

Urban spaces – enhancing the attractiveness and quality
of the urban environment

WP3 Joint Strategy

Activity 3.1.2 Preliminary Analysis

**identification of gaps and opportunities in relation to the most
relevant European policies in the field of urban planning**

Elaborated by:

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Process of creating good urban open spaces

What makes a good process?

A good planning process will be well structured, transparent and will seek to involve all interested parties.

Good process depends of corresponding levels of information on the part of the actors involved:

1 Awareness of previous European projects in the field of urban open space planning

In recent years the European Union has commissioned a number of projects relating to urban green and open space issues. In the questionnaire developed by the University of Technology in Vienna we asked all participating partners how much they are aware of the most important European regulations, projects and laws concerning urban green and open space and how much they influence their daily working processes and outputs. We also asked them for any other relevant European funded research or cooperation projects in the field of urban open space, green space planning they know.

We have collected the answers and now present a short summary for each European project.

1.1 Recent EU Projects

1.1.1 BUGS – Benefits of urban green space

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

<http://www.vito.be/bugs>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi,
- Ekopolis,
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences,
- Nagykallo,
- Brno,
- Brzeg Dolny,
- Legambiente Lombardia,
- RiSSC and
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien,
- REC Slovakia and
- LaMoRo



Influence on recent urban open space planning work reported by:

- La.Mo.Ro.:
BUGS results and project issue are very interesting in implementing our activities. They have been used as guidelines and best practices also to the municipalities belonging to LaMoRo network.

1.1.2 GREENSCOM – Communicating urban growth and green: assessment of planning concepts and policy instruments for sustainable development of the urban landscape

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

<http://www.greenscom.com>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi,
- Ekopolis,
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences,
- Nagykallo,
- Brno,
- Brzeg Dolny,
- Legambiente Lombardia,
- RiSSC and
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien,
- REC Slovakia,
- LaMoRo

Influence on recent urban open space planning work was reported by:

- no partner

1.1.3 RUROS – Rediscovering the Urban Realm and open Spaces

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

<http://alpha.cres.gr/ruros>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi,
- Ekopolis,
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences,

- Nagykallo,
- Brno,
- Brzeg Dolny,
- Legambiente Lombardia,
- RiSSC and
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien,
- REC Slovakia,
- LaMoRo

Influence on recent urban open space planning work was reported by:

- no partner.

1.1.4 GREENSPACE – The contribution of urban green space to quality of life

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

<http://www.green-space.org>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi ,
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences,
- Nagykallo,
- Brno,
- Brzeg Dolny,
- Legambiente Lombardia,
- RiSSC and
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien,
- REC Slovakia,
- Ekopolis,
- LaMoRo

Influence on recent urban open space planning work was reported by:

- no partner.



1.1.5 URGE – Development of urban green Spaces to improve the quality of life in cities and urban regions

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

<http://www.urge-project.ufz.de>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi,
- Ekopolis,
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences,
- Nagykallo,
- Brno,
- Brzeg Dolny,
- LaMoRo,
- Legambiente
- Lombardia,
- RiSSC and
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien and
- REC Slovakia

Influence on recent urban open space planning work was reported by:

- no partner.

1.1.6 Neighbourhoods

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

<http://www.sl.kvl.dk/euforic/nbw.htm>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi,
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences,
- REC Slovakia,
- Nagykallo,
- Brno,
- Brzeg Dolny,
- Legambiente Lombardia,
- RiSSC,
- Ekopolis and
- Sopot



Aware of this project and its outcomes were 2 partners:

- TU Wien,
- LaMoRo

Influence on recent urban open space planning work was reported by:

- no partner.

1.1.7 SAUL – Sustainable and Accessible Urban Landscape

(INTERREG)

<http://www.saulproject.net/>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi ,
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences,
- REC Slovakia,
- Nagykallo,
- Brno,
- Brzeg Dolny,
- Legambiente Lombardia,
- RiSSC,
- Ekopolis,
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien
- LaMoRo

Influence on recent urban open space planning work:

- No partner

1.1.8 GREENKEYS – URBAN GREEN SPACES - a key for sustainable cities

(INTERREG)

<http://www.greenkeys-project.net>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences
- Nagykallo
- Brno
- Brzeg Dolny

- LaMoRo
- Legambiente Lombardia
- RiSSC
- Ekopolis
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien
- REC Slovakia

Influence on recent urban open space planning work:

- No partner

1.1.9 Sustainable Open Space

(INTERREG IIIb North West Europe)

<http://www.sos-project.org/>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences
- REC Slovakia
- Nagykallo
- Brno
- Brzeg Dolny
- LaMoRo
- Legambiente Lombardia
- RiSSC
- Ekopolis
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien

Influence on recent urban open space planning work:

- No partner

1.1.10 C11 Green Structure and Urban Planning

COST Action

<http://www.map21ltd.com/COSTC11/>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences
- Nagykallo
- Brno
- Brzeg Dolny
- LaMoRo
- Legambiente Lombardia
- RiSSC
- Ekopolis
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien
- REC Slovakia

Influence on recent urban open space planning work:

- REC: Increased theoretical knowledge of green space functions

1.1.11 E12 Urban Forests and Trees

COST Action

<http://www.sl.kvl.dk/euforic/research.htm>

Not aware of this project and its outcomes:

- Nadace Partnerstvi
- Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences
- REC Slovakia
- Nagykallo
- Brno
- Brzeg Dolny
- LaMoRo
- Legambiente Lombardia
- RiSSC
- Ekopolis
- Sopot

Aware of this project and its outcomes:

- TU Wien

Influence on recent urban open space planning work:

- No partner

1.2 Other relevant European funded research or cooperation projects

The following European funded research and cooperation projects were named by the Project Partners. See appendix for more details of these projects.

