sectoral collaboration, and inclusive spatial planning. It directly contributes to several of Pula's strategic goals: social inclusion, youth retention, sustainable mobility, and climate-adaptive urban renewal.

The proposed solution aligns with the URBACT IV programme's principles of integrated urban development, and supports European, national, and local strategies related to youth, green infrastructure, and urban regeneration ensuring both policy coherence and implementation viability.

1.2 Context Analysis

The Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for the City of Pula has been developed under the framework of the URBACT IV programme, specifically the Re-Gen network, which aims to reclaim and revitalise neglected urban spaces by fostering inclusive, sustainable, and participatory regeneration processes. Pula's local context illustrates a combination of structural, demographic, and spatial challenges that directly affect urban cohesion and youth engagement.

Demographically, the city is experiencing a significant decline in its youth population due to both national-level demographic trends and the local outmigration of young people in search of education and employment opportunities. Youth aged 10–19 make up only 8.88% of the city's population. This is further compounded by an aging population and a shrinking labour force, which in turn impacts the long-term socio-economic sustainability of the city.



Spatially, Pula has numerous underutilised or degraded public areas, many of which are legacies of its military and industrial past. Despite some positive steps in public space development and urban greening, these areas continue to represent a barrier to inclusive public life, with limited access and functionality for a broad segment of the population especially youth and persons with disabilities.

From a policy perspective, Pula has demonstrated a strong strategic orientation towards sustainable and inclusive development. The city's 2020–2030 Development Plan sets a vision for Pula as a “green, resilient, and circular city” and highlights key goals related to public participation, green mobility, and social infrastructure. This is complemented by the Green Urban Renewal Strategy (2023), which frames urban regeneration through lenses of green infrastructure, climate adaptation, and circular management.

In line with the URBACT principles of integrated and participatory urban development, the IAP proposes a comprehensive response to these challenges through the creation of Urban Sport Hubs repurposed, accessible, and inclusive public spaces focused on youth engagement, community well-being, and sustainable urban design. The hubs aim to transform physical spaces while also fostering civic ownership and intersectoral cooperation.

1.3 Mapping Stakeholders


The IAP was developed through a participatory process coordinated by the URBACT Local Group (ULG), which includes a wide range of local stakeholders from public, civil, and educational sectors. This structure supports the URBACT principle of integrated governance and collaborative decision-making.

Key municipal actors include:

- The Department for Social Activities, Sports and Youth, which is responsible for youth policy
- The Urban Planning and Development Department, which ensures technical alignment with the city's spatial and development strategies;
- The Youth Advisory Council of the City Council, a formal body that ensures youth representation in city-level decision-making.

Civil society and educational stakeholders include:

- The Pula Sport Foundation and the City Sports Community, which bring in expertise on facility development and sport promotion;
- NGOs such as ZUM (Youth Association), which contributes to advocacy and youth mobilisation;
- Schools including Giuseppina Martinuzzi Elementary, Dante Alighieri Secondary, and Gimnazija Pula, which facilitate youth engagement and educational integration;
- The School for Upbringing and Education and the Spektar Sports Club for Persons with Disabilities, which provide vital input on accessibility and inclusion;
- The Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, supports strategic coordination and monitoring.



These stakeholders were involved not only in consultations but in co-designing pilot actions, shaping strategic priorities, and defining governance and monitoring structures for the IAP. This model is consistent with Pula's broader urban policy culture, as emphasised in the 2020–2030 Development Plan and the Strategic Urban Development Strategy (SRUPP 2021–2027), both of which stress cross-sectoral partnerships and civic engagement.

1.4 Target Groups and their needs

The primary target group of the IAP is young people between the ages of 10 and 19. Despite existing youth programmes and infrastructure, data from local needs assessments (including URBACT ULG consultations and the Local Youth Programme 2024–2027) reveal multiple unmet needs. These include a lack of appealing sports and recreational opportunities, limited access to safe and inclusive public spaces, high costs associated with participation in organised sports, and limited visibility and promotion of alternative or non-mainstream sports disciplines.

Moreover, young people report feeling excluded from decision-making processes and express interest in more participatory governance of public space. There is also evidence of increased sedentary behaviour and mental health concerns, which are exacerbated by limited outdoor activity and accessible infrastructure.

Secondary target groups include:

- Families and parents, who benefit from enhanced recreational and social infrastructure;
- Youth with developmental or physical disabilities, whose participation is currently constrained by non-inclusive facilities and programming;
- Schools and local sports clubs, which lack capacity and space to expand their offerings.

The IAP's Urban Sport Hubs respond to these needs by creating multifunctional, accessible, and user-informed public spaces. Through co-design with youth and integration of inclusive sports elements, the project also seeks to reduce socio-spatial inequalities and foster a stronger sense of community.

This approach is supported by the Local Youth Programme of Pula (2024–2027), which underscores the importance of youth participation, mental and physical health, and inclusive urban design. The IAP aligns with these objectives by establishing mechanisms for youth-led planning, programming for vulnerable subgroups, and integration of sports, education, and civic engagement.



1.5 Relevant policies framework

European Union

The IAP is fully aligned with the URBACT IV programme and the EU Cohesion Policy 2021–2027, particularly in its focus on sustainable urban development, social inclusion, and integrated territorial investment. It supports the European Green Deal’s goals on urban greening, the New Leipzig Charter’s emphasis on just, green, and productive cities, and the European Youth Strategy (2019–2027), which calls for increased youth participation in urban governance and improved access to quality infrastructure.

