

GreenPlace Let's do it together!

## INTEGRATED ACTION PLAN

NITRA

SLOVAKIA

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## 1. FEW WORDS FROM OUR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP...

*Dear citizens of Nitra, dear partners,*

*The City of Nitra is undergoing dynamic development, with a strong focus on sustainable growth, the protection of our historical heritage, and the creation of high-quality public spaces for all. One of our key priorities is the revitalization of the former military barracks under Zobor, a site with immense potential to become a green and cultural hub for our city.*

*As part of the GreenPlace Integrated Action Plan, the city of Nitra is committed to restoring this important area to create a modern, open, and safe space for residents and visitors alike. In collaboration with the*



*Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Bishop's Office in Nitra, and other partners, we are working to transform this site into a vibrant center for culture, education, recreation, and community life.*

*Our vision is to connect history with the future, preserve green spaces and support biodiversity, and develop a safe and accessible park that will serve as a venue for recreational activities, cultural events, and educational initiatives. The plan includes the restoration of historical buildings, improvements to transportation infrastructure, and the opening of the area to the public, all while carefully preserving the site's historical and environmental significance.*

*This project is a great example of a modern, responsive local government that listens to its citizens and actively involves experts and communities in shaping public spaces. I firmly believe that through our collective efforts, we can transform the former military barracks under Zobor into a place of pride for all citizens of Nitra and a model of successful collaboration within European initiatives.*

*I look forward to taking this journey with you!*

*Marek Hattas*

*Mayor of Nitra*

*March 2025*



## 2. GREENPLACE. Let's do it together!

GreenPlace is an URBACT network consisting of ten partners who aim at developing a set of activities for "recycling" unused urban areas, using social participation tools. The project takes into account not only the regional specificities and conditions of each of the partners but also introduces greenery as a key factor in limiting climate change in urban areas. It is running run from July 2023 to December 2025.

It is led by the City of Wroclaw (Poland) and is composed of 8 project partners:

- Boulogne-sur-mer Développement Côte d'Opale - France
- Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association - Romania
- Limerick - Ireland
- Löbau - Germany
- Nitra - Slovakia
- Onda - Spain
- Quarto d'Altino - Italy
- Vila Nova de Poiares - Portugal





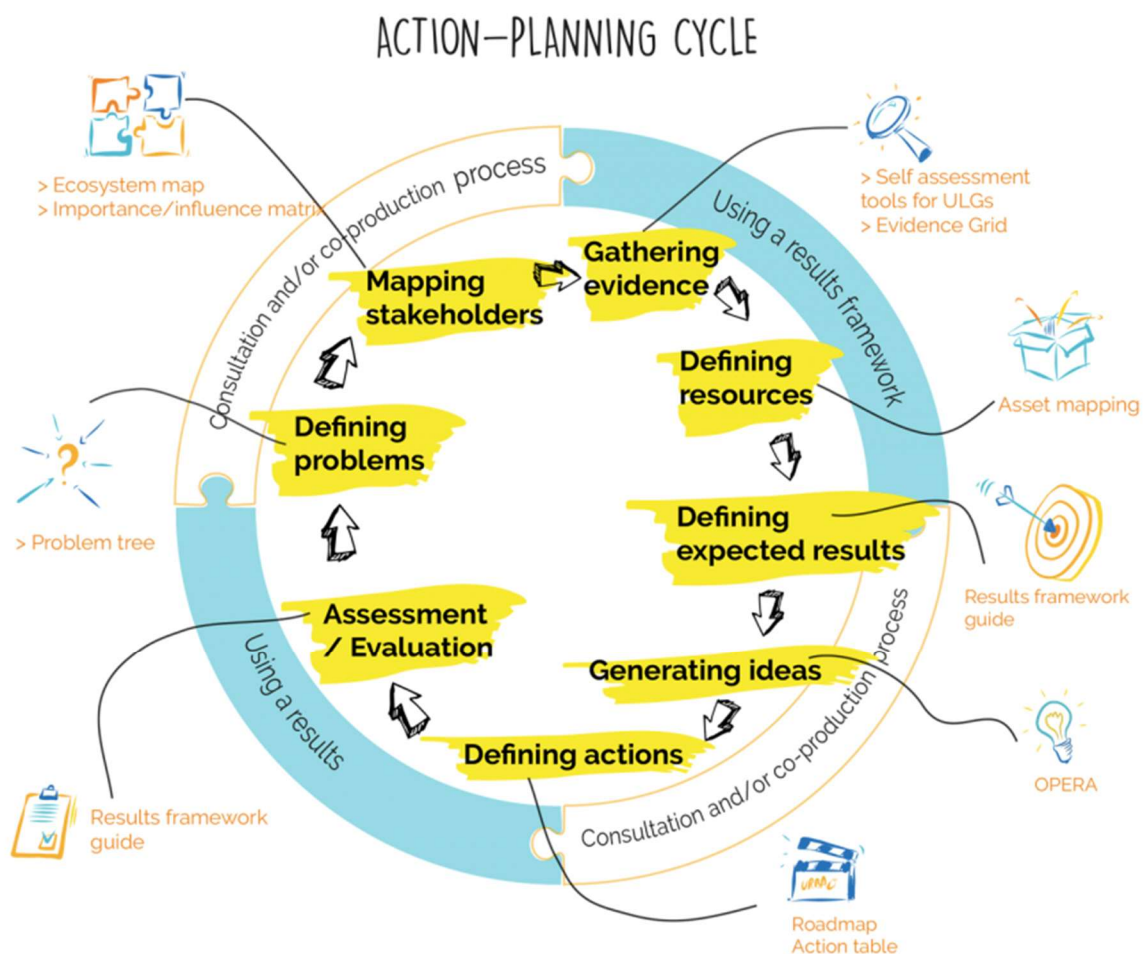
### 3. Why an Integrated Action Plan?

An URBACT Integrated Action Plan (IAP) is a key element of the URBACT methodology. It is a city-level output that defines actions to be implemented within the city in order to respond to a specific urban policy challenge - reflecting the lessons learned from local stakeholders, transnational partners and the testing of actions at local level.

IAPs thus provide both a focal point and end goal of the action planning journey that cities undertake within their URBACT Action Planning Network (APN). IAPs help to ensure that both local-level discussions (within the URBACT Local Group) and transnational exchange (between the network partners) have a practical focus on planning a coherent set of actions to address the local policy challenge in each participating city, embedding an integrated and participative approach.

IAPs are future oriented – setting out the actions that cities will implement beyond the life cycle of the URBACT network. For this reason, each IAP not only sets out what the city intends to do on its specific topic, but also has a strong implementation focus, for example through the identification of specific funding opportunities, governance structures and timelines for how the actions will be implemented and monitored.

The IAP links with the overall [URBACT Action Planning Cycle](#).



## 4. Context, needs and vision

### 4.1. Context

Nitra is a Slovakian medium-size city of 76 223 inhabitants, the 5th city of the country. The city of Nitra is the oldest seat in Slovakia, with initial settlement dating back to the 9th century. It is based around the river which gave the name to the city. As such, it has local historical and archaeological significance not only in Slovakia, but in the entire European region. The city of Nitra as a crossroads of two important routes: firstly it is a city lying on a strong route to the focal structure of the state and secondly it is a city tangential to its regional area of activity, all these contributing to the economic growth of the city. The key industrial sectors of the region are the engineering, chemical and food industries. The electronics and automotive industries are concentrated in a new industrial park. Last but not least, tourism is also a key economic asset.

The city of Nitra is overall very green and there is a strong political will to increase the quality of greenery, also with the aim of improving air quality. Water is a key element in the city, especially the Nitra River, which forms one of the compositional axes of the city.

At the same time, water is also a factor to potential threats to the city such as floodings and insufficient rainwater absorption and groundwater level drops. The city is also quite concerned with increased heat waves and heat islands in the city, with health-related effects and the overall effect of climate change on vulnerable population.

The population is overall decreasing with an ageing process. Participatory processes do not have a positive reputation because of the national political heritage, yet, increasing attempts to co-create local policies have taken place.

### 4.2. Local challenge

The URBACT GreenPlace IAP for Nitra city focuses on the area of the military barracks on Martin Hills, which were built in 1882. It consisted of 10 brick buildings and 24 wooden barracks with all the necessary accessories for the accommodation of 300 permanent and 1200 temporary military residents. At the beginning of the 1890s, a military hospital with two other smaller pavilions were additionally built (early 1890s), the site expanded with two buildings and a training area (in the interwar period of the 20th century), reconstructions and interventions carried out in the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The site witnesses political and historical changes, and also appeared to be hiding archaeological treasures. Many of the buildings are under heritage protection status.

Nowadays, the entire site is divided between three owners and parallel activities:

- The Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences: with its offices, warehouses and an archaeological park (incl. a 9<sup>th</sup> century church remains);
- The Bishop's Office in Nitra: planning to renovate a former hospital and a former inn;
- The City of Nitra: which has already renovated 2 buildings for the needs of a kindergarten, and by the end of 2024 also 4 buildings for the needs of The Nitra Creative Center.