1.2.1 Green Belt Europe

Was named by Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences

1.2.2 APaNGO: Advocacy, Participation and NGOs in Planning,

An INTERREG IIIB-Project, was named by REC Slovakia. Website: www.APaNGO.eu

1.2.3 ASCCUE – Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change in Urban Environment

A project by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, was named by REC Slovakia.

1.2.4 CRII – Cities Regain Identity and Image

An INTERREG IIIB project, was named by REC Slovakia

1.2.5 European Capital of Biodiversity

A LIFE+ project, was named by REC Slovakia

1.2.6 Moland – Urban Environment Project

Was named by REC Slovakia. Website: www.uep.ie/index.html

1.2.7 SUN Project

A LIFE project (www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1808), was named by REC Slovakia.

1.2.8 1.2.8 Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns

An INTERREG IVc Project (www.grabs-eu-org), was named by REC Slovakia.

1.2.9 CABE Project

CABE is the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space (www.cabe.org.uk) and was named by Ekopolis.

1.2.10 Community Planning

www.communityplanning.net, was named by Ekopolis.

1.2.11 Nickwates Project

<http://www.nickwates.co.uk/>, was named by Ekopolis.

2 Introduction to, and overview of, the case study projects

The purpose of asking project partners to supply brief information on up to three case study projects was in order to provide some concrete examples on the basis of which to respond to questions about the effectiveness of the planning, design and management process.

2.1.1 Project 1 REC-SK: URBEKO – Sustainable development of towns and reduction of the negative effects of climate changes on the quality of life and the environmental conditions in the cities

The project aimed at:

- The modification/innovation of the existing sustainable development (SD) urban indicators to Slovak urban conditions and its concrete testing in 10 Slovak cities
- The comparative analyses of sustainable development progress of 10 cities in Slovakia (based on the results from the evaluation through the new set of indicators) - suggestion of future development of these Slovak cities and measures to be taken;
- The design of a new and innovative ecological footprint calculation methodology reflecting urban ecological stability to mitigate climate change and global warming impacts in urban areas, along with the practical planting project

2.1.2 Project 2 REC-SK: Support of cross boundary development between Devin and Hainburg with pilot project of the walking zone revitalization and the pilot realization of the adjacent natural floodplain park “Bratislavske luhy”.

The principal project aim was the support of the development of economic potential of the border region by improving the conditions for cross-border tourism. The concrete activities:

- Working out the territorial study of the zone in Bratislava-Devín - Slovanské nábřežie
- Pilot project implementation in the walking zone revitalization
- The pilot implementation of the adjacent natural floodplain park “Bratislavske luhy”.

2.1.3 Project 3 REC-SK Park network „The great gardens under Enns“ and “The small Roman park in Rusovce”

We have chosen 2 projects in the same location (Bratislava Rusovce):

- Park network „The great gardens under Enns“– historical parks in border area Austria – Slovakia
- The small Roman park in Rusovce – implementation

The aim of the first mentioned project was to build a cross-border, functional, partnership network of historical parks in the region (working out a plan of management, maintenance of areas by the walkways, establishing a tourist infrastructure)

The aim of the second mentioned project was the creation of the new open public space with the method of participatory planning with local inhabitants.

For more information visit: www.rusovskypark.sk

2.1.4 Project 1 Ekopolis-SK: Žilina city (2005) - The Public Library

An unused space behind the public library turned to an open air reading park.

The City of Žilina is situated in the north of Slovakia; it is a centre of the region, number of citizens: 85 000.

The regional Public Library is situated in the broader centre of the city near a residential part with blocks of flats. The employees of the library together with the area ´s citizens decided to give new purpose to the space – pleasant park to relax in, or to organize summer reading there. In coordination with the Public Spaces Methodology they organized planning meeting and inquiry and on the base of public opinions they created new path, planted greenery, placed new benches and wooden installations.

2.1.5 Project 2 Ekopolis-SK: City of Banská Bystrica (2008) - Space for us – neighbourhood people

Renovation of the public space with grey concrete panels to a place for neighbourhood meetings and a playground.

Banská Bystrica city is situated in the Central Slovakia, 85 000 citizens. The citizens decided to renew the space among blocks of flats used as a children's playground to serve other public groups. After planning phase with the inquiry and meetings, there was a plan of reconstruction elaborated. The first part of the plan was realised. The citizens renewed and supplied the children's zone and grey concretes in the centre of the space were painted and nicely decorated.

2.1.6 Project 3 Ekopolis-SK: Stakčínska Rostoka (2007)

A place in the middle of the village near the school was transformed into a space with zones for various public groups.

Stakčínska Rostoka is a settlement with 350 inhabitants in the Snina region of Slovakia. The region is located in the north-eastern corner of the country. The project started with an initiative of two young women from the village. The initiators discussed their idea with other stakeholders and an architect, and asked Ekopolis Foundation for support. Later on, the "core team" focused on building partnerships with the local school (teachers, parents and children), the local government and local businesses. They collected ideas about the possible use of the space, and assured additional financial and in-kind support for the project. For designing the public space two meetings were organised. Both were led by an experienced facilitator. During the first meeting a mutual agreement was achieved about the purpose of the square and about the objects that should be placed there. Then, the architect developed a visual model, and the core group gathered opinions of other stakeholders about it. During the second meeting the plan was finalised, and the participants agreed on how to implement it. The new public space was constructed with the participation of volunteers. At the end of the project the new square was opened with a celebration.

