

## PILOT EVALUATION REPORT - WITKOWICE Green Living Lab in the Witkowice Forest

Summary reports on the main outcomes of pilot actions and the lessons learnt within, with an outlook to prospective follow-up actions and potential transfer of the results to other areas within the same FUA and beyond.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Inhalt

- 1. Activities and outcomes ..... 2**
  - 1.1 Brief summary ..... 2
  - 1.2 Activities performed – What happened in you pilot action?..... 2
  - 1.3 Outcomes - What are the results? ..... 3
  - 1.4 Evaluation – Are you satisfied with the results? ..... 4
  - Budget table ..... 5
- 2. Follow-up actions ..... 6**
  - 2.1 What about the future?..... 6
  - 2.2 Lessons learned to upgrade the draft models to “make them smart” – What can be transferred? ..... 6

# 1. Activities and outcomes

## 1.1 Brief summary

The Municipal Greenery Authority in Krakow is implementing the pilot project WITKOWICE GLL (Witkowice Green Living Lab) in the Witkowice Forest. The project consists of the revitalization of existing tourism and recreation infra-structure so as in the implementation of innovative directions of nature education. It includes transformation of existing green spaces. The aim of this action is the involvement of local community into the whole development procedure based on consultation process and interactive participation with help of SP, showing also the possibility of cooperation on FUA level.

As a part of revitalization below elements were done:

- Information boards - 6 pcs.
- Preparation and assembly of wood furniture (benches and tables made of local round wood) - 2 sets and 12 individual benches
- Footbridge over the Bibiczanka river (with a construction project)
- Strengthening and securing parts of the trail - about 200 m
- Surface hardening of two parking places for the disabled people
- Marking route and parking spaces - approx. 80 signs
- the implementation and developing of the multimedia application (with field elements).

In the scope of the parallel objective of pilot actions, which is the increasing of the community involvement, direct support is provided by the Marshall Office of the Malopolska Region (PP6), participating in all actions and meetings with people, for example a picnic on 1st July 2017. Stakeholder Platform meetings organized by Malopolska are focused mostly or also on the pilot, therefore, the full participation of the Krakow Municipality (PP10) is always required.

## 1.2 Activities performed – What happened in you pilot action?

As part of this activity, the largest and most complicated task turned out to be the design and construction of a footbridge over the Bibiczanka River in accordance with the applicable water and construction law. Almost all the other activities (equipment of the educational path, development of the multimedia application) depended on the implementation of the footbridge provided for further part of the park, available on the other side - near the border of the neighboring Zielonki municipality. For this reason, the possibility of their simultaneous implementation was significantly limited. In the process of consultations with the public (including surveys and workshops conducted during the picnic on 1st of July 2017), the requirements regarding the scope and location of individual elements of minor recreational infrastructure were detailed.

The construction project of the footbridge over the Bibiczanka river together with the aquatic legal survey was made, and the necessary permits (water-law permit and building permit) were obtained by December 15, 2017.

A public contract for the footbridge construction was prepared and announced and the contractor was selected. The investment was realized 14.05.2018.

Pilot actions have been presented and discussed within four local stakeholder platform meetings (26.10.2016, 15.05.2017, 27.09.2017, 8.12.2017) and also were included in the dissemination of general information about the UGB project during external meetings and conferences (15.11.2016, 15.02.2017, 3.04.2017, 14.04.2017, 28.09.2017). As a part of community involvement there were special workshops organized in June. The topic of it was "Observation of night insects". To gather grater audience and to make it more available and popular we connected it with a special Parkobus trip, which enable citizens

living in a different part of the city to get to the place with the free of charge bus. In the workshop took part about 50 inhabitants in different age. In August the running event was organized during which involved almost 100 runners who are new group of users of this area. The event gave us an opportunity to check the attractiveness of the pilot area for this group of users. It was found a very attractive place for that kind of activity and we plan to draw a few running tracks for runners with different stage of advancement.

The mobile application concept to activate citizens in UGS management and nature conservation was developed with involvement of SP members and more important with picnic participants.

Public procurement was announced, and the contractor was selected for the mobile application. Mobile application is adapted as a part of the educational path.

Mobile application which enable users to make the most of their walk in the forest. This educational APP gathers the information regarding animals, plants and amphibians living in this ecosystem. All this knowledge is provided in a very easy and useful way. Application uses interactive information such as sounds and noises of the birds or other animals. During their walk users may follow the route which is added as a kind of game in the app and discover some defined points on the track but also can use it at home and learn more about the forest's treasures. We added also interaction between the community of users in the application by the possibility of sharing photos and comments made by users in Witkowiec forest.

### 1.3 Outcomes - What are the results?

One of the main challenges was engaging inhabitants into consultation process and basing on model approach there were below methods used:

- Consultation based on needs
- 1.07.2017 Picnic - citizens approach:
- Before the picnic a survey in form of interview - it was distributed at school in June. This interview gave us a chance to involve pupils in the school but also their parents into the consultation process.
- To make it all more attractive, there was also an art competition entitled "My Witkowiec Forest". During picnic 1.07.2017 the three places were announced and one special prize.
  - To make people more familiar with the area - educational walk was organised - (professional tour guided by nature and education specialist, during it people had an opportunity to touch nature; smell the forest; learn about trees, fungus, birds, animals, ect.)
- Consultation-on-the spot

During this event UGB - Witkowiec Green Living Lab was presented in an active form. Citizens had an opportunity to mark what they want to have in the forest. We prepared a high-resolution poster for picnic participants to mark their needs.

- Running event
- Nature workshops

Also, the infrastructure elements featured in 1.4. were realized within the pilot activities in the UGB project.

