URBACT IV

(2023 - 2029)

Application Form

UIV - TN Call

Priority axis-Investment Priority-Specific Objective 1-1-1

1. Interreg Specific Objective "a better cooperation governance"

1.1. Enhancing Institutional Capacity of Public Authorities and Stakeholders to implement Territorial Strategies

1.1.1. Promoting Integrated Sustainable Urban Development through Cooperation

SpongeMeasures

Reducing Urban Flood Risk & Increasing Landscape Resilience

Submitted version

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1.PROJECT SYNTHESIS

1.1 Project identity (incl. title and duration)

Identification

Acronym	SpongeMeasures
Programme reference	1748865725
N° SYNERGIE–CTE (for search)	21953
Title	Reducing Urban Flood Risk & Increasing Landscape Resilience
Lead Partner	Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata (HUNGARY)

Length of project

Start date	End date
2025-11-01	2028-04-30

1.2 Summarised description of the issue to be addressed by the network

Short description

By transferring the Good Practice of Püspökszilágy (HU) on using small-scale Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs), the “SpongeMeasures: reducing urban flood risk, increasing landscape resilience” Transfer Network intend to increase the climate resilience of Transfer Cities. It promotes low-cost, nature-based and community-driven solutions through 7 modules to mitigate the effects of flash floods and droughts. It runs from 01/11/2025 to 30/04/2028.

1.3 Proposed Partnership

	Partner organisation	Type of organisation	Regrouping	Country	Area	NUTS 3
Lead Partner	[en] Püspökszilágy	Local Public authority	EU Less developed regions	HUNGARY	Közép-Magyarország	Pest
	Občina Razkrižje	Local Public authority	EU Less developed regions	SLOVENIA	Vzhodna Slovenija	Pomurska
	Plav	Local Public authority	EU Less developed regions	MONTENEGRO	Црна Гора (Crna Gora)	Црна Гора (Crna Gora)
	Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine	Local Public authority	EU Less developed regions	UKRAINE	UKRAINE	UKRAINE
	Municipiul Targu Secuiesc	Local Public authority	EU Less developed regions	ROMANIA	Centru	Covasna
	Ajuntament de Vilamarxant	Local Public authority	EU Transition regions	SPAIN	Comunidad Valenciana	Valencia / València
	NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE	Local Public authority	EU More developed regions	ITALY	Emilia-Romagna	Bologna

1.4 Links to the Cohesion Policy Objectives

Our Transfer Network contributes to several key policy objectives outlined under the EU Cohesion Policy for 2021-2027. Each objective is addressed through a combination of locally adapted action, stakeholder empowerment, and the transfer of Püspökszilágy's Good Practice. Below is a list and justification of how we contribute to these policy objectives:

PO2 - A Greener, Low-Carbon Transitioning Towards a Net Zero Carbon Economy
Obviously, this is the strongest link, since our central focus on implementing NWRMs directly supports the Cohesion Policy's environmental goals. NWRMs and other nature-based solutions applying the urban environment reduce surface runoff, mitigate flood risks, recharge groundwater, and help buffer the effects of prolonged drought. In addition to their hydrological benefits, they support local biodiversity and improve soil health. This contributes to Europe's climate objectives by promoting ecosystem-based adaptation, reducing dependence on grey infrastructure, and enhancing the multifunctionality of public spaces. By re-naturalising urban and peri-urban areas, we help cities transition toward low-impact, sustainable water systems, directly responding to PO2's call for climate change adaptation, risk prevention, and investment in green infrastructure.

PO5 - Europe Closer to Citizens
The second most important link. SpongeMeasures adopts a strongly place-based and participatory approach, with each Transfer Partner tailoring its local strategy based on stakeholder input

and local environmental needs. The Transfer Network provides an opportunity for each Transfer City to establish a Microregional Stakeholder Platforms, one of the key aspects of the good practice of Püspökszilágy. This fosters collaboration beyond administrative boundaries and among a set of various stakeholders. This ensures that locals do not only consult but actively co-design and co-implement solutions. This participatory ethos supports PO5 by ensuring that integrated strategies are not imposed top-down, but emerge from community-level planning and are embedded in local governance structures.

PO4 - A More Social and Inclusive Europe
First, the network actively focuses on small and medium-sized municipalities, which are often underrepresented in EU-level innovation initiatives and face significant resource constraints. By placing these communities at the centre of our transfer process, we ensure that access to knowledge, funding, and solutions is equitably distributed. Second, module 7 of the good practice transfer directly targets community resilience of rural settlements, often neglected in policy making. Through the establishment of ULGs, we create safe spaces for cross-sector collaboration, bringing together citizens, NGOs, local governments, schools, and businesses. Our Testing Actions offer ownership of climate resilience solutions. The participatory model also strengthens local governance and increases trust in institutions, helping deliver PO4's goal of inclusive, socially cohesive development. Additionally, by fostering collaboration between generations and social groups, the project contributes to reducing inequalities, particularly in regions that face both environmental vulnerability and economic marginalisation.

PO1 - A Smarter and More Competitive Europe
The link to PO1 is mainly linked to the use of digital tools both locally and within partners, and knowledge-sharing mechanisms to enhance local innovation capacity and institutional learning. Specifically, we use surface laser scanning-supported runoff modelling to help municipalities understand water flow patterns and plan water retention solutions with precision. This form of digital mapping allows for low-cost, high-accuracy assessments of terrain and hydrology, empowering cities to place NWRMs where they will be most effective. We also intend to foster cooperation among ULGs by different online networking techniques, and this approach also contributes to PO1 by strengthening digital readiness, encouraging smart governance, and building regional resilience through technological integration and targeted training.

1.5 Total budget

ERDF		Swiss Fund		Norway Fund		IPA fund		NDICI		Other Financing	Total budget
ERDF	**Public co-financing**	**Swiss Fund**	**Public co-financing**	**Norway Fund**	**Public co-financing**	**IPA fund**	**Public co-financing**	**NDICI**	**Public co-financing**		
435 176.25 €	147 773.75 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	83 552.50 €	4 397.50 €	71 915.00 €	3 785.00 €	0.00 €	746 600.00 €

2. PRESENTATION OF PROJECT PROPOSAL

2.1 Thematic Content

2.1.1 Description of the Good Practice, highlighting key elements, and policy challenge to be addressed

Püspökszilágy is extremely exposed to flash floods since the surrounding steep hills, the catchment area of its creeks, first and foremost the Szilágyi Creek, are primarily covered by croplands. Flash floods, occurring almost annually since 2006 because of climate change, wash away large amounts of sediment and cause significant damage to agriculture and infrastructure of the settlement. Conversely, the catchment area dries out significantly during the – stronger and longer - summer heat waves, negatively affecting agriculture, biodiversity and living conditions. The village has successfully implemented various Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs) in its territory and the wider catchment area and has become a HU model settlement of NWRMs implemented in hilly areas.

NWRMs are multi-functional small-scale measures that aim to protect and manage water resources and address water-related challenges by restoring or maintaining ecosystems as well as natural features and characteristics of water bodies using natural means (e.g. log-dams, swales, hedgerows, buffer strips, ground dams, infiltration ponds) and processes, so that water can better infiltrate and be stored. A decentralised network of NWRMs can represent cost-effective options to protect urban areas from flash floods and increase the resilience of the landscape to droughts. They can be part of sustainable urban development plans to reduce investments in expensive water infrastructure.

The municipality of Püspökszilágy effectively reduced surface runoff and eliminated flash floods by installing 7 log dams in the right places and renovating 3 small stone dams between 2017-2019 in the LIFE-MICACC project. Additionally, the creation of a water retention pond along the Szilágyi Creek in 2019 stabilised the groundwater level under the village at a relatively high level, cooling the local microclimate, and also creating new habitats for protected species and recreational possibilities. Before these interventions, flash floods caused significant damage, estimated at approximately €250,000 in total in infrastructure and an additional €100,000 in agriculture yearly. By implementing these NWRMs the issue of flash floods – as one part of the policy challenge, improving climate resilience - has been largely resolved, however, soil erosion and nutrient runoff in agricultural fields as well as challenges caused by more and longer droughts are still increasing.

Building on the success in connection with flash floods, the LIFE LOGOS4WATERS project aims to improve water retention in the entire catchment area of the Szilágyi Creek. The planning and installation of NWRMs are organised through a micro regional Water Catchment Area Stakeholder Platform and based on a surface laser scanning supported runoff model. These NWRMs not only focus on flood prevention in other villages but enhance the sponge function across the entire catchment area (slowing down the surface runoff and increasing infiltration into the soil and groundwater), while the municipality has also recognised that it is the best positioned entity within a small water catchment area to coordinate stakeholders' interests, enabling them to efficiently implement NWRMs.

Despite all these successes, Püspökszilágy is still facing lots of challenges to fully implement a decentralised network of NWRMs in the landscape, mitigating sediment transport and enhancing sponge function through infiltration, thus fully addressing the policy challenge. To achieve its goals regarding the "sponge landscape" (decentralised network of NWRMs in the catchment area) demonstrating the effectiveness of NWRMs with and to individual farmers is crucial, since in line with frontrunning research (e.g. OPTAIN Horizon project), the most effective natural water retention can be achieved by using agroecological methods.

Another step on the way to fully approach the rather complex policy challenge is to improve the village's adaptive capacity to climate change by boosting community resilience in a just and fair way, through improving the population's knowledge, incentivising more autonomous livelihood strategies, enhancing networks of mutual support and reframing indigenous knowledge. The Municipality thus has started the LIFE Co-Clima project, in which the Alliance of Climate-Friendly Settlements helps Püspökszilágy with local actions boosting community resilience, solidifying Püspökszilágy as a model settlement for eco-conscious practices.

2.1.2 Link to European urban policy context 2021-2027

The Püspökszilágy Good Practice strongly aligns with key European urban policy frameworks for 2021–2027 under the Cohesion Policy, elaborated below:

Firstly, it directly supports the EU ADAPTATION STRATEGY, adopted in 2021, which calls for “smarter, swifter and more systemic” adaptation, emphasising nature-based solutions and improved risk assessment at local levels. By integrating surface laser scanning and runoff modelling, coupled with piloting small-scale NWRMs, the Good Practice delivers the precise data-driven approaches the Strategy advocates.

Second, it contributes to the WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD), which mandates achieving ‘good ecological and chemical status’ for all water bodies by 2027. The decentralised nature-based interventions support WFD objectives by improving hydro-morphological conditions, enhancing water quality, and restoring ecosystem functions, all while offering cost-effective solutions aligned with WFD’s economic assessment requirements.

Third, the network embodies the principles of the EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL by integrating green infrastructure into local planning and contributing to broader goals of climate neutrality and ecosystem restoration. NWRMs help reduce climate risk, enhance biodiversity, and build sustainable growth paths for small communities. This reinforces the deliverables of the EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2030 and the NATURE RESTORATION LAW by increasing green infrastructure and water retention measures at all territorial levels and supporting ecological connectivity. Additionally, by enhancing local governance through landscape-level stakeholder platforms, the network reflects the multi-level, cross-sector coordination mandated in the COHESION POLICY's 2021–2027 framework, especially under the objective 2 of “a greener, carbon-free Europe”, which prioritises nature-based solutions and risk prevention. Policy objective 2 is the most relevant as NWRMs are aimed at strengthening the efforts in protecting and preserving (urban) nature, promoting climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as capturing carbon. The project also contributes to policy objective 5 (‘Europe closer to citizens’), by promoting an integrated approach towards sustainable urban and landscape development and supporting cities in elaborating place-based climate adaptation strategies, as well as policy objective 1 and 4, discussed in detail in 1.4.

In addition, the network follows the framework of sustainable urban development (SUD) outlined in the NEW LEIPZIG CHARTER. Specifically, it helps bring to life the ‘green city’ dimension by aspiring to develop high-quality green environments and to implement nature-based solutions to support climate risk mitigation and adaptation. The participatory approach lying at the core of the Stakeholder Platform is strongly aligned with the participation and co-creation principle emphasised in the Charter. Following the goal of expanding the number of green and biologically diverse, accessible and inclusive, beautiful and recreational areas, our network is also harmonious with the core values of New European Bauhaus.

What makes this Good Practice especially compelling for wider transfer is its modular nature: it combines high-tech tools (runoff modelling), tailored traditional small-scale NWRMs and governance/participative frameworks (the cathment area stakeholder platform), offering a comprehensive roadmap for systemic local action. Communities looking to adopt climate-resilient, water-sensitive urban planning will find it both scientifically robust and practically scalable. Moreover, it directly responds to the NEXTGENERATIONEU commitment to dedicate at least 30–37% of resources to climate action by demonstrating ready-to-implement, cost-effective interventions. In summary, the Püspökszilágy model bridges EU policy objectives, from adaptation and water protection to biodiversity restoration and green transition, offering a best-practice template for cities across Europe to follow.

Last, but not least, it is worth mentioning that the good practice also contributes to SDG 11 (sustainable development), 13 (climate action) and the Urban Agenda for the EU through its priority themes “climate adaptation” and “sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions”.

2.2. How will the transfer of the Good Practice build the capacities of cities to design and implement sustainable urban development policies in an integrated, participatory and place-based approach.

-	YES	NO	Comment
It is expected that Transfer Networks, as a result of the adaptation and re-use of good practices successfully implemented, will foster improvement of integrated and participatory urban policies in European cities and the delivery of these policies on the ground.	X		Installing NMRWs in and around settlements is very much place-based (every geographical context is different) and the Water Catchment Area Stakeholder Platform must harmonise different interests (e.g. foresters, farmers, municipalities, nature conservation). Therefore the effective good practice transfer requires high level territorial and sectoral integration, as well as participative approaches, and it will strengthen integrated, participatory and place-based policymaking at transfer cities.

2.3 How will gender equality and equal opportunities be addressed by the network?

Our network is committed to making gender equality and equal opportunities a meaningful part of how we work together, in line with the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025 and URBACT's guidance on Gender Equal Cities. Since the good practice per se does not explicitly focus on gender, among the goals set by the Strategy (e.g. closing gender gaps in the labour market, ending gender-based violence), the one on ensuring balanced participation in decision-making and policymaking is the most relevant. The transfer network, therefore, will treat equal opportunities, especially gender equality, as a fundamental horizontal priority.

For example, we will make sure that all decision-making and working groups in the network are gender-balanced, and that women and underrepresented groups have a voice in shaping local water-related and climate actions. When forming stakeholder platforms in each city, we will actively aim for diversity and inclusiveness not just in gender, but across age, background, and social status.
This is especially relevant in the seventh module of the good practice transfer (see chapter 3.3), which aims at improving the settlements' adaptive capacity to climate change by boosting community resilience in a just and fair way, through improving the population's knowledge, incentivising more autonomous livelihood strategies, enhancing networks of mutual support and reframing indigenous knowledge. We will make sure that not only transnational meetings, but all local capacity-building actions will be open and welcoming to all, highlighting different roles women and men might have in shaping and maintaining these solutions.

Two issues have been identified during the project development regarding gender equality and equal opportunities: 1. how the resilience and care for the land are carried/represented by women and disadvantaged groups in their communities (module 7, see modules of the good practice below at chapter 3.3); 2. the topic of how to create greener public spaces in urban areas that can serve as inclusive, safe, and community-building environments.

As for the first one, we can witness the success of gardening projects across the globe, centred around permaculture, community-supported agriculture, community composting, etc. Behind this, there is an ecofeminist movement (e.g. agroecological cooperatives, led by females in Italy, female eco farms in Germany, "Huerto Comunitarios" in Spain, with also strong presence of female community leaders, Jardin Partagé in France). During the first Network meeting in Püspökszilágy we intend to explore this topic (e.g. new community spaces, new female leadership roles, new possibilities for generating incomes, and new forms of connecting to nature).

As for the second topic, gender sensitive urban planning methods will be explored in the Network Meeting 5. This is important for us as gender largely determines how we use public space and to what extent we appropriate it. Yet it is a lagging issue in design, in line with the Gender Equal Cities Guidebook, which states that equal opportunities are a prerequisite for the well-being of citizens and the prosperity of cities.

These aspects will be mirrored in the Transfer Plans, and thus, equal opportunities will also be discussed during the peer review of the Transfer Plans.

