

***Appraisal Report on
General Framework in Partner Cities and
Current Status of the Pilot Projects***

Milestone 4 (Action 1.5) and Milestone 7 (Action 4.3)



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View of the park at the Via del Campetto in Giulianova, 2005

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Milestone 4 ■ Action 1.5

Milestone 7 ■ Action 4.3

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1 Introduction

The main goal of this report is to present a comparative analysis of the current status (as of May 2006) of the two main outcomes of GreenKeys project: the development of a green strategy and the implementation of pilot projects. Backed on this analysis this report draws a comparison of the current situation and frame conditions for the development of urban green spaces. Along this line there is the need of looking in the city and its institutional context.

In GreenKeys a pilot project is understood as a project which breaks new ground and provides new ideas, new ways of implementing green spaces, carried out on a trial basis. Pilot projects are normally small in size and are designed so that lessons can be drawn from their implementation and, if successful, replicated. In the 12 GreenKeys partner cities pilot projects will be implemented in light of the above said.

The GreenKeys partner cities are:

Budapest (HU), Bydgoszcz (PL), Dresden (D), Giulianova (I), Halandri (GR), Kotel (BG), Leipzig (D), Nova Gorica (SLO), Sanok (PL), Sofia (BG), Volos (GR) and Xanthi (GR).

This report presents two milestones: 4 – Analysis of the current situation in the partner cities and milestone 7 – Analysis and evaluation of the data for the whole city. These two Milestones are reported together, than both GreenKeys main tasks can't be seen in a disconnect way. The implementation of a pilot project is a step forward in the formulation and adoption of an urban green space strategy.

Therefore, this report compiles in a concise way the information gathered through the GreenKeys Tools, especially the City Profile and the Description of the Pilot Project applied by the partner cities in order to deliver a general view on the status for all project partners. It sums up relevant information about geographical background, general framework, development trends, planning instruments and strategies, situation of green and open spaces. It is important to notice that despite the identical general frame for all partner cities, the delivered information reflected in some cases the different understanding and interpretation of the posed questions. Therefore the interpretation of the data has to be handled with care, because not all information is the same or has the same content. All figures presented here have also be appreciated carefully as data expressed in numbers and size of the urban green spaces depends extremely on the definition of these terms in the respective city and on the existing statistic facts. Numbers also do not express necessarily any quality. These figures can, however, give us an overview on different aspects concerning urban green spaces. In the course of the project these gathered data will be once more checked and analysed.

The action plan of GreenKeys sorts out pilot projects into 6 categories according to type of green spaces to be implemented. The implementation includes the three main phases of realisation a green space: 1) preparing design and concepts, getting the necessary legal authorisation for the realisation, 2) realisation (installing facilities and equipments, planting of vegetation) and 3) its launch/opening for public use, having in consideration that stakeholders and users should be directly involved in all these 3 phases.

The 6 categories and the corresponding cities are:

- 1. Rehabilitation of derelict land into green spaces** – Nova Gorica, Leipzig
- 2. Improving residential areas with green spaces** – Budapest, Xanthi
- 3. Creation of social, recreational and sports facilities** –Giulianova, Sanok, Volos
- 4. Improvement in communal historical park** – Dresden and Kotel
- 5. Improvement in communal botanical garden** – Bydgoszcz
- 6. Improvement of open spaces with endemic vegetation** – Halandri, Sofia

Both reports (Milestone 4 and 7) were scheduled to be prepared respectively in September 2005 and April 2006, however due to the delays in the preparation of the questionnaires and consequent delivering of data by the partner cities this was neither possible nor appropriate to deliver it before, than at that date there were not much actions running in the partner cities to be analysed and reported.



Fig. 1: The map shows the localisation of the GreenKeys partners: In partner cities (●) green strategies and pilot projects will be implemented.

2 Administrative Frame

In this chapter the framework for the implementation of the two GreenKeys outcomes are analysed. The GreenKeys partner cities network cover a wide range of cities. These have different functions in their countries. There are national capitals (as Sofia and Budapest) which are simultaneously the biggest cities in terms of population, there are other regional capitals that play an important role in their regions (as Dresden, Bydgoszcz and Volos) and we have also small cities as Kotel or Xanthi. Among the cities the case of Budapest has to be differentiated and taken into consideration that, due to the administrative peculiarities in Hungary, the figures do concern the Budapest's district Józsefváros (VIII. District), and not the whole city of Budapest (composed by 23 districts).

As there is no a common understanding, what a municipality or city is, the GreenKeys project decided to work with the settlement area, for what the project partners are able to take decisions for – this corresponds to the area, the partner cities will develop their green strategies for. Table 1 shows the corresponding area the partner cities are to handle. The data demonstrate the wide range of size of the areas with a wide variety on proportion of green spaces. Therefore also the provision of green spaces per inhabitants varies very much among the partner cities. These figures have to be appreciated very carefully as there is no common agreed definition, and these figures depend on the availability of those data in the corresponding cities. The blank left boxes show the still missing information from the cities. These gaps will be closed in the forthcoming update with the project progress.

The local stakeholders and local authorities involved in the development of the green structures, differ from case to case (see). Independently of the name of these institutions it is evident that the bigger the city, the more differentiated is its administration, and therefore the more institutions are committed. Budapest and Leipzig have the most departments involved, while five cities (e.g. Giulianova, Volos) have mentioned that only one department is responsible for defining goals and strategies for urban development.

Despite the case of Budapest, where a non-profit, non-governmental joint stock company (Rev8) was established in 1997 to be responsible for the whole process of urban rehabilitation, including preparatory works, physical renovation and the development of public spaces and infrastructure in the district Józsefváros, all the involved institutions are governmental/public institutions.

From the 12 cities, 11 have stated of having urban development policies for the area mentioned in Table 1. Only the partner city Halandri seems not to have such kind of guidance instrument. From those 11 cities, two (Volos and Xanthi) stated that their policies are not accompanied with strategies.

Regarding urban green space development only 8 cities stated of having relevant strategy for green development and that these are integrated in the general goals and strategies for urban development. These numbers are relative high and also show that there is a clear link between the city planning and the planning of urban green spaces. But the strength of this integration is very different in each city (UPIRS & UFZ 2006).

In summary can be said that the pilot projects and the development of urban green space strategies are taking place under different administrative contexts. Through the review of the current status in the partner cities concerning the development of urban green spaces can be stated that the decision making for policies and the planning practice for implementation of green spaces, in most cases, seem to be done with a good correlation between those. However, the review of the material delivered by the cities demonstrates the need for the development of individual urban green space strategy.

Table 1 shows facts concerning size of area for development of the green strategy built up areas and green and open spaces of the partner cities.

Partner City	Area for development of the green strategy (km ²)	Built up area (total) (km ²)	Proportion of green and open space inside the built up area (%)	Proportion of urban green space of the total urban area (%)	Proportion of green spaces per 1000 inhabitants (m ²)
Budapest	6,8	6,8		14,6	12
Bydgoszcz	174,5	69,2	13,9	13,8	26
Dresden	328,3	61,8			
Giulianova	8,8	8,8	45	22,5	1,9
Halandri	10,8	3,8		64,2	92
Kotel	3,9	2,5		0,6	400
Leipzig	298	12,3		15,5	89,5
Nova Gorica	13	6,9	35,7	0,4	6,1
Sanok	28,5	3,7		39,1	71
Sofia	135				
Volos	15	10,5			
Xanthi	5,1	4,9	5,1	2,2	2.319

The development of urban green space varies from city to city and even within the city, mostly depending on the strategic importance of the space to be developed. In very few cases (e.g. Budapest, Xanthi) the same departments are related to the three main phases in the implementation of green spaces, as stated in Table 2. In the most cases different departments are in charge of different phases. This table however does not say anything about the cooperation among these diverse departments. Than it is very important to create competent local partnerships, that, in interaction, create the most sustainable solutions for the development and implementation of urban green space strategies in the partner cities.

