

# TEMPLATE

## Output factsheet: Tools

Version 1

Project index number and acronym	CE174, UGB
Lead partner	Municipality of 12th District of Budapest (Hegyvidék)
Output number and title	Output O.T1.2 Smart Model for community involvement into urban green spaces management (planning and maintenance)
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, PP4
Project website	<a href="https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/UGB.html">https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/UGB.html</a>
Delivery date	30 January 2019

### Summary description of the key features of the tool (developed and/or implemented)

The Community Involvement Model is primarily intended for municipality representatives and officials (users) working with communities. It features a set of soft tools and methods to encourage, facilitate, plan and support community involvement in working with municipalities, as well as across municipalities borders (functional urban area (FUA)). The Model specifies actions in relation to specific situations regarding the planning, developing and maintaining urban green plans, and guides users to assess the situation and adjust a number of participatory tools and methods. These are divided into several clusters for easier use and adaptation to specific situations (Assessing the situation; Get in the field; Community building and sustainability; Creative planning; Tactics for fostering community cohesion; Communication).

Thus it will help users devise adequate approaches and strategies to develop and implement integrative approaches to sustainably involving communities and other stakeholders into planning, management and maintenance of urban green spaces.

The mission of the Model is to assist municipalities in providing channels and opportunities for community involvement at different stages of spatial interventions, from planning and development (regeneration - renovation, including design and reprogramming) to management and maintenance (rules of use, valuation).

Additionally, the Model will assist municipalities in improving their capacities to listen and to involve the communities in thinking, deciding, planning, designing and playing an active part in the development of green areas. Importantly, the process of community involvement in green spaces planning and management should start as early as possible. In general, the Model rests on principles of participatory democracy, which requires the inclusion of different stakeholders. According to the principles of participatory democracy, the basis for sustainable and inclusive growth, the public has the right to know and have a say about what, why and how is going on in their green areas. Hence, it is important to facilitate an environment where communities

are encouraged and enabled to take active part in activities that affect the places where they live and work.

Crucially, the model emphasises the importance for citizens and communities to exercise their rights, roles, functions and responsibilities in decision-making processes, and provides methods and tools for official representatives (e.g. municipalities) to develop procedures and practices for facilitating and encouraging participatory planning and management.

### NUTS region(s) where the tool has been developed and/or implemented (relevant NUTS level)

NUTS-1: Slovenia, Hungary, Poland  
NUTS-2: Maribor Functional Urban Area (FUA), Budapest 12th District (Hegyvidék);  
Krakow/Małopolska FUA.

### Expected impact and benefits of the tool for the concerned territories and target groups

Implementing participatory approaches into planning and management of green spaces will:

- enable the citizens to voice their ideas, concerns or demands;
- foster citizen involvement into detecting problems and articulating solutions;
- facilitate creating, elaborating, and implementing solutions through inclusion of ideas;
- enable participation in planning and management activities and enable cooperation among various stakeholders;
- ensure sustainability of community involvement in green spaces planning and management.

### Sustainability of the tool and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

- **Sustainability:** the initial idea of the authors was to design a robust, adaptable and flexible model that would enable the users to adapt it to various situations, i.e. in various environments and different settings across Europe. To do so they conceptualized it as a collection of tools and methods, organized into several clusters. Each cluster contains a selection of tools and methods that can be adapted according to the requirements of a given situation. Not necessarily all methods are to be used, and they can be adjusted. What is more, such design allows not only for adaptability and sustainability, but also entices the users to think about their specific situations, experiences, historical background and other requirements, and devise their own, unique solutions.
- **Transferability:** it is difficult, if not impossible, to design a model that would uniformly fit to any locale, region, or nation, for a number of reasons: varying/incompatible legislations, specific community life, variegated histories and socio-political environments and developments, etc. However, the Community involvement model offers a tool that is robust and adaptable enough to be adaptable to various environments (various EU regions and beyond), as well as for different users (in addition to municipalities, it can serve as a guide for NGOs and emerging communities seeking ways to ensure sustainability and longer-term operability). Moreover, by presenting good case studies from involved

project partners, the users of the model will be able to see which approaches worked well and which elements can be transformed to other communities.

### Lessons learned from the development/implementation process of the tool and added value of transnational cooperation

- **Lessons learned:** during the development of the Model, the authors realised it is a daunting task to come up with a universally applicable model. The three pilot cases from Budapest (HU), Maribor (SLO), and Krakow (PL), although all located in the former socialist East, proved to be very different in their specific legislative circumstances, municipality ambitions and relationships between various stakeholders. Therefore, despite the pilot partners' requests to tailor the model to their specific situations, it was eventually decided that the model has to be as robust as possible to allow for adaptation to different contexts and environments. While this may entail more work on the part of the user (e.g. municipality), it at the same time invites more creativity in adapting the model.
- **Added value:** the cooperation between the knowledge provider and the three pilot partners was inspiring not least because it allowed the authors of the model to constantly think about how to negotiate between different requirements and specific situations, but also because it allowed the process to grow over time and invited incorporation of new findings. Importantly, it was an opportunity to see in practice how difficult it is to translate theory into practice, particularly in the context of the often complex relationship between the municipality (rules, legislation, top-down actions) and the community (ad hoc, fluid, bottom-up actions).

### References to relevant deliverables and web-links If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

Relevant deliverables:

- D.T1.4.1 Framework concept for Thematic Working Group 2
- D.T1.4.3 Final Model for community involvement into urban green space (UGS) management (planning and maintenance): <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/UGB/MODEL-FOR-PARTICIPATORY-PLANNING-AND-MAINTENANCE-OF-UGS.pdf>
- D.T1.6.2 Smart Governance Manual on integrated UGS management in English: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/UGB/SMART-GOVERNANCE-MANUAL-ON-INTEGRATED-URBAN-GREEN-SPACE-MANA.pdf>