Across the network, we will look at how budgets are spent and ensure that investment in green infrastructure supports equal access and participation. We will also link gender to other fairness issues (like income, age, or rural isolation) so that our work truly boosts resilience in a just way. Ultimately, we want this project to show that small-scale climate actions can have big impacts, not just for the environment, but for people's lives as well.

2.4 How will environmental sustainability be addressed by the network?

Environmental sustainability is at the heart of this transfer network. Every aspect of the good practice supports the move toward a more environmentally sustainable way of planning and living by promoting NWRMs that help towns and cities adapt to climate change. These measures reduce reliance on hard infrastructure, cut energy-intensive flood responses, and restore natural water cycles. By slowing runoff, increasing soil infiltration, and reconnecting people with the landscape, they help preserve local ecosystems and improve biodiversity. These goals reflect key parts of the European Green Deal, especially its aim to create a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 through greener infrastructure, restored nature, and climate-resilient planning.

The network's approach also supports several targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, including increasing green space, restoring degraded ecosystems, and connecting natural areas across urban and rural environments. The local NWRM pilots contribute to these broader ambitions in a practical, community-led way. The planned sponge measures in urban parks, schoolyards, and riverside zones will not only manage water better but also offer shaded, green spaces that reduce heat, filter air, and support local wildlife.

A well-planned local, regional and national green (incl. blue) infrastructure network can strengthen the connectivity between artificial, natural and semi-natural areas, supporting wider biodiversity targets. The network thus fully supports the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the EU Nature Restoration Law by directly tackling some of their specific targets and key commitments, such as no net loss of green urban space, reversing the decline in pollinators and introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.

To reduce the environmental footprint of the network, we will also take some concrete steps during the implementation. Transnational meetings will be planned with care to minimise travel-related emissions. Where possible, partners will be offered the choice to participate online in meetings, reducing the need for additional flights or long-distance travel. Train/coach travel and local public transport will be prioritised, especially among those partners that are close to each other (i.e. the budget was planned accordingly), and planning meetings will be held online to further reduce emissions. Meeting hosts will also be encouraged to choose low-impact venues, provide sustainable catering, and reduce waste.

The network sees environmental sustainability as part of every activity, from technical training to community engagement. Whether modelling runoff, designing swales (and other NWRMs), or coordinating stakeholders, all partners will be supported to consider environmental performance, landscape impact, and long-term sustainability. In this way, the network not only transfers a technical practice but also helps build a shared culture of low-impact, resilient, and green urban development. Bearing in mind that the link towards green transition is very direct and strong, no specific session or activity is planned to deal with this horizontal theme.

2.5 How will digitalisation be addressed by the network?

During the preparatory (online) meetings, partner cities have analysed the link between the themes of the Sponge Measures network and the principles of digital transformation. In general, they found it to be the least direct one among the horizontal themes. Yet, there are some important synergies.
While the digital transition is not the central theme of the network, it plays a valuable enabling role throughout the transfer process, especially in how partners plan, monitor, and communicate local climate adaptation measures.

One of the most concrete ways digitalisation will be integrated into our work is by using surface laser scanning and digital runoff modelling. This method is part of the core good practice from Püspökszilágy and helps municipalities assess hydrological benefits and risks and plan the correct position of small-scale NWRMs. This is important as even a small-scale NWRM can create damage if it is installed in the wrong place. Several partners have expressed interest in adapting this modelling technique to their local conditions. The use of digital terrain analysis strengthens the scientific foundation of planning NWRMs and contributes to more effective, efficient, and climate-smart solutions.

Digital tools might also support the monitoring of the implemented NWRMs, thus contributing to the visibility of results as well. Partners will be encouraged to apply simple online mapping platforms and digital reporting methods to track where interventions are placed, how they perform over time, and how they relate to community needs. This can be supported by using professional monitoring equipment.

However, tracking changes indicated by the installation of NWRMs can be used in communication too. Simply, before and after photos and similar tools can effectively support the community level understanding, but visualising data derived from monitoring equipment is also important.

Various network meetings will contribute to building capacities in the area of digitalisation: 1. surface laser scanning supported runoff modelling; 4. multilevel cooperation through a stakeholder platform; 6. communication and monitoring of NWRMs as Nature-based Solutions.
This will include presentations of runoff modelling, and open-access tools for visualising risk or digital tools to enhance cooperation among the members of the stakeholder platform. Partners with more advanced experience will support knowledge exchange with others just starting to explore these options.

Finally, the network will take care to make use of hybrid formats for selected coordination tasks. Meeting materials, planning templates, online collaboration tools and shared learning content will be made available digitally to improve accessibility as well as digital skills. In this way, digital tools will not only support technical planning and stakeholder involvement but also help the network operate more sustainably and efficiently overall.

This knowledge will also be channelised into the Transfer Plans.

2.6 What is the added value of this network related to the theme proposed?

Although NWRMs are high on the EU's political agenda, there is no previous URBACT network specifically dealing with this topic. However, the achievements of the following previous URBACT projects can reinforce some more generic themes behind the good practice, such as urban green infrastructure, nature-based solutions (NbS) and climate adaptation.

Our network can inherit proven methods for designing and implementing NbS from the GrowGreen network, however in this project mainly green roofs and pocket parks were planned as NbS. BiodiverCity is the other network we can build on in connection with NbS, exploring the concept in a very detailed way. While these projects explored the role of urban green infrastructure in improving quality of life and environmental sustainability of cities, our project adds a new layer by introducing small-scale NWRMs that address both rural and urban hydrological challenges and mitigate the risks of extreme events regardless of the size of the given settlement. By focusing on water as a unifying and climate-critical element, our network complements the outcomes of these networks and broadens the reach of nature-based strategies across varied territorial contexts. Likewise, insights from the "Can nature make your city climate-resilient?" URBACT study highlights how cities such as Malmö and Copenhagen have successfully managed extreme rainfall events using vegetation and retention basins, strategies that directly support our network's core focus on runoff modelling and flood prevention in urban areas.

Our Transfer Network will also complement and expand the thematic scope of RU:RBAN, which focused on urban gardening as a tool for community empowerment and local sustainability. While RU:RBAN focused on productive green spaces in dense urban contexts, we apply similar social and ecological principles to peri-urban (and rural) areas struggling with droughts and floods. In this way, our network builds on RU:RBAN's outcomes by extending the value of local stewardship, resilience, and land-based solutions into the hydrological and climate-resilience domain, broadening URBACT's legacy of nature-based urban transformation.

By weaving together these strands, our Transfer Network brings added value in multiple dimensions. First, our main policy challenge is to enhance climate resilience of all types of settlements by installing NWRMs. Regardless of the size of the settlement, this increases the climate adaptation capacity as well as mitigating the risks of environmental disaster. Second, our network elevates governance by combining RU:RBAN's stakeholder-driven regulatory frameworks with GrowGreen-style urban design innovation. Our network aligns with the EU Adaptation Strategy (2021), the European Green Deal, the Nature Restoration Law, the Water Framework and Floods Directives, Biodiversity Strategy 2030, and NextGenerationEU green and digital objectives (see in more detail in 2.1.2.)
Blending landscape-scale water management, urban sponge infrastructure, digital runoff modeling, and equitable community engagement, this Transfer Network will deliver technical and environmental benefits, while also creating a replicable, cross-sectoral governance model that supports EU policies on climate resilience, biodiversity restoration and just transition.

3. RATIONALE OF PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP

3.1 Profile of the Lead Partner City

3.1.1 Local challenges in relation to the policy issue identified and solutions provided by the Good Practice

Püspökszilágy, a small Hungarian municipality (760 inhabitants) situated in a hilly catchment area, has faced increasing climate-induced water management challenges. Flash floods and summer droughts have become regular phenomena due to steep slopes, cropland erosion, and changes in precipitation patterns. Since 2006, nearly annually flash floods have caused significant damage (about €250,000 in infrastructure and €100,000 in agriculture) while dry periods led to biodiversity loss, water shortages, and reduced level of groundwater. These escalating issues prompted the development of a locally led solution centred on Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs).

The municipality launched a multi-phase approach starting in 2017, with EU co-financing through the LIFE-MICACC and later LIFE LOGOS4WATERS projects. Initial measures included the construction of 7 log dams and the renovation of 3 stone dams. These eliminated flood damage and, together with a larger water retention pond built in 2019, regulated groundwater levels and provided ecosystem services. Ecological monitoring revealed a 25% increase in biodiversity around the pond.

Recognising that flood and drought risks affect not only individual municipalities but the broader water catchment area, Püspökszilágy took on a coordination role within the water catchment area, launching a Stakeholder Platform that spans nine administrative authorities and covers 210 km^2. Supported by a runoff modelling system using laser scanning and GIS, this platform identifies, plans, and implements site-specific NWRMs, such as swales, hedgerows, and infiltration ponds.

To strengthen long-term resilience, the settlement also initiated the LIFE Co-Clima project in 2024. This extends the original practice by targeting social aspects of adaptation, including community knowledge, inclusive governance, autonomous livelihood strategies, and the reframing of indigenous practices.

Together, these efforts demonstrate that small-scale, low-cost interventions — when coordinated at the landscape level — can effectively address both flooding and drought while increasing biodiversity, resilience, and local cohesion. The Good Practice thus provides a replicable and adaptable model for integrated, multi-level water management and resilience in other European territories.

3.1.2 Key local stakeholders involved and organisation of the delivery of the Good Practice

The delivery of the Good Practice in Püspökszilágy is grounded in broad, inclusive stakeholder participation through the Water Catchment Area Stakeholder Platform, an existing multi-stakeholder body initiated and coordinated by the Municipality of Püspökszilágy. The Platform's structure reflects the diverse land ownership and governance realities of the 210 km^2 catchment area and includes stakeholders from multiple sectors.

Key participants are:

- Farmers and landowners, whose active participation is crucial since NWRMs are often implemented on their land. Their involvement is incentivised through co-ownership of maintenance (e.g. checking a log dam) and participatory planning.

- Residents, including schoolchildren and volunteers, contribute to maintenance and awareness. For example, classes have adopted specific NWRMs as educational and stewardship sites.

- The regional branch of State Forestry: it is a key stakeholder as NWRMs are often installed in the forest, and it is a crucial theme for them as well.

- Municipalities and local authorities across the catchment (Galgagyörk, Kisnémedi, Kosd, Penc, Püspökhatvan, Rád, Vácduka, Váckisújfalu, nine administrative bodies) collaborate via the Platform to coordinate actions across jurisdictional borders.

- National-level institutions, especially the Hungarian Ministry of Interior (as lead partner of the LIFE Logos 4 WATERS project, replaced by the Ministry for Spatial Development due to reorganizations): it supports technical implementation,

monitoring, and upscaling through the LIFE project.

- Technical experts, including hydrologists, environmental scientists and nature conservation experts (e.g. WWF), by developing runoff models used to identify intervention sites, monitoring environmental results.

- Educational and scientific institutions assisting with biodiversity monitoring and training.

The practice is thus delivered through a mix of top-down coordination and bottom-up engagement. NWRMs are selected through public consultation and technical evaluation, ensuring that solutions are appropriate to local conditions. The municipality employs at least one professional coordinator, supported by project-specific staff and volunteers.

This participatory structure has allowed for both cost-effective implementation (e.g. €500–€4,000 per dam) and strong local ownership. The model demonstrates how even small settlements can convene effective, multi-level action by positioning themselves as trusted intermediaries between policy, science, and community.

3.1.3 Where is there room for improvement of the Good Practice and what added value is expected from the Transfer Network in this regard?

Although the Good Practice has already demonstrated tangible impacts, several areas of improvement remain, especially as the municipality looks to further scale up and systematise its approach:

Firstly, the permitting process for NWRMs remains time-consuming and fragmented, involving multiple authorities. The transfer network offers opportunities to exchange on streamlining regulatory frameworks and identifying common barriers across countries. Peer learning can also help improve institutional cooperation at different governance levels. Getting permission is still a challenge regarding some specific types of NWRMs as new tools.

Secondly, while the current NWRMs address runoff and basic irrigation, further refinement is needed to optimise multi-functional benefits, such as improved ecosystem services, climate regulation, and soil health. Through the Transfer Network, Püspökszilágy aims to improve its monitoring and evaluation methodologies, especially regarding biodiversity and social impact, building on the URBACT toolbox and expert support.

Thirdly, communication remains a challenge. While local engagement is strong, the town wants to enhance its digital and visual communication strategies, particularly to influence national policy, reach other municipalities, and raise awareness among youth. In this regard, exchange with partners experienced in social media campaigns or participatory GIS will be particularly valuable.

Moreover, the municipality is eager to explore urban applications of sponge-like solutions, learning from towns like Vilamarxant or Târgu Secuiesc. This presents an opportunity to expand the Good Practice beyond rural contexts and test how modular elements like hedgerows or swales can function in urban parks, roadsides, or schoolyards (Püspökszilágy is an active member of the Climate-friendly settlements' Association, led by District 12 of Budapest, which is also a regional level good practice in connection with water retention in urban areas, thus it provides a great opportunity to learn about urban-related solutions). The same applies for module 7: improving adaptive capacity of small settlements to climate change by boosting community resilience in a just and fair way. Püspökszilágy has a LIFE project running in this field, but the Transfer Network would further stimulate the local community with good examples.

Finally, Püspökszilágy has invested in integrating social justice and gender considerations more deeply into its work. While LIFE Co-Clima has started this, the Transfer Network allows for more systematic inclusion of vulnerable groups, including women, youth, and elderly citizens, in planning and stewardship roles.

Through the Transfer Network, Püspökszilágy not only aims to share a tested model but to enhance it with diverse perspectives and innovations, reinforcing its ambition to become a European pioneer in just, community-based, landscape-level water adaptation.

3.2 Profile of the Transfer Partner Cities

3.2.1 Local challenges of city partners specific to the Good Practice

Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata

As described in chapter 2.1.1., Püspökszilágy is extremely exposed to flash floods since the surrounding steep hills are primarily covered by croplands. Flash floods, occurring almost annually since 2006 because of climate change, wash away large amounts of sediment and cause significant damage to agriculture and infrastructure of the settlement. Conversely, the catchment area dries out significantly during the – stronger and longer - summer heat waves, negatively affecting agriculture, biodiversity and living conditions.

The municipality of Püspökszilágy effectively reduced surface runoff and eliminated flash floods by installing 7 log dams in the right places, renovating 3 small stone dams, and by the creation of a water retention pond along the Szilágyi Creek. By implementing these NWRMs the issue of flash floods – as one part of the policy challenge, improving climate resilience - has been largely resolved, however, soil erosion and nutrient runoff in agricultural fields as well as challenges caused by more and longer droughts are still increasing. Regarding these challenges initial steps have also been made, as follows. To combat drought, a micro regional Water Catchment Area Stakeholder Platform has been created to install NWRMs in the entire catchment area of the Szilágyi Creek, together with other stakeholders. These NWRMs not only focus on flood prevention in other villages but enhance the sponge function across the entire catchment area (at this point, working with individual farmers is crucial, since the most effective natural water retention can be achieved by using agroecological methods.

Another step on the way to fully approach the policy challenge is to improve the village's adaptive capacity to climate change by boosting community resilience in a just and fair way, through improving the population's knowledge, incentivising more autonomous livelihood strategies, enhancing networks of mutual support and reframing indigenous knowledge.

Razkrizje

The small Slovenian settlement (1250 inh.) is located on the inner-border section of the Mura River, where the Ščavnica River flows into the Mura River, and where the hills meet the floodplains of the above-mentioned rivers. Thus, Razkrižje is increasingly affected by extreme weather events that disrupt the natural water cycle and contribute to surface runoff, erosion, and flooding. The increase of paved areas, soil sealing, and reduction of natural infiltration areas have accelerated runoff from the surrounding hills toward the lowland areas, where limited space for water exacerbates flood risks. Climate change also plays into increasing the frequency of extreme weather events in Razkrižje, particularly intense rainfall and prolonged droughts. The area's complex hydrological situation, including steep terrain and the confluence of the Ščavnica and Mura Rivers, makes it highly vulnerable to both flash floods coming from the hills and floods of the rivers. When water flow exceeds the river's capacity (650–750 m^3/s), it spills into the inundation zone, even with existing embankments. Unpredictable, heavy rainfall events often cause surface water to rush down from nearby hills, flooding roads, damaging property, and endangering residents.
In contrast, the municipality also faces increasingly severe summer droughts, affecting agriculture, ecosystems, and daily life. The coexistence of flood and drought risks is worsened by soil compaction, inadequate stormwater infrastructure, and limited infiltration due to urban development. Without a coordinated drainage and retention system, the municipality remains exposed to significant hydrological stress. These extremes (flash floods and droughts) threaten infrastructure, food production, and environmental health. External support is critical, as the scale of needed interventions exceeds the municipality's financial capacity and requires cooperation with the surrounding municipalities.

