

Interreg
CENTRAL EUROPE



UGB

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Development Fund

UGB

URBAN GREEN BELTS





WHAT UGB STANDS FOR?

The Urban Green Belts (UGB) project partnership is built up of seven local and regional authority partners and three knowledge provider partners covering seven countries of Central Europe.

The UGB partners are jointly working together to develop innovative methods and tools leading to integrated models for managing Urban Green Spaces (UGS) smartly, with a focus on 3 main areas:

1. Geographic Information System (GIS)-based spatial planning decision support tool for assessing and evaluating existing green spaces, facilitating the application of the Green Infrastructure (GI) approach in strategic planning.
2. Smart techniques for participatory approaches and community involvement into UGS planning, maintaining and management processes.
3. Multi-stakeholder & integrated governance tool for effective UGS management.

These novel solutions will be tested jointly through pilot actions and the results will be compiled into a Smart Governance Manual to serve as guidance on reforming the development and management of UGS for any public authority in Europe. The three-year project was launched in June 2016 and is co-funded by the INTERREG Central Europe Programme.

WHY IS THE PROJECT IMPORTANT?

Natural environment and all types of green spaces are increasingly getting under pressure.

Green belts are the “lungs” of these densely populated cities that can provide various environmental, social and economic benefits.

Ensuring good quality of life for residents living in urban areas (approx. 2/3 of CE's population) is a major challenge.

UGS have a basic role in making residential and working environments more livable places.

Ongoing (sub)urbanisation processes cause manifold environmental problems (eg. low air quality, increased soil sealing) and land-use conflicts in and around cities.

Green areas offer essential tools for improving environmental performance (e.g. filtering pollutants and CO₂ from air) and climate resilience (e.g. combating urban heat islands).

Natural risks induced by climate change (eg. urban heat island effect, flash floods) and related health problems can further lower the quality of life in metropolitan areas.

Green spaces are key for a healthy urban environment and their thoughtful management enables tackling a series of harmful environmental impacts and climate change related risks.

Urban Green Spaces (UGS) are often separately managed through outsourcing and conscious “greening” of cities is impeded by insufficient financial and human municipal resources.

The UGB project aims to improve capacities of all actors via a joint work, thus helping the management of urban green spaces becoming more efficient and a more integrated part of environmental management systems.



EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Smart Models

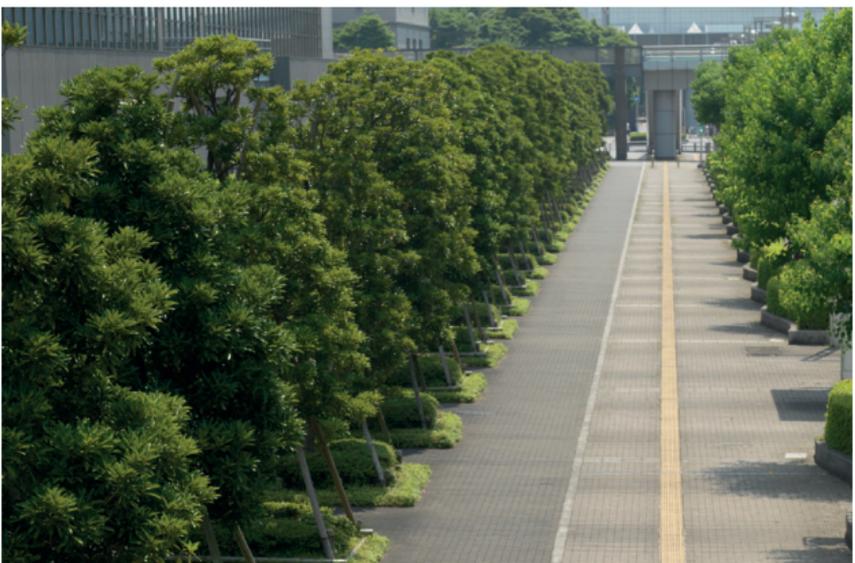
Smart Model for GIS-based urban green spaces assessment and Green Infrastructure Planning: Comprehensive spatial planning decision support tool for public organisations responsible for UGS management.

Smart Model for community involvement into urban green spaces management: The focus is on mobilisation of citizens, community groups, and other stakeholders into greenery design, revitalisation and maintenance processes with an aim of upgrading urban ecosystems.

Multi-stakeholder governance model targeting capacity improvement of urban green spaces management: Targeting a better coordinated operation and new horizontal & vertical cooperative frameworks of public authorities. The novel operational & financial instruments aim to improve planning & management capacities of municipalities and cost-effectiveness due to shared-responsibilities.

Pilot actions

Innovative methods & tools developed in the 3 Smart Models will be tested through pilot actions.





Smart Governance Manual on integrated urban green spaces management

Practical handbook for public authority policy-makers, planners and practitioners guiding them to create a smart, sustainable UGS management system. Compiled from the 3 Smart Models and presenting good practices tested in the pilots and other case studies.

Local Roadmaps for building up integrated smart UGS governance

Strategic documents based on the local analyses and pilot results developed jointly with local stakeholders.





PARTNERS

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The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (HU)
Research Studios Austria - Studio iSPACE (AT)
Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SL)
Maribor Development Agency (SL)
Małopolska Region (PL)
Municipality of Padua (IT)
Municipal District of Prague 6 (CZ)
Zadar County Development Agency ZADRA NOVA (HR)
Municipality of Krakow (PL)

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

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City of Zadar (HR)
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Municipality of Budapest (HU)
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