



Action Plan of

PERFECT

project

**Planning for Environment and Resource eFFiciency in
European Cities and Towns**

**Social Ascension of Somogy Development, Communication
and Education Nonprofit Ltd.**

SASD

DRAFT 8

Contents

Part I – General information of the Project:	3
Part II – Policy context The Action Plan aims to impact:	4
Part III – Details of the actions envisaged.....	6

Part I – General information of the Project:

Project:	PERFECT
Project Partner:	Social Ascention of Somogy Development, Communication and Education Nonprofit Ltd. (SASD)
Country:	Hungary
Contact person:	Mr Márk GÁBOR
email address:	gabor.mark01@gmail.com
phone number:	+36-30-9779033

Part II – Policy context The Action Plan aims to impact:

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

Name of the policy instrument addressed:	Territorial and Settlement Development Operational Programme (TSD OP)
Managing Authority:	Ministry of Finance
Priority axis:	TSD OP Priority axis No 2: Entrepreneur friendly, population retaining settlement development Thematic Objective 6 (1301/2013/EU Regulation 5. article 6 (e))

TSD OP is a centralised regional development OP incorporating territorial development objectives of all regions. The enhancement of environmental friendly urban areas can be an incentive for new business enterprises. The TSD OP recognises the value of maintaining, enhancing and planning the connectivity for green areas, recreation and adaptation to changes in the built and natural environment.

One of the major objectives of TSD OP is supporting urban developments to enhance economic activity and retain population. The main characteristics of the objective is to create liveable cities, climate friendly urban areas to be established via increasing the area of green spaces and quality enhancement of GI. Green spaces needs more strengthening on quality and quantity to provide recreation area for inhabitants and make cities more liveable.

Why it should be improved? Densely developed urban areas are in lack of green spaces, so to increase the quality and quantity of green spaces will generate economic development. The improvement of the OP will enable the multifunctional role of natural heritage to be maximised for socioeconomic benefit.

Hungarian planning systems needs innovative models. Decision makers can accept new solutions if they see the advantages of the non-traditional urban methodology. The maintenance of green spaces is expensive so there is a need for cost efficient maintenance practices and awareness of the multifunctional benefits. Peer-to Peer working during PERFECT project phase 1 established the opportunity for professional cooperation between spatial and urban planning experts of the partner countries.

TSD OP finances 'green city' development projects that should cover innovative elements of the enhancement of GI. Municipalities require practical solutions to elaborate the integrated urban development projects for GI and PERFECT project partners could provide useful information about the multidisciplinary approach of GI.

Ministry of Finance as Managing Authority (MA) can find inspiration in PERFECT project and import new ideas to be financed within the TSD OP. The annual reference budget of TSD OP can be formed due to the recommendations of PERFECT Action Plan in 2019 and 2020. Implementation of new projects is the mainstream tool for improving TSD OP.

Municipality of Nagyatád, Marcali and Tab are interested in the project as they have already initiated the renewal process of their urban green spaces and professional advice would be welcomed by them.

New approaches were adopted from PERFECT project partners and new methodology for monitoring was developed within the establishment of new projects financed by Green City call to improve its governance. Green City call asks municipalities to establish innovative GI solutions but gives no further instructions. PERFECT project can therefore bring good practices to municipalities on how to create innovative solutions.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1

1. The background

The socioeconomic and environmental services provided by the protection, development and exploitation of natural heritage in urban areas are collectively known across Europe as ‘green infrastructure’. Municipalities should focus on the protection and development of natural heritage through the recognition of the multiple benefits of Green Infrastructure. The improvement can be assisted by Managing Authorities, partners and stakeholder groups.

In 2013 the European Commission adopted a strategy which recognised that investment in Green Infrastructure enables nature to deliver benefits to ecosystems and to people, including health and quality of life that are key to driving jobs and growth while tackling our environmental challenges head on. In addition, EU Structural Funding programmes encourage the improved resource efficiency of natural heritage but, despite extensive proven good practices and growing evidence from across Europe, many Managing Authorities, practitioners and politicians, working in the municipalities and public bodies responsible for natural heritage, are unaware of the multi benefits of Green Infrastructure to increase competitiveness.

Expert papers were published during PERFECT project phase 1 and these professional materials introduced the different approaches of Green Infrastructure (GI). Expert Paper 2¹ (Planning for Green Infrastructure – the green space factor and learning from Europe) explained the multiple benefits of investing in high quality GI. That document gives examples for a scoring system called Green Space Factor in the UK and also called Green Points System in Sweden. During the PERFECT project meetings we were convinced that the Hungarian Biological Activity Value system is also an appropriate way of evaluating green space investments as this system is very similar to the previously mentioned ones. The Expert Paper 2 can be used as a comprehensive document showing the international practice concerning the green space analysis.

