



Interreg



Danube Transnational Programme

URBforDAN

WP5 – Deliverable D.5.1.1
REPORT on Activities Implemented in Selected UPF
Areas

BUDAPEST



1. About activities implemented in selected UPF areas

UPF focus areas in 7 PP Cities were at the beginning of the URBforDAN project not equipped with proper management tools or urban equipment, which could cope with ever increasing pressures. This is why WP5 aimed to implement management tools developed in WP4, set-up urban equipment, as well as diversify offer of UPF services and products to end users on over 700 ha of urban and peri-urban forests.

These are the areas where detailed planning of UPF multi-use was applied and where on-site activities were implemented. The focus area of Budapest, Szép Valley was a neglected area, now it became a place for socialization, relaxation, recreation, education and high-quality experiencing of NH for diverse set of target groups. Furthermore, implemented activities resulted in improved UPF management, started to address and resolve actual conflicts between target groups and mobilized all key actors for ensuring sustainable development.

The focus area in Budapest will be used as case example, which can be easily transferred to other UPF areas in line with strategic parts of IMMP. High quality urban equipment were purchased for entrances/info points, marking trails, rest areas (benches, tables), boards of the educational nature trails, children's playground, bird hide (birdwatching facility), drinking fountains, etc. in the focus area.

2. Deliverable 5.1.1.: Report on implemented activities at SZÉP VALLEY, HÁRMAHATÁR HILL in the City of BUDAPEST

In line with the URBforDAN project the following activities were planned at **SZÉP VALLEY, City of BUDAPEST** in the period from **1.06.2018 – 30.6.2021**.

- Design and types of urban equipment
- Purchase and set-up of the urban equipment
- Other activities

After a long preparatory process – interrupted with coronavirus pandemia, personal changes and reorganization of the FŐKERT – the actual implementation was realized in a relatively short time in 2021.

2.1. Design and types of urban equipment

2.1.1. [In this part, please briefly describe the design process and explain who was involved in it, how (and if) you involve stakeholders and UPF managers, etc. (about 0,5 page)]

Urban equipment:

The main actor, determining the image and information system of the focus area was FHTP Ltd., a firm chosen from five design studios. Invitation to tender was sent out to selected enterprises on 18.02.2021, with a deadline of 24.02.2021. From the 5 bids in line with the written evaluation criteria FHTP Ltd. was chosen as the most appropriate.

The designs accomplished by F.H.T.P. Ltd. were the following:

- 2 pieces of general information boards
- 6 pieces of big size guiding boards (hiking destinations in the vicinity)
- 11 pieces of information boards for the educational nature trail

The winner began the implementation of the information system in the focus area on March 29, 2021 and finished on May 28, 2021.

All of the equipment needed unique design. The designs were finished according to the needs in the field. We realized that to follow the educational trail visitors need small arrows with the text 'Nagyfejű csajkó tanösvény'. The meaning in English is simply 'Lethrus educational nature trail' referring to a protected beetle species, but the official Hungarian name of the species sounds very funny. At the same time, it is a flagship species of the area. You can see the photo of the wooden beetle sculpture on the front page of this report.

Other urban equipment (forest classroom, benches, tables, bus waiting shelter) purchased were similar to existing objects but their rustic style and their colours were specially tailored to the Szép Valley.

Additional educational equipment purchased:

A forest playground with wildlife sculptures was also added as an education point at the top of focus area. Beside the strong wooden swings and climbing facilities children find here 5

nically carved and painted wooden sculptures of protected animals. The basic concept is that while spending the time on the playground children and adults get acquainted with the protected animals of the area. The playground including the wooden carvings were elaborated by the Ilona Mill Workshop, an experienced small firm with good artistic skills.

2.1.2.[In this part, please briefly describe the process of determining the types of equipment and explain the extent of installations according to the needs of specific focus area (about 0,5 page plus list). Please also list all types of equipment you decided to install].

Determining the type of equipment happened like this:

- In the stakeholder meetings. As an important starting point most of the visitors agreed that car traffic in the focus area causes destruction.
- Operational Plan analyzed the chances and decided to change the traffic system of the focus area. Forest playground was also the request of the visitors participating in the stakeholder meeting. The change of the traffic concept made it possible to afforest some former parking lots and to convert another parking lot into educational playground.
- Educational nature trail was also an important point on the wish list of the stakeholders.

