

# ACTION PLAN (2020-2022)

within the framework of the “UrbanLinks 2 Landscape”  
project co-funded under the INTERREG EUROPE programme  
implemented in the Silesian Voivodeship



**Partner: Silesian Park (General Jerzy Ziętek Voivodeship Park of Culture and Recreation)**

## Part I – General Information

Project: UrbanLinks 2 Landscape

Partner name: General Jerzy Ziętek Voivodeship Park of Culture and Recreation (Silesian Park)

Country: Poland

Region according to NUTS2: Silesian Voivodeship

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## Part II – Context of the Policy Instrument

Impact of the Action Plan on the programme:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation Programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the programme addressed: Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia

**Basic information about the implemented project:**

**Name of the project:** UbranLinks 2 Landscape (UL2L)

**Project Partners:**

- Rhineland Regional Council (Germany, Lead Partner);
- Surrey County Council (England);
- Umbria Regional Authority (Italy);
- Silesia Park (Poland);
- Kristianstad Municipality (Sweden);
- Kuldīga District Municipality (Latvia);
- Schloss Dyck Foundation (Germany).

**Project implementation:** June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2022

**The total amount of the project budget:** 1 193 175,00 euro

**Involved stakeholders:**

- Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship (Spatial Planning Office and Department of Regional Development);
- Ruda Śląska City Hall;
- Jaworzno City Hall;
- Mysłowice City Hall;
- Radzionków City Hall;
- Jaworzno Geosphere;
- The University of Silesia in Katowice;
- The Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas in Katowice;
- The Municipal Greenery in Katowice;
- Silesian Botanical Garden;
- The Silesian Technical University;
- The Council for Biodiversity of the Silesian Park.

## Introduction:

The main objective of UrbanLinks 2 Landscape (UL2L), which is implemented under the EU programme INTERREG EUROPE, is to exchange and propagate good practices and promote innovative solutions in the field of recultivation of wasteland by creating multi-function public green spaces in their place. Green infrastructure, along with objects of natural and cultural heritage, is under high pressure of urban economic development, construction of houses and facilities. The amount of these areas is constantly reduced and they are exposed to destruction. As a result, open green spaces are becoming more and more desirable, and their value for urbanised cities is increasing. Natural resources considered as wealth should be recognised, appreciated, and funded under development programmes. At the same time, they must be managed effectively to serve evolving needs, objectives, and functions, and to be a place for services that have a positive impact on the environment. They should serve social integration, improve the well-being and health of residents, and increase ecological value and potential for economic development and creation of new jobs. This theory was reflected in EU, national, regional, and local strategic and operational programmes. It is also one of the objectives of sustainable development of the "Europe 2020 Strategy".

As part of the actions aimed at effective development of such areas, UrbanLinks 2 Landscape (UL2L) was divided into the following main themes:

- ecosystem services,
- mitigation of climate change,
- urban farming,
- outdoor recreational activities.

Ecosystem services are understood as all kinds of benefits obtained by households, communities, and the economy thanks to the environment. The condition of ecosystems determines the nature's potential to provide services. By degrading the environment, we are limiting its potential to provide services to us. Ecosystem services can be divided into four types: supporting, provisioning, regulating, and cultural.

Mitigation of climate change includes both actions mitigating the effects of climate change as well as actions reducing a negative impact on climate. Rainwater retention, removal of invasive species of plants and replacing them with appropriate domestic species, application of perennial plants, reduction of mowing – these are just few of the many examples of adaptation and mitigation actions.

Urban farming involves green urban spaces, leisure places, and food production. On the other hand, outdoor recreational activities include a number of actions addressed to residents and tourists who use different ways, depending on their individual needs, to improve their quality of life.

The subject of the intervention in the area of impact on the development policy within the framework of UrbanLinks 2 Landscape is the Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia 2014-2020, as well as the future perspective 2021-2027.

The Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia 2014-2020 implements the vision of region development, as included in the Regional Development Strategy of the Voivodeship of Silesia 2020+ and constitutes one of the most important instruments of the regional policy. In addition, the objectives of the programme fall within the EU development vision, as presented in “Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”.

The key challenges include, among others, protection of biodiversity of the region, restoration of the proper condition of natural habitats and species, including through the development of appropriate infrastructure and conducting information and educational campaigns, protection of air, and taking action aimed at reducing its pollution, preventing environmental degradation, and health protection.

