

FRAMEWORK PAPER ON EVALUA- TION OF RESULTS AND LESSONS LEARNT

D.T3.5.1 IETU





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INTRODUCTION

There is a need to draw conclusions from the work on application of the idea of urban environmental acupuncture (UEA), which would show benefits of this concept in relation to several areas of urban sustainable development. These lessons relate to:

- Urban environmental management,
- Urban spatial planning,
- Climate change adaptation,
- Public involvement,
- Increasing awareness and engagement of citizens in urban development processes.

UEA IN URBAN MANAGEMENT, PLANNING AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Urban environmental acupuncture (UEA) is a concept which is very easy to be understood and perceived not only by professionals but also by common stakeholders - urban inhabitants. However implementation of UEA is connected with using planning and management tools and with involving representatives of various professions. It also entails participation of stakeholders in designing process with selecting sites and discussion on types of interventions to be applied on the sites.

In SALUTE4CE creation of UEA systems in four cities/FUAs has resulted in action plans which have documented the proposed set of sites selected in a common work of various groups of professionals and inhabitants. Also interventions have been assigned to the sites according to many technical, legal, social and practical criteria. These efforts have shown possibilities and benefits of co-operation between specialists of planning, environmental management and environmental engineering.

This co-operation was visible particularly in the context of climate change adaptation in urban areas. Nowadays many cities have already developed strategies, programs or plans concerning climate change adaptation. In these documents the development of green and blue infrastructure constitutes an important element. Therefore the idea of urban environmental acupuncture fits into overall activities aiming at increasing urban resistance to climate change impact.



Public involvement and awareness raising

Involvement of inhabitants in discussions on the concept of urban acupuncture - an idea acquired very quickly - was an occasion to increase public awareness on necessity for introducing greenery even in small scale in their surroundings.

Various kinds of public discussions have included consultants, NGOs, political and local administrators, climate protection managers, green and city urban planning departments as well as the scientific project partners (e.g. IETU, IOER, IURS), external experts and last but not least local residents. It has been repeated many times how important the public has been in selection of sites for UEA, deciding on nature-based solutions (NBS) and the importance of the public in pilot project implementation. Unsurprisingly, the public has been involved within the four cities/FUAs from the onset of the planning process in various formats including Living Labs, GIS map applications, presentations, during online meetings and during research walks. These various formats have helped to improve the action planning process. In addition to data collected from residents, population, cadastral, land use and climate change data as well as information collected on-site regarding soil, percentage of sealed area, shade and temperature information has contributed to the selection of UEA sites. The McKinsey Matrix (Deliverable D.T1.1.1) recommended by Silesian Botanical Garden guided project partners in narrowing down the sites based on necessity and suitability of sites.

LESSONS LEARNED IN PROJECT FUAS

- Implementation of the concept of urban environmental acupuncture in the project functional urban areas (FUAs) has given the possibility of drawing various conclusions and lessons which can be useful for the other cities and FUAs. These conclusions concern mainly the experience from application of pilot actions as parts of the action plans elaborated for the project FUAs.
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- **Alessandria**
- The decision to plan, design, build and maintain green infrastructures according to 'sustainable management' criteria must be shared with local communities, in order to give them an overall vision of the objectives set and how to achieve them. A crucial issue for public administrations in managing their relationship with citizens is external communication, which has to be simple, correct and constantly updated, in order to avoid problems linked to citizens' dissent and to make them participate in the management of public goods. The promotion of public green policies allows to stimulate the development of good



practices by citizens and to obtain an improvement in the management of private green areas as well.

- The SALUTE4CE project is integrated in the activities of public green promotion, citizens' involvement and environmental dissemination carried out by the Municipality of Alessandria, the Botanical Garden and environmental associations such as RNA (Associazione Natura e Ragazzi).
- Urban green spaces can become opportunities for experimenting with innovative forms of management by involving public and/or private bodies with the aim of redevelopment and/or experimental research. Entrusting experimental organisations with some green areas or areas that are state-owned would allow research activities to be carried out in the vicinity of their premises, while at the same time promoting the control and sustainable management of the green areas. In addition, there are many initiatives to entrust green areas to the management of citizens, through which the citizens themselves, generally gathered in associations, take care of the green area.
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- **Liptovsky Mikulas**
- In many EU cities it is difficult to save large areas for planting greenery. The attractive sites are often used for settlements or investments which provide profits for the city budget. On the other hand authorities of the cities are aware of the necessity for green spaces to inhabitants for many reasons. Not only needs for rest, recreation and aesthetic surroundings but also growing requirements for adaptation of urban areas to climate change. The international cooperation has shown that the problems do not only exist in Slovakia.
- This urban environmental challenge needs a special solution offered by SALUTE4CE project. The main objective of SALUTE4CE is protection and development of natural resources by the integrated environmental management of green & blue infrastructure with planting native and climate resistant vegetation in FUAs lacking large sites for this function. The project will improve capacities of the public sector and related entities in management of green & blue infrastructure in FUAs by using the small spots not attractive for other purposes. The project partnership will implement the concept of urban environmental acupuncture (UEA) consisting in a surgical and selective intervention into the urban environment, instead of large scale projects that involve thousands of hectares and tremendous costs. The numerous interventions in many small spots in a FUA can provide an effect for the FUA as a whole. The partnership will develop the common methodology and criteria of selecting both spots and types of interventions which then will be applied in elaborating action plans for 4 FUAs. These action plans will demonstrate the application of the idea of UEA as an effective and innovative way of integrated environmental management in FUA to make it more livable place. Pilot actions in the project will show in form of small



