

# REPORT OF PILOT ACTION OF URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACUPUNCTURE

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D.T3.2.4 Impulse Region

VERSION 3.0

08 2022

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## 1. Introduction

General description of the area of pilot action (1 page)

E1: Jena

The investment area in Jena was transformed into a pocket park in school location as a small area around and between buildings vegetated by trees and bushes, publicly accessible. This concerns both a better planting and a clear improvement of the equipment elements, especially with benches.



The first try of the public procurement was started in May 2021. Unfortunately, it was unsuccessful as no offers from construction companies were received. Therefore, the partners of Jena started a second try in August 2021. This tender was successful and they received an offer from a construction company. The start of the project “pocket park” was in October 2021. The reconstruction and revitalisation of the area was finished in March 2022 with the final planting work.



E2: Erfurt

In Erfurt was the plan to build a municipal garden (community garden). In the garden the people can grow fruit to the own utilization and to the training. In addition, the goal was to plant some trees and install benches. The partner of

Erfurt has expanded the possibilities of use (recreation etc.) in order to increase the quality of stay.



Public procurement started in September 2021 and finished in October. Directly after this time the construction works started. Work on the area was completed in December 2021.



### E3: Apolda

The investment area in Apolda is a ground based green wall. In addition, the goal was to install benches. With the reconstruction and renovation of the investment area the intergenerational living together was promoted.





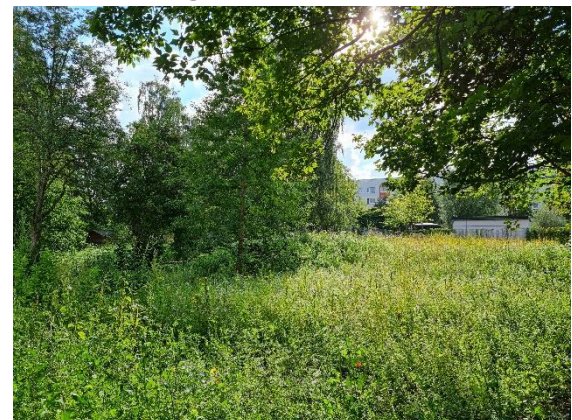
The public procurement started in July 2021. The tender was closed in December 2021. The trellises were completed by the end of January 2022. Planting with climbing plants was possible in March 2022, because the temperatures were high enough.

#### E4: Weimar

The last investment spot of the Impulse Region is in Weimar. The city of Weimar had the goal to transform the urban green space to promote biodiversity in order to create an additional food supply for insects.



Construction work in Weimar started in January 2021. The first step was clearing work. This affects non deserving protection plants. Norway maple, cherry trees, mountain ash and sycamore maple could be obtained. After that an old wall and other cement pieces were dismantled. The preparing of soil for sowing was the next step. The construction works was finished in August 2021.



2. Summary description of the pilot action (including investment, if applicable) explaining its experimental nature and demonstration character, investment cost



## E1: Jena

Densified urban space and long summers with more and more hot days make urban green spaces increasingly important for all people in the neighbourhood. The planting of new woody plants and the creation of flowering meadows and perennial areas created attractive recreational spaces as well as biodiverse and micro climatically enhanced natural spaces.

The existing row of trees is underplanted with a meadow seed and thus adequately screens the course of the road from the inner, mown lawn area. The flowering meadow areas are marked opposite the central lawn, also by semi-circular wooden bars of the same design. The stairway is accompanied by a newly planted herbaceous band, which features different planting aspects throughout the year. Multi-stemmed solitary shrubs along the path and two newly planted high trunks create shade on the area and restructure the space.

Total expenditure: 32.631,23 EUR

## E2: Erfurt

In the case of the city of Erfurt, the area fulfils various functions. First, the place will continue to be a place of play. Therefore, the soccer field was preserved. Second, the partners of Erfurt transformed the square into a space of wellbeing. This is ensured by planting trees and shrubs, as well as installing seating. Third, the planting work creates a new space for the fauna. Fourth and last, a food supply for the residents was also created by planting edible plants and fruit trees on the development area.