Taking into account the objectives of INTERREG EUROPE and UrbanLinks 2 Landscape, the Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia 2014-2020’s key priority axes are: V “Protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources” and X “Revitalisation and health infrastructure”. The priority axis V “Protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources” provides for support for investment priorities under thematic objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency” and selected investment priorities for thematic objective 5 “Promoting climate

change adaptation, risk prevention and management". The concentration of the above-mentioned scope of intervention within one axis will ensure consistency in the implementation of co-related actions and contribute to the achievement of objectives connected to an increase in the efficient use of natural and cultural resources and an improvement of the ability to adapt to climate change. Moreover, priority axis X provides for support that will enable the inclusion of communities living on the outskirts and in degraded areas thanks to a comprehensive revitalisation of degraded urban and rural areas. The revitalisation actions will contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of residents in social, economic, and spatial terms.

Each of the international partners of UL2L carries out its actions within the framework of various programmes. The main assets to implement these policies within the framework of actions related to UL2L for Silesian Park (a company owned by the Voivodeship of Silesia), Local Government Association of Rhineland (North Rhine-Westphalia), the region of Umbria and the local government of Kuldiga are regional operational programmes prepared for absorption of funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The local government of Kristianstad in Sweden intends to incorporate actions into its comprehensive plans. Surrey County intends to do the same in rural statement.

Six stakeholder group meetings and individual interviews have been organised during the preparation of the Action Plan. The involved stakeholders have contributed greatly to the development of the Action Plan by providing comprehensive approach and evaluating the planned actions from different points of view.

The experience gained during international workshops and meetings with regional stakeholders translated into identification of good practices and creation of projects that fall within the thematic scope of UrbanLinks 2 Landscape, the Regional Development Strategy of the Voivodeship of Silesia, and the Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia 2014-2020, and also may contribute to the development of the future Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. Initially, in the application form, the financing of actions was supposed to come from the CSF ROP funds for the period 2014-2020. However, due to the exhaustion of allocations and the lack of planned calls for funds from the 2014-2020 ROP and the emergency situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, by which the free funds were



urgently mobilised to prevent the harmful effects of this pandemic, the financing of actions can only take place in the future financial perspective 2021-2027.

In view of the above, the lack of decision by the European Commission on the final shape of the legislative acts included in the package of draft regulations for the cohesion policy for 2021-2027, including the lack of decision on the EU budget under the cohesion policy for 2021-2027, it is difficult to determine the extent to which it will be possible to implement support.

Due to the above, it is difficult to determine unequivocally whether these actions will be able to be financed from the future Operational Programme implemented at the regional level.

However, basing on the draft regulations on cohesion policy for the period of the financial perspective 2021-2027 (especially on the presented specific objectives under the individual Policy Objectives for ERDF and ESF measures), which were published by the European Commission on 29 May 2018, it is planned to continue the measures related to, among others: biodiversity protection, climate change adaptation or support for the network of Regional Cycling Routes.

Under the funds of the future Regional Operational Programme of the Silesian Voivodship for the years 2021-2027, it will be possible to determine the possibility of applying for co-financing of the project implementation under following conditions:

- approval of the package of regulations being the basis for implementation of support under the financial perspective 2021-2027,
- the conclusion of negotiations on the Partnership Agreement, scheduled for 2021, which will indicate the division of the scope of intervention into national and regional level (demarcation line),
- completing negotiations on the Regional Operational Programme of the Silesian Voivodship for 2021-2027.

Proposed projects in this regard are presented below.

## Part III. Proposed actions

### ACTION 1

#### Establishment of Centre for Biological Diversity in Silesian Park

##### Description of action:

The aim of a two-stage action is to build and equip the Centre for Biological Diversity in Silesian Park. The construction of the facility will be financed from funds from the currently implemented Urban Project titled "Modernisation of Silesian Park", implemented as part of the second rotation of the funds coming back from the JESSICA Initiative of the Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia 2007-2013. The JESSICA project assumes only the creation of the Centre's building, therefore it is also necessary to provide its equipment, as provided for in the proposed action. The action falls within the tasks of protection of biodiversity and ecological education. The implementation of the project after the construction of the facility includes the following:

- purchase of indispensable equipment,
- implementation of extensive educational activities aimed at identifying the main reasons for loss of biodiversity (including transformation of habitats, excessive exploitation of natural resources, introduction and expansion of invasive alien species, gaps in knowledge of domestic and protected species), as well as spread of knowledge in the field of biodiversity of the species living in Silesian Park.

Follow-up of the centre construction project (implemented under the JESSICA programme) in the form of providing equipment to the facility will make it possible to conduct educational activities regarding the fauna and flora of the Silesian Park aimed at creating desired social attitudes. The knowledge related to environmental protection will contribute to raising awareness and changing human behaviour to more ecologically oriented attitudes.