Table 2: Local authorities involved in the urban green space development

City	Institution responsible for developing goals and strategies for urban development	Urban green space development		
		Institution responsible for planning and design	Institution responsible for implementation	Institution responsible for maintenance
Budapest	Office of the Chief Architect of the City Council of Budapest, Office of the Chief Architect of the District's Local Government, Department of Open Space Development of the District VIII. and Rév8 Urban, Development Company in the rehabilitation areas	Department for Property Management of the Local Government Department of Open Space Development	Department for Property Management of the Local Government Department of Open Space Development	Department for Property Management of the Local Government Department of Open Space Development
Bydgoszcz	Department of Economical Development and Investments, Municipal Urban Atelier	Municipal Urban Atelier, Department of Communal Economy and Environmental Protection	Department of Investment, Department of Communal Economy and Environmental Protection	Department of Communal Economy and Environmental Protection
Dresden	City Department of City Development City Planning Office City Department of Economic Affairs - Environmental Office Urban Green and Waste Management Office	City Planning Office, Urban Green and Waste Management Office, Streets Infrastructure Office	Urban Green and Waste Management Office, Streets Infrastructure Office	Urban Green and Waste Management Office, Streets Infrastructure Office
Giulianova	Office for environmental and land use planning	Office of Public works, Office of environmental issues	Office of Public works, Office of environmental issues	Office for maintenance and technical services
Halandri	Department of Architecture, Department of Town Planning Applications, Department of Green	Department of Architecture, Department of Town Planning Applications,	Department of Construction and Superintendence, Department of Green	Direction of Technical service, Direction of Environment
Kotel	Territorial and Urban Development Department	Territorial and Urban Development Department	Territorial and Urban Development Department	Territorial and Urban Development Department

City	Institution responsible for developing goals and strategies for urban development	Urban green space development		
		Institution responsible for planning and design	Institution responsible for implementation	Institution responsible for maintenance
Leipzig	Department of Urban Development and construction, City Planning Office, Office for Urban Regeneration and Residential Development, Department of Environment, Public Order and Sports - Parks and Recreation Office - Environmental Protection Office			
Nova Gorica	Urban and spatial planning department (leading all other departments)	Urban and spatial planning department	Infrastructure department	Infrastructure department
Sanok	Architecture, Town Planning and Building Inspection Department, Municipal Resources and Environmental Department, Investments and Major Renovations Department	Architecture, Town Planning and Building Inspection Department	Investments and Major Renovations Department	Municipal Resources and Environmental Department
Sofia	Sofproject Company, Master Plan Municipal company, Architecture and Urbanism Direction	Sofproject Company, Master Plan Municipal company	Green System Direction or Sofia Municipality, Municipal Greening Company	Municipal Greening Company, Sofia District Environment Departments
Volos	Planning Department of Municipality of Volos	Department of Green Spaces	Department of Green Spaces, Department of Technical Service	Department of Green Spaces
Xanthi	Department of Technical Services	Department of Technical Services, Department of Environment and Green Spaces	Department of Environment and Green Spaces	Department of Environment and Green Spaces, Department of Cleaning

2.1 Population trends and land use patterns

The partner cities have a population between 7.200 inhabitants (Kotel) and 1.200.000 inhabitants (Sofia). The Bulgarian partner cities play the both extremes. The majority of the partner cities (8) have a population under 100.000 inhabitants and 4 are under the mark of 50.000 inhabitants (Fig. 2).

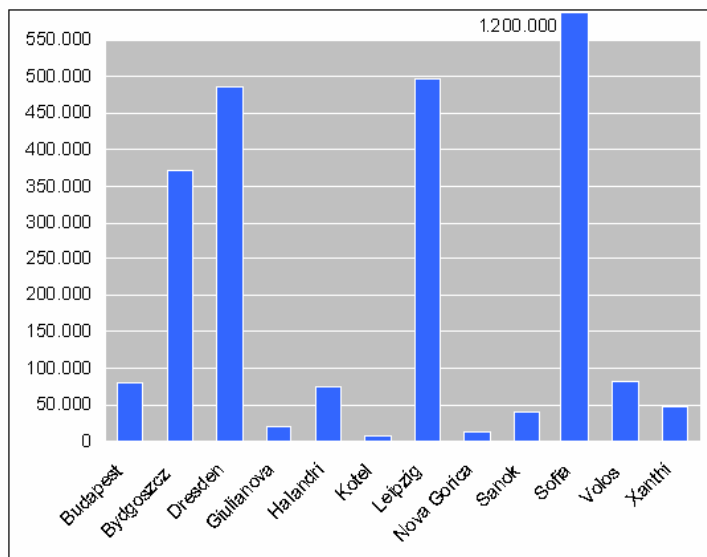


Fig. 2: shows the size of population of the GreenKeys partner cities (number of inhabitants).

Checking out the tendencies or changes in the population it can be stated that only Sofia and the three Greek partner cities have population growth in the last 20 years. In Giulianova the population is stabilised by around 30.000 inhabitants and all other 7 cities have to faith the problems of shrinkage. The same picture gives the expected trends for the next 5-10 years (Table 3). The cities with a growing population (in the year 2005) expected that this trend will remain for the next years. Halandri seems to foresee the biggest growth (20% for the year 2011). Despite these disparities a common trend in all cities can be detected changes in the population structure. The most significant is the increase in the proportions of older people, accompanied by declines in the proportions of younger people. This is however a global phenomenon. Sofia seems to run against this trend. Sofia attracts especially young people to come and to live in the city.

Considering the labour forces one can say that the unemployment rate shows a wide range of differences among the cities. Once again the both extremes are built by the Bulgarian cities. It reaches from 3,5 % in Sofia to 22,1% in Kotel. Over the average of 10,9% besides Kotel are Dresden, Halandri and Volos. Regarding the unemployment rate in the corresponding countries it can be detected that Dresden, Giulianova, Halandri, Kotel and Volos lay over the average in their countries (Table 3). All other partner cities have the city's unemployment rate under their national level.

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Concerning the land use patterns and the expected trends for the next 5-10 years (Table 4) the analysis shows that in the cities with growing population evidently will claim for more land for urban uses. In Halandri for instance open spaces will be incorporated into the city plan to allow them to be built up. In Nova Gorica the agricultural land will also be claimed for urban uses. In danger are also the green and open spaces in Sofia, due to the rising market prices of land and the rapidly growing population.

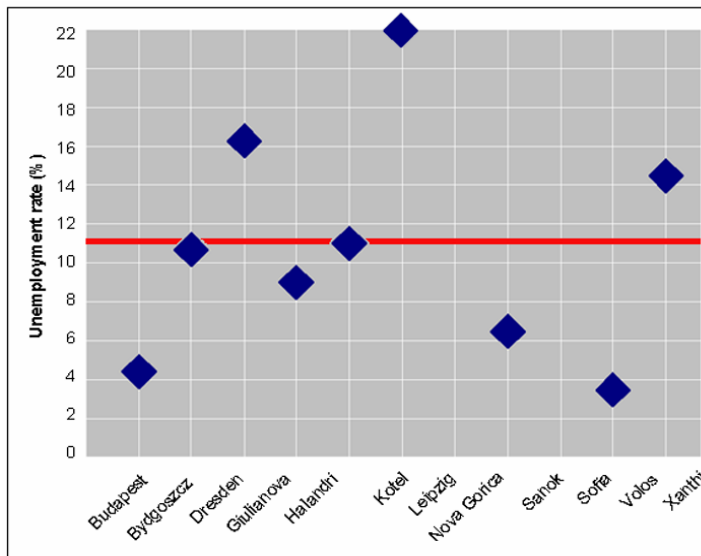


Fig. 3: shows the unemployment rate in the partner cities. The red line corresponds to the calculated average (10,9%).

The situation can be considered in the other cities more relaxed – once under the shrinking conditions the problem is not the intensive land use, but the less pressure for reusing urban land. Many cities have to rethink their development strategies once they can't count on reusing the already urbanised land. This is the case in Dresden, where one of its targets is to reduce the spatial growth by concentrating its efforts mainly on the development of the city centre and neighbourhood centres, accepting the existence of large derelict areas around these. This Swiss cheese urban structure is also the Leipzig's concept for urban development. With increasing number of green spaces of higher quality, the city expects to overcome the problems of demographic changes. Budapest stated to reuse the brownfields in the rehabilitation areas to create small-scale green spaces. The type of green space that is important for the daily use of the local population.

It is important to highlight the needs for more urban coherence – in the claim of land for urban uses and the protection of open spaces. Here local strategies can contribute to an overall coherence of the urban structures. Such strategies have to reflect more local needs and provide shifting towards more plural institutional arrangements on the local level. That means to meet a need for embedding local actions into coherent development concepts. This is gradually being recognised, but it has to be more than a political intention and has to be put more into practice.