2.1.7 Project 1 NP-CZ: Hradec Kralove, Benesova - revitalization of a large housing estate

To prevent future possible big social problems, the city started revitalization process of residential area built in 30 years ago. Participation of local community was essential part of the project from its beginning. Pilot low cost improvements were proposed and selected during first phase. Existing under-used area was turned into simple recreation area and existing playground was improved by addition of new amenities.

2.1.8 Project 2 NP-CZ: Prague 12, Otava Centre – redesigning of a neighbourhood central public space

Due to heritage of socialist economy of previous era the city management inherited public spaces of low quality. City district of Prague 12 was granted by Partnership Foundation to improve a neighbourhood central public space in residential area on the outskirts of Prague. Partnership foundation led the design process and communication with local community.

2.1.9 Project 3 NP-CZ: Svitavy - Lačnov - Open garden: Renovation of school garden and opening to public users.

Teachers and parents connected to a small primary school situated in a part of the city Svitavy with lot of underprivileged families and Romany children decided to turn existing school outdoor space into welcoming and public garden with equipment for a children play and cultural events. Their aim was to change the place as an open space, as a community garden, as a safe and attractive playground, to involve parents of children and other locals and to improve the image of the school as an open and friendly institution. This project showed that participatory creation of a public place can help in passing social barriers and getting new vision of education and public life.

2.1.10 Project 1 Brno-CZ: Sports and recreational grounds “Pod Plachtami”

The grounds are located on the western rim of a concrete block of housing neighbourhood named “Kamenný Vrch”. During the construction period of the urbanization the grounds served as construction base and were not properly re-cultivated afterwards and no proper landscaping was carried through.

The area could have been characterized as a brownfield causing negative impacts on the life quality of the inhabitants of the city district.

An “architecture-urbanistic study” has been worked out which served as a basis for submitting of application for area change of use within the town plan in 2003. The change in use of the plot has been granted and the grounds are being remodelled accordingly since. The city district has begun to reshape the terrain, has constructed sports pitches (baseball, soccer, cycle-trial circle, all from its core investment financial sources. In the present the sports ground is open to general public. In 2006 a fenced dog area was constructed.

A public action “Plant your tree” meant the start of a tree planting program for the grounds (according to a landscape project for an adjacent green park). In 2006 an 800m tarmac inline skating circuit was also constructed as well as children under 8yo play area. This was followed in 2007 by a play area for children over 12yo and a climbing rock for teens and adults. In the same year public lighting was added and the sports pitches were connected to water and electricity infrastructure. The city district is also managing the complete maintenance care of the grounds.

A planned green facility - a park - forms a part of the developments strategy of community sports and recreational grounds and the project documentation is completed. The park will consist of a water basin in the central part with its source of water being the rain sewage from the adjacent buildings. A wooden bridge-path cuts across the basin, which in itself is designed in such a way as to provide enough variety of water and marshland animal and plant life habitat. A walkway, a wooden seated amphitheatre, a green roof leisure structure and a dog area will also form part of the future park. An informative and educational path will form an integral part of the park. The whole will be completed with numerous trees and other green features in order to supply the inhabitants with a pleasant and relaxing natural environment.

“Park pod Plachtami” is a public open space. From the beginning of the planning process we have taken public participation as an important factor in influencing the decision process. The park, even if not yet completed, has already now all the characteristics of a well planned public space and is being used in great numbers by the public.

2.1.11 Project 1 Sopot-PL: Revitalization of the Northern Park

Modernization and build a new path and cycle road inside the Park located in the centre of the city with the small architecture infrastructure.

2.1.12 Project 1 Brzeg Dolny-PL: Renovation of local roads and pavements of Brzeg Dolny’s Old Town in historical style after the flood in ‘97

Project dealt with renovation of flooded regions of Old Town in Brzeg Dolny. Local roads and sidewalks were rebuilt after the “flood of the century” in 1997 in historical style thanks to usage of cobblestones and granite.

2.1.13 Project 2 Brzeg Dolny-PL: Building a recreational-rest park in Warzyń settlement in Brzeg Dolny

Project (still being carried out) deals with quite big untamed area between blocks of flats in Warzyń settlement in Brzeg Dolny. Park is divided into 3 areas – play&fun for youngest children, play&fun for older ones and “laid back” area (with a fountain) for everyone, especially older people.



2.1.14 Project 3 Brzeg Dolny-PL: Modernisation of local roads: Wyszynskiego, Wilcza, Ossolinskiego i Słowackiego in Brzeg Dolny.

Commonly called modernisation of Warzyń bypass

Local roads, forming so called Warzyń bypass are in a very bad state. Ad hoc modernisation stopped making any sense. Also since a lot more people these days possess and use cars safety issue started to make big difference. Full modernisation was needed with renovating streets, sidewalks and building new bicycle roads.

2.1.15 Project 1 Nagykallo-H: Construction of a bicycle road to from Nagykallo to Nagykallo Birke Farm

Nagykallo submitted a successful application to a European Union grant to build a new bicycle road which leads from Nagykallo to Nagykallo Birke Farm which is a periphery of the town of Nagykallo. The aim of the construction of the bicycle road was to improve the quality of life of the citizens and to reduce the number of bicycle accidents. The bicycle road is a 1310 m long and 2 m wide asphalt road between the town and its periphery. The bicycle road is used frequently for free time and sports purposes also by the citizens of Birke Farm. As a follow up project the employers of the Municipality of Nagykallo planted 40 pieces of tree along the bicycle road on the Day of Earth 22 April 2009.