Offices of the Academy of Sciences



The former hospital



The kindergarten and creative centre





### IAP Focus

On the occasion of an official visit of Emperor Francis Joseph I in 1887, ornamental trees and trusses, were planted, which now bear heritage protection status. Although the quality of greenery degrades without maintenance, its area is still intact without major negative impacts. Due to its size, the vegetation of the park is a biocenter in the city system. A staircase was also built to liaise the park to the most active part of the military barracks, which forms a key part of the park and a central piece of the entire site. The park is currently fenced with a visual blockage from residents' access. In any case, the current state of degradation of the entire site makes it unsafe, notwithstanding the beauty of wildness. In addition, the area concerned by the IAP is owned both by the Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bishop's Office in Nitra and by the City of Nitra. The IAP will focus on making this park visible and accessible as well as useful for people and for the environment.

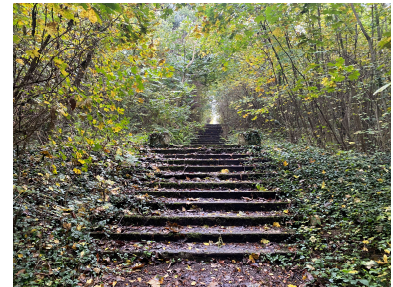
Entrance to the site and the park



The current green area



The historical staircase



As such, the green revitalisation of the park will seek to make it accessible to all, connecting it to the remainder of the former military barracks site and connecting it with other areas of greenery in the city so that together they create a functional skeleton of the city's greenery.

### 4.3. Relevant existing strategies

#### At national/regional level

The area under consideration is a protected monument, therefore all activities must be in accordance with the **Law no. 49/2002 Coll. Act on the Protection of the Monumental Fund**. This law regulates the conditions for the protection of cultural monuments, heritage sites, archaeological finds and archaeological sites in accordance with scientific knowledge and on the basis of international treaties in the field of European and world cultural heritage to which the Slovak Republic is bound.

Considering the existence of the Creative Center of the City of Nitra in the given area, the **Strategy of Culture and Creative Industry of the Slovak Republic 2030** [Stratégia kultúry a kreatívneho priemyslu - Stratégia kultúry a kreatívneho priemyslu](#) prepared by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic is also an important document. Its intention is currently to formulate long-term strategic goals of the state cultural policy with regularly updated action plans and to link these goals with the policies of other departments with a view to 2030.

For the necessary involvement of citizens in the process of development of the city territory, the National tool of the **Partnership and Dialogue Support Project in the field of participatory public policy creation** has been added. Participation and participative creation of public policies is one of the pillars of open governance, to which Slovakia, through the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society [Národný projekt Participácia \(participacia.eu\)](#), has been applying since 2011.

The goal is for formalized cooperation to be replaced by the principle of partnership between public administration and non-governmental non-profit organizations and was initiated a positive change in the attitudes of public administration workers towards the participatory creation of public policies.

## At local level

### Environmental policy background

From the point of view of the need to address aspects of climate change in the given area, we will also be based on the document **Climate Change Adaptation Measures Strategy for the City of Nitra** [Stratégia adaptačných opatrení na zmenu klímy pre mesto Nitra](#).

The planned territory is an important area of green space in the city, therefore the document of **The General City Plan of Greenery in Nitra** [Generálny plán zelene pre mesto Nitra - Nitra](#) serves as the basis for the green plan of the area. This aims to ensure the long-term stability of the green system, the development of its ecological and recreational functions and the optimization of green management costs. It is a tool in the process of assessing submitted project documentation from the point of view of creating and protecting the environment, from the point of view of regulating construction activity with the aim of minimizing the impact on green and blue infrastructure

### Urban planning

The most important document for planning the development of the territory in the city is the **General City Plan**. This is the basic law to regulate the processes that happen in the city. It is a social agreement about what our city should look like [UPN NITRA](#). More detailed principles of the creation of the city's public spaces are laid down in the document **Manual of public spaces of the city of Nitra** [Manual-verejnych-priestranstiev-Analyticka-cast.pdf \(nitra.sk\)](#), [Manual-verejnych-priestranstiev-Navrhova-cast.pdf \(nitra.sk\)](#).

The key problem of our territory is its accessibility by transport, which is why the **Mobility Plan of the city of Nitra** is also an important document. It is a strategic document whose goal is to create conditions for meeting the mobility needs of people and businesses in the city and its surroundings, while at the same time reducing the negative effects of traffic on the quality of life in the city. The aim of this document is to search and find possibilities for sustainable urban transport service of the territory with the help of citizens, city, regional and state authorities <https://uzemnyplan.nitra.sk/plan-udrzitelnej-mobility/>.

### Economy

All activities of the City of Nitra must be in accordance with the document **Program of economic development and social development of the city of Nitra** for the period 2015-2023 [Program hospodárskeho rozvoja a sociálneho rozvoja mesta Nitry 2015 -2023](#), which conceptually and systematically analyzes the current state of the territory and determines the future of development through specifically local interventions - key investment and non-investment projects in the field of economic, social, environmental and institutional. It creates a content, financial and institutional framework for the fulfillment of the vision and strategic goals. A new document is currently being processed.

### Social issues

When creating public spaces for people, it is necessary to proceed from the documents of the **Action Plan of the "Nitra for All"** project [Stratégia prístupnosti mesta Nitry pre všetkých - Nitra](#) - which supports the removal of architectural and social barriers for visitors to the city. Part of it is the formulation of 10 steps that will "lead" the city to accessibility. The material is based on the principles and requirements of the National Program for the Development of the Living Conditions of Persons with Disabilities for the years 2014-2020, which, among other things, ensure barrier-free solutions for the environment and accessibility of buildings.

Due to the condition of the area and its closedness, it is necessary to solve societal issues such as antisocial behavior and homelessness in this area of the city. In this area, it is possible to work with the documents **The Strategy of risk behavior for the City of Nitra** [Stratégia riešenia rizikového správania - Nitra](#) and **The Concept of solving the problem of people without homes in the territory of the city of Nitra for the years 2019-2022** [Koncepcia riešenia problematiky ľudí bez domova na území mesta Nitry na roky 2019 – 2022 - Nitra](#). Other topics from the social field that can and need to be solved in the given territory are the issue of active aging of the population, which is processed in the document



**Program of active aging in Nitra for the years 2023-2030** [Program aktívneho starnutia v Nitre na roky 2023 -2030 - Nitra](#) and the possibilities of housing development in the given locality, which is in accordance with **The housing development program of the city of Nitra until 2030** [Program rozvoja bývania mesta Nitra do roku 2030 - Nitra](#). Similarly, the issue of migration and integration of foreigners will be based on the document **Situational analysis of migration and the possibilities of integration of foreigners in the city of Nitra** [Situačná analýza migrácie a možností integrácie cudzincov v meste Nitra - Nitra](#).

### Culture, heritage and education

In the process of planning the contents of the area, due to its cultural and historical significance and potential for the development of tourism and culture, it is also necessary to take into account the document **The Strategy for the Development of Culture and Creative Industry 2021-2031** [NK31 - Stratégia rozvoja kultúry a kreatívneho priemyslu 2021 – 2031 - Nitra](#) and the document **The Strategy for the Development of Tourism in the City of Nitra for the years 2021-2023** [Stratégia rozvoja cestovného ruchu v meste Nitra na roky 2021 - 2031 - Nitra](#)

## 4.4. Green Place in the working practices of the City

The project benefits from the support from the Mayor and the vice mayor for urban planning, which was present during the Lead Expert partner visit. The project will be implemented by the Environment department. There is familiarity with URBACT tools, financing, methodologies and purpose, one member of the current team have worked on URBACT before.

## 4.5. Problem identification with and by local stakeholders

### 4.5.1. GreenPlace ULG

The process of building the URBACT GreenPlace IAP for Nitra is based on co-creative process with an NGO, **SPOLKA** (expert in these types of projects), which the municipality started in June 2023. The first result was the creation of a **map of stakeholders** and evaluation of the form of their relevance. In total, up to 54 stakeholders were identified, who were classified into three groups according to their relevance. The first group, made up of owners, main users, local politicians and architects, completed personal interviews with SPOLKA and also participated in a workshop. The second group of stakeholders was invited to participate in the workshop. The third group of stakeholders was informed about the results of the research by email. Based on this process, the main ULG partners were selected. The second impressive result, 1700 people responded to the first questionnaire on the site (beyond any standard average for such questionnaires), and 24 took part in a workshop and 200 in guided tours. After process with SPOLKA, Nitra team have identified the relevant stakeholders with the use of the stakeholder ecosystem map, stakeholder influence/importance matrix and the stakeholder analysis table.

ULG members with the greatest influence and interest in the area are the **owners of the area**:

- **Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra** (*director Matej Ruttkay*) is not only owner, but also the most important user, which currently operates the most buildings such as offices and warehouses and open-air museum - archeopark.
- **Roman Catholic Bishopric in Nitra** (*office director Martin Štofko*) does not yet have any operations here, but plans to renovate two buildings, and the permitting process is underway.
- **City of Nitra** is a minority owner in the area, but it operates a kindergarten here, and from 2024 also 4 buildings of **Nitra Creative Center** (*director Katarina Živanovič*).