The activity of the Centre will also enable future generations to learn about the natural heritage of the Park, raise awareness and knowledge of domestic species and other organisms located in its area. Apart from building awareness of the need to stop the loss of biodiversity



and degradation of ecosystems and ecological education, the investment will be focused on promoting natural areas.

The implementation of the project includes the purchase of indispensable equipment, taking into account modern technologies, that will allow to carry out extensive educational activities. Multimedia equipment will be installed in conference and teaching rooms to hold workshops and educational meetings. There will also be exhibition rooms presenting the fauna and flora of the Silesian Park in an interactive way that will attract adults and children alike, in addition to exhibition spaces. Moreover, there will be a separate space for an information point of the Silesian Park, at which guests will be able to get information about the attractions and other facilities (including the ZOO, open-air ethnographic museum, planetarium) located on its premises. In addition, it will be possible to buy promotional materials, souvenirs, gadgets and entrance tickets to the "Elka" Line Railway. The retrofitting of the Centre will also include the creation of educational paths programme, recreation and educational equipment, a display research laboratory, as well as the creation of a cafe offering space for relaxation and work.

#### **Project Leader:**

Wojewódzki Park Kultury i Wypoczynku S.A. in Chorzów – project management

#### **Other supporting partners:**

- Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship – financial and substantive support;
- Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Katowice – financial and substantive support;
- The University of Silesia in Katowice – scientific and research support;
- Biodiversity Council – substantive support;
- The Silesian Park Foundation – substantive support.

**The Action Plan is related to:** The Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia, together with the Regional Development Strategy of the Voivodeship of Silesia 2020+ and the document "Direction Silesia 3.0 Internal Development Programme of the Silesian Voivodeship until 2030".

**Background (conclusions from the project serving as the basis for this Action Plan).**

**Reference to best practices of UL2L's international partners:**

From global rain forests to parks and gardens, from whales to microscopic fungi – the whole, rich life on Earth is based on biodiversity. The nature is equally important to our physical well-being and mental health, as well as to the ability of our society to deal with changes happening in the world, together with health threats and catastrophes. The nature is disappearing at a rapid pace, which results from the impact of five main factors behind the loss of biodiversity: changes in the use of land and seas, excessive exploitation of resources, climate change, pollution, and presence of invasive alien species. These changes can be observed in everyday life: concrete blocks being erected on green spaces, natural areas disappearing before our eyes, and the list of endangered species has never been so long in history. In this context, special attention should be paid to areas with a high value of biodiversity or potential in this regard.

One of such places is undoubtedly the Silesian Park, a green oasis covering several hundreds of hectares and a valuable natural facility that is located in the middle of the Upper Silesian agglomeration. One of the most valuable natural parts of the park is the dendrological collection, which consists of nearly 300 species of woody plants of foreign origin. It is one of the rarest, most numerous and peculiar of its kind in Poland, which is one of the reasons it should be taken care of and attended to. The park is dominated by native species of trees, e.g. oaks or beeches, as well as by many species of animals and plants.

The proposed action is inspired by a good practice of the Swedish partner – Vattenriket Biosphere Water Reserve, covering wetlands inhabited by many species of fauna and flora. Vattenriket is located in the heart of Kristianstad. Lectures, meetings, and educational activities are held on site. The facility also offers a permanent exhibition devoted to the exceptional nature of this place.

**Timeframe:**

Stage	Time of implementation
Consultations and internal arrangements and with the Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship	06.2020-12.2020



Public consultations of the project	10.2020 – 06.2021
Preparing of project documentation	07-12.2021
Carrying out a tender procedure to select a contractor for the construction of the Centre	06-12.2022
Obtaining co-financing for the purposes of equipping the Centre (applying for funds from ROP WŚL 2021-2027 after announcing competitions)	06-12.2022
Expected date of commencement of construction of the Centre	2022/2023
Retrofitting of the Centre building	2023/2024
Promotion and launch of the Centre	2023/2024

### Schedule of public consultations:

Action	Timeframe	Involved sides	Objective of the action	Communication channels
Creating a Facebook event	01.10.2020 r.	Park users, region's inhabitants	Promotion of the process	Facebook
Individual surveys (at least 30)	1.10-31.12. 2020 r.	volunteers of the Silesian Park Foundation, members of the Biodiversity Council, members of the Nasz Park Association, students and teachers of schools from the region taking part in a series of educational activities organized by the Silesian Park Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collection of initial ideas and opinions</li> <li>- promotion of the process</li> <li>- invitation to workshops</li> </ul>	Meetings will be arranged by telephone and e-mail
Mobile point in the Silesian Park during events (at least 5 days)	1.01-30.05.2021 r.	Park users, visitors to events in the park, inhabitants of the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collection of initial ideas and opinions</li> <li>- promotion of the process</li> <li>- invitation to workshops</li> </ul>	The interviews will take place in the area under study with people who will pass by there' =

