



Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

URBforDAN

Deliverable 4.4.3. URBforDAN Capitalization Strategy



Developed by the City of Ljubljana,
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Ljubljana

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1. Introduction

1.1. About the URBforDAN Project

Management and Utilization of Urban Forests as Natural Heritage in Danube Cities (with acronym URBforDAN) is an EU co-financed project, which was designed to deliver a change in urban forest management and utilization of ecosystem services. URBforDAN project is being implemented in 7 Danube Cities – Ljubljana (SLO), Vienna (AT), Budapest (HUN), Zagreb (CRO), Cluj-Napoca (ROM), Belgrade (SRB) and Ivano-Frankivsk (UA). Its' implementation is closely observed by 3 associated partner cities – Prague (CZE), Sarajevo (BIH) and Podgorica (MNE), as well as by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Urban and Peri-urban Forests (UPF) in Danube Cities play extremely important role as “green city lungs” - preserving rich biodiversity of Europe and its vivid landscape. They also deliver many economically/socially important ecosystem services – UPF are key areas for experiencing natural/cultural heritage within cities, important tourist attractions, areas for recreation and high quality of living.

All URBforDAN Cities face similar challenges – all manage substantial NH areas (mostly UPF) within their city limits. Due to their characteristics, they attract many users (citizens, tourists...), but also have many stakeholders (managers, owners, interest groups...) trying to manage those activities. Today, this is usually done without proper coordination of all stated key actors. UPF also lack appropriate infrastructure and equipment to cope with ever increasing number of users. Thus, UPF are under increasing pressure from diverse set of activities, arising conflicts and unsustainable use of resources – all leading to poor state of NH. Management of UPF in some cities is further challenged by the extreme fragmentation of the ownership (which is often mostly private).

This is why URBforDAN takes on the challenge of mobilization of key actors in URBforDAN Cities to ensure their active participation in integrated planning/management. Protection regimes, mapping/valuation of ecosystem services and development ideas will be combined through a participatory process to deliver Integrated multi-use Management Plans for UPF on strategic and operational level. UPF Danube Network will be established to strengthen the cooperation between key actors, ensure timely knowledge/best-practice sharing, dissemination/transferability of project outputs and enable further capitalization. UPF managers, owners and users will be equipped with management tools supporting multi-purpose use of UPF and exploiting new opportunities for sustainable development. Participatory Planning & UPF Management Guidelines will be developed, based on lessons learned and best practices used.

1.2. About the URBforDAN Capitalization Strategy

This Capitalization Strategy builds not only on the URBforDAN project concept, results, outputs and tools, but also knowledge and experience gained during its implementation, as well as interests expressed by many audiences addressed through dissemination activities on city and national levels, as well as expert and on international levels through the URBforDAN Network, SilvaMed Working Group, international expert conferences and regular communication with expert community.

The URBforDAN partnership recognized the following four paths for capitalization on URBforDAN project:

- ✓ To ensure implementation and evolution of the URBforDAN concept in URBforDAN cities
- ✓ To ensure visibility and promote transferability of the URBforDAN concept within URBforDAN countries
- ✓ To ensure visibility and promote transferability of the URBforDAN concept across Europe
- ✓ To promote evolution, transfer, up-scaling and main-streaming on the international level

As evident, they address different target groups at different geographical, operational and political levels and allow URBforDAN concept to evolve in different directions. This is important, as different approaches and types of capitalization may be used in individual URBforDAN partner cities – in line with their own ambitions, as well as their competences and capacities. Nonetheless, below presented URBforDAN Capitalization Framework and Action Plan was jointly developed by the whole partnership. Thus, representing not only a sound foundation for future evolution of URBforDAN concept, results, outputs and tools, but also a sincere desire of all project partners for future joint cooperation.

