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PEER LEARNING VISIT REPORT
AND ANALYTICAL DOCUMENT

A SUSTAINABLE CITY MAKEOVER THROUGH NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Krakow,
31 Aug. – 2 Sep. 2022**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By Iris Gleichmann and Nils Scheffler

The City of Krakow has developed several initiatives through its Municipal Culture Service and its Municipal Green Space Authority to capitalise on the city's natural and cultural heritage and landscapes for its sustainable development.

During the Cultural Heritage in Action Peer-learning visit to Krakow from 31 August to 2 September 2022, four main initiatives were presented:

1. The green policy of the Municipal Green Space Authority
2. [The pocket parks](#)
3. [Villa Decius - Institute for Culture](#)
4. [Symbioza Centre for ecological education](#)

All these initiatives relate to cultural heritage buildings and natural spaces on the one hand as public places for education, raising ecological awareness and improving quality of life in cities and on the other to improve the quality of the environment, mitigate climate change and foster biodiversity in the city.

The green policy of the Municipal Green Space Authority lays down several initiatives and goals to protect, shape and develop the green spaces in the city as guiding principles for green development to improve the quality of life and biodiversity in the city and to adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Pocket parks are a participatory programme to turn smaller, underused public spaces in neighbourhoods into everyday green spaces for local people. The intention is to provide more public green spaces within walking distance, as cooling islands to relax and meet people of the neighbourhood and to raise the awareness about the importance of nature and green spaces in the city.

The Villa Decius Institute for Culture, a municipal cultural institution, is an important place of cultural dialogue and promotion of plurality and tolerance in Krakow's public life. It is located in a rehabilitated heritage building, providing multidimensional space for a variety of cultural activities. Among other things, it offers residences for international and European artists, exhibition and event space for diverse cultural activities and cultural events aiming to reach out and include foreigners and refugees living in Krakow (multicultural festivals, cultural picnics).

The Symbioza ecological education Centre, located in the "Okocimski Pavilion", an eco-friendly rehabilitated heritage building in the Wolski forest in Krakow, aims to raise local citizens' ecological awareness by engaging and stimulating all their senses. The idea is to help citizens – with a particular focus on children and schools- to discover nature and create their own bonds with others by offering workshops, nature tours and a multisensory exhibition.

The initiatives presented have shown that green spaces and heritage can improve the quality of life in Krakow, when institutions and organisations collaborate, and projects and issues are linked in an integrated way. The basis for this is a strong political mandate, an ambiguous but well rooted green policy, and a responsible institution with adequate staff and budget. The importance and success of participatory formats to improve local green spaces were also convincingly demonstrated. Common to all projects is a focus on bringing people more into exchange with nature and with each other, while also having a community-building effect.





The Cultural Heritage in Action peer learning participants in Krakow

1. Analysis: greening the city, raising ecological awareness, dealing with climate change

THE GREEN POLICY OF THE MUNICIPAL GREEN SPACE AUTHORITY

Main components

The green planning policy is about protecting, shaping and developing green spaces in the city of Krakow to improve the quality of life, biodiversity and to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change. The main components of the green policy are:

- Strategies supporting the policy: The Krakow development Strategy 2030 with the slogan “Krakow is a friendly city to live in”. And the strategy for Krakow’s green spaces regarding development and management for 2019-2030.
- The “Just City”: Krakow follows the principle of the “Just City”. Every resident should have access to a green area within 15 minutes walking distance. In 2020, 90 % of the citizens lived within this proximity to green spaces.
- Strengthening nature and natural wildlife: 70 % of all green areas (3,000 ha) are to be allocated to nature and natural wildlife. Of this, 30 % include heritage parks. Ecozones are set up, open to natural processes: no grass cutting, no mowing, no leave removal.
- Pocket parks: Based on the “Just City” strategy, more every day green spaces will be created for people the neighbourhoods (for more information see the initiative “Pocket parks” below).
- Increasing the forest area: The City of Krakow intends to double its forest area from 4 % of the city’s area in 2018 to 8 % in 2040. In the last three years (2018-2021), 150 ha of forest have been added. Even in highly populated urban districts, the forest area has been increased. To achieve this target, potential spaces were mapped and most of the land had to be acquired by the municipality. An internal agreement within the municipality authorities enabled to overtake the competition between this ambition and road and housing construction objectives.
- Expanding the city centre’s Green Belt: The green belt is to be expanded into a continuous green corridor that connects the existing green spaces; this for better accessibility for residents and to strengthen a natural connection network for animals. Currently, the Green Space Authority is buying missing land-links and protecting them from new building development.
- Turing grey into green: To increase the city’s ability to absorb rain, asphalted surfaces in public spaces are to be “greened” with environment-friendly, water-permeable surfaces and plants associated with underground rainwater catchment basins.
- Revitalising of post-industrial areas into green areas: Several post-industrial areas are to be transformed into forests, parks, and public bathing areas.
- Connecting to the Vistula River: Opening to the river, establishing river parks, connecting side rivers into a network of walking, and cycling paths.
- Citizens’ involvement: Citizens are involved in the development of the green spaces. They are asked about their needs and ideas for green spaces and what activities they would like to do there. In some cases, participatory budgets have been put in place.



Pocket parks – city of Krakow

Funding and management

The Municipal Green Space Authority is in charge for the implementation of the green policy. Its budget has increased from about € 7 million in 2014 to € 38 million (2021). In 2021, € 27 million. were spent on creating green spaces, € 8 million on maintenance and € 3 million on land acquisition.