2.1.16 Project 2 Nagykallo-H: Construction of an out door swimming pool football and volleyball playa at Nagykallo out door swimming pool

There is a huge number of dead square in the Nagykallo open air swimming pool. The out door swimming pool football and volleyball playa was planned to some of that kind of dead squares for which the Ministry of the Municipalities gave almost 2 million HUF not paying back money support. The aim of this development is to make our citizens spend more time in out door nature and to create the basis for cultural sports possibilities.



2.1.17 Project 3 Nagykallo-H: Open door facilities at Nagykallo out door swimming pool

This program was a low-budget one, but it was of great importance in community forming. The program is organized in every year by the support of the municipality and civil societies. Free of charge sports programmes are insured for the citizens at each sport institute in the town. At the out door swimming pool the people of Nagykallo can use the swimming pool free of charge in the morning and in the afternoon. There was a possibility for having free of charge swimming lessons and sports doctor services and at the end of the day a swimming competition was organized with several prizes by categories. There were other sports facilities also such as badminton, foot tennis, volleyball and the sports fitting were provided by the municipality.

2.1.18 Project 1 TU Wien-AT: Kalvarienberg Square in Eisenstadt

Redesign of Kalvarienberg Square in the capital of the Province of Burgenland

2.1.19 Project 2 TU Wien-AT : MOLLN, Upper Austria – New Town Centre

From March 20 to 23, 2006 the architects of „noncon:form vor Ort“ carried out a workshop in Molln, upper Austria. The goal of the workshop was creating ideas of how to reinvent the village centre as a living and loved centre for the inhabitants of Molln. The village authorities have planned to build a community centre and a music school in this area and therefore invited all the local dwellers, local politicians and external experts to talk and create the “Zentrum von Molln 2015”.

2.1.20 Project 1 FH Erfurt: Barrier-free Garden Show 2007 – Analysis of advantages/disadvantages and options for changes

The first Horticultural Show (BUGA) in Thuringia was also the first show that was hosted by two cities – Gera and Ronneburg. The BUGA-area consisted of the two exhibition areas: Hofwiesenpark Gera with ca. 30 ha exhibition area and Neue Landschaft Ronneburg with ca. 60 ha exhibition area. Between these two areas



scheduled shuttle buses went back and forth. The BUGA opened up on April 27th of 2007 and was open 171 days altogether, until October 14th of 2007.

In the course of the preparations for the BUGA 2007, the barrier-freedom of the BUGA was questioned in the press multiple times. In order to make discussions more factual and to obtain a scientific assessment on the actual conditions of the BUGA, the official representative for people with disabilities assigned the Transport and Spatial Planning Institute a science-based expertise on the accessibility and usability of the BUGA-area. Regarding gapless mobility, basic access points to the BUGA were analysed. In addition to that, the expertise proposed optional solutions regarding the usability of the BUGA for everyone. These recommendations were discussed with the Horticultural Show Gera und Ronneburg 2007 GmbH. Measures to optimise barrier-freedom were agreed on.

2.1.21 Project 2 FH-Erfurt: GREEN BELT - Protection and Valorisation of the Landscapes along the former "Iron Curtain", Working Package 2: Sensitive traffic development: Feasibility study and pilot projects

Along the former „Iron Curtain“, unique natural and cultural landscapes have been preserved. The GREEN BELT project aimed at the protection of this longest system of habitats in Europe by the sensitive valorisation of its natural and cultural heritage. The Transport and Spatial Planning Institute was Lead Partner of Working Package 2 "Sensitive traffic development". This included the creation of a feasibility study with a set of criteria for trans-border Public Transport, bike paths and hiking trails along and crossing the GREEN BELT. At all levels the concepts of Accessibility for All and Ecotourism have to be considered.

2.1.22 Project 3 FH-Erfurt: OpenSpace - Development and testing of a computer-based planning handbook - identification, assessment and design of free-space-based barrier-free tourism products

The aim of the project was to develop a procedure for evaluation of the free space for use also for people with disabilities and the development of design recommendations.

2.1.23 Project 1 Legambiente Lombardia-I: RETENATURA

RETENATURA is a network of naturalistic areas managed by Legambiente local groups. Its mission is to improve and maintain naturalistic environments in Lombardy, with support from organized voluntary work.

The general aim of the RETENATURA system of Legambiente is that of involving local citizens and volunteers in reclaiming the countryside, especially that of special interest. Some of those areas, despite their natural beauty and heritage, have been abandoned and left to fall into a state of decay. www.retenatura.it

2.1.24 Project 1 RISSC-I: The impact of urban planning in the prevention of crime

EU funded project under the Urb-AL programme (external cooperation between Europe and Latin America)

This project was aimed at improving crime prevention strategies, achieved through urban planning and the use of technology, adopted in cities of Europe and Latin America. The improvement is reached through the achievement of major knowledge and awareness on the issues related to the project themes, the impact evaluation of existing crime prevention initiatives, the finding out of best practices in the field and the exchange of information among Local Authority officers, who are the target of the project.

The project main foreseen activities were: a phase of learning (research and data collection), a phase of evaluation (data analysis and on-site mutual evaluation) and a

phase of training and dissemination of the results (training seminars, conferences, mainstreaming), with the involvement of all partners of the project.

The project has produced a manual for local planners containing guidelines, based on CPTED principles, for designing and maintaining public spaces.