2. URBforDAN Capitalization Framework and Action Plan

2.1. To ensure implementation and evolution of the URBforDAN concept in URBforDAN cities

CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 1.1 - Extension of the URBforDAN project with additional activities				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to exploit the opportunity provided by the Danube Transnational Programme and further enhance the implementation impact of the URBforDAN project with additional activities, carried out by the partnership.</i>			
	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) Application	LP: CoL PP: all PPs	December 2020	Own funding
	b) Implementation	LP: CoL PP: URBforDAN extended PPs	According to URBforDAN extended application - September 2021	DTP & own funding
c) Dissemination	LP: CoL PP: URBforDAN extended PPs	According to URBforDAN extended application - September 2021	DTP & own funding	
CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 1.2 - Integration of IMMPS in daily operational work of responsible authorities in URBforDAN Cities				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to ensure that all project partners integrate IMMPS, as well as other important URBforDAN outputs and tools into their own operational framework, or work of other responsible authorities.</i>			
	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) Integration into internal standard operating procedures	Each PP in line with its own responsibility and mandate	As soon as possible - ideally by September 2021	Own funding
	b) Practical implementation of IMMPS	Each PP in line with its own responsibility and mandate	Within the IMMPS lifetime	Own funding, other EU/national funds
c) Awareness raising and dissemination to other relevant authorities	Each PP in line with its own reach	As soon as possible - ideally by September 2021	Own funding	
CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 1.3 – Ensuring appropriate funding for implementation of IMMPS in URBforDAN Cities				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to ensure that the URBforDAN project partners overgrow its pilot character, continue with activities related to IMMPS in focus area, develop them further and spread them to other cities.</i>			
	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
a) Ensuring appropriate funding in the city budget for implementation of IMMPS	All URBforDAN cities	On the yearly basis	Own funding, other EU/national funds	

CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 1.4 - Long term activities for joint management of UPF (URBforDAN Initiative) in Ljubljana				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to ensure long term activities for joint management of UPF (of the URBforDAN Initiative) in Ljubljana.</i>			
	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) Ensuring long term operational support to the initiative	COL	December 2021	Own funding
b) Execution of regular initiative meetings and activities	COL, initiative members	Constantly	Own funding, other EU/national funds	

2.2. To ensure visibility and promote transferability of the URBforDAN concept within URBforDAN countries

CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 2.1 – Promotion and integration of the URBforDAN concept and solutions on the national level				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to exploit the fact that in many URBforDAN countries, relevant national authorities were either URBforDAN project partners, or were actively involved as stakeholder in its implementation.</i>			
	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) Modification and integration of the URBforDAN concept and solutions on the national level	SFS, HŠ, SrbijaŠume	As soon as possible - Ideally by December 2021	Own or other funding
b) Awareness raising and dissemination to relevant national authorities	CoV, CoIF, FOKERT/CoB, Cluj/CMA	As soon as possible - Ideally by December 2021	Own funding	

CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 2.2 – Promotion and transfer of the URBforDAN concept and solutions to other Cities in URBforDAN Countries				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to exploit the visibility and other results of URBforDAN through promotion, awareness raising and dissemination activities to, raise interest of other cities within URBforDAN countries, to form city-to-city networks and actively search for opportunities to transfer URBforDAN concept and solutions to other Cities in URBforDAN Countries.</i>			
	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) Promotion of URBforDAN to other cities and identification of potentially interested cities	Each URBforDAN city within its own country	First part by July 2021, second part in 2022	Own funding
	b) Creation of city-to-city networks	Each URBforDAN city within its own country	2021 - 2023	Own funding
c) Identification and exploitation of transfer opportunities	LP supported by all PPs and ASPs	On-going activity	Own funding, other EU/national funds	