Results / impacts

The city of Krakow has started its “green revolution” in 2015 and the work is in progress as the figures below indicate. Krakow is also one of the European Green Capitals finalists for 2023, which demonstrate a positive evolution as well.

- Its green budget (i.e., the budget dedicated to creating and maintaining green spaces and for land acquisition) has increased by five times comparing 2014 to 2021.
- 90 % of citizens live within a 15-minute walk to green areas.
- 32 pocket parks have been constructed since 2016.



TURN SMALLER, UNDERUSED PUBLIC SPACES INTO EVERYDAY GREEN SPACES FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

POCKET PARKS

Context and objectives

Krakow lacks easily accessible green spaces where people in their neighbourhood can spend their leisure time and meet spontaneously in everyday life. At the same time, there are smaller, neglected and disused public spaces that are a breeding-ground of anti-social behaviour. To provide more public green spaces for the neighbourhoods and at the same time reduce the places of anti-social behaviour, the City of Krakow has started to develop such places of maximum ½ ha into small green oases where people from the neighbourhood can spend their time, relax and meet people of their vicinity.

Planning and consultation process

1. Identification of suitable spaces: The Municipal Green Space Authority identifies neighbourhoods which lack green spaces in Krakow and explores suitable locations for pocket parks.
2. Inviting the neighbourhood for consultation: Having found a suitable space, the Green Space Authority informs via their website, local radio, posters in the neighbourhood, etc. about the intention to build a pocket park, inviting the neighbours for consultation about the functions of and ideas for the pocket park.
3. Consultation in the neighbourhood: In general, the consultation takes place in the form of an informal meeting at a public venue or community place in the neighbourhood, close to the pocket park.
4. Development of a draft/design of the pocket park for further consultation: Based on the results of the consultation the Green Space Authority drafts a plan of the pocket park and presents it to the neighbourhood again.
5. Revision of the plan: Based on the feedback, the Green Space Authority finalises the plan and starts with the construction of the pocket park.
6. Construction of the pocket park and official opening: When the construction of the pocket park is finished, the Green Space Authority organises a community picnic at the pocket park to officially open the new pocket park.

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REUSE OF A NEGLECTED HERITAGE BUILDING FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND EDUCATION

VILLA DECIUS - INSTITUTE FOR CULTURE

Origins

The Renaissance villa, constructed between 1530 and 1540, was in a state of decay when it was rehabilitated in 1996. At that time, it was reused as a meeting venue for the representatives of different areas of science and culture, nationalities and interests, as well as for the exchange of thoughts and search for joint creative activities.

Activities

Since 2019, the municipal Institute for Culture Villa Decius, organised as an association, oversees managing the building which remains a property of the city. The Institute offers a multidimensional space for a variety of activities:

- Villa Artis: Exhibition and event space for music, paintings, sculptures and literature; artistic residency programme and flats for individual residencies
- Villa Heritage education: Postgraduate programme dedicated to employees of heritage places in the protection of cultural property in the event of emergencies (fire, flood, etc.) and war, for instance what to evacuate first, how to extinguish fire, etc.
- Villa Integration: A cultural offer addressing the needs of foreigners living in Krakow (Culture in Exile); a project facilitating the encounters between similar life stories of refugees through the mediation of innovative digital and artistic tools (www.so-close-eu).
- Villa Migration: Residency programme for foreign artists at risk or victims of political prosecution; awarding the Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello to promote human rights, democracy and tolerance.
- Villa Senior: Providing a space for activities for the elderly such as a literary workshop
- Villa Junior: Organising various educational and playful activities for children, also with overnight stay.

Management

The Institute runs a staff of 20 people for its activities. It also works with volunteers and cooperates with other organisations and NGOs which are closer to the target groups the Institute wants to attract.

By agreement with the city, the Institute has to organise 200 events a year for the provision of the building. These can be small ones from one hour to weekend-long meetings. About 10,000 people visit the Institute every year.

Funding

The municipality provides about 60 % of the annual budget of the Institute. 20 % comes from self-generated revenues through tickets, sponsoring and renting spaces and the other 20 % from (EU) project funding. The Institute does not currently receive national funding as its activities are not in line with the national focus of cultural promotion.

Results / impacts

Villa Decius has become an important arena of cultural dialogue and promotion of plurality and tolerance in the public life of Krakow and Poland as a whole, paying particular attention to the rights and culture of national and ethnic minorities.



FUSION OF HERITAGE RESTORATION AND ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

SYMBIOZA CENTRE FOR ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Origins

The Symbioza Centre for ecological education is set in the Wolski Forest in a modernist heritage building, the Okocimski Pavilion. This building was built in 1936 for a private entrepreneur. From the 1950's until the 1990's it was used as a restaurant. After some 20 years of decay, it has been restored to become what is now the Symbioza Centre. The restoration is combining careful heritage restoration with climate adaption measures - a green roof, a photovoltaic plant, triple glazing. It is set in a green area with meadows and forest that are used by the centre.

Objective

The centre's intention is to raise Krakow citizens' ecological awareness of nature by stimulating all their senses. The starting point is to let the citizens discover nature and create their own connection.



