



Interreg Europe action plan (DRAFT)

Action Plan for the Pilsen Agglomeration



Útvar koordinace
evropských projektů 

Part I – General information

Project: Interreg EURE

Partner organisation concerned: European Projects Coordination Unit of the City of Pilsen

Country: Czech Republic

NUTS2 region: Southwest region

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Part II – Policy context

- The Action Plan aims to impact:**
- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
 - European Territorial Cooperation programme
 - Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed: Integrated Territorial Investments

Integrated regional investments are used in the Czech Republic in the largest metropolitan areas of state-wide importance in accordance with Article 36 of the Common Provisions Regulation and on the basis of their definition in the SRD.

ITI tools are implemented through integrated territorial strategies. The above-defined metropolitan area / agglomeration submits one integrated territorial strategy based on partnership approach in the region for the approval and implementation.

Integrated territorial strategies will focus, in its analysis and subsequent setup and hierarchy setting of priorities, on the key thematic areas of development specific to the metropolitan area in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the EU. The main themes linking the core cities of agglomerations with their functional hinterland include transportation, labor market, interconnection of research capabilities and utilization of their outputs in practice, innovation and entrepreneurship, and the environment, including technical infrastructure. Furthermore, the field of public services may be addressed (mainly social, health and education services). Integrated territorial investments will mainly focus on implementation of larger, strategic projects that have a significant impact on the respective territory. Smaller projects will be supported as well, provided that they properly complement the larger projects to achieve the desired synergy effects.

The main objective of the action plan is to develop the List of Recommendation document to increase the number of projects being developed and implemented through the integrated ITI tool.

The other aims of action plan, but also important is to provide suggestions on how to increase the number of prepared and implemented projects in the field of adaptation to climate change and, simultaneously, aims to incorporate adaptation measures and features of the blue-green infrastructure into each prepared project, not just into projects focusing on the environment in the first place. The Green Deal, especially the part focus on Protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, which was approved, supports the effort; it poses a great future challenge not just to individual EU member states, but also to all cities and municipalities. Hence, it is desired to implement these measures into projects that are currently being prepared.

As mentioned above, ITI strategy is a cross-sectoral strategy, which stretches across individual operational programmes. In relation to the scope of EURE project and this action plan, these are following relevant operational programmes:

Operational programme Environment

- Climate change adaptation, prevention of and resilience to natural disasters based on the ecosystem-based approach.
- Water availability and sustainable water management.
- Enhancing nature conservation and preservation of the nature, biological diversity and green infrastructure, also in the urban areas, and reducing pollution in all forms.

Integrated regional operational programme

- Enhancing nature conservation and preservation of the nature, biological diversity and green infrastructure, also in the urban areas, and reducing pollution in all forms.
- Support of the climate change adaptation, prevention of and resilience to natural disasters based on the ecosystem-based approach.



Operational programme Transport

The application within this operational programme is mainly related to implementation of adaptation measures that are related to the climatic change and features of the blue-green infrastructure in all projects implemented through this programme. It also involves qualification of related costs as eligible.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1: Involvement of the key stakeholders in preparation and implementation of projects focused on adaptation to climatic changes

1. Relevance to the project *(please describe how this action derives from the project and in particular from the interregional exchange of experience. Where does the inspiration for this action come from?)*

Water management, adaptation to climate change, green development and eco-innovations are major areas of the urban policy. At the same time, they are perceived as a major source of economic, environmental, and social challenges, which need to be addressed. Importantly, the solutions to these challenges should be interconnected rather than individual.

Adaptation to climate change is a current topic dealt with by authorities on all levels. Present and anticipated impacts of climate change and adaptation to climate change are essential for the sustainable urban development. As stated in the Leipzig Charter, “Predictive and preventive policies, plans and projects should include diverse scenarios to anticipate environmental and climatic challenges and economic risks as well as social transformation and health concerns.”

This area requires an approach that is in compliance with recommendations no. 2, 8 and 10 of the Joint Report:

- All cities and town unions should strive for implementation of long-term strategies and action plans to ensure future water supply, reduction of flood hazard, and underground water pollution.
- Support of adaptation to climate change, risk prevention, and disaster resilience through preventive interventions (regulations on interventions and actions performed by the local authorities and focused on alleviation of risks—e.g., impact of water on the environment, national heritage, social system, and economic activities).
- Cities and town unions should enhance biodiversity and blue-green infrastructure in the urban environment and reduce pollution through interventions aimed at developing the green infrastructure in the urban areas to ensure protection of natural resources, address negative impacts of climatic changes, reduce soil utilization, and suburbanization.

