



# Methodology Plan for good planning and designing of urban open spaces



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## Methodology Plan

for good planning and designing of urban open spaces

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# I. Introduction / Orientation

## Aim of the UrbSpace-project

The project "UrbSpace - enhancing the attractiveness and quality of the urban environment" is aimed at the creation of good urban open spaces, considering the ecological, social and economic principles of the concept of sustainability. Carefully designed and built open spaces in towns and cities directly influence the liveability and perception of a city's offer by local inhabitants and visitors. Furthermore, they offer potential for mitigating negative influences of climate change and have a positive impact on their surroundings. Thus these areas also enhance local conditions for economic prosperity in a wider sense:

*"Open space is any un-built land within the boundary of an urban area which provides, or has the potential to provide, environmental, social and/or economic benefits to communities, whether direct or indirect"* (Working Paper Environmental Criteria, p. 5).

UrbSpace developed itself around a multifunctional set of important and indispensable aspects for the creation of such sustainable open spaces in towns and cities. These should have the potential to strengthen the attractiveness and competitiveness of towns and regions. By their design, these spaces fit into the urban landscape. As one central contribution to the quality of the urban environment and surroundings,

the creation of such spaces aims at offering conditions for the secure stay, movement, accessibility, and usability for a great range of the population.

In order to achieve the intended properties of urban spaces, the UrbSpace-key aspects described in the following are laying the basis for the realisation of urban open spaces as vital and valuable elements within the overall urban landscape of towns and cities of different sizes. The principles to be considered are summarized under the following six key aspects:

- > Environmental criteria
- > Public participation criteria
- > Gender aspects
- > Security and Social Cohesion criteria
- > Accessibility aspects
- > Design - Architectural criteria

## Guideline section

This document offers the user information and hints for the organisation and course of the open urban space development process: In section II dealing with "Guidelines"<sup>1</sup> the process is presented with the different phases it is composed of (see figure 1 below), the objectives and activities to be carried out in each of the phases from project initiation to designing and planning, implementation, and finalisation.

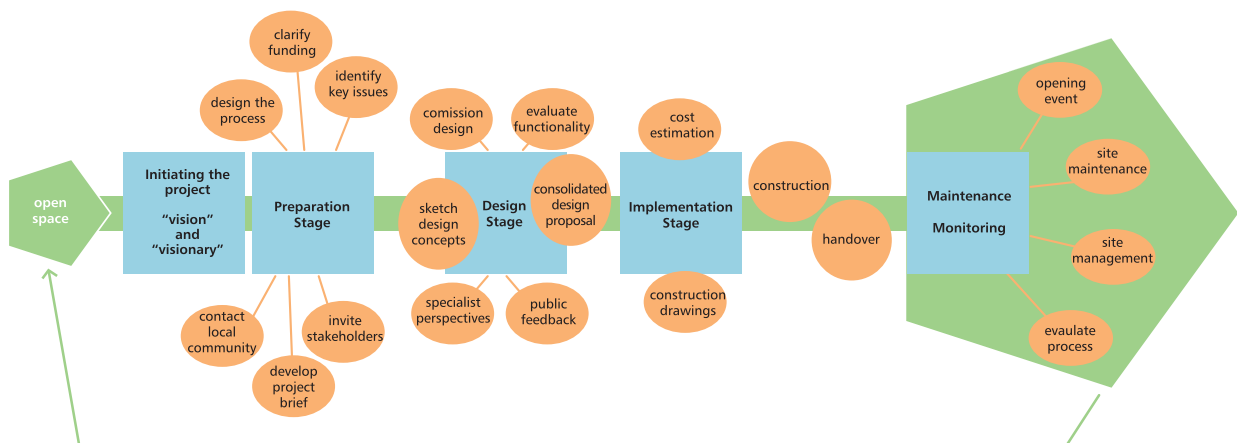


Figure 1: Project development process (Source: Joint Strategy, p. 32)

1 Originally prepared by the authors Zuzana Hudekova (REC Slovakia) and Martina Paulíková (Ekopolis Foundation)

## Checklist section and exemplary case studies from UrbSpace-pilot actions

Moreover this document provides the user with an overview about the fundamental criteria to realize for the six above mentioned topics which characterise good urban spaces.

In section III (“*Checklists for the UrbSpace-key aspects – criteria to be considered for the good design of urban open spaces*”) each is presented in concise form: A short introduction referring to the aspects’ local value in the context of a sustainable urban development is followed by a checklist part. This should orientate the user with the basic idea how to approach the development process for “good urban spaces” by determining the implementation of these key aspects in a concrete site planning and design project, according to local pre-requisites and resources, and user needs and expectations (cf. Fig. 2 below).

In addition to the guidelines and checklists, the exemplary implementations of the key aspects in various pilot actions within UrbSpace are compiled and presented in the annex (“*Case studies from the UrbSpace-pilot actions*”).

## Methodology Action Plan: Complementing Joint Strategy and Working Papers

This document takes into consideration the experiences and lessons learnt from the pilot actions which were carried out in UrbSpace. In this context, the **Joint Strategy – A Guideline for making space<sup>2</sup>** served as rather theoretical and the **Working Papers** developed for each key aspect served as a more practically orientated basis for the preparation or programming (cf. section II), designing, planning and implementing of urban open spaces pilot projects.

Experiences from the UrbSpace-pilot actions reveal that the participation aspect has to be given an important role in the overall process. There are various ways to rea-

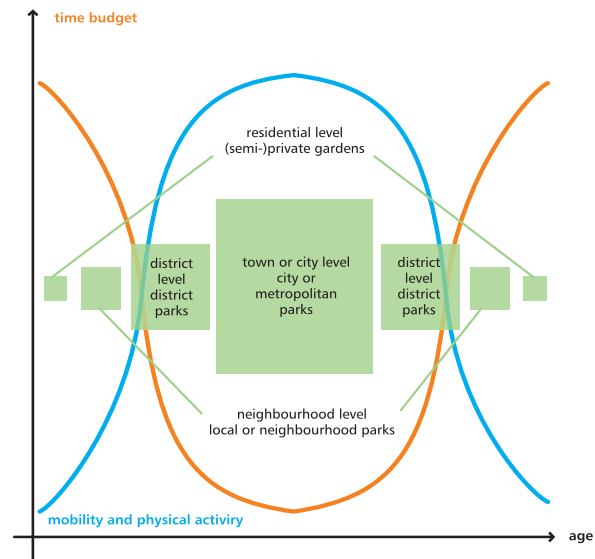


Figure 2: Different spatial demands in relation to age/physical ability, mobility and time budget (Source: Joint Strategy, p. 23)

lize this methodological approach (cf. part II + III). In any case the active involvement of the relevant stakeholder and user groups in the different phases of the project development process is an indispensable success factor for the creation of urban open spaces that meet the expectations of many members of society, both today and into the future. Thus public participation should be regarded as a framework for all other (sub-)actions and aspects to be considered, planned and implemented.

This document **does not replace** the Working Papers and Joint Strategy, but rather it has a methodological guideline character. Thus it serves to **complement** those documents which provide profound descriptions and specifications for a detailed planning approach.

Pre-School Children	School Children	Teenagers and Young Adults	Men	Women
Tourists and Visitors	<b>Urban Open Space</b>			Families
Migrants and other Minority Ethnic Groups				Parents or Child Carers with Children
The Physically Disabled and their Carers				Working People
Retired People and Senior Citizens	Businesses	Commuters and Incoming Workers	Local Residents	The Unemployed

Figure 3: The parties sitting around the open space ‘table’ (Source: Joint Strategy, p. 22)

<sup>2</sup> The Joint Strategy (in English and the national languages of the project partners participating in UrbSpace) and the Working Papers for each of the six key aspects are available for free download on the UrbSpace-project webpage under <http://www.urbanspaces.eu/index.php?id=joint-strategy.php>

# II. GUIDELINES

## Initiating the project – Vision for change

The design process starts well before any plans begin to be drawn up for the urban space to be transformed, and it should ideally continue after the transformation is complete. Behind the process must be an overall vision, and someone with the necessary vision to drive it forward and ensure all interested parties play their part (Joint Strategy, p30).

### II.1 Preparatory phase

#### II. 1.1 Identification of the local community, the public concerned and key players. Providing information about plans to design/renew a public space

The preparatory phase<sup>3</sup> is often the phase determining the successful implementation of the renewal or reconstruction of public spaces that affect the seriousness and legitimacy of the entire process.

In this part of the preparatory phase, the activities are especially concentrated on the identification and involvement of all present and future stakeholders (users of a renewed public space – civic associations, associations of owners, administrators etc. Appropriate stakeholder involvement could also include associations of flat owners, associations of persons with disabilities, mothers' clubs or pensioners' clubs which have sufficient information about the local community and time to actively participate).

An irreplaceable role is played by the municipal self-government which should be one of the major partners during the whole project implementation. If the project is being carried out in a smaller municipality, it is recommended to involve important personalities that affect and organise the local social and cultural life (e.g. the head of any interest group, local priest, etc.). These personalities play a crucial role as they tend to have a good reputation and enjoy the respect of the citizens.

During the preparatory phase, the above mentioned stakeholders are addressed. The information about the plan to design, renew, or reconstruct the public space is published. The key actors are asked for potential co-operation. It is equally important to present the plan-

ned basic aspects of the strategy for the design and renewal focused on the environmental area, area of availability, proper design and selection of materials, criminality prevention, etc. For the public concerned, this is an opportunity to take part both in defining and implementing the project.

In this context, the creation of a specific communication platform (e.g. with blogs or social media networks) can be advantageous.

#### Objective

- Ensuring information and active participation of the local community, current and future users of a renewed space, civic and interest groups, associations of owners, administrators, representatives of flat owners' associations, etc.
- Ensuring that they understand the process, know what activities are planned for what purpose, and how they could be involved in the process.

#### Activities

- **Information campaign** through press reports, articles in local media, the Internet, leaflets in post boxes briefly explaining the steps and planned activities in which the citizens can participate, posters in public spaces to inform about place, date and time of an initial meeting.
- Possible **initial meeting of the local community** – for civil servants and interest groups of the current and future users of the renewed public space, civic and interest associations, associations of owners, managers, representatives of flat owners' associations, etc.
- **Creation of a working team**, e.g. as a "round table", involving the designer(s), representatives of the management or the owner(s) of public space, the public concerned, a person responsible for external and internal communication. The experienced facilitator is often a member of the close working team who not only facilitates the whole process of public participation, but also solves possible conflicts arising from different interests, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Referred to as the Programming-phase, encompassing the preparation and analytical steps (see II.2, cf. Joint Strategy, chapter 4.3.6).

## II.1.2 Elaboration of a time schedule, working / activity plans (road map), determination of responsibilities, etc.

This activity is carried out parallel to II.2.1. The plan of activities should be created in collaboration with key actors from the local community and published.