Plav

Plav is a small (with ca. 9050 inh.), typical Montenegrin town located in the valley of Lim, surrounded by high mountains. As such, it faces significant water retention and management challenges that are increasingly exacerbated by climate change. These include more frequent and intense flash floods, severe summer droughts, soil erosion, and declining groundwater quality. The Lim River basin, which includes Plav, has recorded increased maximum flood discharges in recent years, posing a growing risk to settlements, agricultural lands, and infrastructure. During summer, water flows can drop to several times below average, coinciding with peak agricultural and domestic water demand. Groundwater supplies - accounting for 92% of Montenegro's drinking water - are increasingly at risk due to inadequate catchment protection and sanitation infrastructure. Plav Lake, a glacial lake of ecological and economic importance, is under pressure from both pollution and hydrological extremes. Untreated municipal wastewater further threatens surface water quality and biodiversity. These combined pressures highlight the urgent need for a more holistic landscape management and integrated NWRMs to reduce flood risks, improve infiltration, safeguard water resources, and protect sensitive ecosystems.

Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine

The Velykyj Bereznyj territorial community (ca. 10.000 inhabitants altogether), composed of eight villages (six in mountainous areas), is increasingly affected by climate-induced hydrological stress as it is located in the ranges of the North-Eastern Carpathians, in Ukraine. Steep terrain, combined with fragmented catchments, creates high vulnerability to storm-induced flash floods, which cause soil erosion, sediment accumulation, and damage to agricultural land, infrastructure, and transport systems. Recurring extreme weather events have become more frequent, placing growing pressure on local services and increasing economic losses for residents. In parallel, the community faces recurring summer droughts, which affect both agricultural productivity and domestic water availability. This dual threat reduces the resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods. Local biodiversity and water-dependent ecosystems are increasingly at risk. The challenges are compounded by limited water retention capacity, unregulated runoff from slopes, and insufficient small-scale infrastructure. There is a growing need to implement affordable, nature-based solutions that can improve water infiltration, reduce surface runoff, and help stabilise the water cycle. These challenges are highly aligned with the scope and objectives of the good practice.

Municipiul Targu Secuiesc

Târgu Secuiesc is a small town (ca. 17.800 inh.) located in Covasna County, Romania, in a small basin surrounded by mountains. Due to its location, it faces increasing water management challenges exacerbated by climate change, including flash floods, intense surface runoff, limited soil infiltration, and groundwater stress (the region was facing a historic flood in May 2025, during the preparation of the project). The typical soil types of the region facilitate rapid runoff, significantly raising the risk of flooding, particularly during heavy rainfall events. These conditions frequently impact agricultural areas and overwhelm local drainage systems. Urban development has further contributed to the issue, as the expansion of impermeable surfaces reduces the land's natural absorption capacity, intensifying surface runoff and putting strain on existing infrastructure.

In recent years, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events in the region have increased, highlighting the need for immediate and adaptive water management strategies. Besides the current flood, in June 2024, Covasna County was among 14 counties in Romania severely affected by storms, underlining the local vulnerability to hydrological hazards. At the same time, the area experiences growing periods of drought, leading to reduced groundwater recharge and water scarcity for agriculture and domestic use. The current water retention infrastructure is insufficient, and soil compaction further limits infiltration capacity. These conditions point to an urgent need for small-scale, nature-based solutions to retain water, mitigate runoff, and enhance resilience. The good practice of Püspökszilágy offers an adaptable and proven approach to these challenges, directly aligning with Târgu Secuiesc's environmental context and strategic goals.

Ajuntament de Vilamarxant

Vilamarxant (11.000 inh.), located in the Turia River basin (Júcar Hydrographic Demarcation) next to Valencia, faces mounting water-related challenges driven by climate change (it was seriously hit by the flash flood in 2024). The area has experienced increased flash floods, surface runoff, reduced groundwater recharge, and prolonged drought periods. Urbanisation has reduced the permeability of surfaces, exacerbating flood risks during intense rainfall events, which are becoming more frequent. Groundwater recharge is limited, as precipitation often exceeds the soil's infiltration capacity, leading to erosion and potential landslides. Projections for the Júcar basin indicate a 20–27% reduction in water resources by the end of the century, amplifying existing water scarcity for agriculture, domestic use, and ecosystems. Local wetlands and riparian habitats suffer from altered flow regimes and reduced biodiversity. These interrelated issues create a need for integrated, sustainable solutions that can address both water retention and ecosystem resilience.

NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE

The Nuovo Circondario Imolese (NCI or Sesto Imolese), the cooperation of ten Italian settlements around Imola (Borgo Tossignano, Casalfiumanese, Castel del Rio, Fontanelice, Imola, Castel Guelfo, Medicina, Castel San Pietro, Mordano, and Dozza) consists of 132.000 inhabitants, is increasingly facing climate-induced water management challenges as it is located at the foothills of the Apennine mountains. Therefore, the area has been severely affected by flash floods, surface runoff, reduced infiltration, and groundwater stress, all intensified by land use changes and climate change. In May 2023, unprecedented rainfall led to the overflow of 23 rivers, causing €10 billion in damages, 17 deaths, and the displacement of over 50,000 people. These events were worsened by prior drought conditions that compacted the soil and reduced infiltration. The region also suffers from persistent droughts and biodiversity loss. Rapid urbanisation is another issue: in 2022 alone, 635 hectares of land were converted to artificial surfaces, further diminishing the landscape's water absorption capacity. 45% of the region is classified under medium hydraulic hazard, and flooding affected 42% of cultivated land in the last years, with €1.5 billion in agricultural losses and 41,000 affected workers. These intersecting risks highlight the urgency of implementing sustainable, nature-based water retention solutions adapted to complex urban and peri-urban environments.

3.2.2 Local strategic framework of the city specific to the Good Practice

Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata

The Municipality of Püspökszilágy has been prioritising environmental policies and nature-based climate adaptation for many years now and it is mirrored in several local strategies as well. Regarding the theme of the network, the municipality has an Environmental Protection Strategy, a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (the revision of the previous document is under the way), an Integrated Water Management Plan, and a related Communication Strategy. A Handbook for nature-based water management in smaller settlements will be published soon within the Co-Clima project.

These include a clear reference to the closed and ongoing LIFE projects. These projects served as precursors to the current Good Practice and helped the municipality to develop a strategic perspective on decentralised, community-based adaptation. The municipality has been actively integrating NWRMs into its public spaces and planning frameworks, with technical support from the Association of Climate-Friendly Settlements (KTSZ) and the Hungarian University of Agricultural and Life Sciences (MATE).

Razkrizje

In response to the aforementioned issues, the municipality has adopted a strategic, integrated approach to local water and water space management to align water use, flood protection, and sustainable drainage within local planning and development. The municipality is working on identifying and implementing nature-based solutions such as improved drainage, temporary retention zones, and water retention in the landscape. Key local planning and policy documents reflect this direction. These include the Municipal Spatial Plan (Official Gazette RS, No. 51/15), the Decision on location verification for flood and landslide prevention infrastructure (ID 4098, Official Gazette RS, No. 37/25), and the Program for Comprehensive Local Water and Water Space Management (March 2025). In addition, several strategies and action plans support the municipality's objectives: the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP, 2014), the Local Energy Concept (2022), the Strategy for Development 2015–2025, and the Program for the Discharge and Treatment of Wastewater (2021–2024). The cross-border strategy Good Water for All (2015) and the Strategic Approach to Torrential Waters Impact (2023) further reinforce regional coordination and long-term resilience planning.

Plav

Plav has adopted a comprehensive Strategic Development Plan for 2025–2032 that places strong emphasis on climate adaptation and sustainable water management, in alignment with national and EU-level policies. Key provisions include integrating NWRM principles into spatial planning, with particular focus on wetland conservation, erosion control, and floodplain restoration. The plan also mandates protective buffer zones along Plav Lake and the Lim River to enhance natural retention and biodiversity. These actions are reinforced by Montenegro's Water Law (2007) and the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. In addition, the Sewerage and Wastewater Strategic Master Plan (2018) includes Plav in its long-term roadmap to upgrade wastewater treatment and reduce pollution of surface water bodies. The municipality also benefits from experience in cross-border cooperation projects (IPA CBC), where NWRM-related practices such as bioengineering and wetland restoration have been piloted. Stakeholder engagement is promoted through partnerships with Prokletije National Park, farmers' associations, and civil society organisations, supporting practical implementation of infiltration basins, vegetated buffers, and other low-cost NWRMs. The strategic framework thus provides both policy support and operational pathways for the local transfer of Püspökszilágy's good practice.

Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine

The Velykyi Bereznyi community has recognised the urgency of adapting to climate change and is working to integrate NWRMs into its spatial and environmental policies. The community has developed a sustainable water management concept that includes ecosystem-based approaches, with emphasis on increasing natural infiltration and restoring the territory's water-holding capacity. Strategic directions include the reforestation and slope stabilisation in erosion-prone areas, the ecological bank protection along stream corridors and the Uzh River, as well as the installation of monitoring systems for precipitation and runoff to improve flood forecasting and emergency preparedness. These principles are embedded in ongoing and past cross-border projects under the HUSKROUA CBC programme. Projects include flood monitoring infrastructure and cooperation with Slovakian municipalities on environmental data sharing and cultural heritage protection. The municipality's proactive participation in cross-border water and climate initiatives provides a supportive framework for the transfer and local adaptation of Püspökszilágy's good practice (i.e. Landscape and Watershed Recovery Programme for the Košice Region of Slovakia is a European-level good practice and was published on the Climate Adapt website – due to geographical proximity and already established cooperation this provides further opportunities for exchange and learning).

Municipiul Targu Secuiesc

Since 2021, the municipality has prioritised climate adaptation through the development of strategic planning tools and local resilience initiatives. Key frameworks include the Integrated Urban Development Strategy (IUDS), developed with the World Bank and the Ministry of Development; the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP); and adherence to the EU Mission on Climate Adaptation. These documents outline a clear commitment to sustainable development and urban resilience. However, while strategic directions exist, there remains a need to translate these into concrete actions and especially change the mindsets of all stakeholders. The municipality has recognised that improving water management and reducing the risk of flash floods and urban runoff must be tackled through both policy and practice. Participation in the URBACT Transfer Network is seen as a key opportunity to support this shift, enabling the city to link planning efforts with tested, effective implementation models suited to small urban contexts.

Ajuntament de Vilamarxant

Vilamarxant has adopted several strategic actions to address the growing water-related risks. These include both infrastructural improvements and nature-based planning approaches. In 2022, the municipality launched an integrated water cycle project funded through the Reacciona 2022 Programme, aiming to strengthen water supply and sanitation systems for better climate resilience. Additionally, the municipality has a Potable Water Master Plan, which ensures continuity of service in both normal and emergency conditions while promoting environmental sustainability. The “Plan Verdea” programme advances nature-based solutions by introducing native, low-water-demand vegetation to urban spaces. This initiative reduces urban heat island effects, improves local biodiversity, and enhances rainwater retention. In parallel, Vilamarxant participates in flood risk dialogues through the Júcar Hydrological Plan and promotes hydraulic solutions that protect the Turia Natural Park. The municipality’s recent emergency responses to extreme weather events further highlight its commitment to proactive, integrated water management and disaster preparedness. These frameworks provide the foundation for implementing and adapting NWRMs.

NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE

NCI has recognised the increasing severity of water-related climate impacts and the need for systemic responses. At the local level, strategic directions are informed by integrated water management principles, sustainable land use, and climate adaptation planning. Current efforts focus on mitigating flash floods and improving infiltration through coordinated urban interventions and local environmental projects. Actions include pilot interventions in urban green infrastructure, such as restructured footpaths and flowerbeds in historic centres, which aim to reduce runoff and support water retention. Additionally, NCI coordinates and participates in major European initiatives related to water and sustainability, including LIFE Climax Po and the Greening Cities Partnership of the EU Urban Agenda. The metropolitan collaboration model, combining municipalities, utilities, regional bodies, and civil society, creates a strong governance base to implement small-scale NWRMs and link them with broader resilience frameworks.

3.2.3 Solution provided by the transfer of the Good Pactice

Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata

The transfer of the Püspökszilágy Good Practice offers a cost-effective, locally adaptable solution to managing extreme weather events, particularly flash floods and droughts, through small-scale NWRMs. These interventions have successfully eliminated the occurrence of flash floods in critical areas. The transfer process supports partner cities in taking the first step toward resilience by applying a modular approach that integrates hydrological modelling, co-design of interventions, and simple nature-based infrastructure. A next and longer step is to install NWRMs in the entire catchment areas. This needs more time and further cooperation from all stakeholders. This can be managed by the stakeholder platform to be created at each Transfer City within the project. A third step on the way to fully approach the rather complex challenge is to improve the village’s adaptive capacity to climate change by boosting community resilience in a just and fair way, through improving the population’s knowledge, incentivising more autonomous livelihood strategies, enhancing networks of mutual support and reframing indigenous knowledge.

Razkrizje

The Good Practice will provide Razkrižje with the tools and methods needed to address runoff and cross-border water issues. Runoff modelling using laser scanning will allow the mapping of flood-prone valleys and critical points along the Croatian border. Application of small-scale NWRMs (such as swales and micro-basins) can be tailored to the local geological and

hydrological conditions. Expertise in planning and permitting will support the integration of nature-based infrastructure in existing municipal frameworks. The stakeholder platform model will be crucial for engaging regional agencies as well as stakeholders from the water catchment area, including cross-border partners. Implementation of sponge measures in key sites will mitigate runoff and enhance urban climate resilience. Communication campaigns and participatory monitoring will foster civic engagement and promote stewardship of water resources.

Plav

The transfer of the Püspökszilágy good practice offers proven, nature-based solutions that are directly applicable to Plav's water-related challenges. Surface laser scanning-based runoff modelling would enable better targeting of flood-prone zones near the Lim River and the glacial lake. Transferring techniques for small retention structures, such as sediment traps and swales, will help buffer extreme flows and support groundwater recharge. Learning about the permitting and design process for such structures can improve coordination between the municipality and national authorities. The stakeholder platform concept offers a valuable framework for integrating actors from agriculture, tourism, and water supply. Urban water retention around public infrastructure and riverbanks could ease local flooding while enhancing biodiversity. Communication and citizen outreach components will help build trust and visibility for NWRM investments.

Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine

The transfer of Püspökszilágy's good practice will support Velykyi Bereznyi in enhancing its local capacity to manage floods and droughts through cost-effective NWRMs, as well as offering critical inputs for improving stormwater management and drought resilience in mountainous terrain. Catchment-scale laser scanning will enable the municipality to model water flows from upland areas to village centres. Proven NWRMs - like hillside retention ponds, log dams, and vegetative swales - can be implemented incrementally. Guidance on technical planning and regulatory steps will assist in overcoming institutional and capacity gaps. The stakeholder platform model can bring together village councils, regional services, and local NGOs for cross-village planning. Adaptation of sponge measures within public buildings and roads will address both flood risk and rainwater harvesting. A robust monitoring and outreach plan will help the community understand the value of nature-based solutions, supporting behavioural change and broader replication. The knowledge sharing and support structure offered by the Transfer Network will help embed these practices into planning and budgeting processes.

Municipiul Targu Secuiesc

The transfer of the good practice from Püspökszilágy provides a valuable and applicable model for addressing the specific climate-related water management challenges faced by Târgu Secuiesc. As a municipality located in a mountainous area with increasing surface runoff and flash flood events, Târgu Secuiesc shares several physical and structural similarities with the conditions in Püspökszilágy. Catchment-scale runoff modelling will support decision-making in this erosion-prone context. A tested portfolio of small-scale NWRMs (such as infiltration ditches and swales) can be adapted to the town's soil and urban constraints. Transfer of knowledge related to permission pathways and technical planning will accelerate implementation. The example of a microregional stakeholder platform can guide efforts to bridge sectors and actors. Due to its size, Târgu Secuiesc is also interested in water retention in more urban areas, embedding sponge measures, for example, in schoolyards, households and public parks. This will contribute to both flood resilience and urban wellbeing. Good communication and monitoring frameworks will enhance uptake and provide evidence for future funding and scaling. The experience and methodology shared through this transfer process will thus be essential in bridging the gap between strategic planning and field-level climate adaptation.

