



URBANGAIA

Deliverables D10|D17
**Report on outlook
and scenario
processes in
UrbanGaia**





URBANGAIA

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Introduction

This text combines the reporting for the deliverables D10 (WP4.1) and D17 (WP4.2) on outlook and scenario processes.

Due to broadly diverging status, capacities and ongoing processes in the local partner organisations – in this document we refer mainly to various municipal institutions - the original objective to develop local scenarios in the case studies had to be revised and broadened to include additional forms of visioning and strategy processes. The UrbanGaia team agreed upon and took advantage of opportunities to deliver or contribute to visioning products of higher practical relevance for the stakeholders, rather than “insisting” on the planned scenario process as discussed with stakeholders during the preparatory phase of the project. In the sections below, we present the activities and products of each case study, as well as a synthesis activity across the case studies.

The method developed and reported for D 11 mapping and evaluating ecosystem services flow, was applied in a comparative study in Coimbra, Leipzig and Vilnius (Priess et al. 2020, submitted to Urban Studies). The analysis is addressing not only the current situation, but also identifies locally specific demands and preferences, as well as benefits and disturbances perceived by city park users (see Figure 1) and draws conclusions for improved future design and for management of urban green spaces e.g. related to improved accessibility, reduced transport emissions, usability for different age groups and options to combine user demands and sustainability objectives. Furthermore, the KPI approach developed in UrbanGaia (Carmen et al. 2020) in which the discussions with stakeholders are already reflected, was offered as a monitoring tool for planned or envisaged transformation and agenda 2030 processes (see more details below).

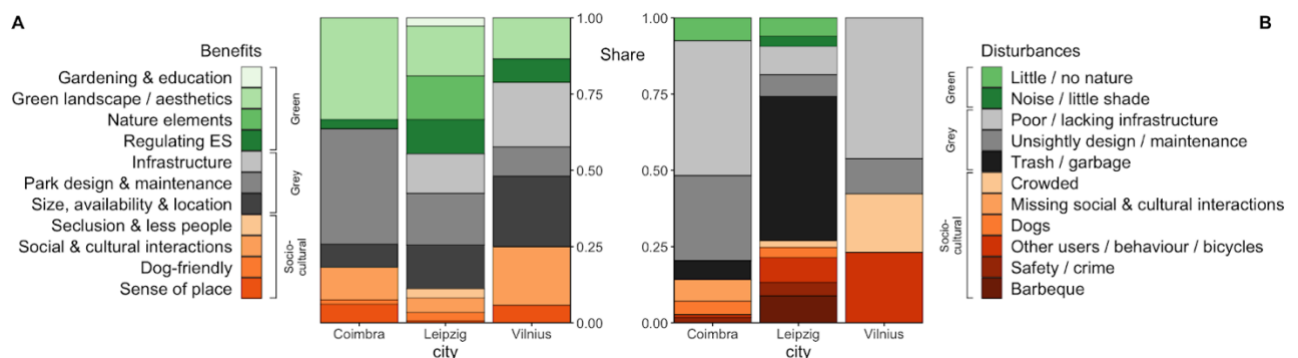


Figure 1: Benefits (A) and Disturbances (B) perceived by city park users in three European cities

Visioning and strategy processes

The following sections present UrbanGaia contributions to recent or ongoing outlook, visioning and strategy processes of the

partnering municipal institutions in the four case studies in Coimbra, Genk, Leipzig and Vilnius.

Coimbra

Local scenario

Coimbra has currently two main scenario-related projects under development. (i) The Coimbra2030.pt project focusing on sustainable territories, territory and settlement, and social cohesion, and (ii) the Municipal Program for Climate Change, following the inter-municipal program for Climate Change, which included incentives for the creation of green infrastructures, conservation of urban biodiversity and education for biodiversity. Changes in the structure of the municipality have improved the communication and interaction between the different divisions under the Department of Public Space, with increasing interest in promoting and integrating the ES and UGBI concepts into practice.

Consequences of current use

The results from mapping and evaluating UGS and ES preferences at both country (Priess et

al. 2020, submitted to Urban Studies) and city comparative levels are of high interest for the municipal planning and management team, as no detailed local information currently exists on ES preferences and factors affecting the UGS use regarding physical, experiential and social activities.