As a remarkable outcome and an example of efficiency of the pilot activities we can highlight the new playground in the area of Witkowiec forest which will be realized as a result of voting inhabitants in the Participatory Budget. The cost of realization of this investment is about 42 000 €.

Within the Krakow Municipality the value of the Witkowiec forest was also appreciated and in the master plans for next 5 years it was decided that the area of the forest will be increased from 15 to 120 ha which among others may be the credit of activities led during the UGB project.

## 1.4 Evaluation – Are you satisfied with the results?

Main, visible results in pilot area are:

- elements of small infrastructure - 12 benches, 2 picnic tables,
- 1 footbridge,
- educational path - 6 info boards, 72 markers, 200m new paths, 7m palisade.

All of them resulted with the raising number of inhabitants visiting the forest. The events realized during the project resulted also with the new group of users which are runners who found that place very attractive for their needs and schools who appreciate the educational values they can find on the educational path.

- Picnic in Witkowice Forest and a survey walk - 51 participants
- Survey Interviews - 100 participants
- Nature workshops “Observation of night insects” - 50 participants
- Running event - 100 participants

As for the number of visits related to the messages about events in the field it was on the website:

- Picnic with the survey walk - range 773
- Nature workshops - range 212
- Urban Green Fest - range 191
- running event - range 209

on the fan page:

- Picnic with the survey walk - range 1610
- Nature workshops - range 2389
- Urban Green Fest - range 2843
- running event - range 5 650

on the Instagram:

- Nature workshops - range 360
- Urban Green Fest - range 190
- running event - range 290

The results show that we were able to reach a huge amount of people with the information about the activities realized within pilot actions. The total amount of new visitors is hard to assess. Basing on the information regarding the events organized within the project we can define only a small part of new visitors but as an example of Participatory Budget for the new playground shows the pilot area thanks to the activities which were led there had got much more known and popular within the citizens.

Unfortunately, the level of engagement within the municipality of Zielonki (the closest and the most important stakeholder) was very weak. This example shows the difficulty in engagement local municipalities as stakeholders within the FUA region in this region.

### Budget table

<b>Costs description</b>	<b>Budget line (external/ equipment/infrastructure)</b>	<b>Status</b> 1) performance in progress/ 2) performed but not paid/ 3) performed and paid)	<b>Final amount of the costs</b>
<i>Project of the bridge in the Witkowice forest</i>	<i>BL 6 Infrastructure and Works/equipment/infrastructure</i>	<i>performed and paid</i>	<i>5 122,29 Euro</i>
<i>Building of the bridge in the Witkowice forest</i>	<i>BL 6 Infrastructure and Works/equipment/infrastructure</i>	<i>performed and paid</i>	<i>5 216,18 Euro</i>
<i>Building the small infrastructure</i>	<i>BL 6 Infrastructure and Works/equipment/infrastructure</i>	<i>performed and paid</i>	<i>4 959,39 Euro</i>
<i>Mobile Application</i>	<i>BL 4 External Expertise and Services</i>	<i>performed but not paid</i>	<i>7 214,89 Euro</i>
<i>Organization of picnic in Witkowice forest</i>	<i>BL 4 External Expertise and Services</i>	<i>performed and paid</i>	<i>238,06 Euro</i>
<i>Stakeholder Platform 4th Meeting 8 December 2017. 25 participant.</i>	<i>BL 4 External Expertise and Services</i>	<i>performed and paid</i>	<i>418 Euro</i>
<i>National Round Table 19.04.2018 Where Marshal Office of the Małopolska Region Environment and Safety Commission</i>	<i>BL 4 External Expertise and Services</i>	<i>performed and paid</i>	<i>Cost Free of charge</i>
<i>Urban Green Fest Park im. Wojciecha Bednarskiego 14.07.2018 Participants around 400</i>	<i>BL 4 External Expertise and Services</i>	<i>performed and paid</i>	<i>9 984 euro</i>
		<i>Total</i>	<i>33 152,81 Euro</i>

## 2. Follow-up actions

### 2.1 What about the future?

The outcomes of the pilot activities have the potential to be used as an inspiration and a sort of model of good practice to be duplicated both by us (Krakow Municipal Greenspace Authority) in other areas and by our stakeholders who took part in Stakeholders' meetings. In fact, we plan to implement the similar elements of small infrastructure and educational path in other forest areas to make them more attractive for inhabitants. Of course, to make it really complex and functional we need to engage local inhabitants in the process of deciding and designing. That comprehensive and truly engaging approach should be also the dissemination. Also, the innovative application may be used as an example of an attractive tool which connects in one educational and community involvement aspects. By engaging people in the interaction, it encourages them to feel more responsible for that place. Our stakeholders were very interested in all the activities which were taken by us within the pilot action. Therefore, it's highly feasible that they will implement the similar actions on their fields in future.

### 2.2 Lessons learned to upgrade the draft models to “make them smart” – What can be transferred?

During our pilot we tested several methods related to the community involvement topic which were suggested during international meetings and study visits by our thematic expert. One of them was art contest which was organized before the picnic in July 2017 and enable us to engage both children and parents. The other example can be running event organized in August 2018 which attracted almost 100 runners and resulted in great number of new users of this space. We found a lot of inspirations and helpful advices from other partners as well. For example, the idea of Stewardship program led by Hegyvidék which was reported on our fan page after the study visit in Budapest met a great interest among inhabitants and we hope to implement the similar program in our city in the future. During events organized as a part of pilot actions we engaged local inhabitants in the process of designing the pilot action area and also encouraged them to realize other projects regarding this area (e.g. by Participatory Budget). All the events resulted also in rising number of visitors in the Witkowice forest. Basing on the lessons learnt during the project we plan in future to build the similar elements of small infrastructure in other forest areas. Moreover, it will be forerun by the process of consultation engaging local inhabitants to ensure the maximally complex and functional effects.