Ajuntament de Vilamarxant

The transfer of the Good Practice will support Vilamarxant in addressing flash floods and water scarcity through several aspects. Surface laser scanning-based runoff modelling will offer a data-driven understanding of urban hydrology and inform the siting of measures in the Turia basin. Tested NWRM types (such as swales, ponds, and sediment traps) can be adapted for Mediterranean conditions to reduce runoff and enhance infiltration. Guidance on permitting processes and technical expertise will help streamline planning across departments and regional water authorities. A stakeholder platform model will support dialogue among the municipality, irrigation consortia, NGOs, and residents. Integration of sponge measures in urban green spaces will build on the "Plan Verdea" strategy, combining biodiversity and water retention goals. The communication and monitoring practices tested by Püspökszilágy, including awareness campaigns and local pilot evaluations, will enhance visibility and replication of NbS.

NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE

The transfer of the Good Practice offers practical tools to complement its flood recovery efforts and climate adaptation

strategies. Runoff modelling using surface laser scanning can help assess risk across the multi-municipality territory. A catalogue of proven NWRMs, including different dams and infiltration areas, provides flexible options for urban and peri-urban settings. Experience with approval processes and capacity needs will guide integration into complex administrative structures. Püspökszilágy's stakeholder platform will inform multi-level coordination across the 10 municipalities of NCI. Urban sponge measures, such as permeable footpaths or pocket parks, can be integrated into redevelopment plans. Shared communication strategies and citizen science monitoring methods will support public engagement and institutional buy-in.

3.2.4 Motivation and commitment of each city to join the network

Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata

Püspökszilágy's motivation is to improve and scale up its existing Good Practice and learn from other cities' experiences. The municipality sees the Transfer Network as an opportunity to refine its methods, particularly in terms of monitoring, stakeholder communication, and integration into planning frameworks. The municipal leadership is fully committed and has allocated dedicated human resources to lead the project, including a Project Coordinator and Strategic Advisor with previous EU project experience.

Razkrizje

The Municipality of Razkrižje is strongly motivated to join the network to learn, adapt, and apply practical, proven nature-based solutions for water retention. The territory faces increasing climate risks, with surface runoff from nearby hills regularly damaging roads, properties, and public spaces. Participation would deepen expertise, reduce vulnerability, and enhance the quality of life for residents. Razkrižje aims to increase flood resilience and water retention through sustainable, locally adapted small-scale NWRMs and to align with EU environmental goals. Razkrižje is also keen on learning about the ongoing and planned actions in Püspökszilágy related to the support of community resilience. The comprehensive history of the municipality in EU cooperation and sustainability projects ensures committed participation and follow-through.

Plav

The Municipality of Plav is fully committed to joining the URBACT Transfer Network to strengthen local climate resilience and promote sustainable water management. As a small but proactive local government, Plav is eager to adopt innovative, nature-based solutions that are aligned with EU climate policies and local strategic priorities. The town faces urgent challenges such as flash floods, droughts, and ecosystem degradation, and sees this network as a unique opportunity to learn from peer cities with relevant experience. In particular, Püspökszilágy's model of low-cost, participatory NWRM implementation is highly relevant to Plav's mountainous and resource-constrained context. The municipality is ready to allocate staff and technical resources to support transnational exchange, coordinate local pilot actions, and integrate lessons learned into urban planning. Stakeholders such as local farmers, NGOs, and educational institutions will be actively engaged to ensure local ownership and community support. By joining the network, Plav aims to build technical capacity, foster regional leadership, and contribute to a wider community of practice focused on sustainable, climate-resilient development.

Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine

Velykyi Bereznyi is highly motivated to join the URBACT Transfer Network to strengthen its climate resilience through practical, locally adapted water retention solutions. The municipality faces urgent and increasing challenges from flash floods, droughts, and erosion, and recognises that long-term resilience depends on adopting nature-based, low-cost solutions suited to mountainous areas. Participation in the network will provide access to tested models, technical expertise, and transnational partnerships that can support the adaptation and scaling of successful practices. The municipality has demonstrated its readiness through ongoing efforts in bank protection, environmental monitoring, and participation in cross-border projects. It also sees strong value in contributing its own local experience to the network, particularly in managing water and ecosystems across shared catchments. The municipality is committed to allocating human and institutional resources for the coordination of stakeholder engagement, participation in transnational meetings, and implementation of small-scale pilot actions. Long-term, the municipality views the network as a platform to engage in joint initiatives and promote integrated development in mountainous border regions.

Municipiul Targu Secuiesc

Târgu Secuiesc is strongly committed to advancing sustainable urban development and climate resilience. The municipality is highly exposed to environmental risks such as flash floods, surface runoff, limited infiltration, and drought. These issues are exacerbated by increasing urbanisation and the presence of impermeable surfaces, placing additional stress on the drainage

network and groundwater systems. The municipality has already taken important steps in strategic planning, but lacks experience with implementing NWRMs in practice. Joining the URBACT Transfer Network, SpongeMeasures offers an opportunity to enhance local capacities through knowledge exchange, practical guidance, and direct cooperation with experienced partners. By learning from Püspökszilágy's successful application of nature-based water retention measures, Târgu Secuiesc aims to strengthen its institutional ability to plan, design, and implement similar interventions tailored to local conditions. The municipality is fully committed to active participation throughout the project, including stakeholder engagement, pilot actions, and transnational exchanges.

Ajuntament de Vilamarxant

Vilamarxant is strongly motivated to join the URBACT Transfer Network to enhance its water retention capacity and climate resilience. As a Mediterranean municipality, it faces rising temperatures, seasonal drought, and flash flood events, all of which place pressure on infrastructure, agriculture, and biodiversity. The opportunity to learn from the experience of Püspökszilágy, particularly in implementing small-scale NWRMs, is seen as a concrete way to strengthen local response capacity. The municipality is particularly interested in replicating good practices such as lateral reservoirs and sediment traps, which can help capture and reuse stormwater while mitigating flood risks. Building a local stakeholder platform, based on the Hungarian model, would also support integrated planning and improve local ownership of environmental solutions. The municipal government is committed to dedicating staff time, coordinating transnational exchange, and identifying suitable sites for pilot actions. This project is viewed as a critical step toward embedding NWRMs into long-term municipal planning and increasing local resilience.

NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE

The motivation to join the URBACT Transfer Network stems from the worsening water-related risks faced by the region, particularly severe flooding, runoff, and water stress. Recent events have exposed the vulnerability of both urban centres and surrounding agricultural areas. While emergency measures and structural responses are underway, NCI sees this network as a strategic opportunity to complement hard infrastructure with sustainable, nature-based solutions. Participation will help identify innovative practices to be adapted to the local context, facilitate peer learning, and support the co-creation of tailored interventions. NCI is committed to active participation through its experienced project staff and institutional network. The municipality has a strong track record in EU environmental projects and coordinates the Greening Cities Partnership, making it well-positioned to both learn from and contribute to the network. The organisation views this as a valuable chance to build a replicable approach to NWRMs in urban regions.

3.2.5 Local Stakeholders to be involved in the URBACT Local Group

Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata

Püspökszilágy's Water Catchment Area Stakeholder Platform, an existing multi-stakeholder body initiated and coordinated by the Municipality of Püspökszilágy, is the base of the stakeholders that will be included in the ULG. This platform includes:

Municipalities across the catchment area: Galgagyörk, Kisnémedi, Kosd, Penc, Püspökhatvan, Rád, Vácduka, Váckisújfalus) collaborate via the Platform to coordinate actions across jurisdictional borders.

Farmers and landowners, whose active participation is crucial since NWRMs are often implemented on their land. Their involvement is incentivised through co-ownership of maintenance and participatory planning.

The regional branch of State Forestry: it is a key stakeholder as NWRMs are often installed in the forest, therefore it is a crucial theme for them as well.

Residents, including schoolchildren and volunteers, as well as local NGOs, contribute to maintenance and awareness. For example, classes have adopted specific NWRMs as educational and stewardship sites.

National-level institutions, especially the Hungarian Ministry of Interior (as lead partner of the LIFE Logos 4 WATERS project, replaced by the Ministry for Spatial Development due to reorganizations): it supports technical implementation, monitoring, and upscaling through the LIFE project.

Technical experts, including hydrologists, environmental scientists and nature conservation experts (e.g. WWF), by developing runoff models used to identify intervention sites, monitoring environmental results.

Educational and scientific institutions assisting with biodiversity monitoring and training.

Razkrizje

Key stakeholders will include local farmers, residents, municipal engineers, the Pomurje Regional Development Agency, environmental NGOs, and representatives of the national water authority. Their roles range from providing input on flood-prone zones to helping the planning and permitting process, maintaining NWRMs and supporting awareness campaigns. The municipality will coordinate the local stakeholder group through its public service team, with Monika Holc Ivanić acting as lead facilitator. Her extensive project management experience across EU and environmental projects ensures strong coordination and stakeholder engagement. The group will also collaborate with cross-border partners in Croatia, given shared water management issues.

Plav

The URBACT Local Group in Plav will be composed of key actors representing governance, technical, environmental, and community sectors. The Municipality of Plav will serve as coordinator, providing strategic oversight, planning integration, and institutional leadership. The Public Utility Company will offer operational capacity in water supply, wastewater management, and infrastructure maintenance, and will be directly involved in pilot actions. The Prokletije National Park administration will contribute expertise in biodiversity and ecosystem management, with access to protected areas and cross-border project experience. Local farmers and agricultural associations will bring essential knowledge of land use, irrigation, and soil management, while also contributing land and support for field implementation. Civil society organisations and environmental NGOs will assist with public engagement, education, and mobilisation. Schools and vocational institutions will promote awareness among youth and support capacity-building activities. The Plav Tourism Organisation will help communicate outcomes and promote the eco-tourism potential. The group will be coordinated by Merdin Purišić, Manager of the Municipality, with proven experience in EU-funded project implementation and multi-stakeholder coordination.

Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine

The Velykyi Bereznyi community will establish an URBACT local group composed of strategic, operational, and community-level actors. The local authority will coordinate the group and oversee integration with planning and implementation structures. The Zakarpattia Regional Military Administration will serve as a key policy partner, contributing to regional-level planning and coordination. Neighbouring territorial communities will participate in joint planning across shared catchments, particularly for coordinated flood prevention measures. Slovak municipalities, involved in cross-border projects, will support experience exchange and transboundary water management. Uzhanskyi National Nature Park will offer ecological and technical expertise, especially on reforestation and landscape restoration. The local branch of the national forestry is also a key stakeholder, especially as NWRMs are more often used by forestry. Local NGOs will organise education and public awareness activities, including school partnerships. Community educational institutions will engage students in environmental monitoring and climate education. Local farmers and landowners are considered critical actors in implementing NWRMs in the field. Their early involvement will support uptake and long-term sustainability. Coordination of the URBACT Local Group will be led by the Village Council, with the project manager providing daily facilitation and liaison with the network.

Municipiul Targu Secuiesc

An inclusive group of local stakeholders will be involved in the URBACT Local Group in Târgu Secuiesc to ensure the successful localisation of the good practice. The municipality recognises that climate adaptation and sustainable water management require cross-sectoral cooperation and awareness-building among key actors. Identified stakeholders include:

County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations

Regional unit of the National Administration “Romanian Waters”

Local NGOs (e.g. Green Sun Association)

Civil society organisations and community representatives

Local farmers and the Agricultural Directorate

Educational institutions (schools, academic partners)

Infrastructure and utility providers

These stakeholders possess relevant competencies in environmental monitoring, water management, public engagement, and local development. The Municipality of Târgu Secuiesc will coordinate the Local Group, ensuring effective facilitation and continuity. The municipality's previous experience in EU and national projects ensures institutional readiness to mobilise local actors in a participatory process.

Ajuntament de Vilamarxant

Vilamarxant will mobilise a wide range of stakeholders through its URBACT Local Group. The Municipality (Ajuntament de Vilamarxant) will lead coordination efforts, involving both the Urban Planning and Environmental Departments. Key technical partners include the Confederación Hidrográfica del Júcar, responsible for managing water resources in the river basin, and Aguas de Valencia, the regional water utility. Environmental stakeholders such as Acció Ecologista-Agró and the Valencian Association of Biocommunities will contribute expertise on biodiversity and sustainable land use. Agricultural representatives from ASAJA and the Valencian Association of Farmers, along with the Ribera Alta Irrigation Consortium, will support the integration of NWRMs into rural and farming practices. Community participation will be ensured through groups such as the Residents' Association, Red Cross Youth, and Cultural Association of Vilamarxant. Academic and technical expertise will be provided by the Polytechnic University of Valencia and the Valencian Institute of Agricultural Research. Regional-level support will come from the Generalitat Valenciana and the Water Resources Centre of the Valencian Community. Coordination will be led by the municipality, supported by an experienced European Projects Advisor.

NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE

NCI will involve a wide range of stakeholders across the ten municipalities of the metropolitan area. Local municipalities to be involved include Borgo Tossignano, Casalfiumanese, Castel del Rio, Fontanelice, Imola, Castel Guelfo, Medicina, Castel San Pietro, Mordano, and Dozza. Business associations will also be involved, such as Assindustria, Confesercenti, and Confcommercio. Other involved stakeholders, including consumer associations, environmental NGOs (e.g. Legacoop, Confcooperative, Legambiente, WWF, Italia Nostra, Federconsumatori, Con.AMI, HERA), the Regional Environmental Agency (ARPA) and the Environmental and Energy Agency (AESS), as well as the Emilia-Romagna Region and Metropolitan City of Bologna, and the Po River Basin Authority (ADBPO). This allows for coordination across public, private, and civic sectors. The stakeholder group will be coordinated by NCI's European Projects Office, led by experienced project manager Marino Cavallo. The network ensures resource mobilisation, multi-level governance, and technical support essential for the local adaptation of the good practice.

3.3 What are the main challenges and barriers identified to the transfer of the Good Practice?

The Good Practice has a great transfer potential due to several issues. Most importantly, NWRMs are very cheap in comparison with grey infrastructure, yet they are effective, and the transfer of the good practice can quickly demonstrate impact, just as it happened in Püspökszilágy in connection with the flash floods. The good practice represents a good balance of traditional means (NWRMs themselves), modern technology (surface modelling) and cooperation across sectors and territories. It is easy to understand the good practice, but while the planning and implementing of NWRMs can be achieved in relatively short time, the preparation, maintenance, monitoring and constant development of NWRMs on landscape level needs a continuous operation and a more significant dedication and cooperation.

The biggest challenge behind the adaptation of the good practice is effective collaboration of all stakeholders, especially with farmers, since it requires a holistic, more pro-environmental approach, and the long-desired paradigm shift in agricultural practices too much depends on funding systems (i.e. mainly the Common Agricultural Policy). The coordination of the Water Catchment Area Stakeholder Platform needs at least one professional employed on the long run, but it also requires some staff effort from the involved municipalities. Although the good practice is centred around small-scale, cheap investments, their creation / building needs temporarily more workforce and equipment. While it is true that community work can be largely used (e.g. through conservation volunteers) while installing NWRMs, professional volunteer management is also required (rewarding their enthusiasm, building their capacities).

The involvement of farmers into the transformation of landscapes around towns and villages in hilly environments is crucial, simply because the most effective natural water retention can be achieved by using agroecological methods. However, this needs a significant change in mindsets. This can be achieved by a due cooperation of supporting organisations (institutions managing the CAP), but the municipality's facilitative role is also important.

The practice can be easily adapted to local contexts. However, the most important feature of the practice remains the same everywhere: a coordinator of the water catchment area is needed to map, together with stakeholders, especially in the upper part of the water catchment area, those places where NWRMs can prevent floods in the lower part of the catchment area (in the city).

Climate change fosters systematic change in all areas of life. Landscape-level water retention needs a paradigm shift, and municipalities, as the most local forms of government, have a key role in this. Still, many decision-makers are simply not aware of the size of the challenge. Therefore, awareness-raising and changing mindsets are crucial, enabling municipalities to efficiently build up these cheap methods to increase climate adaptation capacities.