### Activities

- Elaborating a time schedule and working / activity plans, defining the responsibilities, working out the contracts and agreements with the key actors, etc.
- It is necessary to look after the project documentation due to its evaluation, for the motivation of the local community, and in order to strengthen capacities.
- The available funding shall be precise

## II.2 Analytical phase

### Gaining background documentation and information about a public space

It is important to gain necessary information concerning the use of a public space: Investigation of the current use of the space (e.g. by means of mapping the behaviour of current users), identification of basic local problems, fundamental limits, and the identification of the main points that do not allow for the classification of the current public space status as being satisfactory.

### Objective

- Gaining sufficient information on the past and present use of the public space, its limits from the point of view of future use.
- Gaining information on the broader surroundings of the public space and its problems.
- Gaining background documents for the planning phase, and information about problems and deviations related to the expected creation of a high quality public space.
- To get acquainted with ideas on the future use of the public space from the public concerned.

### Activities

*Familiarizing oneself with the spatial plan and other legally binding documents related to the functions and use of a concrete public space (cf. Joint Strategy "The policy context of urban open space", p.8).*

- **Identification of and consultations with the official owners, administrators and users** of the space. Identification of contracts or agreements on the use of the space, though temporary (e.g. contracts on seasonal storage of material in summers or on storage of snow in winters, etc.). It is necessary to

identify the plans of these stakeholders to modify or use the space in the future.

- **Gathering older design plans** from building authorities or local architects, photos from local people (this can also be done as competitions for children who can look for photos in their families, or asking older people, pensioners' clubs, or in archives and museums), technical maps with underground networks, etc.
- **Survey of the current use of the space and identification of the main user groups** –covering the entire time period (not only during the day) and to have information about usage throughout the year. Therefore it is necessary to involve the local community in this activity, e.g. to map with students the behaviour of people in the space during the day, to carry out interviews with users in the space, etc. (cf. Working Paper "Public participation criteria", p.6, and the corresponding checklist in chapter III).
- **Preliminary physical mapping of the space** and its surroundings – identification of the most acute problems in the areas of the environment, criminality prevention, accessibility for community groups with specific needs from the point of view of access, usability and movement safety, respecting the historical assets of the territory, providing the space users with information, cleanliness, care, inclusion into the surrounding constructions, etc. (cf. the criteria compiled in the checklists in chapter III).
- **Identification of basic problems, fundamental limits** and main points which do not allow for the determination of the current state of the public space as satisfactory. Identification of problems of the public space concerning the aspects of environment, criminality prevention, accessibility for the community groups with specific needs, historical assets of the territory, etc. (cf. Joint Strategy, chapter 5, part 5.2 and the criteria compiled in the checklists in chapter III).
- **Participatory planning meeting** – the objective of such an event is realising a structured discussion to investigate the ideas of inhabitants on the future picture of the space. The role of the facilitator is to accumulate a broad spectrum of ideas and proposals to modify the space and then, through narrowing, to lead the discussion to an agreement on the preferable purpose of the space and its functions. This background is important for the designing activities of the architect. It is appropriate if the planning meeting also includes activities to unite the community and the team.
- In general, the **public workshops, accompanied by e.g. additional activities** such as an art competition for children, let them express their ideal use of the space concerned (evaluation carried out in the form of a public exhibition, rewards for winners + analysis of proposals, assessing the occurrence of particular elements, etc.) are very useful. Such an activity could also attract parents to the entire process.

- **Inquiries among the public, e.g. via local newspapers, the Internet** (e.g. local forums) or among the inhabitants of surrounding houses concerning the current use and future purpose of the space – a leaflet with information on activities and ways to express their opinion for whom the space should serve, what should or should not be located there, etc.. Option to place a plan here (a so-called blind map) to describe problems or proposals. Evaluation of public inquiry results.

## II.3 Project design phase

### II.3.1 Defining the vision of the future newly created or renewed public space

After compiling important information about a public space and its surroundings, and after elaborating a basic database of problems and getting an idea about the use from the public concerned in the future, it is possible to start the project design phase. The “vision” shall include a method how to ensure the creation of a high quality public space (see also Joint Strategy, chapter 4.4 for additional information).

#### Objective

Defining a long-term vision and short-term objectives in relation to a concrete public space and its surroundings concerning the use of the space.

#### Activities

- **Defining a long-term objective (vision)** – what should be achieved by the modification or creation of a public space in general and taking into account the aspects such as environmental safety and criminality prevention, accessibility for inhabitants, etc. It is also necessary to take into account the location of the public space within the settlement (city centre, periphery, housing estate), size and nature of the settlement, size of the space itself, nature of built-up areas in the surroundings, identified problems related to the space and its surroundings, etc. (cf. Joint Strategy, chapters 1.3 & 3 and the criteria compiled in the checklists in chapter III for additional information).
- **Defining the short-term objectives** – what should be achieved in the shorter time span in general, and especially in the areas with the most acute problems identified in the framework of the previous step of the process. It is necessary to take into account the resources and capacities (time, financial, technical), limits of the public space itself, and also

the principle that (in the span of several months) the local community should perceive physical changes of the space, at least in parts.

- A proper set of activities also includes measures focused on strengthening the community – various cultural and other events to bring vitality to the space, show possibilities of its use, inform the broader community about modifications of the space, attract other people to planning activities or direct implementation of the plans. These activities can be connected to the key steps in the planning and implementation phases. However, they can be carried out quite separately on occasions such as Earth Day, City Day, end of school year, etc. (see II.6).

### II.3.2 Design visualisation and its approval by stakeholders

The principal part – the design of the public space, realised by a professional designer (he/she shall be a member of the team, see point II.1.2), focused itself on the problems identified in step II.2. The date of the project phase completion has to be specified exactly, and should be clear to all involved project stakeholders.

#### Objective

Designing the public space and determining the priority functions and possibly also the supporting functions, priorities and supporting target groups.

Determining regulators, limits and other rules for the public space, taking into account environmental aspects, safety and criminality prevention, accessibility for inhabitants, safe and continuous movement within the public space (e.g. how to deal with the material used, extent of fixed surfaces, how to access public spaces safely).

To already consider in this phase the maintenance of the public space and to solve potential conflicts (e.g. visual control of the space versus environmental criteria of biotope conservation, cf. remarks concerning this matter in the checklist chapter).

#### Activities

- The design work – it is very suitable to **prepare different design alternatives/solutions**; a model or another visualisation of the proposals is also appropriate.
- **Approval of the proposed design by the community or selection of an alternative** – one option is organising a second planning meeting as a half-day or one-day meeting focused on discussions about proposals and on selecting or approving the final design (if there are various alternatives) so that the architect can complete the plan for the implementation phases. This meeting can be con-

nected to various cultural and social events for the public, or it can be a part of them. In some cases it is appropriate to accompany the second meeting with further forms of providing information to the public about which a draft has been worked out by the designer. The draft can be displayed in a publicly available space, or via the local media as newspapers, along with information where comments can be sent. Additional meetings and consultations for various groups of inhabitants, Internet voting and commenting can be organised. It is necessary that the public is informed about the elaborated proposal, and can amend and approve the final version.

- If a larger area is renewed as a whole and if only a part of the public space is renewed in the short-term – there should be an agreement on a concrete part of the whole open space and communicating this decision to the local community. The most appropriate solution is to take this decision in the framework of a planning meeting or through another participative form.
- **Completion of the design project and its visualization presented to the public** – in a form acceptable for various groups of space users and the local community. It is appropriate to visualise the design, if appropriate, directly on the space or in its vicinity or in electronic form. Using a tactile model could also be helpful to offer users with visual impairments and blind people the opportunity to perceive the new design. A very important factor is the financial volume of resources which can be invested in the renewal or creation of a public space.
- Providing the information to the owner/manager of the public open space on the project (if he/she is not a member of the team, see point II.1.2) and agreements on possible co-funding, phasing, etc.

## II.4 Implementation phase

**Preparation of conditions and the investment phase of the public space project** (cf. also Joint Strategy, chapter 4.5 for additional information).

Before starting the implementation stage, the detailed construction drawings that serve as basis for the costs estimates and tendering process shall be worked out. The estimated costs shall be in line with the available funding (see chapter II.1.2).

### Objective

- Carrying out visible changes on the space in a short term (at least partial modifications), where possible and useful involving also the local community (including children, young people and groups with specific needs) in the activities.

## Activities

- **Ensuring various permissions** (building permission, notification of minor building activities, etc.) **according to works planned**, communication with the building authority.
- **Preparation of construction drawings as the basis for cost estimates**, ordering and elaborating the price offers and selection of proper suppliers.
- **Identifying some works to involve various groups of volunteers** in the modification of a public space where suitable (always ensuring the legal basis for volunteer involvement, e.g. concerning insurance coverage) – experience shows that the involvement of people in the modification of a public space supports their feeling of ownership in such a space and protects it against vandalism. If the public is involved then it is necessary to divide implementation works into partial tasks and phases, distribute responsibilities to particular implementation groups, ensure the material availability, tools, goods and services needed for construction, preparation of the land and particular architectonic components, so that it is possible to install them during the common implementation.
- **Implementation of works that could be carried out with volunteer involvement** – the creation of a system for the registration and distribution of volunteers' tasks, ensuring refreshment and hygiene, ensuring activities for children (e.g. games and competitions). Dealing with the space can be organised in order to implement visible changes during common actions (installing hammocks, berms, etc.). Concrete results influence people, and persuade them that they invested their time correctly.
- **Carrying out the building activities by external suppliers and completion of works.**

## II.5 Finalisation, maintenance and evaluation/monitoring stage

After finishing building activities, the official handover of the renewed public space to the public shall be realized. Once completed, the site will need to be regularly maintained. The evaluation of project success, comparison of foreseen short-term objectives, and planned outputs to the objectives and outputs achieved, as well as monitoring how successful the design has been in terms of its original intentions and the types and level of use. The realisation of a 'post evaluation' study involving the mapping of the use and activity of the renewed space, and comparison with the preliminary site analysis (cf. Joint Strategy, chapter 4.6 for additional information).

## Objective

- Informing the local community concerned on the completion of a project part and other planned steps.
- To evaluate project success and to process the experience from the use of methodology.
- To secure the appropriate maintenance and management of the renewed space.
- To realize the “post evaluation” study and comparison with the preliminary analysis of the open space realized during the preparatory stage.