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	NUMBER OF PIECES
information board (greeting and project description)	2
guiding boards (hiking destinations)	6
information panels of the educational trail	11
small arrow-shaped markers (not part of the original procurement, produced as extra equipment)	28
drinking fountain	2
bird-hide (with feeding and drinking pool, drapes, reflection glass and seats)	1
unique, carved and painted wildlife sculptures	5
log swing	1
wooden monkey bars	1
timber see-saw	1
wooden rain shelter (at the entrance point)	1
roofed table with a pair of benches (at the entrance point)	3
forest classroom with benches and tables	2
trees and shrubs of native species	1500

2.2. Purchase and set-up of urban equipment

2.2.1. *[[In this part, please briefly report a procurement procedure (dates, specifics, no. of interested providers...)]*

Purchase and installation of drinking fountains

Two procedures had to be launched since the first one has failed. In both procedure 5 enterprises were invited, all of them entitled to planning and construction. The unsuccessful procedure was closed down in February 2021. In the second round the the call for tender was sent out to 5 selected firms on February 28, 2021. From the 5 bids sent in based on the written evaluation criteria Lápoldal Ltd. was chosen as the most appropriate. The implementation began on April 21, 2021 and finished on May 31, 2021.

Purchase and set-up of unique bird-hide with feeding site and drinking pool

The call for tender was sent out to 5 selected firms on February 28, 2021. All of them sent bids until the deadline, February 24, 2021. In line with the written evaluation criteria Pest County Birding Circle was declared winner. The installation began on March 29, 2021 and finished on May 31, 2021.

Procurement procedure of the tools of unique, rustic forest playground

The call for tender went out to 5 selected firms on February 18, 2021 with submission deadline of 24 February, 2021. In the specifics there was a detailed description of 5 carved and painted wildlife sculptures, a log swing, a wooden monkey bars and a timber see-saw. We received 4 bids, the Ilona Mill Workshop was declared as most appropriate. The winner began implementation on March 31, 2021 and completed it on May 31, 2021.


Purchase and installation of the furniture of the entrance point and 2 forest classrooms

We negotiated with 5 firms. The call for tender went out to 5 selected firms on February 18, the final deadline of submission was 24 February, 2021. The bids has arrived from all the 5 providers, as a result of the evaluation Castor Bau Épszer Ltd. Was declared winner. The implementation was launched on March 16, 2021 and finished on May 31, 2021.

Purchase of the native trees and shrubs for the afforestation of the uppermost parking lot

The purchase of the 1500 native trees and shrubs was based on a former public procurement procedure. In 2019 the winner of a public procurement procedure became Tahi Nursery Ltd, 100 percent property of the FŐKERT. As a part of the framework contract with the former public procurement the plant specimens were bought in a form of an ad hoc engagement order. On April 21 the whole procedure of request for quotation, the bid and the purchase order were realized. The planting process began on April 26 and finished on May 13, 2021.

2.2.2.[In this part provide a short description of each type of installed urban equipment, number of installed units and provide photos for at least 1 location for every type of installed urban equipment using the table provided below-]

Type of urban equipment	Information board (greeting and project description)
Location, specifics of installed units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeting of the visitors at the entrance point (bus terminal) • Project description at the crossroad to the Birders' Clearing
Short description	1 information board with a map of the focus area and key information for visitors; 1 information board with the description of the URBforDAN project and logo. Both integrated into a wooden frame 150 cm x 100 cm.
Photo(s) of installed urban equipment	
Type of urban equipment	Guiding boards to hiking destinations
Location, specifics of installed units	At the main crossroads of educational trail and hiking trails
Short description	6 information boards sized 150 x 100 cm, integrated into wooden frame. Describes the points of interest and the way to them.

Photo(s) of installed urban equipment



Type of urban equipment Information panels of the educational trail

Locations, specifics of installed units 11 information panels along the 1,3 km long educational trail. GPS coordinates signed. On the right side map with the visitor's position.



Short description Size of the panel is 100 x 70 cm



Photo(s) of installed urban equipment







Type of urban equipment Small arrow-shaped markers




Short description Both the arrows and the the leg (sized 5 x 5 cm) are made of hardwood. 50 cm of the leg is concreted into the soil, 50 cm is out. The arrow's size is 50 x 12 cm. The text is on an UV-resistant plastic sheet covered with a film.



Location, specifics of installed units	In 28 places along the nature trail to help the visitors finding the right way.
Photo(s) of installed urban equipment	
Type of urban equipment	Drinking fountains
Short description	Traditional blue-coloured iron fountains with nice stone underlay
Location, specifics of installed units	The 2 fountains are placed at the main attractions of the focus area: The Birders' Clearing and the forest playground.
Photo(s) of installed urban equipment	
Type of urban equipment	Bird-hide
Short description	The purpose of the installation to provide a relatively easy chance to watch the birds and photograph them
Location, specifics of installed units	At a hidden corner of the Birders' Clearing. Specially designed equipment with feeding and drinking pool, drapes, reflection glass and seats.