Consultation via e-mail	1.01-30.05.2021 r.	Park users, region's inhabitants	- Collection of initial ideas and opinions	Facebook, press releases, the Silesian Park's website.
Workshops	1-30.06.2021 r.	Local leaders, representatives of non-governmental organizations, institutions, councils of auxiliary units and informal groups operating in the area or for the benefit of the park or in its immediate surroundings, park users	During the workshops, the participants in groups will create social concepts for building and retrofitting the Biodiversity Centre. The product will be guidelines for investment concepts	Facebook, press releases, the Silesian Park's website, posters, invitations by telephone and e-mail.
Final report	31.07.2021 r.	Local community, participants in the various consultation stages	Presenting in the report the concepts obtained during the workshops with the residents. The report will include guidelines for the concept of the femoral and retrofitting of the Biodiversity Centre	Publication on the Internet, Facebook, sending by email to the participants of the consultation

**Budget (preliminary estimate):**

Stage	Estimated cost
Public consultations of the project	5 thousand euro
Preparation of project documentation	JESSICA programme
Build the Centre for Biological Diversity	JESSICA programme
Retrofitting of the Centre building	500 thousand euro
Promotion and launch of the Centre	3 thousand euro

The action shows compliance with the policy objective of CP2 primarily in terms of promoting biodiversity.

**Budget (preliminary estimate):**

EUR 510 thousands

**Sources of funding:**

RPO WŚL 2021-2027/WFOŚiGW

**Time frames:**

2022 – 2023

## ACTION 2

### Social garden with sensory elements in Silesian Park



#### Description of action:

The purpose of the project is to create a social garden with sensory elements in the Silesian Park. It will be a venue for integration and activation of various social groups, leisure and recreation area for residents, as well as an attractive place for tourists to spend their time when visiting the region. Creating a social garden falls within social policy activities, including counteracting social exclusion of seniors and persons with various disabilities. An important aspect of the garden will lie in the fact that its plants and infrastructure will affect all our senses: vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. The arrangement of the garden will consist of elements used when designing sensory gardens, which constitute one of the varieties of therapeutic gardens.

The social garden will be publicly available, and its area will be divided, designed, and arranged as individual, dedicated garden spaces with proper selection of plants and small architecture to stimulate visitor's senses: hearing, vision, smell, taste, and touch. This zone



will also allow to cultivate vegetables and herbs, keep a composer, collect rainwater, and learn about plants and ecology. An important educational and ecological element will be houses and water feeders for insects and birds. Visitors will also find there flower beds of bloomers, vegetable and aromatic plants, fruit trees, vine bushes or shrubs covering the walls of facilities. The space includes seasonal plants that require care and permanent species in the form of trees and fruit bushes. Visitors will be able to use garden tools to work on their own in the garden. In addition, thanks to small architecture structures, e.g. benches and tables, it will be possible to organise educational and leisure activities. As a result of all this, we will be able to take a closer look at the nature.

One of the main functions of the garden is broadly understood education, crop cultivation as a "living laboratory", calmness, and regeneration by the power of nature – garden, class, and sensory therapy, together with social activation.

It is also necessary to take into account at the garden design stage the stimulation of the senses of visitors by using different colours, texts or sounds. Individual zones of the garden will be equipped with information boards concerning plants located there, adapted to the blind and visually impaired by using Braille's system.

In its assumptions, the social garden with sensory elements in the Silesian Park would be an original solution that could be implemented in other cities of the Silesian Voivodeship. Ultimately, there could be a connection between these gardens and the network of green corridors – bicycle routes, which are currently being developed as part of "Velo Silesia" by the Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship.

The creation of such a garden in the heart of the Silesian Voivodeship is justified by social reasons, including those related to ageing and health of residents. Introducing small park architecture adapted to the disabled, senior citizens, and children will give rise to creating a unique, natural, aesthetic, and safe to stimulate senses and develop creativity.

**Project Leader:**

Wojewódzki Park Kultury i Wypoczynku S.A. in Chorzów – project management

**Other supporting partners:**

- Non-governmental organisations, e.g. the Silesian Park Foundation – promotion of the project and social activation;
- Centre for National Heritage of Upper Silesia (optional);
- The Faculty of Nature at the University of Silesia in Katowice;
- The Medical University in Katowice (optional);
- Local government partners from the Silesian Voivodeship involved in UL2L (optional).