National

At the national level, the IAP supports Croatia’s National Development Strategy 2030, especially priorities on sustainable cities, youth engagement, and environmental resilience. It is further aligned with the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Component C6.1), which promotes green urban renewal, circular management of urban spaces, and climate adaptation strategies.

Regional

The Strategic Urban Development Plan for the Pula Urban Area (SRUPP 2021–2027) identifies inclusive spatial transformation and green infrastructure as central development goals. The IAP contributes directly to these by piloting an approach that revitalises neglected areas into active social hubs while integrating nature-based solutions and low-carbon infrastructure.

Urban

Locally, the IAP draws from and contributes to multiple planning instruments: The City Development Plan of Pula 2020–2030 provides a strategic vision of a “green city tailored to its residents,” which directly supports the IAP’s goals of social inclusion, circular spatial use, and youth empowerment.

The Local Youth Programme (2024–2027) serves as a thematic foundation for the IAP, identifying specific areas of intervention such as active lifestyles, youth participation, health, and recreation.

The Green Urban Renewal Strategy of Pula (to 2030) defines the city’s commitment to climate neutrality, circular construction, energy efficiency, and improved urban green connectivity. The IAP reflects this through its design of sustainable sport hubs and adaptive reuse of neglected spaces.

Together, these policy frameworks ensure that the IAP is not only grounded in local needs but is also scalable, replicable, and compliant with multi-level strategic objectives.



PART 2 – Vision, Objectives, Expected Changes

2.1 Vision

The vision for the project, encapsulated in a vision of Pula being "Healthy Youth in a Healthy City" reflects Pula's aspiration to revitalize its urban landscape through the creation of an Urban Sport Hub. This initiative forms a key part of the city's urban renewal strategy, transforming underutilized spaces into vibrant community centers that promote physical activity and youth engagement, particularly in less popular sports. By prioritizing high-quality, inclusive infrastructure, Pula aims to inspire young people and the broader community to adopt healthier lifestyles, fostering not only personal well-being but also stronger neighborhood connections through sports and recreation.

The context reveals specific challenges in Pula across three interconnected domains youth, sports, and infrastructure. Declining youth interest in sports, driven by time constraints, mental health issues, and inadequate recreational options, requires immediate attention. Less popular sports, suffering from insufficient support and facilities, face similar hurdles. Additionally, Pula's unevenly distributed and underdeveloped sports infrastructure complicates accessibility and limits community engagement. To address these needs, the Urban Sport Hub will integrate participatory planning, equitable resource allocation, and creative programming, transforming Pula into a model "Healthy City" that thrives on inclusivity, active lifestyles, and community cohesion.

2.2 Objective/s

General objective of the IAP is to transform underutilized urban areas in Pula into vibrant, functional spaces that prioritize youth engagement, promoting an environment conducive to active lifestyles, social inclusion, and sustainable community growth.

The following work breakdown structure represent the project overall logic (Strategic goal/specific objective/activities)

STRATEGIC GOAL:

to transform underutilized urban areas in Pula into vibrant, functional spaces that prioritize youth engagement, promoting an environment conducive to active lifestyles, social inclusion, and sustainable community growth.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: To activate youth participation in co-designing and co-using public spaces through sports, culture, and community initiatives.

- By the end of 2027, engage at least 150 young people in the co-design and activation of two revitalized public spaces in Pula through participatory workshops, public events, and youth-led programming focused on sports, and community building.
- Organize at least 3 participatory design workshops with youth per location
- Host youth-led cultural and sports events in newly revitalized spaces
- Provide small grants or microfunding for youth initiatives in public space

Outputs:

1. At least 3 participatory design workshops implemented with youth involvement.
2. 3 co-designed public space plans integrating ideas gathered from youth participants.
3. 3 revitalized public spaces developed or upgraded based on participatory inputs.
4. At least 3 youth-led cultural or sports events hosted in the revitalized areas.
5. One microgrant scheme established and disbursed, supporting a minimum of 5 youth-led public space initiatives.
6. A communications campaign promoting youth participation and visibility of events and initiatives.
7. Engagement of at least 100 young people in co-design, event organization, or public space use.

Outcome: Revitalized public spaces in Pula are actively co-used and co-shaped by youth, leading to greater community engagement, enhanced inclusivity, and stronger youth ownership and initiative in urban development.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: To develop inclusive, diverse, and youth-responsive sports programs that reflect evolving interests and needs.

- By 2027, co-create and launch at least 2 new sports or recreational programs tailored to youth interests based on a needs assessment involving a minimum of 100 young people ensuring at least 20% of the programs support underrepresented groups (e.g. girls, minorities, youth with fewer opportunities).
- Conduct a youth needs assessment
- Collaborate with local sports clubs and schools to design pilot programs
- Establish a “Fund for Emerging Sports” supporting non-mainstream sports



Outputs:

1. One youth needs assessment conducted, engaging at least 100 young people through surveys and participatory methods.
2. Partnerships established with at least 6 local sports clubs and schools to co-design youth-responsive pilot programs.
3. At least 2 new sports or recreational programs developed and launched, tailored to youth needs and preferences.
4. At least 20% of the programs designed specifically to engage underrepresented youth groups.
5. One “Fund for Emerging Sports” established and operational, supporting at least 5 non-mainstream sports initiatives.
6. Promotional materials and outreach campaigns developed to raise awareness about new programs among diverse youth groups.


