



PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Urban Green Belts project

Issue 3 November 2017

In the third period of the UGB project we expect to see significant progress made in developing the elements of the *Smart Governance Manual*, as both the smart models and the pilots to test them are approaching their final phase. This first page of this newsletter offers a closer look at the status of the smart models, while the second summarises the status of each of our partner's pilot activities. Happy reading!

GIS

Working Group 1 has developed a framework of smart GIS techniques and tools to more effectively assess and manage urban green areas. The core element is an indicator set that allows in-depth study and analysis of maintenance, sustainability, attractiveness and profitability aspects. The processes of indicator derivation, calculation and visualisation are described in detail. Several components are being tested during pilot the activities, which allows local stakeholders to gain insight into fair management of green spaces.



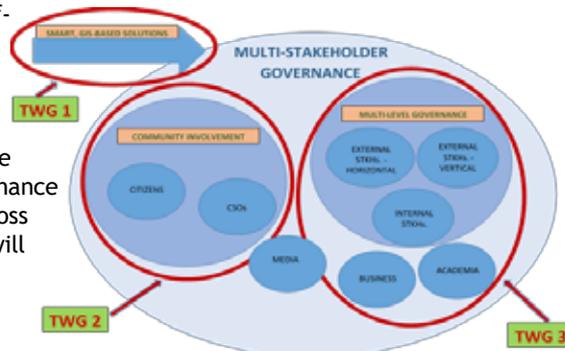
Community involvement model



The purpose of a community involvement model is to present a set of tools and methods for raising awareness and encouraging civil societies and communities in taking participatory approaches to UGS management (i.e. planning and maintenance). The model focuses on the mobilisation and participation of communities as users of UGS, as well as on how to ensure sustainable maintenance. It emphasises active participation, which can be defined as: “a process of decision making and problem solving, involving individuals and groups who represent diverse interests, expertise and points of view, and who act for the good of all those affected by the decisions they make and the actions that follow.”

Multi-stakeholder governance model

Multi-stakeholder governance is an effective UGS management tool that remains underexploited. Within one of three smart models to be tested through pilot actions during the UGB project, solutions to promote cooperation between different governance levels and sectors, and internally across various departments of authorities, will be developed, along with a training curriculum for municipalities on the application of integrated UGS planning and management.



Prague

On September 18-20, the project partners met in the hilly Prague 6 district to discuss the latest project developments. Each partner presented their pilot concepts and had the chance to gain feedback through a facilitated group session. The presenters were also able to introduce final versions of the three draft models. The models contain several tools and methods that will be tested through the pilot actions. While the partners are in daily contact in the digital word, it is also beneficial to discuss crucial issues and concepts face-to-face. The three-day meeting provided an occasion in which everyone could understand each other's problems and work towards finding shared solutions.



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GIS pilots

Padua

The Padua UGB team has been working on an upgrade of the software currently used to enable the acquisition of new datasets, as well as on a new set of indicators. The team is also developing a new app for private users that will enable the acquisition of data concerning privately owned green spaces.

Salzburg

The Salzburg team has collected and harmonised various data to help in calculating indicators that depict and assess the ecological and recreational value of green spaces. The demand for integrative supply studies is also being discussed with the local stakeholders.

Zadar

Zadar has mapped selected green areas, and processed and verified all items for establishing a 'Green Cadastre'. The Web GIS application is currently being implemented to view data over the internet, and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Stakeholder meetings

The aim of the UGB project is to develop methods that can help municipalities to manage their green spaces for everyone's benefit. That's why our partners are holding stakeholder meetings regularly to share the latest results of our work. However, a stakeholder meeting doesn't have to be necessarily a 'formal' meeting. Many partners have found innovative ways to present their pilots, such as picnics, guided tours in green spaces, or tree-identification walks. These are great ways to stimulate local engagement!

Community involvement pilots

Hegyvidék

Hegyvidék hosted its first meeting for residents participating in the 'Green Space Stewardship' programme. The event marked the beginning of our pilot's community-building phase, which includes a series of events that will involve the public and district stewards involved in the project.

Krakow

In July, the Witkowie GLL organised a picnic in the Witkowie forest, including a survey walk. This was the second in a series of consultations organised to meet the expressed needs of local citizens. The first included a survey of primary school pupils and an art competition titled 'My Witkowie Forest'.

Maribor

UGB pilot activities are well underway in Maribor, with high levels of public participation and involvement. So far, everybody agrees that parking in nature areas should be regulated. Several transport alternatives (as opposed to cars) for reaching these areas have also been suggested.



Multi-stakeholder governance pilots

Hegyvidék

Preparatory talks were held with various stakeholders of the 'Tree Alley Renewal' pilot, which aims to facilitate cooperation between actors responsible for urban forestry in our district. We are working with Szent István University to create a guideline document on climate-resilient trees.

Prague 6

Our pilot actions aim to diversify the actors involved in UGS management by: creating the basis for a social programme to involve selected groups in the maintenance of therapeutic gardens, and in establishing grant programmes to support green funds for different communities.



What's next?

As the end of the third project period is rapidly approaching, our partners are getting ready to write reports on their activities. Several study visits will take place in the next couple of months that will enhance cooperation between those partners with similar pilot activities.