



Project Goals

GreenKeys focuses on the improvement of urban green spaces as a step towards more sustainable cities. In the project the three main objectives are (1) to provide incentives for structural changes in cities by offering opportunities for improving green spaces, (2) to develop a **Pool of Green Strategies** to fulfil the demands concerning future needs and (3) to use the synergies to promote the transfer of knowledge through a network by fostering the exchange of transnational experiences.

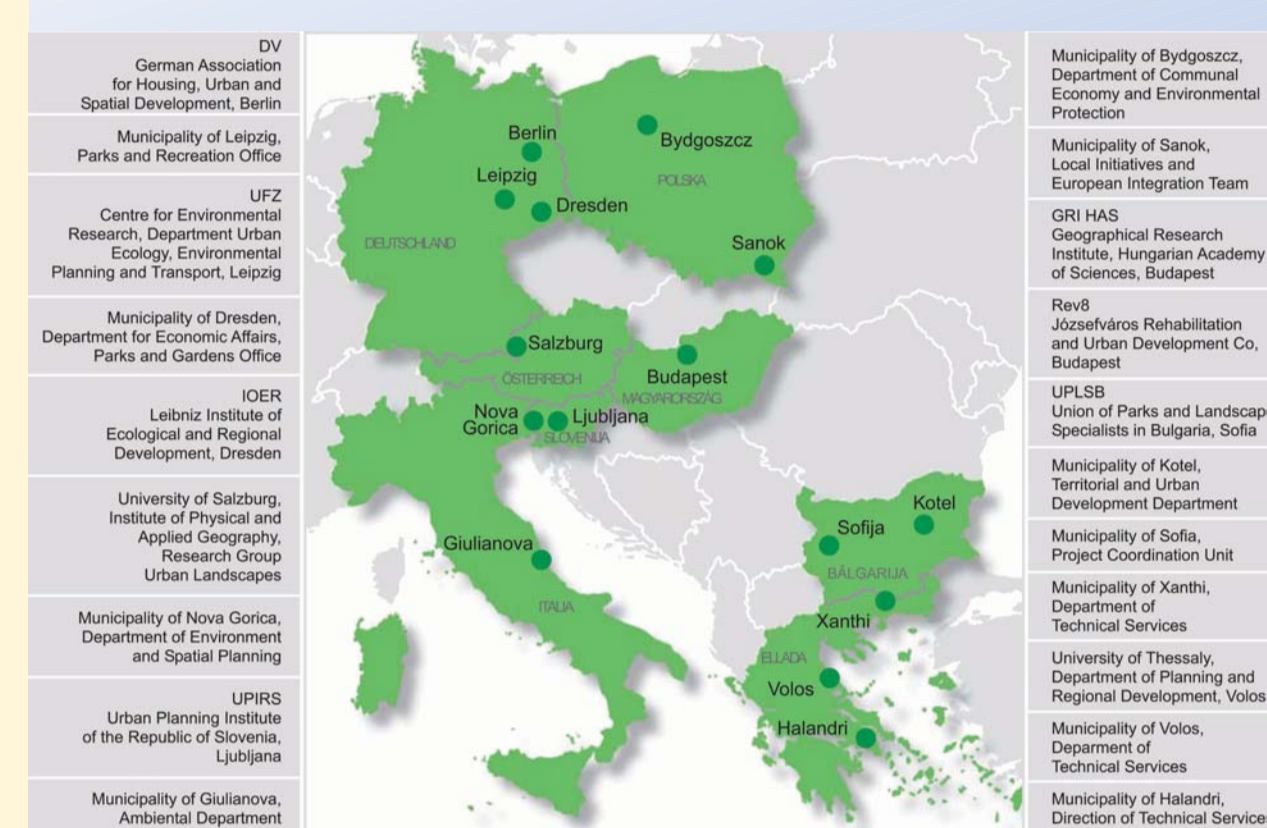


Fostering ecological, social, economic and processual benefits of urban green development

Together with local stakeholders the partner cities will develop a strategic approach for their **Pilot Projects**. They create new or improve existing green areas towards more accessibility, social and recreational value and ecological efficiency. With the involvement of local actors, the political attention to the benefits of green spaces for urban environment will be increased. GreenKeys will support the implementation and evaluation of Pilot Projects in order to develop the Pool of Green Strategies.

