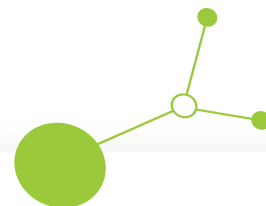


Deliverable D.2.1.2: "4 Implementation Plans" - The City of Kranj Implementation Plan

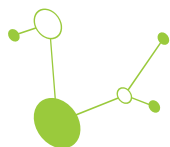


City of Kranj, May 2025

Authors:

M. Sc. Špela Planinšek, City of Kranj





Pilot-testing Background

Background of testing pilot in terms of current biodiversity problems, preliminary actions, plans defined earlier and methods already chosen, etc.

Some of the aspects you can tell about are as follows:

- Evaluate the current state of biodiversity, green spaces, and urban infrastructure.
- Which species will you target and why?
- Are there preliminary works that the project is based on? What are they?
- What is the knowledge base behind the project (studies, methods, statistical data etc.)?
- What methods will you / do you plan to use (to motivate stakeholders, to involve lead users, to develop ICT infrastructure, to communicate online etc.)?

General

Project URBIO BAUHAUS (UB) aims to combat biodiversity decline in urban and peri-urban areas in Central Europe by leveraging the New European Bauhaus (NEB) core values:

- sustainability,
- inclusion and
- aesthetics.

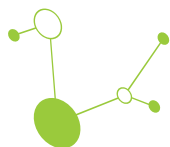
Urban biodiversity solutions (UBS) should become a part of the wider urban transformation enabling sustainable, inclusive and resilient society. To effectively address all the aforementioned problems, UB will develop a joint NEB-based Urban Biodiverse Transition Roadmap as the key solution - a combination of different approaches and interventions that will significantly halt and reverse biodiversity loss particularly in urban areas by implementing fit-for-problem interventions and measures.

The solution will be tested and realized in 4 CE cities (Kranj, Pula, Wroclaw and Erd) by implementing biodiverse islands for endangered plant and animal species, by creating several urban micro-interventions to preserve and enhance 3 keystone biodiversity species, by contributing to biodiversity increase by preserving natural patterns of wildlife, and by developing a biodiverse urban area with specific plant species and application of edible plants.

Current state & green system in City of Kranj

Despite the fact that the city of Kranj is a small city by world standards (57.000 inhabitants), it strongly faces the consequences of climate change. The atmosphere in Slovenia is warming faster than the global average due to its geographical characteristics. The biggest impacts that Slovenia already has and will have to deal with are: increased heat waves, changed precipitation regime, which will increase the risk of both hydrological extremes (droughts and floods), and more intense storms. In the City of Kranj we are facing such extreme impacts, so it is urgent to actively begin addressing this topic, tightly connected to state of biodiversity. A [Strategy at the regional level](#) will certainly be drawn up to support the formulation of adaptation measures on the city / municipality level.

The status of CC adaptation policy in City of Kranj



City of Kranj does not yet have a local strategy for adapting to climate change. But on the regional level (City of Kranj/Municipality of Kranj is a part of Gorenjska region) significant shifts are taking place in the area of climate change adaptation, as the [Climate change adaptation strategy](#) is freshly adopted (April/May 2025) at the regional level by the regional council of the Gorenjska region. The coordinator of the Climate Change Adaptation Mission for the Gorenjska Region is the Local Energy Agency of the Gorenjska Region. The regional strategy is a very good basis for preparing a local strategy of the city. Action plan of City of Kranj will be connected to UB goals through the Chapter: Biological diversity goals and actions.

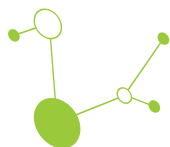


Photo: Regional council of the Gorenjska region presenting Climate change adaptation strategy for Gorenjska region, May 2025.