To maximise the transfer potential of the Good Practice, it has been modularised to facilitate adaptation and transfer, as follows: 1. surface laser scanning supported runoff modelling; 2. types and planning of NWRMs; 3. permission and required expertise; 4. multilevel cooperation through a stakeholder platform; 5. implementing sponge measures in urban settings; 6. communication and monitoring of NWRMs as Nature-based Solutions; and 7. improving adaptive capacity of small settlements to climate change by boosting community resilience in a just and fair way.

3.4 Why does it makes sense for these cities to work together?

The first aspect behind the partnership building was geography. According to the European Environmental Agency (discomap.eea.europa.eu/climate) extreme weather and climate-related hazards such as heat waves, floods and droughts will become more frequent and intense in most regions of the EU. Climate change is projected to lead to a higher intensity of rain in most parts of Europe, which would increase the risk of flash floods, mainly in hilly or mountainous areas. According to the “change in heavy rain in winter and summer in the period 2071-2100 compared to the present climate (1971-2000) based on high emissions scenario” map, the largest increases, up to 35%, are projected for Central and Eastern Europe. Southern Europe could see increases in heavy rain of up to 25%.

As for droughts, available studies project increases in the frequency, duration and severity of meteorological and hydrological droughts for most of Europe over the 21st century, except for parts of Northern Europe. The largest increase in drought conditions is projected for Southern Europe, where competition between water users will increase and where severe droughts are projected to become more frequent. Drought frequency is also projected to increase in Central and Western Europe, whereas it may decrease in some limited regions of Northern Europe. Based on these scientific projections, Püspökszilágy intended to involve slightly more partners from Southern and Central Europe.

Besides joint, climate change related challenges in thousands of European settlements located in valleys surrounded by hills/mountains, and in line with the URBACT expectations related to the involvement of small- or medium-sized settlements, Püspökszilágy intended to involve villages (Razkrižje), groups of settlements (Velykyj Bereznyj, Nuovo Circondario Imolese) as well as smaller towns (Vilamarxant, Târgu Secuiesc, Plav). However, NWRMs can be applied around bigger cities, too: according to the World Economic Forum’s 2022 Global Risks Report “more than 1.4 billion people living in the world’s largest urban centres are at high or extreme risk of environmental disaster and flooding has been identified as the most common natural risk across more than 1,600 cities, each with over 300,000 inhabitants”.

We did not want to involve a non-city partner, because as the most local forms of the government, municipalities are the key actors to activate stakeholders within a small water catchment area. They have direct, first-hand experience of the consequences of extreme weather events, they know the potential resources and opportunities the best, they form the necessary strategies and know the local stakeholders who are affected the most, but also who can be involved.

Our network has succeeded in involving 5 partners new in URBACT (only the SI/IT partners have previous experience). Next, much effort was allocated to ensure proper geographical coverage of the partnership (min. number of EU countries involved, mix of less developed/transition/more developed regions, involvement of IPA/NDICI countries). There are two macroregions not directly represented in the project: “West” and “North”. Despite all the efforts (direct contact with all relevant NUPs and NbS HUBs, presentation at events organised by the relevant NUPs i.e. France, Germany), very low interest has been received. We had an eighth partner, Ljusdal from Sweden, who actively participated in the project development process, but had to step back just one week before the submission due to administrative reasons. A big joint effort was made to replace Ljusdal, but identified organisations (Syndicat Mixte Yonne Médian from France and Helsingborg from Sweden) could not join in such a short notice. In case of success, if possible, we are happy to involve one of them.

However, as the Western and Northern parts of Europe are less affected by climate change than the Eastern and Central parts, we consider the lack of such partners less vital.

Partners represent different levels of experience relevant for the topic. Some partners are at the initial stages of developing NWRMs, some others already work on the planning of NWRMs. In addition, the IT partner is involved in the UAEU's Thematic Partnership on Greening Cities.

4. ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

4.1 Description of Work Package 1- Network management

4.1.1 Organisation of the project coordination

The coordination of our Transfer Network will be managed by the Municipality of Püspökszilágy, the Lead Partner and "owner" of the Good Practice. The municipality has assembled a compact yet highly competent team to ensure the professional and efficient delivery of the project. The project coordination team will be composed of four core members: a Project Coordinator, a Financial Officer, a Communication Officer, and a Policy Liaison and Strategic Advisor (i.e. the very active mayor of the settlement himself). The Project Coordinator will be responsible for day-to-day management, overall coordination among partners, the organisation of transnational meetings, reporting duties, and liaising with the Lead Expert and the URBACT Programme. The Financial Officer will manage financial documentation, ensure compliance with URBACT and ERDF regulations, and support partners in accurate financial reporting. The Communication Officer will be responsible for both internal and external communication, the visual identity of the network, and the dissemination strategy, including social media presence and visual documentation. The Policy Liaison will ensure that project activities remain aligned with relevant EU policy frameworks, including the 2021 EU Adaptation Strategy, the Water Framework Directive, the Biodiversity Strategy 2030, and the Cohesion Policy priorities for 2021–2027.

Internal coordination within the Lead Partner team will be ensured through weekly check-ins and shared project management tools, including a centralised task board and a cloud-based document repository. All team members will be involved in monthly strategy meetings to review progress, allocate responsibilities, and anticipate administrative deadlines. The team will also prepare and maintain internal guidance documents for reporting, financial management, and partner communication protocols.

At the network level, the Lead Partner will organise quarterly online coordination meetings with the designated city coordinators from each project partner. These meetings will be structured around key milestones, deliverable review, exchange of implementation experiences, and problem-solving. To support transparency and continuity, detailed minutes, task trackers, and decision summaries will be distributed after each coordination call. A project-wide shared folder will host all relevant materials, from reporting templates to branding assets and updated versions of deliverables, allowing easy access and version control for all partners.

The Lead Expert will play an important role in facilitating strategic alignment and knowledge exchange across the network. S(he) will advise on learning processes, monitor knowledge transfer outcomes, and support the integration of capacity-building activities into the action planning process. Where specific technical or thematic needs arise that cannot be sourced in-house, external Ad Hoc Experts will be engaged to provide focused support to partners. This management structure ensures that both administrative responsibilities and content-related development processes are handled with clarity, professionalism, and mutual accountability, reflecting Püspökszilágy's strong commitment to leading the project to a high standard.

4.1.2 Proposed approach to network-level and local-level communication

At the network level, communication activities will be coordinated by the LP's Communication Officer, in close collaboration with communication officers at each partner city. This centralised but collaborative approach ensures message consistency while allowing for adaptation to local contexts and languages. A dedicated project webpage will be set up under the URBACT site, featuring news, updates, event summaries and thematic reports. The project's most important milestones will also be mirrored on the municipal websites of all partners.

The visual identity of the project will be established early in the implementation phase, including the acronym, a tagline, and a boilerplate – all reflecting the graphic requirements of the Programme. During the kick-off meeting, partners will be equipped with all the communication tools to ensure coherent branding and messaging across the lifetime of the network. Besides the project sub-page, a project-level social media presence will be managed by the LP, while each partner builds up a comprehensive social media presence locally. Concrete communication and dissemination activities on the transnational level are described below under 4.2.2.

At the local level, each partner will tailor communication and dissemination activities to their community's context, based on the Communication Plan. Besides regular updates on the local online platforms (institutional websites, social media accounts) and feeding the network level communication with local inputs, local activities (e.g. public stakeholder meetings when building

up the stakeholder platforms, planning Testing Actions, explanatory signage in pilot areas) provide great opportunities for dissemination.

These local activities form a great basis to tell the story of small-scale, but powerful NWRMs. Tailored events will also be organised, as follows: Expert Walks are centred around the Testing Actions and aimed at targeting the expert community. Networking at the national level and synergies with other projects are also foreseen for all partners (e.g., in the case of Püspökszilágy, a connection to the OPTAIN Horizon project is highly sought). Last, but not least, local dissemination events are also planned to showcase results (Water Catchment Area Stakeholder Platforms set up, Testing Actions, Transfer Plans). Thematic outcomes provided by the LE are key elements of the network's visibility (case studies, articles, Quarterly Journals and the final digital publication), summarising the transfer journey of each partner, enriched with practical visuals and testimonies.

4.1.3 Activities to be implemented under WP1

Work Package 1 covers all necessary management, coordination, and reporting tasks to ensure the successful implementation of our Transfer Network. These activities are designed to support efficient coordination, compliance with URBACT procedures, and the smooth transfer of the Good Practice from the Lead Partner to the project partners.

Under Activity 1.1 – Start-up and overall coordination, the project will begin with the signing of the Subsidy Contract between the Lead Partner and the URBACT Secretariat, followed by the signature of the Joint Convention between the Lead Partner and all transfer partner cities. These foundational agreements will clearly define roles, responsibilities, and obligations across the partnership, based on the templates provided by the Programme. Simultaneously, the Lead Partner will establish its internal project team, consisting of a Project Coordinator, Financial Manager, Communication Officer, and a Strategic Advisor responsible for EU policy alignment. This team will also coordinate closely with the assigned URBACT Lead Expert and any contracted Ad Hoc Experts. Project teams in transfer cities with a similar structure will also be set up at the beginning of the project implementation. The internal setup phase includes the development of partner manuals, reporting templates, and task-sharing agreements, which will support the efficient roll-out of project activities and ensure a shared understanding of the work programme from the beginning.

Overall management and financial coordination will continue throughout the life of the network. The Project Coordinator will oversee day-to-day coordination and ensure that all partners are on track with their respective deliverables. The Financial Manager will be responsible for verifying partner expenditures, managing the reporting process and payment claims, and ensuring that all financial documentation is correctly prepared and submitted in line with URBACT's requirements.

Activity 1.2 – Coordination meetings and mid-term reflection include the regular coordination structures that keep the network functioning smoothly. These will consist of two main formats: in-person coordination meetings, which will be organised alongside each Network Meeting, and regular online coordination calls, held quarterly. These meetings will focus on administrative and technical progress, identify challenges early on, and coordinate upcoming milestones. In the second half of the project, the partnership will engage in a structured Mid-Term Reflection Process, facilitated by the Lead Expert and the Lead Partner, in line with the respective URBACT guidelines, to assess the progress of the transfer, stakeholder engagement, and implementation capacity. If necessary, this process may trigger a Reprogramming Procedure, ensuring that project goals remain realistic and aligned with the evolving needs of the cities.

Activity 1.3 – Reporting and project closure includes both partner-level and project-level reporting tasks, again, in line with the structure set by the Programme. Each partner will be responsible for compiling periodic financial and content reports, including the identification and formal appointment of their respective First Level Controllers (FLCs). After getting the certificates from the FLCs of costs reported, partner-level reports will feed the Project Coordinator's preparation of consolidated network-level documents: the Payment Claims, Evidence Packages, and Progress Reports. Throughout the reporting cycle, the Lead Partner will provide guidance and support to ensure that all documentation meets the required standards. In the final phase of the project, a Final Report will be prepared, including the financial closure, a reflection on the transfer process, a summary of partner achievements, and an overview of the policy and communication outcomes.

These coordination and management tasks will be closely integrated with the thematic and operational aspects of the network. For example, each Network Meeting will be accompanied by a financial and management check-in, ensuring full alignment between transnational learning activities and administrative implementation. All WP1 activities are designed not just to ensure compliance but to create an environment of transparency, accountability, and mutual support, where each partner is

empowered to fully engage with the learning and transfer process.

Through careful planning, continuous support, and strong internal organisation, Work Package 1 will ensure that our Transfer Network operates efficiently and delivers on its promise to build local capacity for climate adaptation through the successful uptake of the Püspökszilágy Good Practice.

4.2 Description of Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities

4.2.1 General framework for Network Level Activities

Our Transfer Network will implement a structured and collaborative process of transnational learning, with a clear methodology that supports the gradual, tailored transfer of the Good Practice to the Transfer Cities and beyond (see later). The general framework of the network is grounded in URBACT IV's methodology for Transfer Networks. It also draws inspiration from previous and ongoing projects in Püspökszilágy, while remaining firmly anchored in the specific challenges addressed by this project: utilising small-scale NWRMs in the landscape to prevent flash floods and combat droughts, supporting climate adaptation in small settlements, and enhancing community resilience.

At the heart of the transfer process lies a modular understanding of the Good Practice, built around seven key components, providing modules for learning: 1. surface laser scanning supported runoff modelling; 2. types and planning of NWRMs; 3. permission and required expertise; 4. multilevel cooperation though a stakeholder platform in the catchment area; 5. implementing sponge (water retention) measures in urban settings; 6. communication and monitoring of NWRMs as Nature-based Solutions; and 7. improving adaptive capacity of small settlements to climate change by boosting community resilience in a just and fair way.

These have been selected due to the following reasons:

1. Surface laser scanning supported runoff modelling: when modern technologies meet traditional tools. Using small-scale Natural Water Retention Measures provides a whole range of benefits for urban areas and beyond (e.g. biophysical, economic, ecosystem services, health, biodiversity, risk mitigation, climate adaptation). To combat drought and enhance our resilience efficiently in urban areas and beyond, we need to restore and enhance the capacity of landscapes to retain water. Using modern technology to create runoff models is a great help in installing NWRMs in the right place.

2. Types and planning of NWRMs: in line with the dedicated website of the European Commission (nwrm.eu), working on NWRMs requires an understanding of a broad range of key concepts, starting from sustainable forestry, agroecology and nature-based solutions to artificial groundwater recharge and planning of urban green infrastructure, for instance. This module is about having a common understanding of these concepts, which are essential for the mindset change required.

3. permission and required expertise (legal and technical authorisation processes): planning and installing NWRMs seem relatively simple; however, just like in the case of new things, public administration is often not ready for them. NWRMs are new tools; public authorities have not met them yet, and thus, there are often no protocols on whether they need permissions or not. Püspökszilágy faced many challenges in connection with permissions regarding their newly installed log dams and rain gardens. This is an important preliminary step to be discussed in all Transfer Cities.

4. Multilevel cooperation through a stakeholder platform in the catchment area: as explained before, the planning and installation of NWRMs are organised through a microregional Water Catchment Area Stakeholder Platform to enhance the sponge function across the entire catchment area. The municipality is the best-positioned entity within a small water catchment area to coordinate stakeholders' interests, enabling them to efficiently implement NWRMs. So, this module is about the engagement of stakeholders, and as it fits the opportunities offered by the URBACT project, we also expect Transfer Cities to create such a platform by the end of the project.

5. Implementing sponge (water retention) measures in urban settings: many European cities faced and are facing heavy rainfalls, causing huge damage to the dense urban fabric. Frontrunner cities build new housing estates without using grey infrastructure to collect rainwater, and water retention has been an integrated part of urban development. This module is about explaining the key lessons and challenges regarding urban rainwater harvesting. This module is not very relevant in

Püspökszilágy due to its size, but we intend to cooperate with the Hungarian Association of Climate Friendly Cities at this point (they are project partners in all the LIFE projects Püspökszilágy is involved in), which sets in district 12 of Budapest, the frontrunner city in Hungary with this regard, lead partner of the LIFE in RUNOFF project. Thus, we can efficiently reflect on this topic as well (an important theme for many Transfer Cities).

6. Communication and monitoring of NWRMs as Nature-based Solutions: scientific and citizen science aspects of monitoring will be explained. This is strongly related to communication, which targets the required paradigm shift at this point. For example, the water retention pond in Püspökszilágy is not a formal lake established for recreational purposes, but this is something to explain to residents.

7. Improving the adaptive capacity of small settlements to climate change by boosting community resilience in a just and fair way. The more and more severe droughts and other climate impacts like the change in rainfall patterns and extreme temperatures, together with the recent economic crisis with rising food and energy prices, dramatically highlight the vulnerability of small rural settlements. Their vulnerability is further exacerbated by their greater dependence on agriculture and natural resources, lack of sufficient resources and neglect by policymakers. While their climate adaptation efforts are induced by climate change, the need for better adaptation also derives from their loss of resilience factors, such as the so-called traditional knowledge and networks of mutual support, making the population more vulnerable to climate change impacts. Within the Co-Clima LIFE project, Püspökszilágy has been working on a model to help small rural settlements in their climate adaptation efforts, and although Module 7 is not strictly linked to NWRMs and the Good Practice, we think it is an essential part of the answer to the policy challenge.