Another important ULG member is the **Regional Monuments Office in Nitra**, which has decision-making and permitting competences for most processes in the area, since it is a monument territory. Another important group are the others **users of the area**, during the project, an NGO **“Bees of Zobor” (Zoborské včely)** (*Rudolf Kotrusz*) joined ULG as a member. They established a city apiary on the premises and are dedicated to education and awareness in the field of beekeeping.

- **ZAN Association of Nitra Architects** (*Martin Dulík*)

The municipality has acquired previous expertise in co-design/co-development/co-maintenance throughout the **H2020 IN-HABIT project** [Projekt Nitra Dražovce | IN-HABIT](#) and has also started the co-creation of the renovation of the military base with citizens: these experiences have already been full of learnings!



## Stakeholder Ecosystem Map



### Stakeholder influence

#### 4.5.2. ULG Methodology

The core Nitra Greenplace team is based in the Environment Department of the Local Authority. The team consists of the project coordinator, the ULG coordinator, finance officer and architect from Department of the Chief Arcitect. ULG meetings will follow the project timeline, objectives, and activities as outlined by Lead Partner. Each meeting has an agenda, and minutes provided thereafter. Screen grabs will be taken for online meetings, attendance sheets for in person meetings. ULG meetings will follow the methodologies and tools for facilitation as outlined by LP and URBACT. ULG members will inform how, and in what way we can best use these tools in relation to our chosen sites, SSAs, and activities overall. We will ensure learning from the transnational network activities will be shared with the ULG members for the co-production of the IAP via email, ULG meetings, newsletters, social media/organisation website (where applicable).

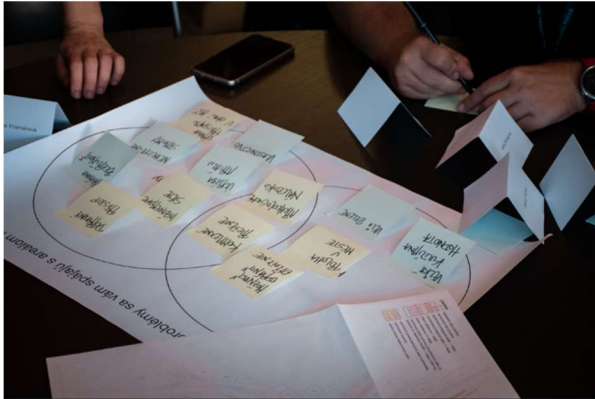
Potential risks and mitigation measures identified for the ULG process are detailed in the table below.

Risk	Mitigation strategy
Lack of political support	Keep elected member briefed on project progress to keep interest and support alive.
Non-participation of land and building owners on project	Cooperation with the owners so they see benefits for themselves in the proposed project
As the project progresses chance ULG members will become disinterested or less involved in the project.	Need to ensure that we are focused on stakeholder's areas of interest and that from the interest matrix that the high interest stakeholders are identified that will want to highly involved in the project.
Over expectation of project deliverables	Meaningful communication with stakeholders from the start on deliverables, be clear policy works, not capital. Manage expectations
Project staff changeover	Keep a strong project core team, consisting of the finance officer, communication officer, ULG coordinator, project coordinator. Ensure monthly meeting take place with core team and all meeting are minuted and filed.



#### 4.5.3. Co-identification of local priorities

##### SWOT analysis



SWOT analysis and vision of the area is the result of a participatory process with stakeholders led by SPOLKA . The strongest point of the territory is the historical value of the buildings and the size of the green area, which create genius loci and have great potential for the given part of the municipality, but also the entire city and region. The biggest problem in the area is the technical condition of the area and the lack of maintenance, which make it impossible to use the area. Another problem is the restrictions on traffic to the area, the impossibility of building entrances to the area, and also problems with static traffic and the area, i.e. the impossibility of building new parking spaces for reconstructed buildings. The biggest challenge is the possibility of building a new public park for the city of Nitra and connecting it with other green areas in the city, creating an interconnected ecosystem network of green areas in Nitra. The biggest threat is the lack of funds and the impossibility to invest due to the problem of transport to the territory.

## SWOT ANALYSIS

### STRENGTHS

- The area as an oasis of peace and relaxation
- Largest contiguous area of green space in the city of Nitra,
- Lots of greenery and its environmental significance within the city
- Existing communication between the city and the owners as a good start
- Existing or emerging amenities (kindergarten, creative centre, archeopark)
- Genius loci of the place – its identity and history, cultural value
- Convenient location within the city – proximity to the centre but also to the Zobor Municipal District
- Recreation zone
- Monumental value of buildings
- Valuable greenery – but at the same time not in good condition

### WEAKNESSES

- Maintenance of the green areas of the area: greenery is wild, trees are in dangerous condition, lack of regular mowing, clearing of paths, dangerous trees
- Traffic access to the site – There is only 1 entrance to the site, no side gate, the exit to Dobšinského Street and connection to the surrounding area is complicated
- Pedestrian movement within and into the site – Poor access via junction which is dangerous, poorly designed pedestrian walkways within the site, inappropriately designed entrance to the site
- Area safety – technically (buildings in poor condition), homeless people
- Parking – lacking and at the same time it is not advisable to "concretise" everything
- Ownership structure – land and buildings are of different owners, but the advantage is that not private
- Exposed military bunkers and underground entrances – danger to people
- Lack of technical infrastructure
- Space around the kindergarten – needs to be adapted

### OPPORTUNITIES

- A new public park (and recreation area) for the city of Nitra
- Connection with other green areas in the city, creation of one of the largest parks in Slovakia, or creation of an interconnected ecosystem network of green areas in Nitra
- Terrain break as potential
- Creation of a pedestrian zone
- Students from nearby schools using the area for leisure
- Community space for the residents of Zobor
- Opening the site to the public, but considering the balance between closing and opening the park for safety and care
- Restart original functions of building (bowling)
- Multifunctional urban environment
- Incorporation of new functions, e.g. creation of an NSK museum
- Creation of a shared care system
- Architectural competition and the creativity it offers
- Cooperation: linking the intentions of the individual owners
- A creative centre that creates opportunities

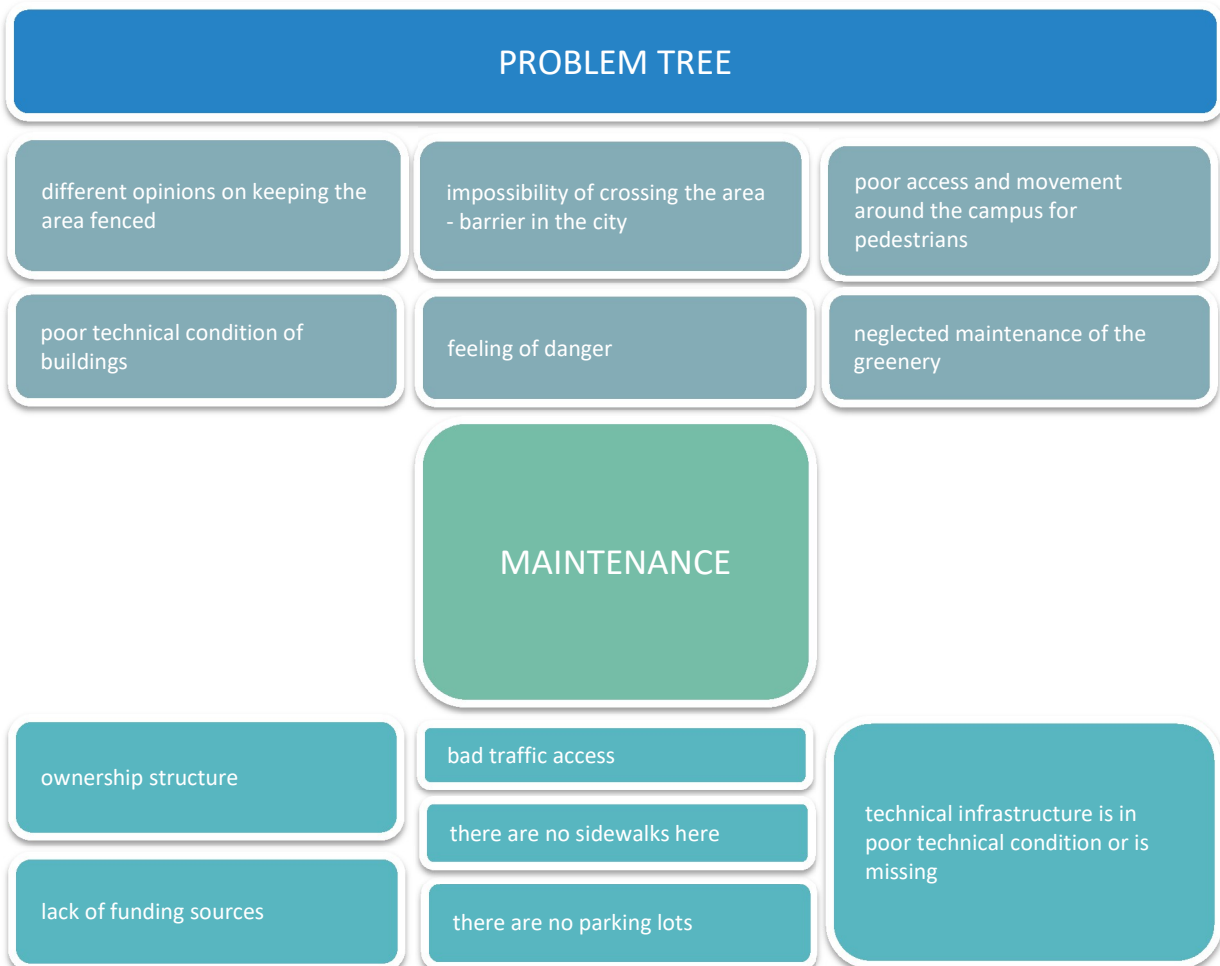
### TREATS

- Lack of funding to implement plans
- Traffic solution for the site and its connections, creating access from several sides of the site – congested traffic in the area and inability to connect to Dobšinského Street
- Creation of suitable pedestrian access
- Different owners with different intentions and their coordination
- Creation of conditions for the development of technical infrastructure
- Underdeveloped technical infrastructure that was not coordinated
- The day-to-day management of the park, fencing – or the opening of the area, development and the complex design of the site are perceived as both threats and opportunities