## Activities

- Official/ceremonial public event with the participation of project stakeholders, involved inhabitants, representatives of the local community, sponsors, partners, local and regional media and others. Exhibition of photos or projection of films from implementation activities, exhibitions of proposals from children, etc. The objective of the opening is to deliver the space for the intended use by inhabitants, expressing gratitude to the stakeholders concerned who have contributed to the implementation of activities in the public space, and the promotion of changes implemented.
- Preparation of an acceptance protocol and handover of the investment to the future manager of the renewed public space.
- To organize/secure the regular maintenance of the renewed open space (e.g. maintaining the vegetation, cleaning litter, and making minor repairs)
- To realize the “post evaluation” study

## II.6 Optional - Cultural and other events to revive the public space

Various cultural, sports and other events serving to revive the space, demonstrate possibilities of its use, inform a broader community about the fact that the space is going to be changed, attract other people to planning or directly to implementation activities. These can be connected to the key steps in the planning and implementation phases, however they can be carried out quite separately on appropriate occasions (such as Earth Day, City Day, end of school year, etc.).

## Objective

Bringing activities for various groups of people to the space, thus demonstrating the spaces’ potential, reviving and informing on its changes, even before the modification itself.

## Activities

- Sport games and tournaments for teenagers, children and adults, tournaments between neighbours – football, badminton...
- Creative workshops for children, teenagers and families – painting, getting acquainted with nature, production of various things. Drafting graffiti, photo and art workshops...
- Cooking events e.g. for tasting bio- or traditional food, markets with seasonal vegetables or other local products...
- Theatre performances on the streets, film performances, musical performances – performances by children from schools or amateur ensembles, performances by professional and youth ensembles...
- Other activities for various groups of the public – playing with kites, juggling, street shows, demonstration of activities by kynologists or firemen, traditional activities according to local customs...





# III. CHECKLISTS FOR THE URBSPACE-KEY ASPECTS –

criteria to be considered for the good design of urban open spaces

This section of the Methodology Action Plan is to orientate the user about significant criteria to take into account, first of all at the initiation of an urban open space project, and apart from an obligatory consideration of binding national, regional and/or local legislation. The checklists reflect properties that good urban spaces possess in the context of each of the mentioned UrbSpace-key aspects. This could help to **consider the potential**, and consequently to **determine the real functional role or performance** (cf. Joint Strategy, chapter 2) that a given open urban space should fulfil against the background of the local spatial/geographical, technical, financial, personal and further conditions, resources and equipment.

### Using checklists over the course of the project development process

In addition to the specific **Working Papers** for each aspect and the **Joint Strategy** (cf. part I), the checklists could serve on one hand as **“ex ante-planning instrument”** at the start (programming, preparation phase

and analysing the current state of a site in question, user expectations etc., cf. Joint Strategy, chapter 4.3.6 and the guideline section for additional information). On the other hand, the checklists could serve as a **“control instrument”** in the following phases of a project development process (detailed planning and design phase and the subsequent implementation of the planned design in order to realise the intended functions): Here they should help to **check if the criteria are taken into account and applied properly**. Moreover, in the final phases of the project the checklist could be used to evaluate, control, and monitor the proper consideration of the key aspects after the implementation and finalisation of the project. The boxes in the checklist columns of the corresponding above mentioned project phases indicate in which step(s) of the process<sup>4</sup> it is especially important to consider the relevant points and criteria of the single UrbSpace-key aspects (see Fig. 3 below): By **ticking off these boxes**, the checklists should be applied to remind the user of the important criteria **in the single phases** (cf. section II.) of the project process:

Secure movement in urban open spaces	Preparation / Analysing (Programming)	Planning / Designing	Implementation / Evaluation
Existing (national/regional/local) regulations and standards of accessibility are considered.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The maximal horizontal and vertical slope of surfaces and paths is limited.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 3: Example how to use the checklists

The consideration of the set of criteria for the single UrbSpace-key aspects compiled on the following pages significantly influences attractiveness and usability - and therefore the success - of a created or updated space for as many users as possible who all have their individual needs, interests, and expectations regarding spending

time in urban surroundings. In this context, the checklists can deliver **orientation for the data collection** about the intended properties of the area in question, with the aim to meet a great variety of user expectations **and for structuring the planning process**.

4 See column at the head of each checklist with the division in to the phases of “Preparation / Analysing (Programming)”, “Planning / Designing” and “Implementation / Evaluation”

## Public participation as methodological framework

The checklist for the aspect of public involvement is complemented by a list of relevant stakeholders and target groups whose expectations, ideas and suggestions should be represented and considered in a planning process. The continuous involvement of these stakeholders representing “official municipal authorities”, the local community, and further interest groups during the project lifetime is an ambitious goal to fulfil. Nevertheless, it could even be regarded as framework for the overall project development process and thus as a promising methodological approach itself.

## Potential overlapping or contradiction

Looking at the checklists for the single UrbSpace-key aspects reveals **close interconnections or overlapping** in certain sub-criteria. In some cases, urban open spaces “have a highly complex set of sometimes conflicting functions to perform” (Working Paper “Design – Architectural Criteria”, p. 83).

Therefore there may **even** be a **contradiction** between the single relevant criteria listed. An example is the demand for environmentally and ecologically valuable areas with dense planting, bushes, etc. and the demand to create a feeling of safety for users with light spaces without dark areas or hidden places (see also checklist for the “Security and Social Cohesion-aspect”).

Nevertheless all aspects and their sub-criteria are important. Thus it is the task of the designer(s) and architect(s) - always in close cooperation with the user target groups - to find an **adequate balance between these aspects for the individual local situation** of the open space in question.

This demands **respecting** on one hand the **type** (e.g. an urban area with forest character where focus is laid on the environmental criteria, or an urban square where aspects of security may matter more) and on the other hand the **intended principal function(s)** of the open space<sup>5</sup>.



<sup>5</sup> Refer also to chapter 4 of the single thematic Working Papers, dealing with the relationship and potential overlaps of the 6 UrbSpace-key aspects in general and/or their sub-criteria in particular.ning” and “Implementation / Evaluation”

### III.1 Checklist for the Environmental-aspect

Open urban spaces, in particular green spaces, can fulfil important environmental and ecological functions that come along with significant benefits for the community living in a town or city. Therefore this is one of the aspects mostly recognized among other aspects and also stressed in many European policies (cf. Working Paper “Environmental Criteria”, p. 5). Including the potential to mitigate the negative effects of climate change that are likely to be especially marked in urban areas, the en-

vironmental role of open spaces in urban surroundings is underlined in particular by fulfilling the following functions, also referred to as ‘ecosystem services’ (cf. *ibid.*, p. 14): climatic amelioration of the urban environment, influencing the hydrological cycle and storm water management, biodiversity conservation and promotion/provision of habitats for wild plants and animals, noise screening, etc.

Environmental-aspect			
1. General aspects in planning – urban level	Preparation / Analysing (Programming)	Plan-ning / Design-ing	Imple-mentation / Evalua-tion
A balanced spatial distribution of public green spaces in urbanized areas with regard to their reachability for citizens is envisaged <sup>6</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connectivity between the different types of green and open spaces is created <sup>7</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green spaces in niches are enhanced and diversified - especially in high densely built-up areas of urban centres <sup>8</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The compact city concept <sup>9</sup> is preferred to avoid urban sprawl, fragmentation of the surrounding landscape, and to save open space for nature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green and open spaces are designed considering the locally prevailing wind directions to enable better air circulation and exchange of air at night.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green belts or protection belts alongside water bodies are created.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. Inner development – required criteria and parameters</b>			
<b>Criteria related to mitigation of adverse climate change impacts</b>			
The percentage of vegetation surfaces in accordance with the principal function of the open space is increased <sup>10</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The retention capacity of the territory is increased <sup>11</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The use of water elements (fountains, watercourses catching rain water) is foreseen <sup>12</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facing the expected alleviation of temperature in urban areas new species (taxons) of trees and plants until now not suitable for local conditions <sup>13</sup> are introduced.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planting of invasive woody plants ( <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> , <i>Negundo aceroides</i> ) of which distribution supported by increasing temperature is avoided.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6 In 300 m distance from the green spaces or 10 minutes of free walk, ref.figure 2, p.6

7 Forming bio corridors, tree alleys with cycling and walking infrastructure.

8 e.g. by creating “pocket parks” (using trees on streets, green walls and roofs, climbing and vertical vegetation, etc.).

9 Communication from the commission to the council, the European parliament, the European economic and social committee and the Committee of the regions, 2004, Towards a thematic strategy on the urban environment, p.26

10 When possible, the percentage of coverage by woody plants should be > 60 % in relation to lawn.

11 e.g. by removing unnecessary soil sealing in yards, parks, along streets, creating green roofs catching and slowing water runoff.

12 Roof and terrace water collection systems can lead to collection ditches and collection ponds. Pavements and sealed surfaces can be gradient so water can run to the vegetation.

13 e.g. due to temperature demands, thus resistant to strong summer droughts due to narrow leaves; cf. Jaroslav Machovec: The impacts of global climate change on parks and landscape creation in cities, published in *proceeding Settlements, park landscape.*, 2002 ISBN 80-8069-170-3

Environmental-aspect			
<b>Criteria related to biodiversity promotion</b>			
For new plantings, native trees and bushes of regional origin are used if possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The connectivity of biotopes at the open space level is enhanced <sup>14</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bird nesting boxes and bat boxes for each plot are installed if possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Near-natural mowing of selected green spaces is considered <sup>15</sup> , un-mown verges (e.g. under fences) are foreseen.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Areas of successions are considered by leaving parts of green spaces to grow by natural succession.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrient deficient habitats are created by not applying humus layers to open landslides, slopes, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The use of pesticides and de-icing salt is ceased, except for hazardous road sections.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Criteria related to the provision of proper climate conditions for citizens</b>			
Measures to moderate summer heat are taken where possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shielding (panels, pergolas or textile in streets)</li> <li>• Use of bright colours and shiny surfaces (better reflecting radiation than dark ones)</li> <li>• Use of especially deciduous trees (providing shade in summer and permitting solar exposure on the site during winter)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Measures to protect citizens against wind, rain and noise are taken where possible: Vegetation barriers, glazing, panels ; special examples are galleries (providing protection from rain) and sunken open spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14 e.g. by constructing an enclosure of a green space in a way that small animals like hedgehogs and amphibians can pass.

15 At most 1-2 times per year considering the vegetation periods of late-blooming plants and the needs of insects and ground nesting birds.

16 Dense tree canopies act as a wind break (project RUROS), when they are placed in the prevailing wind direction, evergreen trees have special importance.

## III.2a Checklist for the Public Participation-aspect

The involvement of the local community, represented by a variety of stakeholders who are enabled to articulate their open space requirements into joint decision making processes, has gained a prominent role within the concept of sustainability. The methodological planning approach of public participation from the beginning helps to gather relevant information about users' expectations, provides feedback about the development character of a given place, and finally supports the realization of satisfactory and durable results, which thus also in economic terms become sustainable: It is generally stressed that a balanced extent of public involvement in urban development strengthens citizens' rela-

on to the town and its structural elements, and secures the long-term support of implemented policies or proposed concepts (cf. Working Paper "Public Participation criteria", p. 4<sup>12</sup>).