Activities

- Multisensory exhibition - human as a guest in the forest: To look at nature from a different perspective and thus shift the viewpoint for a deeper understanding, the visitor can experience nature and the forest through the view of three animals, an owl, a badger and a tree frog. The centre's perspective is that the forest and the animal world observe humans and not the other way round. The pavilion offers an interactive exhibition with exhibits that visitors can experience and try out with all senses: touch, feel, listen, and discover. The exhibition is supported with an audio guide for individual exploration.
- A forest night room: In the basement, visitors can experience a night in the forest in a protected environment with sounds, light and storytelling.
- School garden as community garden: Adjacent to the building are high planting beds where school classes can plant and harvest (e.g., school gardening or urban gardening), showing how to use the garden and organising a joint harvest day. There is also an eye-level display of a green roof (as installed on the building) so that people can see and understand how it works.
- Café: The café provides easy access to explore the Symbioza Centre and its surroundings and fits into the overall concept of adapting to the natural environment. It offers a space to sit together and work outside, sheltered under the canopy with tables or on the surrounding meadows with deck chairs.
- Educators as guides: Educators help to experience the exhibition and the surrounding forest, with day and night forest walks and nature exploration games (touching trees, identifying sounds, forest baths etc.). The aim is to overcome nature-deficit disorder and better understand climate change and its consequences. In addition, zero waste workshops (about creating something new from old materials, composting, making your own food etc.) provide a deeper understanding of the cycle of nature.
- Educational material: a walking guide for parents showing how to explore nature with their children, a zero-waste calendar with monthly challenges helping not to produce waste, teaching material for teachers to use in their classes based on the school curricula, among others.



Target groups

- Schools: The Symbioza Centre closely collaborates with schools. Since children today seldomly go into green spaces, the centre encourages a familiarity with nature. Schools make up the main visitor group to the centre.
- Teachers close to nature: Teachers are offered workshops showing the many possibilities in nature education and are provided materials to use in their lessons. The idea is that these teachers teach other teachers in their schools. The age group is 7–9-year-old children.
- Families and adults are offered to take part in the workshops mentioned above.

Funding and management

- The Symbioza Centre is part of the Municipal Green Space Authority. It opened in February 2020. It works with nine people - five educators and four administrative staff. It is fully funded by the municipality.
- The initial restoration of the building has been co-funded by the European regional development fund (ERDF) and the Managing Institution of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship's Regional Operational Programme.

Further information: <https://symbioza-krakow.pl/en/welcome-to-our-centre/>

Results / impacts

The Symbioza Centre helps to rise the ecological and climate awareness among Krakow citizens of all ages. It brings knowledge and understanding but also emotions and feelings about nature and climate topics to visitors. This relation is important on a larger scale to deal with climate change and adapt one's behaviour.

The Symbioza Centre is a hidden gem still in its early days to be discovered by many more visitors. With care to detail and many ideas on how to reconnect human to nature and to heritage, a mindful view of the world becomes possible - a symbiosis in itself.

2. Findings and recommendations

GREENING THE CITY

Lessons learnt & key success factors

- Cross-sectoral and cross-institutional collaboration enables the implementation of the green policy possible and is key to the successful regeneration of urban areas.
- Supporting the overall green policy through the implementation of many larger projects and about 100 smaller ones give tangibility to the strategy.
- A polycentric approach for green spaces supports the idea of a just city.
- Involving citizens in the planning process, in line with the principle of participatory governance of cultural / natural heritage.
- Communicating and cooperating with diverse stakeholders.

Advice

- Collect and evaluate data to demonstrate the mitigation effects of greening, environmental and ecological projects, and climate change initiatives.
- Use tangible and intangible heritage values as an inspiration for green projects, for instance making monuments/buildings more sustainable/eco-friendly or public spaces greener.
- Use cultural activities to raise the awareness of green spaces.

Enablers for transferability

- Establish a municipal institution with the mandate and financial independence to increase the number of green spaces in the city.
- Cross-sectoral cooperation with other municipal departments to achieve a greener city.
- Spatially connecting projects with each other.
- Combining larger and smaller projects to achieve greater impact and faster results.

POCKET PARKS

Lessons learnt & key success factors

- Every place matters, no matter how small, to increase social, green and biodiverse spaces.
- An agile public department with staff willing to explore new participatory ways to expand and design green spaces.
- Political and financial support for the pocket parks approach.
- Integrating environmental and educational elements into the pocket parks.
- Planning the pocket parks with the needs of the local community at the centre.
- Each pocket park has a distinctive leitmotif for its multi-purposeful use, which reflects the needs of the local community from the consultation process, thus reinforcing the sense of local identity.
- Well-designed Hollywood swings and picnic tables are beloved furnishing elements in the pocket parks.

Consultation process

- To stimulate the imagination and creativity of the people during the consultation about what the pocket park could be used for and how it could be designed, visualisations of potential elements and uses have been proven to be very helpful.
- To avoid false expectations by the citizens, possible (infrastructural) limitations for the use and design of the pocket park as well as ideas going beyond the available budget need to be pointed out.
- It is not about that hundreds of people take part in the consultation process, but that different ideas emerge and are discussed.