Table 3: Size of population, population trends and unemployment rate in the partner cities

City	Population (reference year)	Population trends occurred in the past 5-10 years	Population trends expected in the next 5-10 years	Unemployment rate 2005 in the city	Unemployment rate 2005 in the country (*)
Budapest Rev 8	81.787 (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous decline and ageing since the mid-1980s. - Positive demographic only in the last 2-3 years basically due to the urban regeneration processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive demographic trends expected due to the regeneration process - The multi-cultural character of the district will be strengthened. - Gentrification process is foreseen. 	4,4%	7,2%
Bydgoszcz	371.200 (2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decreasing population for last 15 years - Demographic changes: decreasing birth-rate (average age of population grows) and reduction of citizens in productive age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The tendency of reducing the population will probably be continued and the city will be still shrinking. 	10,7%	17,7%
Dresden	487.199 (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shrinking process from 1990 until 1999 - slightly positive tendency from 2000 until 2005 - aging: increase of people over 60 from 20% to 25% (1990 and 2003), and decrease of people under 17 from 22% to 15% (1990 and 2003) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - slight increase until 2015 (to 491 851 inhabitants, data forecast from 2004) 	16,3%	9,5%
Giulianova	21.955 (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population dimension remained stable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A demographic growth is expected in the next 5 -10 years. 	9%	7,7%
Halandri	75.327 (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population growth: 8,15% - Aging: decrease of children 0-9: - 6%, increase of elderly: 65+: +28% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estimated 2011 population: 86.500 inhabitants - Growth: ~ 20% 	11% (2000)	9,8%
Kotel	7.200 (2006)	Demographic shrinking	Demographic shrinking	22,17%	10,1%

City	Population (reference year)	Population trends occurred in the past 5-10 years	Population trends expected in the next 5-10 years	Unemployment rate 2005 in the city	Unemployment rate 2005 in the country*
Leipzig	496.532 (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shrinking process for the last 10 years - First slight increase since 2002 - Aging: increase of people over 65 (to 20%), decrease of people under 18 (to 13,2%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - slight increase until 2015 to 550.000 inhabitants - the steady, slight population growth has been estimated to continue until 2020 		9,5%
Nova Gorica	13.852 (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the past 5-10 years the population was a bit shrinking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is expected that the population will continue to shrink. 	6,5% (2000)	6,5%
Sanok	41214 (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shrinking situation was observed as regards demographic changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shrinking trends in demographic field are expected 		17,7%
Sofia	1.220.000 (2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapidly growing population - especially young people immigrate to the city. - Every year increase of Sofia's population with 17000 persons from other regions of BG. There are not data on people which leave Sofia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The population will continue to grow. 	3,5%	10,1%
Volos	82.439 (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - population growing from 77.192 (in 1991) to 82.439 (2001) inhabitants - 27,9% of the population is between 0-24 years old, whereas 43,4% is between 25-54 years old (26,7% is above 55) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - growing population 	14,5%	9,8%
Xanthi	47.428 (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in the population that reached almost 25% for the period 1991 – 2001, mainly through migration - Aging of population, although less than the national average. Age distribution: children 0-9: 15%, old people 65+: 16%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be further population increase, but not in the pace of the last decade. Aging is expected to be the same. 		9,8%

(*)Source Eurostat: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int>, May 2006

Table 4: Land use trends and changes in the participating cities

City	Land use trends/ Land use changes (expected within the next 5-10 years)
Budapest	Main effects of the on-going large scale urban rehabilitation project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth of the densely built-up area, decline of the open spaces - Small-scale green space development on the brown-field rehabilitation areas - Development of public spaces in framework of the physical regeneration - Growth of the proportion of the green spaces in relation to the open spaces.
Bydgoszcz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enlargement of the biggest recreational area Forest Park of Culture and Recreation - enlargement of protected green area in the Brda River surrounding - building new green area based on natural relief - connecting urban green with surrounding and preservation of urban structure in respect of the existing ecological system in the city - revalorization of the city centre (quality of both buildings and green spaces)
Dresden	Assumptions derived from the role model of Dresden's urban rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - initiating a change to a more dense/compact city - reducing spatial growth of the city into the landscape - invigorating activities in the city centre, neighbourhood centres, on waste land - enhancing the city structure by defining green structures, especially along rivers
Giulianova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase of green spaces and urban parks with facilities.
Halandri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open spaces will be incorporated in the city plan to allow building construction. Corresponding studies are already being carried out.
Kotel	
Leipzig	Central objectives for the further development of the city are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more green areas, less density - short travel distances to facilities and a socially integrated city - higher quality public spaces - increase in the number of open and green spaces, especially parks, also playgrounds and recreational facilities - building activities in the city centre and the neighbourhood centres
Nova Gorica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainly change for the agricultural land within the urban area, which will be used as building up areas (mainly for developing new residential areas).
Sanok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing green areas utilisation according to the needs of inhabitants especially in the field of recreation
Sofia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rising market prices of land in the central parts of the city of Sofia and the towns within the municipality - As result the green and open spaces will be exposed to danger of significant decrease.
Volos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes of land use will be a subject of review in the line of the Town Planning review that is in progress.
Xanthi	

2.2 Instruments and strategies for urban green spaces development

Creating and implementing strategies for urban and green spaces development is an activity that mainly concerns local governments. Each city has its own particular characteristics and needs, which should be reflected in the goals and approaches for the planning, providing, managing and maintaining of urban green spaces. Despite that there is no formal regulation how to state these topics, the cities have to follow in the most cases national regulations. The plans and instruments used by the GreenKeys partners are listed in Table 5.

In the first step the partner cities only mentioned which planning instruments state goals for urban and for the green development. But without knowing well the contents of the mentioned plans and planning instruments it is very difficult to make an objective analysis. Then this task hides some difficulties. As said before, the delivered information reflects the understanding and interpretation of the cities. Additionally the translation of the names of plans and instruments into English is a difficult and tricky undertaking. However, despite such handicaps some common patterns about the existence of plans and instruments can be identified.

Screening by the spatial dimension the data stated from the Table 5 that Giulianova, Kotel and Xanthi have guidance at regional level. Halandri, as a city in the metropolitan area of Athens has the Regulatory Plan of Athens, although it is not legally binding for the city. Giulianova is also the only city that explicit mentioned to have targets for landscape issues in this scale by having a Regional Landscape Plan. Kotel, Xanthi and Dresden have regional development plans. However, one can assume that such soft targets as landscape protection are also referred in the last cases.

In the subsequent spatial scale Budapest, Dresden, Halandri, Leipzig, Sanok and Sofia possess Master plans and from those cities Budapest, Dresden, Sanok and additionally Bydgoszcz and Volos have stated to have strategies for urban development (Budapest only at the district level – District Development Strategy). Sofia has additionally the City Strategy from the year 2003. At the district scale Budapest, Dresden, Leipzig and Sanok have respective plans. Giulianova has the “Special Detailed Plan”, but not mentioned to which scale it is pertinent.

According to the statements of the cities we get following picture concerning environment protection. Giulianova has, as already said, a Landscape Plan at the regional scale. At the city scale Bydgoszcz has a programme, Dresden and Leipzig have landscape plans and Kotel has a law for environment conservation. Halandri has a “stream protection decree”, here its contents and statements regarding green spaces development has to be checked.

Regarding green spaces Budapest mentioned the existence of a Local Green Policy Plan. Dresden has an Open space Plan and a Playground Development Concept, Leipzig has a Green Space Structure Plan. Sofia disposes of different programmes (for recreation and tourism, sports recreation and attraction centres, for parks and green environments) which are relevant and could influence the green spaces development in the city.

Another topic relevant for GreenKeys is the perception for sustainable development. From all cities Bydgoszcz seems to be the only one to have an own definition. But this seems however to not include any reference to the existing documents. Another important topic reflects the existence of Local Agenda 21. Only 5 cities have already a Local Agenda 21 installed: Dresden, Giulianova, Halandri, Leipzig and Sofia (in a subsequent step it is important to check if they are already included in the roll of stakeholders in the respective cities), as the Agenda 21 can be an essential multiplier.

Halandri mentioned not to have a development policy or strategy, but seems to bring forward new ideas, as the creation under Local Agenda 21 an observatory for the evaluation, study and planning of the urban space. It is interesting for the project, to get more information about the relation between urban and green space development and especially the methodology and criteria, used to monitor the urban development processes.

All the mentioned plans and programmes are interesting for GreenKeys und have to be exploited in the forthcoming work. Whereas their real contents and their efficiency for green space development has to be checked in next steps.

The analysis of local activities shows a very distinctive level of different legal, administrative and planning styles and instruments. The different degrees of similarity – especially regarding the names of plans and instruments – might one to make the presumption that these documents have the same or similar contents, proposals and target groups.

The intention here is not to bring about cities to modify any legal structure and adopt without reservation the proposed methodologies. The purpose of GreenKeys is to recognise in which legal and planning frame partner cities have to operate. Of course the fact that the participating cities are different from each other has to be considered than each city will formulate an own way of adopting the proposed framework.

It is useful to stress the necessity of compelling a green space strategy. This strategy does not need be established right in the beginning, it also can de developed over time. Experiences show that strategies need to be developed on the basis of careful analysis of the constraints and potentials. For establishing a strategy it is essential to bring local knowledge into play, strengthening the involvement of local stakeholders in the whole process, especially in the definition of the specific strengths and weaknesses, and in setting clear priorities.

Although the methods GreenKeys will choose for providing guidance for the participating cities in establishing their green space strategy is still in discussion within the work package 4 (Building Strategies), it is worth to mention here the need of setting clear goals. These should follow the recommendations given by the Department of Environment, 1996 for formulating strategies:

Goals have to be:

- ambitious but achievable
- communicable
- acceptable to local communities,
- measurable yet flexible.