Important steps/elements to consider are public access to information, active information provision, and direct consultation with citizens in the planning and evaluation of planning processes: *"Public spaces are practically ideal projects for participatory processes. They are relatively clearly delineated, citizens use them almost daily, and they bring together a number of topics relating to environmental protection, safety, leisure time, etc. that make them an attractive topic for residents"* (ibid.).

Public Participation-aspect			
Methodology	Preparation / Analysing (Programming)	Planning / Designing	Implementation / Evaluation
There is a clear, externally presented public participation plan with clear timeframes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A project leader (implementation team) is familiar with participation principles and methodology, understands them, and accepts them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A (potentially external) consultant with sufficient experience in public participation, communication and facilitation of public meetings is part of the participation process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All potential target groups are identified and involved in the single project phases where suitable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Involvement is monitored, and if some groups are missing, the process is adjusted to involve the group.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Various manners of addressing the public are used in communication, information dissemination and participation strategy (including dialogic approaches workshops, group work, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local resources are used for project preparation and implementation (particularly in terms of local citizens, important stakeholders in the area, local technologies, materials, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over the course of the project, citizens can recognize how it is developing, and how their opinions are considered and integrated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context	Necessary	Process organized	Fulfilled
The property owner unconditionally consents to the project aim and accepts responsibility for site maintenance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project leaders make provisions to solve potential conflicts (within the team, relating to the project site and issues, in relation to involved groups etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project implementer puts own funding/labour/material into project development or implementation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17 Refer also to the Joint Strategy, chapter 3 about planning "for and with all stakeholders".

Public Participation-aspect			
Context	Necessary	Process organized	Fulfilled
The project site is locally significant, frequented, accessible, and naturally invites to use. There is long-demand for a change to the site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The proposed site design fulfils the needs of multiple target groups (it does not offer only one function).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project design is conceived for everyday life and for various times of day and seasons.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring of mistakes and problems is used to glean lessons for upcoming events and local community development.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community			
The initial initiative is supported from "bottom up", not only instructed from "top down".	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The local community is already active prior to project implementation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The initiating group is diverse, reflecting the diversity of the potential target groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a project initiator in the community with the ability to lead, and a natural authority within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The goal is not simply the creation of a place, but of a functioning team that continues after project end.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is cooperation between the initiating group, (e.g.) non-governmental organisations and municipal leadership.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citizens take part in project implementation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities			
On the site are various community activities before, during and after revitalization.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project indirectly leads to further community activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## III.2b Compilation of stakeholders and target groups to be considered for urban open space planning

### Citizens: "The users of urban open spaces"

- Local residents
- Pre-school and school children
- Teenagers and young adults
- Women
- Men
- Families
- Parents or child carers with children
- People with impairments/reduced mobility
- Retired people and senior citizens
- Migrants and other minority ethnic groups
- Working people, commuters and incoming workers
- Unemployed persons
- Potential tourists and visitors

### Official bodies

- Members of the local government
- Members of the local administration
- Landowners in the area
- Property owners in the neighbourhood of the site
- Representatives of major public institutions around: Schools, universities, libraries, museums

### Local organisations and stakeholder groups

- NGOs
- Local alliances/associations/interest groups
- Opposition
- Children and youth centres
- Local associations, e.g. representatives of people with impairments, sports clubs
- Businesses (restaurants etc.)

### III.3 Checklist for the Gender-aspect

Considering in more detail the variety of existing life styles and habits in cities, many activities, needs and necessities arise. Nevertheless, urban planners too often create cities without considering the needs of women, children, elderly and disabled persons, resulting that not all parts of a city can be equally enjoyed by all potential user groups. The integration of a gender point of view into spatial urban policy making can result in a more sustainable, equal, and accessible environment for the different members of society.

Gender mainstreaming in urban planning focuses on the consideration of the potential gender related differences at all stages of the planning process, from

formulating the objectives to planning the measures, their implementation, and evaluation. This means it is not concerned only with women or further often neglected user groups (or societal minorities), but with the relationship between them and men for mutual benefit. Specific actions may be required to remove those inequalities identified.

Gender mainstreaming as a cross-sectional issue always has to be thought of in close connection with the other UrbSpace-key aspects, in particular with matters of security (to face gender violence) and accessibility (cf. Working Paper “Gender Aspects”).

Gender-aspect			
General aspects in each planning approach	Preparation / Analysing (Programming)	Planning / Designing	Implementation / Evaluation
Any mentioned/recognized/potential negative impact of the intervention is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information about different uses of the public space are collected and evaluated <sup>18</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information about different needs of all kinds of user groups to access services in public spaces is collected and evaluated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information about how and for what purposes/functions services and equipment are used in public spaces is collected and analysed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All relevant aspects are thought of from the perspective of all user groups (especially women, children, elder or disabled persons, people with different cultural background) in the project process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Measures to promote equality			
A balanced relation of women and men representing the different target groups are involved in the decision making process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clear rules in the process of decision making integrating a gender mainstreaming approach are established.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The aspects if women and men benefit in the same way of any structure in a public space area are considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning			
Sports facilities usable for all are foreseen.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children areas are foreseen.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support facilities - e.g. local shops, childcare, public toilets - are foreseen.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A mixed use of a place for a wide cross-section of the population is envisaged.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>18</sup> When and how women and further target groups (e.g. children, teenagers, elderly or disabled persons) use open urban spaces, taking into account gender differentiated statistics, analysis and utilization of sites or locations (cf. Working Paper “Gender Aspects”, p. 34 ff. and Guideline-section II).



### III.4 Checklist for the Security and Social Cohesion-aspect

As stated in the Working Paper for the “Security and Social Cohesion criteria” (cf. p. 1), when in a public space users have a direct perception of that which is safe or unsafe. An example shows the consequence of taking properly into account this matter in relation to the designing/planning of urban open spaces: Green parks (environmental aspect) can be elements increasing not only the quality and attractiveness of a place and its surroundings, but also security. As a public garden can attract many different users (families, children, elderly, etc.) who tend to respect common codes of conduct and share common activities, natural surveillance is increased. On the other side, poorly designed or managed public parks can facilitate breaches of such codes with negative consequences - anti-social behaviours (ASB), vandalism, or even more serious crimes such as the exercise of violence such as assaults or rape.

The issue of security and social cohesion within public places has close connections with many of the other aspects addressed in UrbSpace, with mutual consequences: Generally the designing, planning, implementation and monitoring/evaluation should therefore take into account crime prevention principles which include, among others, clear sight lines and proper lighting (design and architecture), the right level and type of access and connections (accessibility), involvement of different stakeholders including police in the design process (public participation), care of particular users: elderly, children, women, disabled, migrants (gender aspects) (cf. Working Paper “Security and Social Cohesion criteria”).

Security and Social Cohesion-aspect			
General aspects in each planning approach	Preparation / Analysing (Programming)	Planning / Designing	Implementation / Evaluation
“Think criminal” – elements that could become the target of crime, vandalism or anti-social behaviours (ASB) are always considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Think wider” - crime/ASB information and trends in the area are taken into account.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Ask experts” - the police, relevant Local Authority services (social and crime prevention) and stakeholders are contacted to know what is going on, in a good and bad sense.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Make it simple” - the simplest ways (including design) to get the space functions clear, easy and safe to understand or use are considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Make it friendly” - happy or comfortable users tend to feel safer. Potential conflicts are considered and hopefully prevented.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Make it strong” - the “targets” are protected and security measures are designed discrete but adequate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Make it attractive” - a public space is for citizens, something is put in place that attracts people. Ensuring a high security level of the area allows the exercise of different functions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Make it for all” - all possible users and their perception of/need for security are accounted; a public space should be as inclusive as possible, not exclusive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Keep it clean” - maintenance, quick repair and cleaning services are ensured, considering the “broken windows” theory <sup>19</sup> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
“Look for owners” – it is ensured that someone will “own” the space, overlook and take care of it (natural surveillance), and that shared rules are in place (code of conducts).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19 The “broken windows” theory states that the perception of a place already showing traces of vandalism, being partly destroyed and poorly maintained, could encourage even more anti-social behavior. Thus the maintenance of the environment as a physical indicator of levels of social cohesion and informal social control gets greater importance (cf. Working Paper “Security and Social Cohesion criteria”, p. 7).

<b>Security and Social Cohesion-aspect</b>			
<b>Access and movement for security</b>			
Pedestrian, cyclist and driver routes are clearly identified.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unnecessary routes are removed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving within and through the area is easy and understandable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Routes providing potential offenders with ready and unnoticed access to potential targets are closed or put under control.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Design for security</b>			
The layout of the space/building is appropriate for the identified crime risk.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses in the area are accounted and can be compatible, potential conflicts are considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The public space serves a purpose and supports an appropriate level of legitimate activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable points or hidden corners of spaces and building are removed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities for social surveillance are maximized.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Security and surveillance for security</b>			
Car/bicycle parking areas ensure visibility and security.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adequate - but not excessive - lighting is considered for crime prevention.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCTV <sup>20</sup> options are considered (appearing to be the best way to solve some particular problem in a cost-effectiveness analysis).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crime prevention strategies are set up, accounting all potential users' potential risks and fears.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The "target hardening" principles of "Secure design" (CPTED <sup>21</sup> , design out crime, secured design, etc.) are applied.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The negative impact of crime prevention measures are addressed and mitigated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Ownership and maintenance</b>			
Public, semi-private and private spaces are clearly marked.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The identity of the place, ownership and sense of belonging are accounted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities and furniture management systems are set up.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The best possible quality of public spaces is ensured.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20 "CCTV-Closed circuit television": Installation of cameras for surveillance of an area (cf. *ibid.*, p. 28).

21 "CPTED" is a place-based crime prevention strategy aimed at "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" (cf. *ibid.*, p. 2 ff.).

### III.5 Checklist for the Accessibility-aspect

Creating an environment accessible for all potential users enhances the equal right of participation in social life, and gives equal chances to move in and use all constructed areas of everyday life. At the same time, this means that disadvantages in relation to access to goods and services open for the public should be avoided. This not only relates to people with disabilities, but the value of an accessible environment designed for all is stressed by the suggestion that every member of society can benefit from this approach in different ways and at different stages of his or her life (e.g. children being transported in prams and their parents, tourists with wheeled suitcases travelling in foreign surroundings, elderly using walking frames, etc.). Design for all aimed at the creation of urban (infra-) structures accessible and usable for everybody regardless of individual capabilities, cultural background,

or place of residence can also be seen as the preparation of towns and cities for the demographic change in European countries. This goes along with the rising proportion of the elderly population, which will in the future on average be less mobile and more susceptible to barriers in the environment than today.

Urban open spaces which are barrier free, easy to navigate and designed for all promote diversity and equal opportunities, not the uniformity of the population. By being useful and comfortable for everybody, they benefit not only disabled persons but are an important asset for society as a whole, for local residents as well as offering the potential of increasing the number of visitors (cf. Working Paper "Accessibility aspect" and Joint Strategy, chapter 3.5).