**The Action Plan is related to:** The Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia, together with the Regional Development Strategy of the Voivodeship of Silesia 2020+ and the document "Direction Silesia 3.0 Internal Development Programme of the Silesian Voivodeship until 2030". This action is compliant with the theme of the project and has a positive impact on the protection, preservation, and development of green spaces, and it also increases the awareness of the role of these areas in the health and condition of modern humans. It will have a positive impact on the regional policy of supporting green spaces in cities. This action is compliant with the objective of the ERDF policy, i.e. "A more ecological Europe".

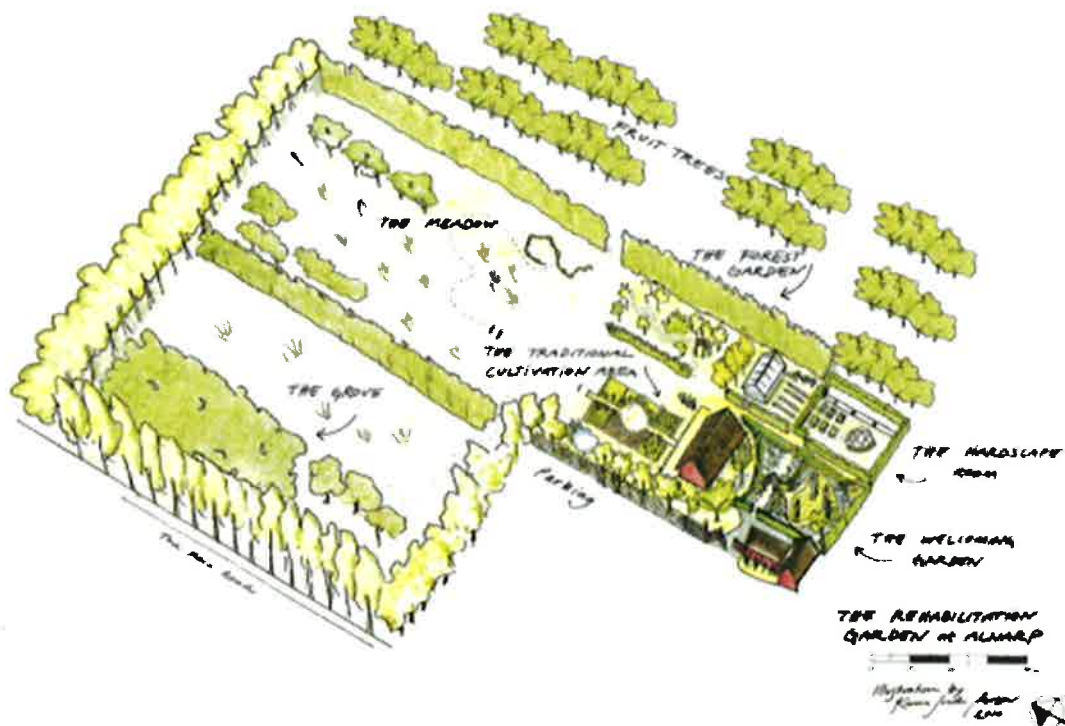
**Background (conclusions from the project serving as the basis for this Action Plan).**

**Reference to best practices of UL2L's international partners:**

The social garden with sensory elements in Silesian Park was inspired by a social garden located in the very heart of Kristianstad, presented as a good practice of the Swedish partner. The "Health Gardens" is an undertaking addressed to people with different needs who work in the garden as they consider it to be a healthy lifestyle. The project was developed in cooperation between the municipality, local communities, and non-governmental organisations. The facility offers perennial gardens, greenhouses, and orangeries.

Moreover, introducing sensory elements into the social garden was inspired by the activities of another Swedish partner in the field of therapeutic gardens. A therapeutic garden located at the campus of the Swedish University of Life Sciences, on the outskirts of Malmö, Alnarp, offers natural treatment and garden therapy programmes for persons diagnosed with long-term depression and occupational burnout. The garden is a product based on scientific evidence in horticultural therapy and is an example of how an area for social and economic services and activity can be used for therapy, to promote a healthy lifestyle and to acquire fresh, local food.

**Figure 1: Alnarp Therapeutic Garden Plan**



Source: [landscapeinstitute.org/blog/health-wellbeing-sweden-part-2/](https://landscapeinstitute.org/blog/health-wellbeing-sweden-part-2/)

Alnarp was divided into 8 following zones: peaceful (quiet, caring), wild (increasing fascination with wild nature), diversely rich (enabling contact with various species of plants and animals), open space (common, green, allowing for visiting and sightseeing), leisure garden (closed, safe, and isolated place), and historical and cultural garden (a place increasing fascination with the passage of time).