Table 5: Planning instruments and goals for urban and green spaces development

City	Planning instruments	Guidelines for sustainability linked to the policies	Goals and strategies for planning of urban green and open space
Budapest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Development Plan of Budapest, - District Development Strategy (not legally binding), - District Development Plan (not legally binding) - District Rehabilitation Strategy (not legally binding), - Master plan of Orczy Garden - Local Green Policy Plan 	none	The development of the new urban green space strategy is currently discussed and will be accepted probably this year.
Bydgoszcz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study of Conditions and Directions of Spatial Development of City of Bydgoszcz - Strategy of Development of City of Bydgoszcz" - Programme of Environmental Protection (not legally binding) - Programme of Restoring the Brda River into the City (not legally binding) 	The definition of sustainable city is given in "Programme of Environmental Protection for years 2002-2010" without any reference to existing standard documents.	General principles as one part of "Study of Conditions and Directions of Spatial Development of City of Bydgoszcz"
Dresden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Plan Oberes Elbtal/Osterzgebirge - Landscape plan (Landschaftsplan), - Land Use Plan (FNP)(not legally binding), - Integrated City Development Concept (INSEK), - Role model complex urban rehabilitation (KSU) - Layout Plan (B-Plan) (legal binding) - Open Space Plan - Playground Development Concept 	<p>Sustainability examination for concepts which are being politically assigned e.g. in the city council</p> <p>Aalborg Charta - member since 1995</p> <p>Association Local Agenda 21 e.V. founded in 1998</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The concepts orientate to reduce the density, new land uses in order to reuse existing infrastructure and preserve adjacent open spaces. <p>Other goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthen green structure along the inner city ring - strengthen linear green structures that serve as green corridors between living quarters and city centre
Giulianova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provincial Plan for the territory - Urban Planning Document - Regional Landscape Plan - Plan for green areas management - Convention of land parcelling plans - Special detailed Plans 	at the moment implementing Local Agenda 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of potential green areas - Qualification of green areas - Development of environmentally relevant areas

City	Planning instruments	Guidelines for sustainability linked to the policies	Goals and strategies for planning of urban green and open space
Halandri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Urban Plan - Halandri stream protection decree - Regulatory plan of Athens (not legally binding) 	<p>Halandri has signed the Aalborg Charter, initiated the implementation of LA21.</p> <p>The municipality is currently creating under UN - Habitat Agenda an observatory for the evaluation, study and planning of the urban space.</p>	No development policy or strategy exists
Kotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan for regional development of the Municipality of Kotel 2004 – 2013, - Law for environment conservation 	<p>Pre association Programme SAPARD, "Beautiful Bulgaria" Project</p> <p>National Programme "From social support to insurance employment"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation from neglected public farming land new green areas - Tourism development - Only specific goals in the field "Environment conservation and improving"
Leipzig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land use plan (FNP) - Landscape plan (Landschaftsplan), - Integrated development concept - Urban development plans (STEP, KSP) - Layout Plan (B-Plan) (legal binding) - Green open space structure plan (GOP) 	<p>Leipzig Agenda 21- Leipzig has adopted a local Agenda 21 to implement a sustainable development process</p> <p>Charta from Aalborg-their demands are incorporated in nature protection concepts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principles of sustainability for urban development in Leipzig: compact city, city of short distances, social mixed city - Development of the green radial and ring system
Nova Gorica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term and middle-term spatial plans - Execution plans (location plan) for specific small urban area and spatial regulation conditions (PUP) for the rest of urban area. - Updating of documents is under preparation (strategy for the spatial development of the community, including a chapter about urban green management) - Study of sustainable mobility (not legally binding) 	<p>The European spatial directives were the leading factors while elaborating the Sustainable mobility study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy for urban green of the city (under elaboration). - Within the middle-term common plan were given only the guidelines for the urban green concept.

City	Planning instruments	Guidelines for sustainability linked to the policies	Goals and strategies for planning of urban green and open space
Sanok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Municipal Master Plan - Strategy of Town development - Local development plan - Local plan of Revitalisation and Long-term Investments Plan 	No specific sustainability definition, but use of a general definition.	To the most important goals related with urban green spaces belong objectives connected with tourist and recreation utilisation of green areas.
Sofia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sofia Master plan (2003) - Master plan implementation act - Programme for natural complexes for recreation and tourism - Programme for sports, recreation and attraction centres - Programme for parks and green (all are not legally binding) <p>Strategy for Regional Development of Sofia Region for the period 2005-2015 is under discussion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Agenda 21 - Sustainable Sofia Programme developed (indications for their implementation) - The former Mayor of Sofia signed Aalborg Charter in 1994, but no actions were taken in connection with it. - The Aalborg Commitments were signed in 2004 (Aalborg + 10 conference) by a representative of Sofia municipality. - There is no reflection on the municipal policy and especially in the field of green and open spaces. 	<p>Sofia City Strategy:</p> <p>1/ to achieve balance in development of the city and the suburban area;</p> <p>2/ preservation and development of the links of urban green spaces with natural environment</p> <p>3/ creation of a favourable living environment.</p> <p>One of the most important social goals for green system (Sofia Master plan) is the equal accessibility of urban green spaces.</p>
Volos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Development Plan (Geniko Poleodomiko Schedio) - Strategic plan (not legally binding) 		
Xanthi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Development Plan - annual technical programme of the Municipality, - proposals for the Community frameworks - Town Plan Study (Poleodomiki Meleti) - Eastern Macedonia - Thrace Regional Plan (Periferiako Chorotaxiko Plesio) 	No guideline, but Xanthi was included in UN best practices for sustainability in the urban environment by developing a policy of sustainability through promoting elements of cultural heritage in both built environment and cultural tradition.	

2.3 Goals for green space development and the supportive programmes

The Table 6 presents the goals for the improvements of green space systems the partner cities strive for. The four options (*experience nature*, *positive image of the city*, *economic property value and improvement of urban structure*) were predetermined what obviously reduces a possible wide differentiation. The most cities aim at improving their image and the urban structure through a better green space system (9 mentions). In the second level appear the aims “experience nature” and the “economic property values” (with 6 each mentions). Only four cities Dresden, Giulianova, Kotel and Leipzig pointed out all four goals.

The topic goals for green space development have also to be reviewed against the goals set for the implementation of the pilot projects. This is content of chapter 3.5 Goals for implementation of the pilot projects.

Regarding the programmes the cities have to achieve the mentioned goals it is difficult to state a clear comparison once there were not further information available - especially about the contents and goals of the referred programmes. However, considering their names, the cities have several programmes; most of them look as if they are national funded programmes, besides Dresden and Volos that have acquired European funds (respectively ERDF and Urban). And these programmes have a growing requirement on forming local partnerships.

Interesting in the list of programmes are the wide targets they set. Generally many programmes seem to have a tendency towards a fight against social exclusion, and following a multidisciplinary approach are oriented towards strengthening public participation. In Budapest for example the both mentioned programmes might address a wide range of problems - not directly affect to green spaces. However these problems are important barriers that have to be overcome in order to provide a usable and accessible green space for all inhabitants. To act as places for social interaction – without having the image of being unsafe – is one of the central functions green spaces have in urban areas.

In a second step the incentives and their outputs of these programmes for better green spaces has to be examined.

Leipzig and Sofia have otherwise a wide range of programmes that can be easily related to the development of urban green spaces. The Table 7 shows the programmes and projects that are related to the development of open spaces.

Table 6: Projects or programmes supporting the different functions of urban green spaces in the participating cities

City	Experience nature	Positive image of the city	Economic property value	Improvement of urban structure	Projects or Programmes supporting the following functions of urban green spaces:
Budapest		■	■	■	Programme for Strengthen the Social Cohesion Crime Prevention Programme
Bydgoszcz	■	■		■	
Dresden	■	■	■	■	European Regional Development Fund Urban Renewal Programme Socially Integrated City Urban rehabilitation East Germany
Giulianova	■	■	■	■	
Kotel	■	■	■	■	

Leipzig	■	■	■	■	Listed parks and space law Urban rehabilitation East Germany Nature protection areas Landscape conservation areas
Nova Gorica		■		■	
Sofia	■	■			Biotope type mapping Rehabilitation of gravel pits and waste disposal sites in the region of the rivers "Iskar" and "Lesnovska" Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation of "Vrana" Botanical Park Programme for lining Streets by Trees "United Nations Gardens" project
Volos			■	■	Urban Hellas
Xanthi		■		■	

If on the one hand there are supportive programmes and projects in some cities we have to check on the other hand what the constraints and problems are and the cities have to fight against concerning the improvement of their urban spaces. These main problems are listed in Table 8.

The major constraint is the scarcity of funding for developing and managing green spaces in all 12 partner cities. This constraint can have even more negative effect if it is combined with the ineffective green planning instruments or with the lack of suitable concepts and strategies, as it is the case in 8 cities. The lack of efficient instruments and strategies that can provide guidance for a more appropriate allocation of the scarce money put at risk the future development and management of the green spaces.

Another important fact that concerns some of the partner cities is the question of political instability. This mainly is connected with the problems arising with the current challenges of economic and social transformation - especially since the 1990's as well as with problems of the deindustrialisation followed. This is an important aspect that has to be considered, as it puts at risk long-term development strategies. This is the case of Budapest, Nova Gorica and Sofia, all cities in countries in process of transition to a more market-oriented approach, even through different grades.