RELEVANCE FOR URBSPACES?

Researchers evaluated urban open spaces where renewal actions have been implemented (before the project itself) in Buenos Aires, Lima, and Santiago (Chile). We have: collected visual information (pictures) on the places before and after, interviewed stakeholders; made on-site assessment (day and night visits) by filling a safety perception questionnaire.

According to the results, we have elaborated the manual.

2.1.25 Project 2 RISSC-I: Good neighbours – European Cities exchange Good Practices on Crime Prevention

EU funded project under the AGIS programme (prevention of crime).

The AGIS project “European Cities Share Urban Crime Prevention Policies”, in short “Good Neighbours, was developed by the Province of Padova, RiSSC – Research Centre on Security and Crime, the Metropolitan Police Service, POASY – Pan-Hellenic Federation of Police, and the Law Institute of Lithuania, from October 2005 in two years time.

The problem addressed by the project is that many European cities are affected by problems of urban crime and citizens’ insecurity, influenced by modern menaces (economic crisis, poverty, social conflicts, terrorism) and negative behaviours (lack of confidence to the police, anxiety created by the media, fear for privacy issues).

In some cities and regions there have been positive experiences of prevention or reduction of crime, which need to be shared across Europe, and strategic factors of success need to be studied.

The training and exchange of information and experiences among local “security actors”, by meeting “colleagues” of other cities, analyses of different contexts and exploration and knowledge, also physically, of problems and solutions of each city, can help the management of these problems.

The project objective is to contribute to increase capacities of local actors¹ dealing with urban safety, by exchanging successful experiences in partner cities, training local officials and officers and building a modern preventive strategy to be shared among European cities affected by urban crime problems. As good neighbours (here is the title), cities across Europe must help one each other in dealing with their problems of urban crime and insecurity.

2.1.26 Project 1 LaMoRo-I: "Protection system of environment and Mediterranean cultural heritage, threatened by the urban and economic pressure"-Years 2005-2007 – SPACE

The aim of the project was to create a monitoring model for urban planning, environmental, cultural and economic control of a few Western Mediterranean spaces, with a special attention to the environmental aspect. The project aimed at strengthening the integration between Sustainable Development and Quality Tourism.

This project aimed at the elaboration of a sustainable spatial development model of the Mediterranean area: the study takes into account the cultural and natural heritage, having the goal to increase economic competitiveness, i.e. the surplus value of the tourist activity.

2.1.27 Project 2 LaMoRo-I: "Rural Med – Permanent table of discussion and network of centres for the development of rural areas" Years 2003 – 2004

The project promoted the creation of RURAL-MED, a network for the exchange of experiences and specific initiatives concerning rural development. Regions from the North (France, Italy, Portugal and Spain) and the South (Algeria, Morocco) of the Mediterranean Sea are involved.

The network aimed at promoting and optimizing the rural development processes in the West Mediterranean Area thanks to a continuous exchange of experiences and good practices, the implementation of vocational training and information program as well as the realisation of common actions.

2.1.28 Project 3 LaMoRo-I: “Gender Alp!- Territorial development for men and women” -Years 2004-2007

The aim of the project was to integrate gender mainstreaming in territorial decisions and policies through cooperation among the European Countries by translating the gender mainstreaming into practical public administration’s decisions, by educating public administrators in taking right decisions which include equal opportunities and by the employment of the gender budgeting tool to allow an equilibrate allocation of resources between men and women.



3 Main issues involved

The information reported in this chapter relates to a general ‘scoping’ exercise which involved asking all project partners to rank six key open space planning issues relating to the projects which they presented on a five point scale from ‘very important’ to ‘not important at all’.

The six issues selected for this question related directly to the six themes of the six thematic papers to be prepared during the coming phase of the project: Environment, Public participation, Safety and security, Gender issues, Accessibility and Design quality was also possible to mention further issues which might have been important for the projects selected.

Issue	Very important	Quite important	Not important very	Not important at all	Projects total
The environment	10	12	5	1	28
Public participation	18	9	1		28
Safety and security	15	8	3	2	28
Gender issues	2	1	25		28
Accessibility	15	8	3	2	28
Design quality	12	16			28
Other issues (please specify)	Traffic Urban renewal Tourism Open for everyone, every age bracket	Ecology education Economic aspects			

Total number of projects named by the participating countries:

Slovakia: 9 / Germany: 3 / Austria: 2 / Hungary: 2 / Poland: 4 / Czech Republic: 1 / Italy: 6

4 Regulatory background

4.1 Functions of Urban Open Space

Understanding the varied functions of urban open spaces is an important part of helping to improve their effectiveness, both by enabling better management of existing urban spaces as well as improving the design of new ones.

There are many attempts to list these functions, but the following summary divides the functions up into three main groups:

Environmental and ecological functions include:

- Climatic amelioration
- Noise screening
- Influencing the hydrological cycle – storm water management
- Providing habitats for wild plants and animals

Social and societal functions include:

- Providing space and facilities for leisure and recreation
- Facilitating social contact and communication
- Access to and experience of nature
- Influencing human physical and psychological health and well-being

Structural and aesthetic functions include:

These functions are of central importance for people's perception of urban areas, but in most cases do not relate directly to the physical use of the open spaces in question.

- Articulating, dividing and linking areas of the urban fabric
- Improving the legibility of the city
- Establishing a sense of place
- Acting as a carrier of identity, meanings and values

In recent years the European Union has commissioned a number of projects relating to urban green and open space issues.