### Problem tree

The priority in the area is the maintenance of the area, which is agreed upon by all owners and users of the area. Problematic maintenance is caused by poor transport to the site, lack of funds and maintenance, unclear competences in the site, lack of a site administrator and lack of operating rules. The consequence of poor maintenance is the impossibility of safe use of the area, which causes problems with the operation of operations and access of residents to the area.



### 4.5.4. Co-created vision for GreenPlace

The vision of the barracks complex for the year 2030

In 2030, the area of the former Military Barracks in Nitra is restored to a pleasant place used by all generations

## 4.6. Testing action

### Open Days on Martin's Hill

The proposed testing action continued the engagement of the public in the co-design of the park. We wanted the area of the former military barracks to be put on the map and for people to see the possibilities that the whole area had to offer. We wanted to make visible the possibilities offered by the Nitra Creative Center as a process accelerator in the locality and thus create local dynamics. Planned activities included guided tours, opening of the buildings of the Institute of Archeology and the Nitra Creative Center, historical program in the Archaeological open-air museum, exhibition of student proposals for the revitalization of the area, and workshops with ecological themes. The open day took place twice in 2024, on the occasion of events of city-wide or regional importance in the city. The goal was to test the format of the events in such a way that all stakeholders in the campus were involved and the program was attractive to as many people as possible.

#### Testing Action 1

*Open Days on Martin's Hill, part of the 3-day Cyril and Methodius celebrations, 6.7.2024*

The Institute of Archeology opened a depository, organized a historical program in the Archaeological Open-Air Museum, while the City Tourist Office organized guided tours of the area. Honey tasting was provided by Zoborské včely (MVO), accompanied by bee observation and candle making. The City of Nitra also identified residents' opinions about the territory using a sensory map and prepared an educational activity Get to Know the Trees for children.

#### Testing Action 2

*Days of Architecture on Martin's Hill as a part of Days of Architecture in Nitra, 29.9.2024*

The City of Nitra together with ZAN – Society of Architects Nitra and with the Faculty of Architecture and Design (Slovak Technical University in Bratislava) prepared a student design exhibition of the transformation of the territory. The exhibition was hosted thanks to the support of the Bishop's Office.

Both testing actions provided valuable insights that directly contributed to the preparation of the Integrated Action Plan. Firstly, they demonstrated that the area has strong potential for cultural, educational, ecological and touristic uses, which confirmed the relevance of the proposed strategic and specific objectives (heritage protection, safety and accessibility, environmental values, community use, and tourism). Secondly, they enabled the City of Nitra to actively involve a wide spectrum of stakeholders – from cultural and educational institutions, NGOs and the Church to residents and families – which validated the approach of creating platforms for cooperation and stakeholder engagement. Thirdly, the public feedback collected during these events (e.g. through the sensory map or informal discussions) helped to shape concrete actions in the IAP, such as the creation of public spaces, cultural events, and support for biodiversity. Finally, the testing actions proved that the format of open days and thematic events can serve as effective tools for raising awareness, mobilising community support, and putting Martin's Hill firmly on the city map as a space with future development potential.



*Open Days on Martin's Hill, part of the 3-day Cyril and Methodius celebrations, 6.7.2024*





*Days of Architecture on Martin's Hill as a part of Days of Architecture in Nitra, 29.9.2024*



## 5. Overall logic and integrated approach

### 5.1. Logic of intervention, IAP Focus

The base of the Integrated Action Plan is the **overall vision “The area of the former Military Barracks in Nitra is restored to a pleasant place used by all generations”**. The city of Nitra would want to focus on a series of strategic objectives with areas of intervention and related actions to meet and fulfill this vision. Strategic objectives and areas of intervention were determined by the problems identified in collaboration with ULG group. The strategic goals are broadly based on mitigating the security problem of the area, promoting awareness of Martin's Hill and its cultural and historical values, incorporating the area of former military barracks for the first time in history into the space of the city of Nitra and the lives of its citizens, preserving and strengthening the ecological and historical value of the park.

### 5.2. The strategic and specific objectives

This simple vision statement is then delivered through the following five strategic objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1: Preserve and promote the heritage of the area
- Strategic Objective 2: Ensure that the area is safe and accessible
- Strategic Objective 3: Support/enhance the environmental values of the area
- Strategic Objective 4: Promote use of the area as a community space
- Strategic Objective 5: Promote the touristic potential of the area



*The area of the former Military Barracks in Nitra is restored to a pleasant place used by all generations*

### Area of intervention

**A**  
Heritage

**B**  
Infrastructure

**C**  
Green and blue  
infrastructure

**D**  
Recreation and Tourism

### Strategic objectives

Preserve and  
promote the  
heritage of the  
area

Ensure that  
the area is safe  
and accessible

Support/enhance the  
environmental values  
of the area

Promote the  
area as a  
community  
space

Promote the  
touristic  
potential of  
the area

### Specific objectives

Increase the  
number of  
renovated  
buildings

Create a  
platform for  
stakeholder  
cooperation in  
the area

Protect the value of the  
historical park

Engaging the local community

Support biodiversity

Create conditions for recreation

Create strategy  
of the area  
development

Increase visitor  
safety

Support of community  
gardening

Put Martin's Hill on city map

Implement solutions for  
water retention



### 5.3. Areas of interventions

#### A Heritage

Action	Output target(s)	Action Lead	Partners	Resource needs (EUR)	Timeframe
<b>A.1</b> Preservation and renovation of buildings	Abandoned buildings restored for new use Growing number of renovated buildings (m <sup>2</sup> )	City of Nitra Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	Monuments Office	60 – 100 mil	Long-term 2025 – 2045 every 3 years one heritage-protected building repaired
<b>A.2</b> General plan of the area	The General Plan of the territory has been developed as a legal basis for further development	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science, Bishopric of Nitra, Monuments Office	200 000	Medium-term by 2027

#### B Infrastructure

Action	Output target(s)	Action Lead	Partners	Resource needs (EUR)	Timeframe
<b>B.1</b> Operation instruction	Published operating rules for visitors and users of the area, monitoring of compliance	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra Monuments Office	0	Short-term 2025
<b>B.2</b> Public lighting and security camera system	A public lighting network has been built in the area and security is ensured by cameras.	City of Nitra Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	Monuments Office	1 mil	Long-term 2025 – 2045
<b>B.3</b> Construction of sidewalks	A network of pedestrian paths has been built in the area so that all visited objects are safely accessible.	City of Nitra Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	Monuments Office	5 mil	Long-term 2025 – 2045

#### C Green and blue infrastructure

Action	Output target(s)	Action Lead	Partners	Resource needs (EUR)	Timeframe
<b>C.1</b> Design plan for historical park restoration	A proposal for the restoration of the historical park has been developed as a basic document for its preservation and development.	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra Monuments Office	100 000	Medium-term by 2027
<b>C.2</b> Regular tree care arborist treatments and inspection	Arborist treatments and tree inspection assessments are carried out	City of Nitra Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra		500 000	Regular (at least once every 2 years)

<b>C.3</b> Elimination of invasive plants	Invasive plants are eliminated through regular maintenance	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	50 000	Regular (at least once every 2 years)
<b>C.4</b> Planting of trees	Trees are regularly planted in the area according to the park renovation plan (at least 20 trees per year)	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	5000/per year	Regular (at least once every 2 years)
<b>C.5</b> Flower meadows and honey plants for pollinators	Flower meadows are established and honey plants are planted	City of Nitra	Zobor Bees Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	100 000	Medium-term by 2030
<b>C.6</b> Leaving dead wood for insect	Dead tree wood is left for insects in places where it is safe for visitors	City of Nitra	Office of State Nature Conservation	100 000	Medium-term by 2030
<b>C.7</b> Houses for hedgehogs	The collection of leaves from trees is managed to preserve places for hedgehogs to hibernate	City of Nitra	Office of State Nature Conservation	100 000	Medium-term by 2030
<b>C.8</b> Composting	There are places in the area for composting biological waste, 1 l/1 m <sup>2</sup> of park	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	200 000	Medium-term by 2030
<b>C.9</b> Community orchard and garden	Community orchards and gardens are established	City of Nitra	NGO Živica NGO Hide park - KOZA	200 000	Medium-term by 2030
<b>C.10</b> Underground water tank/ polders	When renovating buildings, reservoirs and polders are built to collect rainwater from roofs	City of Nitra Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra		1 mil	Medium-term by 2030