The Opinion Report, created by the Expert pool group, suggests, in the field of the urban policy and this action plan, enhancing public and social engagement of the local authorities in the process of drafting, realization, and evaluation of the urban strategies and policies. This approach is applicable only when and if each participant in the process understands its significance and benefits resulting from it. Therefore, raising awareness in this area is crucial, especially through presentation of examples and practical recommendations related to the climate change. This action plan and its proposed actions will provide a guidance to local stakeholders in the process of creating the sustainable urban policies and strategies in all stages of implementation. At the same time, the action plan will raise awareness of the urban policy and its benefits to the society.

The projects presented by each partner during the study visits demonstrate that adaptation measures and features of the blue-green infrastructure have become inseparable components of the urban and landscape planning processes across the EU. These projects have proved that identification of the stakeholders, raising their awareness regularly, or their full involvement in preparation and / or realization of the project is vital to deliver successfully. The projects being referred to are—for example, Lugo - Design and implement an



INNOVATIVE URBAN PLANNING STRATEGY, Nikosia - Athalassa Forest Park, Pedaios Linear Park, PONTEVEDRA URBAN MODEL, Projekt "Brownfield between Maskavas, Krasta un Turgeneva street revitalization", Spīķeri historical quarter and promenade.

Also other study visits have confirmed that we have applied the same urban development principles while working on preparation of the strategies and projects, meaning we are heading the right direction. It is necessary to stick with these principles and continue in their application and thorough integration in other projects across the entire Pilsen Agglomeration.

2. Nature of the action (*please describe precisely the content of action 1. What are the specific activities to be implemented?*)

We propose 3 main activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Preparation of the List of Recommendation on how to increase the number of upcoming and implemented adaptation projects in view of the increased use of the ITI financial instrument.

Some of the recommendations to MA in relation to ITI instrument

These recommendations should be included in the terms of reference for the next calls for projects and shared with potential project applicants. This is the way how to change and improve policy instrument.

- Provide support to the actors in the territory and their projects focused on the adaptation measures and blue-green infrastructure, especially, through passing information and raising public awareness.
- Communicate, ahead of time, conditions, or at least basic principles, of individual calls on possible subsidies and funding of such projects, so that the actors can prepare necessary documentation properly and without need to make later changes.
- Support adaptation measures in projects that are not primarily focused on them, however, in terms of the territorial development, it is desirable to implement those measures within such projects.
- Always share with the actors in the territory guidelines for preparation and implementation of projects focusing on adaptation to climatic changes.
- Always approach this kind of projects from a complex point of view instead of addressing just one selected issue.
- Strive for co-ordination of individual intentions in the territory, especially those planned by the utility network administrators and municipality.
- Experience with such projects or participation of an expert in team should be requested in the process of selecting a project developer.
- Engage all relevant stakeholders already in the project's preparatory stage to avoid a risk of future changes in the project documentation, which has already been elaborated.
- Engage the public in the project through raising awareness and explaining project benefits in the territory or deeper engagement in the project preparation.

ACTIVITY 2: Presenting the List of Recommendation to the MA – Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Environment.

ACTIVITY 3: Informing local stakeholders in the Pilsen agglomeration about the possibilities and advantages of using the integrated instrument for financing projects in the field of adaptation measures.



3. Stakeholders involved (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the implementation of the action1 and explain their role)

A way of the key stakeholders' involvement, including the public, in creation and implementation of the action plan.

Name of the Stakeholder	Role
European Projects Coordination Unit of the City of Pilsen (UKEP)	Preparation of the <i>List of Recommendation</i> document to the Managing authority.
Urban Planning and Development Institute of the City of Pilsen	Engaging in the preparation of the <i>List of Recommendation</i> and in the dissemination of awareness in the territory of the Pilsen agglomeration.
EURE Local Stakeholder Group	Engaging in the preparation of the <i>List of Recommendation</i> , support in presenting it to the MA and engaging in the dissemination of awareness in the territory of the Pilsen agglomeration.
Ministry of Regional Development	Is the MA of the policy instrument and will participate with feedback. The MA representative is a member of the LSG.
Ministry of Environment	Is the MA of the operational programme Environment and will participate with feedback. The MA representative is a member of the LSG.

4. Timeframe (please specify the timing envisaged for action 1)

September 2022 – August 2023

5. Costs (please estimate the costs related to the implementation of action 1)

5.1. Implementation proceeds after the end of the project

Most of works will be programmed and implemented by the employees of the UKEP as a part of their responsibilities. Also, we plan to engage several experts with specific expertise who could facilitate dissemination issues.

The estimated cost is **EUR 3 500** and will include among others the following:

- dissemination activities

6. Funding sources (please describe how action 1 will be financed. Is it through the policy instrument(s) indicated in part II)?

Internal sources – budget of European Projects Coordination Unit of the City of Pilsen.



Date: _____

Name of the organisation(s):

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s): _____