The now usable green spaces are available to the urban population for recreation from the summer heat in the built-up city or as a social meeting place. At the same time, biodiverse natural spaces are created as retreats for flora and fauna, which in turn can be easily observed while resting.

Total expenditure: 22.764.07 EUR

## E3: Apolda

The cityscape of Apolda is characterized by proud buildings from the Wilhelminian time, which represent the prosperity of the citizens of that time. From the 19th century, magnificent villas with spacious private gardens were built along the “Bahnhofstraße”. The former post office was inaugurated in 1898 and served as a post office until the 1990s. The building with his historic post garden has now been redesigned for senior citizens' homes with day care after a long period of vacancy. For the SALUTE4CE funding program, a part of the historic post garden was being redesigned and the facade was greened.

The selection for the project was derived from the city model and the fields of action of the urban development concept. The primary goal was the upgrading



of the quarter through more and higher quality green and open spaces in connection with existing and new cultural offers. The focus of urban development and open space design in the core of the city is to be placed more on the revitalization of the historical gardens and the associated open space design by planting native species.

Total expenditure: 17,350.51 EUR

#### E4: Weimar

The city of Weimar has set itself the goal of creating smaller and larger wildflower meadows on the fallow land in the urban areas, which at the moment does not correspond to any other form of use. The area for the SALUTE4CE project was in the past considered as part of a planning for a kindergarten, it is located outside the kindergarten area. It was a wild fallow with wild growth next to the kindergarten in the middle of a residential area. With the redesign, a place with new functions was created.

The following goals were being pursued with the wildflower meadow and the associated redesign of the area. Firstly, a new neighbourhood space was created through public accessibility. Second, the aim was to improve the quality of stay and quality of life of the area and the residents through the design of the open space. Thirdly, urban biodiversity was increased. For example, the introduction of native plant species and the elimination of invasive plant species (for example giant hogweed). Fourth and finally, the wildflower meadow improves the foraging habitat for insects and birds.

Total expenditure: 34.607,97 EUR

### 3. Expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the concerned territory and target groups and leverage of additional funds (if applicable)

#### E1: Jena

In Jena was the goal an improvement in the quality of stay. Shading options are created by planting trees. Putting up benches generated new social meeting places. The younger and older generations in particular can now benefit from this. The valley location of the city of Jena creates many heat islands in summer. This restricts the range of motion for certain age groups.

With the help of SALUTE4CE, a new area was created and upgraded in the city, which the residents of the city area can use, especially on hot summer days.

#### E2: Erfurt

A new community place was created in Erfurt. In the past, the development area was classified as unsafe. The surrounding green area has not invite the citizens to relax.



This process was counteracted by upgrading the investment area as a small community garden. A new sense of community arises. By planting vegetables together and installing and caring for the new fruit trees, the residents can now look after them on their own responsibility. This also brings the younger and older generations together. In addition, a learning effect is achieved by planting various vegetables and fruits on the site.

### E3: Apolda

The investment area in Apolda is located on the site of the old post office. After years of vacancy, the building complex has now been converted into a senior citizens' residence. Thus, a contribution was made to the upgrading of the district. This is also where the planned greening of the walls begins.

This measure and the installation of benches increase the quality of the stay. This benefits the residents of the retirement home, the employees and the visitors. In addition, an environmental contribution was made. The planting measures reduce air pollution and improve the microclimate on the investment area.

The last point mentioned naturally applies to all development areas that are implemented in the Impulse Region.

### E4: Weimar

The upgrading of the area in Weimar was primarily intended to create a new food supply and living space for insects. As insect deaths continue to advance, even small measures, such as the project in Weimar, can make a contribution to the preservation of various insect species.

The problem of insect mortality should also be brought closer to the local residents with the help of a notice board. The project partners in Weimar would like to sensitize the population to the topic. The learning effect can also be increased by including the approaching kindergarten. Even the youngest generation can process a wide range of information. This can be done in a playful way by the project partners and specialist offices from Weimar.