4.1.1 BUGS – Benefits of urban green space

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

From 13 partners – 3 partners (TU Wien, REC Slovakia, and LaMoRo) were aware of this project. In Italy they were used as guidelines and best practices also to the municipalities belonging to LaMoRo network.

4.1.2 GREENSCOM – Communicating urban growth and green: assessment of planning concepts and policy instruments for sustainable development of the urban landscape

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

From 13 partners – 3 partners (TU Wien, REC Slovakia, and LaMoRo) were aware of this project.

4.1.3 RUROS – Rediscovering the Urban Realm and open Spaces

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

From 13 partners – 3 partners (TU Wien, REC Slovakia, and LaMoRo) were aware of this project.

4.1.4 GREENSPACE – The contribution of urban green space to quality of life

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

From 13 partners – 4 partners (TU Wien, REC Slovakia, LaMoRo and Ekopolis Foundation) were aware of this project.

4.1.5 URGE – Development of urban green Spaces to improve the quality of life in cities and urban regions

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

From 13 partners – 2 partners (TU Wien, REC Slovakia).

4.1.6 Neighbourwoods

(EU 5th Framework Programme “City of Tomorrow”)

From 13 partners – 2 partners (TU Wien, LaMoRo) were aware of this project.

4.1.7 SAUL – Sustainable and Accessible Urban Landscape

From 13 partners – 2 partners (TU Wien, REC Slovakia) were aware of this project.

4.1.8 GREENKEYS – URBAN GREEN SPACES - a key for sustainable cities (INTERREG)

From 13 partners – 2 partners (TU Wien, LaMoRo) were aware of this project.

4.1.9 Sustainable Open Space (INTERREG IIIb North West Europe)

From 13 partners – 1 partner (TU Wien) was aware of this project.

4.1.10 C11 Green Structure and Urban Planning (COST Action)

From 13 partners – 2 partners (TU Wien, REC) were aware of this project and used the outputs and increased theoretical knowledge of green space functions.

4.1.11 E12 Urban Forests and Trees

From 13 partners – 1 partner (TU Wien) was aware of this project.

4.2 Other European funded research and cooperative projects:

There are also any other European funded research and cooperation projects in the field of urban open space, green space planning:

4.2.1 -Green Belt Europe

Named by Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences

4.2.2 -APaNGO: Advocacy, Participation and NGOs in Planning – INTERREG III B

Named by REC SLOVAKIA.

4.2.3 ASCCUE – Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change in Urban Environment

Named by REC Slovakia.

4.2.4 CRII – Cities Regain Identity and Image, INTERREG IIIB –

Named by REC SLOVAKIA)

4.2.5 European Capital of Biodiversity,

A LIFE + project, named by REC SLOVAKIA)

4.2.6 Moland – Urban Environment Project,

Named by REC SLOVAKIA)

4.2.7 SUN project,

A LIFE project, named by REC SLOVAKIA)

4.2.8 Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns,

An INTERREG IV C – Project, named by REC SLOVAKIA.

4.2.9 CABE Project,

Named by Ekopolis foundation

4.2.10 Community planning

Named by Ekopolis foundation

4.2.11 Nick Wates project

Named by Ekopolis foundation

5 Institutions and actors involved – Institutional framework, main actors and division of responsibilities for the various aspects of urban open space

The institutional framework depends on the administrative structure on the countries.

5.1 Institutions on NATIONAL LEVEL:

- Ministries (of i.e. transport, building, regional planning, environment, tourism, protection and territory)

5.2 Institutions on REGIONAL LEVEL:

- Self government offices – Regional offices (i.e. Slovakia, Czech Rep.)
- Regional ministry (i.e. Germany – Ministry of construction, land development and media, agriculture, nature and environment...)
- Special agencies (Italy – i.e. Regional Agency for environmental management)
- Regional Councils (IT)

5.3 Institution on LOCAL LEVEL:

- Municipality offices
- Special Departments



6 Summary of effectiveness of the projects and overall situation

6.1 Effectiveness of Specific projects

In part 2 of Work Package 3 Joint Strategy - Analysis and Clustering Working Paper 3.1.2 the partners supplied brief information on up to three case study projects and provide some concrete examples about the effectiveness of the planning, design and management process.

On the basis of this information the partners evaluated the relevance of the:

- Environmental criteria
- Public Participation criteria
- Safety and security criteria
- Gender issues
- Accessibility
- Design quality
- and other issues – traffic, urban renewal, tourism, accessibility, ecology education and economic aspects.

There was followed, that in the structure by issues the most important and quite important criteria for successful projects are environmental criteria, public participation criteria, accessibility and design quality.

6.2 Overall situation nationally

Urban open spaces – key problems of planning, management and protection

Lack of systemic approach to and coordination of documents on various levels in the area of „urban open spaces“

6.2.1 Creation of new public spaces

New public spaces are created only rarely. Particular developers plan and build mainly residential buildings. When, for example, new playgrounds for children are built, these

are located on private lands, serving to new houses, and access to them is strongly limited or even completely restricted.

At present there were a couple of regulators/standards (e.g. for creation of green areas in settlements) or, for example, standards for minimal infrastructure in municipalities (Slovakia and Czech Rep.), which contain categories dealing with parks on squares, however, this regulator does not apply directly to new residential areas, but only to the entire cities and towns. The standards for minimal infrastructure in municipality are used by some urban planners to create land-use plans of zones, but such an approach is rather exemption than a rule.

