The topics of Croatia presidency in the context of TA post-2020

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN URBAN AREAS
RE-USE OF SPACES AND BUILDINGS IN TERMS OF A TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Achieving sustainable and Green Europe
Through implementation of GI and Circular Economy Principles

• Urban Agenda for the EU
  • Circular Economy
  • Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-based Solutions
  • Air Quality
  • Energy Transition
  • Climate Adaptation
  • And other activities from the relevant partnerships...

• EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure
• Circular Economy Action Plan
• EU Green Deal
• Clean energy for all Europeans package
• ESPON Policy Briefs on GI and CE
OBJECTIVES

• CREATION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN URBAN AREAS & REUSING SPACES AND BUILDINGS

• Effective way to reduce urban sprawl and its environmental impacts, to keep neighbourhoods occupied and vital, and to combat climate change and an alarming increase of natural disaster risks

• RESPONSE TO THE GROWING NEED FOR BETTER URBAN MANAGEMENT, IN THE CONTEXT OF SCARCE LAND RESOURCES AND THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF USING NATURE TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF CITIES.
Sustainable Land Use

- Inefficient or poor data on spatial development and its use for urban governance
- Nature-based solutions, including green infrastructure, are not high on the agenda of urban authorities due to low awareness of its social and economic benefits
- Insufficient capacity of urban municipalities and their planning services to deal with the complexity of socio-economic and spatial development and its interconnections
- Lack of knowledge/capacity of staff & human resources in municipalities dedicated to implementation mechanisms for unlocking development on brownfield land
Many European cities are relatively green, however cities are experiencing decrease in green spaces (ESPON GRETA)
- Cities in general have more green spaces in their surroundings than inside of them

GI benefits include:
- Mitigation of urban heat island effects, flood risk reduction, absorption of CO₂, improved mental health and well-being etc.

Policy recommendations on three scales:
- Local
- Regional
- National
Re-use of spaces and buildings in terms of a transition to a circular economy

- Cities grow in size and consume more and more natural and agricultural land
- Land is not infinite – we must learn how to use this resource in a more responsible and sustainable way

**UAEU Circular Economy Partnership**
- Handbook on sustainable & circular re-use of spaces and buildings
- At the urban level, society and built areas undergo a constant process of change
- The urban regeneration process must effectively keep up with this process of change
HR PRES topics

• Specific priorities of the HR PRES 2020 aim to promote sustainable land use and to contribute to the sustainable and balanced model of development

• Implementation of green infrastructure, along with the circular economy of space and buildings represent important means of climate action and improvement of quality of life
Green infrastructure in urban areas
ESPON Policy Brief

- Financing GI in urban areas – potential instruments:
  - Innovative use of public budgets
  - Grant funding and donations
  - Instruments generating revenue
  - ‘Green finance’
  - Market based instruments
  - ‘Business Improvement Districts’
  - Endowments
  - Public-Private Partnerships
  - Community asset transfers
Green infrastructure in urban areas
ESPON Policy Brief

- Policy recommendations for enhancing GI in urban areas:
  - Adopt a GI approach in planning
  - Identify existing assets and opportunities for GI
  - Identify benefits and challenges of GI
  - Create a shared vision
  - Take the context into account
  - Identify GI “hotspots”
  - Combine private and public funding mechanisms for implementation
  - Monitor progress and adapt to change
Green infrastructure in urban areas
ESPON Policy Brief

• Policy recommendations for regional GI management:
  • Plan for GI implementation in adaptive cycles
  • Take synergies and trade-offs between ecosystem services into account

• Policy recommendations for national GI management
  • Integrate GI across policy areas
  • Develop national GI policies and action plans
  • Increase awareness about GI
  • Ensure data availability
  • Provide training on economic valuation and spatial analysis methods
Re-use of Spaces and Buildings
ESPON Policy Brief

- Policy recommendations to increase the re-use of spaces and buildings:
  - Involve citizens and relevant stakeholders at an early stage.
  - Define opportunities, risks and constraints and map the landowners.
  - Involve architects and planners and ask for alternative land use plans.
  - Prepare an outline time plan.
  - Make clear who is managing and coordinating the process.
  - Break down the overall plan and define the individual projects of the plan.
  - Make sure that the necessary land and financial budgets are available and consider potential public-private partnership models for the implementation.
  - Monitor and evaluate regularly the implementation and adjust the plan when needed for an improved outcome.
Urban Green Infrastructure

• Urban Green Infrastructure Development Programme 2021.-2030.

• Programme objectives:
  • Management of green infrastructure development
  • Improved, widespread and easily available urban green infrastructure
  • High level of knowledge and social awareness of sustainable development of urban areas through green infrastructure development
Re-use of buildings and spaces


- Programme objectives:
  - Circular renewal of empty buildings and under-used spaces
  - Circular economy in the design of buildings and spaces/spatial planning
  - Achievements of environmental objectives by re-use of buildings and spaces
Thank you