Advice

- Collect microclimate data to measure the impact of the space transformation on the microclimate.
- Use upcycled materials as environmentally friendly solutions.
- Use pocket parks to raise awareness about the importance of green spaces for resilient cities.
- Propose architectural design competitions for larger pocket parks targeting students in particular, to train more professionals in the approach and idea of pocket parks.
- To inform and activate citizens for the consultation process use multipliers / institutions that are in touch with the people of the neighbourhood (e.g., schools, kindergarten, churches, as well as community organisations such as sports or youth associations, retail shops, local leaders etc.)
- Try to attract further funding sources: crowdfunding, donations, EU funding

Enablers for transferability

- Supportive local government, providing sufficient staff and finances for the pocket parks (construction and maintenance).
- City council / administration (staff) believing in the concept of pocket parks and involving local community.
- Institution in charge of implementing and managing the pocket park model
- Suitable spaces owned by the city.
- Cooperation between the different public sectors (planning, environmental, social and educational department) for multifunctional spaces.
- Develop the pocket park model, test it (pilot projects), adapt it based on the findings and scale it up.

VILLA DECIUS

Lessons learnt & key success factors

- You need creative (and sufficient) staff, who love their work and want to run a multi-purposeful building.
- Cooperation with other associations and institutions.
- Professional capacity and knowledge to create own revenues and acquire external funding. For EU funding networking with other organisations is essential and checking frequently EU-funding newsletters. In Poland the national funding desktop is supporting in this endeavour. Embassies and foreign cultural institutes can also be financial contributors or supportive in making contacts to relevant institutions.
- Leaving the building with the institute.

Advice

- More visuals/information about the history and heritage of the Villa Decius in the building and the attached park.
- Co-housing or co-working space for (residence) artists of Villa Decius to meet and work with local artists and citizens.
- Connect the residence artists of Villa Decius with (art) students – that can be forming for the students

SYMBIOZA CENTRE

Lessons learnt & key success factors

- Making the building part of the exhibition: Besides the exhibition about nature inside, the building itself serves as an “exhibition” in terms of careful, eco-friendly restoration of a heritage building. This provides an understanding of the value of historical buildings adjusted to today’s needs and of the environment and nature.
- Staff’s engagement and ideas make the quality of the place.
- Being part of a larger organisation (the Green Space Authority) helps to make use of existing experiences and materials from other projects in the Symbioza centre and vice versa (e.g., green roofs in pocket parks or booklets such as “green balconies for clean air in the city”).

Advice

- Have a more visible route/entrance from the bus stop “Babiyaga” (a very well-known fairy tale figure in Eastern European folk culture) to the Symbioza Centre connected to fairy tales, to encourage in a playful way to come to the Symbioza Centre
- Better connect the Centre with its surrounding environment (e.g. Forest, zoo, etc) through a distinctive “Route” or “itinerary”.
- Make bicycle and walking routes more visible (on a map) and connect them to the Symbioza Centre, so that more people pass by.
- Hold running and cycling events with a starting point at Symbioza centre.
- Organise a children care so that couples can enjoy a “lonely” walk in the forest.
- Developing closer cooperation with the adjacent zoo could be an asset for both municipal institutions
- Establish an animal farm at Symbioza Centre for children to visit.

PROJECT CLINIC: REUSE OF THE HISTORIC FARMHOUSES AND SURROUNDING NATURAL SITES

During the peer learning visit the Green Space authority asked the participants for ideas how to reuse two vacant huts in the Wolski Forest, which are within 30 minutes walking distance of the Symbioza Centre. The results of the brainstorming are the following:

Context

The two historic farm huts of about 200 m² each are to be put to a new use. Both are surrounded by meadows and trees, located in the Wolski Forest as is the Symbioza Centre and close to the Villa Decius. The buildings are about 30 min. walk from each other. Both buildings are close to a bus stop and parking place, but one building is hard to reach as it is uphill from the bus stop and there is no direct walking path. They are owned by the Green Space Authority.

Ideas for the reuse of the buildings and their sites

Environmental education

- Link the two buildings with Symbioza Centre by making one place about “Learning”, the other about “Producing” and the third about being active/playful.
- “Green classroom” for schools (excursions).
- Bee and berry interpretation centre and community hub; (bees are already there) as ecological education space managed by the community.
- Forest/urban farming with herbal plants including the provision of tools for farming and working on the land surrounding the huts.
- Workshop room about urban farming, herbal plants, balcony greening and midsummer events e.g., making midsummer cheeses
- Demonstration space on how to farm in the city and do recycling.

Leisure and entertainment

- Fairy tales interpretation centre: the “Urban dragon farm” or “Barbiaga house of fairy tales”
- Cottage for gastronomy, spa, nature gym, yoga room, library, weekend cottage to rent
- Picnic space

Culture

- Music instructions in the building
- Atelier rooms for art residents

Sustainability

- Learning centre about sustainability: Sustainable renovation of the buildings and displaying what can be done, also in the operation of a building.
- Eco-friendly retrofitting of the buildings, zero-waste, with “neighbours help”: doing a summer school for the renovation of the buildings. The Portuguese NGO “Critical Concrete” offers such summer schools.
- Restoration centre for citizens: Citizens can come with a historical window or door and restore it in the correct way in the workshop (tools, correct materials and help are provided).