Especially the large and homogenous housing estates suffer serious problems of distress¹. The objective of ruling housing ideology of the 1960ies, which was imposed on planners and builders, was to provide housing in the quickest way. So the construction of large and homogenous estates, frequently inhabited by more than 100.000 people became the dominant settlement pattern in many large cities (e.g. Dresden, Leipzig, Sofia). Especially in former communist countries the provision of adequate service facilities was usually lagging behind due to the constant investment shortages. Especially open spaces were not implemented for recreational and leisure functions. The green structures were neither well planned nor maintained. In Leipzig/Grünau, even an initially appeared sumptuous open space supply and a green environment points by a differentiated view obvious deficits in different types of open space – as the undersupply with sports facilities, playgrounds, etc. (Rößler 2004).

This is also the case at Sofia's pilot project area. It is situated in a panel housing estate of lower quality in a non prestigious western part of the city, without green spaces or places for recreation nearby. Another problem in Sofia refers to land ownership. The great amount of

¹ To understand the complex difficulties with urban distress was one of the main aims of the LUDA project (www.luda-project.net).

the green spaces is public owned (state or municipal), except some green spaces, which have been restituted to their former owners after 1989. Most of restituted areas are situated in parks and in green spaces within housing estates of prefabricated blocks of flats. According to a special Bulgarian act green spaces had to be declared as state / municipal ownership up to 1996, but this is not realised up to now. This is the reason for Sofia for declaring many green spaces to private ownership, in virtue of decisions of Sofia city council. Such areas are in a transitional form of ownership – from public to private. Due to this transitional feature green spaces are being transformed into empty spaces with no specific functions.

But just the incidence of such neglected and unsightly environment provoked in Sofia in the last 5 years the creation of many citizens' associations working for the protection of open and green spaces. Such associations are worth to be contacted in the forthcoming work than they could be important stakeholders and local project partners. GreenKeys understands the community engagement as one main driving force to promote the value and the appreciation of green spaces.

Another barrier to overcome is related to the bureaucratic processes within the green space administration. Bureaucracy can assume different forms, e.g. too much paperwork, too rigid and too little flexible procedures within the whole administration, etc. In all bureaucracy is an obstacle to a rapid and transparent decision-making. This fact can intensify even more the above mentioned factors, like not enough incentives or funding and the lack of efficient instruments and strategies. Regarding the cooperation among the different departments – among those mentioned in Table 2 or other departments within the public administration - the situation within GreenKeys partner cities can be considered as good. Only in three cities (Sanok, Sofia and Xanthi) stated the incidence of such difficulties. Three other cities mentioned to have such problems only in parts of the city (Bydgoszcz, Leipzig and Nova Gorica). The great majority have stated not to be faced with this problem. This fact generates a positive aspect concerning the formulation of the urban green space strategy - as the support of the public administration for its implementation is crucial.

An important aspect for the improvement of urban green spaces is the availability of public land. Acquiring land for transforming them into green space is an expansive task. Very often the support for this undertaking can be only gained in areas of extreme deficits on recreational spaces or where the political willing to push the development exists. It seems for GreenKeys not to be a big problem, than among the GreenKeys' partner cities only in Volos the urban area is almost complete occupied. For 8 cities the situation is the contrary, while for three (Bydgoszcz, Halandri and Xanthi) this affects only parts of the city. In Sanok this is not mentioned as problem, but the city possesses a plan for purchasing strategically important green areas – which instrument is judged as medium efficient (Table 9).

Referring to the adequacy of the areas as green spaces it seems not to be a problem. In seven cities, however this is a problem for parts of the city. This has to be considered in the further work in the concerned cities. Considering the land consumption and pressure on open spaces for urban purposes only in Bydgoszcz und Sofia stated to be a problem for the whole city. This is a problem the cities also evaluated as very important. Surprising here is Bydgoszcz where the population has been decreasing for the last 15 years and has a forecast for a continuing negative growth. In Budapest, Halandri, Leipzig and Nova Gorica the problem concerns only parts of the city. Maybe in these 5 cities is a possible remediation to reduce land utilisation by decoupling land consumption from economic growth.

Table 7: Projects and programmes supporting urban green spaces in the participating cities

City	Projects/initiatives supporting the development of new urban green and open systems	Projects and programmes supporting in open spaces:			
		ecological stability and balance	nature preservation	protection of species	recreation and other free time activities
Budapest	Corvin Promenade Project, started in 2002, Social Rehabilitation Programme of Magdolna Neighbourhood started in 2005	Ecological Corridor of Middle-Józsefváros	Orczy Garden Project	Botanical Garden Project	-
Bydgoszcz	-	Programme of Environmental Protection Programme of Management of Wastes	Programme of Nature Protection	-	Programme of Restoring the Brda River into the City
Dresden	Local Agenda 21 - green corridor Dresden southwest ERDF Weisseritz - Green Corridor Areas of Urban Renewal, e.g. Dresden Löbtau	-	Landscape maintenance programme (funded by Free State of Saxony)	Landscape maintenance programme (funded by Free State of Saxony)	-
Giulianova	-	-	Environmental plan	-	-
Halandri	General Development Plan (<i>Geniko Poleodomiko Schedio</i>) - under revision	-	-	-	-
Kotel	From social support to insurance employment	-	-	From social support to insurance employment	Eco tourism in Kotel Mountain Project Beautiful Bulgaria Project

City	Projects/initiatives supporting the development of new urban green and open systems	Projects and programmes supporting in open spaces:			
		ecological stability and balance	nature preservation	protection of species	recreation and other free time activities
Leipzig	Urban rehabilitation programme: URBAN, EAST GERMANY, SOCIAL CITY e. g. Leipzig local Agenda 21 Green Ring Leipzig - association of the neighbouring communities	Impact regulation under nature protection law	Impact regulation under nature protection law Nature monuments (trees, tree-lined avenues)	Local tree preservation bye-laws	-
Nova Gorica	Redevelopment plan of recreation and nature area along river Soča Several initiatives (sport facilities, wood learning path, historical - cultural pathway connections) in urban recreation area of Panovec	Several studies of ecological stability	Studies of specific protected biotopes	Studies of specific protected species	Vulnerability study for recreation areas
Sanok	Multintensive Land Use Network - MILUnet				

City	Projects/initiatives supporting the development of new urban green and open systems	Projects and programmes supporting in open spaces:			
		ecological stability and balance	nature preservation	protection of species	recreation and other free time activities
Sofia	<p>Citizens for Green Sofia Initiative</p> <p>Citizen Municipal Council - an alternative of the City Municipal Council (elected)</p>	<p>Rehabilitation of "Vrana" Botanical Park</p> <p>Programme for lining Streets by trees</p> <p>Programme for joint actions of Sofia City Council and the Community of Sofia citizens associations for preserving and development of Sofia's green system</p>	<p>Vitosha Nature Park Programme</p> <p>To make Sofia green for us and our children</p> <p>Tree Dressing Day - every year celebration campaign</p>	<p>Vitosha Nature Park Programme</p>	<p>Vitosha Nature Park Programme</p> <p>Rehabilitation of gravel pits and waste disposal sites project</p>
Volos	<p>Part of the URBAN HELLAS Programme was the development of open spaces and rehabilitation of buildings as well as actions in the direction of balance in the land use in the area of implementation of the Programme</p>				
Xanthi	<p>EC Eastern Macedonia - Thrace Objective 1 Programme</p> <p>Operational Programme "Environment"</p>				

Table 8: List about persistent problems or conflicts preventing the development of green space in the participating cities

City	Insufficient finances	Political instability	Corruption	Bureaucracy	Maintenance problems	Ineffective green planning instruments*	Lack of cooperation within the administration	Not enough space in the urban area	Space available but unsuitable	Pressure for building up open spaces	Concurrence between open space and increase of housing areas/ commercial zones/ traffic infrastructure
Budapest	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	☐	☐	important
Bydgoszcz	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐	✓	very important
Dresden	✓	X	X	✓	☐	X	X	X	X	X	less important
Giulianova	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	not important
Halandri	✓	X	X	☐	X	☐	X	☐	X	☐	important
Kotel	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	medium important
Leipzig	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	☐	X	☐	☐	medium important
Nova Gorica	✓	✓	X	✓	☐	✓	☐	X	☐	☐	less important
Sanok	✓	X	X	☐	☐	✓	✓	X	☐	X	medium important
Sofia	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	very important
Volos	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	☐	X	☐
Xanthi	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐	☐	X	important

Explanation: ✓ = apply to the case; X = don't apply to the case, ☐ = yes, for parts of the city

* The whole question text is "Ineffective green planning instruments or the lack of suitable concepts and strategies"

Table 9: Common problems causing difficulties regarding maintenance of green spaces