Outcome: Youth in Pula have greater access to inclusive and interest-based sports programs, with increased participation from underrepresented groups and strengthened collaboration between schools, clubs, and the community.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: To enhance the functionality, accessibility, and sustainability of sports and recreational infrastructure in underutilized urban areas.

- By the end of 2027, upgrade a minimum of 2 underutilized public spaces into multifunctional sports and recreation hubs, ensuring each includes youth-friendly features, universal accessibility, and is maintained through a co-management model involving local stakeholders and youth organizations.
- Conduct spatial mapping and infrastructure audits
- Develop and implement renovation plans with universal design
- Ensure each site has mixed-use functions (e.g. sports, social, cultural)

Outputs:

1. Two underutilized public spaces upgraded into multifunctional recreation hubs.
2. A spatial mapping and infrastructure audits completed, with documented findings and recommendations.
3. Two renovation plans developed and implemented, based on universal design and youth co-design input.
4. Each renovated site equipped with at least three mixed-use functions (e.g. sports, social, cultural zones).
5. Youth and community stakeholders actively involved in the design and implementation processes.
6. A co-management models established and piloted for ongoing site maintenance and use.



Outcome: Pula's underused urban spaces are transformed into inclusive, multifunctional hubs that promote youth participation, universal accessibility, and long-term community stewardship.

As a consequence, the expected result is: **Youth in Pula are empowered as active agents of inclusive urban transformation, resulting in healthier communities, stronger social cohesion, and sustainable public spaces shaped by and for young people.**

2.3 Necessary Resources

The successful and sustainable implementation of the Integrated Action Plan is institutionally anchored and financially secured through a multi-layered framework that combines municipal resources with strategic national and competitive European funding. The required resources are categorized as follows to demonstrate comprehensive feasibility:

1. Human Resources

Core implementation relies on the expertise of municipal staff and the continuous engagement of the URBACT Local Group (ULG). The Department for Social Activities, Sports and Youth serves as the lead coordinating body, supported by critical expertise from the Departments for Urban Planning and Development, Finance, and Education. Crucial delivery capacity is

2. Financial Resources

The IAP's financial feasibility is guaranteed through a complementary financing approach. Core resources are provided by the City of Pula budget and potential supplementary allocations from Istarska County, ensuring operational continuity and local co-financing stability. Furthermore, priority actions are strategically aligned with national priorities, enabling access to funding streams from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism under the National Sports Program 2019.–2026.

Significant scaling and innovation are projected through the strategic utilization of European funds. This includes ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) for infrastructure renovation and spatial planning (SO3), and ESF+ (European Social Fund Plus) for employment, training, and inclusive programming (SO2). Targeted thematic grants such as Erasmus+ will finance non-formal education and youth sport mobility, while the CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) program will support high-impact participatory and civic engagement actions (SO1).



3. Institutional and Governance Support

The IAP is institutionally anchored by a joint commitment across the city administration, ensuring policy integration and efficient decision-making through an inter-departmental working group involving nine municipal departments. Long-term sustainability is embedded through the commitment of the Department for Finance and EU Projects to integrate IAP outcomes into permanent municipal programs. This secures the long-term maintenance, management, and resource allocation for the revitalized spaces and programs beyond the initial IAP implementation phase.

secured through civil society partnerships with ZUM (Youth Association), Health Life Academy, and the Spekter Sports Club for Persons with Disabilities, ensuring the successful co-creation and delivery of socially inclusive and youth-responsive programs across all three Strategic Objectives.

4. Infrastructure and Equipment

Implementation leverages existing and newly developed assets. The newly opened Youth Center Pula serves as the primary hub for co-design and program delivery. Investment focuses on transforming targeted underutilized urban areas (such as Busoler and Marsovo Polje) into multifunctional sports hubs. Equipment resources include materials necessary for tactical urbanism interventions, sports programming, and specialized tools required for fieldwork and infrastructure audits.

5. Digital Resources

Effective communication, transparency, and continuous outreach rely on the City's existing digital platforms, including the official website and municipal social media channels, used for public reporting and promotion. Digital resources also encompass specialized software and tools used during the Hackathons and participatory workshops for spatial mapping, co-design, and continuous feedback collection, ensuring that youth input (SO1) is digitally captured and integrated into the design process.



PART 3 – Cooperation framework for implementation: Multilevel governance

3.1 The Role of the URBACT LOCAL GROUP in the IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

The URBACT Local Group (ULG) will play an advisory, and monitoring role in the implementation phase of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for the City of Pula. Its function focuses on consultative engagement and is structured to ensure continuity of the participatory, cross-sectoral, and integrated approach developed during the planning phase of the URBACT IV Re-Gen project.

Governance and Coordination

The ULG will function as a group of interested stakeholders for IAP implementation, ensuring alignment between municipal departments, schools, civil society organisations, sports associations, and community members. It will support the City of Pula in steering activities across policy domains youth, sports, spatial planning, and sustainability by facilitating communication, resolving institutional barriers, and maintaining coherence with broader urban strategies.

As a multi-stakeholder platform, the ULG will meet when needed to:

- Review implementation progress;
- Advise on adaptations in response to evolving needs;
- Coordinate actions across sectors and between pilot sites;
- Maintain transparency and legitimacy in decision-making processes.

This aligns with the principles of the New Leipzig Charter and URBACT IV's emphasis on place-based governance and integrated delivery structures.

