

REPORT ON PUBLIC EVENTS INVOLVING LOCAL CITIZENS

D.T3.4.3 City of Liptovský Mikuláš

Final version
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1. INTRODUCTION

The pilot investments, in accordance with the Application form of the project SALUTE4CE, were implemented with the residents participation at the stage of the design development. It was an active involvement of the general public as the main target group of pilot investment actions results. Target groups (Local public authority, Sectoral agency, General public and students) have been involved in common discussions on the pilot actions concepts. The inhabitants were informed about the benefits of the applied solutions as a starting stage of implementation urban environmental infrastructure concept.

The events were organized to show to the residents the preparation and implementation of pilot actions. The aim of the events was to bond the residents with the areas, which raise the attractiveness of the neighbourhood and improve local conditions.

2. PUBLIC EVENTS BY INDIVIDUAL PILOT INVESTMENTS

During the project SALUTE4CE implementation (since 04/2019 till 03/2022) the City of Liptovský Mikuláš, as a project partner, have organized several public events with the aim to involve the public into the preparation and implementation process of the pilot investments realization.

As far as there are different interest group in individual pilot investments, also the public events are divided according to individual pilot investments.

2.1 Neighbourhood green space (inner-block) in Podbreziny residential area

Type of public events: public discussion with the agenda (presentations), living lab.

2.1.1 On November 11, 2019 - Internal presentation of 1st Proposal of revitalisation of Neighbourhood greenspace in Podbreziny in Municipal office.

Suggestions and comments were collected from Members of municipal council, city management, civic associations and professional employee. Hereby the idea of the project SALUTE4CE was explained to the city management in order to receive their support in planning and organization of related public events.

2.1.2 On November 21, 2019 - Public Presentation (living lab) of the Architectural Proposal of revitalisation in Podbreziny: citizens specified where exactly they want to place the trees, benches, etc.

This presentation (living lab) with citizens was lead by our knowledge partner IURS Ostrava (PP9).

During the presentation of the study of the courtyard in Podbreziny housing estate, creative possibilities of design were created so that the participating citizens could create functional areas in a clean drawing of the courtyard by selecting designed elements (greenery, sidewalks, workout and playground) and their location.

This public event allowed people who live in the Podbreziny housing estate to get involved in planning the change of the courtyard. Despite some concerns about whether the issue will appeal to citizens, we were pleasantly surprised by the active participation of the participants present. Their requirements and ideas were included in the conditions for the preparation of project documentation. In accordance with citizens suggestions and valid „land use plan“ the final Proposal of revitalization was prepared by selected architect.

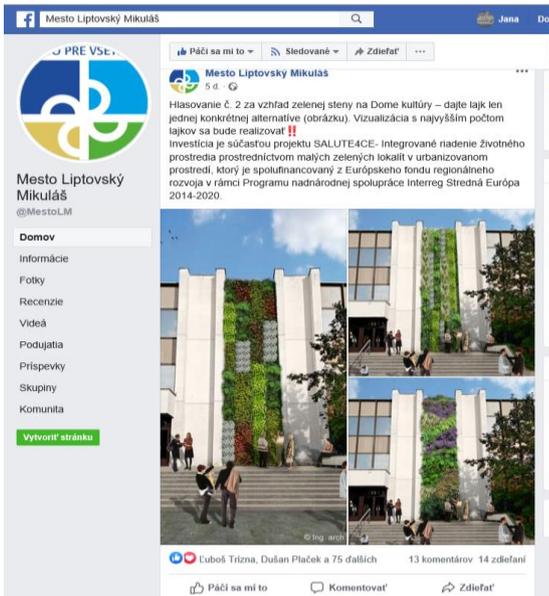


Living lab with citizens on November 21, 2019 in Podbreziny, Liptovský Mikuláš

2.2 Outdoor green vertical wall of the House of Culture

Type of public events: public voting.

For the Exterior Vegetation Wall at the House of Culture, selected architect (based on public procurement) prepared 3 alternative proposals (visualizations) of investment site. Citizens (public) had the chance (from September 3, 2020 to September 14, 2020) to vote for preferred proposal in form of voting on Facebook (just to give a “like”) and in form of voting paper in foyer of Municipality office of the City of Liptovský Mikuláš. The designer (architect) after that incorporated the results of the public voting into the final design (project documentation) of the wall.