The project was also inspired by best practices of the Italian partner that came up with a project of vegetable gardens located at a historic university complex in the city of Perugia. It

is a participatory social project which gave rise to the initiative of urban gardening, offering a number of healthcare services. It was initiated by the National Institute of Agricultural Education and the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (DSA3) of the University of Perugia, which is located at the monumental Benedictine Monastery of St. Peter. After the end of the 19th century, i.e. the time when the monastery was used for food production, the area once occupied by vegetable gardens has undergone a radical transformation in the form of experimental fields showing an extraordinary cultivation of herbs. The project provides for cooperation of the local community, the university, schools, kindergartens, hospitals, and non-governmental organisations.

The design stage of the garden in the Silesian Park may also involve the solutions applied in the Sensory Garden in Muszyna. Apart from its recreational role, the investment also serves therapeutic and scientific functions for the disabled and children. The public, free-of-charge complex includes (among others): The Health Garden, equipped with exercise equipment, the Vision Garden with an observation tower standing 11 meters tall, the Music Pavilion offering concerts and a cafe, and the Garden of Fairy Tales and Legends. Before entering each garden, the visitors see an information board (information is written in Braille's system and in Polish, Slovakian, and English) with a description of the garden and its plants.

The creation of a social garden with sensory elements in the Silesian Park could be an inspiration for the cities of the Silesian Voivodeship which are facing the problem of degraded and undeveloped areas and neglected urban tissue (e.g. non-revitalised yards in city centres). These spaces may be also occupied by various social gardens depending on the location, conditions, and needs of local communities. Projects like these will not only increase the share of green spaces in cities, but it will also contribute to the achievement of social revitalisation objectives.

**Timeframe:**

Stage	Time of implementation
Preparation of a preliminary concept together with a cost estimate for the creation of the garden	01.03 – 01.05.2020
Preparation of the application form and submitting and application in order to obtain funding from the Civic Budget of the Silesian Voivodship.	01.05 – 25.05.2020



Voting of the application within the second edition of the Marshal's Civic Budget	9-23.09.2020 r.
Announcement of the results of voting	16.10.2020 r.
In the event of obtaining funding from the Marshal's Civic Budget, creation of the project and realization of the investment.	01.01 – 30.10.2021
In the case of not obtaining funding from the Marshal's Civic Budget, application for funds from ROP 2021-2027	01.06.-31.12.2021

**Budget (preliminary estimate):**

Stage	Estimated cost
Garden construction	120 thousand euro
Promotion and start-up of the garden (this is the cost of promotional activities and organization of the opening event)	1 thousand euro

The action shows partial compliance with the policy objective of CP5 of the ERDF in terms of revitalization and ESF+ in terms of educational measures.

**Budget (preliminary estimate):**

EUR 121 thousand

**Sources of funding:**

RPO WŚL 2021-2027/ Civic Budget of the Silesian Voivodeship

**Time frames:**

2020-2021

## ACTION 3

### "Towards green economy" – a series of seminars devoted to green spaces



#### Description of action:

The action consists in organising a series of six seminars in interdisciplinary teams that will discuss the subject of green spaces in city centres and suburban areas. Researchers from Silesian universities, representatives of institutions and municipalities of the Silesian Voivodeship, in particular local government partners involved in the UL2L project, will be invited to take part in the events. The substantive scope of the seminars will include the development of green and open areas, greenery cultivation plans, a Landscape Audit, and good practices of foreign partners involved in the UL2L project with regard to the development of green spaces. The implementation of individual seminars, based on a specific schedule and subject matter, will require preparation of conference materials, provision of offices and technical facilities, and professional event moderators. The estimated number of participants per one meeting is 20 to 25 people.

Due to the pressure of socio-economic development, urban areas often are deprived of greenery. Organising seminars and sharing experience may constitute a guidance for decision-making bodies as to the directions of spatial development and possible curbing of privatisation and development of green spaces, and subsequently for increasing the amount of spaces intended for planting. The seminars will also focus on the issue of maintaining greenery and



involvement of local communities to prevent devastation. The events will be accompanied by the presentation of actions of the Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship concerning the state of implementation of the Landscape Audit, as provided for in the Spatial Planning and Development Act (UOPiZP). The Act imposes an obligation to carry out an audit at least once every 20 years. Its purpose is to identify and define distinctive features and assess the value of landscape in the territory of the voivodeship. The Landscape Audit will refer to protected green spaces, such as national parks, nature reserves, landscape parks or protected landscape areas. Good practices applied by foreign partners involved in the UL2L project will also be presented. The purpose of the seminars would be to share experiences and come up with a common approach to the development and improvement of green and open spaces.