Youth Engagement and Co-management

Building on its engagement with the Youth Advisory Council and multiple educational institutions, the ULG will serve as a platform for youth to continue to be included in the implementation of pilot projects and the expansion of Urban Sport Hubs. Young people will be involved not only as users but as co-creators, contributing to the programming, design refinements, and ongoing governance of the hubs.

The ULG will support structured youth involvement through participatory methods such as design-thinking workshops, feedback sessions, and co-evaluation activities, thereby institutionalising youth voice in line with the objectives of the Local Youth Programme (2024–2027) and the European Youth Strategy.



Oversight and Monitoring

The ULG will participate in annual review processes and contribute to external reporting to ensure accountability and the integration of lessons learned.

This role includes:

- Participating in data collection and outcome evaluations;
- Validating monitoring frameworks;
- Contributing to knowledge sharing at the local and European levels.

The participatory monitoring model is consistent with the City's 2020–2030 Development Plan and the strategic goals of the Strategic Urban Development Plan (SRUPP 2021–2027), which emphasise evidence-based policymaking and stakeholder-driven evaluation.

Scaling and Sustainability

During and beyond the pilot phase, the ULG will contribute to scenario planning for the replication of the Urban Sport Hubs model across other parts of the city. Drawing from local practice and external URBACT networks, the ULG will help codify the Pula model into a replicable framework, with guidance on stakeholder engagement, design principles, and financing mechanisms.

By involving representatives from municipal departments, civil society, and expert institutions, the ULG is positioned to support funding applications (e.g. ERDF, ESF+, national resilience funds), identify public-private partnerships, and secure political and community support for long-term sustainability.

3.2 City Departments to be involved in the Implementation

1. Department for Social Activities, Sports and Youth

Leads coordination of youth engagement, sport programming, and the activation of Urban Sport Hubs.

2. Department for Urban Planning and Development

Ensures all spatial interventions align with urban plans, zoning regulations, and sustainability criteria.

3. Department for Property and Legal Affairs

Resolves property ownership and legal access issues for repurposing underused public spaces.

4. Department for Finance and EU Projects

Manages funding streams and ensures compliance with EU co-financing and reporting requirements.

5. Department for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

Integrates green infrastructure, climate adaptation, and environmental standards into project design.

6. Department for Communal Services and Maintenance

Implements and maintains technical infrastructure such as lighting, waste systems, and mobility paths.

3.3 External Partners to be involved in the Implementation

Civil Society Organisations and NGOs

- **ZUM (Youth Association)**

Will lead peer-to-peer outreach, facilitate co-design workshops with young people, and support participatory governance models.

- **Health Life Academy**

Contributes to programme design focused on inclusive and therapeutic sports activities, especially for youth with special needs.

- **Foundation for the Development of Civil Society**

Provides expertise in project monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and capacity-building across sectors.

Educational Institutions

- **Giuseppina Martinuzzi Elementary School, Dante Alighieri Secondary School, Gimnazija Pula**

Will integrate IAP pilot actions into school curricula, coordinate student involvement in space design, and host awareness-raising events.

- **School for Upbringing and Education (Škola za odgoj i obrazovanje)**

Ensures the full inclusion of youth with developmental disabilities in planning and using Urban Sport Hubs.

Sports Organisations and Clubs

- **Pula Sport Foundation**

Supports the development of sports programmes and infrastructure within Urban Sport Hubs.

- **City Sports Community (Sportska zajednica Grada Pule)**

Coordinates with local sports clubs to promote lesser-known sports

- **Spektar – Sports Club for Persons with Disabilities**

Advises on universal design principles and facilitates the inclusion of adaptive sports programming.

3.4 Other stakeholders to keep informed

Regional and National Development Stakeholders

- Istrian County Office for Youth and Sport
- Croatian URBACT National Contact Point

Private Sector and Local Entrepreneurs

- Construction and landscaping firms (contracted through public procurement)
- Local small businesses and sports equipment suppliers

Media and Communication Partners

- Local radio, newspapers, and digital media outlets

3.5 Methods, tools and channels to engage and to inform stakeholders and citizens

Introduction

The implementation of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) in Pula will rely on a carefully structured and inclusive ReGen communication strategy that reflects URBACT IV's emphasis on participatory urban governance. The City of Pula recognises that sustained engagement especially with young people requires not only accessible information but also meaningful opportunities to participate, provide feedback, and co-create interventions. Building on the participatory methods developed during the planning phase, the implementation strategy employs a combination of digital communication, participatory formats, institutional coordination, and place-based outreach to ensure that all stakeholders remain informed and involved.

Communication and Engagement Strategy

The City of Pula will use its official website (www.pula.hr) which will contain all public documents, updates, event announcements, and reporting materials. This will be the primary institutional channel for information transparency.

Additionally, social media will play a key role in reaching broader and especially younger audiences. Updates, calls to action, and visual content will be shared via the city's official Facebook page and through the social media channels of key partners, including ZUM (Youth Association), the Pula Sport Foundation, and the Spektar Sports Club. Instagram will be the primary platform for engaging youth under 25, with features such as live Q&A sessions, story polls, and Instagram takeovers by student representatives.

In-person engagement will continue through co-design workshops, tactical urbanism events, and structured youth forums. These events will be held in schools, public spaces, and in a youth center to maximise accessibility and relevance. They will provide youth and other community members with hands-on opportunities to shape design features, test pilot installations, and influence programming. Schools participating in the pilot activities will integrate IAP themes into their curricula and extracurricular programmes if seem fit, hosting forums and assemblies that serve both educational and participatory purposes.