Accessibility-aspect			
General aspects in each planning approach	Preparation / Analysing (Programming)	Planning / Designing	Implementation / Evaluation
Existing (national/regional/local) regulations and standards of accessibility are considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessible information about open spaces' properties for people with different needs is provided.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connection to the barrier free public transport system and facilities/parking for users of individual transport close to open space access points are guaranteed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A variety of attractions/activities and hints to further offers in the surroundings are created.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linear or circular routes along points of interest, with regular options to intersect and shortcuts are created.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The compatibility of potential parallel forms and purposes of using and moving in the urban open spaces (walking, cycling, cars) is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The functionality and maintenance of barrier free equipment in urban open spaces are ensured.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Accessibility-aspect</b>			
<b>Inner development – required elements and parameters</b>			
<b>Secure movement in urban open spaces</b>			
The maximal horizontal and vertical slope of surfaces and paths is limited.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The minimal width of spaces, turning-/meeting- & security spaces (depending on the intensity of use) is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headroom free of any elements and high enough for secure walking for all is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firmed, non-slipped, levelled, jointless surfaces of places and paths free from irregularities are created.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Differences in surface level height are avoided or reduced to a minimum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steps as the only possibility to bridge unavoidable level differences are avoided, instead a ramp or lift is installed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ramps comply with existing regulations/standards in longitudinal gradient, have wheel deflectors, handrails, intermediate landings, and movement areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elements of urban life and furniture are located in a secure and functional relationship, they are clearly and perceivably marked as potential obstacles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Information and orientation</b>			
Coherent, indisputable information and detectable orientation are considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A guiding system of tactile, acoustic and optical elements and contrasts is considered to provide orientation in space, define walks, and warn of barriers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sign-posting with clear marking of footpaths, sidewalks, alternative routes, warning at sensible points of risk is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barrier free information regarding important properties of the open space and service facilities is located at relevant access points.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Staying and meeting, supplementary equipment: Areas in regular distances are considered ...</b>			
...with options to take a seat for protecting or restoring personal wellbeing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...to stay and relax safely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...large enough and at appropriate positions to meet and communicate without being disturbed by or reducing the mobility of others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reachable, barrier free sanitary installations, preferably at gateway points, are considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## III.6 Checklist for the Design - Architectural-aspect

Design is seen as being something which is much more than shaping only the formal aspects of a space, reflecting once more the close relation and interconnection between the UrbSpace-key aspects depicted before: As displayed in the Working Paper “Design – Architectural Criteria” (p. 4 ff.), quite briefly design is rather about integrating formal and functional aspects and thus “all aspects relating to the conditions of the site, the needs of the users, the expectations of the client and the demands of society and the environment into a unified and spatially functioning concept. To reduce the

design aspects of the creation of urban spaces to formal considerations risks missing the point of what design is about. Simply by reproducing the physical structures associated with successful urban spaces, it is not possible to create good design.”

Therefore the criteria and hints outlined in the following checklist should be regarded for the creation or upgrading of a given open space (cf. also Joint Strategy, chapter 4, “Design as a noun – Design as a verb”, referring in detail to the demands of design in the single phases of the project development process).

Design - Architectural-aspect			
The Wider Context	Preparation / Analysing (Programming)	Planning / Designing	Implementation / Evaluation
The location of the space in the wider urban open space network is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The functional role of the space in the wider urban open space network is accounted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The physical and visual link of the site in to the open space network is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The role which the space does or should play in the strategic open space concept of the city/region is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The way of defining/protecting the edges of the space from the surrounding urban area is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The permeability of the edges of the space for users is taken into account.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The overall balance between views in/out and enclosure is assessed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The protective function of the enclosing elements against noise, pollution etc. from outside is assessed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Site planning			
The (optional) limitation of the number of entrances to the space and their location is taken into account.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The (optional) emphasis of any entrances by framing and with threshold spaces is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The (potential) need to structure the space internally into sub-spaces is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The (optional) creation of neutral spaces for a variety of uses/user groups is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The issue of the design concept allowing for possible future change is taken into account.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The potential of the site’s features for providing the physical basis for social functions (communication, play and relaxation, enjoyment of nature etc.) is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The potential of the site’s features for providing the physical basis for structural and aesthetic functions (identity, orientation, reflection of context etc.) is taken into account.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The support of the sustainability goals by the use of design approaches, materials (durable and resistant to local climate conditions) and vegetation is taken into account.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Design - Architectural-aspect</b>			
<b>Site Design</b>			
Adequate approaches to organise elements of the design (geometrical schemes; Gestalt principles for grouping elements; reaction to external gradients and orientation, etc.) are applied.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sufficient use of vertical elements to help define the spaces created is made.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The link of the main spaces and features by circulation around the site is taken into account.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The integration of existing elements and symbols from the site's surroundings or the history of the site to the design concept is envisaged to enhance meaning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human scale is taken into account in the design (angle of visions, size of spaces, scale of design elements etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Detailed design and use of materials</b>			
Chosen materials: The correspondence to and support of other design aspects are considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The design of the floorscape is used to reinforce the spatial concept (materials, patterns etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The approach to the design of the enclosing/dividing elements, which specify different areas within the space is defined.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The function of vegetation to define space and create emphasis and meaning is considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The provision and positions of site furniture, lighting, kiosks and pergolas etc. are sufficiently considered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The possible role of sculptures or other artistic interventions is taken into account.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **III.7 Ten success factors for good planning and designing of urban open places**

- 1. Start and continue with "the people"**
- 2. Communicate during the process and communicate outcomes**
- 3. Be realistic about resources and demands, now and in the future**
- 4. Have a coordinator to plan and follow through the process**
- 5. Professionals should be facilitators, not dominators**
- 6. Ensure neighbourhood scale and character**
- 7. Design should be adaptable, robust and realistically maintainable**
- 8. Plan for inclusion: "Design for All"**
- 9. Protect and improve the environment**
- 10. Do post-occupancy evaluation and adapt accordingly**

# ANNEX

## Case studies from UrbSpace-pilot actions

During the UrbSpace-project lifetime, the partners from eight Central European countries realized local pilot actions in their designated urban areas or in the peri-urban surroundings. These pilot projects aimed to consider and implement explicitly the key aspects on which the UrbSpace-project focused. In this context, special reference was given to the Joint Strategy and Working Papers that were elaborated in a previous stage of the project as the theoretical and practical basis for the creation of good urban spaces. Their testing under real conditions within the different pilot project planning approaches was then the focal point in the following phases of the UrbSpace-project.

In this section, solutions from the pilot actions in the participating countries are compiled. The case studies represent urban spaces with very different situations at the beginning. They were then re-structured and modified during the pilot action development.

As exemplary implementations, these case studies reflect different approaches for the realization of one or several of the UrbSpace-key aspects described by the performing project partners.





## Case Study #1

### Open urban space renewal, Prešov/Slovakia

<b>Name of the pilot project</b>	Open urban space renewal in the city of Prešov
<b>Project Partner</b>	LP Regional Environmental Center, Slovakia
<b>Place, Country</b>	Prešov, Slovakia
<b>UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s) implemented</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental aspect</li> <li>• Aspect of public participation</li> <li>• Gender aspect</li> <li>• Security and social aspect</li> <li>• Accessibility aspect</li> <li>• Urban design aspect</li> </ul>

#### Situation at the beginning

The open space area in “Sidlisko II Presov” is located in a housing district built in the late 1960s. The social structure of the local population has changed.

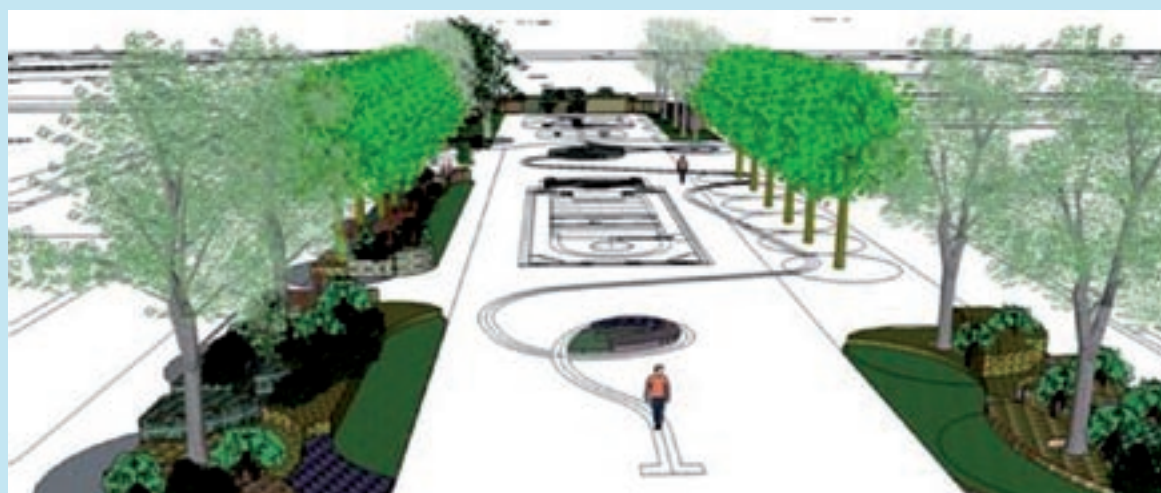
The space is a typical example of a neglected area without relevant functions, with a low ratio of vegetation, problems of criminality (especially during night time), conflicts between car traffic and pedestrians, neglected and insufficient small architecture.



*Situation before*

#### Description of the solution - the effect of implementing these UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

As a whole, the space is designed to serve as a social, meeting and leisure time space of a given residential area and its community. The design of the space tries to meet the interests and wishes of a number of target groups of inhabitants (pre-school children, youth, elderly) and also to comply with daily life activities, and various periods of time and seasons.



*Visualization of the garden design*

The square can therefore be divided into four functional units:

- Entrance area of the square
- Area around the existing fountain
- Podium and meeting space in front of it
- Playground for children

The main composition is led along the axis of the existing fountain; the view axis is closed by higher bushes beyond the playground. The line of paving placed on the square is becoming a main idea of the new composition. In the axis of the square are new accentuating composition elements: A podium and a playground.

The area of the square is paved with a regular raster in the form of a "square in square", which is crossed by a paved organic line, which also serves as a space for playing children. The square is still dominated by a fountain of a rectangular shape situated almost in the centre of the square. In order to increase the fountain's attractiveness, there is a wooden podium connected from the eastern side. The main pedestrian communication route connects the area with a shopping centre and neighbouring district. The area of the public space in question is more open on the side of the shopping centre and closes towards the residential area.

A proposal of two tree alleys along the squares' axis and a proposal of bush beds are important elements of the overall composition.



*Visualization of the final design*

The square is completed with small architecture components and urban movables – benches, baskets, information tables and other components.