2.3. To ensure visibility and promote transferability of the URBforDAN concept across Europe

CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 3.1 – Presentation of URBforDAN project results on EFUF in Belgrade 2022				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to exploit the momentum of the URBforDAN project and allow all project partnership to actively participate and support the City of Belgrade in its organization of EFUF in Belgrade in 2022.</i>			
	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) EFUF organization	CoB, SrbijaŠume	2022	Own funding, other EU/national funds
	b) Active participation at EFUF with high-profile presentation of URBforDAN project results	All PPs	2022	Own funding
c) Active participation in consequential EFUF events and activities	All PPs	On-going activity		
CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 3.2 – URBforDAN Cities joining “Trees for cities” initiative				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to attract all URBforDAN cities to join “Trees for cities” initiative, as demonstrated by the City of Ljubljana. Thus, reenforcing their commitment to urban forestry good practices, as well as strengthen their credibility as reliable project partners on an international level.</i>			
	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) Fulfilment of criteria and application for “Trees for cities” initiative	All URBforDAN cities	As soon as possible - ideally by January 2021 or December 2021	Own funding
b) Official joining to “Trees for cities” initiative	All URBforDAN cities	2021 or 2022	Own funding	
CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 3.3 – Continued active participation of URBforDAN partners in URBforDAN network and FAO SilvaMed communication platform				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to maintain the URBforDAN network as a key communication tool between the partnership and the rest of international community related to urban forestry, as well as further expand it with a direct link to the FAO SilvaMed communication platform.</i>			
	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) Maintaining operational functionality of the URBforDAN network	CoL in the name of the full partnership	On-going activity	Own funding
b) Active communication & information/knowledge sharing	All PPs	On-going activity	Own funding	
CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 3.4 – Implementation of URBforDAN concept & solutions in URBforDAN ASP cities				
Short description:	<i>The aim of this activity is to exploit the opportunity presented by 3 ASP cities, as well as FAO as the international ASP observer. During the URBforDAN project all ASP partners observed and learned from the partnership. Furthermore, the partnership executed 3 ASP city visits dedicated to transfer of URBforDAN knowledge and solutions to Prague, Sarajevo and</i>			

Podgorica. ASP partners have the perfect opportunity to adopt URBforDAN concept and solutions and implement them in practice, as well as participate in any follow-up projects.

Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
a) ASP activities linked to implementation of URBforDAN concept and solutions in their own cities	Prague, Podgorica, Sarajevo	As soon as possible - ideally in 2021 and 2022	Own and other funding
b) ASP activities linked to promotion and dissemination of URBforDAN concept and solutions to other cities in ASP countries	All ASP	After 2021	Own funding

2.4. To promote evolution, transfer, up-scaling and main-streaming on the EU level

CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 4.1 – Reapplication of the URBforDAN project for the Regio Star Award in 2022 and applying for other awards

The aim of this activity is to repeat the application of the URBforDAN project for the Regio Star Award in 2022. The reason lies in the conviction of the URBforDAN partnership that 2020 application was not successful due to the fact that the project was not yet completed and could not present its full results. Other similar awards will also be pursued.

Short description:	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) Acquiring the support from the DTP	COL in the name of the full partnership	In line with the tender timeline	Own funding
	b) Application	COL in the name of the full partnership	In line with the tender timeline	Own funding
	c) Identification and application to other similar awards	All PPs	In line with the tender timeline	Own funding

CAPITALIZATION ACTIVITY 4.2 – Development and execution of follow-up projects

The aim of this activity is to use the results of all previously described capitalization activities in order to design, apply for funding and execute concrete follow-up projects.

Short description:	Key steps:	Roles:	Due date:	Funding sources:
	a) Concept development of already existing follow-up project ideas & identified synergies with other Interreg funded projects	All project partners	As soon as possible - Ideally by December 2021	Own funding
	b) Development and promotion of the URBforDAN good practice on international good practice databases (e.g. URBACT, Interreg EUROPE, FAO, etc.)	COL in the name of the full partnership	As soon as possible - Ideally by December 2021	Own funding
	c) Identification of potential funding sources for the new programming period on three areas: - Evolution	All project partners	As soon as possible - Ideally by December 2021	Own funding

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfer & up-scaling - Mainstreaming in the EU urban policy 			
	d) Regular communication regarding new follow-up project ideas	All project partners	On-going activity	Own funding
	e) Design and application of new follow-up project ideas	All project partners	On-going activity	Own funding