## D Recreation and Tourism

Action	Output target(s)	Action Lead	Partners	Resource needs (EUR)	Timeframe
<b>D.1</b> Create public spaces	Public spaces such as squares and marketplaces are created	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	3 mil	Medium-term by 2030
<b>D.2</b> Cultural and social events	Cultural, educational, social or sports events are organized in the entire area together with other members and residents, at least 2 per year	City of Nitra Nitra Creative Centre	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	1 mil	Medium-term by 2030
<b>D.3</b> Create a platform for stakeholders in the field of culture in the area	A platform of stakeholders in the field of culture has been created with activities in the barracks area, led by the Nitra Creative Centre	City of Nitra Nitra Creative Centre		100 000	Medium-term by 2030
<b>D.4</b> Open Days	Regularly, at least once a year, an Open Day is organized on the	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science	100 000	Short-term 2025 Regular

	premises as a continuation of the testing event.		Bishopric of Nitra Nitra Creative Centre		(at least once every years)
<b>D.5</b> Regular guided tours	Regularly, at least once every 1-2 years, guided tours of the area are organized as a continuation of the testing event.	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra Nitra Creative Centre	100 000	Short-term 2025 Regular (at least once every years)
<b>D.6</b> Printed and online info materials	Promotional and information materials for the area have been created - printed brochures, websites	City of Nitra Tourist Information Centre	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra Nitra Creative Centre	100 000	Medium-term by 2027
<b>D.7</b> Communication strategy and design manual for all stakeholders	A communication strategy and design guide is used for all stakeholders, ensuring a consistent presentation of events on campus	City of Nitra Nitra Creative Centre	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	100 000	Medium-term by 2027
<b>D.8</b> Educational paths - online and in the field (via QR codes, online adventure game, information boards)	Educational paths - online and in the field (via QR codes, online adventure game, information boards)	City of Nitra	Slovak Academy of Science Tourist Information Centre Nitra Creative Centre	200 000	Medium-term by 2027
<b>D.9</b> Concept of City Museum	A concept for the City Museum has been developed, which will also focus on the history of this area.	City of Nitra Tourist Information Centre	Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra Nitra Creative Centre	200 000	Medium-term by 2030
<b>D.10</b> Create sport and leisure spaces	There are sports and recreational facilities, at least 2 indoor and 4 outdoor areas	City of Nitra Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra		2 mil	Long-term by 2045
<b>D.11</b> Create natural playground	A natural playground with an archaeology theme has been built	City of Nitra Slovak Academy of Science	Nitra Creative Centre Local Kindergarten	250 000	Medium-term by 2030
<b>D.12</b> Create inclusive spaces and pathways	Inclusive spaces and paths for visitors are built	City of Nitra Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra		300 000	Long-term by 2045
<b>D.13</b> Hygienic and food facilities	There are hygiene and catering facilities for visitors	City of Nitra Slovak Academy of Science Bishopric of Nitra	Nitra Creative Centre	300 000	Long-term by 2045



## 5.4. Integration of Action Plan

Integration			
Type of integration	What is covered?	What is missing?	How do you plan to address the missing elements?
<b>Sectorial integration</b>	<i>The different areas of intervention represent a broad sectoral integration across different areas (Infrastructure, Economy, Nature, Recreation, Tourism, Culture, Education). The plan also builds on experience with Nature-based Solutions, a design manual of public spaces, and the digital tourism app "Several Hills".</i>	<i>Social aspect</i>	<i>In regional planning supporting socially weaker groups, e.g. rental apartments, job opportunities</i>
<b>Horizontal</b>	<i>Most of the actions, goals and areas of intervention are open to anyone who is interested. There is participation in the local ULG group from several Departments across the Local Authority and city institutions such as Nitra Creative Center, and Tourist information Center. However, a major role here is played by the landowners themselves, who must themselves bring incentives for cooperation with the city. The ULG group is open to all and as the project progresses new stakeholders are identified and invited to join.</i>	<i>More partners from the third sector (NGO)</i>	<i>After the reconstruction of several buildings and the area, it is assumed that the owners will also rent out space to NGOs. This will create space for the involvement of these stakeholders. In addition, cooperation will be enhanced through joint green maintenance (as part of the biocenter concept), inclusive co-design activities, and promotion of digital tools for public involvement.</i>
<b>Vertical integration</b>	<i>The political leaders of the City Council and Representatives of the regional government are invited to participate in the ULG meetings and the internal coordination meetings of the project.</i>	<i>Greater level of attendance by the local elected members</i>	<i>Establish a clear communication framework and regular meetings to ensure effective information flow and coordination. Keep local elected members updated on the progress and next steps of the project.</i>
<b>Territorial integration</b>	<i>For some previous activities, the nearby neighborhood was invited. Contact with nearby companies has also already been established.</i>	<i>The involvement of neighbors must be increased in the future to avoid neighbors becoming dissatisfied.</i>	<i>The neighborhood must be specifically invited. Conduct community consultations and workshops prior to implementation.</i>
<b>Soft hard investments</b>	<i>According to the current status, the different intervention areas include both soft (culture, heritage, education) and hard (nature, infrastructure, renovation) investments.</i>	<i>Financing for the hard investments (renovation) has not yet been clarified. To discuss with owners who is best placed to apply for appropriate funding calls to build out aspects of the hard measures.</i>	<i>Financing for renovation still needs to be worked out. Create a funding plan that clearly identifies sources of soft and hard investments, including support for green infrastructure (biocenters, water retention systems), smart lighting, and digital accessibility features.</i>

## 5.5. The URBACT Cross-Cutting themes in your Action Plan

Cross-cutting themes			
Theme	Approach to ensure the action will be address this theme	What is missing?	How do you plan to address the missing elements?
<b>Green/ Environment</b>	<i>The great value of the area is the trees in the area and the composition of the park. The aim of the interventions is therefore to preserve these values, but also to ensure the safety of trees, high-quality maintenance of greenery, and prevent the spread of invasive woody plants. IAP activities are also dedicated to the area of supporting biodiversity (supporting pollinators, insects) and education in the field of nature. Community activity is also supported through community gardens. Measures in the area of biodegradable waste management systems such as composting will also be applied and solutions for water retention are also implemented. In addition, green areas and water retention measures will be added in zones outside the monument area. The goal is to preserve and increase the quality of vegetation in the area and to connect the territory as a biocenter within the green network of the city. This builds on the city's wide experience of Nature-based Solutions and support for local green policies.</i>	<i>There is a lack of greater involvement of owners in the maintenance of greenery.</i>	<i>The city takes responsibility for the green maintenance concept and will address joint financing options.</i>
<b>Gender/Inclusion</b>	<i>The IAP's activities are based on the participation process with SPOLKA. During the participation process, the focus was already on a broad target group and as diverse a mix of participants as possible (young people, children, senior citizens, refugees, etc.). To date all social events have been held in flat accessible areas. Free events and open to all. A design manual of public spaces and public procurement rules with inclusive criteria (IN-HABIT co-design) is in place and is being further developed. These will be analysed from a gender perspective, aiming for inclusive and accessible urban development.</i>	<i>The area is not yet safe and barrier-free.</i>	<i>The accessibility and safety of the area must be taken into account in all planning steps of the renovation concept.</i>
<b>Digital</b>	<i>Digitalization can play a role in public relations, communication and technical building equipment. The tourism office's digital application "Several Hills – then and now" showcases the area's transformation and contributes to digital engagement. Future ambitions include smart solutions for lights and digital accessibility for visually or hearing-impaired users.</i>	<i>Apart from the website and public relations on social media, no significant digital technologies are currently in use.</i>	<i>Develop a digitalisation plan that includes the integration of smart technologies in the management of the area.</i>

## 6. Action planning details





## C.9 COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND GARDEN FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

Support of community gardening

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

City of Nitra

**KEY PARTNERS**Institute of Horticulture of the  
SUA, NGO Hide park – KOZA –  
local initiative centre**RESULTS**

- improving the quality of life of residents by increasing access to existing green areas,
- promotion of garden plots as important elements of the green system of the city of Nitra,
- local initiative centres as sources of potential financing and integration of activities in the coming years of gradual revitalization of the area,

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

In the area of the former barracks, green areas will be provided, which can be temporarily or permanently provided to the local community for growing fruit and vegetables. These community gardens and orchards will ensure not only community life, but also the maintenance of greenery and the safety of the area.

The city of Nitra will build a city orchard here, the aim of which is to ensure biodiversity in the area and honey plants for the city apiary. In cooperation with fruit-growing organizations and the Institute of Horticulture of the Slovak University of Agriculture, the orchard can be built to save and present local varieties of fruit trees.