To enhance visibility at the community level, the City will tend to install temporary public information panels and mobile displays near the Urban Sport Hub sites. These displays would visually communicate project goals, timelines, and community benefits and will include QR codes for accessing detailed digital content. These will be complemented by communication via local media such as Glas Istre, Regional Express, and Radio Pula which will feature interviews, articles, and announcements throughout the pilot and expansion phases.



Monitoring and feedback mechanisms will include short digital surveys disseminated via Google Forms and Mentimeter, embedded into school and social media networks. These will track satisfaction, perceived inclusion, and impact. In addition, the City will publish an annual public report on IAP implementation, summarising key outcomes, performance against KPIs, and proposed adjustments based on stakeholder input.

In sum, the communication and engagement tools applied during the IAP implementation are designed to be accessible, responsive, and embedded in the daily environments of Pula's youth and citizens. They ensure transparency, foster local ownership, and allow for iterative learning fully aligned with the principles of integrated urban development promoted by the URBACT programme.


3.6 Governance, cooperation and management methodology

The governance, cooperation, and management of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for the City of Pula are designed to reflect the core principles of the URBACT IV programme: integrated urban development, participatory governance, and place-based, cross-sectoral cooperation. Implementation will be embedded in the institutional structures of the City of Pula while being steered by an inclusive, multi-stakeholder governance framework that ensures responsiveness to local needs and transparent coordination among all actors involved.

Institutional Governance Structure

The City of Pula will serve as the lead authority for IAP implementation, with overall responsibility delegated to the Department for Social Activities, Sports and Youth. This department will coordinate operational tasks, oversee action delivery, and ensure alignment with broader municipal policy objectives. It will work in close cooperation with other municipal departments, including Urban Planning, Property and Legal Affairs, Communal Services, Finance and EU Projects, Environmental Protection, and Education. Each department is tasked with implementing specific components of the IAP, according to their respective mandates.

Coordination among departments will be facilitated through internal working groups and joint planning sessions convened by the lead department. These structures are already familiar to the city administration and are used for the delivery of multi-sectoral initiatives under the City Development Plan 2020–2030 and the Strategic Urban Development Plan (SRUPP 2021–2027).



URBACT Local Group (ULG) as an Operational Platform

The URBACT Local Group (ULG), established during the planning phase, will continue to function as the platform for stakeholder coordination during implementation when needed. It can include representatives from civil society organisations, educational institutions, youth advisory boards, sports associations, and inclusive service providers .

The ULG will meet on a quarterly basis and will be responsible for:

- Coordinating stakeholder contributions to pilot activities;
- Reviewing progress and discussing implementation challenges;
- Ensuring that the voices of youth and marginalised groups remain central to decision-making;
- Supporting community outreach and participatory monitoring processes.

Youth Involvement and Co-Management

One of the key governance innovations of the IAP is the structured involvement of young people not only as beneficiaries but as co-managers of the Urban Sport Hubs. In partnership with schools and youth organisations, the city will develop local co-management models for each pilot site. These will include youth representatives who will take part in the governance of the spaces through participatory councils or advisory boards.

This model draws inspiration from practices developed during the tactical urbanism pilots and will be supported by mentorship and capacity-building workshops implemented by civil society partners. It is closely aligned with the goals of the Local Youth Programme (2024–2027), which prioritises youth ownership of public initiatives and the expansion of civic competences among young residents.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management

To ensure transparency and effectiveness, the City of Pula will establish a monitoring framework based on a set of SMART indicators developed during the planning phase. These include metrics related to youth participation, infrastructure access, inclusivity, and pilot project performance. Data will be collected with the support of schools, NGOs, and municipal departments, and will be reviewed annually in collaboration with the ULG.

The IAP will include an adaptive management component, allowing the ULG and lead department to revise priorities and action plans based on emerging evidence and community feedback. This flexibility is critical given the pilot nature of the Urban Sport Hubs and the potential for scale-up to other areas of the city.

Integration with Strategic Frameworks

Governance and management of the IAP are intentionally designed to align with and complement Pula's strategic planning documents. The actions outlined in the IAP contribute directly to the objectives of the City Development Plan, the Green Urban Renewal Strategy, the Local Youth Programme, and the Strategic Urban Development Plan (SRUPP). This ensures policy coherence and enables the city to leverage existing governance structures, funding mechanisms, and administrative resources in a synergistic manner.



PART 4 – Impacts, Innovation and Sustainability

4.1 Expected changes and Impacts

The implementation of the IAP is projected to drive structural and behavioral changes in Pula, translating into long-term societal impacts that extend beyond the 2027 project completion date. These impacts are directly derived from the quantitative outputs and outcomes of the three Specific Objectives.

The transformation of underutilized urban spaces (SO3) into multifunctional, universally accessible sports and recreation hubs will result in a long-term change in Pula's urban morphology. The revitalization of these spaces ensures equitable distribution of recreational infrastructure, leading to the societal impact of a measurable increase in physical activity among all age groups, particularly youth, contributing directly to lower rates of sedentary lifestyles and improved public health across the city.

The strategic focus on co-design and youth-led programming (SO1), which mandates the engagement of at least 150 young people in participatory workshops, will cultivate a new generation of active citizens. This results in the long-term impact of a significantly more civically engaged youth population, with participants demonstrating higher levels of community ownership, increased trust in local institutions, and sustainable stewardship of public spaces. Furthermore, this approach formalizes a replicable model for youth involvement in all future municipal planning processes.