<p>Photo(s) of installed urban equipment</p>	
<p>Type of urban equipment</p>	<p>Carved and painted wildlife sculptures</p>
<p>Short description</p>	<p>5 pieces of specially designed, carved and painted animals. They portray protected animal species characteristic of the focus area.</p>
<p>Location, specifics of installed units</p>	<p>Forest playground at the upper end of the focus area. The sculptures are quite sophisticated and rich in details. At the same time they are durable and resistant.</p>
<p>Photo(s) of installed urban equipment</p>	

	
Type of urban equipment	Log swing
Short description	The 3 m wide, 2,2 m high structure stands on 4 reinforced log legs, set together with a log bearer. One of the swings is for small children (aged 2-3) the other one is for 4-8 year old. The chains are weather-resistant.
Location, specifics of installed units	In the forest playground
Photo(s) of installed urban equipment	
Type of urban equipment	Wooden monkey bars
Short description	<i>The core of the structure are 4 wooden legs fixed into the soil. On the right side 2 legs are immovably set together, here the children can</i>

	<p><i>climb up. From this end they can climb on ropes towards the further legs. The climbing is helped by upper and lower ropes and graspings. The wooden stepping rollers improve the balance and coordination of children. Under the lower rope there is a thick sand cover for safety reasons. The full length of the L-shaped monkey bars is 9 m.</i></p>
Location, specifics of installed units	Part of the forest playground.
Photo(s) of installed urban equipment	
Type of urban equipment	Timber see-saw
Short description	The aesthetic wooden equipment stands on 2 wooden legs, fixed into the soil. The long hardwood log is attached to the legs. On the ends of the log there are comfortable seats and handholds. For the safe use of the see-saw there are rubber tyres under the end of the moving log. The length of the log is 3 m, the length of the legs is 1 m.
Location, specifics of installed units	Also part of the forest playground.
Photo(s) of installed urban equipment	
Type of urban equipment	Wooden rain shelter
Short description	The alpine style wooden shelter stands by the bus terminus. Height is 2,5 m, width is 2 m. The roof cover is made of hardwood. In the interior there are 2 wooden benches with a height of 50 cm.

<p>Photo(s) of installed urban equipment</p>	
<p>Type of urban equipment</p>	<p>Roofed bus waiting places</p>
<p>Short description</p>	<p>At the bus terminus 3 roofed set of furnitures were installed.</p>
<p>Location, specifics of installed units</p>	<p>The resting-places are placed in a distance of 20 metres from the bus stop. There are 3 sets of table and benches. They are simple, modest, but of good style.</p>
<p>Photo(s) of installed urban equipment</p>	
<p>Type of urban equipment</p>	<p>Forest classroom with benches and tables</p>
<p>Short description</p>	<p>The function of the forest classrooms to collect the children at the important places of the focus area to take an irregular class. The teacher's table facing the benches makes it possible to explain to the children.</p>
<p>Location, specifics of installed units</p>	<p>2 forest classrooms were installed. One at the Birders' Clearing close to the starting point of the educational nature trail, the other one on the side of the forest playground. Both wooden structures are 12 m long and 3 m high. There are 10 log benches and 5 tables under the roof, standing on 8 strong legs.</p>
<p>Photo(s) of installed urban equipment</p>	

	
Type of urban equipment	'Installation' of trees and shrubs of native species
Short description	<p>On a former parking lot trees and shrubs were planted. The basic concept is to convert the islands of ecological desert into native forests and at the same time keep out the cars from the valuable inner part of the Szép Valley. It is only a first, demonstrative step of a long-term work.</p>
Location, specifics of installed units	<p>Close to the forest playground 1500 tree and shrub seedlings of native origin were planted. They are very close to one another, this way the natural selection will create a diverse and healthy forest structure.</p>
Photo(s) of installed urban equipment	

2.3. Other activities

2.3.1. *[In this part, please provide a short description of any other activities you implemented under activity 5.1 – e.g. educational activities, bike races, etc. (about 0,5 page) and explain who was involved in it, how was it implemented, how did you involve stakeholders and UPF managers, etc. Please also provide any photos taken during these activities or other evidence material.]*

COVID restrictions in Hungary were quite serious therefore during the pandemia we could not organize large-scale events. However we had two waste collection events, one before the COVID, another one after the third wave.

National Clean-up Day, March 23, 2019

In Hungary the voluntary clean-up movement was launched in 2013, and soon it became an important event. Now it is part of the 'Let's Clean Up Europe' international initiative. On March 23 there were 20 participants in the Szép Valley, they collected from the focus area 10 m³ waste. It was a good chance to speak them about the nature values of the area.