City	Common problems causing difficulties regarding maintenance of green areas		Concepts, projects and programs to deal with these problems	Judgement of their efficiency
Budapest	Finances	Yes	City Council Tenders	Medium efficient
	Vandalism	Yes	Crime Prevention Programme included in the Magdolna Project	Efficient
	Litter/ rubbish	Yes, for parts of the city		
	Insufficient security	Yes, for parts of the city	Crime Prevention Programme included in the Magdolna Project	Efficient
	Violence against persons	Yes, for parts of the city	District Warden Programme	Medium efficient
	Drug consumption	Yes, for parts of the city	Social Cohesion Programme included in the Magdolna Project	Medium efficient
	Dog excrements	yes	City Council Programme	Less efficient
	Land ownership	Yes, for parts of the city		
Bydgoszcz	Finances	Yes, for parts of the city		
	Vandalism	Yes	video monitoring (police cameras) of most important part of town, police patrols and city-guards	efficient
	Litter/ rubbish	Yes		
	Insufficient security	Yes, for parts of the city		
	Violence against persons	Yes, for parts of the city	police patrols and city-guards at most dangerous places	
	Drug consumption	No		
	Dog excrements	Yes	educating by advertisements and posters and information's in green spaces	
	Land ownership	No		
	Thefts	Yes	controlling the green places and potential receiver of stolen goods	
Lack of watering system	Yes	intensive watering from car sprinkler		

City	Common problems causing difficulties regarding maintenance of green areas		Concepts, projects and programs to deal with these problems	Judgement of their efficiency
Dresden	Finances	Yes	Funds and resolution of city council (local finances)	Very efficient
	Vandalism	Yes		
	Litter/ rubbish	Yes, for parts of the city	Green open space charter (in progress) legitimates our department to give penalties	
	Insufficient security	no		
	Violence against persons	No		
	Drug consumption	No		
	Dog excrements	Yes	City policy	Less efficient
	Land ownership	No		
Giulianova	Finances	Yes	applying for loans	
	Vandalism	No		
	Litter/ rubbish	No	city cleaning	
	Insufficient security	No		
	Violence against persons	No		
	Drug consumption	No	constant surveillance	
	Dog excrements	Yes	distribution of bags for dog excrements	
	Land ownership	Yes	to apply for loans for getting new areas	
Halandri	Finances	Yes	external funding, budget reformulation, loans, collaboration with private companies	Medium efficient
	Vandalism	Yes, for parts of the city	Increased maintenance	Less efficient
	Litter/ rubbish	No		
	Insufficient security	Yes, for parts of the city	Increased maintenance	Less efficient
	Violence against persons	No		
	Drug consumption	No		
	Dog excrements	no		
	Land ownership	Yes, for parts of the city	Land expropriation	

City	Common problems causing difficulties regarding maintenance of green areas		Concepts, projects and programs to deal with these problems	Judgement of their efficiency
Kotel	Finances	Yes		
	Vandalism	Yes		
	Litter/ rubbish	Yes		
	Insufficient security	No		
	Violence against persons	No		
	Drug consumption	Yes, for parts of the city		
	Dog excrements	Yes, for parts of the city		
	Land ownership	No		
Leipzig	Finances	Yes	Local budget, private promotion, PPP, sponsoring	Very efficient
	Vandalism	Yes	Involvement of the citizens	Medium efficient
	Litter/ rubbish	Yes, for parts of the city	Programs in progress (contracts with citizens)	Efficient
	Insufficient security	Yes, for parts of the city		
	Violence against persons	No		
	Drug consumption	Yes, for parts of the city		
	Dog excrements	Yes	City order	Medium efficient
	Land ownership	No		
Nova Gorica	Finances	Yes		
	Vandalism	Yes, for parts of the city	supervision - cameras, police, fences	Medium efficient
	Litter/ rubbish	No		
	Insufficient security	Yes, for parts of the city	supervision	Less efficient
	Violence against persons	No		
	Drug consumption	Yes, for parts of the city	supervision	Less efficient
	Dog excrements	Yes, for parts of the city	Furniture, city decree	Medium efficient
	Land ownership	Yes, for parts of the city	purchase	Efficient

City	Common problems causing difficulties regarding maintenance of green areas		Concepts, projects and programs to deal with these problems	Judgement of their efficiency
Sanok	Finances	Yes	Co financing (other sources, especially EU)	Medium efficient
	Vandalism	Yes	Increase of police patrols and other services	Efficient
	Litter/ rubbish	Yes	Ecological education and actions related with town cleaning	Efficient
	Insufficient security	Yes	Increase of police patrols and other services, monitoring systems planned	Medium efficient
	Violence against persons	Yes, for parts of the city	Increase of police patrols and other services, monitoring systems planned	Medium efficient
	Drug consumption	No		
	Dog excrements	No		
	Land ownership	Yes	Plans for purchasing strategically important green areas	Medium efficient
Sofia	Finances	Yes		
	Vandalism	Yes		
	Litter/ rubbish	Yes		
	Insufficient security	Yes		
	Violence against persons	No		
	Drug consumption	No		
	Dog excrements	Yes		
	Land ownership	Yes	The Master plan includes some changes, but it is not yet adopted by the Parliament.	Not efficient

City	Common problems causing difficulties regarding maintenance of green areas		Concepts, projects and programs to deal with these problems	Judgement of their efficiency
Volos	Finances	Yes		
	Vandalism	Yes		
	Litter/ rubbish	Yes		
	Insufficient security	No		
	Violence against persons	No		
	Drug consumption	No		
	Dog excrements	Yes		
	Land ownership	No		
Xanthi	Finances	Yes		
	Vandalism	Yes		
	Litter/ rubbish	Yes		
	Insufficient security	No		
	Violence against persons	No		
	Drug consumption	No		
	Dog excrements	No		
	Land ownership	Yes, for parts of the city		

Regarding the problems the cities are confronted for maintaining urban green spaces, the analysis shows the following picture (Table 9). Once again scarce funds is a problem all 12 cities are faced with. The answers for concepts, projects and programmes to combat this problem the cities have at their disposal reflect the same picture for the problem of development of green spaces (Table 8). Public money is also for maintenance the main source of funding. As exceptions: Dresden can count on the support by a city fund (*Fonds für Stadtgrün*), to where the population can donate money and Halandri and Leipzig count on collaboration with private companies.

Another highly mentioned problem refers to vandalism. This is the case in all cities except Giulianova. This partner city has also no problems with the presence of litter/rubbish, feeling of insecurity, drug consumption in their green spaces. This is a positive aspect that has to be revealed. Insufficient security and especially the lack of personal safety feeling are important constraints that can prevent parts of the population from properly using green spaces for their daily leisure. This is a problem that concerns 7 of the partner cities. In almost all cases the concepts to tackle the insufficient security foresee more surveillance and police presence. Also the problem of dog excrements in green spaces is mentioned, an old problem but till now not successfully reduced. Than dogs are both, the reason for trips to a green space and at the same time the cause of conflicts. In Giulianova bags for collecting dogs excrements are distributed by the city.

Another factor of nuisance is the misuse of green spaces as dealing places for drugs and their consumption there. This misuse of green spaces is maybe favoured by its public character and often by the existence of areas with dense vegetation that could be used as shelters. This misuse can detain "normal" users of coming to the green spaces what provokes an even worse situation than the social control decreases. In some cities (like London²) this problem is tried to be tackled by establishing of drug consumption rooms. The benefits lay on help and attention drug users get in such places, but also the local communities profit from the decrease in drug-related damage in public spaces. As another alternative to mitigate the problem and increase the security cameras and fencing are needed to keep vandals out and encourage people back into parks and public areas.

Fig. 4 sums up the influence of the constraints above mentioned the cities are faced in the green space development and maintenance. It shows the constraints in a vicious circle that can hardly be stopped without a strategic approach that tackles all the barriers. These barriers are chains in a circle that, if not tackled, can decrease the quality of green spaces and therefore also the quality of life in urban areas. All of these constraints were already or are going to be discussed within GreenKeys. In Volos workshop the main question regarded fundraising for green space improvement, and in the forthcoming workshop in Ljubljana the main attention will be paid on formulating urban green space strategies.

² (http://www.senliscouncil.net/modules/media_centre/news_releases/63_news, 15.07.06)

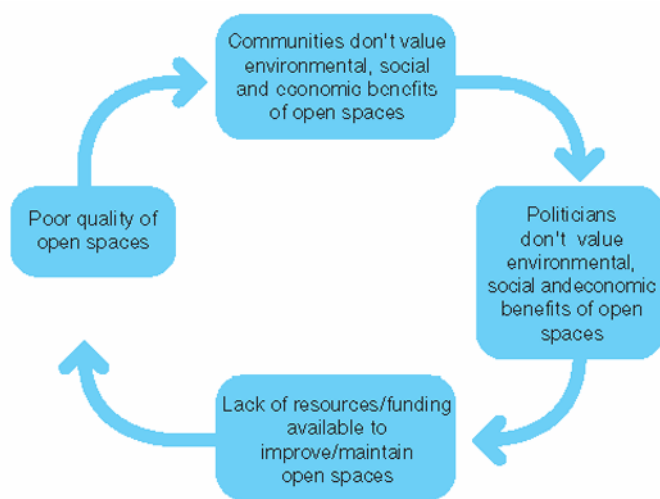


Fig. 4: The vicious circle in the development of green spaces. Source: SAUL Project, 2006, S. 20

These are obstacles the green administration has to overcome; especially community engagement helps to break down this vicious circle. Only this could succeed the different green space situation and identities better to convey in perception and in the behaviour, and each particular green space to embody as an attractive recreation and leisure area that brings ecological, social and economic benefits for the whole city.