Public voting by citizens on facebook - Outdoor green vertical wall of the House of culture



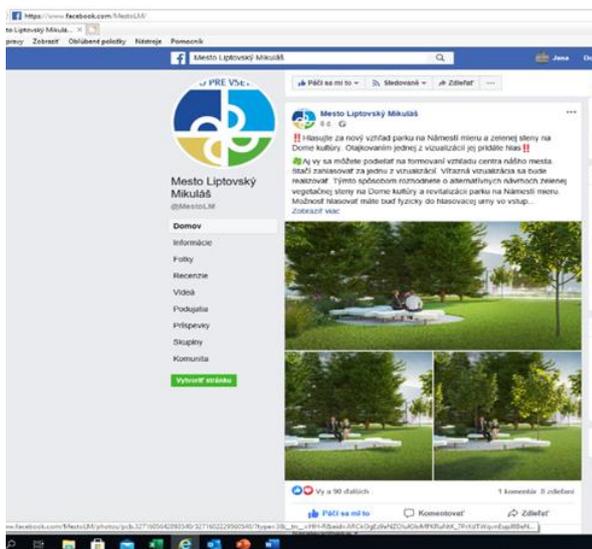
Public voting by citizens in foyer of municipality office

2.3 REVITALIZATION OF PEDESTRIAN ZONE - POCKET PARK ON THE SQUARE OF PEACE

Type of public events: public voting.

As well as the Outdoor green vertical wall of The House of Culture (described in Chapter 2.2), selected architect prepared 3 alternative proposals (visualizations) of investment site - Revitalization of of pocket park on the Square of peace. Citizens could to vote (from September 3, 2020 to September 14, 2020) for preferred proposal in form of voting on Facebook (just to give a “like”) and in form of voting paper in foyer of Municipality office of the City of Liptovský Mikuláš. The architect was obliged to incorporate the results of the public comments (voting) into the final design (project documentation) of the park.

The public voting on Facebook had an exceptionally large and positive response, the individual variant solutions of the green wall of the House of Culture and the revitalization of the park on The Square of peace (Námestie mieru) received a total of 2,900 votes. Outdoor green wall reached all together 1708 voices and “Revitalization of park on the Square of peace” 1193 voices.



Public voting by citizens on facebook - Revitalization of pedestrian zone, pocket park on the Square of peace

2.4 GRANDMAMA GARDEN AT DEMÄNOVSKÁ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Type of public events: Classes, Exhibition, Living Lab.

Grandmama's Garden - the goal was to build a rural orchard, which was in the past the part of rural gardens and farmsteads, on suitable land on the school premises. The project, its design, implementation and sustainability, was a part of the educational process (classes) of all subjects and all students of the school. It aimed to develop children's personalities in the perception of the country as a source of livelihood, contact with history, joy and pride in the results of their own work.

2.4.1 Classes

In order to involve the school's pupils in the process of preparation and creation of the project materials, it included this topic in the school's educational process. Through the pupils, the school was able to obtain as much information as possible about the use and management of the gardens in the time of the "grandmothers", about the processing of the harvest from them. In this way, we managed to obtain a lot of materials from parents, grandparents, living experts in the form of photos, articles from magazines, statements of experts, data on originally cultivated species of useful plants and fruit trees. Pupils of schools, under the guidance of their teachers in the preparatory phase of the project (school year 2019/2020) prepared designs and model studies of old gardens and orchards

2.4.2 Exhibition

Submitted information was processed in writing in the form of poems, short stories, etc. The obtained materials were exhibited by the school in the school lobby in the form of an exhibition that took on October 7, 2020. The exhibition was processed in a video, which was published on the Internet and on the local television TV LIPTOV.

2.4.3 Living lab

Living lab at Grandmama garden took place on September 28, 2021

Participation: students, teachers, constructor of the garden, project team from Liptovský Mikuláš and knowledge partner IURS.

In the open air area of Grandmama garden, doc. Vojvodikova (IURS, Ostrava) presented to the students the idea of Urban environmental acupuncture (UEA) as one solution for reduction of heat stress in urban space and various Nature based solutions of UEA. Student under the supervision of specialists have plant out the plants and trees.