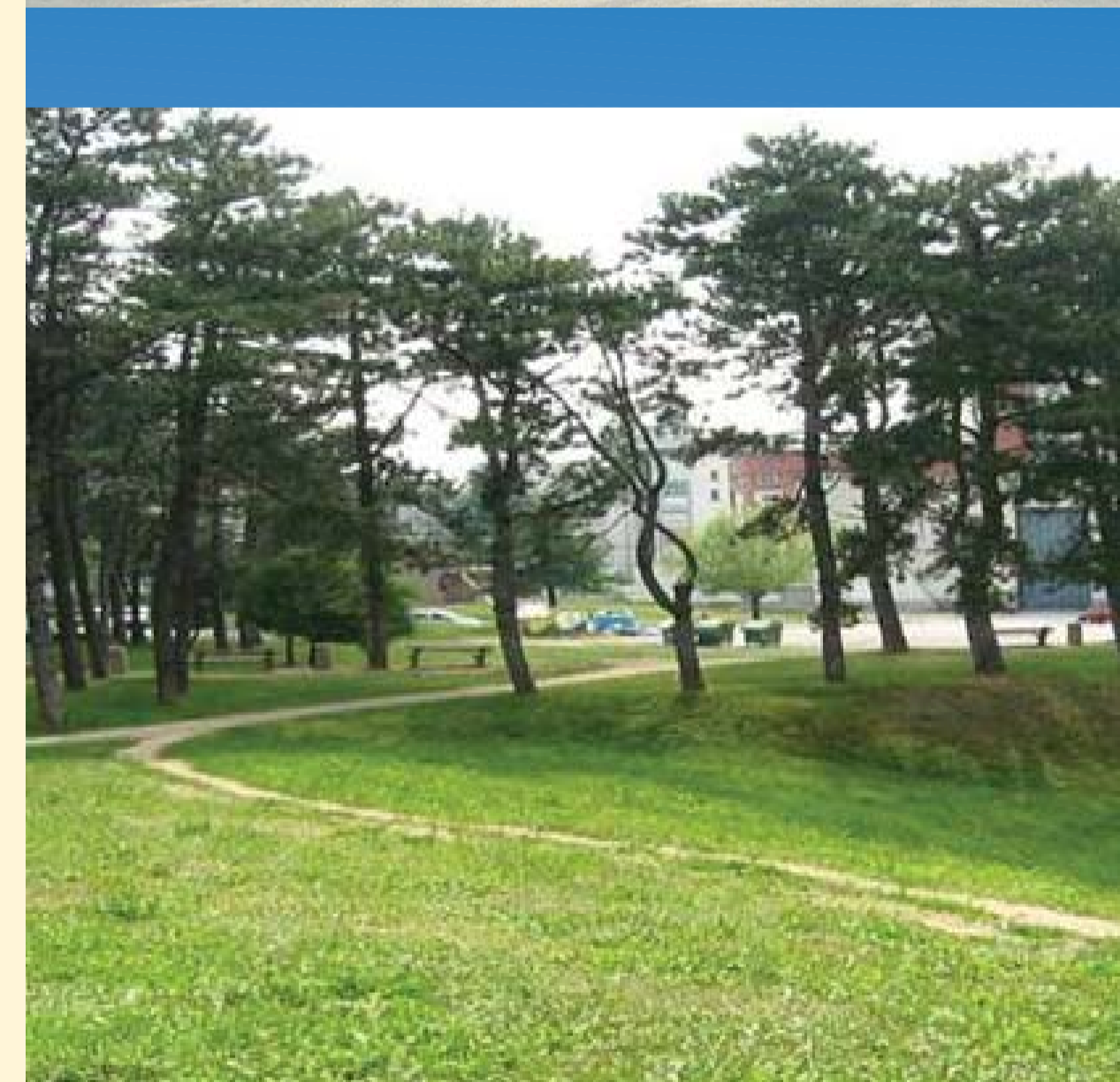


The Consortium



The GreenKeys consortium joins 20 project-partners from Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia in an interdisciplinary way. Twelve cities and eight supporting institutions are working closely together.