TCPA professionals introduced the British Green Space Factor to PERFECT partners that is a way of determining green infrastructure requirements for new development. It is used within the policies of many municipalities to set requirements that developers must agree to before planning permission for a site is granted. The aim is to ensure that, in creating places, green infrastructure is planned at the earliest stages. The Green Space Factor has been adapted in different ways across Europe. Its

¹ by Peter Massini and Henry Smith, TCPA, 2018.

adaptability has been one of the reasons that it has been successfully transferred between cities, as it can be altered to suit various political, planning and cultural contexts.

During the peer-to-peer working the Biological Activity Value was a key issue to be discussed. The BAV ensures a very exact methodology for selecting the best GI project proposal from ecological point of view. PERFECT project partners agreed that Hungarian BAV methodology can be a very useful tool for the project development in the future Green City projects. The methodology of calculating the BAV has already been published in national regulation, so the BAV can be easily adopted to the Green City calls in the next EU programming period.

2. Action

Biological Activity Value (BAV)

It is a methodology for urban planning. The starting point is that the overall BAV cannot be lower after the revision of the Master Plan of the town than it was before. The BAVs of the different land use categories are defined in a national regulation. The area of the specific zoned site is multiplied by the BAV of the category. The BAVs are added and calculated for two situations i.e. the present situation and the revised one.

The calculation methodology of BAV was announced in 2007 in a national edict. (9/2007. (IV. 3.) ÖTM)

Basically the BAV calculation is needed for the elaboration of local zoning plans, especially the Structure Plan of the settlements.

The overall expectation is that the BAV must not be lower after the revision of the local plan as it was before the revision. The national regulation defines the average indexes and differentiated indexes. The differentiated index can be applied in the project development process of green city call. BAV calculation can be used to select the best design solution that has the greatest ecological value.

BAV can be used for smaller areas, green open spaces as the BAVs are given not only for zoning categories but also for materials and greenery. For example the BAV can be given for the footpath and all the covered area of a plot and also for the lawn covered areas or woodlands. In that way we can give different BAVs for a specific development site depending on the different landscape design of the site.

TCPA professionals introduced the British Green Space Factor to PERFECT partners that is a way of determining green infrastructure requirements for new development. It is used within the policies of many municipalities to set requirements that developers must agree to before planning permission for a site is granted. The aim is to ensure that, in creating places, green infrastructure is planned at the earliest stages. The Green Space Factor has been adapted in different ways across Europe. Its adaptability has been one of the reasons that it has been successfully transferred between cities, as it can be altered to suit various political, planning and cultural contexts.

The Expert Paper 2 explained that the Green Space Factor was adapted in Malmö and in Germany, where it was used initially in Berlin as the Biotope Area Factor. The aim of the Green Space Factor in Malmö was to secure a certain amount of green cover on a development site, and to minimise the degree of sealed or paved surfaces. It applies to the whole development, taking into account both the building areas and the open space.

SASD would like to give a recommendation for decision makers to use the BAV for green investments in order to prove that the result of the urban development projects are in correlation with the climate mitigation and adaptation.

Between 2014-2020 the evaluation of Green City project proposals followed the system of output indicators like “established green area (m²)”, “length of drainage network (m)”, “number of inhabitants involved”. These criteria cannot refer to the ecological aspects of the actions designed in the projects, they can only show an indirect way towards the ecological impacts. These output indicators are important elements of the evaluation process, but we had to find a better way how to demonstrate the ecological values of a project proposal and make it operationalized, measurable. PERFECT project partners showed us that they use a very similar indicator to the Hungarian BAV, but they use it in the project design process not in the EU funding procedure. The use of BAV in EU allocation process has not been proposed by any organizations in Hungary, this idea originates from the PERFECT project discussions and has not appeared in any official documents published in connection with the Operational Programmes in Hungary.

BAV can be a clear and useful selection criteria for project proposals submitted to MA. BAV makes the project proposals comparable and shows the biological benefits of the different design solutions.

3. Players involved

the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and their role

- Municipalities
- Town and countryside planners and designers
- Representatives of the Managing Authority of TSD OP

Municipality of Somogy County member of the committee that decides to allocate funding for Green city projects. It is not owner of the policy instrument, but a formal contributory to STD OP implementation able to propose amendments to OP. As Municipality of Somogy County is the owner of SASD, the two organisations have the same priorities on green city and Integrated Urban Development Issues. It is not a key decision maker, but has decision making rights in terms implementing the OP.