In the second month, right after the Programme level kick-off meeting, we will organise a project kick-off meeting online with all partners, to set expectations, clarify roles, present the work plan, and jointly review the policy framework and timeline. Following this, the Lead Partner and the appointed Lead Expert will visit all Transfer Cities to understand local systems, governance, spatial characteristics, and barriers to uptake. This will result in a consolidated Network Roadmap as a part of the Transferability Study, which will specify the above-mentioned modular pathway and tailor the themes and the delivery logic of the network.

The general structure of the project is sequenced over transnational network meetings at each partner's location. Each meeting consists of masterclasses, on-the-spot observations, collaborative planning and peer review, implemented across three main phases. We intend to organise the majority of "learning" Network Meetings until the end of the Adapt phase, and we will concentrate on finalising the Transfer Plans via online sessions.

Throughout the network's lifespan, the Lead Expert will support the strategic coherence of the learning activities: by writing case studies based on each module, the LE helps partners translate abstract principles into local actions and helps outside readers to fully understand the process. The Lead Partner's coordination team will ensure that the learning activities are effectively planned, delivered, and documented. The general framework reflects our belief that learning is most effective when grounded in real-world issues, supported by structured guidance, and owned by local actors through reflection and adaptation.

Although we lost a Nordic town just before the submission, as a general rule, we do not expect to involve an additional partner in the beginning of the project, mainly because we have taken into consideration dissemination possibilities as well when selected partners (see the partner description: involving SK good practice on water retention through the UA partner, the Association of Climate Friendly Cities though the LP and the Greening Cities Partnership through the IT partner).

4.2.2 Proposed content, tools and methods for the transnational exchange and learning activities

The content and methods for transnational exchange are based on a strong foundation of peer learning, practical exploration, reflection, and adaptation. These are aligned with the URBACT methodology and built specifically around the structure and thematic needs of this Transfer Network. Our project focuses on how cities, towns or smaller rural communities can use simple, cost-effective, and locally manageable NWRMs to increase their resilience to floods and droughts. However, successful transfer is not just about replicating physical interventions, as it also requires integrative and participative governance practices, and communication strategies into local systems.
The main learning modules are structured thematically across seven focus areas. During the preparation of the project, partner cities discussed the relevance of each of these modules, but it was not possible to delegate specific topics to appropriate partners, since all modules are relevant for all partners, with slight differences. These topics, however, have a linear sequence

regarding the entire process, starting from runoff modelling and planning to monitoring and communication. Thus, besides discussing all relevant topics in the mirror of local challenges, the partnership has decided to have a series of deep-dive workshops on each topic step by step, as follows.

After the online kick-off meeting (Dec 2025) and the Network Meeting 1 in Püspökszilágy (deep understanding & exploration of the project's potential for modularisation, Month 4), Network Meeting 2 (Razkrižje, M8) focuses on module 1+2, and it is about finalising the Network Roadmap. In between city visits will be organised (Febr-May 2026), starting with the Network Meeting 1.
Network Meeting 3 (Târgu Secuiesc, M11) focuses on module 2+3.
Network Meeting 4 (Plav, M13) focuses on module 3+4 and hosts the peer-review of Testing Actions.
Network Meeting 5 (Vilamarxant, M16) focuses on module 4+5, since this partner is best positioned to talk about water retention in urban areas: participants will have walkshops to explore urban sponge measures in Valencia and in its agglomeration.
Network Meeting 6 (Velykyj Bereznyj, M18) focuses on module 5+6 and partners will evaluate their mid-term progress.
Network Meeting 7 (Imola, M20) focuses on module 6+7, hosts the first peer-review session of the draft Transfer Plans and the Improvement Plan, and also a peer-review of the elaborated Testing Actions. In addition, it explores EU policies along the partner's strong commitment in the Greening Cities Partnership.

Each Network Meeting will include: a contextual introduction to the hosting city's challenges and current practices; a field visit to relevant NWRM sites or natural flood-prone zones; facilitated workshops exploring the module in detail; co-creation or design exercises; and structured reflection by using methods from the URBACT Toolbox, such as Learning Grids or the Book of Ideas to be discussed with the ULG during its upcoming meeting. These tools ensure that learning is both documented and integrated into local planning processes. This structure also provides an excellent framework for feedback related to a module discussed in the previous meeting (the LE can map the progress made on local level in connection with that specific module). This basic concept can be and will be tailored by the Lead Expert within the Transferability Study.

Our methodology also includes at least eight online events. These can be masterclasses organised for the ULGs, allowing thematic deep-dives and capacity-building for local teams in connection with topics to be covered by external speakers. These sessions will be open to ULG members from all partner cities (serving as bridges between phases) and will cover both technical and soft skills related to all modules (e.g. stakeholder engagement methods, participatory mapping, visual communication of nature-based solutions, and adapting interventions to urban, peri-urban, and rural environments). These meetings will be organised by the appointed LE and the LP, and to support the development and facilitation of the ULG, partners will draw on resources from the URBACT Toolbox. After M20 (Network Meeting 7), at least one session will be dedicated to the peer-review of the more elaborated Transfer Plans. Additionally, the network will benefit from URBACT capacity-building support, including peer learning and thematic masterclasses, ensuring that each partner has access to tailored tools and expertise throughout the process.

Transnational activities will be supported by transnational communication and dissemination activities, largely determined by the Urbact guidelines. Active and efficient communication about project outputs and results is a high expectation of the URBACT IV Programme and a strong interest of all project participants. Effective dissemination of project activities and results will be ensured through the following transnational (communication and dissemination) activities:

- The LP will prepare a detailed Communication Plan, including guidelines for visual identity. This Plan will be discussed with partner cities during the online kick-off event. In line with the URBACT requirements, the LP will also prepare/revise the network acronym, a tagline and a boilerplate, and the partnership will approve the final versions during the above-mentioned meeting.
- The Lead Partner will also prepare the first draft of the A3 poster (text and layout) to be printed out by each partner city, after having an agreement on it.
- Setting up and monthly update of the network page on the URBACT website by the Communication Officer, fed by partners' contributions. It is the Communication Officer's task to provide legible and lively content for the website.
- Production and constant (monthly) update of a Social Media account on project level, developed and operated with consideration of the URBACT IV integrated social media. The project-level social media account will be managed by the LP Communication Officer based on inputs coming from all partners.
- At least 3 complex articles will be written by the Lead Expert, taking into consideration the URBACT editorial strategy as well.
- The Network Final Report will also be drafted by the Lead Expert, as required by the Programme, based on inputs from the entire partnership. The structure, the content and its general layout will be worked out during the project implementation phase, jointly with partner cities.

- The Final Network Report will be fed by the 6 Quarterly Network Journals, also drafted by the Lead Expert. These are liveable, well-edited, user-friendly documents, prepared based on exchange and learning activities.
- Final Event in Hungary (most likely in Püspökszilágy) with attendance beyond the partnership. This will be a core moment to disseminate project results, including the Transfer Plans for the European policy arena (which can be targeted through the IT partner).

The appointed Communication Officers of all partners play a crucial role in achieving communication goals. Due to the nature and complexity of this task, it is not enough to have the skills and competencies required for PR and communication activities in general. An extended knowledge is expected from the person, including:
- precise knowledge of Programme requirements as far as communication actions are concerned;
- in-depth knowledge of the project content;
- experience in PR and media relations;
- ability to promote the project through presence at relevant events;
- up-to-date knowledge about the design and operation of specific communication tools, with a special emphasis on social media;
- outstanding communication skills both in terms of internal (partnership level) and external (wider public) communication.

The LP Communication Officer has an important role within the project as he will be responsible for the development and monitoring of the project's Communication Plan. He keeps contact with the URBACT Secretariat related to communication actions, designs and produces the project's communication materials, also with special attention on social media. The day-to-day follow-up and monitoring of communication activities will be discussed with the partners during online coordination meetings as well as during the network meetings. All project communication materials will respect the appropriate URBACT requirements as well as EU regulations.

4.2.3 Expected outputs under WP2

List of deliverables of the work package

Activity	ID	Type of deliverable	Unit	Title of the deliverable	Description	Total target value
2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174464	TN - WP2 - Transferability Study	Number	2.1.1 Transferability Study process	The LE drafts this document based on the city visits, accompanied by the LP, discussed with all partners in the second Network Meeting.	1
2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174480	TN - WP2 – Network Articles	Number	2.1.2 Network Article 1, 2, 3	The LE is to draft at least 3 articles, in line with the Guidelines.	3
2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174483	TN - WP2 - Quarterly Network Reports	Number	2.1.3 Quaterly Network Journals		6
2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174650	TN - WP2 - Communication Plan	Number	2.1.4 Communication Plan	The LP drafts the Communication Plan in the beginning of the project.	1
2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174651	TN - WP2 - Transnational meetings	Number	2.1.5 Transnational Network Meetings	Each partner organises one meeting (7), and there is a final event in Püspökszilágy.	8

2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174652	TN - WP2 – Network Result Product /Network Final Report)	Number	2.1.6 Network Final Report	This is to be drafted by the LE based on the inputs from all partners and all transnational meetings.	1

4.3 Description of Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities

4.3.1 General framework for Local Level Activities

The methodology for local-level activities builds on URBACT's established approach to integrated urban development and stakeholder engagement, while also responding specifically to the climate adaptation/resilience focus of this network. Each partner will establish and operate an Urbact Local Group (ULG) that serves as the main engine of knowledge internalisation, co-creation, and implementation support. These ULGs will be composed of diverse local stakeholders from municipal departments (urban planning, environment, public utility companies), academic or technical experts, active citizens / citizen organizations, as well as relevant regional/national agencies (e.g. water authorities, land management bodies, forestry, institutions dealing with agriculture) and civil society organisations. The LP strongly encourages partners to launch the ULGs effectively, using interactive elements and include rewards for ULG members (e.g. participation in transnational meetings, participation in local capacity building events providing training for them).

Each partner city will nominate a dedicated ULG Coordinator, selected during the early project phase, based on their capacity to mobilise local stakeholders, communicate across institutional boundaries, and align local needs with the network's thematic focus. These persons will be supported by the LP and the LE through onboarding, training, and regular coordination. The initial activity of the ULG will include a team-building session to build trust, clarify roles, and introduce the modular structure of the Good Practice. Special attention will be given to ensuring gender balance and representation of underrepresented groups, in line with the project's broader commitment to just and fair adaptation.

The ULGs will hold a minimum of 10 structured meetings over the course of the project, linked closely to the seven thematic modules covered in network meetings. For each module (and transnational network event), all ULGs will formulate Learning Needs, identifying the local gap in knowledge, tools, or governance. Learning Needs also help the LP and the LE to design the upcoming Network Meeting properly, meeting those needs formulated. After each Network Meeting, each ULG meets and prepares their feedback in the form of a Book of Ideas or a Learning Grid, documenting and ensuring local uptake towards the Transfer Plans.

It is required from Transfer Cities to establish a Microregional Stakeholder Platform within the project to explore collaboration at the landscape scale. These platforms will allow horizontal governance and coordination among neighbouring towns and relevant stakeholders.

Throughout, the methodology promotes iterative learning, trust-building, and actionable planning. ULGs are not advisory bodies but active co-designers of local actions. They are central to the network's ambition to embed small-scale NWRMs in local policy, practice, and awareness. In several partner cities, such as Vilamarxant, Razkrižje or Plav, these platforms will complement or build upon existing climate action groups or environmental partnerships, increasing policy coherence and stakeholder continuity.

The Lead Partner and Lead Expert will provide shared materials (e.g. templates, facilitation guides), as well as conduct regular check-ins with each ULG Coordinator. Cross-ULG learning will be promoted through online masterclasses and presentations at transnational meetings.

Planning and implementing Testing Actions is an important milestone during the transfer process in each partner location. Testing Actions are linked to the modules of the Good Practice and do not include infrastructure work. Based on preliminary discussions, they might be linked to runoff modelling, community actions to test some NWRMs such as Benjes-hedges, where infrastructural work is not necessarily needed, involvement of experts related to module 3 (mapping regional/national requirements for permission), communication campaigns, testing monitoring tools linked to already existing NWRMs, and community actions to boost community resilience.

Throughout the process, cities will develop their Transfer Plans (Improvement Plan in case of the LP), supported by ongoing peer-reviews moderated by the Lead Expert.

4.3.2 Short description of the principles for linking transnational activities under WP 2 and local activities under WP3

The link between transnational and local-level activities is a core methodological pillar of this project and will be ensured through a clear sequence of activities and structured reflection. The project is designed so that each transnational meeting (WP2), focusing on 2 specific modules of the Good Practice (see the previous chapters), is mirrored by local ULG activities under WP3 that unpack, localise, and experiment with that module in context. Formulating Learning Needs and reflecting on each Network Meeting in the form of Book of Ideas and/or Learning Grids, to be created by ULGs, will serve as the main bridge between transnational learning and local exploration. Each ULG will define Learning Needs for each module (and for each Network Meeting) before transnational meetings. This will be coordinated by ULG Coordinators and the Lead Expert. These needs will also guide the agenda of the next Network Meeting. After each Network Meeting, each ULG is to document the most important learnings from the given Network Meeting (and modules discussed) in the frame of Book of Ideas or Learning Grids (during preparatory activities the LP found these tools the most effective in the URBACT Toolbox, but this can be changed during the preparation of the Transferability Study). The Book of Ideas will become a living document reflecting local perspectives, priorities, and potential actions linked to each theme, paving the way for the Transfer Plans (and the Improvement Plan). The Book of Ideas (or another similar tool) will be the key methodological tool used to operationalise this link between transnational knowledge and local capture. It allows each partner to document what was learned, assess its relevance, and identify action potentials. As a common structure across all cities, it ensures that each thematic area is explored both transnationally and locally, with outputs that can be shared and compared. This structure also allows for targeted support from the LE and/or Ad Hoc Experts between meetings, based on expressed needs or questions.

Moreover, ULG Coordinators will take part in transnational meetings, allowing them to directly absorb knowledge and share it with their local group. They will also serve as “knowledge multipliers,” presenting their ULG’s perspective during Network Meetings, bringing back insights, and preparing the group for upcoming modules. This structure ensures an active two-way flow: transnational learning informs local thinking, and local challenges enrich the transnational debate. By integrating these activities, the project not only strengthens the relevance and depth of each city's Transfer Plan (and the Improvement Plan) but also increases ownership, capacity, and sustainability of the implementation process.