#### **Environmental aspect**

Increase of vegetation ratio and biodiversity promotion: Planting the vegetation on the square was focused on the improvement of the micro-climate and an increase of biodiversity in the area. Along with domestic species of wooden plants, species bringing aromas and colours (lavender, salvia) and providing the nutrition functions for insects and butterflies were also proposed.

Adapting negative effects of the climate change: Measures were taken to ensure storm water management (maximal permeability of the surface ensured), reconstruction of the water fountain.

#### **Aspect of public participation**

A participatory planning approach (public meetings, opinion pool, competition of children drawings, etc.) using the method of involvement of local inhabitants was used to find new appropriate functions of the open space.

### Gender aspect

Safety measures included in the design: Reconstruction of the lighting, new function (playground) to attract children with their mothers, prevention of noisy activities.



*Visualization of the new playground and its realisation as part of the reconstruction*

### Security and social aspect

Identification of the crime problems occurring in the planned area / measures included in the design and maintenance foreseen: Regular police control, control of non-suitable car parking, management and maintenance-plan for the area, etc.

### Accessibility aspect

Systematic approach for the improvement of respecting user diversity and avoiding risks to all users, e.g. of the pedestrian environment; installation of hand rails on the stairs, benches for elderly people (but not only).

### Urban design aspect

Measures included in the site design: Composition of elements corresponding to the functions of the space and creating an "image of the place". For the detailed design and materials of the structures, equipment and material sustainability was always taken into account (e.g. wood for the playground), maximum water permeability of surface and paving.

### Description of transferable success factors

Identification of the most acute problems in the areas of the environment; criminality prevention; accessibility aspects for community groups with specific needs with attention to movement safety; respecting the historical assets of the territory has been undertaken using the participatory approach.

Involvement of local communities and associations in empowering actions and cultural activities: Support of the civil culture to let citizens understand the importance of the proper use of open spaces

A success factor is also communication among the local inhabitants and Prešov city office, and the involvement of volunteers organizing side activities for children.

### Conclusion

The design phase of the project met with success and revealed the interest of local inhabitants. However, due to some unexpected constraints, the investment phase is slightly delayed (it will be co-financed through the municipal budget). It will be worth realising the final evaluation after the opening of the renewed open space, as well as the post-investment evaluation (after some months of the renewal) to identify relevant results of the project impact.



## Case Study #2

### Stage under pears, Hrusov/Slovakia

<b>Name of the pilot project</b>	Stage under pears
<b>Project Partner</b>	PP02 Ekopolis Foundation + KÖRTVÉLYES, Civic Association (C.A.)
<b>Place, Country</b>	Hrusov, Slovakia
<b>UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s) implemented</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental aspect</li> <li>Public participation aspect</li> <li>Social aspect</li> <li>Accessibility aspect</li> <li>Urban design aspect</li> </ul>

#### Situation at the beginning

The space reconstructed is protected from transport and at the same time highly visible for people entering the village. It is situated in the area of the local distillery, where the local crop markets were organized. Nearby, the information centre of the "Krasturist" micro region is situated which is visited by foreign visitors to the region. The place is very exposed - near the church, office, as first contact point for visitors of the village. Basic problems were: Ensuring the safety of the space regarding weak visual control and the difficult situation of the accessibility.

There was a need to reconstruct the space near a brook (divided by a fence) by means of soaking the water in the earth, and by the preservation of fruit woody plants in the area. Potential noise disturbance from the proposed stage for public events also had to be considered, as it should have different orientations as the direction of houses in the surroundings.

#### Description of the solution - the effect of implementing these UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

##### **Environmental aspect**

The materials used facilitate the soaking of water. The whole space will be created by the planting of natural fruit woody plants.

##### **Public participation aspect**

Among other problems was lack of furniture and part of the space being used as a building dump waste. The initiators of the project looked for different ideas for the future use of the space. On the basis of a first planning meeting, the architect prepared 5 different alternatives for the reconstruction. After detailed local visual inspections, a combination of proposals was created and realized.

##### **Social aspect**

The most important aspect was to find a proper function of the space which had not been used before. As a basic element, the original stage with space for woody benches in front was proposed. In the second part, smaller summer house and seating areas should be situated. This suggestion was discussed and the need for increasing safety and transparency was given high importance - although the space was under good visual control also before starting the project due its location in the village centre and there was no problem with vandalism.

##### **Accessibility aspect**

Very important was to ensure access to the space for different user groups, including cars (to the local distillery). Consequently a potential collision between car traffic and walking people, especially children, was identified. Thus it was necessary to create a contemporary good access to the distillery (import and export of raw materials) and a safety space for walking people.

The necessity for fixing the surface for easier movement was considered by the architects' proposal of different variants of dividing the space for the food-supply. This belt will be fortified by other material, also visually dividing the areas.

### Urban design aspect

The place is very exposed in the village, hence the type of material, former and creative figuration was very important. The architect proposed a design which is typical for Hungarian villages. In the future, the reconstruction of the distillery is planned in the same architectural style as the reconstructed public space.



*Hrušov: Public space before and after reconstruction*

### Description of transferable success factors

The small village, in a very attractive natural environment, has many visitors during the year. The example could be an inspiration for smaller communities without any central space, with the intention to create a place which is representative but also useful for different activities. This public space could have a very important economic contribution for the village – it creates the opportunity to organize local markets, cultural events, and meetings. At the same time it is attractive, encouraging tourists to stop here.

### Conclusion

An area of approx. 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> in the centre of the village (near a local distillery and tourist information board about the Euroregion Kras) was changed into a space with different usage and zones for various public groups and different cultural, sport and public events. As the first stage, an area for markets, dancing, and seating was created. Pieces of furniture for children, summer houses, and greenery will be added in the future. High attention was given to environmental aspects and the artistic figuration of new elements of the space. The reconstructed space was opened on 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2010 during the “Days of Hrusov village”.



*Final proposal of the architect (Hrušov)*

## Case Study #3

### Garden full of activities and life, Vlašim/Czech Republic

<b>Name of the pilot project</b>	Garden full of activities and life
<b>Project Partner</b>	PP03 Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation Coordinator of project – Community House
<b>Place, Country</b>	Vlašim, Czech Republic
<b>UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s) implemented</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Participation (as overall framework for the project activities)</li> </ul>

#### Situation at the beginning

The “Cultural House Vlašim” provides space for various activities of several civic associations offering environmental education, leisure activities for children and youth, activities for the minority community of Roma, handicraft workshops, etc. Together, these associations initiated the idea of building a new garden in the surrounding of the Cultural Houses’ to serve members of the associations and the public, like visitors of the Cultural House. Some representatives of the association had previous positive experience with participatory planning techniques, and thus were supportive in reapplying them in this particular planning process.

#### Description of the solution - the effect of implementing these UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

During the project “Garden full of activities and life”, the coordination team members became familiar with the public involvement approach commonly used by Partnership Foundation and integrated into the UrbSpace-project (as Public Participation-aspect) as well. Foundation Partnership provided an experienced consultant whose task was the preparation of public involvement activities, and the facilitation of public planning meetings.



*Unused garden of Cultural House*



*Facilitation of planning meeting*



*Group work with blind maps*



*Presentation of the study*

The planning techniques used in the project process included coordination planning meetings of the focus team, surveys among potential users, planning meeting focused on the analysis of current uses and activities, brainstorming sessions of potential users' needs, and group work with blind maps (to let participants draw individual ideas or proposals for the future space), discussion sessions concerning the design concept proposed by an architect, a continuous information update on the website, and also active public participation in the implementation phase (12 volunteer workshops).

#### Description of transferable success factors

Public involvement was enabled through active civic associations which have a relatively large and broad membership. Moreover, they know the garden thoroughly and have an interest in its use. Civic associations were already familiar with participatory approaches and had previous experience with public participation. The involved civic groups had long standing relations with local authorities. The success of a transparent participatory process was supported by a neutral external consultant.

#### Conclusion

The success of the project proved the key role of the "bottom-up" approach in the project process; the potential users as the initiators of the project represented this key role. The project proved to be a very strong and important link between non-governmental organizations (associations) and local citizens. A key to the success of the project was also the repeated positive experience of cooperation between NGOs and local authorities. NGOs were perceived as those able to increase funding in order to improve the quality of life in the city.

## Case Study #4

### Forestpark renewal, Brno/Czech Republic

<b>Name of the pilot project</b>	Forestpark renewal
<b>Project Partner</b>	PP04 Statutory city of Brno, City district Brno - Nový Lískovec
<b>Place, Country</b>	Brno, Czech Republic
<b>UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s) implemented</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental aspect</li> <li>Public participation</li> <li>Accessibility aspect</li> </ul>

#### Situation at the beginning

Originally the project area was a neglected forest park from 1930s, located on a steep slope above the city district. There were the remnants of old concrete structures (such as a lookout-tower, a water reservoir, a concrete swimming pool, a bridge over a gully, etc.), overgrown by a native lime and oak tree forest mixed with black pine tree plantings and invasive species (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Paths did not exist or were barely passable.

#### Description of the solution - the effect of implementing these UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

A qualified landscape architect with the ability to co-ordinate all the necessary design works (architects included in the team) and negotiations with the state authorities was commissioned. Public participation was realized during the whole process of planning and implementation.

#### **Environmental aspect**

Protection of autochthonous wildlife by clearing the area of invasive species. All planned structures and paths were designed in a natural material (wood, concrete, crushed stone, sand, etc.).

#### **Public participation**

Several presentations and discussion forums were held during the design process. Bulbous spring plants were planted by the public.



*Pilot action work – involving the population*

### Accessibility aspect

The path-system was re-established to enable e.g. also mums with prams to reach most parts of the forest park.



*Forestpark renewal – Design proposals*

### Description of transferable success factors

The employment of a highly experienced landscape architect to lead the design team supported the success of the project, as well as the application of public participation in all stages of the project; involvement of the local inhabitants even in parts of the implementation.

### Conclusion

In order to realise a project such as the one explained above, a lot of patience and persistence is needed as well as an experienced negotiator (ideally the designer himself) who has to keep on continually explaining the project and its progress.



### Environmental aspect

In Haffner Street the planting of new trees along both sides of the street helping to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions and providing noise screening will be done.

In the park near Haffner stream, better management of storm water, flood-elevation measures, and also the protection of the semi-natural environment located in the centre of the city should be realized.

### Aspect of public participation

In spring 2010 a meeting with the Mayor of Sopot and about 50 people was held, moreover a brainstorming session with the inhabitants, the Mayor and Vice mayor was realized to gather ideas and suggestions for measures to be taken in the project areas.

### Gender aspect, security and social aspect

In Haffner Street, more space will be dedicated for walking, relaxing, and easy and pleasant use for pedestrians, elderly, mothers with children and disabled persons. Measures for more safety also include new streetlights and closing parts of the street to car traffic.