investments in 4 FUA's how to implement step by step the idea of UEA. The trainings and the project handbook on UEA as well as tools for residents' involvement will provide a transnational added value of the project. The project has showed how important it is to involve citizens and residence in the process. We can see that a suitable solution to a problem can be found by a meaningful discussion.

- The steps described above have been implemented on the basis of knowledge and experience of the leading partner of the project - the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas-IETU Katowice and the project coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development of Settlements-IURS Ostrava. Support for our local government was provided by these organizations in the form of consultations, where they provided us with their knowledge and experience in using various methods and tools for faster efficiency and implementation of activities in environmental management.
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- **Impulse Region**
- A lot of preparation time is required to carry out such a project. First of all, the actors who have the technical background must be won over to the project. A loss of trust can only be avoided with early involvement.
- A time schedule must then be drawn up, which also regulates the responsibilities of the individual actors. In this case, time buffers must also be taken into account, as there can always be delays in individual work packages. An example in this context were the tenders for the construction works. One cannot always guarantee that enough offers will be received in response to the first invitation to tender. Sometimes it takes several attempts until enough offers are available. The international cooperation has shown that this problem does not only exist in Germany.
- The project also showed how important it is to involve local citizens in every step of the process. In one situation or another, a suitable solution to a problem could be found by entering into dialogue. In addition, many ideas of the citizens could be integrated into the investment areas. Their knowledge of the current use made it possible to quickly clarify which elements are missing on the green areas.
- In the exchange with the international partners it was interesting to find out which green deficits the other partner cities show. It has been found that there are mostly similar problems. This also simplified the search for possible solutions, as this was done in cooperation. Due to the corona pandemic, information was mostly only exchanged online. There were only at the moment three physical meetings during the project period. If more meetings had taken place in the partner cities, a greater gain in knowledge would have been possible. The disadvantage of online meetings is that only a limited exchange of information can take place.



■ Chorzów

- □ Investments implementation in the framework of urban environmental acupuncture has given a good example of how small nature based solutions can improve a local climate conditions and also can contribute to better living standards of the inhabitants. The initial ideas of the investments have been discussed within the project partnership and the final transnationally accepted pilot action was formulated for further proceeding.
- □ It was also important to get suggestions during public consultation of the investments design concerning the final solutions which could then get a positive adoption of the users. The visible results of acupuncture implementation will contribute to promotion of this idea and better understanding of importance of even small interventions aiming at improving local climate.
- □ Practical comments:
 - - Action plans should take into account activities / tasks of other projects of a similar nature - compatibility of action plans - this gives a greater chance for implementation;
 - - The restrictions related to COVID-19 have certainly had a negative impact on the implementation of the project. Online meetings, both with stakeholders and other project partners, are not comparable to "physical" meetings. "Physical" meetings attract the attention of the listener better, it is easier to engage him, and there is better interaction.
 - - Large bureaucracy associated with the "processing" of the project (the preparation of the budget and its changes very complicated procedure, similarly complicated method of settling the costs incurred in the project with the supervising unit (CPE))
 - - More flexible shifting of funds between budget lines (it is especially felt in a pandemic situation, where expenses for travel and events were practically unrealized)
 - - The implementation of pilot activities was carried out with the use of national tender procedures, both for conceptual and design works and for technical activities (construction works). The limitations related to COVID-19 had an impact on the manner of tender procedures as well as on the possibility of carrying out tasks within specified deadlines.
 - - An increase in costs, unpredictable at the time of drawing up the tender documentation, resulting in the inability to settle the costs actually incurred for the project.