The role of MA is the elaboration of call for Green City projects. This organisation is the owner of STD OP. The MA is the key decision maker on the issue PERFECT tackles.

Town and countryside planners and designers give useful information about the implementation of the green city call. According to their recommendations the call can be revised to be more effective.

4. Timeframe

STEP 1: The dissemination and promoting of GI development for municipalities starts in Semester 7

STEP 2: Monitoring of evaluation in Semester 7-9

STEP 3: Feedback from MA Semester 8

5. Costs

The implementation of this action will be carried out by SASD staff who have been working on the PERFECT project, and the associated costs will be covered by SASD's internal budget. The costs of the monitoring activities will be covered by the PERFECT Phase 2 budget.

6. Funding sources

Staff costs for the monitoring activities are calculated within the PERFECT Phase 2 for the upcoming 4 semesters.

ACTION 2

1. The background

A study visit was organized in 2019 in Freiburg, Germany. Municipality of Freiburg started to reorganize the maintenance of the city years ago and they applied renewable sources with the combination of greens space investments. The approach of sustainability is the main principle of the city development strategy. The new approach required new professionals as different kind of professional areas were involved in the development projects. Bioengineers mean the professional background so as to establish the very complex renewal projects. Water management, natural conservation, solar energy systems, road networks constructions and urban planning and design issues were combined. Bioengineering is a relatively new profession and they are trained in fundamentals of both biology and engineering, which may include elements of electrical and mechanical engineering, computer science, materials science, chemistry, and biology. GI professionals can bring the necessary comprehensive approach to city development. The city development and the network of new infrastructure elements in a city require highly qualified professionals. We believe that the development of Hungarian towns and cities can be much more efficient if a new professional approach could participate in the GI enhancement projects.

Hungarian municipalities have lack of professional staff concerning the area of Green Infrastructure. During the Freiburg study visit we got the inspiration from the local municipality experts that highly qualified green experts can bring new ideas and efficient maintenance to green spaces. We tried to identify the desired position that is needed in Hungary and after a long discussion we pointed the position that is called Chief Gardener and we do really hope that they can give professional assistance to municipalities. That professional expert has strong knowledge of urban forestry and horticulture, plant growth, propagation, planting and cultivating. The chief gardener also has strong knowledge of landscaping and maintenance, including water retention systems.

That professional should organize, prioritize, and coordinate work activities involved with a scheduled maintenance program. The chief gardener can make recommendations to improve grounds maintenance work and processes.

2. Action

We would like to recommend for municipalities to employ Chief Gardener in order to strengthen the professional preparation of the different urban development projects. The Chief Gardener can also give useful advices for maintenance issues and ensure consultancy for private investors.

The cost of employment of chief gardeners should be eligible in green city projects.

Currently, project management costs are eligible in EU projects but the regulation only allows the employment of project managers, financial experts. Other professional services can be outsourced

like architectural design, engineering. The employment of a “traditional green expert” (i.e. chief gardener) does not appear as eligible cost in any guidance and as a consequence of that shortage the municipalities do not plan the cooperation of that professional expert in the desired project. We would like to encourage municipalities to employ chief gardener in the very early stage of the projects as the strategic decisions can be influenced by their proposals. The cost of chief gardeners should appear directly in the calls so as to assist the municipalities while they are elaborating the project proposal.

3. Players involved

the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and their role

- Municipalities
- Town and countryside planners and designers
- Representatives of the managing Authority of TSD OP

Municipality of Somogy County as member of the committee that decides to allocate funding for Green city projects can make recommendations on the eligible costs of green city project activities. Municipality of Somogy County is a formal contributory to STD OP implementation able to propose amendments to OP. As Municipality of Somogy County is the owner of SASD, the two organisations have the same priorities on green city and Integrated Urban Development Issues. It is not a key decision maker, but has decision making rights in terms implementing the OP.

The role of MA is the elaboration of call for Green City projects. This organisation is the owner of STD OP. The MA is the key decision maker on the issue PERFECT tackles. MA can revise the green city call and make the costs of employing chief gardeners at municipalities eligible.

Town and countryside planners and designers give useful information about the implementation of the green city call and also about the maintenance issues of green spaces in towns. According to their recommendations the call can be revised to be more effective.