4.3.3 Expected outputs under WP3

List of deliverables of the work package

Activity	ID	Type of deliverable	Unit	Title of the deliverable	Description	Total target value
3.1 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	174656	TN - WP3 - ULG contact list	Number	3.1.1 ULGs set up (contact list)	Each partner launches an Urbact Local Group.	7
3.1 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	174657	TN - WP3 - Transfer Plan (Transfer Partners)	Number	3.1.2 Transfer Plans	Six Transfer Cities make a Transfer Plan by the end of the journey.	6
3.1 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	174659	TN - WP3 - Improvement Plan (Lead Partner)	Number	3.1.3 Improvement Plan	The LP is to draft an Improvement Plan	1

5 PROJECT WORK PLAN

5.1 Work plan

Objective	**1 Work Package 1- Network management**		
Activity	1.1 Work Package 1- Network management	Start date End date	2025-11-01 2028-04-30
Description	Work Package 1- Network management This work package ensures the smooth administrative and strategic coordination of the network: 1.)Start-up and overall coordination: Includes the signature of the Subsidy Contract and Joint Convention, the setup of the Lead Partner team, and overall project and financial management. 2.)Coordination meetings and mid-term reflection: Covers regular coordination meetings both online and linked to transnational events, and a structured mid-term reflection process, with the option for reprogramming if needed. 3.)Reporting and project closure: Involves partner-level and network-level reporting (including FLC validation), submission of Payment Claims, Evidence Package, Progress Reports, and the Final Report.		
Deliverables			
Main partner	Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata		
Participating partners	+ Razkrizje + Plav + Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine + Municipiul Targu Secuiesc + NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE + Ajuntament de Vilamarxant		
Localization			
Objective	**2 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities**		
Activity	2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	Start date End date	2025-11-01 2028-04-30

Description	Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities This work package organises the learning process across the network: 1.) Transnational Activities: Includes a project kick-off both online and in person, eight themed transnational network meetings hosted by partners, and Transferability Study visits by the Lead Partner and Lead Expert. These are complemented by eight online masterclasses targeting URBACT Local Groups (ULGs). 2.)Transnational Communication: Covers the development of a Communication Plan, visual identity (acronym, tagline, boilerplate), project website and social media presence, production of posters, quarterly journals, network articles, and the final report, final event and final thematic publication.		
Deliverables	+ 1 x 2.1.1-Transferability Study process + 3 x 2.1.2-Network Article 1, 2, 3 + 6 x 2.1.3-Quaterly Network Journals + 1 x 2.1.4-Communication Plan + 8 x 2.1.5-Transnational Network Meetings + 1 x 2.1.6-Network Final Report		
Main partner	Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata		
Participating partners	+ Razkrizje + Plav + Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine + Municipiul Targu Secuiesc + NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE + Ajuntament de Vilamarxant		
Localization	Activities will take place in both Püspökszilágy and the partner cities.		
Objective	**3 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities**		
Activity	3.1 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	Start date End date	2025-11-01 2028-04-30
Description	Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities Each partner will: 1.) Set up a ULG, appoint a coordinator, hold a team-building session, organise at least 10 interactive meetings, identify learning needs, and create a Book of Ideas. 2.) Plan and implement a small-scale Testing Action, with a dedicated TA Plan and documented summary of implementation. 3.) Prepare a Draft and Final Transfer Plan (or Improvement Plan for the Lead Partner), informed by transnational learning and local inputs. 4.) Create their own local visual identity, establish or update social media channels, provide regular updates, conduct Expert Walks, participate in national events, and host one local dissemination event.		
Deliverables	+ 7 x 3.1.1-ULGs set up (contact list) + 6 x 3.1.2-Transfer Plans + 1 x 3.1.3-Improvement Plan		
Main partner	Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata		
Participating partners	+ Razkrizje + Plav + Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine + Municipiul Targu Secuiesc + NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE + Ajuntament de Vilamarxant		

Localization	

List of project deliverables

Objective	Activity	ID	Type	Unit	Deliverable name	Description	Total forecast value
1 Work Package 1- Network management	1.1 Work Package 1- Network management						
2 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174464	TN - WP2 - Transferability Study	Number	2.1.1 Transferability Study process	The LE drafts this document based on the city visits, accompanied by the LP, discussed with all partners in the second Network Meeting.	1
2 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174480	TN - WP2 – Network Articles	Number	2.1.2 Network Article 1, 2, 3	The LE is to draft at least 3 articles, in line with the Guidelines.	3
2 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174483	TN - WP2 - Quarterly Network Reports	Number	2.1.3 Quaterly Network Journals		6
2 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174650	TN - WP2 - Communication Plan	Number	2.1.4 Communication Plan	The LP drafts the Communication Plan in the beginning of the project.	1
2 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174651	TN - WP2 - Transnational meetings	Number	2.1.5 Transnational Network Meetings	Each partner organises one meeting (7), and there is a final event in Püspökszilágy.	8
2 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	2.1 Work Package 2 – Network Level Activities	174652	TN - WP2 – Network Result Product /Network Final Report)	Number	2.1.6 Network Final Report	This is to be drafted by the LE based on the inputs from all partners and all transnational meetings.	1

3 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	3.1 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	174656	TN - WP3 - ULG contact list	Number	3.1.1 ULGs set up (contact list)	Each partner launches an Urbact Local Group.	7
3 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	3.1 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	174657	TN - WP3 - Transfer Plan (Transfer Partners)	Number	3.1.2 Transfer Plans	Six Transfer Cities make a Transfer Plan by the end of the journey.	6
3 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	3.1 Work Package 3 – Local Level Activities	174659	TN - WP3 - Improvement Plan (Lead Partner)	Number	3.1.3 Improvement Plan	The LP is to draft an Improvement Plan	1

6 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

6.1 Lead partner experience (highlights of city's experience)

Despite its size, the Municipality of Püspökszilágy has significant experience in managing EU co-financed projects, with a particular focus on water retention, and climate adaptation. Although it is a small rural municipality, Püspökszilágy has consistently demonstrated strong leadership and innovation capacity through its participation in European programmes, most notably the LIFE Programme (but also including numerous national Structural Funds projects). The settlement was a pilot municipality in the LIFE-MICACC project (Municipalities as Integrators and Coordinators in Adaptation to Climate Change), initiated and coordinated by the Ministry of Interior, Hungary, and is currently an active partner in the LIFE LOGOS4WATERS project (with the same Lead Partner). As described in Chapter 2, both projects involve the implementation and monitoring of Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs) and capacity-building. The LIFE-MICACC project tested NWRMs in five different geographical contexts and settlements (Püspökszilágy being one of these), while LIFE LOGOS4WATERS aims at working out a model for catchment-level stakeholder coordination.

Under these projects, Püspökszilágy successfully delivered small-scale flood prevention infrastructure such as log dams, small stone dams and a retention pond. It has also taken part in innovative digital applications, such as runoff modelling and climate risk mapping. The municipality's ability to host multi-stakeholder forums and engage in transnational knowledge transfer has been validated through its contributions to national-level strategy discussions and international conferences. In addition, tackling community-based climate adaptation, the municipality is also leading the LIFE Co-Clima project, in which it improves the population's knowledge, incentivises more autonomous livelihood strategies, enhances networks of mutual support and reframes indigenous knowledge.

The local administration, led by Mr Sándor Tordai, mayor, has coordinated multiple co-financed projects and has an experienced financial manager and project team in place. The appointed project coordinator, Mr Krisztián Mészáros, has participated in the implementation of LIFE LOGOS4WATERS and attended the Urbact City Festival, and supports both administrative and technical aspects of EU-funded projects.

While smaller in scale than some lead cities, Püspökszilágy's track record, skilled team, and clear thematic leadership on NWRMs and community-based resilience provide a solid foundation for leading this URBACT Transfer Network. Internal procedures for procurement, reporting, and coordination are already in place and will be adapted to meet URBACT's standards. With these measures, the LP is well-positioned to ensure high-quality results.

6.2 Experience of proposed project coordinator

Mr Krisztián Mészáros, Water Catchment Area Coordinator, brings extensive experience in environmental protection and water management, with a strong academic background and hands-on coordination expertise. He is currently pursuing his studies at the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, specialising in International Water Policy and Water Diplomacy. Through this program, he has gained comprehensive knowledge of EU and international sustainability frameworks, project management principles, and integrated water governance.

Since 2021, he has been an active member of the implementation team of the LIFE LOGOS4WATERS project, where he works as a catchment-level coordinator. His responsibilities include supporting the planning and implementation of natural water retention measures (NWRMs), liaising with local municipalities and other stakeholders, organising public forums, and coordinating field monitoring and awareness-raising activities. He has successfully collaborated with mayors, local experts, and NGOs across several municipalities and sectors and has developed a deep understanding of the operational realities of local governments and grassroots decision-making.

Krisztián is also involved in the municipal work of Püspökszilágy, where he plays a key role in coordinating local green and community initiatives. He actively contributes to identifying and preparing grant opportunities, managing project-related communication, and mobilising community support. His experience has made him particularly sensitive to the limited resources of small settlements, while enabling him to design sustainable and realistic solutions. Krisztián combines theoretical insight with practical experience. His systemic thinking, well-established trust with local stakeholders, and years of municipal coordination work make him exceptionally well-suited for the role of project coordinator. He is a reliable, detail-oriented, and proactive professional who can balance strategic objectives with effective local-level implementation.

6.3 Presentation of the Lead Partner project team (roles and responsibilities)

The Lead Partner team is composed of experienced and highly committed professionals who together ensure the smooth coordination as well as technical excellence of the project. Project coordination will be led by Mr Krisztián Mészáros. He will oversee the day-to-day management of the network, partner liaison, meeting organisation, and alignment with strategic objectives. As an expert in NWRMs with hands-on experience, he will act as the main representative of the “Good Practice”. He will also be responsible for both internal and external communication, including coordination of network branding, digital content, and visibility activities.

Mr Sándor Tordai has been serving as the mayor of Püspökszilágy for over two decades, during which time he has participated in a wide range of projects, including those in the areas of water management, renewable energy, nature conservation, and public services. Beyond national Structural Funds projects, he has played a key role in several international EU-funded projects, including the LIFE MICACC, the LIFE LOGOS4WATERS, and the ongoing Co-CLIMA projects. In these projects, he has been actively involved in practical implementation, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge transfer between municipalities and international partners. Püspökszilágy, as a model settlement of natural water retention in hilly areas, as well as Mr Tordai, has hosted dozens of national and international study visits, including experts from universities and municipalities. His long-standing commitment to sustainable rural development, climate adaptation and environmental protection makes him one of the most experienced local leaders in Hungary in the field of NWRMs. Therefore, he will act as the project’s lead decision maker and senior advisor, providing strategic oversight and ensuring high-level stakeholder engagement.

Ms Zsuzsa Sápi will serve as the Financial Manager, responsible for budget control, compliance, procurement, and financial reporting. She has several years of experience in the financial administration of both national and transnational projects, with a strong track record in municipal finance and public sector accounting. She has been actively involved in the financial coordination of major EU-funded environmental projects (LIFE LOGOS4WATERS, LIFE Co-CLIMA), as well as numerous Structural Funds and national projects. Her responsibilities have included preparing and managing project budgets, ensuring compliance with national and EU-level financial regulations, handling procurement procedures, and compiling financial

reports for funding authorities.

Together, this interdisciplinary team will ensure that the Lead Partner fulfils all administrative, financial, and thematic responsibilities at the highest standard.

7 USE OF EXPERTISE

7.1 Proposed use of expertise resources allocated by the Programme

7.1.1 Proposed use of URBACT Lead Experts

The primary needs and tasks identified by partners, to be fulfilled by the Lead Expert, in line with the Guide for Applicants, are:

- Fully understanding the good practice, exploiting the modules and if relevant, recommending further themes to be involved, helping partners' understanding.
- Further refining the focus of network activities, based on the Transferability Study, together with the partner cities.
- Delivering transnational exchange and learning activities with effective facilitation techniques.
- Providing knowledge of EU policy frameworks and the specific thematic fields tackled by the network.
- Coaching and supporting effective methods and tools to design and deliver integrated and participatory processes in partner cities.
- Capturing knowledge and communicating network results.
- Providing advice on testing actions.

To complete these tasks, the Lead Expert must work efficiently with the Lead Partner and project partners. Related to the specificities of our network, the Lead Expert to be appointed should have the following skills and capacities:

- Massive experience in policy development and analysis, including understanding policy frameworks, policy evaluation, and monitoring policy implementation in climate adaptation, resilience and urban development.
- Experience in developing strategies and preparing action/project plans, managing project teams and coordinating project activities, including monitoring and evaluating actions.
- Strong facilitation and consensus-building skills to help partner cities develop a shared vision for their Transfer Plans (and for the Improvement Plan).
- A good understanding of environmental challenges facing cities today, especially as relates to flash floods and droughts and also including the horizontal principles of gender equality and equal opportunities, environmental sustainability in a broader context, and digital transition.
- Good communication skills to communicate effectively with project partners and stakeholders.
- The ability to facilitate meetings, lead workshops, and give presentations.

The LE should be sensitive to cultural differences and have experience working effectively with people from diverse backgrounds in multicultural environments. The LE must have an excellent command of English and ideally speak more languages of the partner cities to transfer their expertise effectively. Experience developing and implementing actions and projects in different European regions and European programmes, with special focus on nature conservation (e.g. LIFE Programme) would be highly valuable.

7.1.2 Proposed use of URBACT Ad Hoc Expertise

Ad-hoc experts support specific needs the network identifies with shorter or more specific expertise missions. These can include a wide array of expertise.

Partners have pre-evaluated the need for Ad Hoc experts during the project development process; however, this will be (and must be) fine-tuned in the Transferability Study. First, the LE will compile a precise summary of the Good Practice and meticulously analyse its transfer potential based on the seven modules partners identified during the preparation of the network. Then, the LE and possibly the LP will visit all network cities to review the local transfer contexts and consider critical factors such as local assets and strategic priorities, levels of political support and potential funding sources, and limitations to transfer and implementation.

Based on this process, the LE will compile a Transferability Study, including the city profiles, and identify the scope of the

transfer of good practice and its modules. The study and the Network Roadmap will be discussed during the 2nd Network Meeting in a dedicated workshop. As part of this dedicated workshop (June 2026), the LE, LP, and partner cities will discuss the exact needs to involve ad hoc experts.

Cities have varied levels of experience in developing NWRMs and preparing local communities for climate change. Chapter 3.3 of the AF also identified a series of possible barriers and challenges to fully transferring the practice. These challenges could be addressed using the specific knowledge of one or more ad-hoc experts.

The other main thematic need partners have already identified for further expertise to be involved is a better understanding of the wider policy framework of nature-based solutions (NbS). NWRMs are specific types of nature-based solutions, but partners have already raised their attention to learn about this broader policy framework more, also targeting themes related to the Good Practice, such as NbS in forestry or urban areas. The framework for using ad-hoc experts can provide a more flexible approach to adapt to the needs of cities, which will be fine-tuned in the Transferability Study.

The third main thematic need partners have identified for ad-hoc expertise is related to financial sustainability, preferably experience with EU programmes like LIFE.

8 BUDGETARY PROPOSAL

8.1 Financial contribution by partner and source (incl. ERDF, IPA III funds and local contribution)

ERDF

Name of partner	ERDF	% ERDF	Public co-financing	Total
Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata	113 200.00 €	80.00 %	28 300.00 €	141 500.00 €
Razkrizje	78 600.00 €	80.00 %	19 650.00 €	98 250.00 €
Municipiul Targu Secuiesc	76 000.00 €	80.00 %	19 000.00 €	95 000.00 €
Sub total	267 800.00 €		66 950.00 €	334 750.00 €
Ajuntament de Vilamarxant	84 647.50 €	70.00 %	36 277.50 €	120 925.00 €
Sub total	84 647.50 €		36 277.50 €	120 925.00 €
NCI NUOVO CIRCONDARIO IMOLESE	82 728.75 €	65.00 %	44 546.25 €	127 275.00 €
Sub total	82 728.75 €		44 546.25 €	127 275.00 €
Total	435 176.25 €	74.65	147 773.75 €	582 950.00 €
Total %	74.65 %	74.65 %	100.00 %	100 %

IPA fund

Name of partner	IPA fund	% IPA fund	Public co-financing	Total
Plav	83 552.50 €	95.00 %	4 397.50 €	87 950.00 €
Sub total	83 552.50 €		4 397.50 €	87 950.00 €
Total	83 552.50 €	95.00	4 397.50 €	87 950.00 €
Total %	95.00 %	95.00 %	100.00 %	100 %

NDICI

Name of partner	NDICI	% NDICI	Public co-financing	Total
Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine	71 915.00 €	95.00 %	3 785.00 €	75 700.00 €
Sub total	71 915.00 €		3 785.00 €	75 700.00 €
Total	71 915.00 €	95.00	3 785.00 €	75 700.00 €
Total %	95.00 %	95.00 %	100.00 %	100 %

8.2 ERDF/IPA/NDICI per year

	ERDF	IPA	NDICI
2025	43517.63	8355.25	7191.5
2026	174070.5	33421	28766

2027	174070.5	33421	28766
2028	43517.63	8355.25	7191.5

8.3 Expenditure per partner, per year and budget subcategory

Püspökszilágy Község Önkormányzata

Option 2 15% Office and administration + Real cost for Travel and accomodation

	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total	Input budget
Staff costs						
Staff costs	9 000.00 €	22 000.00 €	22 000.00 €	10 000.00 €	63 000.00 €	
Total Staff costs	**9 000.00 €**	**22 000.00 €**	**22 000.00 €**	**10 000.00 €**	**63 000.00 €**	
Office and Administration						
Office and Administration	1 350.00 €	3 300.00 €	3 300.00 €	1 500.00 €	9 450.00 €	
Total Office and Administration	**1 350.00 €**	**3 300.00 €**	**3 300.00 €**	**1 500.00 €**	**9 450.00 €**	
Travel and Accommodation						
Staff Travel and Accommodation	2 500.00 €	9 500.00 €	9 500.00 €	1 800.00 €	23 300.00 €	
Total Travel and Accommodation	**2 500.00 €**	**9 500.00 €**	**9 500.00 €**	**1 800.00 €**	**23 300.00 €**	
External Expertise and Services						
Expertise Meeting Organisation	2 000.00 €	6 000.00 €	4 000.00 €	4 500.00 €	16 500.00 €	
Expertise Communication	6 000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	
Expert and other non-staff Travel	0.00 €	4 000.00 €	4 000.00 €	250.00 €	8 250.00 €	
Total External Expertise and Services	**8 000.00 €**	**10 000.00 €**	**8 000.00 €**	**4 750.00 €**	**30 750.00 €**	
Equipment						
Equipment	0.00 €	15 000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	15 000.00 €	
Total Equipment	**0.00 €**	**15 000.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**15 000.00 €**	
Total	**20 850.00 €**	**59 800.00 €**	**42 800.00 €**	**18 050.00 €**	**141 500.00 €**	
Partner financing plan					**141 500.00 €**	