Visioning

The Coimbra team is analysing the results from an on-site observation (n=2066) and face-to-face survey (n=206) conducted in December 2019, in which citizens expressed their UGBI-related concerns (e.g. available facilities related to cultural activities, or equipment for physical activities, as well as management issues and user behaviour). The results will be shared with the Department of Public Space. Further work regarding the analysis of UGS coverage at the city level, UGS-type relevance for ES provision, and analysis of user preferences is currently being prepared.

Genk

Local scenario

Within masterplan, strategies have been developed for the themes water, ecology, and public culture and mobility. For some strategies, such as [improving ecological](#)

[quality](#) and tackling the water issues (e.g. sub-project of the [Stiernerbeek vallei](#); [Schansbroek](#)) scenarios are made. Concerning the complexity of the water issues some scenarios are still under consideration as there are uncertainties, insufficient data, or some

aspects require further research. For the themes with no scenarios (public culture and mobility), alternative strategies were made.

Consequences of current use

To ensure that implementation of the strategies within the masterplan stays in line with the presented vision, Genk is interested in monitoring the performance of the area. Due to the inclusive visioning, environmental, social and economic benefits are aimed for in the Stiemerbeek. The UrbanGaia KPI framework (Carmen et al. 2020) provided a flexible but structured approach for the city to identify indicators matching the various functions to which the area is envisioned for. The identification of indicators within the KPI framework was done with the city and data

experts. The city will include and adapt the results to current monitoring practices.

Visioning

Genk developed a [masterplan](#) for the redevelopment of the Stiemerbeek valley (main green infrastructure component crossing the city) which contains a long-term vision. The masterplan is the result of an inclusive visioning process where not only environmental issues and opportunities were discussed but also socio-cultural and economic issues and opportunities. This was done through an [assessment of ecosystem services](#), dialogue with relevant stakeholders (including citizens), analysis of historical and current maps, inspirational examples from other cities, and development of alternative strategies.

Leipzig

Local scenario

In a parallel project (Stadtgrün wertschätzen; funding: Federal Ministry BMBF), the city of Leipzig participated in developing [economic scenarios of potential changes in ecosystem service provision](#). Due to limited capacities of the city stakeholders it was suggested to readjust and focus the planned collaboration with UrbanGaia on contributing to urgent ongoing work for the local Agenda 2030 and the Green Masterplan processes.

Consequences of current use

The very detailed results (D 11: Palliwoda et al. 2020; Palliwoda and Priess 2021, submitted to Ecology & Society) on mapping and evaluating ecosystem services flow in 36 parks and

brownfields were of high interest for local planning strategies, as no detailed information on the preferences (e.g. accessibility, design, green and grey infrastructure) and activities / ecosystem service use (e.g. gardening, physical interaction, enjoying landscape, use of shading trees) of urban green space users were available to readjust park planning and management to place specific use preferences.

Visioning

Additionally, the Leipzig team supported the stakeholders in analysing more than 3,000 visioning questions, i.e. responses of an online survey conducted in May 2019 (Palliwoda et al. 2021; in preparation). Figure 2

demonstrates how citizens expressed their UGBI-related expectations and ideas for UGBI improvement (e.g. biodiversity, health, reduced management, transportation) and concerns (e.g. cleanliness, conversion of brownfields, draught and user related degradation, user behaviour). Ongoing collaborative activities seek to integrate the broader view of the citizens into the visioning concept of the city administration stakeholders – the [Green Masterplan](#), which is

based on five thematic fields, namely climate adaptation, healthy environment, environmental justice, biodiversity and environmental-friendly mobility. The Leipzig team is offering a translated and eventually simplified version of UrbanGaia's KPI approach (see Carmen et al. 2020, Table 1) to the city partners for monitoring the performance of the transition towards the Green Masterplan as components of the local Agenda 2030 processes.