By co-creating at least two new, tailored, and inclusive sports and recreational programs (SO2), the IAP guarantees that at least 20% of offerings specifically address underrepresented youth groups. The long-term impact of this action is the reduction of social and spatial exclusion barriers. This sustained focus will diversify the city's sports culture, leading to enhanced social cohesion, stronger collaboration between schools and civil society, and a permanently more inclusive environment for youth with fewer opportunities. The IAP, therefore, serves as a catalyst for Pula's transition into a model "Healthy City" by 2030.

4.2 Policy Innovation achievement

The IAP represents a concrete innovation in local policymaking by connecting youth policy, urban regeneration, and participatory governance within a single operational framework. Its novelty lies in the way it transforms spatial interventions into instruments of social inclusion and participatory learning. Young people are not merely beneficiaries but active partners in shaping the city. Through co-design sessions, tactical urbanism activities, and participatory governance, they contribute directly to planning and implementation, learning to translate civic responsibility into practice. This marks a departure from traditional top-down approaches and embeds civic education and youth empowerment into spatial policy.



The plan also introduces a hybrid model that integrates youth, sport, health, culture, and environmental goals. It aligns objectives from the Local Youth Programme, the Green Urban Renewal Strategy, and the City Development Plan, creating a unified framework where social and spatial priorities intersect.

The governance mechanism surrounding the ULG is itself a policy innovation. By maintaining this multi-actor platform beyond the project phase, Pula institutionalises a model of cross-sectoral and civic collaboration that can inform future municipal programmes. It represents an early form of “street-level co-governance,” enabling city staff, schools, and associations to co-create solutions in real time.

Finally, the IAP introduces adaptive and participatory monitoring tools—youth-led feedback loops and community reporting—that enhance the city’s learning capacity and responsiveness. Together, these elements illustrate how local policy can evolve from project-based initiatives into durable governance innovation.

4.3 Economic Sustainability: Budget and sources of funding


Discussions on financial sustainability emphasised the need for a realistic and mixed funding model. While public accessibility remains a guiding principle, not every activity must be free of charge. Modest parental contributions and partnerships with local sponsors can support long-term maintenance without compromising inclusivity.

The City of Pula, primarily through its Department for Social Activities, is expected to remain the main institutional financier, ensuring that successful pilot actions evolve into regular programmes. Additional funding will be sought through EU funds and competitive national or regional programmes, as well as through cross-sectoral partnerships involving sports clubs, associations, and the private sector.

In this way, the IAP establishes a diversified and resilient financial base that reduces dependence on single-source or short-term project funding and integrates community contributions into the sustainability framework.

4.4 Social - environmental - political – administrative Sustainability

The IAP’s sustainability concept extends beyond infrastructure and financing, encompassing the social, environmental, political, and administrative dimensions of long-term viability. Social sustainability is grounded in inclusive participation and intergenerational solidarity. The plan promotes collaboration among young people, educators, volunteers, and older citizens, ensuring equal access to public spaces and programmes. Activities are designed to strengthen social ties and foster empathy between age groups and communities.



Environmental sustainability is reflected in the reuse and adaptation of existing spaces, integration of green and permeable surfaces, and promotion of low-carbon mobility. These actions support climate resilience and align with the City's Green Urban Renewal Strategy.

Political sustainability relies on embedding the IAP's principles in municipal strategies and ensuring continuity across electoral cycles. By integrating the IAP within the city's strategic framework and formalising its implementation through departmental cooperation, the initiative becomes a lasting component of local policy rather than a temporary project. Administrative sustainability will be secured through cross-departmental collaboration, capacity-building for municipal staff, and clear allocation of responsibilities. The city will rely on the existing mechanisms for coordination and monitoring that ensure institutional commitment.

Overall, sustainability is understood as shared responsibility between the city and its citizens.

4.5 Horizontal aspects integration (green, gender, digital, cultural)

The Integrated Action Plan is built on the principle of horizontal integration, embedding environmental, gender, digital, and cultural considerations throughout all activities rather than treating them as separate objectives.

Green transition is operationalised through nature-based solutions, the reuse of existing urban assets. Each Urban Sport Hub will contribute to greener, more liveable neighbourhoods.

Gender equality is addressed through gender-sensitive design, with special attention to the safety, visibility, and participation of girls and young women in sport and public space. Co-design processes and monitoring will ensure balanced representation and inclusive use.

Digital tools are employed to enhance participation and transparency. Online co-design platforms, QR-code-based feedback, and youth-oriented digital storytelling will facilitate ongoing engagement and data collection.

Cultural integration reinforces Pula's identity as a creative and inclusive city. The hubs will serve as venues for artistic expression, connecting youth culture, local heritage, and community dialogue.

Together, these cross-cutting dimensions create a coherent framework where environmental responsibility, equality, digital innovation, and cultural vitality function as shared values of Pula's sustainable urban development.

