

URBACT



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GreenPlace

Let's do it together!

Green revitalisation for and with people
A network journey : June 2023 – December 2025

Green revitalisation for and with people

Each and every one of the nine partners in the GreenPlace network had an abandoned or unused space or buildings.

Nobody was taking care of these places; as such they were becoming derelict, sometimes dangerous, and disconnected from local history.

They therefore decided to make a change and join the URBACT GreenPlace network.

They started talking to people and asking about their needs, ideas, and wishes.

They tried things: some of which failed, some of which succeeded. That built their experience.

They learnt from each other, from other cities, from residents, and other stakeholders. And they learnt to do things differently.

Now they can make a change together, and they have Integrated Action Plans to bring their forgotten places to life again!



*Click on the picture to discover
the GreenPlace approach!*

The GreenPlace network

From July 2023 till December 2025, the nine partners of the GreenPlace URBACT network developed series of activities for "recycling" unused urban areas, using social participation tools and greenery as a key factor in limiting climate change in urban areas.

Then network was led by the City of Wrocław (Poland) and was composed of 8 Project Partners:

- Boulogne-sur-mer Développement Côte d'Opale - France
- Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association - Romania
- Limerick - Ireland
- Löbau - Germany
- Nitra - Slovakia
- Onda - Spain
- Quarto d'Altino - Italy
- Vila Nova de Poiares - Portugal



Click on the pictures to find out more about the GreenPlace network!

Political commitment

On 14 May 2025, elected representatives from the GreenPlace network committed themselves to further pursue their actions in this regard, and in particular to:

- Consider revitalisation as a priority, envisaging green solutions—be they in terms of Nature-Based Solutions, Circular Economy (and energy), or Cultural Heritage;
- Ensure that residents and users are taken into consideration throughout the entire development of local projects;
- In relation to this, create local groups, based on URBACT Local Groups or newly created ones, to become key partners in the implementation of the solutions; and
- Ensure regular monitoring, feedback, evaluation, and readjustment of the solutions.



Click on the picture to read the full commitment!

Five topics at the core of GreenPlace

GreenPlace exchanged practices on five topics that correspond to the core of activities that could be undertaken on the Project Partners' sites. These resulted in Inspiring Practices Fiches which can now be consulted by all interested parties!

Circular cities

These are all the opportunities to improve efficiency and environmental impact by embedding circular economy principles in the urban context, rethinking every element of urban living and one of the circular city application concerns the re-use of buildings and spaces



Nature-Based Solutions and Green Infrastructure

These are solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social, and economic benefits, and help build resilience. These are also strategically planned networks of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity



Cultural heritage as a resource

Such solutions approach urban Cultural Heritage and urban cultural identities consciously, effectively, and in an integrated manner, which can in turn help to improve urban sustainable growth policies



Governance

These are all the modalities, policies, strategies, and stakeholder groups which enable the implementation of green revitalisation solutions



Community Engagement

Such solutions seek to bring citizens and residents on board green revitalisation by informing them, co-creating with them, empowering them, or even delegating some tasks to them



Click on the individual covers to deep dive into the Inspiring Practices!

GreenPlace Integrated Action Plans

Each partner focused on a specific abandoned or forgotten area or building. Their integrated Action Plans reflect the strategy they will implement to bring them back to life.

Abandoned buildings

Noodle Factory
Löabu, Germany



Civic Centre
Quarto d'Altino, Italy



Unused green areas

Medieval Wall
Limerick, Ireland



Green Zone
Vila Nova de Poiares



Forgotten buildings

Former Tram Depot Popowice
Wroclaw, Poland



Victorei Tram Depot
Bucharest, Romania



Unused built areas

Green Lung
Onda, Spain



Station-Bréquerecque area
Boulogne-sur-mer



Martin's hills
Nitra



Click on the individual covers to learn from the Integrated Action Plans!

Learning by doing

During the GreenPlace network, the partners carried out various activities in order to: analyse the state of the art, give visibility to their sites, remember local history, engage the community, collect needs & feedback, co-create with the general public, co-create with their ULG members, work with students, test uses, and implement green solutions.

This led to Inspiring Action Fiches, which can inspire any other city or stakeholder to carry out such actions/testing activities!



*Click on the picture to embrace
the Inspiring Actions!*

Recommendations

A handbook was developed under the URBACT GreenPlace Network to serve 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. The network’s experience analysis led to seven recommendations:

- 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 revitalisation 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.



Click on the picture to flip through the Handbook!



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