The park near Haffner stream will be made safer and friendlier by installing new streetlights and designing new small architecture. Moreover, space is available for young people from schools in the neighbourhood to spend time.

### Accessibility aspect

Haffner Street should become a more attractive space for inhabitants and tourists, offering a quieter alternative to using the usually crowded Bohaterów Monte Cassino Street.



*Visualization of new small architecture elements in Haffner Street*

The park near Haffner stream allows inhabitants as short cut from the railway station and offers easy access from the railway station for elderly, mothers with children and disabled persons. It also gives easier access to the biggest clinic in Sopot, as well as an interesting alternative for crossing the city to the seaside.

### Urban design aspect

Considering this aspect should lead to supporting and enhancing the artistic and architectural image of public spaces in Sopot, as well as highlighting the most attractive nature areas in the city. Thus in the park the pavement will be renewed, and new lighting and elements of small architecture will be installed. Elements of the natural environment (trees and stream) will be exposed with light.

### Description of transferable success factors / conclusion

Our main success is finding a good project design that can be continued in the next couple of years for creating interesting public spaces in the city of Sopot.

## Case Study #6

### Town park, Brzeg Dolny/Poland

<b>Name of the pilot project</b>	Brzeg Dolny's town park
<b>Project Partner</b>	PP06 Municipality of Brzeg Dolny
<b>Place, Country</b>	Brzeg Dolny, Poland
<b>UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s) implemented</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental aspect</li> <li>Public participation aspect</li> <li>Gender aspect</li> <li>Social aspect</li> <li>Accessibility aspect</li> <li>Urban design aspect</li> </ul>

#### Situation at the beginning

The park is situated in the centre of the town and is a natural barrier for the nearby chemical industry. The project area has a history of over 2 centuries now. Founded in the 18th century, the palace park complex in Brzeg Dolny with an area of 67ha is the work of Carl Gotthard Langhans.

Due to its dense forest character, the park was never really thought of as the most important investment in the budget of the Municipality. That perception changed in the beginning of 2008 when the chance to join the UrbSpace project appeared. Thanks to the project participation, local authorities saw an opportunity to start the design process in a manner a little bit different than they usually would (this means taking into consideration the project's key aspects).

If this had not happened, the park could have been seen only through its heritage value, which although very important, could result in starting only a one dimensional design process, and thus creating a place not really serving the local community.



*Brzeg Dolny's town park*

#### Description of the solution - the effect of implementing these UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

Since Brzeg Dolny's pilot project is the realization of the construction design, the project ends with the planning phase. There will be no investment phase financed by the European Union funds.

##### Environmental aspect

As the pilot project area is in fact a park with forest character, the environmental aspect takes an important role, in particular it is proposed to maintain the current vegetation and to restore the patency of waterways.

##### Public participation aspect

Information about the project was regularly distributed through clear presentations and descriptions of the planning process, by meetings with the local community and the town council, and furthermore a number of articles in the local press.



*Design proposal – integrating existing waterways*

### Gender aspect

The park is designed as open for all, offering benches for the elderly, considering new functions (playgrounds) and safety issues (new lighting). The gender aspect was also implemented thanks to a team of variously-aged architects (from 20s to 50+), thus new ideas for different age groups of the beneficiary have been designed.



*Design proposal of a new functional element – playground area*

### Security and social aspect

Entrances, spaces and new routes provide convenient movement, CCTV surveillance and police control support the security aspect. The park is also designed to serve different age groups, including the proposal of creating a family place – this “multi age” usage could serve as a “self-control” factor (younger people should control their behaviour if there are families with children and elderly around).

### Description of transferable success factors

The participation in the project helped local authorities to get in touch with different methods of approaching the design process. This will help in future investments. When the investment of Brzeg Dolny’s park will be finally finished (needing lots of funds, also from other sources than the municipality’s own budget) it could serve as a model for other municipalities.

A transferable success factor for the Municipality of Brzeg Dolny is also the successful experience with international cooperation (before 2008 there were no international projects realized, since then the Municipality is present in 3 such projects).

### Conclusion

The key aspects of the UrbSpace project are new issues that the Municipality has worked with. The Joint Strategy and checklists for urban designers will support successful design processes and the creation of urban spaces that are for the public and actually used, rather than “just for show”. Not all key aspects could be implemented in other projects, but taking them into consideration in urban planning is very important. After all “it’s very hard to design a bad open space, yet so many examples that it is possible”.

**Case Study #7**

**Hangarod Park Stand, Nagykálló/Hungary**

<b>Name of the pilot project</b>	Harangod Park Stand
<b>Project Partner</b>	PP07 Municipality of Nagykálló
<b>Place, Country</b>	Nagykálló, Hungary
<b>UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s) implemented</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental aspect</li> <li>• Public participation aspect</li> <li>• Gender aspect</li> <li>• Social aspect</li> <li>• Accessibility aspect</li> <li>• Urban design aspect</li> </ul>



**Situation at the beginning**

There has been long-term demand for a stage/stand in Harangod, in the valley where an unprepared stage was created in the period of the first TÉKA camp over 25 years ago. Besides, the option to use it was ensured to a local artistic group to show their production. In the application phase, a concrete conception was not created due to the question if it would be better to build a fixed or mobile stage. In the beginning period of the project implementation reasons for and against both plans were reviewed in the course of discussions with planners, civil organizations, and inhabitants.

In the following discussions, it was agreed that a mobile stage be built during the period of programs is the better alternative because its position/location can be variable, depending on the character of the production (concert or theatre performance) in the valley. Furthermore, the discussions dealt with the eroded fields extending into the area of the valley. Suggestions/proposals to recondition the extended eroded fields were asked for in the frame of the stage-design plan.

## Description of the solution - the effect of implementing these UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

### Environmental aspect

For the protection of the flora (aboriginal lawn) and fauna (gophers) the least architectural interference at the auditorium of the park stand are planned; application of mobile sound and light effects.

### Aspect of public participation

The citizens of Nagykallo were informed about the project in the local media. To make the project popular, articles were published in the Open Days Magazine; for the European Reporters Cup 2009 a short film was made about the project by an Irish reporter.

### Gender aspect

The park stand will be available for men and women, for children, adults and the elderly. Students should be invited into the planning and implementation phase.

### Security and social aspect

The park stand will be under continuous security control by the provider of Harangod. During concerts security will be provided by the local police and citizens' protection guards. Thanks to security control no impairment and truculence will influence the territory.

### Accessibility aspect

The territory can be reached by car, by bicycle and foot. The planning designer and other involved groups are examining the solutions for accessibility of the pilot project, but they will be partial because of the higher importance of environmental protection. The direct location of the pilot project has no barriers.

### Urban design aspect

The architectural features of the project will follow and reflect the organic (folk) architectural features of the territory of Harangod, which will enforce the complete structure of the spot.



## Conclusion

With this development an old dream of Nagykallo inhabitants has been realized, so this incomparable recreational/relaxing field will serve for further colourful programs, which we hope will attract more and more inhabitants to spend time in the natural environment.

We also have experienced that there are several practical ideas in the solution from meetings with our partners. We would like to certainly use the concepts in our future projects with a similar character (for example: creation of a playground and recreation area, solutions for the protection of flora and fauna, etc.).

## Case Study #8

# Conceptual design of the park in the area of the Botanical Garden, the cemetery and the military cemetery in Sežana

<b>Name of the pilot project</b>	Conceptual design of the park in the area of the Botanical Garden, the cemetery and the military cemetery in Sežana
<b>Project Partner</b>	PP09 ORA - Subregional development agency Karst - Brkini
<b>Place, Country</b>	Sežana, Slovenia
<b>UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s) implemented</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public participation aspect</li> <li>Social aspect</li> <li>Accessibility aspect</li> <li>Urban design aspect</li> </ul>

### Situation at the beginning

The Judah Valley is an unused part of the former arable land surrounded by a steep hillside camp. The location is located between the old cemetery and Sežana World War I military cemetery. It is accessed by a footpath that leads from the old town Sežana (Gradišče), in Lozo and around the hill of Tabor, and the old gravel road Sežana - Vrhovlje, which runs between the two mentioned cemeteries.

### Description of the solution - the effect of implementing these UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

The basic idea of managing the area was to provide the cultural landscape of the Judah valley with a system of circular footpaths that connects both cemeteries and the Judah valley in a park space. The bottom of the valley is a grassy area (serving as playground for children, for lying in the dry grass in the sun). The path that surrounds this area begins and ends at a newly paved small square in front of the entry to the military cemetery. At its borders are panels showing and describing events of the period between the wars. The market entry is surrounded by typical karst walls. Linden was planted in the market at the entrance to the military cemetery and the memorial park.

The Judah Park is a sloped area planted with native tree species, more intensively where the park borders Vrhovlje road.

#### Aspect of public participation

The idea of a normal valley park organization has emerged from interviews with citizens of Sežana, mostly residents of the village Gradišče, who expressed their suggestions and ideas at various stages of spatial planning.

#### Security and social aspect

The park is designed as a landscape, because it is not densely planted, its natural shape allows transparency in the future park on the access and exit points, and also supports the safety of strollers. The system path is drawn in a way that the lower level connects at the base design memorial market with its urban equipment. This will allow visitors to meet each other, sit, and be in complete peace.

#### Accessibility aspect

The area, although currently undeveloped, is crisscrossed with footpaths which are in daily use by walkers from the direction of Sežana as well as from the nearby villages of Dane, Šmarje and Vrhovlje. The former road link between Sežana and Vrhovlje is intensively used as a bicycle and walking path. The path crosses directly the entrance of the future small market.

#### Urban design aspect

The park design considers the existing cultural landscape and upgrading of the elements of communication (footpath in the environment, a museum collection of urban market interventions and border walls), which are designed in accordance with typical elements of the karst landscape.



*Design proposal*

The park should have a unifying role in joining two areas in a single urban area - the old cemetery in Sežana and the military cemetery. This is an integral part of structuring the eastern edge of the town, which runs from the planned Imperial Stock Market to a new cemetery park in the valley of Judah. In terms of urban design interventions with its urban-based typological and architectural features of the place, it completes a comprehensive picture of Sežana at its eastern entrance.