PART 5 - Implementation framework

| Objective N. | Action | Tasks | When | Where | Who / Resp (in bold) | Participants | Outputs | Result | Resources | Funding Scheme |
|---|--|--|------------|--------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Engaging & Accessible Public Space | Participatory Urban Art Workshop (Wall Painting) | Contact and invite pupils | Q1 2025 | Valica, Pula | City Dept. for Social Activities, Sports, and Youth | High school pupils, ULG partners (e.g., ZUM) | Confirmed list of youth participants | Increased youth engagement and project ownership | Staff time, communication materials | City of Pula Budget, Istarska County |
| | | Develop a plan for painting a section of the wall | Q2 2025 | Valica / City Hall | City Dept. for Urban Planning & Development | High school pupils, Technical Services, ULG partners | Detailed mural design and technical plan | Strengthened interdepartmental coordination | Technical staff time, design services | City of Pula Budget, Istarska County |
| | | Paint a part of the wall | Q2/Q3 2025 | Valica | ZUM (Youth Association) | High school pupils, local residents | Completed mural section (Phase 1) | Visible urban improvement, enhanced aesthetic appeal | Project management, paint, art supplies, safety equipment | City of Pula Budget, CERV Programme (for civic engagement) |
| | | Conduct a participatory workshop mechanism for finishing the development of Valica | Q3 2025 | Valica | City Dept. for Social Activities, Sports, and Youth | Residents, youth, technical experts | Participatory vision document for Valica's future | Knowledge base for future sustainable interventions | Facilitators (Human resources), workshop materials | City of Pula Budget, ERDF (future project preparation) |

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|---|------------------------------|--|----------|---------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Promoting Health & Inclusion | Big Sport Event (Test Event) | Contact and invite elementary and high school pupils | Q1 2025 | Schools / City Hall | City Dept. for Education and Pre-school Programs | Elementary and high school pupils | Communication plan and school participation commitment | Increased general interest in small sports and recreation | Staff time, outreach materials | City of Pula Budget, Istarska County |
| | | Develop a plan for presenting small sports | Q1 2025 | City Hall | Health Life Academy / Spektar Sports Club | Technical staff, sport specialists | Detailed event schedule, logistics, and safety plan | Efficient event management | Planning staff time, meeting logistics | City of Pula Budget, Istarska County |
| | | Do presentation in schools | Q2 2025 | Pula Schools | Health Life Academy | Pupils, teachers | Completion report of school presentations | High pre-registration/participation rate for the main event | Communication staff, presentation materials | City of Pula Budget, Erasmus+ (for non-formal education/sport content) |
| | | Organize the main Big Sport Test Event | May 2025 | Marsovo polje | City Dept. for Social Activities, Sports, and Youth | 10-18 y.o. pupils, families, ULG | 1 large inclusive sport event, 500+ participants | Enhanced inclusion, testing Marsovo polje as a future recreational zone | Equipment, venue logistics, event staff, promotion | Ministry of Sport and Tourism (<i>Nacionalni program športa</i>), City of Pula Budget |

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|---|--|--|---------|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| Functionality, Accessibility, and Sustainability of Infrastructure | Infrastructure Audit & Design Implementation | Conduct spatial mapping and infrastructure audits (including universal design check) | Q1 2025 | Underutilized areas (Valica, Marsovo polje) | City Dept. for Urban Planning & Development | Technical experts, accessibility specialists | Audits completed with recommendations | Informed and compliant renovation plans | Technical staff time, specialist consultant fees | City of Pula Budget, ERDF (preparatory phase) |
| | | Develop renovation plans with universal design and mixed-use functions | Q2 2025 | City Hall | City Dept. for Urban Planning & Development | Youth co-design participants, relevant City departments | Two full renovation plans (Valica and Marsovo polje) | Approved, universally accessible, and youth-friendly designs | Design software, specialist consulting | City of Pula Budget, Istarska County |
| | | Establish a co-management model pilot for site maintenance | Q3 2025 | City Hall / Hub Sites | City Dept. for Social Activities, Sports, and Youth | Youth organizations, local stakeholders, Communal Services | Co-management agreement established and signed | Sustainable maintenance and long-term site stewardship | Legal staff time, training materials | City of Pula Budget |

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| Management | Act M.1 – Coordination and Monitoring | Monthly URBACT Local Group (ULG) meetings | Ongoing 2025–2026 | City Hall / Online | City Dept. for Social Activities, Sports, and Youth | All partners | 9 coordination meetings, 2 progress reports | Efficient management and transparency | Staff time, meeting logistics, reporting tools | URBACT + City of Pula Budget |
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ANNEXES

Given the overall vision and objectives outlined in this document, the members of the ULG group have decided to implement four local testing actions as part of the URBACT Re-Gen project. These actions are:

1. Rojc Walk
2. Tactical Urbanism
3. Big Sport Event

1. Rojc walk



Considering a potential testing area, the city is contemplating the ROJC park as an ideal location to implement the Urban Sport Hub concept. This area, long neglected and underused, stands as a prime candidate to align with the initiative's objectives. Spanning substantial green spaces, sports fields, and currently undeveloped areas within the Community Center Rojc, the park offers the perfect canvas for this trial. Despite its potential, the ROJC park has suffered from degradation and underutilization. Pula seeks to rejuvenate this space by integrating sports facilities, recreational amenities, and community engagement initiatives. This transformation is aimed at demonstrating how neglected spaces can be reimagined into lively hubs that cater to diverse recreational needs while fostering inclusivity and vibrancy within the community. Pula intends to replicate the successful model of the Urban Sport Hub in other areas following the trial at the ROJC park. The aim is to showcase the effectiveness of this concept in revitalizing ignored spaces and encouraging community involvement. The transformation of the ROJC park into a vibrant hub will serve as a prototype for similar initiatives across various neighbourhoods in Pula, promoting an active lifestyle, social cohesion, and inclusivity in the city.