4. Timeframe

STEP 1: The dissemination and promoting of GI development for municipalities starts in Semester 7

STEP 2: Monitoring of evaluation in Semester 7-9

STEP 3: TSD OP is designed by MA and main criteria system of eligible costs are defined in Semester 7 and 8

STEP 4: Feedback from MA Semester 8

5. Costs:

The implementation of this action will be carried out by SASD staff who have been working on the PERFECT project, and the associated costs will be covered by SASD's internal budget. The costs of the monitoring activities will be covered by the PERFECT Phase 2 budget.

6. Funding sources:

Staff costs for the monitoring activities are calculated within the PERFECT Phase 2 for the upcoming 4 semesters.

ACTION 3

1. The background

Under TSD OP Green City call was announced for municipalities. The important objective of the intervention field is to contribute to the retention of the population. In view of reaching the aim projects can be granted support that contribute to the environmentally conscious, family and climate friendly revival of urban public areas. It is also important that the developed urban areas should also be used by the residents, they should be implemented in accordance with the development actions aimed at the economic function with mutual strengthening. Such development actions may include recreation zones, urban public gardens and community places, which will be ideal sites for leisure time activities of families and young people.

Environmental sustainability is a very important factor in that allocation process. The main priority is to establish a green environment in cities as well as the background infrastructure required for the economic maintenance of it (e.g., water-saving irrigation system), instead of establishing paved areas in the framework of public area development actions. That includes the quality development of the existing green surfaces (e.g. an increase in bio-diversity and renewal of the plants). As a cumulated result of developments the general environmental condition of the settlements will improve.

PERFECT project meetings gave the opportunity for gaining experiences on established green infrastructure investments. The site visits and presentations were useful in the elaboration process of the Action Plan and peer-to-peer working ensured the opportunity for discussing the planning methodology of GI enhancement.

2. Action

Collecting good practices, especially innovative architectural solutions from Green City projects in order to show municipalities that green area developments have multiple benefits for citizens.

We would like to collect the best architectural solutions from the Green City projects established in Hungary and present the collection to local decision makers as a proposed list that they can use when they want to initiate any urban development project. We can show the costs and preparatory activities of the different ideas and that could influence the attitude of decision makers in the way of green cities.

As a result of the dissemination action the municipalities will initiate Green City projects and as the performance indicator of the PERFECT project estimated at least the 40% of towns in Somogy county will establish Green City project in the upcoming years.

3. Players involved

the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and their role

- Municipalities
- Town and countryside planners and designers
- Representatives of the managing Authority of TSD OP

Municipality of Somogy County is a key stakeholder in the dissemination process of Green city projects. The County council cooperates with municipalities in order to enhance the spatial structure of the county. It is not owner of the policy instrument, but a formal contributory to STD OP implementation able to propose amendments to OP. As Municipality of Somogy County is the owner of SASD, the two organisations have the same priorities on green city and Integrated Urban Development Issues. It is not a key decision maker, but has decision making rights in terms implementing the OP.

The role of MA is the elaboration of call for Green City projects. This organisation is the owner of STD OP. The MA is the key decision maker on the issue PERFECT tackles.

Town and countryside planners and designers give useful information about the implementation of the green city call. According to their recommendations the call can be revised to be more effective.

4. Timeframe

STEP 1: The dissemination and promoting of GI development for municipalities starts in Semester 7

STEP 2: Monitoring of evaluation in Semester 7-9

STEP 3: TSD OP is designed by MA and main criteria system of eligible costs are defined in Semester 7 and 8

STEP 4: Feedback from MA Semester 8 and 9

5. Costs:

The implementation of this action will be carried out by SASD staff who have been working on the PERFECT project, and the associated costs will be covered by SASD's internal budget. The costs of the monitoring activities will be covered by the PERFECT Phase 2 budget.

6. Funding sources:

Staff costs for the monitoring activities are calculated within the PERFECT Phase 2 for the upcoming 4 semesters.

Appendix

to the Action Plan prepared by the Social Ascention of Somogy Development, Communication and Education Nonprofit Ltd. (SASD) in the Planning for Environment and Resource eFFiciency in European Cities and Towns (PERFECT) project

Declaration

On behalf of the Deputy State Secretariat of Regional Development Programmes in the Ministry Of Finance, the Managing Authority for the Territorial and Settlement Development Operational Programme (targeted policy instrument of the PERFECT project for Hungary), we acknowledge and appreciate the content of the Action Plan prepared by SASD Ltd.

Budapest, March 26, 2020


.....
Gábor OLÁH