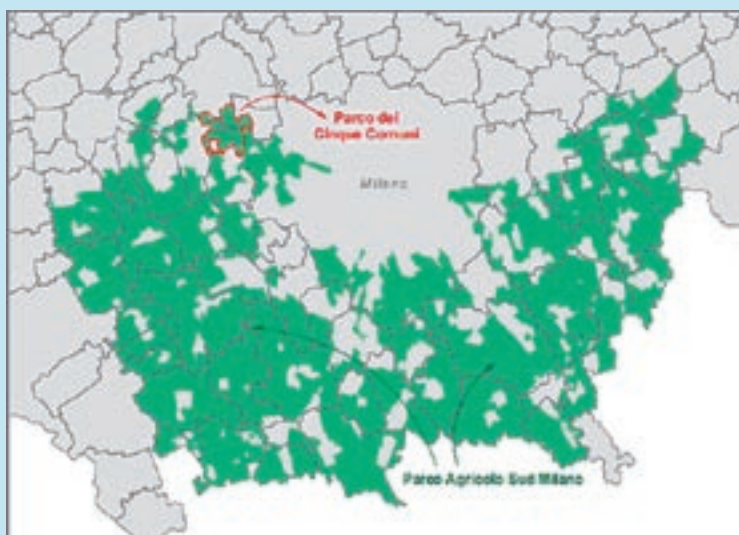
## Case Study #9

### 5 Municipalities' Park, Cornaredo, Milano-Figino, Pero, Rho, Settimo Milanese/Italy

<b>Name of the pilot project</b>	5 Municipalities' Park
<b>Project Partner</b>	PP11 Legambiente Lombardia Onlus
<b>Place, Country</b>	Cornaredo, Milano-Figino, Pero, Rho, Settimo Milanese, Italy
<b>UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s) implemented</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation process in open space management</li> </ul>

#### Situation at the beginning

The project site is a greatly extended green area (600ha) which was not much used but offers high potential use. Different local groups were very motivated and active, while local authorities were not very active and not involved at the beginning.



*Map of the 5 Municipalities' Park*

#### Description of the solution - the effect of implementing these UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

The implementation of the participation process created a good relationship between local authorities and the local groups.

In collaboration with Agenzia InnovA21, an agency for sustainable development, several meetings were organized with the coordination group of local associations to start the participation process.

Then seven public events were organized with a facilitation support, following the issues that are pointed out in the Joint Strategy. In this way a shared action plan was made by different stakeholders: Public institutions, associations and citizens.



Land use in the 5 Municipalities' Park

### Description of transferable success factors

To have at the same round table politicians and citizens in a positive and proactive spirit.

### Conclusion

The developed action plan is a useful tool for administrations to manage an open space with the co-operation of citizens and local groups.



Illustration from the action plan abstract for the 5 Municipalities' Park

## Case Study #10

### Tanaro Park design, Alba/Italy

<b>Name of the pilot project</b>	Tanaro Park's design in the city of Alba
<b>Project Partner</b>	PP13 LAMORO Development Agency
<b>Place, Country</b>	Asti, Italy
<b>UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s) implemented</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Participation</li> <li>• Gender Aspect</li> </ul>

#### Situation at the beginning

The pilot project site, the Tanaro park in the city of Alba, was not used by the local population due to the fact that it was not considered secure, accessible or equipped.



*Images of the Park – Before*

#### Description of the solution - the effect of implementing these UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

##### Public participation aspect

The organization of several public meetings to listen to the local population and the needs of different interest groups, planning together with the architect and the politicians of the city had a positive influence on the process. The architect inserted all UrbSpace key aspects into the plan, trying to combine them with different needs expressed during the public consultations. When the final project was presented, the public accepted the changes proposed. Moreover the new plan was considered interesting by external investors, who expressed their willingness in potential financing of the project to recover the area.

##### Gender Aspect

While organizing public consultations, Lamoro paid special attention to involving women in the planning process. The architect chosen to develop the plan was a women and this would cause, in our opinion, an added value towards the right consideration of the gender (and disadvantage groups) key aspect. Consultations with politicians (90% men) have been realized from the point of view of the architect who gave the right importance to this aspect together with Lamoro.



*Volleyball for girls*

### Description of transferable success factors

The first main success factor is represented above all by public consultation. It represents a focal point in any public planning project.

The second main success factor is represented by a balanced involvement of men and women in the planning process.

### Conclusion

The UrbSpace pilot project has been good practice for the city of Alba, and could be transferred to other realities because it was based on simple steps carried out to deliver a good connection between the public, political and planning levels. Involving women in the planning process and trying to maintain a balanced description should always be ensured.



*Area for children and relaxing*



As the pilot project did not foresee any infrastructural interventions, at the moment the park area is still in the original state, awaiting private financing.

# Example of student ´s pilot projects

Vienna University of Technology (PP 08)

## CarlessStressless – Prešov (Slovakia)



**Students:** Eszter Gyarfas, Caroline Rath, Barbora Welterova

### Analysis of existing open space

Structure: Undefined paths, damaged pavements, inefficient layout

Waste: Undefined ownership, no waste bins, unused territory

Playgrounds: Uninviting playgrounds, demolished, no stimulating equipment

Cars: Unstructured parking, careless zoning, driving where they want, loud and dirty

### Design Concept

The general idea is to bring more green and less cars into the neighbourhood

### UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

#### Environmental aspect

Alley, going by foot within walking distance, new parks, smaller streets, less noise and pollution

Aspect of public participation

Activity areas for neighbouring residents according to user groups

#### Gender aspect

Different user groups taken into account

#### Security and social aspect

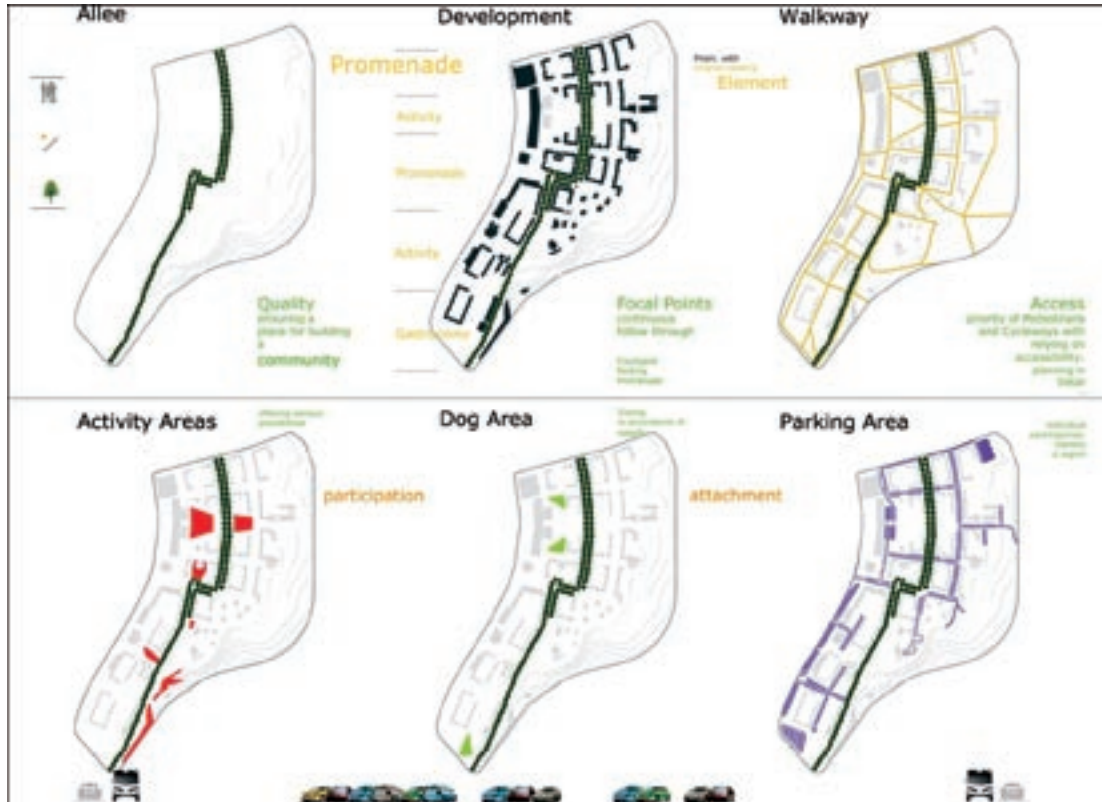
Playgrounds and activity areas within viewing distance of main axis

#### Accessibility aspect

One main road through the area, connecting all secondary roads



Plan of the area in Presov and levels of intervention

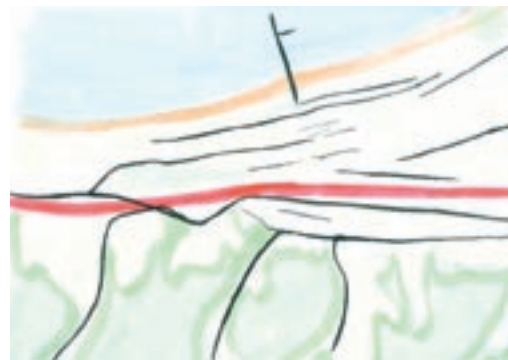


**City Entering Nature - Sopot, Poland**

**Students:** Georg Denninger, Daniel Scheidl

**Analysis**

Sopot is a tourist destination with over two million tourist visitors annually. The town has its own unique character because of the town houses and villas, and historic parks, surrounded by woodland, and the sea. The green covering of the city is over 60% of the town area. The most popular attractions are the longest wooden pier in Europe, stretching 511,5 meters into the sea in the middle of Sopot beach, and the Monte Cassino street, which is the street leading towards the pier. So the structure of the city is very linear, from the north to the south. There is only one main axis cutting the city into "an eastern and western part", and that is the wooden pier and the Monte Cassino Street, connecting the sea with the lake in the forest:





*Masterplan  
and materials*

**UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)**

**Environmental aspect**

Link to the green hinterland with lake and „ forest opera “

**Aspect of public participation**

Activity areas for neighbouring residents according to user groups, not only touristic

**Gender aspect**

Different user groups taken into account by diversified public spaces

**Security and social aspect**

Mixed use provides living spaces for different social groups

**Accessibility aspect**

To link the nature to the inner city, sea, lake and forest as important parts of the city



*Details and sections*

## UrbaNature - Brno, Czech Republic

**Students:** Milla Kristiina Koivuketho, Christine Gruber

### Analysis

Urban space meets rural space meets parking space, big dimensioned housing blocks meet single family houses, infrastructural axis meets green axis and different needs meet user groups.

### Needs and aims

Quality of open space, readability of pathways, crosswalks through landmark design, identity in open space for different user groups, traffic calming devices, compress parking space to maximize public space, working with existing height levels.

### The plaza

Creating a centre, giving identity, bringing together, inviting and making space useable, connecting axes, defining changeable functions, connections through views, using natural material in the urban area, giving space to the youth, etc.

### UrbSpace-Key Aspect(s)

#### Environmental aspect

New green space for local residents as new identity

#### Aspect of public participation

Activity Areas for neighbouring residents according to user groups

#### Gender aspect

Different user groups taken into account by diversified public spaces

#### Security and social aspect

Strategy of multiuse plaza and smaller interventions throughout the area

#### Accessibility aspect

Enlarge the green space in the city, by linking green areas



*Masterplan*



*Details*



This document is part of the project "UrbSpace" ([www.urbanspaces.eu](http://www.urbanspaces.eu))  
that is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme cofinanced by the ERDF.