Razkrizje

Option 2 15% Office and administration + Real cost for Travel and accomodation

	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total	Input budget
Staff costs						
Staff costs	2 500.00 €	11 500.00 €	11 500.00 €	5 500.00 €	31 000.00 €	
Total Staff costs	**2 500.00 €**	**11 500.00 €**	**11 500.00 €**	**5 500.00 €**	**31 000.00 €**	
Office and Administration						
Office and Administration	375.00 €	1 725.00 €	1 725.00 €	825.00 €	4 650.00 €	
Total Office and Administration	**375.00 €**	**1 725.00 €**	**1 725.00 €**	**825.00 €**	**4 650.00 €**	
Travel and Accommodation						
Staff Travel and Accommodation	0.00 €	9 500.00 €	8 500.00 €	1 500.00 €	19 500.00 €	
Total Travel and Accommodation	**0.00 €**	**9 500.00 €**	**8 500.00 €**	**1 500.00 €**	**19 500.00 €**	
External Expertise and Services						
Expertise Meeting Organisation	0.00 €	13 000.00 €	8 000.00 €	3 000.00 €	24 000.00 €	
Expertise Communication	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	3 500.00 €	3 500.00 €	
Expert and other non-staff Travel	0.00 €	4 500.00 €	3 500.00 €	600.00 €	8 600.00 €	
Total External Expertise and Services	**0.00 €**	**17 500.00 €**	**11 500.00 €**	**7 100.00 €**	**36 100.00 €**	
Equipment						
Equipment	0.00 €	0.00 €	7 000.00 €	0.00 €	7 000.00 €	
Total Equipment	**0.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**7 000.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**7 000.00 €**	
Total	**2 875.00 €**	**40 225.00 €**	**40 225.00 €**	**14 925.00 €**	**98 250.00 €**	
Partner financing plan					**98 250.00 €**	

Plav

Option 2 15% Office and administration + Real cost for Travel and accomodation

	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total	Input budget
Staff costs						
Staff costs	1 500.00 €	9 000.00 €	10 000.00 €	2 500.00 €	23 000.00 €	
Total Staff costs	**1 500.00 €**	**9 000.00 €**	**10 000.00 €**	**2 500.00 €**	**23 000.00 €**	
Office and Administration						
Office and Administration	225.00 €	1 350.00 €	1 500.00 €	375.00 €	3 450.00 €	
Total Office and Administration	**225.00 €**	**1 350.00 €**	**1 500.00 €**	**375.00 €**	**3 450.00 €**	
Travel and Accommodation						
Staff Travel and Accommodation	0.00 €	8 500.00 €	8 500.00 €	3 500.00 €	20 500.00 €	
Total Travel and Accommodation	**0.00 €**	**8 500.00 €**	**8 500.00 €**	**3 500.00 €**	**20 500.00 €**	
External Expertise and Services						
Expertise Meeting Organisation	0.00 €	7 000.00 €	6 000.00 €	2 000.00 €	15 000.00 €	
Expertise Communication	0.00 €	3 500.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	3 500.00 €	
Expert and other non-staff Travel	0.00 €	4 500.00 €	3 500.00 €	1 500.00 €	9 500.00 €	
Total External Expertise and Services	**0.00 €**	**15 000.00 €**	**9 500.00 €**	**3 500.00 €**	**28 000.00 €**	
Equipment						
Equipment	0.00 €	13 000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	13 000.00 €	
Total Equipment	**0.00 €**	**13 000.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**13 000.00 €**	
Total	**1 725.00 €**	**46 850.00 €**	**29 500.00 €**	**9 875.00 €**	**87 950.00 €**	
Partner financing plan					**87 950.00 €**	

Velykyj Bereznyj village council, Ukraine

Option 2 15% Office and administration + Real cost for Travel and accomodation

	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total	Input budget
Staff costs						
Staff costs	1 500.00 €	8 000.00 €	7 000.00 €	1 500.00 €	18 000.00 €	
Total Staff costs	**1 500.00 €**	**8 000.00 €**	**7 000.00 €**	**1 500.00 €**	**18 000.00 €**	
Office and Administration						
Office and Administration	225.00 €	1 200.00 €	1 050.00 €	225.00 €	2 700.00 €	
Total Office and Administration	**225.00 €**	**1 200.00 €**	**1 050.00 €**	**225.00 €**	**2 700.00 €**	
Travel and Accommodation						
Staff Travel and Accommodation	0.00 €	8 500.00 €	7 500.00 €	1 500.00 €	17 500.00 €	
Total Travel and Accommodation	**0.00 €**	**8 500.00 €**	**7 500.00 €**	**1 500.00 €**	**17 500.00 €**	
External Expertise and Services						
Expertise Meeting Organisation	0.00 €	7 000.00 €	10 000.00 €	2 000.00 €	19 000.00 €	
Expertise Communication	0.00 €	0.00 €	3 000.00 €	0.00 €	3 000.00 €	
Expert and other non-staff Travel	0.00 €	4 500.00 €	3 500.00 €	1 500.00 €	9 500.00 €	
Total External Expertise and Services	**0.00 €**	**11 500.00 €**	**16 500.00 €**	**3 500.00 €**	**31 500.00 €**	
Equipment						
Equipment	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	
Total Equipment	**0.00 €**	**6 000.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**6 000.00 €**	
Total	**1 725.00 €**	**35 200.00 €**	**32 050.00 €**	**6 725.00 €**	**75 700.00 €**	
Partner financing plan					**75 700.00 €**	

Municipiul Targu Secuiesc

Option 2 15% Office and administration + Real cost for Travel and accomodation

	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total	Input budget
Staff costs						
Staff costs	1 500.00 €	11 500.00 €	11 500.00 €	5 500.00 €	30 000.00 €	
Total Staff costs	**1 500.00 €**	**11 500.00 €**	**11 500.00 €**	**5 500.00 €**	**30 000.00 €**	
Office and Administration						
Office and Administration	225.00 €	1 725.00 €	1 725.00 €	825.00 €	4 500.00 €	
Total Office and Administration	**225.00 €**	**1 725.00 €**	**1 725.00 €**	**825.00 €**	**4 500.00 €**	
Travel and Accommodation						
Staff Travel and Accommodation	0.00 €	8 500.00 €	8 500.00 €	3 500.00 €	20 500.00 €	
Total Travel and Accommodation	**0.00 €**	**8 500.00 €**	**8 500.00 €**	**3 500.00 €**	**20 500.00 €**	
External Expertise and Services						
Expertise Meeting Organisation	0.00 €	12 000.00 €	6 000.00 €	2 000.00 €	20 000.00 €	
Expertise Communication	0.00 €	3 500.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	3 500.00 €	
Expert and other non-staff Travel	0.00 €	4 500.00 €	3 500.00 €	1 500.00 €	9 500.00 €	
Total External Expertise and Services	**0.00 €**	**20 000.00 €**	**9 500.00 €**	**3 500.00 €**	**33 000.00 €**	
Equipment						
Equipment	0.00 €	0.00 €	7 000.00 €	0.00 €	7 000.00 €	
Total Equipment	**0.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**7 000.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**7 000.00 €**	
Total	**1 725.00 €**	**41 725.00 €**	**38 225.00 €**	**13 325.00 €**	**95 000.00 €**	
Partner financing plan					**95 000.00 €**	

Ajuntament de Vilamarxant

Option 2 15% Office and administration + Real cost for Travel and accomodation

	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total	Input budget
Staff costs						
Staff costs	2 500.00 €	17 000.00 €	17 000.00 €	3 000.00 €	39 500.00 €	
Total Staff costs	**2 500.00 €**	**17 000.00 €**	**17 000.00 €**	**3 000.00 €**	**39 500.00 €**	
Office and Administration						
Office and Administration	375.00 €	2 550.00 €	2 550.00 €	450.00 €	5 925.00 €	
Total Office and Administration	**375.00 €**	**2 550.00 €**	**2 550.00 €**	**450.00 €**	**5 925.00 €**	
Travel and Accommodation						
Staff Travel and Accommodation	0.00 €	11 500.00 €	8 500.00 €	1 500.00 €	21 500.00 €	
Total Travel and Accommodation	**0.00 €**	**11 500.00 €**	**8 500.00 €**	**1 500.00 €**	**21 500.00 €**	
External Expertise and Services						
External Expertise Project Coordination	0.00 €	5 000.00 €	3 500.00 €	0.00 €	8 500.00 €	
Expertise Meeting Organisation	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	12 000.00 €	1 500.00 €	19 500.00 €	
Expertise Communication	0.00 €	0.00 €	3 000.00 €	0.00 €	3 000.00 €	
Expert and other non-staff Travel	0.00 €	4 500.00 €	4 500.00 €	2 000.00 €	11 000.00 €	
Expertise First Level Control	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	
Total External Expertise and Services	**0.00 €**	**21 500.00 €**	**23 000.00 €**	**3 500.00 €**	**48 000.00 €**	
Equipment						
Equipment	0.00 €	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	
Total Equipment	**0.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**6 000.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**6 000.00 €**	
Total	**2 875.00 €**	**52 550.00 €**	**57 050.00 €**	**8 450.00 €**	**120 925.00 €**	
Partner financing plan					**120 925.00 €**	

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Option 2 15% Office and administration + Real cost for Travel and accomodation

	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total	Input budget
Staff costs						
Staff costs	2 500.00 €	20 000.00 €	20 000.00 €	6 000.00 €	48 500.00 €	
Total Staff costs	**2 500.00 €**	**20 000.00 €**	**20 000.00 €**	**6 000.00 €**	**48 500.00 €**	
Office and Administration						
Office and Administration	375.00 €	3 000.00 €	3 000.00 €	900.00 €	7 275.00 €	
Total Office and Administration	**375.00 €**	**3 000.00 €**	**3 000.00 €**	**900.00 €**	**7 275.00 €**	
Travel and Accommodation						
Staff Travel and Accommodation	0.00 €	10 500.00 €	7 500.00 €	1 500.00 €	19 500.00 €	
Total Travel and Accommodation	**0.00 €**	**10 500.00 €**	**7 500.00 €**	**1 500.00 €**	**19 500.00 €**	
External Expertise and Services						
Expertise Meeting Organisation	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	14 000.00 €	3 500.00 €	23 500.00 €	
Expertise Communication	0.00 €	0.00 €	4 000.00 €	0.00 €	4 000.00 €	
Expert and other non-staff Travel	0.00 €	4 500.00 €	4 500.00 €	1 500.00 €	10 500.00 €	
Expertise First Level Control	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	6 000.00 €	
Total External Expertise and Services	**0.00 €**	**16 500.00 €**	**22 500.00 €**	**5 000.00 €**	**44 000.00 €**	
Equipment						
Equipment	0.00 €	0.00 €	8 000.00 €	0.00 €	8 000.00 €	
Total Equipment	**0.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**8 000.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**8 000.00 €**	
Total	**2 875.00 €**	**50 000.00 €**	**61 000.00 €**	**13 400.00 €**	**127 275.00 €**	
Partner financing plan					**127 275.00 €**	

8.4 Expenditure per year and budget category

	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Staff costs					
Staff costs	21 000.00 €	99 000.00 €	99 000.00 €	34 000.00 €	253 000.00 €
Total Staff costs	**21 000.00 €**	**99 000.00 €**	**99 000.00 €**	**34 000.00 €**	**253 000.00 €**
Office and Administration					
Office and Administration	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €

Office and Administration	3 150.00 €	14 850.00 €	14 850.00 €	5 100.00 €	37 950.00 €
Total Office and Administration	**3 150.00 €**	**14 850.00 €**	**14 850.00 €**	**5 100.00 €**	**37 950.00 €**
Travel and Accommodation					
Staff Travel and Accommodation	2 500.00 €	66 500.00 €	58 500.00 €	14 800.00 €	142 300.00 €
Staff Travel and Accommodation	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €
Total Travel and Accommodation	**2 500.00 €**	**66 500.00 €**	**58 500.00 €**	**14 800.00 €**	**142 300.00 €**
External Expertise and Services					
External Expertise Project Coordination	0.00 €	5 000.00 €	3 500.00 €	0.00 €	8 500.00 €
Expertise Meeting Organisation	2 000.00 €	57 000.00 €	60 000.00 €	18 500.00 €	137 500.00 €
Expertise Communication	6 000.00 €	7 000.00 €	10 000.00 €	3 500.00 €	26 500.00 €
Expert and other non-staff Travel	0.00 €	31 000.00 €	27 000.00 €	8 850.00 €	66 850.00 €
Expertise First Level Control	0.00 €	12 000.00 €	0.00 €	0.00 €	12 000.00 €
Total External Expertise and Services	**8 000.00 €**	**112 000.00 €**	**100 500.00 €**	**30 850.00 €**	**251 350.00 €**
Equipment					
Equipment	0.00 €	34 000.00 €	28 000.00 €	0.00 €	62 000.00 €
Total Equipment	**0.00 €**	**34 000.00 €**	**28 000.00 €**	**0.00 €**	**62 000.00 €**
Total	**34 650.00 €**	**326 350.00 €**	**300 850.00 €**	**84 750.00 €**	**746 600.00 €**

8.5 Project cost per budget line

Expenditure budget line	Subcategories	Total
Staff costs	Staff costs	253 000.00 €
	Total	**253 000.00 €**
Office and Administration	Office and Administration	0.00 €
	Office and Administration	37 950.00 €
	Total	**37 950.00 €**
Travel and Accommodation	Staff Travel and Accommodation	142 300.00 €
	Staff Travel and Accommodation	0.00 €
	Total	**142 300.00 €**
External Expertise and Services	External Expertise Project Coordination	8 500.00 €
	Expertise Meeting Organisation	137 500.00 €
	Expertise Communication	26 500.00 €
	Expert and other non-staff Travel	66 850.00 €

	Expertise First Level Control	12 000.00 €
	Total	**251 350.00 €**
Equipment	Equipment	62 000.00 €
	Total	**62 000.00 €**
	Global budget	**746 600.00 €**

8.6 Project costs per budget category – Justification/Explanation

	Justification/Explanation
Staff costs	Staff costs are calculated in hourly rates based on the monthly gross salaries (including taxes and social charges). A bigger ammount is allocated to the LP due to its position. In line with the programme rules staff costs do not exceed 40% of the total budget (including external expertise on project coordination).
Office and administration	Automatically calculated in line with the programme rules.
Travel and accommodation	We have chosen to use the calculation on real costs as we are afraid that the flat rated costs are not enough, taking into consideration the increase of prices. Travel costs are calculated with a lump sum of EUR 550-850 /person/ travel, depending on geographical proximity and lenght of the meeting. The participation of (at least) 2 staff members is foreseen and planned related to each transnational meeting. It is planned that the project coordinator also participate in city visits.
External expertise and services	NON-STAFF TRAVEL: participation of the ULG Coordinator is planned related to each meeting. It is also foreseen that other ULG members can participate some Network Meetings. COMMUNICATION: each partner has budget to implement local level communication and dissemination activities. MEETING ORGANISATION: Each partner has budget to organise different local and transnational events, as described under WP2/3, and the costs of Testing Actions are partly also planned here. PROJECT MANAGEMENT: Besides FLC costs in the relevant 2 countries, only Vilamarxant has a minor budget planned for external project management.
Equipment	Costs under this category are exclusively linked to the Testing Actions.

9 SIGNATURE

9.1 Signature of the Lead Partner/project coordinator

Signature of the Lead Partner / project coordinator :

Name (capital letters) :

MÉSZÁROS KRISZTIÁN

Position :
project coordinator / catchment coordinator

Date :
2025. 06. 30. / 30. June 2025

Official stamp

Püspökszilágy Község 1. Önkormányzata