The city of Kranj is also intensively addressing the area of climate change mitigation. The city of Kranj, was in 2022 selected in [Mission of climate-neutral and smart European cities](#). This is one of the missions of the EU within the Horizon Europe program, and City of Kranj was the first Slovenian city to officially submit a climate contract for review in Brussels on March 2024. This is a complex document, which has three parts - an action plan of measures, an investment plan and the commitment of the partners in the project. After the submission, in October 2024, Kranj was recognized for its successfully prepared and above all realizable action and investment plan to become a climate-neutral and smart city by 2030. The action plan of Kranj envisages six main measures in five key areas: energy, transport, waste and circular economy, green and blue infrastructure and buildings (built environment). In addition to Kranj, there are two more Slovenian cities part of this mission, namely the capital city of Ljubljana and the industrial city of Velenje.

The [Sustainable urban strategy](#) (SUS) of Municipality of Kranj 2030 was adopted in 2016 and also freshly novelated in May 2025. The core strategy directs the development of the city in the direction of a sustainable, progressive and lively urban centre of Gorenjska region. The strategy includes adaptations to climate change and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The novelation was mainly pointed on even more focused and modern sustainability approaches connected to Mission 2030!

In 2023, the City of Kranj also adopted the [Operational Programme for Environmental Protection](#) for the City of Kranj 2023/35/50. The city decided to work closely with key stakeholders to define the city's green system and following green standards. The implementation of the task will drive the preparation of the first Green City Spatial Plan. Currently (until Dec. 2025) City of Kranj is evolving ways to spatially and qualitatively define improved version of "green infrastructure/system". One of the tasks is to identify potential opportunities for its enhancement in the field of urban biodiversity, and to propose measures for its reinforcement.



Main needs and challenges overview

On national level there are strategies and acts that deal with challenges associated with climate change, but more on a strategic level. However, there is still a considerable gap between the national and local level, as municipalities bear a large part of the burden. However, the so-called climate office was recently established in Slovenia, by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy and the Community of Municipalities of Slovenia (SOS).

The project is designed as a public-public partnership and will last from November 2024 to October 2026. The establishment of a climate office is an approach to solving the challenges of climate change, the consequences of which are felt especially at the local level, where municipalities bear a large part of the burden of eliminating the damage. The goal of the project is to strengthen the climate resilience of Slovenian municipalities and regions in the long term, to help them manage climate risks and integrate adaptation to climate change into municipal and regional spatial plans and other documents.

Among the more important goals of the project is strengthening the capacity of municipal administrations, which, thanks to the climate office, will be better equipped to plan adaptation measures, such as directing settlement away from threatened areas and increasing the resistance of infrastructure to floods, heat waves and other weather extremes. The project will also enable municipalities to be actively informed about national and European measures to support adaptation, which will improve the municipalities' readiness to implement measures at the local level.

Viewed from the local perspective, i.e. at the level of the city, the goal is to establish a feasible strategy for adapting to climate change, which will be co-developed by stakeholders, especially climate-conscious citizens. Despite the fact that the city of Kranj is a small city by world standards, it still faces the consequences of climate change. As the trends of climate change indicate, the atmosphere in Slovenia is warming faster than the global average due to its geographical characteristics. The biggest impacts that Slovenia already has and will have to deal with are increased heat load, changed precipitation regime, which will increase the risk of both hydrological extremes (droughts and floods), and more intense storms. In the city of Kranj we are facing such extreme impacts, so it is urgent to actively begin addressing this topic. A strategy at the regional level will certainly be drawn up to support the formulation of adaptation measures on the city / municipality level.

Social participation context

The City of Kranj actively involves citizens and various organizations in the preparation and implementation of sustainable measures. In 2023, for the needs of the Mission of climate-neutral and smart European cities until 2030, the municipality conducted a survey among residents to co-design sustainable, climate and environmental changes. More than 500 residents responded, the need for adaptation to climate change was also recognized.

