



Living Lab Zagreb, Croatia



NBS 7

Establishing protocols and procedures for environmental compensation

New protocols and changes to planning procedures and policy development processes



NBS 7 Establishing protocols and procedures for environmental compensation



Living Lab Zagreb, Croatia

NBS description

Adapting procedures and regulations in Croatia in alignment with contemporary needs and requirements of the changing climate and endangered nature in cities and beyond is developing very slowly.

To speed up developments, the proGREG team is preparing guidelines for changing existing regulations in line with the recognized needs, monitor the situation and initiate a policy change procedure when the opportunity is recognized. The Zagreb local task force is in the process of preparing the necessary documents by using the implementation experiences of local measures to identify the policy changes needed.

Target groups (beneficiaries)

Key target groups in Croatia and abroad include:

- National government
- Local government

Main responsible partner



City of Zagreb - City Office for Economy, Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Planning – Coordination activities

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ProGREG partners involved

- City Bureau for Physical Planning - in charge of planning regulations and requirements upgrade
- Zelene i plave Sesvete NGO - contact point and link to the local community
- Faculty of Architecture Zagreb - consultation on spatial planning

Other stakeholders involved

- City Office for Economy, Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Planning - Sector for agriculture, forestry and hunting
- Other local government bodies
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture

Total budget

proGREG partner funds: Zagreb 70 000 €

Timeframe

Start June 2018 → Completion June 2023
(planned, Corona extension end of 2023)

PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

All city administrative bodies, companies, institutions and associations as well as public, civil, business, and scientific sectors actively contribute to drawing-up city strategic documents. The Partner Council consists of prominent experts from the scientific, public, civil, and business sectors, providing specific contributions. As the advisory expert authority, the Council participates in every phase of preparation and strategic direction. This process entails many thematic studies and research, numerous workshops, working meetings, and other forms of work and participation by all stakeholders.

The procedure of drafting and enactment of spatial plans is regulated by the Planning act. Public participation is divided in two parts:

1. Before the draft phase, various administrative bodies and institutions give a "previous opinion".
2. General public participation is done during public discussions, taking place after the draft is completed.

During the last years, the City of Zagreb has implemented an integrated and inclusive policy towards persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups in accordance with adopted strategic documents.

Existing regulatory framework

National level

1. Planning act
2. Utilities Act
3. Ordinance on simple and other buildings and works

Local level

4. City of Zagreb Development Strategy
5. Decision on Communal Order of the Municipality
6. City of Zagreb Spatial Plan
7. City of Zagreb Master Plan
8. City Projects
9. Competitions

District level

10. Sesvete Master Plan
11. Sesvete – North Economic Zone Urban Development Plan

Management of public green

The public green areas in Zagreb are managed and maintained by the City of Zagreb Holding Company and privately owned companies. The planning of the public green zones, as well as mapping of the existing and planned zones, and assets, are managed by the city (on the areas within the city boundaries).

Needs and goals

The main goal of NBS 7 in Zagreb is to define: the legal framework, point out parts that can be changed on local and national level, and outline necessary activities. Barriers encountered during the implementation of this NBS allowed to point to necessary changes.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Main partner

- City of Zagreb, City Office for Economy, Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Planning (until January 2022. - City Office of Strategic Planning), local project coordinator
- City Office for Economy, Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Planning (until January 2022. - City Office of Agriculture and Forestry), - coordinator of activities relating to NBS 3 Urban gardening

Other partners

City of Zagreb Bureau for Physical Planning (ZZPUGZ), coordinator and maker of planning regulations



TOOLS/SOLUTIONS

Act and Spatial Plan amendments

As part of NBS 7, City Bureau for Physical Planning has developed Low Carbon Development Guidelines Proposition for Spatial and Urban Plans. The document introduces new topics to be incorporated in existing documents and in a new innovative spatial planning system.

The new planning paradigm is based on low/no carbon development and energy transition, larger use of nature-based solutions in planning process and renaturalisation of urban centers, foreseeing participatory activities from the very beginning of the urban planning process (preparatory work, planning and co-design). The starting point is risk assessment and planning solutions for climate extremes and natural disasters; the main guideline, a shift from grey to green infrastructure as the key for transition processes in line with natural resource protection.

Based on aforementioned guidelines, amendments of Spatial and Master Plans of the City of Zagreb and Sesvete) incorporate changes in accordance with EU green politics (climate change mitigation and adaptation, nature based solutions and green infrastructure, circular economy and energy transition).

Link to other NBS

During the planning phase for implementing the modular urban farm (combined NBS 4 and 5), it emerged that the Ordinance for legal frameworks of implementing structures for agriculture on simple and other buildings needs updating. Processes need to be easier and cheaper to include container/indoor gardening and farming, and currently allowed glasshouses without planning permits, just a simple documentation.

ZZPUGZ and the City (GEOS) are exploring ways to change the Ordinance accordingly. Other activities are still to be defined.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF TOOLS/SOLUTIONS

Next steps

Principles have been added in suggestions for:

- National Spatial Development Plan
- City of Zagreb Spatial Plan amendments
- City of Zagreb Master Plan amendments
- Sesvete Master Plan amendments
- future Urban Development Plans
- Competitions etc.
- new generation of spatial plans, i.e. spatial planning documents in the process of being drafted.

Notes/critical issues/barriers

Main barriers in NBS implementation are:

- proprietary and legal relationships,
- lack of urban land management,
- lack of financial instruments,
- lack of overall long term vision of green development,
- parallel procedures of Urban and Strategic Planning, in which Strategic Planning depends on EU funding, and where EU semester is completely in line with climate neutral politics and spatial planning is yet to be updated accordingly.

CASE STUDY

Complete Restoration Program of the Historic Urban Core of the City of Zagreb

The Program is based on Low Carbon Development Guidelines Proposition for Spatial and Urban Plans, which have been developed as part of proGReg's NBS7 and represents an example of how the city of Zagreb is replicating proGReg's approach.

In 2020, a special law for restoration of buildings damaged by the earthquake declared the City Bureau for Physical Planning (ZZPUGZ) responsible for complete restoration of the urban core of the City of Zagreb.

The Program is based on Low Carbon Development Guidelines Proposition for Spatial and Urban Plans and the European Green Deal. It was a multidisciplinary scientific and professional approach with teams from the University of Zagreb and various institutes working on innovative solutions for restoration in their respective fields. The Complete restoration program thematically and contextually steps further in comparison to current urban practice by introducing new (and forgotten) topics such as: earthquake hazard and the stability of existing buildings, sociological analysis, adjustment and mitigation of climate change effects, energy efficiency, energy transition and decarbonisation, circular re-use of spaces and buildings, property law and plan feasibility and macroeconomic analysis and financing options.



Fact Sheet



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and Development of
the City



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