Description of the action: The activity consists of two parts. In the first part, students are introduced to Rojc, its role, and the plan for revitalizing its infrastructure. In the second part of the workshop, students design activities that could take place in and around Rojc, which they would like to participate in once Rojc is revitalized.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Specific challenge | To introduce young people with the potential of Rojc and Rojc park |
| What we want to test | The idea is to test the feasibility of the revitalization plan |
| Target groups | Elementary and high school pupils |
| Expected changes | Increased interest for Rojc and its surrounding |
| Tasks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact and invite pupils 2. Do a presentation about Rojc and the idea of its revitalization 3. Conduct a participatory workshop on how fill the infrastructure with the content |



2. Tactical Urbanism



The city of Pula has renovated the Valica sports playground, a space designated for children and youth that needs to be popularized. The goal of this activity is to develop a sense of ownership among young people towards the playground itself. The idea is to paint a section of the wall at the Valica playground with designs and styles that are appealing to the youth. In collaboration with teachers and civil society organizations, young people will not only paint the wall but also learn about mechanisms for further developing the playground according to their preferences. Through the implementation of the Re-Gen project, funds will be allocated for painting one wall, while students will be introduced to various fundraising mechanisms and project organization techniques to complete the work. This approach aims to sustain young people's interest and encourage them to actively use the playground.

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| Specific challenge | To develop ownership and support active engagement of young people in sport structure development |
| What we want to test | The idea is to test the interest of young people for the further development of the sport infrastructure |
| Target groups | High school pupils |
| Expected changes | Increased interest for development of the sport infrastructure |
| Tasks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact and invite pupils 2. Develop a plan for painting a section of the wall 3. Paint a part of the wall 4. Conduct a participatory workshop mechanism for finishing the development of Valica |



3. Big sport event



A major sports event, “Small Sports for Big Achievements,” was held on 12 May 2025 at Marsovo polje in Pula. Inspired by the success of “Little Superheroes,” the event brought together 220 pupils from 5th to 8th grade with the aim of promoting healthy lifestyles and active use of public spaces. Throughout the day, participants developed physical and mental skills on a nine-obstacle course featuring activities such as horizontal climbing and javelin throwing, and they had the opportunity to try lesser-known sports including archery, kendo, and breakdance.

A strong emphasis was placed on inclusion and gender equality. The competition was opened by pupils from the School for Upbringing and Education, and the Athletic Club for Persons with Disabilities Spektar Pula held a hammer-throwing demonstration. These activities helped break down prejudices and sent a clear message about the importance of solidarity and equal opportunities for all children, regardless of their abilities. In a supportive environment that highlighted community regeneration, top competitors received medals and Decathlon vouchers in recognition of their effort and sportsmanship.

The event was therefore not only a sports competition, but also a platform reflecting the values of the Re-Gen project, emphasising social inclusion, healthy habits, and the creation of activities that contribute to the well-being of young participants in revitalised urban spaces.

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Specific challenge | To promote small sports among Pula's pupils |
| What we want to test | The idea is to test the interest of young people for small sports |
| Target groups | Elementary and high school pupils |
| Expected changes | Increased interest for small sports |
| Tasks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact and invite pupils 2. Develop a plan for presenting small sports 3. Do presentation in schools |



Hackathon



On Friday, April 25, 2025, the City of Pula successfully hosted an intensive, one-day Hackathon at the newly inaugurated Youth Center Pula. The event brought together approximately thirty highly motivated high school students from Pula, divided into six teams, to develop innovative solutions for urban regeneration, with a specific focus on the Busoler zone.

The Hackathon was designed to actively involve young people in the spatial planning process through fieldwork, needs research, and the creation of conceptual solutions rooted in the principles of social inclusion, healthy lifestyles, and sustainable urban development. Participants, supported by dedicated mentors and experts from various fields, focused on designing a multifunctional public space that meets the current needs of young people, encourages physical activity and social inclusion, functions effectively throughout the entire year, and adheres to the principles of sustainable urban renewal.

Creativity, strong team spirit, and a focus on practical ideas characterized the entire day. The conceptual outcomes of this workshop will serve as a valuable foundation for the further elaboration of project tasks within the Integrative Action Plan (IAP) and will directly inform the development of future urban sports centers in Pula. Specifically, the student proposals directly contribute to Specific Objective 3 (Infrastructure, Accessibility, and Sustainability) by providing co-design input for Act 3.1 (Infrastructure Audit & Design Implementation) and validating the participatory approach outlined in Strategic Objective 1 (Engaging & Accessible Public Space).

At the conclusion of the event, the top teams were announced in recognition of their efforts: 1st Place was awarded to the team “Le cinque fiere” from the Italian Secondary School “Dante Alighieri,” and 2nd Place went to the team “USUUC” from Pula Gymnasium. The winning teams were presented with Decathlon gift vouchers. The Department for Urban Planning, Investments, and Development Projects confirms that the most compelling youth-driven ideas from the winning teams, “Le cinque fiere” and “USUUC”, are actively being implemented as concrete tasks within the Integrative Action Plan and will inform the city's long-term sustainability strategy for public space management.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Specific challenge | To collect youngsters' idea for the process of urban regeneration of Busoler zone |
| What we want to test | Idea is to invlolve young people in the process of urban planning |
| Target groups | High-school pupils |
| Expected change | To increase pupils' interest for public spaces |
| Tasks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact and invite pupils 2. Present them rules of Hackathon 3. Divide them in teams 4. Present the results 5. Give awards and feedback |