Also an important mechanism was launched in 2022 - the participatory budget of City of Kranj, where residents can propose and choose interventions that they recognize as necessary in their living environment, where also small adaptation measures appear. Publicly voted measures are implemented (such as planting more trees on public areas, managing suburban forests, installation of drinking fountains, improving urban amenities in Kokra canyon, a proposal for a rain garden, and similar.) In 2026 next call of the participatory budget will be launched - also with proposals from UB participatory workshops.

Within the UB project, we want to continue this active approach and attract different stakeholders. In recent events, we were especially enlightened by young and creative people - students and high school pupils. They are mature enough to express their opinion on a matter and are a social group that will be strongly affected by the consequences of climate change early in their lives. Regarding their involvement in the project, we will try to take into account their wishes, suggestions, and areas in which they would like to raise their awareness.

Wider public is always an important factor, especially the individuals that have interest in these subjects (also public initiatives). We will also work with professional public services, as well as key services within the city administration.



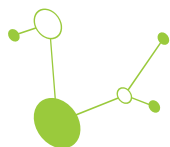
Photo: Active approach and different stakeholders.

The ways of involvement of the residents will be different; from getting their opinion at various workshops, meetings, events and with educational and awareness-raising content and events that take place in external environments (city square, canyon area, botanical garden,...).

Cooperation with various stakeholders will also be important in the development of the pilot project, where we will cooperate with experts in the field of cultural heritage, spatial planning, city services, arborists, landscape architects, students, local inhabitants, entrepreneurs, ..., in short - with everyone who we will identified as a important factors in the development and implementation of the pilot.

Imaging the change

Please describe how would you like to make a change, you can also use results of world caffe workshop:



- What would you like to change in the short term (1-3 years) regarding biodiversity in your city?
- What would you like to change in the medium term (3-5 years) regarding biodiversity in your city?
- What will be the challenges when implementing the change?
- Define specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals for biodiversity enhancement and community benefits.

Common Findings regarding biodiversity in City of Kranj

- Need for Green and Blue Infrastructure: More trees, shaded seating, and water elements to mitigate urban heat.
- Sustainability and Biodiversity: Use of recycled materials, rainwater harvesting, and diverse plant species.
- User-Centered Design: Seating for different groups (families, elderly, students) and multifunctional spaces.
- Community Engagement: Encouraging local businesses and residents to contribute to urban greening.

Biodiversity in the city, green systems and connectivity of green elements

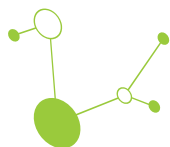
While the city has green areas and a lot of forest around, they are often fragmented, and some forests contribute to emissions instead of absorbing them. Solutions include increasing tree diversity, reviving degraded areas, and adapting urban regulations to prioritize green spaces.

Strategies such as urban beekeeping, temporary potted trees, and retention ponds serving as biodiversity hubs can enhance ecological connectivity.

The main challenge is ensuring green areas that are not just scattered but function as interconnected networks supporting both people and wildlife. The vision is a city with continuous green and cycling networks, where natural assets are legally protected and rivers are utilized for conservation, recreation and education.

Existing and new solutions:

- Planting new, diverse trees (e.g. in the same avenue of trees, different species, attractive at different times of the year (some bloom beautifully, some are beautifully colored in autumn, etc.). □ planting diversity strategy
- using appropriate trees for “next generation”/trees for future/: <https://www.arboretum.si/arboretum/drevesa-za-prihodnost/>
- the analysis of degraded areas is necessary, then the restoration, adaptation of such areas that can become good secondary biotopes, the existing structure can be used.
- New construction needs to be adapted
- Change municipal acts on spatial planning to have more greenery and more green areas, correct the building factors of green areas
- Use of more suitable, natural materials
- Adapted mowing of lawns



- Urban beekeeping
- Potted trees (temporary solution)
- Traffic restrictions
- Stormwater retention tanks - secondary biotopes
- Protection forests/forest with special purpose, caves and other natural values
- Raise public awareness (e.g. what the city used to be like and what habitats it had)

What opportunities, advantages and challenges do changes and adaptations bring:

- We can have a greener city
- Provide space for green areas
- It is necessary to provide sufficient mass of greenery (layering from the ground to the crown, not only individual trees, but also stands or connected areas).
- Green walls in public areas

Stakeholders

Who will be key groups involved and how:

- Who are end-users of intervention
- Who are stakeholders?
- Who will help you?
- Who might be against the intervention?

