

GREEN SPACES QUALITATIVE ASPECTS: IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF EXISTING GREEN/BLUE SPACES

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM

The problem is that **existing green/blue areas do not fully meet current quality requirements of users**. The main aim of the projects considering this problem is **to preserve biodiversity and to improve the existing environmental quality while providing a wider range of opportunities for recreation, leisure and entertainment through the development of the green/blue infrastructure**.

The issue of urban green/blue space regeneration is part of a broader view on city development. Usually, this combines the development of several sectors and PETUS case-studies are relevant examples for current approaches to the relations between them (*Pedestrian Master Plan* (Liege, BEL), *Comprehensive Development Plan of the Ski Centre* (Chepelare, BG), *Regeneration of city park* (Dobrich, BG). The projects spread all over the process of renewal - from the need for improvement of green space quality to the need for building of new entertainment facilities. The projects generally aim at preserving and improving environmental quality (*Regeneration of Dobrich City Park*), providing broader access to services and greater and easier mobility within the city (*Pedestrian Master Plan*) and/ or decreasing the harmful impacts of added elements/functions on the green spaces concerned (*Comprehensive Development Plan of the Ski Centre*). This range of issues is discussed in a number of reviewed documents and projects - BUGS, The Green Poster, Urban Green Spaces Taskforce (UGST, UK), etc.



TIME AND SPACE SCALE CHARACTERISTICS

PETUS case-study projects cover the city and region scale and include all life-cycle stages.

Stage(s) concerned						
	Inception of project idea	Design	Design assessment	Construction	Operation	Demolition

Scale investigated	Component	Building	Neighbourhood	City	Region
				X	X

CONFLICTING AREAS

- Potential interests in providing a broader range of sports and catering facilities vs. the requirements for maintenance of the ecological balance;
- Business interests for economic benefits vs. the need for providing social friendly activities affordable for all citizens;
- Variety of interests (needs, demands, preferences) among different social and age groups that are often difficult to outline and integrate.

CASE STUDIES LINKED TO THIS ISSUE

- Pedestrian Master Plan (Liege, BEL)
- Comprehensive Development Plan of the Ski Centre (Chepelare, BG)
- City Park Regeneration (Dobrich, BG)

WHAT SHOULD BE ENHANCED IN THIS CASE, WHAT IS GOING TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY?

The evaluation tools and frameworks, used in different case studies, are relevant to the peculiar social and cultural context and when a **transfer of good practices is undertaken, the adaptation of the approach to a differing situation should be carefully considered**. The relations between different sectors involved need further investigation. **It would be useful to evaluate the projects impact on the environmental quality. Monitoring tools for green space quality are to be further developed.**

HOW CAN THESE "SOLUTIONS"/IMPROVEMENT BE DEVELOPED

Suggestions could be made about needed **additional criteria** in the **project evaluations through defining the relations between sectors**. The transferability of existing experience should be discussed. URGE project could be a helpful starting point. Monitoring is to be promoted as a part of project implementation.