Families and Youth

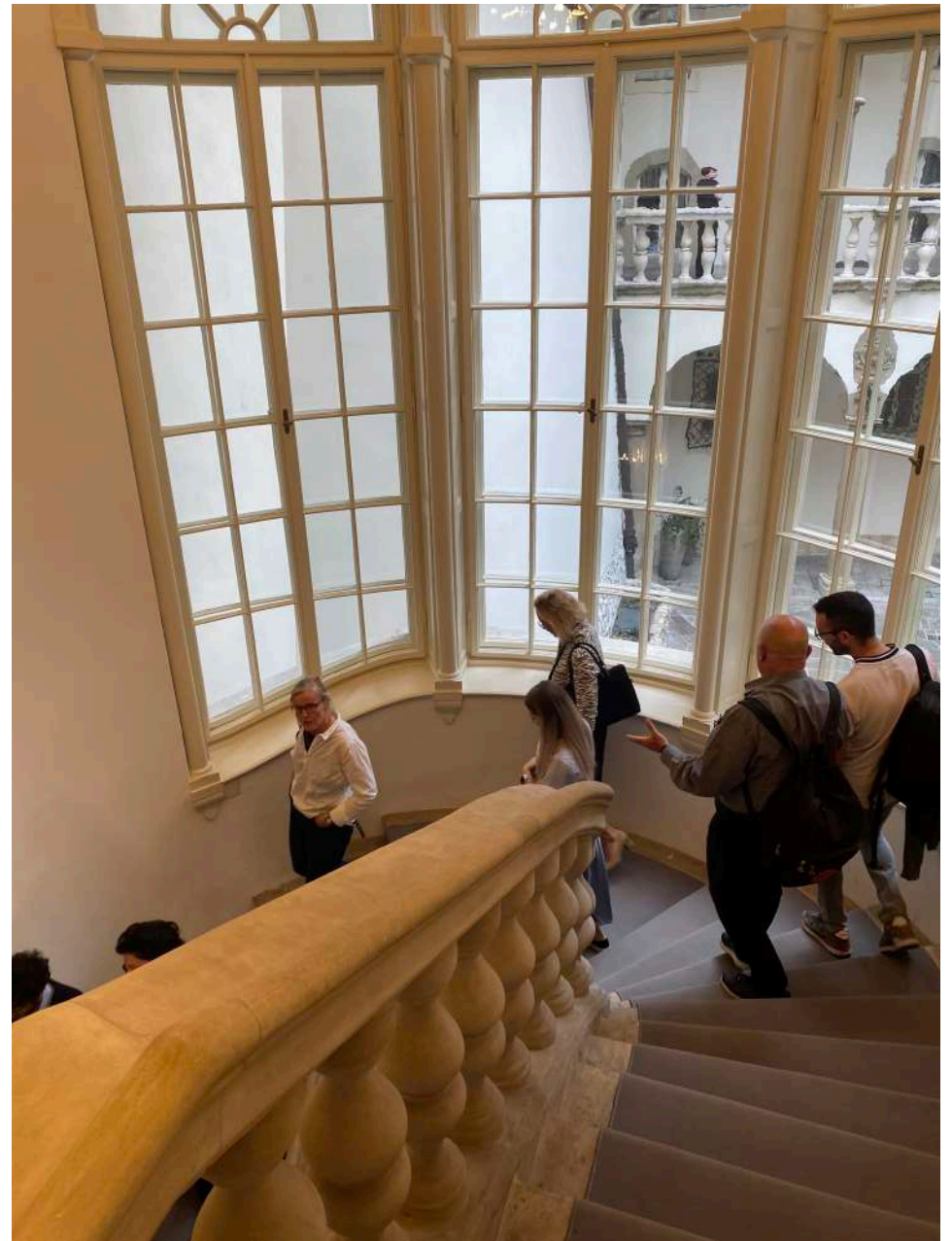
- Families or groups can rent the hut for short term, open space can be used for tents, possibly with a guide that shows how-to live-in harmony with nature.
- Survival experience for youth – water from the river, all very basic.
- Use it as a “bothy” – Scottish word for basic, simple shelter; allow people to camp inside.

Routes

- Establishment of sustainable walking routes which connect the three places
- Setting up treasure routes about living in harmony with nature, that pass by the buildings and show how this can be done

Cooperation

- Conduct an architectural competition for the renovation in collaboration with universities and in consultation with locals.
- Ask people at Symbioza centre and via online tool about their ideas for the huts.
- When buildings are renovated, public call for proposals how people/ organisations want to use the space for a year.
- Cooperate with local organizations, volunteers, bee-producers, etc. for the reuse of the buildings, invite them to support the use of the buildings.
- Co-production of honey – process from the beehive to the spoon.
- Co-working kitchen, rural kitchen, bakery.
- Days with culinary uses, community centre.
- Brainstorm with the zoo for a common use of these places, provide the zoo with an advantage to work with you e.g., privilege access to certain points with educational entertainment.



3. Conclusions



CONCLUSIONS

Political mandate and operational strategic goals

The clear political mandate that the Green Space Authority has, is key for reaching the ambiguous goals as stated in the green policy. The guiding principles of the green policy are supported by strategic goals and implementable projects. Interdepartmental agreements support the success of project measures and support to resolve conflicting goals.

Well-anchored unit in the city administration

With the Green Space Authority, a public organisation is at hand responsible for the green development of the city that is enabled with a steadily increasing budget to pursue the goals of its green policy.

Focus on local needs

Despite Krakow is an important tourist destination, the green and cultural development focuses on the needs of its citizens. This strengthens the local anchoring of these sectors and topics in Krakow.

Linking green to other topics

Green projects can be linked to other topics e.g., to culture, heritage, leisure, education etc. Making use of these links allows to strengthen the importance of green topics in the city and enables cooperation with other institutions. Cross-sectoral cooperation with the different city departments is essential.