The main stakeholders in the City of Kranj include key local organizations and institutions that usually participate in the implementation of projects, as well as several departments of the city administration. Important partners are public companies that provide public services for the city (gardeners, civil engineering, landscape architects...), as well as state professional institutions or their local units/branches (nature protection, cultural heritage, water protection). The main stakeholder in case of spatial planning is the Department of environment and spatial planning within the City of Kranj administration.

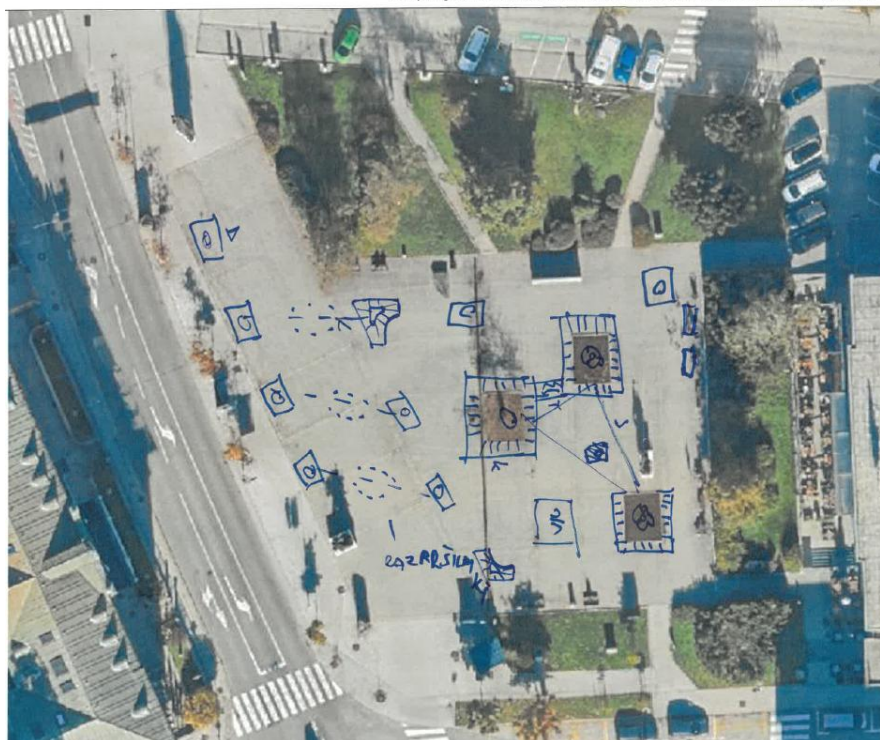
The Joint environmental protection service of Kranj is coordinator and organises the BIOCENTUM NODE activities, events, meetings, finds synergies and combine activities with other EU projects where City of Kranj is partner (mostly URBIO BAUHAUS and Danube project BE READY). The Joint environmental protection service currently consists of three person, which are architect, M.Sc. of nature protection and landscape architect.

Supporting partners come from institutions, companies or professional organizations involved in research and academia, such as the national research institute in the field of spatial planning, forestry, architecture and related sciences. An important role presents private companies that provides innovative, socially responsible and effective solutions in the field of nature conservation, environmental protection and sustainable development.



We expect even more effort to be taken in discussions with professional organization for cultural heritage, since almost all the core area of City of Kranj is cultural heritage on national level (ZVKD). Also execution problems for pilot can arise, but dialogue has been already established in Nov 2024 and is ongoing.