The video from this event is available at: <https://youtu.be/PEcGjDEayzA>

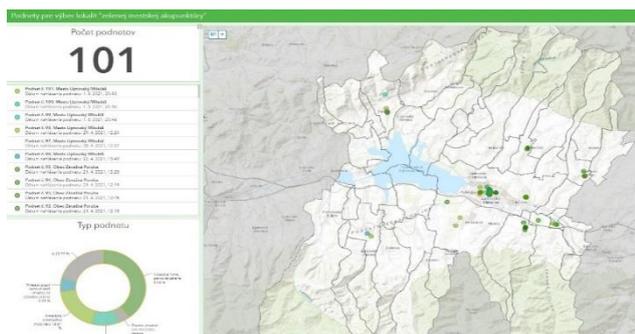


Living Lab at Grandmama garden on September 28, 2021

3. SURVEY VIA GIS APPLICATION

In frame of Action plan preparation (as a part of the project SALUTE4CE) we have addressed the public during the research (in form of living labs, GIS map application, websites, workshops, email communication, field survey) to receive their proposal of small abandoned localities in their city or villages, that could look nicer by using measures of urban environmental acupuncture. Public mostly complained about the lack of green in public spaces, abandoned external public places, etc. Considering local policy, it is important to address these challenges to create for citizens more attractive, healthy a save places for living, improve resident well-being, improve social cohesion, create measures for adaptation on climatic changes such as to reduce the urban heat island effect by planting greenery.

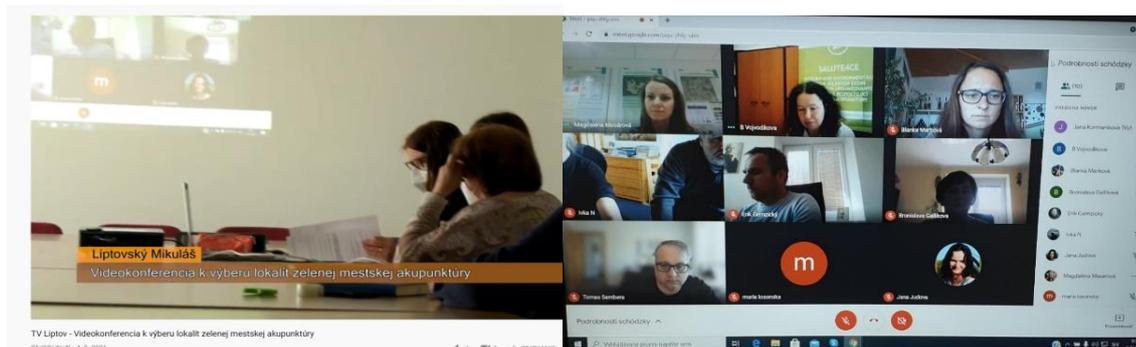
The public (citizens) have provided information in analysis phase - they had the possibility to send via the GIS application the photo (with GPS) of the abandoned places as well as



they had the possibility to propose concrete NBS solutions on that places. As a part of the participation of the residents and stakeholders in the selection of urban acupuncture sites, a total of 114 suggestions were collected, of which 101 suggestions were collected through the GIS application and 13 suggestions were collected through the email communication.

As a part of selection of localities, at the end of collection of suggestions of sites for NBS via GIS application the public evaluation was organized in form of **Online conference (webinar)** on May 5, 2021.

Participation: IURS, EKOJET, mayors of FUA, citizens (specialists and laics), project team (CoLM). **Programme of webinar (living lab):** * introduction of the project, * presentation of collection and evaluation of data for AP (EKOJET), * examples of possible work with the rain water, social and participation effects of NBS (IURS), * discussion - identification of possible issues and next steps to implementation of UEA.



Online conference (webinar) on May 5, 2021.

4. CONCLUSION

Public participation on the project SALUTE4CE took place in form of:

- living labs (Neighbourhood green space in Podbreziny area on November 11, 2019; Online conference - webinar on May 5, 2021, Grandmama garden with students in September 28, 2021.)
- public meetings, mainly in online form due to the covid pandemic
- surveys via the FB voting, GIS application, emails, personally in form of voting paper
- survey in the field - with mayors of FUA in April 2021

The local stakeholders were consulted to ensure correct interpretation of the data on the state of FUAs and acupuncture sites. Thanks to this step, the stakeholders (e.g. residents, representatives of public administration, etc.) have had an impact on shaping the area, where they are living (e.g. citizens have specified where exactly they want to place the trees, benches, etc.).

The residents were involved in the investment implementation during the project in form of public consultations and meetings. Municipality will take care of the investment and its sustainability also after the end of the project by the contributory organization Verejnoprospešné služby Liptovský Mikuláš. Next FUA investment, according to Action plan, will be financed by the city budget, as a part of the infrastructure owned by the City of Liptovský Mikuláš.

Any investment in public space directly affects residents. Therefore, it is essential to inform citizens about upcoming events. The involvement of school children emerged as very appropriate. Children are enthusiastic, creative and very proud when they succeed.