Public participation and collaboration

Public consultations, open discourse and participation of stakeholders strengthen the effectiveness of projects. The pocket parks are a good example involving citizens at an early stage to increase the acceptance and quality of future urban development projects and strengthen the identification and sense of belonging. The size and lack of complexity of pocket parks are beneficial for participation; those involved can make a concrete contribution and the development process takes place within a manageable amount of time. Participatory activities also allow to build up new partnerships between citizens, the private, third and public sector.

Impact of smaller investment projects and experimentation

The pocket parks demonstrate that small investment projects do improve the quality of life in cities based on the motto “Every little bit helps”. In addition, trying out new uses in the pocket parks in small scale or new cooperation with stakeholders triggers further ideas for larger projects.

Greening the city

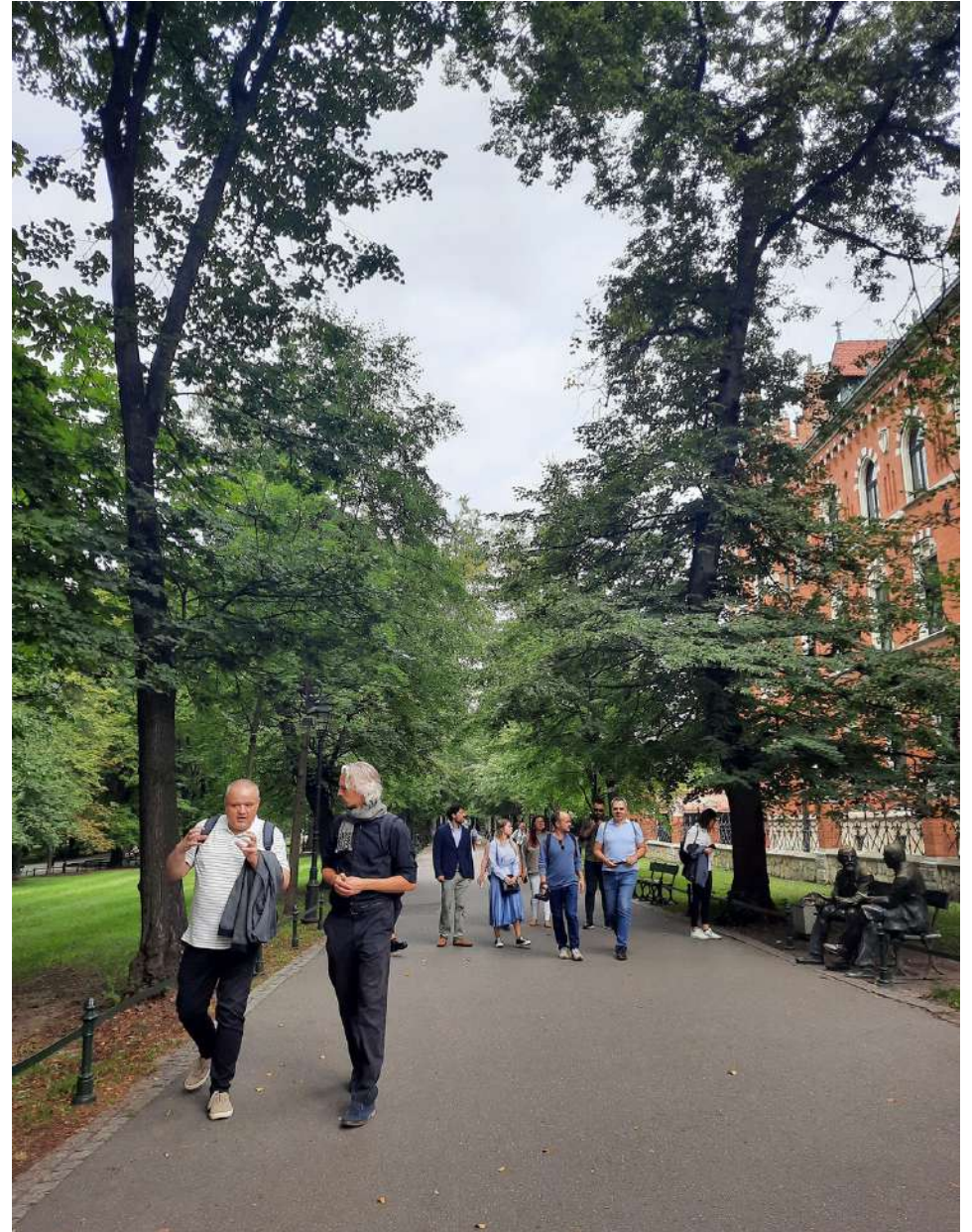
A polycentric approach for green spaces supports the idea of a ‘Just City’ and therefore the quality of living. This approach is supported by communal ownership and re-buying of land. It ensures a long-term security for land use and accessibility. Connecting existing and new green spaces, and green routes, strengthens sustainable mobility solutions.

Reconnecting with nature and cultural heritage

Promoting contact, understanding, and enjoying a playful experience with nature strengthens self-confidence, health, and a more informed and mindful approach to nature and the environment. An airy, carefully restored historic pavilion and a stimulating exhibition for discovering nature in the midst of park and forest are a start to this.

Culture refugee artists

Offering spaces for cultural exchange supports the idea of empathy and strengthens the openness of the society.