Prilagajanje historigčnih mestnih jeder na podnebne spremembe, 23.05.2025, Slovenski trg
Adapting historic city centers to climate change, 23.05.2025, Slovenski trg



Delovni list: Prilagoditev Slovenskega trga na podnebne spremembe
Worksheet: Adaptation of the Slovenski trg to climate changes

Opis rešitve naj vsebuje:

- analizo prostora,
- materiali,
- barve,
- zasaditev in drugi elementi biodiverzitete,
- vodni elementi,
- različni scenariji rabe prostora (prireditve..)

Photo: Recent Workshop on one of the suggested pilot sites Slovenski trg was made with students of civil engineering and also representatives of cultural heritage.

The end-users and beneficiaries are certainly citizens of the city Kranj, visitors, tourists, also vulnerable groups (children, migrants, senior citizens etc.), community organisations, business organisations etc.

The suggested members of BIOCENTUM NODE are listed in a table below. It is important to be aware that list is a living form that can be subject to change:

Urbio Bauhaus STAKEHOLDERS

Local authority



1. City of Kranj and its departments
SSVO in SSUP (Nika, Uroš, Mihaela, Sabrina)

Oddelek za zeleni prehod (Eva, Polona, Jana), UGDP (Nataša Lotrič), UDD (Andraž Jakelj, Jurij Cuderman), Urad za projekte (Tina Fleišer)

Regional authority

2. Development company for regional development for the Gorenjska region - BSC
Local Energy Agency of Gorenjska –LEAG

National authority

3. Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation,

4. ZVKD

Interest groups, NGO, civil society

5. Krajevna skupnost Center
6. Krajevna skupnost Huje
7. SubArt - Kulturno umetniško društvo
8. Klub študentov Kranj
9. Kovačnica

Business support organizations

10. Domplan
11. Komunala Kranj
12. Flora Sport
13. Supernova_shopping mall

Higher Education&research&Academia

14. Biotehniška fakulteta
15. Zavita d.o.o.
16. UIRS
17. Gimnazija Kranj
18. Visoka šola za gradbeno inženirstvo Kranj

19. Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering / Fakulteta za gradbeništvo in geodezijo

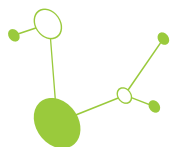
Beautiful /Aesthetic

20. Faculty of Arts
21. Biotehnični center Naklo
22. Flora Sport

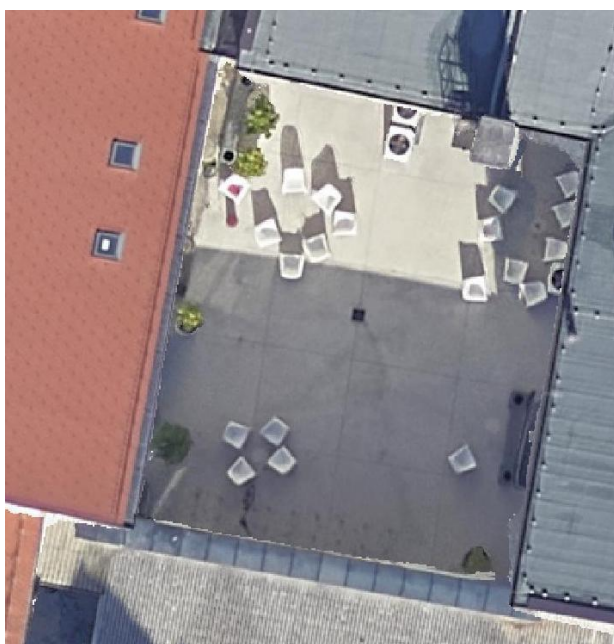
Action plan

Please describe steps and activities to be taken:

- Identify and describe potential pilot site (concrete location) - you can add photos
- What are key activities (steps) to prepare intervention?



