

„Making attractive  
urban spaces - more  
quality for the urban  
environment,,

v krajšom meste veselšie



## Newsletter n.3-4

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# UrbSpace

Urban spaces – enhancing the attractiveness  
and quality of the urban environment



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND



## Editorial

The UrbSpace project is now reaching its end. We are looking back now and we can consider that the project established a very fruitful cooperation among different partners, municipalities representatives, universities, NGOs, research and development institutions. This cooperation will hopefully continue after the project lifetime. This is not only because close relationships between project partners have been established, but also because the topics that were addressed will remain on the agenda for cities, regions and the European Union. UrbSpace project contributed significantly to the overall objective of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2007-2013 programme: Strengthening territorial cohesion, promoting internal integration and enhancing the competitiveness of Central Europe, through the promotion of actions to enhance the quality of the environment and open space in cities.

In addition, the project has developed and applied tools, methodologies that can be applied by a multitude of cities and regions in Europe. The last main products of UrbSpace are described in this final newsletter.

Firstly is the development of an Methodology Plan for good planning and designing of urban open spaces that is the complementing Joint Strategy - A Guideline for making space and the six aspects which characterize good urban spaces (environmental criteria, public participation criteria, gender aspects, security and social cohesion criteria, accessibility aspects, design criteria)

This document takes into consideration the experiences and lessons learnt from the pilot projects which were carried out in UrbSpace. In this context, the Joint Strategy – A Guideline for making space 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, designing, planning and implementing of urban open spaces pilot projects. The Joint Strategy (in English and 7 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=core-outputs.php>.

The project has brought the interactive e-learning module, that is described more deeply on the page 6.

Now, what for the future? As it was said in the beginning of this editorial, we hope that the cooperation will continue in the future! Finally, we want to say thank you for all the support from the whole partnership we have received and last but not least from Central Europe that made this project possible.

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## Successful Final Conference held in Vienna

The UrbSpace Final Conference was held in Vienna on the 30th of September 2011 with the aim to present the main achievements of the project. The conference was held in Kuppelsaal TU Wien and was hosted by the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Vienna University of Technology.

Outside the project partnership four keynote speakers were invited to provide their insights into some of the issues raised as experimental planning processes in open spaces, and to stimulate discussion of current issues and potentials in the field of urban space planning and design.

Antje Brink focused on the biodiversity in the open spaces, Daniela Karow-Kluge brought examples of experimental planning processes in open spaces, Deniz Dizici is one of the winner team of the landscape park Seestadt aspern in Vienna and Andreas Kipar's speech will be on the view of a smart city.

At the end of the final conference the "Urban Landscapes: Linking People and Place" Round Table discussion revealed huge interest among participants, key note speakers and project partners.



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

## I. Introduction / Orientation

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 live ability 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. In order to achieve the intended properties of urban spaces, the UrbSpace-key aspects spaces (environmental criteria, public participation criteria, gender aspects, security and social cohesion criteria, accessibility aspects, design criteria) 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.

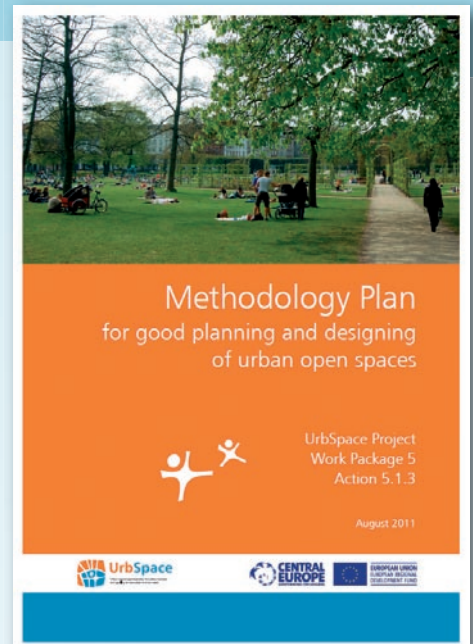
## II. Guideline section

The Methodology offers to user information and hints for the organisation and course of the open urban space development process: In section II dealing with “Guidelines” 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.

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

The Methodology provides to user 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 of them is presented in a 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 prerequisites and resources, and user needs and expectations.



At the end of this section the summary, represented by “Ten success factors for good planning and designing of urban open places” was included.

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

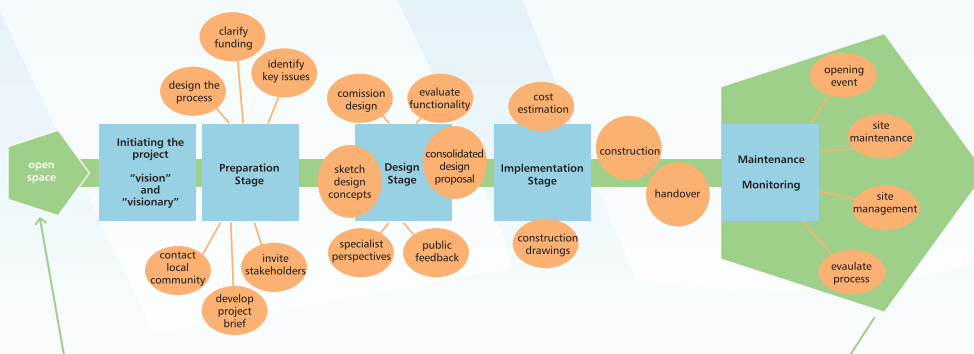


Figure 1: Project development process (Source: Joint Strategy, p. 32)

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”.

The “Methodology Plan” for good planning and designing of urban open spaces” is available in English and German language and very soon in all other partners languages (Slovak, Czech, Polish through the web page <http://www.urbanspaces.eu/index.php?id=core-outputs.php>





3<sup>rd</sup> Thematic seminar 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2011

## Bratislava PETRŽALKA

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thematic seminar aim was the focusing on the informal presentation of the UrbSpace Methodology Plan (MP) through the interactive public spaces walk in Petržalka. Some principles, taken from the Methodology Plan for good planning and designing of urban open spaces as 'make it attractive', 'make it friendly', 'think wider' were implemented in practice. The handouts and results are available through the UrbSpace web page, and will be presented to the member of the local parliament in Bratislava city district Petržalka.

The Thematic seminar was prepared in close cooperation of the association Urban ET. Moreover 2 successful projects were presented:

- the project "Labyrinth" - revitalization of a devastated playground (active participation of a homeless community).
- Rusovce – "Rome" pocket park – new public space realized in participatory way with local inhabitants, changing of an unused area in the middle of the village into a rest-area

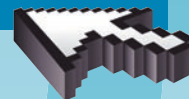


*Bratislava–Petržalka district: opportunities and challenges*





## E-learning



The UrbSpace e-Learning module is an easy to use web application that enables to start a planning process for good urban open spaces all over Europe.

For different questions, e.g.:

- how to start a planning process
- ... what to consider in terms of ecology and the environment
- ... where gender issues become relevant
- ... how the public can be addressed
- ... what security measures need to be taken
- ... about planning tools and strategies
- ... how to design good urban spaces

The e-learning offers different ways to navigate through the e-Learning platforms:

**Questions and Answers-Mode Platform:** Introductory questions will lead you through a sequence of articles and related case studies and give you answers to specific topics

**Information Platform:** it is bringing together all principal outputs, tools, documents (Joint Strategy, Working Papers, Methodology Plan, Case Studies, Student Design Projects)

For further information visit:

[www.urbanspaces.eu/e-learning](http://www.urbanspaces.eu/e-learning)

# We are wishing to all readers wonderful Seasons holiday



## and happy new year 2012!