## 4. Sustainability of the pilot action results and transferability to other territories and stakeholders.

With the help of the SALUTE4CE funding program, four fallow areas in the Impulse Region could be redesigned. In addition, the idea of urban environmental acupuncture has shown how green deficit areas can be identified in a city. This gave the city partners a new tool that can also be used in other areas. In this context, it is important that the actors involved can identify with



the concept. Only in this way can the project be applied to other areas in the Impulse Region.

However, it should be noted that the financial resources of a municipality play an important role. Although the concept behind SALUTE4CE only makes small interventions in the natural area, the costs for the construction activities should not be underestimated. The areas in Jena and Erfurt in particular have shown that the available funding budget is insufficient. The cities therefore had to make an additional financial contribution so that the areas could be redesigned.

Probably the greatest challenge will be to jointly achieve a culture of protecting green spaces as a whole. Although the framework conditions are set in such a way that this moral approach is also supported with incentives. It is important to understand that this is a central challenge for global society and that everyone should therefore contribute to climate protection. This social acceptance and support for climate protection must be the main concern. Under the aspect of climate change, urban green spaces will be exposed to growing pollution in the future. In order to be able to benefit from the numerous welfare effects of a vital urban green area in the future, it is necessary that this is adapted to the changing climatic conditions.

5. Lessons learned and added value of transnational cooperation of the pilot action implementation (including investment, if applicable)

A lot of preparation time is required to carry out such a project. First of all, the actors who have the technical background must be won over to the project. A loss of trust can only be avoided with early involvement.

A time schedule must then be drawn up, which also regulates the responsibilities of the individual actors. In this case, time buffers must also be taken into account, as there can always be delays in individual work packages. An example in this context were the tenders for the construction works. One cannot always guarantee that enough offers will be received in response to the first invitation to tender. Sometimes it takes several attempts until enough offers are available. The international cooperation has shown that this problem does not only exist in Germany.

The project also showed how important it is to involve local citizens in every step of the process. In one situation or another, a suitable solution to a problem could be found by entering into dialogue. In addition, many ideas of the citizens could be integrated into the investment areas. Their knowledge of the current use made it possible to quickly clarify which elements are missing on the green areas.





In the exchange with the international partners it was interesting to find out which green deficits the other partner cities show. It has been found that there are mostly similar problems. This also simplified the search for possible solutions, as this was done in cooperation. Due to the corona pandemic, information was mostly only exchanged online. There were only at the moment three physical meetings during the project period. If more meetings had taken place in the partner cities, a greater gain in knowledge would have been possible. The disadvantage of online meetings is that only a limited exchange of information can take place.

#### 6. Contribution to/ compliance with:

During the implementation of the four construction measures in the Impulse Region, care was taken to ensure that all existing legal regulations were complied with. In addition, special attention was paid to ensuring that the projects are in line with the development plans of the respective city. Examples of this were, among other things, the models for urban development, the climate protection concepts and the landscape plans for the development of green spaces. The concepts mentioned played an important role in the planning and implementation of the development areas in Erfurt, Weimar, Jena and Apolda and, so to speak, represented a framework for action.

Through the implementation of the four pilot actions in the Impulse Region, we expect different positive climatic improvements for the respective areas. By planting trees, more areas are protected by shade in the hot summer months. This should have a positive effect on the microclimate in the area of the development areas. In addition, the new vegetation will reduce emissions. This applies above all to the areas where car traffic plays a role. The park area in Erfurt on the football field and in Jena the Pocket Park should be mentioned here. Furthermore, the flowering meadows created will make a contribution to species conservation. The creation of nesting sites and new food offers will primarily benefit the fauna, such as insects. Finally, the area in Weimar should be mentioned, as old concrete areas were also dismantled there. This means that there is now a better opportunity for rainwater to infiltrate the ground. As a result, surface water is reduced and fewer nutrients are washed away from the upper soil layers. This in turn favours plant growth.

However, a closer look at the climatic effects can only take place when a few years are past after the completion of the last construction works in March 2022. The new plants need time to grow and show their full potential in terms of positively influencing the microclimate. The effects mentioned above are therefore only to be understood as examples. In addition, the positive environmental effects can only be determined in a long-term observation. This



is planned, for example, for the development area in Jena with the support of IOER from Dresden.