**Project Leader:**

Wojewódzki Park Kultury i Wypoczynku S.A. in Chorzów – project management

**Other supporting partners:**

- Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship – substantive support;
- The Central Mining Institute (GIG) – substantive support;
- The Silesian Botanical Garden Union of Associations – substantive support;
- The Silesian University of Technology – scientific and research support;
- The University of Silesia – scientific and research support;
- The University of Economics in Katowice – scientific and research support;
- The Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas in Katowice – scientific and research support;
- The Silesian Regional Chamber of Architects – scientific and research support;
- Local government partners from the Silesian Voivodeship involved in UL2L – substantive support;
- The Landscape Parks Complex – substantive support;
- State Forests – substantive support.



**The Action Plan is related to:** The Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia. This action is compliant with the objective of the 2021-2027 ERDF policy: 2 "A more ecological Europe".

**Background (conclusions from the project serving as the basis for this Action Plan).**

**Reference to best practices of UL2L's international partners:**

This project was inspired the practice of British and Swedish partners concerning the obligatory development of strategies for open green spaces. A centralised green spatial planning system in Sweden was presented at international workshops in Kristianstad that took place on 3-5 April 2019. Most of the municipalities in Sweden have prepared a document in the form of a structural greenery plan or a structural water plan. The Swedish partners also presented guidelines on the integration of ecosystem services in planning, investments, and management. Creating a strategy of green and open areas does not have legal premises in the Polish legislation, whereas the implementation of actions in the form of organisation of seminars is based on the idea of sharing knowledge and promoting preservation and cultivation of green spaces and a systemic approach to spatial planning in municipalities (including planning of green spaces).

This action was also inspired by the idea of creating strategic documents in the field of green spaces in Berlin, in which the adoption of studies was preceded by extensive consultations with a group of local stakeholders being their direct users. Berlin has developed a "Berlin Strategy for Biodiversity", "City Climate Development Plan", and "Urban Landscape Strategy". These documents are implemented successively. The idea of linking green spaces with water management of the cities is also very popular. This approach of partnership between various institutions and communities could constitute a framework for managing and developing open spaces, including green spaces in municipalities, to achieve maximum benefits in their use.

Similar proposals for actions were also discussed by regional stakeholders during workshops conducted within the framework of the UL2L and concerned, among others, cooperation between local governments and other institutions, as well as a broad social participation in the spatial planning of green spaces.



Green spaces and water areas constitute the potential of the region and the source of ecological information, therefore they should not be treated as an investment reserve for technical infrastructure, as often pointed out by regional stakeholders. The development of the Silesian Voivodeship results in pressure on new development related to both housing and service/manufacturing, which should encourage local governments to take greater care of the shrinking non-urbanised areas. Actions should be carried out in a sustainable manner.

Participation in the seminars by institutions and municipalities would be optional. However, it should be noted that during national workshops the regional stakeholders of the UL2L project (the representatives of municipalities and institutions from the territory of the Silesian Voivodeship) expressed their need for such an exchange of experience and cooperation.

#### Time frame:

Stage	Time of implementation
Submission of an application for co-financing from ROP of Silesian Voivodeship 2021-2027 (after the end of negotiations and announcement of competitions)	01.11-31.12.2021
Realization of two out of six meetings: - the first seminar; - second seminar.	01.01-31.12.2021 r. 01.01-30.06.2021 r. 01.07-31.12.2021 r.
After obtaining co-financing from ROP of Silesian Voivodeship 2021-2027, implementation of the remaining four seminars: - third seminar; - fourth seminar; - fifth seminar; - the sixth seminar.	01.2022- 31.12.2023  01.01-30.06.2022 r. 01.07-31.12.2022 r. 01.01-30.06.2023 r. 01.07-31.12.2023 r.

#### Budget (preliminary estimate):

Stage	Estimated costs
Submission of an application for co-financing from ROP of Silesian Voivodeship 2021-2027 (after the end of negotiations and announcement of competitions)	-
Realization of two out of six meetings basing on own financial resources: - the first seminar; - second seminar.	3,4 thousand euro 1,7 thousand euro 1,7 thousand euro
After obtaining co-financing from ROP of Silesian Voivodeship 2021-2027, implementation of the remaining four seminars: - third seminar;	6,4 thousand euro 1,6 thousand euro

- fourth seminar;	1,6 thousand euro
- fifth seminar;	1,6 thousand euro
- the sixth seminar.	1,6 thousand euro

The action is in line with the policy objective of CP2 on promoting biodiversity, green infrastructure and adaptation to climate change.