6.2.2 Conflicts of interests resulted from application of particular Acts

During reconstructions of open urban spaces – e.g. in central squares in Bratislava and Zvolen – green areas which had been built at the beginning of the 20th century are often destroyed and removed. As these sites are often protected from the cultural monument point of view, green areas are removed also due to this reason – there is an effort to reconstruct these historically valuable areas corresponding to original historic periods when these green areas had not been there.

6.2.3 Problem of design and maintenance of public spaces

Drafts of public spaces often reflect plans of a contracting authority without involving the future users. The issue of public spaces' maintenance is often insufficient not only from financial point of view but also from the point of view of using the newest knowledge in the area woody plant protection (arboriculture). There is monotonous flower planting, insufficient maintenance of movables (e.g. flower pots, etc.).

Concerns for potential injuries of users and high product certification costs (toy components for children) lead to unification in the use of movables.

6.2.4 Public participation

This area can be divided into public participation in land-use planning process and in decision making processes.

Public participation in decision-making processes – Slovakia has signed the Aarhus Convention (public participation in decision-making processes).

The amendment to the Act 543/2002 (as amended by the Act 454/2007) has changed the possibility for environmental associations to become full stakeholders in administrative procedures pursuant to this Act and pursuant to the Act 24/2006 on environmental impact assessment and pursuant to the Act 50/1976 (Building Act). The change of their position means that they are no more full stakeholders in administrative procedures but only participating persons who have no right to appeal against the decisions made by administrative authorities and do not have access to justice.

Public participation in procurement of land-use plans of a municipality or of a zone (i.e. land-use planning documentation)

The public should be informed from the very beginning on preparation of a new land-use plan. The concept is discussed at a public hearing. The public has a right to submit their comments to the draft of land-use planning documentation (this is often done only formally because the contracting authority procuring the plans in most cases does not take the comments submitted by the public into account). Comments and written positions submitted to the draft, which have not been taken into account, are negotiated again by the land-use planning authority with those who had submitted these comments and positions. In practice nothing shall change and the citizens concerned shall only receive information why their comments and positions have not been respected. That means that overall possibility to implement requirements of the public is very low.

Public participation in drafting, designing and reconstructing the public spaces

Drafts of public spaces designs often reflect plans of a contracting authority without involving the future users (local people) who are informed only about the final design. Methods of participatory planning are implemented very rarely, on smaller or marginal public spaces. Only a couple of projects are implemented by the Ekopolis Foundation (Slovakia) in the framework of the Priestory programme each year (www.priestory.sk), using participatory planning methods.

6.3 Interpretation and implementation of legislation, regulations and accountability in practice

1. Definition of open public place as written and understood in current legislation

In practice the interpretation is restricted to a public place such as an enclosed common area, publicly owned and maintained by the public. The definition itself does not state the obligations and rights; however it provides a distinct advancement by acknowledging the existence of open public places and

Stimulating the determination of limits and the accountability associated with urban open places.

2. Obscurity of the relationship of transportation and urban open areas

According to the principal definition, roads and areas used for motorized transportation are not included in open public places.

Also in accordance with Law No. 501/2006 Coll., which clarifies location and size of public areas, roads are explicitly not a part of open public places:

In the total area (of the publicly owned land), roads and areas designed for motor transportation and parking are not included.

However, the means of transportation have a crucial effect on the appearance and possibilities of the use of open public areas. Local road networks are owned and maintained by municipalities, whereas the maintenance of regional road systems falls within an administrative region. Because roads are not thought of as a part of publicly owned places, they are designed only as motorways. No motorized vehicles and pedestrians are perceived to have a marginal function in areas designated for motorized transportation. Therefore it is problematic to modify traffic in favour of pedestrians and public transport. The alternative approach to road networks as a „shared place“ are unfamiliar and nearly impossible to implement. For example, in cases where roads have been designated as residential, the rights of pedestrians and motorized vehicles are more equal.

3. The narrow definition of open public place does not account for landscape/undeveloped areas within a city

The concept of open public places, above all, is that its definition is limited to enclosed areas within the already developed city such as squares and parks, and potentially avenues. Only the developed areas are believed to be of urban value. Open landscape, including undeveloped area within the limits of city's land registry is not considered a part of the city or a public space.

Different institutions are responsible for protection of the landscape and of the environment; therefore the approach cannot be systematic. Only areas with a special degree of protection are systematically sheltered. Protection and the use of other green areas are determined in the municipal plan, which allows leeway for decisions made by local officials.

Other possible forms of the use of public lots (for example for community gardens) have not been thoroughly considered, because their social significance for further development of the community is undervalued. Established areas designated as gardening plots are even thought of as suitable areas for development in some cities.

4. Insufficient systematic protection of open landscape against urban sprawl.

From a planning perspective, the landscape surrounding cities and municipalities is viewed suitable for building and therefore there is not a sufficient protection from the new development. Only recently is the need for conservation appreciated. Urban structure of new neighbourhoods creates a uniformity and is not of value to a wider range of perspectives, especially from an environmentally standpoint. Local governments of smaller municipalities are generally not strong enough to oppose pressure from developers, neither by promoting suitable urban structure nor retaining interconnectedness between development and open natural landscapes.

5. In national and regional planning documentation, there is no clear hierarchy and planning is not stabilized, which brings problems with suburbanization.

The absence of a clear designation of planning documentation hierarchy on the regional and state level leads to inability to regulate urban sprawl.

Municipalities acquire finances for their budget according to the population, and therefore very small municipalities strive to increase the number of inhabitants. In close proximity of the big cities they are usually successful, facilitating suburbanization.