Within three years (May 2005 to April 2008), the city partners will implement Pilot Projects with direct benefits to the population and will develop strategies for their urban green space development.



Green spaces will be redeveloped or enhanced with special attention to social, ecological and economical requirements. GreenKeys will bundle the existing expertise and experiences in a task force to provide the knowhow transfer needed for all partners. All results will be documented, shared among the partners and disseminated through the internet or other media.

For further information about GreenKeys please contact the co-ordination team at the IOER or any other project partner. All contact addresses are listed on the GreenKeys web site:

www.greenkeys-project.net

Expected Impacts



GreenKeys will enlarge the awareness and responsiveness of the cities and citizens regarding the development of green spaces in special consideration of economic development. The benefits of green spaces in the cities will be improved, thereby contribute to successful structural change towards a better living in a friendly urban landscape and healthy environment. Transnational applicable solutions for common problems in green development will be shown.

	Green Strategies	Pilot Projects	Pool of Green Strategies	Policy Papers	Network
Results	12 Strategies	Improvement in 12 Green Spaces	Manual Urban Green Strategy Guide	Recommendations	Knowledge Transfer
Addressees	City offices	Inhabitants	Planners	Decision makers	All interested
Benefits	Integration of green qualities	Increased quality of residential areas	Support for taking decisions	Arguments for political taking decisions	Information and discussion forum



Awareness will be raised for the specific problems of urban green development by organising a network to activate and motivate the participation of major local stakeholders, like inhabitants, local NGOs, investors, businesses etc., to become constantly involved in the development planning and implementation of the Pilot Projects.

As a result the manual "**Urban Green Strategy Guide**" will promote an intensive exchange of knowledge. Orientated on problem approaches a pool of good practice examples will be established based on the experiences made. The manual will contain instruments, methods, a catalogue of case studies as well as criteria for the identification and analysis of successes and failures in the green space development. So the experiences of the planning processes will be published and widely disseminated.

Furthermore, GreenKeys will formulate, discuss and submit recommendations for a European green policy in order to develop community strategies, instruments and standards as well as adequate funding for a balanced development of urban green spaces.

State-of-the-Art

GreenKeys finished its first project year and it is time to draw a short balance. One main challenge of the project is to develop urban green strategies and adopt them high in the political agenda. Towards achieving the expected results, the following steps are or will be done:



Local Partners Incentive Scheme: Each partner city develops its own Urban Green Strategy and implements a Pilot Project. Both local initiatives are supported by Regional Coordinators and by External Experts, who contribute with their experiences to fill knowledge gaps. The idea of the Pilot Projects is to break new ground and to come up with new ways of green space development. Pilot Projects will be analysed during their implementation process and lessons will be drawn from gained experiences.



Adoption of a strategic approach with regional character: A strategic approach to green space planning and management is important in order to react to rising complexity, uncertainty and increasing speed of changes in community planning. GreenKeys does not seek for universal applicable strategies but for strategies that take into account regional spatial singularities. Partner cities have the opportunity to think about their long-term green infrastructure concept at different levels, built onto strategic thinking, especially about the relationship between urban development and green space provision.

Drawing the public attention to green space development: One important step to a sustainable development of urban green spaces is to increase and disseminate the knowledge about the value green spaces can add to the quality of life in urban areas and the role they can play for a sustainable urban development. Therefore the project's website is established and constantly updated. All cities have kicked off their strategy building process, in most cities press conferences had been realised.