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS**The General City Plan of  
Greenery in Nitra**RESOURCES**

own financial and human resources of the city of Nitra (participation, workshops, technical infrastructure) worth 200 000 Euros, possible also financing also from smaller environmental

**TIMESCALE**Medium-term  
Implemented by 2030**RISK**

- possible problems with protecting gardens and orchards from vandalism and theft
- insufficient maintenance of gardens and orchards by tenants
- insufficient water for watering

## C.5 FLOWER MEADOWS AND HONEY PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS



### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

Support of biodiversity

**LEAD ORGANISATION**  
City of Nitra

**KEY PARTNERS**  
NGO Zobor Bees, Land  
owners - Slovak Academy of  
Science, Bishopric of Nitra

### RESULTS

Flower meadows and perennial beds of honey plants will bring several benefits to the territory:

- reducing the intensity of mowing lawns, which will also reduce the costs of
- maintaining green areas
- in the cost of increase in biodiversity;
- increasing water retention;
- Increasing air filtration (absorbing suspended dust)

### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The establishment of flower meadows and perennial flower beds will consist of several activities:

- Selecting suitable locations together with land owners and the monument office
- Proper preparation of the area (agrotechnical procedures)
- Establishing meadows and flower beds - removing weeds and sowing,
- Ensuring regular maintenance,
- Workshops - mowing meadows with a hand scythe
- Gradual expansion of meadows by laying hay on grassy areas
- Installation of educational boards

### STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

The General City Plan of  
Greenery in Nitra

### RESOURCES

own financial and human  
resources of the city of  
Nitra (participation,  
workshops, technical  
infrastructure)  
worth 100 000 Euros  
possible financing also from  
smaller environmental  
grants

### RISK

- Flower meadows and permanent beds are demanding on maintenance management expertise - qualified people may be missing
- Devastation and degradation of flower beds meadow

### TIMESCALE

Medium-term  
Implemented by 2030



## D.11 NATURAL PLAYGROUND WITH ARCHAEOLOGY THEME

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

Promote the area as a community space

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

City of Nitra  
Slovak Academy of Science

**KEY PARTNERS**

Nitra Creative Centre  
Local kindergarten

**RESULTS**

- Improving the playing conditions for children from the local kindergarten and also for visitors
- Creating conditions for children to have daily contact with nature during play
- Presenting the oldest history of the city in the form of game elements

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

The construction of a natural playground with an archaeology theme will require a creating a concept together with a landscape architect, the Archaeological Institute and the Creative Centre

The following elements will be used:

- Elements for observing nature
- Various natural objects
- Plants, structures made of plants (willows)
- The theme of archaeology will appear in the sandbox - searching for fossils

Finally, workshops will be organized on the playground for teachers of all kindergartens in the city of Nitra

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS**

Manual of public spaces of the city of Nitra

**RESOURCES**

own financial and human resources of the city of Nitra worth 250 000 Euros possible financing from environmental grants

**RISK**

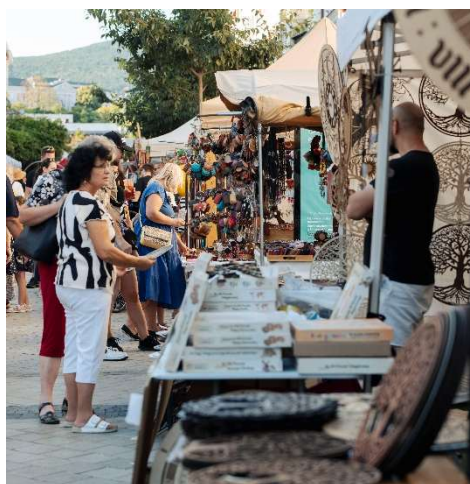
We anticipate that there will be a problem with designing play elements to meet strict safety standards for playgrounds, as there is little experience with the creation of natural playgrounds and their permitting process.

**TIMESCALE**

Medium-term  
Implemented by 2030



## D.1 VYTVÁRANIE VEREJNÝCH PRIESTOROV

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

Promote the area as a community space

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

City of Nitra

**KEY PARTNERS**

Nitra Creative Centre  
Slovak Academy of Science  
Bishopric of Nitra

**RESULTS**

- Public spaces such as squares and marketplaces will be created
- Buildings can also be used for these purposes
- This will create spaces for various public events for the local community

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

The process of building public places will include:

- defining places suitable for the public
- architects' proposals for permanent and temporary modifications of spaces
- renovation of public spaces (surfaces, furniture, sanitary facilities, technical infrastructure) with an emphasis on applying the principles of adaptation to climate change

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS**

Manual of public spaces of the city of Nitra

**RESOURCES**

own financial and human resources of the city of Nitra worth 0.5 - 3 million Euros

**RISK**

There is a threat of high financial costs and a lack of funds in the budget of the city of Nitra. There is also a risk of vandalism of objects. It is also necessary to ensure the safety of visitors

**TIMESCALE**

Medium-term  
Implemented by 2030

## D.8 EDUCATIONAL PATHS

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

Promote the touristic potential of the area

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

City of Nitra

**KEY PARTNERS**

Tourist information centre  
Slovak Academy of Science

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

The process of building educational routes will consist of:

- Defining the topics of educational routes – libretto of routes
- Designers designers for permanent and temporary route adjustments and their equipment - walkways, furniture, sanitary facilities, technical infrastructure
- Graphic design - graphic guide, developing online routes

**RESULTS**

In the framework of this action, educational paths will be designed and built. These will be in two forms:

- built in the field where information will be presented on information boards or interactive panels
- in online form - through QR codes or online adventure games

Topics will be presented:

- History of the territory - settlement, church of St. Martin, archaeological open -air museum
- military history of the area, architecture of barracks
- nature

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS**

The Strategy for the Development of Tourism in the City of Nitra for the years 2021-2023

**RESOURCES**

own financial and human resources of the city of Nitra worth 200 000 Euros

**RISK**

The risk lies in the interest of the landowners to make attractions available in their possession. There is also a risk of vandalism of objects. It is also necessary to ensure the safety of visitors.

**TIMESCALE**

Medium-term  
Implemented by 2030



## D.10 SPORT AND LEISURE SPACES

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

Promote the touristic potential of the area

**LEAD ORGANISATION**

City of Nitra

**KEY PARTNERS**

Bishopric of Nitra  
Slovak Academy of Science

**RESULTS**

Various sports and recreational facilities will be built, at least 2 indoor options and 2 outdoor activity options. It is necessary to build various activities aimed at active leisure activities such as:

- playgrounds
- sports fields - outdoor fitness
- picnic areas, grills
- climbing hall
- gym

The activity is intended to contribute to active spending of time in the area, both for the local community and for visitors and tourists.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

The activity will consist of selecting the types of suitable sports and recreational activities and selecting a location in the surrounding area. When selecting activities, it is necessary to focus on all age categories so that the area is inclusive.

An agreement between landowners on the use of the area is necessary. Architectural designs of individual activities will also be required.

It is necessary to cooperate with the sports communities in the design, as it is assumed that they will be both users and administrators of the given spaces.

**STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS**

The Strategy for the Development of Tourism in the City of Nitra for the years 2021-2023

**RESOURCES**

own financial and human resources of the city of Nitra, European funds - operational programs according to the current call for sport and recreation, worth 2 million Euros

**RISK**

There is a threat of high financial costs and a lack of funds in the budget of the city of Nitra, and EU funds do not cover the topic of building recreational elements very well.

**TIMESCALE**

Long-term  
Implemented by 2045



## 7. Implementation framework

### 7.1. Governance

The successful implementation of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) in Nitra requires a long-term governance framework that will support the project's sustainability even after the conclusion of the URBACT program in December 2025. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to establish an effective management structure, a stable financing model, and ensure the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

As mentioned in Chapter 5, the implementation of the IAP will build upon existing funded projects, such as **Nitra Creative Center**, while also drawing support from new available funding schemes. The City of Nitra may apply for funding under the **Slovakia Program 2021–2027**, specifically in areas supporting regional development, green infrastructure, and the restoration of historical sites and **Creative Europe**.

The long-term sustainability of the IAP requires a stable governance structure that will not depend on short-term political cycles. Therefore, the City of Nitra should collaborate with the **Nitra Regional Development Agency (NRRA)** in the future and prepare a model for **long-term financing and management**, which will include:

- establishing an **independent management board** overseeing the implementation of the IAP, consisting of representatives from the city, expert institutions, and civil society,
- stabilizing funding through a combination of grants, municipal budgets, and public-private partnerships,
- engaging a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen the political and economic sustainability of the project.

This approach will ensure that the revitalization of the former military barracks in Nitra is not dependent on short-term political changes but is based on a long-term vision and stable partnerships.

### 7.2. On-going stakeholder engagement

The successful implementation of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) in Nitra depends on the active involvement of stakeholders beyond the preparation phase. While the **URBACT Local Group (ULG)** has played a key role in shaping the IAP by bringing together institutions, associations, and experts, an additional participatory mechanism will be introduced to ensure engagement at a practical level.

To maintain the participatory approach during the implementation phase, the **ULG** will be transformed into an **IAP Implementation Steering Group**, which will oversee:

- The coordination and monitoring of IAP implementation,
- Transparent communication between stakeholders and the city,
- The connection of local initiatives with relevant funding programs.