6. Absence of a systematic solution for open public places and coordination of documentation on various levels

In the sphere of open public places, a systematic approach to planning legislation is missing. This is in contrast to the kinds of landscape patterns important for ecological stability. Also missing is a systematic approach to documentation of individual projects (for example, a general pedestrian plan and general bicycling plan, etc.), which are created as a result of cooperation of local governments initiatives. Additionally, enforcement of such plans is in practice very difficult.

Sometimes, these strategic documents are either missing entirely or are not being used in practice.

7. There is no clear designation of who will initiate new, open public places. Their origin is often arbitrary and depends on the enlightenment of local and regional governments

8. Absence of motivation of private entities (entrepreneurs, businesses, private persons) to create and to maintain open public spaces

Open public places built by developers or private businesses are nearly nonexistent. Often, new streets built on private land to serve neighbouring buildings restrict public access. This situation leads to the creation of „gated communities“ all their associated negative aspects. Municipal government refuses to acknowledge these negatives because the properties are under private ownership. Even for some privately owned, accessible open places it is only possible to apply changes when there is some kind of protection specified in the municipal plan—for example, via green spaces.

9. Participation of the public in creating open public places

In practice, participation is utilized mostly on smaller projects. Conversely, in large development projects the public is excluded (dams, big building complexes, highway building, etc.) or is able to express their opinion only during late phases of the planning. Rather, projects of this magnitude are often carried through via political pressure.

In Slovenia there is a difference between two types of municipalities: bigger, “urban” municipalities with special status, are better organised and equipped and they have also stronger “spatial planning” departments, which cover the issue of open urban space, whilst regular municipalities are faced with lack of qualified staff and financial resources, which is reflected in ambitions and quality of open space design and management. Although public participation is ensured in the process of preparation and adoption of spatial planning acts, there is still room for improvement: more effective awareness raising, information and education is needed.

10. Use and maintenance of open public spaces

The question of open public places maintenance has not been clearly addressed. Generally, the owner of the land should be responsible for upkeep. In the case of sidewalks, maintenance is the responsibility of the owner of the adjacent building, though this fact is not provided by the legislature. Open public places are seasonally used as markets, semi-public events, etc. Decision making regarding their use occurs on a municipal level and often is not transparent enough. In some cases the use of open public places for a cultural event is unnecessarily complicated. The fear of potential injuries of participants and the high cost of certification of products (such as play structures) leads to unification and monotony of the types of equipment used for public events.

7 CONCLUSIONS

Negative aspects of public spaces planning, management and protection

- Just general definitions and proclamations about public spaces in legislation
- No competent authorities for inspection have been determined and no sanctions exist
- Concurrence of semi-public spaces to public spaces by quality, security, services
- Degradation of PS by urban sprawl and by a wrong urban development
- Great impact of car traffic to PS (as well as parking)
- very small or almost no open spaces in new districts and near new structures in towns
- Missing standards and methodology for systematic solution of PS, creating high-quality PS and for the minimum size of PS per inhabitant, etc.
- Absence of proper maintenance
- There is still lot of vandalism and crime at PS
- Too much of regulations for its utilization (activities) or technologies (esp. playgrounds)
- the bureaucracy, many EU acts and laws remain "dead" in Polish legislation
- public awareness – scepticism in active participation in planning process

Positive aspects of public spaces planning, management and protection:

- Priority of public spaces is increasing because of interest of public and institutions (NGOs, universities, research institutions)
- Planning of PS with participatory process is known and used (foreign techniques for involving the public have been used in the Czech republic for 10 years)
- At smaller town and villages the traditions of communal life and shared responsibility for creating open public places continues
- Use of national and European grant programs and non-governmental organizations is influencing PS importance
- Uprising of new programs and initiatives (international, national, NGOs funds) supporting the PS renewal (of greenery, public transport, activities etc.)
- active local initiatives and citizens
- local funds for projects implementation in „enlightened communities“
- interest of a certain number of town-planners and architects in the topic (initiated maybe by strengthening protests of inhabitants against densification of towns and vanishing of open spaces).
- accession to EU - has greatly improved public and society awareness as far as planning and design action

Proposed solutions

- Increasing of cultural, traditional and sports activities at PS also in towns
- Increasing of regeneration unused areas (brownfields or unkept areas) as new PS
- Increasing the using funding from national and international funds (unfortunately the world crisis has a negative impact on sponsors)
- Presentation of examples, comparisons and long term contributions at economic and social levels
- Education of the public and specialists, introduction of the subject at schools and organization of specialized seminars and workshops
- During the planning process, it is important to follow recommendations from a sufficient analysis. Analyses should be done systematically and on a continual basis
- Inclusion of the PS topic to strategic (spatial planning) documents of the municipalities

Successful projects:

- renewed public space naturally attractive, variable and open for public
- local active community existed before project and was prepared for the project activities
- there is a group of people which prepared the project (not individual),
- there was a local authority in the group or a local authority supported the project
- local group realized the project – through voluntary work
- the partners / actors cooperated well
- the project was well managed
- information and communication was handled well
- the grantists were identified with the methodology of participative community planning
- the owner of public space agreed with the project and took over the maintenance of the space
- the project is well used

Long-term sustainability is increased when:

- there was a high social order on the renovation
- there were organized different sport, cultural and other activities
- good cooperation with the municipality office in smaller villages
- bigger and variable group which cooperate on the project
- public space is used by different groups

Threats of the projects:

- local community does not need the reconstruction of public space, the space is isolated etc.
- the project is not supported with the owner of the area (changes in the utilization of the space during the project, disagreement with the project)
- the methodology of the public involvement is accepted by the architect just formal (architect should believe to this methodology)