**Budget (preliminary estimate):**

EUR 10,000

**Source of funding:**

Silesian Park own financial resources/ RPO WŚL 2021-2027

**Time frames:**

2021-2023

## ACTION 4

### Velo Silesia – Creating ecological connections between cities and surrounding areas



#### Description of action:

In recent years, bicycle touring has become one of the most popular forms of outdoor recreational activities in Poland. More and more people take a bike on a regular basis as their main means of transport to work. A good bike infrastructure could encourage many drivers to switch cars for an environmentally friendly two-wheeler, thus supporting actions aimed at protecting health and the environment.

To keep this positive trend, it is critical to ensure the creation of regional and national interconnected bicycle routes. The Silesian Voivodship has a number of good examples of local bike infrastructure. However, there are no voivodship routes with a continuous lane and a uniform high standard. With a view to new possibilities of using the degraded infrastructure of the region for the development of bicycle routes, the Silesian Voivodship adopted the assumptions of the regional bicycle policy of the Silesian Voivodship together with the concept of a network of regional bicycle routes (in a corridor approach) as well as the Standards and guidelines for shaping bicycle infrastructure.

The document adopted by the Board of the Silesian Voivodship sets the direction of bicycle policy for the coming years. It is a study, which first of all indicates cycling corridors, i.e. lanes

of land, within which regional cycling routes will be marked and built. Moreover, the study defines the technical standard and the way of marking regional cycling routes. The document was prepared on the basis of earlier audits and expert opinions, based on the provisions of regional strategic documents and broad consultations with both local government units and social organizations. The assumptions of regional bicycle policy of the Silesian Voivodship together with the concept of a network of regional bicycle routes (in a corridor approach) and the Standards and guidelines of cycling infrastructure shaping will contribute to the creation of a coherent system of regional bicycle routes of high communication, recreation, tourism and technical standard, which at the same time, as an element of spatial development, will also affect the quality of space and landscape.

Results of the audits carried out: Vistula Bicycle Route (2015), Velo Silesia - audit of closed railway routes for their use as bicycle routes (2016), Eagles' Nests Trail (2017-18) and the Great Lakes Trail (connecting Żywieckie, Goczałkowickie, Paprocańskie and Dolina Trzech Stawów in Katowice) (2018), allowed the identification of the main cycling nodes and, after their connection, a schematic indication of the route of cycling corridors in which future regional cycling routes will be created - three in the east-west route and two in the north-south route.

Moreover, in October 2019 the Government of the Silesian Voivodeship joined the implementation of the cycling project EUROVELO - THE INDUSTRIAL CULTURE GLAZE. The action takes place in cooperation with the German association Regionalverband Ruhr. It assumes tourist promotion of places connected with the history of industry by creating connections, bicycle routes between some objects belonging to the Industrial Monuments Route.

**Time Frame:**

Stage	Time of implementation
Creation of a Functional and Utility Program for the connection of some objects belonging to the Route of Industrial Monuments located in the course of north-south routes	06.2020 – 12.2021
Obtaining funding for the implementation of the routes	01.2022 – 12.2027





**Budget (preliminary estimate):**

Stage	Estimated cost
Creation of a Functional and Utility Program for the connection of some objects belonging to the Route of Industrial Monuments located in the course of north-south routes	120 000,00 euro Financial resources of Silesian Voivodeship
Obtaining funding for the implementation of the routes	70 million euro

The action shows compliance with CP2 on promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility.

**Project Leader:**

The Silesian Voivodeship/Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship – project management, funding

**Other supporting partners:** local government units

**The Action Plan is related to:** The Regional Operational Programme of the Voivodeship of Silesia and assumptions of the regional bicycle policy of the Silesian Voivodeship. This action is compliant with the objective of the 2021-2027 ERDF policy: 2 "A more ecological Europe".

**Background (conclusions from the project serving as the basis for this Action Plan).**

**Reference to best practices of UL2L's international partners:**

An excellent example of taking advantage of an unused railway infrastructure is Ruhr District in Germany, where over 700 kilometres of EuroVelo routes were created on the basis of that infrastructure, and this network is constantly growing.

A similar project was carried out by the Italian partner under the UL2L project. A system of new pedestrian and bicycle routes has been built in the suburban areas of Perugia, as was a pedestrian and bicycle route that replaced the former railway line Appennino Centrale.

**Budget (preliminary estimate):**

EUR 70 million

**Source of funding:**

RPO WŚL 2021-2027

**Time frames:**

2020-2027

**Date of the Action Plan:** August 2020

**Signatures:**

Management Board of the Silesian Park

  
PRZEDSZARZĄDZI  
Agnieszka Buzek

  
WICEPRZEDSZARZĄDZI  
Maciej Gabryś

The Action Plan was submitted to the main Project stakeholder: The Marshal's Office of the Silesian Voivodeship, in order to include the actions indicated as recommendations for the Regional Operational Programme for 2021-2027.