However, beyond institutional engagement, it is essential to actively involve residents and grassroots initiatives in the ongoing development of the project.

Nitra established the **“Kasárne Working Group”**, a practice-oriented engagement platform launched in 2024. The **Kasárne Working Group** will meet as needed and will serve as:

- A space for practical discussions on specific revitalization projects,
- A coordination platform for site management, protection, maintenance and development

In addition to the working group, a "**Barracks Forum**" platform should be created, which should be open to all relevant organizations and residents, and should be based on ULG members and led by the **Nitra Creative Center**.

- **Community Clean-Up and Green Maintenance Events** – Residents will take part in volunteer-based clean-up actions, tree planting, and small-scale gardening initiatives in the former barracks area.
- **Public Workshops and Cultural Activities** – The forum will facilitate discussions on historical preservation, sustainable urban planning, and artistic interventions in public spaces.
- **Idea Incubator for Local Businesses and Startups** – The forum will connect entrepreneurs and creative professionals who see the revitalized area as an opportunity for new business models, such as eco-friendly cafés, co-working spaces, or cultural venues.
- **Budget and the Green City Program**, the forum will identify and fund small-scale improvements such as seating areas, public art installations, and accessibility enhancements.

The City of Nitra, by bringing together the ULG Steering Group, the Barracks Working Group and the Nitra Barracks Community Forum, will create a multi-level governance model that ensures strategic oversight and practical citizen participation. The Steering Group will handle coordination, funding applications and institutional partnerships, while the Community Forum will engage citizens in direct action-oriented participation. This approach ensures that the revitalization of the former barracks remains an inclusive and community-driven process that transcends political cycles and funding programs.

### 7.3. Funding approach

To secure the long-term implementation of the IAP, a combination of funding sources is planned:

#### Slovakia Program 2021–2027

Objective: Restoration of selected historical buildings in the former barracks area and the development of sustainable green infrastructure.

Funding Scope:

- Conservation and renovation of key historical structures.
- Investment in green public spaces and climate-adaptive solutions.
- Development of accessible and inclusive infrastructure within the revitalized site.

#### Creative Europe

Objective: Support for cultural and heritage-based projects, enhancing the visibility and attractiveness of the revitalized area.

Funding Scope:

- Establishment of a new cultural and educational program centered on Nitra's military and industrial history.
- Development of storytelling and communication strategies to promote local heritage.
- Support for community-driven artistic interventions, exhibitions, and performances in the area.

#### Nitra Participatory Budget

Objective: Direct community involvement in small-scale urban interventions.

Funding Scope:

- Micro-grants for community-led events such as public debates, workshops, and open-air exhibitions.
- Pilot projects for temporary public spaces (e.g., pop-up parks, outdoor seating areas).

- Support for initial small-scale restoration efforts, such as repainting and minor infrastructure upgrades.

### Green City Program

Objective: Enhancement of green infrastructure and biodiversity within the former barracks area.

Funding Scope:

- Tree planting and restoration of natural habitats.
- Establishment of a community garden and urban beekeeping initiative.
- Development of educational programs on sustainable urban ecology.

In order to apply for funding from various schemes, a project entitled **“Green Nitra – History for the Future”** should be developed, which would gradually fulfill the objectives of the IAP.

This project should provide in particular:

- restoration of selected historical objects in the area of the former military barracks,
- development of sustainable green infrastructure,
- support for local tourism and community activities.

Revitalization of the former military barracks requires professional research and integration with the history of the city. In cooperation with the Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) and the Nitra Museum in Nitra, the City of Nitra should develop the **“History for the Future”** project.

This project should focus on:

- historical research of buildings and sites,
- integration of archaeological finds into the infrastructure for visitors,
- construction of new premises for the Nitra Museum in Nitra
- creation of interactive educational programs.



## 7.4. Overall timeline

	Action	Timeframe	Start	End	2025												2026												2027												2028	2029	2030	2045					
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12									
A.1.	Preservation and renovation of buildings	long term	2025	2045																																													
A.2.	General plan of the area	medium term	2025	2027																																													
B.1.	Operation instruction	short term	2024	2025																																													
B.2.	Public lighting and security camera system	long term	2025	2045																																													
B.3.	Construction of sidewalks	long term	2025	2045																																													
C.1.	Design plan for historical park restoration	medium term	2025	2027																																													
C.2.	Regular tree care arborist treatments and inspection	long term	2025	2045																																													
C.3.	Elimination of invasive plants	long term	2025	2045																																													
C.4.	Planting of trees	long term	2025	2045																																													
C.5.	Flower meadows and honey plants for pollinators	medium term	2025	2030																																													
C.6.	Leaving dead wood for insect	medium term	2025	2030																																													
C.7.	Houses for hedgehogs	medium term	2025	2030																																													
C.8.	Composting	medium term	2025	2030																																													
C.9.	Community orchard and garden	medium term	2025	2030																																													
C.10.	Underground water tank/ polders	medium term	2025	2030																																													
D.1.	Create public spaces	medium term	2025	2030																																													
D.2.	Cultural and social events	medium term	2025	2030																																													
D.3.	Create a platform for stakeholders in the field of culture in the area	medium term	2025	2030																																													
D.4.	Open Days	short term	2024	2025																																													
D.5.	Regular guided tours	short term	2024	2025																																													
D.6.	Printed and online info materials	medium term	2025	2027																																													
D.7.	Communication strategy and design manual for all stakeholders	medium term	2025	2027																																													
D.8.	Educational paths - online and in the field (via QR codes, online adventure game, information boards)	medium term	2025	2027																																													

## LEGEND

long term
medium term
short term

## 7.5. Monitoring and reporting

For the effective implementation of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) in Nitra, it is essential to establish specific goals and indicators that will enable the tracking of progress and efficiency of individual measures. Monitoring will combine quantitative and qualitative indicators and will take place at regular intervals in accordance with the IAP implementation framework.

Specific Goal	Indicator	Monitoring Mechanism	Target Value
Increase the number of renovated buildings	Number of renovated buildings (m <sup>2</sup> )	Regular technical audits	Min. 1 building every 3 years
Create a strategy for area development	Approved strategic document	Administrative records	Completion by 2027
Create a platform for stakeholder cooperation in the area	Number of meetings and involved stakeholders	Meeting minutes, stakeholder engagement reports	At least 2 stakeholder meetings per year
Increase visitor safety	Number of installed security cameras and lighting	Construction progress reports	Full safety infrastructure by 2045
Protect the value of the historical park	Implemented conservation measures	Monitoring reports on heritage protection	At least 3 conservation actions by 2030
Support biodiversity	Number of biodiversity-supporting measures (e.g., tree planting, elimination of invasive species)	Environmental monitoring reports	Min. 5 measures per year
Support community gardening	Number of established community gardens and participants	Surveys, local engagement reports	At least 2 community gardens by 2028
Implement solutions for water retention	Number of implemented water management projects	Environmental impact reports	At least 3 retention systems by 2030
Engaging the local community	Number of organized community events	Number of visitors, feedback analysis	Min. 4 events per year, 500 visitors
Create conditions for recreation	Number of new recreational areas	Reports on site improvements, visitor statistics	At least 3 new recreation zones by 2030
Put Martin's Hill on the city map	Number of new tourist and information points	Tourism development reports	Min. 2 new signposted routes by 2027

### Monitoring Mechanism

- **Quarterly Reports** – Regular assessments of progress in IAP implementation.
- **Annual Evaluation of Indicators** – Data collection based on construction reports, visitor statistics, and public feedback.
- **Engagement of Expert Institutions** – Collaboration with the **Archaeological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV)**, the **Nitra City Museum**, and other expert partners to ensure qualitative analyses.
- **External Supervision** – Independent audits funded by grant schemes to evaluate the efficiency of site restoration and implemented measures.

This system ensures transparency, efficiency, and the long-term sustainability of the former barracks revitalization project in Nitra.

## 7.6. Risk management

The implementation of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) in Nitra involves various challenges and uncertainties. To ensure the project's long-term sustainability and minimize potential obstacles, a structured risk management framework is necessary. This section outlines the key risks, their likelihood and impact, and proposed mitigation measures.

Risk Category	Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Financial Risks	Insufficient funding for planned activities	High	High	Diversification of funding sources, proactive grant applications, and public-private partnerships
	Delays in securing grants	Medium	High	Early application for funding, financial contingency planning
Governance and Organizational Risks	Lack of long-term political commitment	Medium	High	Establishment of an independent management body for IAP implementation
	Low stakeholder engagement	Medium	Medium	Regular communication, participatory events, and transparent decision-making processes
Technical Risks	Delays in construction and restoration work	High	High	Realistic project timelines, phased implementation, and continuous monitoring
	Technical difficulties in heritage building restoration	Medium	High	Collaboration with experts in historical conservation, feasibility studies before implementation
Environmental Risks	Impact of climate change (e.g., extreme weather affecting infrastructure)	Medium	High	Integration of climate-adaptive solutions, green infrastructure development
	Failure to implement water retention measures	Medium	Medium	Regular environmental assessments, prioritization of retention projects
Community and Social Risks	Resistance from local residents to planned changes	Low	Medium	Open dialogue, involvement of the community in planning processes, and pilot initiatives to demonstrate benefits
	Low public awareness and participation	Medium	Medium	Awareness campaigns, digital platforms for engagement, and educational programs

To effectively manage these risks, the following measures will be adopted:

- **Regular Risk Assessments** – Conducting annual risk evaluations to identify emerging challenges.
- **Adaptive Planning** – Adjusting project timelines and priorities based on identified risks.
- **Stakeholder Coordination** – Ensuring regular communication with key partners, including municipal authorities, cultural institutions, and local businesses.
- **Financial Contingency Planning** – Establishing reserve funds to address unexpected financial shortfalls.
- **Transparent Decision-Making** – Keeping the public informed and engaged to foster trust and project support.