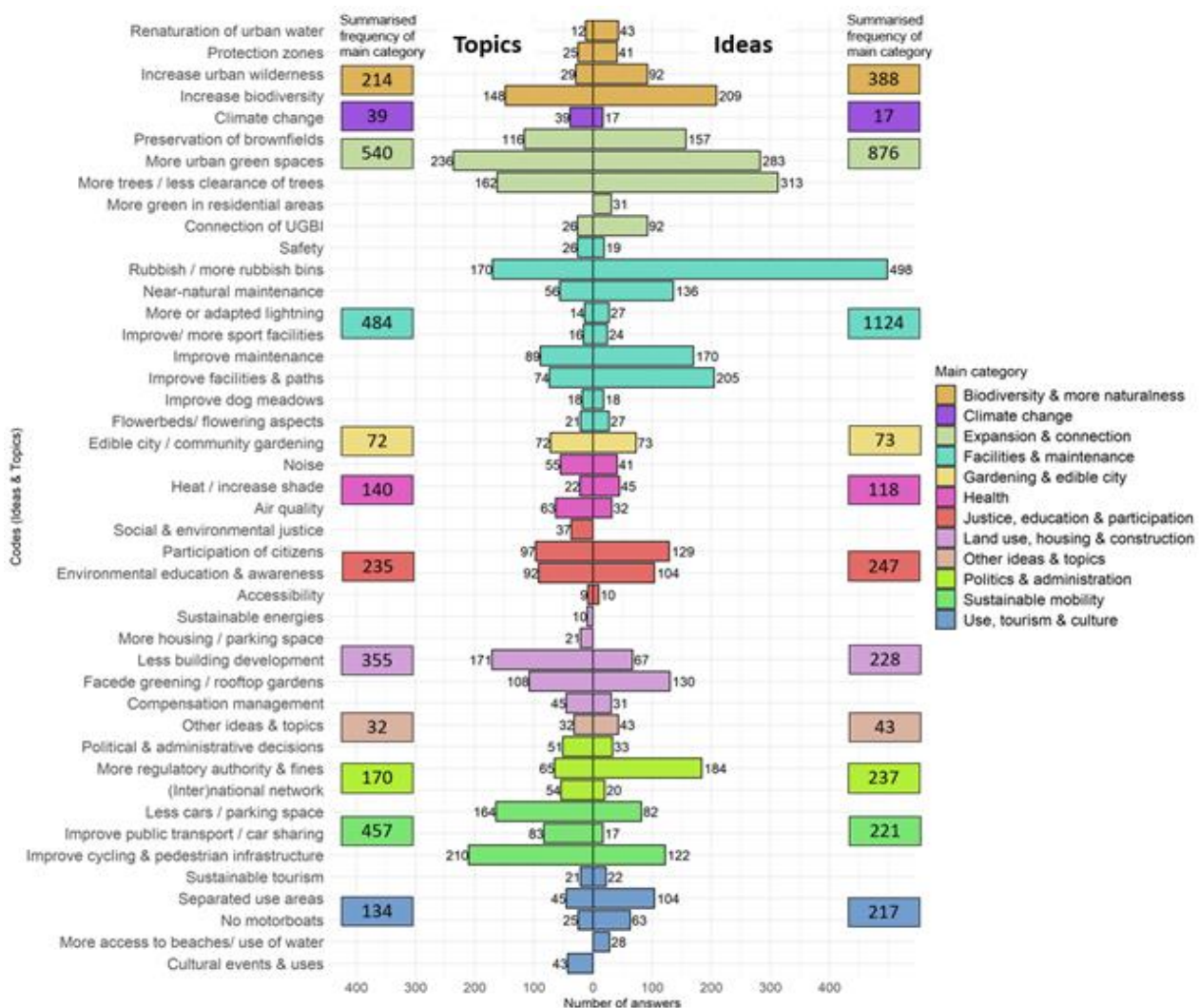


Figure 2: Ideas and Topics of citizens to improve GI of Leipzig, aggregated into 12 main categories.

Vilnius

Local scenario

Currently Vilnius city is in a process of a new master plan development. The plan was introduced to the citizens for their comments and suggestions. This plan acknowledges the importance of different green areas in the city and its meaning to the citizens and the quality of life. At the same time there are several ongoing projects in Vilnius city where new GI is developed, or the old ones renewed. During these processes, citizens are always engaged and different scenarios regarding green and grey infrastructure, their design and others are discussed.

Consequences of current use

The first results of ES use and preference analysis in two case study sites in Vilnius (presented in Priess et al. 2020 under revision) were briefly presented at the Greenery

department in the administration of Vilnius municipality. Currently no detailed information on local ES uses exists, thus this information is valuable for the planning processes.

Visioning

Project results from on-site surveys in parks and the main KPIs (indicators selected and analysed for Vilnius city) should help in better monitoring and management of GI. Thus, further analysis of the surveys' results will be offered to the municipality to adapt their ongoing and future projects for GI development or management. Information based on UrbanGaia KPI approach (Carmen et al., 2020) will be introduced to the city planners and park administrators regarding the effective indicators for monitoring urban GI in the city.

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