

SECOND E-NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

Welcome to our second CONE project newsletter!
We are glad you are following us.
In this newsletter we will tell you how we continue with the CONE project.

Our CONE project is more than halfway through. All activities are in full swing. Project participants are working closely with stakeholders and the public. The first study visit within the project took place in České Budějovice. We have prepared a more detailed introduction to the Pilot Actions. In the CONE project we also produced a number of Outputs, including videos available on Youtube, Pilot Actions characteristics and the NbS Toolbox, which contains handy NbS solutions.



Study Visit in České Budějovice, October 2-3, 2025

On October 2nd and 3rd, 2025, the study visit of the CONE project took place in Budweis, Czech Republic. The event was hosted by City of České Budějovice (Budweis) and South Bohemian Agency for Support to Innovation (JAIP).



The hybrid meeting was opened by the welcome speech of Mayor doc. Dr. Ing. Dagmar Škodová Parmová, leading partner UniSMART- Foundation of Padua University represented by Davide Destro and Czech partners represented by Michaela Novotná (JAIP, PP6).

The morning program included a section dedicated to WP1 (Context analysis and framework definition), led by BURST Non-profit (PP2), in which, the status of deliverables was presented and further activities were outlined.

Then followed the WP2 (Concrete actions: Urban living labs) section, managed by Gdańsk University of Technology (GUT, PP5). In this section, all Pilot Actions within Living Labs were presented: Padua, Wejherowo, Jászberény, Poljčane, Budweis. In this section, status of deliverables was presented and further activities were discussed together with progress in individual Living Labs.

After lunch in Potrefená husa and a visit to the scenic City Council Roof WP3 (Policy framework for nature-based solutions) section took place, supervised by Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic (APC ERB, PP4). In this section was presented the progress of deliverables and the outlook for further activities.

At the end of meeting, there was a presentation by Michaela Novotná (JAIP, PP6) about the communication of the CONE project and project communication team meeting, followed by project management and reporting, including Steering Committee, managed by Davide Destro (UniSMART, LP).

The next day, a Study Visit took place in Budweis. During the Study Visit, the host partner provided project partners and stakeholders with valuable insights into best practices through personal visit to the site of Pilot Actions in Budweis. The key good practices presented included: soil restoration and revitalization of concrete square in housing estate, new urban island on the river and improvement of habitat conditions for key large trees in valuable city park.

The first stop was the square in front of KD Vltava, which was chosen as a location of Pilot Action for the Heat Stress Mitigation - mitigating the impacts of heat stress in the city by soil restoration and revitalization. During the move to the next location, the group also stopped at the newly created urban Sun Island on the Vltava River, which acquired great interest and positive feedback.

The site for second Pilot Action is located in Na Sadech Park and focuses on Rainwater Management. This action will improve the habitat conditions of selected horse chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), in the fall, which will contribute to the long-term sustainability of urban greenery.

Discover our Pilot Actions



Padua: Climate change mitigation in industrial zone through creation of sustainable drainage system

The pilot action is inspired by the nature-based solutions approach, and will consist in the development of a section of sidewalk, creating a draining flowerbed.

The aim is to improve rainwater management and exercise heat stress mitigation in a heavily industrialized area, in order to provide a template for future projects. Specific sensors will be installed and will measure the changes in several parameters, which will help inquire the effectiveness and the transferability of the intervention.



Jászberény: Fehértói street water retention pond

The planned water retention lake is located in the north-western part of Jászberény, on the edge of the inhabited areas. The area is near the main water course of River Zagyva.

The goal is to create a dry reservoir, which is a surface storage basin that retains rainwater. During heavy rains, the area is flooded. In the event of heavier or prolonged rains, the water can fill the temporary reservoir for several days. This is an investment-type activity, supplemented by landscaping and planting of plants.



České Budějovice: Improvements to routine park maintenance

The park was founded at the end of the 19th century. At present, it has an area of 3.5 ha and is part of the city conservation area.

Consideration is being given to channeling rainwater closer to the trees and planting perennials to avoid soil drainage. The planned improvements will be supported by a study. Even established areas need care. Not every park can be dredged and started over.



Wejherowo: Rain garden in the backyard at Śmiechowska Street

Development and construction of a rain garden in the backyard at Śmiechowska Street in Wejherowo. The action will be implemented in cooperation with residents, who will have a real influence on the appearance of their surroundings.

The completed rain garden will become a good practice and a model to follow throughout the city. This investment may initiate the creation of a network of rain gardens that will improve water retention in the whole city.



Poljčane: Reducing flood risk and mitigating riverbank erosion

The Municipality of Poljčane has established a Living Lab in the settlement of Studenice to identify and implement multifunctional nature-based solutions (NbS) aimed at reducing flood risk and mitigating riverbank erosion.

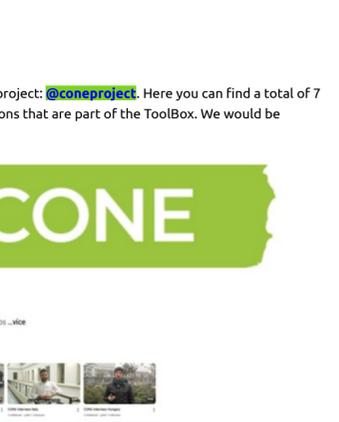
The main environmental challenge in the area is the increasing frequency of river floods following heavy rainfall after prolonged dry periods, as well as progressive erosion affecting agricultural land and protected ecosystems.



České Budějovice: Revitalisation of the square in front of the Vltava cultural centre

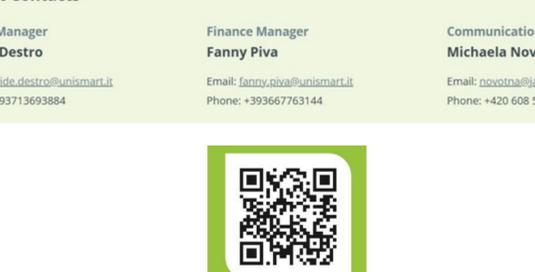
The entire area was dredged to a permeable subsoil. Controlled irrigation from the municipal water supply was installed. The original trees that could be restored have returned. The substrate-enriched soil has returned.

Planting of perennials, planting of sidewalks, etc. took place. A 30% increase in greenery has been achieved, which is 2 163 m². The site manages rainwater well. The impact of revitalization on heat stress mitigation will be studied..



Don't miss our new videos!

We prepare content for YouTube channel of CONE project: [@coneproject](#). Here you can find a total of 7 videos from the Study Visit and 11 video presentations that are part of the Toolbox. We would be grateful if you would follow our YouTube channel.



We created a Toolbox full of NbS solutions

In the CONE project, we created a Toolbox for knowledge transfer and exchange in the field of Nature Based Solutions.

This Toolbox presents proven, practice-based NbS solutions from CONE pilot actions and highlights their climate adaptation potential and ecosystem service benefits. CONE Toolbox is available on our website.



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