3 Pilot Projects and their Characteristics

The characteristics of the pilot projects can be displayed by the following topics:

3.1 Size

Table 10: Area of the pilot projects (in hectare)

Pilot Project	Area (in ha)	Pilot Project	Area (in ha)
Budapest	0,5	Leipzig	120
Bydgoszcz	60	Nova Gorica	5
Dresden	16	Sanok	10
Giulianova	2	Sofia	0,25
Halandri	0,09	Volos	15
Kotel	25	Xanthi	1,8

Regarding the size the green spaces foreseen for the implementation of the improvements, it vary from 0,09 ha in Halandri, as the smallest one to 60 ha in Bydgoszcz as the biggest area. Regarding the comparison of the pilot project areas with other main green spaces in the partner cities it can be stated that 2 are considered smaller (Budapest and Sofia), 4 correspond to the average size of green spaces in the city and 5 are considered as bigger.

3.2 Kind of pilot project

A common characteristic among the pilot projects is that all cases concern improvements to benefit an already existing green or open space. That means the precondition – green space with quality deficits – is in all cases fulfilled. Although this topic needs an explanation, than not all cases are really available as recreational areas at the moment, as it is the case for example in Volos. The area – originally designated as green space – got in the course of time another use, car parking. Car parking area is a frequent land occupation that generally puts in danger urban green spaces.

Regarding the proportion of the area to be improved in relation to the whole green area we can state that 7 of 12 pilot projects cover the whole area of the green space and 5 will concern only a part of them. In the most cases (e.g. Dresden, Bydgoszcz and Sanok) this also concerns the biggest part of pilot project areas, which will be not redesigned (Table 11).

Table 11: The kind of pilot project to be implemented

Pilot project	Individual green spaces	Part of an existing green space
Budapest		■
Bydgoszcz	■	
Dresden		■
Giulianova	■	
Halandri	■	
Kotel	■	
Leipzig		■
Nova Gorica		■
Sanok		■
Sofia	■	
Volos	■	
Xanthi	■	

3.3 Typology and location of pilot projects

GreenKeys seeks for a wide range of areas for pilot projects. This diversity is also represented in the type of green space to be improved. We have the classical “Urban Park”, the neighbourhood green space with facilities for children recreation but also not well defined open space. The definition of typology has to be appreciated carefully, once there is no common definition agreed by the project consortium and the present definition depends on the definition of the terms in the respective city. But these individual definitions also reflect an overview on different targets of the partner cities.

Table 12: The types of pilot project and their localisation within the urban fabric

Pilot project	Type	Location within the city
Budapest	Open space	Periphery of the inner city, with a very high density of residential function; geographical centre of the 8th district (Pest-side - Józsefváros)
Bydgoszcz	Extension of existing botanical garden	3.5 km from the city centre and on the edges of large (830 ha) forest complex
Dresden	Park	Close to the historical city centre.
Giulianova	Green space	Historical city centre. Characterized by new buildings at medium density housing.
Halandri	Green space	At the boundary of the city centre
Kotel	Park and part of greenbelt	Urban fringe
Leipzig	Green space, greenbelt	At the edge of prefabricated housing slabs
Nova Gorica	Urban park with children's playground	City centre, between the administrative city centre and the main city's access roads
Sanok	Park	In one of the most attractive places in the city centre

Sofia	Green space	In the non prestigious Sofia's western part, within a panel housing estate of lower quality, without green spaces and places for recreation
Volos	Park	In the area of Neapoli, which is located at the western side of the city
Xanthi	Park	Within walking distance from the city centre, next to the university and the public swimming pool

Regarding the localisation, except in Bydgoszcz, Kotel, Leipzig and Sofia, all pilot project are located if not in the city centre than in its periphery. This is an important aspect, considering that city centres, due to historical development processes, very often are not equilibrated supplied with green spaces. The above mentioned cases are situated in the urban fringe, in different distances from the city centre.

Regarding the quality of the surrounding areas the partner cities through their pilot projects tackle different areas, for example Sanok's pilot project is located in a very attractive place in the city centre, and in Sofia it is in a distressed area in the periphery of the city.

3.4 Target group, beneficiaries

The main target group is the population of the cities. GreenKeys aims at improving the conditions and standards of living in the cities by increasing the green spaces as well as incrementing the benefits to be gained from urban green. All together 4.3 million people will directly profit from the improvement to be geared by GreenKeys.

Another target group is the public administration in partner cities which will gain from international network by being integrated in the know-how transfer. They will increase their knowledge from the results of investigation outcomes. By participating in an international network with interdisciplinary character and will profit from sharing experiences. They will be assisted by the development of concepts and feasibility studies for pilot projects. As well they will be involved in the analysis and evaluation of the outcomes.

Table 13: The target groups for the implementation of pilot projects

Pilot project	Target Groups
Budapest	The most underprivileged people are concentrated in the neighbourhood therefore the whole community is addressed.
Bydgoszcz	The arboretum is built for all the group of people regardless of their age, social and financial status and health condition. The project addresses all citizens and visitors to give them also the possibilities of exploring the nature, active leisure, educating, relaxing and improving social interactions.
Dresden	It is a transitional space between city, parks, living quarters and social/cultural/sports facilities - therefore all groups have to be considered, including tourists.
Giulianova	The urban park is thought to provide an aggregative space for all age groups, in particular for old people because of the presence of outdoor gazebos and walking paths and for young people because of outdoor sport facilities. The area is lacking such kind of sport equipments.
Halandri	a. Children / Teenagers: It is the main target group as, in the past, had been using the spot as playground. In combination with the adjacent kids library, the spot could evolve in a "healthy" hang out area both ecologically and socially sound.

	<p>b. Families with children: A secondary target group. Many parents accompany their children to the playground and/or the library. An attractive environment should be provided to them as well, in order to motivate them to keep bringing their children to the area under study.</p> <p>c. Senior citizens: Another important target group. The interventions planned for the spot could create a meeting point for the elderly after Sunday's mass or a cool refuge for the hot summer months.</p>
Kotel	<p>children, teenagers, adults, working population, young families/persons with children, people with special needs, tourist, cities visitors,</p> <p>Reasons about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - children, teenagers - need places to sport, for a walk - work population, adults, young families/persons with children - for a rest, cultural events, for a walk - people with special needs - to make social contacts, for a rest, a walk - tourist, cities visitors - for a rest, cultural events, a walk, study environment
Leipzig	The guidance of children's and adolescents activities shall avoid problems with other groups. In this way all groups are addressed.
Nova Gorica	<p>The main target group is the teenager-group who already use the site (the existent skate-park nearby), but the park have to attract also all the other citizens as well as there is a lack of open air activities in the city and within the urban green as well.</p> <p>Special emphasis will be given also to children, family needs (there are not many playgrounds in the city centre) and needs of elderly people</p>
Sanok	Because of the park's recreational functions, its historic appearance and its status as biggest mountain park of Poland all different groups of residents and visitors are addressed as target group likewise.
Sofia	According to BG traditions, the place in front of the house is a specific forum for different kinds of meetings and of different age and social groups, which often mix together.
Volos	The target group addressed by this project is the population of the area of Neapoli. However the nature of the three green spaces that will be created, is mainly social as well as recreational. As a result of this it could be said that the target groups are persons with children, people with special needs, senior citizens and ethnic groups.
Xanthi	With the interventions planned the site will address multiple target groups.

Considering the target groups for the implementation of pilot project areas it can be stated that a multiple target group will be addressed – especially the inhabitants of the correspondent areas – here with notable emphasis for children and families with children. Some cities (e.g. Bydgoszcz, Dresden) aim also at attracting more tourists into the area.

The target groups are also reflected in the goals and in the planned facilities to be implemented in the pilot projects, once identified the main target group the facilities can be defined.

3.5 Goals for implementation of the pilot projects

Analysing the goals set for the implementation of pilot projects it reveals a wide range of targets. The goals go from a wide city impact as creation of a healthy housing environment (Budapest) or the enhancement of the ecological value (Dresden) to such with a very local impact as the better accessibility to the area (Nova Gorica).

A common goal is increasing the social use of the green space as place for social interactions for all inhabitant groups by increasing the attractiveness of the area. It looks as if in almost all cities the pilot projects concern rundown areas, that need new inputs to increase awareness and provide new or strengthen the identification within the residential area.

Considering the ecological aspect in almost all cases an important target is set on preservation or enhancement of natural vegetation. Sofia plans the augment of the vegetation cover. Nova Gorica goes further as aiming at providing better habitat conditions for birds and protected species, although the planned measures do not primarily go into this direction. This can be a source for conflicts in the future.

Leipzig uses also the pilot project to checkout a new management system. To support this task the city foresees the creation of a PPP (Public Private Partnership) to maintain the area and to initiate the cooperation with the local housing companies.

