



Participatory management of nature in the city

Nature in cities provides essential services that determine the healthy life and well-being of its inhabitants as well as the sustainable development of the whole area. Despite this, area of green areas in cities is shrinking and its management often leads to social conflicts. To address this situation, we need cooperation based on dialogue between citizens, NGOs and representatives of the local administration. Social/Civic Dialogue Committees, which are increasingly concerned with issues of urban green areas, are one of the possible platforms of such cooperation. In order to fulfill their potential to act on behalf of nature in cities we need to develop knowledge of ecosystems services, effective methods of joint actions as well as provide them with interesting forms of involving residents of Polish cities.

Local governments

Staff from departments for environmental protection, urban planning, infrastructure and/or transportation, cooperation with NGOs and from other departments responsible for the green areas in the City Halls of Lodz, Krakow and Poznan (as well as other cities during future editions of the project).

Benefits

→ Gaining knowledge about the needs and expectations of residents in terms of urban greenery.

→ Obtaining specialist assistance in reinforcing cross-sectoral cooperation.

→ Acquiring innovative and interactive tools for participatory management of nature in the city as well as wildlife inventory.

Non-governmental organizations

NGOs active in the field of nature in cities, including those belonging to the Social/Civic Dialogue Committees for Environmental Protection and other Committees related to urban greenery in the City Halls of Lodz, Krakow and Poznan (as well as other cities during future editions of the project).

Benefits

→ Strengthening Social/Civic Dialogue Committees' competence in the field of cooperation with local governments.

→ Learning about innovative ways to engage people in Social/Civic Dialogue Committees' activities.

→ Ensuring support for Social/Civic Dialogue Committees' activities from a wider group of inhabitants, which will enhance their credibility in the public opinion.

Residents of Lodz, Krakow and Poznan

Different groups of inhabitants: youth and teachers, students of the Third Age Universities, students of local universities, families with children.

Benefits

→ Possibility to get engage in activities for nature protection.

→ Understanding inhabitants' impact on the development of the city.

Our goal - introduce the participatory management of nature in the city, will rest on the following pillars:

- Involved residents of Krakow, Lodz and Poznan, who feel responsible for urban nature and conduct monitoring activities in terms of its quality.
- Complete and transparent information about the needs and expectations of inhabitants in terms of management of urban greenery as well as knowledge about the condition and location of green areas in Krakow, Lodz and Poznan.
- Effective and efficient Social/Civic Dialogue Committees that develop cross-sectoral cooperation and increase public trust.
- Awareness that ecosystem services are an essential part of the socio-ecological system of the city and thus should be considered as subjects of investment that may generate tangible benefits in the

The project activities



The Green synergy

Activities in Krakow, Lodz and Poznan were designed to reinforce one another and engage different audiences:

Platform for participatory inventory, consultations and monitoring of the nature in the city

Innovative use of GIS (Geographic Information System) enables inhabitants to update information on the platform via a web browser and special applications for mobile phones. The platform is an interactive and innovative tool for inventory of selected individual plants and green areas; public consultation and research on urban green, as well as monitoring activities for the quality of the greenery and needs for green intervention.

Website www.uslugiekosystemow.pl

Website [http://www.uslugiekosystemow.pl/](http://www.uslugiekosystemow.pl) informs about the progress of the project, provides educational materials and best practices in participatory nature management in cities as well as local information on urban green areas in Krakow, Lodz and Poznan.

A series of measures to develop competence of Social/Civic Dialogue Committees in cooperation with local governments:

stakeholders' analysis of the management of nature in cities; establishing contacts with selected organizations and encouraging them to join both Social/Civic Dialogue Committees and other activities of the project; workshops on strategy building and effective cooperation between local governments and Social/Civic Dialogue Committees.

Strategy or long-term management recommendations for the protection of nature in the city

Action point that completes the project: workshops in Krakow, Lodz and Poznan with different groups of stakeholders, which objectives are to develop plans/recommendations for a long-term participatory management of nature in the city.

Measures to promote the project

A number of activities to disseminate knowledge about ecosystem services in cities (city games, meetings, lectures, contests) in institutions such as schools and universities, including the Third Age Universities (seniors are a noteworthy stakeholders of nature in cities).

Study visit to Finland

Learning from Finnish experiences on participatory management of nature in the cities using softGIS methods, building a common understanding of the role of nature in the city among visiting members from local governments and Social/Civic Dialogue Committees.

Publication *Nature in the city – the solutions in the series Sustainable Development– the applications*

Publication covers good practices and guidelines for sustainable management of nature in the cities. The publication will complement topics explored in the previous publications, esp. *Przyroda w mieście. Usługi ekosystemów – niewykorzystany potencjał miast.*



Sendzimir Foundation and project's partners:

For 16 years the Foundation has initiated and supported educational, research and practical projects aimed at resolving complex environmental, economic and social problems. The Foundation collaborates with companies, governments, NGOs and communities, and participates in local, national and international initiatives. One of its most important projects is *Summer Academy Challenges of Sustainable Development*. The Foundation is a member of an international network of AtKissonGroup which brings together experts and organizations working for sustainable development.

Project's partners:

- Members of the informal LAPNET association - an interdisciplinary group of specialists of sustainable development;
- Centre for Promotion of Sustainable Development from Poznan
- Landscape Ecology Lab at the Humboldt University of Berlin, specializing in innovative projects on urban environment, particularly at the European level
- YTK Land Use Planning and Urban Studies Group at Aalto University - pioneer and the world's leading organization implementing the softGIS methodology into participatory decision-making processes relating to spatial management
- Honorary patronage of Mayors of Cities of Krakow, Lodz and Poznan as well as Ministry of Administration and Digitization.

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