## 8. Conclusion

The successful implementation of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) in Nitra requires a long-term strategy that ensures the sustainability of the revitalization efforts in the former barracks area. To achieve this, a structured **communication and engagement plan**, immediate next steps, and a roadmap for long-term governance, funding, and public involvement must be established.

### 8.1. Local Communication and Dissemination Plan for the IAP

To maintain public awareness and stakeholder engagement beyond the initial implementation phase, different communication strategies will be used to address:

- a) **The local population** – ensuring continuous community involvement in the site's development.
- b) **Key stakeholders from business, politics, and cultural institutions** – strengthening long-term cooperation and investment in the site's future.

#### First Steps:

- **Continuation of the Working Group for the Barracks Area** as an accessible and informal platform for community participation.
- **Regular events in the revitalized area**, such as open-air screenings, historical exhibitions, and guided walks.
- **Creating and displaying a set of key principles ("Barracks Manifesto")** to guide further development.
- **Using banners and signs at the site** to invite public participation and increase visibility.
- **Installing poster boards along key streets** for updates on project progress and upcoming activities.
- **Public relations campaign for upcoming cultural events**, including flyers, posters, press releases, and an official website section.

#### General Communication Strategy:

- **Using the existing city website and social media channels** for regular updates.
- **Expanding in-person engagement**, such as outreach at local markets, city festivals, and cultural events.

These measures will keep the public informed, strengthen local identity, and attract further involvement in the project.

### 8.2. Immediate Next Steps (Next Six Months)

To maintain momentum, the following actions will be taken over the next six months:

#### If funding is secured and a project team is available:

- Creation of the **"Rules of Operation"** (Spring 2025)
- **"Night at the Barracks" event** to showcase the site's potential for cultural use (Summer 2025).
- **Open-air cinema screenings in the barracks courtyard** to activate the space (Fall 2025).
- **Minor repairs to essential infrastructure** (courtyard, pathways, lighting) to improve accessibility.
- **Building condition assessment** (focus on structural stability and safety measures).

If additional funding applications are approved:

- **Hiring a dedicated project team** to oversee site management and stakeholder coordination.
- **Formation of an “Expert Council”** on sustainable restoration, in partnership with local universities.
- **Preparation of architectural and conservation strategies** for future renovations.
- **Engagement of youth and educational institutions** in creative and participatory activities.

If approved under specific funding programs:

- **Cultural Heritage Funding** → Research into industrial and military history, special exhibitions.
- **Environmental and Green Infrastructure Grants** → Restoration of natural areas, creation of educational nature trails.
- **Community and Education Grants** → Establishment of a permanent educational space and activities for children and students.

### 8.3. Long-Term Vision and Sustainability Strategy

To ensure the long-term success of the revitalization project, the following sustainability measures will be implemented:

#### Governance and Management:

- Establishment of a **dedicated management entity** to oversee the site’s ongoing development.
- Integration of the project into **municipal and regional urban development plans**.
- Creation of a **public-private partnership model** for sustainable operation.

#### Financial Sustainability:

- Continued applications for **EU and national funding** (e.g., Slovakia Program, Creative Europe, LEADER).
- Revenue generation from **cultural events, tourism, and long-term rentals** of revitalized spaces.
- Establishment of a **sponsorship and donor program** for community-driven initiatives.

#### Environmental and Heritage Protection:

- **Implementation of biodiversity conservation measures**, such as green roofs, urban gardens, and water retention systems.
- **Integration of sustainable energy solutions** in future building restorations.
- **Preservation of historic structures** while allowing for adaptive reuse and modern functionalities.

By adopting this structured approach, the revitalized barracks area in Nitra will serve as a **model for sustainable urban renewal**, ensuring a lasting impact on the city’s cultural, social, and economic landscape.

## 9. Attachments

### Testing Action Table

Open Days on Martin's Hill			
<i>The area of the former military barracks was put on the map and people were able to see the possibilities that the whole area had to offer. The potential offered by the Creative Center as a process accelerator in the locality was made visible, which created local dynamics. Planned activities included guided tours, the opening of the buildings of the Institute of Archeology and the Creative Center, a historical program in the Archaeological open-air museum, an exhibition of student proposals for the revitalization of the area, and workshops with ecological themes. The open days took place twice in 2024, in July and September, on the occasion of events of city-wide or regional importance. The goal was to test the format of the events in such a way that all stakeholders in the campus were involved and the program was attractive to as many people as possible.</i>	Action owner	City of Nitra Institute of Archeology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences Creative Centre	
	Specific objective(s)	Putting the site on the map, showing the offer of the site, making the possibilities offered by the Creative Centre visible.	
	Action readiness	Work in progress	
	Timescale	6.7. 2024 29.9. 2024	
Finance and resources			Main stakeholders
Amount needed	Source	Status	City of Nitra (tourist information center workers, guides, politicians) – provided guided tours of the area and a discussion about the future of the area (5 staff) Institute of Archeology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences – provided a professional and cultural program with the theme of history and archaeology (15 staff). Creative Centre – presented the potential of the Creative Center area (3 staff)
1000 – 3000 Eur	municipality	Not identified yet	
Integration			
Type of integration	Approach to ensure the action will be integrated		
Sectorial integration	Environmental, economic, social, and cultural issues were taken into account, and none had a negative impact on others, by planning activities with stakeholders and at the level of departments of the City of Nitra – by involving all relevant departments of the office and setting appropriate goals and means at the beginning of the events.		
Horizontal	All relevant partners were involved (stakeholders from the public, private, non-governmental, academic, and civil sectors) by contacting ULG partners.		
Vertical integration	Relevant levels of management (local and regional) were involved by contacting relevant institutions for cooperation. For example, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, which has a nationwide reach, was engaged.		
Territorial integration	Nearby neighborhoods were involved by promoting the event in the local media and with the help of elected representatives for the district.		
Soft hard investments	The combination of investments in soft and hard activities was ensured. Soft activities were used to activate residents, while rigorous activities focused mainly on ensuring safety in the area and orientation of visitors (e.g., information boards).		
Cross-cutting themes			
Environment	In order for the activity to have a positive impact on the environment, the environmental impact of the events was minimized (e.g., provision of trash cans, promotion of arriving by bicycle, public transport, or cycle bus, and the use of a tourist train from the city).		



Gender	The proposed activities were accessible to everyone in terms of gender and/or disability through inclusive design. Tour routes through the grounds were designed to be suitable for prams and wheelchairs and safe for women.		
Digital	The action did not integrate digital components at this stage.		
Risks			
Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation measures
Danger of the area – dangerous buildings, uncovered pits, falling tree branches	Some chances	Possible injury of visitors	Work was done to secure the area – visitors had to follow instructions, move in marked areas, and avoid abandoned buildings
Bad weather	Some chances	Fewer visitors, limited program	The program was also planned indoors
Too many visitors	Some chances	Restlessness of visitors, unavailability of activities	More guided tours were provided, the event lasted longer
Activities			
Activity	Dates	Outputs	Problems and concerns
Collaboration with the Archeological Institute	6.7.2024	Opening of the collections of the Archeological Institute; historical program in the Archeological Museum (historical theater groups)	Preparatory meetings were needed for organization, communication, and security. The Creative Center did not yet have construction approval, so the focus of the program was shifted to the exterior and the Archeological Institute. More afternoon activities were needed for families with children.
Cooperation with the Bishop's Office	6.7.2024	One stop on the pilgrimage route of Cyril and Methodius at the church on Martin's Hill	Coordination of the time schedule was required
Cooperation with the Tourist Office of the City	6. 7. 2024	Guided tours about the history of the area	More tour dates were scheduled, possibly thematic, maps were created, and information boards were produced
Collaboration with students of architecture at Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	29.9.2024	Exhibition of student proposals for the revitalization of the area	Preparatory meetings for the catalog of works and the preparation of the exhibition in the Creative Center
Cooperation with the Bishop's Office	29.9.2024	Opening of an abandoned building for the exhibition	Coordination of the time schedule was required
Monitoring			
Outputs			
Indicator	Monitoring mechanism		Target
Number of people participating in the two days	tickets		500 visitors
Types and profiles of visitors, knowledge about the place	Surveys and questionnaires, feeling maps		100 answers
Results			
Indicator	Monitoring mechanism		Target
Interest about the place has arisen	Surveys and questionnaires		100 questionnaires
biodiversity and ecological stability are promoted	number of measures, e.g. mowing management, pollinator support, composting		5 improvement

## 10. Contact details

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