Some cities did not state yet the measures to achieve the intended goals. This is a task they have to be confronted in the course of the GreenKeys project and that can be solved together. Some of city partners' measures have also to be reviewed concerning their goals because there seem to be in this point a lack of consistency.

Table 14: The goals for the implementation of pilot projects

Pilot project	Goals	Planned measures to reach the goals
Budapest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redevelopment of the run-down area Create a healthy housing environment Create more green space and promote their integration Selective waste collection Implement a better public security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Urban Rehabilitation Project Free consulting network for offices
Bydgoszcz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve spatial structure in the city by connecting side forest complex neighbouring urban green Improve the quality of existing botanic garden by enlargement and providing new species and habitats Offer new attraction for visitors Increase the awareness of the place they live in Improve social contacts and relationships Attracting local investments 	
Dresden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the market value Create a determined open space and qualities that enhance the linking function Enhance the ecological values Create a public place for recreation activities Reveal the historical background of the site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revealing historical elements in the southern part Redevelopment of the northern part Co-operation with adjacent stakeholders Developing a new layout concept
Giulianova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-establish fabric and structure of the city by incorporating open green spaces Provide places for entertainment and sport activities Enhance the accessibility of the public spaces Green space for all social groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating new facilities like pedestrian and cycle routes, sport facilities

Pilot project	Goals	Planned measures to reach the goals
Halandri	To find good practices Promote of library use Improve the biodiversity, promote the use endemic vegetation Make the site attractive and accessible to everyone Improve site security Attract SME investments	Supervise and monitor the site's operation Site renovation, furniture installation, ramp construction, planting new vegetation Organize school visits to the site
Kotel	Improve urban green spaces and places for cultural events Preserve natural vegetation Improve the accessibility for different social groups Stimulate the local economy and investments	
Leipzig	best possible integration of the site in the green system of Leipzig complex rearrangement of the former army firing range considering the protection of valuable habitats and solving the conflict in the residential area improvement of the quality of life of all citizens and creating a public park for citizens of different ages (from children to elderly people), businessmen and tourists new management system high acceptance of the pilot project and a new identification of the site	project planning by the Parks and Recreation Office and private architects monitoring of the valuable biotopes of the former firing range by guidance of visitors and creation of a social venue for adolescents nearby project planning by the parks and recreation office and private architects active inclusion of possible users, residents, administration, entrepreneurs (local meetings-local workshops and feasibility studies) the park will stay open for public and managed by the municipality creation of a PPP to sustainable maintain the venue initiation of a cooperation with the local housing companies

Pilot project	Goals	Planned measures to reach the goals
Nova Gorica	<p>Create a connection between the main public square in the city centre and the park</p> <p>Park accessibility</p> <p>Preserve of soil, water and air quality with non invasive planning solutions</p> <p>Preserve birds living conditions and other protected species</p> <p>Prevent waste disorder</p> <p>Emphasize the potentials of the park for different social groups</p> <p>Improvement of security aspects</p> <p>Strengthen the local economy and investments through the promotion of park and events</p>	<p>Renaturalise certain areas, define urban furniture, garbage location, parking possibilities</p> <p>reestablishment of the park routes and basic urban facilities in the park also in relation with the nearby public buildings</p> <p>introduce the public through presentations and internet</p> <p>regulation of the accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists</p> <p>participation of citizens in the initial phase, advertising and presentation of the current work on the project, organising workshops and happenings</p>
Sofia	<p>Improvement of quality of life by creation of good space for everyday recreation</p> <p>Different social groups will find a place for communication and recreation</p> <p>augmented quantity of vegetation</p> <p>Local investments</p> <p>Creating an area with identity within the uniform estate of prefabricated blocks of flats.</p>	<p>Local people's participation, discussions with district administration, designers and NGOs</p> <p>Involving the local people's opinions places in the planning</p> <p>Individual characterization of the area will be created.</p>
Volos	<p>Improve the quality of urban space</p> <p>Create of green spaces</p> <p>Boost to the local economy</p>	
Xanthi	<p>Improve the image of the neighbourhood</p> <p>Improve quality of urban space</p> <p>Increase access to different social groups</p> <p>Increase security aspects</p>	<p>Redesign the entire park</p>

4 Present situation

Regarding the present situation of implementation of pilot projects only four cities have completed the site analysis. This topic is important than from it should arise not only a deep understanding of the problems but also the detect potentials that can be used for furthering the realisation of the pilot projects. In the most cases the sites analysis are still in process.

An astonishing aspect here is the fact that only in two cities (Budapest and Halandri) there is not an official approval for starting the implementation of pilot projects. Maybe the reason lays in the different requirements for an approval. Accordingly there is no need for a site analysis and for feasibility and design studies to get an approval.

In the most cases however, design concepts are available and in single cases also feasibility technical studies are available. A deeper check concerning their contents could light more this aspect. This could deliver good hints for the creation of strategies. The current status is as shown in Table 15.

Table 15: The availability of documents

Pilot project	Site Analysis	Studies	Documents	Official approval
Budapest	In process	Feasibility studies and design concept	In process	No
Bydgoszcz	completed	Technical studies and design concepts	completed	yes
Dresden	completed	Technical studies and design concepts	In process	yes
Giulianova	completed	Design concepts	completed	yes
Halandri	In process	Technical studies and design concepts	In process	no
Kotel	completed	Feasibility studies	In process	yes
Leipzig	In process	Feasibility studies, technical studies and design concepts	completed	yes
Nova Gorica	In process	Technical studies and design concepts	In process	yes
Sanok	In process	Design concepts	In process	yes
Sofia	In process		In process	yes
Volos	In process	Design concepts	In process	yes
Xanthi	In process		In process	yes

4.1 Start of the implementation

Table 16: The starting date of implementation

Pilot project	Implementation started?		When
	Yes	No	
Budapest		■	Summer 2006
Bydgoszcz		■	
Dresden		■	April 2006
Giulianova		■	February 2006
Halandri		■	Late spring, probably late May 2006
Kotel		■	May 2006
Leipzig	■		Mai 2005

Nova Gorica	■		
Sanok	■		
Sofia		■	The Bulgarian part of the project has not been approved by the Ministry of the Regional Development and Public Works
Volos	■		
Xanthi		■	

In only 5 cities (Dresden, Leipzig, Nova Gorica, Sanok and Volos) the first steps for the implementation of the pilot projects had already begun. This can be justified by the time the process begun, probably before the GreenKeys project started and also the availability of own funding.

Up to January 2006 only a few cities were able to give precise information about the planned starting with realisation. In 4 cases (Budapest, Giulianova, Halandri and Kotel) the start was already planned for spring or summer 2006.

Those different stages of pilot project implementation has to be understood as an opportunity to observe different phases and periods with their common problems and especially how cities solve them. It allows the understanding of the process and of devise solutions to the common problems.

5 Conclusions

This report presents the current situation of the GreenKeys main tasks: the formulation of urban green space strategy and the implementation of pilot projects. The process building of strategy and the implementation of pilot projects represent a concerted effort to confront the problems the cities are facing in their urban fabric.

The current situation is analysed as a mean of understanding the process of urban green spaces development in the different cities. This is also a welcomed opportunity to rethink the goals and the corresponding design and implementation plans. It is a good occasion for re-evaluate the existing city's policies and programmes. A constant scientific accompany and analysis of the both tasks will enable GreenKeys to increase the knowledge, to examine priorities and to drawn conclusions towards improving the quality of urban life (URGE Project, 2004).

The main propose of this report is merely to compile the information in a structured way and therefore enable the project partners to draw conclusions and screen the experiences for good practice actions.

One deficit that can be recognised from the analysis of the partner cities is that there is still a lack in understanding green spaces as a common good. To tackle this deficiency is a challenge the GreenKeys partner cities will be confronted in the forthcoming work than formulating and establishing an urban green space strategy is a continuous local debate that needs also strong political support. The first step is building up in all cities working groups and kicking-off the process for creating the urban green space strategy. This task is a long term process, but has to be started. This includes the education and the awareness-rising. Therefore the "Education Module" to be developed within WP 1 can be extremely useful.

However, GreenKeys partner cities are so diverse that they all can benefit from good practices established. Here is where the European dimension finds a role within the project: in developing and disseminating experiences, practical tools and technologies needed by local practitioners in order to create and deploy cost-effective and sustainable urban strategies.

The most important aspect arising from this comparative work concerns the common emphasis given to local development as an imperative act to face ecological, social and economic problems within cities in different contexts. The emphasis on the local, that is, the use of local resources, the involvement of local stakeholders, the building of partnerships enforcing the participation of the local community in the decision making process. However, the consistency in the process is still uneven across the cities.

In the forthcoming steps the partner cities will further develop their concept for the urban green space strategy and will build a link to their pilot projects. One important target of the project is to increase the public participation in the whole process. To carry out this target the partner cities will establish networks with the inhabitants, users and target groups in order to achieve these goals. This also requires a careful consideration of needs and incentives. The partner cities in GreenKeys will have many opportunities for both: acquiring expertise from the experts pool, which is being implemented and by offering their experiences to the other cities.

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