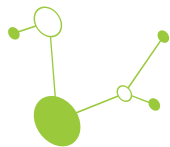
- What is timing?
- What material and works are needed for implementation?
- What are potential risks and mitigation strategy?
- Please add also text from public procurement of the intervention



Kovačnica bussines hub

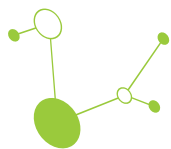
- green intervention on hot spot
- green extensive roof
- tree in a pot
- plants in a pot





Elektro Gorenjska - old energy house

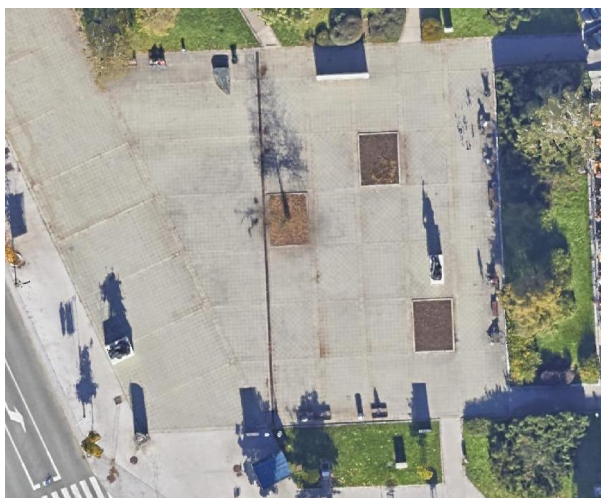
- green intervention
- green extensive roof on isolated roof top
- green fasSade, distanced from the wall with steel



Tavčarjeva street

- green intervention
- flower seeds & flower pots
- trees in a pot
- other plants in a pot





Slovenski trg

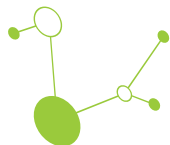
- green intervention
- inovative green extensive gardens
- tree in a pot
- plants in a pot



The time line for all implementation pilots is: Autumn 2025 - Spring 2026. It depends on optimal time, suggested by landscape architect and public service for maintaining green areas in the city, to plant suggested plants and trees.

Mainly existing plant and flower beds will be used in transforming areas to more biodiversity rich areas.

In case of new pots they will be selected by landscape architects and public service for maintaining green areas in the city. The urban equipment should fit to Urban equipment strategy of City.



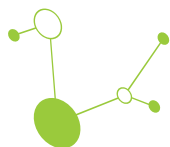
Technical documentation

Please add technical documents, permissions, feasibility and other preparatory studies needed for the realisation of the intervention

Several starting events for different participating groups already took place - that is the most including part of the project. With the students of gymnasium, a starting event was an Urban walk with prof.dr. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj. With many professional stakeholders, a starting event happened within the activities of Eco week and kick off meeting, also a workshop Project in a day for the general public was also a part of the Eco week.

An official launching event for all stakeholders was held in March 2025, where the project goals and ideas were presented and the BIOCENTUM NODE officially started operating.

With the stakeholder group, which is tied professional to the pilot, cooperation is based primarily on organized in-person meetings, which we already execute from December 2024 on.



New European Bauhaus aspects

How will the intervention improve New Bauhaus principles?

What will be impact on the intervention on participative aspect of NEB ?

- different sub-groups, such as group with youth, group with professional stakeholders/decision makers, general public group, group associated with the pilot...
- interested groups
- professional co-workers & businesses
- Government offices at local and regional level.

Main point - to overcome segregation and connect local public.

What will be impact on the intervention on green aspect of NEB ?

- Planting new green element into grey infrastructure to enhance sensory experience & well-being.

Main point - to foster relations in the city area and overcome segregation in own premises.

What will be impact on the intervention on aesthetic aspect of NEB ?

- Green infrastructure will overcome grey infrastructure
- Adding new green elements into grey infrastructure with flower pots made of clay or steel.
- Some of flower beds will be all year round green or/and flowering and the soils covered.
- Planting flowering plants - for bees, butterflies and other animals.