Corporate clean-up action, June 15, 2021

It was a nice event with the dedicated volunteers of the Celanese Ltd. The result of the clean-up was 13 m³ trash in the bags, but again: it was equally important that about 20 volunteers got acquainted with the area.



2.3.2. *[In this part please provide also a short description of any planned activities in the future (if applicable)].*

Thanks to the URBforDAN project the focus area has changed a lot. Now we plan two main group of activities:

Get the stakeholders acquainted with the new chances in the Szép Valley

We plan to organize nature trail tours and 'Birdwatching for beginners' events. The purpose is to let the people know that it is worthwhile to visit the area. It is especially for schoolchildren, but also for families and even single hikers.

Community works in the Szép Valley

The improvement of the area hasn't been finished. Most of the scheduled works – like removing the concrete of the former weekend houses or removing invasive species from the area – has to be completed by professional workers. However there are some other activities – like tree planting on former parking lots, clean-up of some hidden corners – which can be done by volunteer workers. We plan to invite volunteers so that they could feel that the focus area is a common value of us.

3. Lessons learnt and best practices

*[In this part, please list and describe all lessons learnt and best practices adopted during the whole process of activities implemented in your UPF area – please use **suggestions** of possible processes listed below – describe those relevant for you but please make sure that you include **lessons learnt and best practices!**]:*

Activities linked to the process itself

Operational Plan helped a lot to think over the whole process. The field activities were quite clear. The professional and personal contact between nature conservation head of FŐKERT (in charge of all field work in the WP5) and nature conservation staff of the Municipality of Budapest was (and is) really good. But aside from that too many factors changed in the last 2 years. COVID is only one of them. We will speak about them in the next points.

Problems linked to public procurement

We didn't have public procurements. Procurement processes caused some problems but all in all we could manage it.

Mistakes you might have made

Among the given circumstances it was a mistake not to involve from the very beginning a professional external project management firm into the project. We haven't seen the magnitude and character of the work therefore we had problems with settlement of some accounts. Since when we work with HBH Project Management Ltd, we don't have problems in this respect. The launch of the implementation was in delay but in the field we could prove our experience – of course together with the firms who completed the actual installation.

Challenges you had to overcome

Evidently the administrative tasks in the 7 URBforDAN countries were not the same. In Hungary the authorization procedure is extremely complicated. For example to receive all the permissions for setting up a new drinking fountain takes a long time. The careful work of the Széchenyi Programme office Nonprofit Ltd. hasn't made the administration easier.

The fact that the Hungarian part of the URBforDAN was divided into 2 parts with 2 project partners taking part in the same project made the process even more complicated. We have just realized that even after finishing the implementation we have to make an inventory of the newly installed equipments. It would have been relatively easy for the Municipality of Budapest but an extremely hard task for FŐKERT.

In connection with local elections since October 2019 the staff changed a lot not only in the Municipality but also in FŐKERT. In 2020 also a fusion of the Municipality firms has begun with many changes in the organization and personnel of FŐKERT.

Specific lessons learnt regarding the equipment installation

We didn't have any problem with the installation itself (except the stony ground 😊). We think that the good result originates in substantial preparation, clear procurement process and many hours of communication with the entrepreneurs during installation.

Best practices linked to the whole process

What we think really good: complexity of the equipment based on the needs of the visitors. Beside that if we go down the list of the equipments in most cases we added something special to the usual solutions. Namely:

- In the forest classrooms there is a teacher's table, which makes it possible to look at the children and talk to them.
- In the bird-hide there is a reflection glass which is unique in Budapest. There are some bird-hides in Hungary, but this is the only free one.
- The quality of the wildlife sculptures in the forest playground is unique in Hungary. Next to the playground there is also an information panel on which we introduce the portrayed animals – which are characteristic protected species of the focus area. This way we linked two separate investments.
- The type of the drinking fountain is quite widespread in Hungary but following the requests in the stakeholder meetings under the fountains one can find nice and practical dog drinking-trough.
- The educational nature trail presents at least two innovations: 1. The trail is meandering all over the place but the small arrow-shaped markers help to find the trail easily. 2. At the main crossroads of educational trail and hiking trails there are sizeable information panels. Those boards offer destinations which can be reached on the given hiking trail. It means that the educational trail concentrates to the focus area but deals with the surrounding area as well.

Any other observations, advice: [anything you think relevant to share with other project partners or other cities trying to follow your example and equip UPF areas with urban equipment as you did. This of course also applies to other activities – if you carried them out in connection to activity 5.1.]

Please read the former point: Best practices. We will be ready if the will be copied in Hungary and in the whole Danube Region.