

Key Results from the Citizen Involvement Survey in Karlovac, Palmanova, Quedlinburg, and Zamość

Within ZEB4ZEN project, a citizen survey was conducted in four pilot cities: **Quedlinburg, Palmanova, Karlovac, and Zamość**. The survey assessed climate change perception, environmental priorities, energy renovation potential, and citizens' willingness to engage in local sustainability initiatives. The results provide both shared trends across cities and important place-based differences

Responders in all four cities largely agree that climate change is having at least a moderate impact.

186

responders

more than 70%

considered renovating their home/building to improve energy efficiency

Regarding perceived challenges to climate resilience, **financial constraints and limited resources** are dominant themes across all four cities.

Specific findings

Karlovac

- 53 responders
- **Environmental quality:** rated **positively**
- **Key environmental issues:** heavy rainfall or flooding, hotter summers
- **Mobility patterns:** walking/private car use
- 92% had **considered energy-efficient renovation**
- **Main barriers:** high costs, limited access to financial incentives
- 70% aware of financial incentives
- 85% would renovate with financial support



Palmanova

- 99 responders
- **Environmental quality:** rated **positively**
- **Key environmental issues:** waste management, air pollution, urban heat
- **Mobility patterns:** walking
- 71% had **considered energy-efficient renovation**
- **Main barriers:** high costs, conservation restrictions
- 74% aware of financial incentives
- 67% would renovate with financial support



Quedlinburg

- 15 responders
- **Environmental quality:** rated **acceptable or good**
- **Key environmental issues:** urban heat, droughts
- **Mobility patterns:** walking
- 39% had **considered energy-efficient renovation**
- **Main barriers:** rental status, conservation restriction, high costs
- **Limited awareness of financial incentives**
- **Moderate participation in environmental initiatives**



Zamość

- 19 responders
- **Environmental quality: rated positively**
- **Key environmental issues:** urban heat, waste management, air pollution
- **Mobility patterns:** walking
- **89% had considered energy-efficient renovation**
- **Main barriers:** high costs, inaccessible financial incentives
- **79% would renovate with financial support**
- **relatively high willingness to engage in environmental initiatives**



Conclusion

Overall, the results indicate that although prior participation in environmental initiatives remains relatively limited across all four cities, there is substantial willingness to engage in future community-based climate actions, pointing to significant latent engagement potential. Common priorities such as expanding urban greenery, improving public space quality, reducing traffic in historic cores, and supporting renewable energy solutions suggest a broadly shared vision of urban climate adaptation. At the same time, the persistence of financial constraints, regulatory (especially heritage-related) barriers, and limited public awareness highlights that institutional support, accessible funding mechanisms, and improved communication between local authorities and residents will be essential for strengthening climate resilience and translating willingness into effective action.

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