4. Annexes

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

16 PARTICIPANTS FROM 12 CITIES AND REGIONS TOOK PART IN THE VISIT IN KRAKOW.

The complete evaluation has been reported based on 14 evaluation reports received from the participants. When asked about the peer learning visit experience, knowledge gained, information received, and relevance, the participants responded with either “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree”. Similarly, all questions have scored the same evaluation points, intending that most participants positively perceived the peer learning visit in Krakow.

City/Region	Main learning points	Future use of ideas and knowledge gained
Amsterdam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-tangible heritage values can be used as a leitmotiv in (building) projects.• If you (City/ Government) truly aspire to do so, you can let inhabitants/ owners participate and help in the design process.• Sustainability goals and environmental ‘health’ can only be achieved when there is a true understanding and heart of/ for nature. We need to regain touch with and educate on nature.• Every small step towards becoming more sustainable, counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Never ‘forget’ the citizens• Inverting: turning neglected (spaces) into powerful• Taking chances and being bold• Using sustainability not as a goal (something that must be ‘done’) but as a chance and inspiration. Same goes for heritage!
Serres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The participation of the residents in the design of the parks significantly enhances the chances of success of the project.• The cost of converting empty spaces into pocket parks is small compared to the advantages they offer.• The combination of green spaces with cultural heritage is a very efficient solution for upgrading the urban environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will try to pass on all the ideas and information I gathered to the relevant bodies in my municipality. We have already organized a presentation on the example of Krakow.• Furthermore, I believe that I have gained from the program a few arguments and proposals that I will use in discussions with competent bodies of my municipality.• Finally, my enriched experience will help me push for the use of good practices through the audit mechanism of my city’s architecture board that I am a part of.
Serres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of involving the inhabitants of the area in the projects that affect them• The importance of sharing knowledge and implemented practices between EU members• The blending of both environmental and cultural projects can boost both goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I will try to alter the way the municipality plans and realises projects that affect everyday life.• We will present all the knowledge gained on our municipality authorities and public services.• I will share the example of Krakow with my colleagues on the Architectural Association.

City/Region	Main learning points	Future use of ideas and knowledge gained
Ghent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities in a historic house can not only be linked to the sense of place but more specifically to themes related to the past or history of the house (e.g. Villa Decius: cultural diplomacy). We are the gatekeepers of our houses/heritage. Artistic residencies do not necessarily have to lead to a production or presentation, but can be limited to work in progress, or even just inspiration or exchange of ideas and concepts. Interesting concept of heritage of the sound (Utopia Home). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start by experimenting with certain ideas and accents and discussing them in our team, before entering them in our multiannual strategic plan.
Ghent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not only the atmosphere of the historic house must influence the way we disclose our heritage, also the background in the broadest sense of the word of the former residents. We must communicate to our visitors the importance of greenery in our gardens in a subtle and inventive way. Creating support for our projects by working together with the local community within the framework we set out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When developing (new) projects, there is more focus on the themes raised during the visit. These now emerge more strongly during brainstorming sessions with the team
Bologna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation between different departments makes projects more functional. Active participation from citizens may initially slow the project down, but it is a payoff in the medium/long run Promote and respect the identity of a place is essential to involve local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will share the ideas and the knowledge gained with different departments of the Municipality of Bologna. In particular, I will try to involve the culture and the green departments in order in creating projects together. I will also look for national and European funds to encourage the design of this kind of project in my city.
Bologna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the participants appreciated the relevant role of citizens in the public sector decision-making process, so I learnt how strong is for European citizens the need to strengthen the sense of belonging to their communities. The areas of public administration in Krakow working synergy (in particular in the cultural sector) and the result is excellent: I learnt how important is cooperation-Krakow pays a lot of attention to climate education, in order to raise awareness in this regard and involve people: I learnt the power of an engaging approach to people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the relationship with the other sectors of my organisation; -develop new forms of communication with citizens.
Solin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First lesson that I learned was the importance of the participation of citizens in the decision-making process. In Solin, we have only this year started with the participation of citizens in dealing with small communal works so it is valuable to see in which way we can expand it. Second lesson is the importance of green surfaces in the urban area especially with the increasing temperatures in cities. Krakow is a great example to follow. Third lesson is the importance of the cooperation between different departments and institutions governed by the city so that planned actions can be executed in the optimal way. I have seen that Krakow has the same challenges as Solin in that area, so it is important to continue working to bringing all stakeholders on board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a small city Solin needs to work more on sustainability and the increase of green areas in the city. In this way, Krakow's pocket parks are a great example to follow. First step is to begin every project with green areas in mind and search for the spaces that we can revitalise with the minimal funds necessary.

