



PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Urban Green Belts project

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▲ At the Picnic Conference of the Municipality of Hegyvidék, we were searching answers for the questions: why are the green spaces so important for the townsman of the XXI.th century and why do all of us stick so much to the presence of nature in the fabric of the city. That's why we asked dr. Andrea Dúll, the best-known environmental psychologist in Hungary, who studies how to find the balance between the built and natural environment, to be our keynote speaker. The researcher spoke about the importance and beneficial effects of green spaces in a built environment, even if these locations are less evolved in a natural point of view, than the areas less affected by human activity. The words of her high-lighted the necessity of taking care of these small green island in the city's desert of concrete and asphalt.



dr. Andrea Dúll, Eötvös Loránd University



Ágnes Kovács, ext. projectmanager UGB

▲ On this wonderful day, Villa Barabás turned into a communication arena, were topics like: best practices in greenspace management; how to involve people in an abandoned forest's renewal; which public green spaces worth developing and what role can the GIS play in it; how do green spaces affect our mental health, and how can we, townspeople get involved in the maintenance and improvement of green spaces were discussed.



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Feedbacks of the Project /We asked, Partners answered/

What did you like the most in UGB?

- » tangible results
- » working with the Hegyvidék Team
- » inspiring study visits
- » green areas connected to architecture, politics
- » the thematic walk during the final event
- » flexible management of the project from the side of the LP
- » interactive meetings
- » establish the Green Office of Hegyvidék
- » meeting with interesting and nice people
- » visiting different regions, cities
- » all the project crew
- » night visit in Botanical Garden in Padova
- » quality of people involved and quality of the partnership
- » cooperation spirit



What is your nicest memory?

- » evening in Krakow and the Final conference
- » culinary experiences
- » study visits
- » Budapest by night
- » I don't have one specific memory, I think when I will remember for our meetings I will always smile 😊
- » urban walks

What was the most useful knowledge or experience you gained during UGB?

- » expended knowledge and competences
- » evidence-based tools for policy makers



What would you do differently, if you started it again?

- » better timing, planning
- » establishing a working team, more capacity dedicated to the project
- » Wouldn't change a thing. Each meeting was perfectly organized and interesting and in the field of documentation/procedures we could have always counted on the LP
- » pay attention for not underestimating infrastructure and external expertise during preparing the application form



What was the most challenging in UGB?

- » translate ideas to reality
- » work with other Authorities
- » public procurement
- » work together with different stakeholders
- » find the voice with stakeholders
- » integrate different local challenges and starting points and also plan common project framework (Model, Manual)
- » realize tough points
- » to gain offers in tenders
- » to receive needed law permissions in time
- » communication activities,
- » citizen engagement

What changes UGB made in your target area?

- » establish a higher consciousness about green issues, awareness raising which fit to the lifestyle trends
- » the pilot area become really vivid place. We have new playground which is realized thanks to the inhabitants who appreciated the value of the area.

Daily Wisdom

**THE ONLY TIME
YOU SHOULD EVER
LOOK BACK,
IS TO SEE HOW
FAR YOU'VE COME.**

What is left?

The hard work implemented in the project starts to pay off.

The manual for the wider audience is finally ready and translated to all the languages of the project partners.

All the partners are ready with their own local roadmaps too. These documents contain all the best practices of keeping up the benefits and planning for developments for the future, based on the experiences of the three-year long period.

These roadmaps were agreed with the project partners' stakeholders, and now are waiting for the endorsement from the decision makers in favour of the project's aims, and achievements can be implemented and improved within the municipal framework.

We are closing our lines now, but never forget:

**Green is
always
Good**



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