City/Region	Main learning points	Future use of ideas and knowledge gained
Jelgava	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader look at the possibilities of cultural heritage development, including also the context of the creation of the city's green infrastructure. • Significant part of this process is cooperation between the various departments • It is also important not only to create green, small public spaces outside the city centre (for example, pocket parks), but also to implement cultural events in these areas, thus activating the more distant neighbourhoods of the city, reducing the recreation load on the city centre and historical places, which are already popular and actively used by the city visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The experience gained is a great opportunity to integrate the idea of creating pocket parks into study projects, which will be developed in cooperation with municipalities of Latvian cities. • Thus, the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation will be popularized, bringing together specialists from different fields to work on the creation of the city's green infrastructure, also including the context of organizing cultural events and activities.
Jelgava	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket gardens play an important role in neighbourhood development and residents' satisfaction. Municipal budget planning plays an important role here - every year, money is planned for this purpose. • When planning the greening of territories and the development of green infrastructure on a large scale, it is important to plan the reconstruction of engineering communications in good time, which allows you to free up underground cables and plan green areas more freely. • Interactive preparation of materials - videos, sounds, smells, games - is essential for solving nature education issues. The "dark forest" is also an interesting adventure, which allows children to remember information because of the bright emotions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With our students, we will include the planning of pocket gardens for a neighbourhood, and we will present to the municipality the possibility of developing the city's green infrastructure. • We will share experiences about the strategy of the Green Infrastructure Department of the City of Kraków, with the opportunity to exchange experiences.
Dundee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Union and European projects can support with funding, as well as consular corps in your country, diplomatic organisations in your country, the USA embassy, international partnership schemes, Horizon 2020, Creative Europe and British Council. • - Several phases of community consultation is needed during the project to ensure the project continues to serve the needs of the community during ideas, planning and action phases. • - Demonstrating a demand for Pocket Parks is central for funding, as well as measuring satisfaction afterwards, to ensure more can be created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My photographs taken on the trip and the case studies viewed, as well as the literature given, will help to give structure and examples to the pocket park planned for future projects. Some of the European funding opportunities cited by the hosts will help ensure future projects can be funded.
Iasi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a unity between all cultural stakeholders from the metropolitan area is an important task to harmonise the cultural sphere of a city. • Promoting the necessity of school gardens as community gardens, involving young children in gardening activities, learning about the nature-deficit disorder. • The importance of a walking guide for a nature explorer, to develop a relationship with nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a relationship between residents, tourists, and entrepreneurs at the metropolitan area level. • Prioritising the revitalisation of historical parks. • Expanding the cultural offer addressing the needs of foreign students who study in Iasi city. • We aim at expanding the activities within the rural community, teaching children about the nature-deficit disorder and tackling climate change problems that the world is facing.

City/Region	Main learning points	Future use of ideas and knowledge gained
Porto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is necessary to note that the quality of the intervention of the municipal council at all levels of preservation and improvement of the city's environmental quality was a demonstration of the excellent preparation of those responsible. • The implementation of the pocket parks program must be praised, as I am convinced that this program can also be applied in other cities, namely in Porto. • Final word to the notorious concern of those responsible for the city with the problems related to the sustainability of cities, a reality that is not experienced in all countries, and from which we can learn a lot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an initial phase, I intend to disseminate the knowledge acquired among the teaching community and ESAP students, raising awareness of the need to create more green spaces in Porto. • Later, it may be possible to try to transmit this information to those responsible for the Municipal Council, leading them to adopt the necessary measures.
Catalonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket parks: Involving residents in the design and development of the green spaces closest to their neighbourhoods is a very intelligent solution and the output is fantastic. • Villa Decius: I find it genuinely generous and courageous to offer such a beautiful setting that is used to provide shelter for artists from all over the world. • Symbioza: I think it is wonderful how the architectural heritage is used to strengthen the future of the city through education in nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In my field of work, the most direct lesson to be transferred is the one offered by pocket parks. I think it is essential to bring the work and design of urban spaces that is carried out from the public administrations closer to the neighbours, who are its true users and beneficiaries.

USEFUL LINKS

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES PRESENTED DURING THE VISIT

Pocket Parks in Krakow:

<https://zzm.krakow.pl/parki.html>

Pocket parks map:

<https://bit.ly/3ymW5mZ>

Symbiosis Ecological Education Centre:

<http://symbioza-krakow.pl/en/welcome-to-our-centre/>

Villa Decius Institute for Culture (IKWD):

<https://willadecjusza.pl/en>

Description of the Institute's activities and video:

<https://willadecjusza.pl/en/institute>

Artists' Residencies Centre:

<https://willadecjusza.pl/en/artists-residencies-centre>

Strategic documents:

This is where I want to live. Krakow development strategy 2030 by the Municipality of Krakow

https://strategia.krakow.pl/o_strategii/255162,2214,komunikat,krakow_development_strategy_-_this_is_where_i_want_to_live_krakow_2030.html

Regional Development Strategy "Małopolska 2030" | Volume 1 | Edition 1 | Krakow 2021

https://www.malopolska.pl/_userfiles/uploads/JMP---Malopolska_2030_SRW_cz-I_EN_v042_INTERNET.pdf

Regional Development Strategy "Małopolska 2030" | Volume 2 | Edition 1 | Krakow 2021

https://www.malopolska.pl/_userfiles/uploads/JMP---Malopolska_2030_SRW_cz-II_EN_v052_INTERNET.pdf

Krakow Position Paper (Urban Transformation Strategy) authored by Eit Climate-KIC and the City of Krakow

https://strategia.krakow.pl/o_strategii/255162,2214,komunikat,krakow_development_strategy_-_this_is_where_i_want_to_live_krakow_2030.html

Air Quality Plan for the Małopolska Region by Marshal Office of the Malopolska Region

https://powietrze.malopolska.pl/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/AQP_Summary.pdf

Heat map for Krakow

https://www.mpec.krakow.pl/files/dokumenty/MapaCiepa_A3_poziom_20200305_internet_eng.pdf

Circular strategy for Krakow

http://circularhotspot.pl/userfiles/baza-wiedzy/CircularCitiesProgram_Krakow_Final_Report.pdf

Summary of climate change adaptations plans in 44 Polish cities including Krakow

http://44mpa.pl/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/MPA_NET-ENG-20-12.pdf

USEFUL CONTACTS

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