



RIGA CITY COUNCIL
CITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT



ACTION PLAN FOR THE RIGA CITY COUNCIL



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund





Part I – General information

Project: *Effectiveness of Environmental Urban policies to improve Resources Efficiency (EURE)*

Partner organisation(s) concerned:

Atlantic Axis of Peninsular Northwest, Spain (Lead Partner)

Atlantic Cities, France

Agency for the Development of the Empolese Valdelsa, ASEV, Italy

Nicosia development agency, ANEL, Cyprus

ACR+ - Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management, Belgium

Department of coordination of European projects of the Pilsen City, Czech Republic

Alba Iulia Municipality, Romania

Lubelskie Voivodeship, Poland

Riga City Council, Latvia

Country: Latvia

NUTS 2 region: the whole country (LV00); NUTS 3 region: Riga (LV006)

Contact person: Katrīna Sudare

Email address: katrina.sudare@riga.lv

Phone number: +371 67037341



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(s) addressed: ***Operational Programme “Growth and employment”***

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:

The PI aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the "Europe 2020" objectives. Within the framework of this OP, the funding allocated to the City of Riga under the Article 7.4 of the ERDF Regulation is used for implementation of the following priority axes:

- Shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors (priority axis 4). Together with investments in energy efficient economy, these funds contribute to reaching Latvia's national Europe 2020 target of renewable energy
- Measures dedicated to environment, sustainable use of natural resources and adaptation to climate change (priority axis 5), including investments to ensure the fulfilment of the EU environmental acquis requirements.

Within implementation of various projects under the Article 7.4 of ERDF Regulation, the City of Riga has witnessed that there is a lack of awareness, including from the supervisory authorities, on the role and benefits of green infrastructure solutions applied in urban areas as part of different urban development projects – brownfield regeneration, urban transport infrastructure development, urban environment management (i.e. urban floods management, storm-water management, wastewater management) and other.

An additional goal is to promote targeted cooperation (Riga planning region, *Pierīga* municipalities, institutions involved in the management of EU funds, etc.) to raise the topic of established Riga metropolitan area in order to improve the efficiency of the implementation of the Cohesion Policy in the next planning period.



Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1:

DEFINITION OF PRIORITY COOPERATION PROJECTS IN THE FIELDS OF COOPERATION IDENTIFIED AT THE LEVEL OF RIGA FUNCTIONAL AREA

1. Relevance to the project

In the spring of 2021, a report was prepared: Action Plan: Evaluation and Improvement of the European Union Funds Support Instruments for the Efficient Management of Urban and Environmental Resources in the City of Riga and the Riga Metropolitan Area Within the framework of the report, the analysis of the regional support needs of the Riga City Municipality and the Riga Metropolitan Area was performed and the areas of cooperation were identified. For the successful cooperation of the involved parties, work on the implementation of priority cooperation projects is being continued.

Transfer of knowledge gained during cooperation: experience of Italian, Polish, Czech partners in the development and implementation of cooperation projects in urban functional areas.

Several examples of good practice of project partners are sources of inspiration for cooperation project ideas. One of them is the mobility project of Alba Lulia's partners - Renovation of the infrastructure of the city's main public transport network, including the modernization of extensive pedestrian infrastructure, the creation of cycle and public transport lanes / roads and the rehabilitation of infrastructure. The purchase of public transport electric buses in the municipality of Alba Lulia is also noteworthy. The project is part of a nationwide initiative covering 25 territorial units, including Alba Lulia, and aims to rehabilitate the public transport fleet and equip it with intelligent transport systems, with the project purchasing 13 electric buses to renew urban transport rolling stock. A slow charging station and 4 fast charging stations will also be installed for each vehicle purchased.

2. Nature of the action

Within the framework of the report developed with the support of external experts, the City of Riga with its neighbouring municipalities and the Riga Planning Region has defined priority groups of project ideas:

1. Green infrastructure, nature, recreation and tourism development projects;
2. Infrastructure development and mobility projects, including issues related to the development of public transport;
3. Business development and the development of the necessary infrastructure to provide jobs;

Actions to be carried out under Action 1:

- 1) the definition of specific priority project ideas in the above-mentioned groups of project ideas, in addition to which the cooperation project ideas on the topic: Smart local governments must be defined.
- 2) the definition and arrangement of cooperation project ideas in accordance with the specific support objectives, from which funding cooperation projects could be implemented –
 - SO 2.1.3 Promoting adaptation to climate change, risk prevention and disaster resilience
 - SO 2.2.1 Promoting sustainable water management;



- SO 2.2.3 Improving nature protection and biodiversity, green infrastructure, especially in urban areas, and reducing pollution;
- SO 2.3.1 Promoting sustainable multi-modal mobility in cities;
- SO 3.1.1 Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T infrastructure;
- SO 3.1.2 Developing and improving sustainable, climate-resilient, intelligent and intermodal mobility at national and regional level, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility;
- SO 5.1.1. Promoting of integrated social, economic and environmental development of the local territory and cultural heritage, tourism and security.

3) elaboration of proposals for regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers, which will regulate the acquisition of financing of specific support objectives applied to co-operation projects.

4) Defined prior cooperation project ideas will be developed within collaboration process among Riga City Council, neighbouring municipalities and Riga Planning Region and after at least on or couple of ideas will be submitted for approval through the policy instrument.

The process of cooperation project ideas development, elaborated at least one cooperation project idea and submission of this idea for approval will ensure that policy changes will be achieved. Even if project or projects will not be approved there will be gained new level of collaboration and new project development approach used as an important policy change.

3. Stakeholders involved

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia, the Riga Planning region and municipalities of the Riga metropolitan area

4. Timeframe

From February 1, 2022 to the 4th quarter of 2023 inclusive.

5. Costs

The involvement of employees in the identification, development and attraction of funding for cooperation project plans will be ensured.

6. Funding sources

Municipal budget



ACTION 2

DEVELOPMENT OF A COOPERATION PROJECT PILOT PROJECT AND START OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR A RESOURCE-EFFICIENT URBAN ENVIRONMENT

1. Relevance to the project

Granīta Street industrial territory is located in the border area of Riga city with two neighbouring municipalities. In the north-western part of the territory there are production and warehouse territories, in the area of Šķembu Street - small gardens and cemetery territories, in the eastern part - industrial production territories. Built-up and industrially used territories are owned by private and legal entities, but undeveloped are extensively used small garden territories. Granīta Street is one of the largest industrial quarters with more than 30 large companies and the area has become a highly developed business area. Taking into account the specifics of the production territories, the infrastructure (support, basic, engineering) must be created in the territory of Granīta Street, which is designed for high loads and heavy use. Efficient transport driveways, driveways and junctions should be created, rain and domestic sewerage system should be developed, as well as the establishment of electricity substations should be promoted.

Transfer of knowledge gained during cooperation: The project introduces the good practice of the project partners LUGO + BIODYNAMIC (Spain), which includes four important activities to create carbon-neutral neighbourhoods in the city's green belt. Activities and measures to be implemented in the project:

- Creation of IMPULSO VERDE (Green Impulse): 4-storey public building made of 100% Galician wood, as well as biomass production and a vertical garden in the vicinity;
- The neighbourhood is being developed as the first multi-ecological district in Spain, with energy self-sufficiency above 90%, water self-sufficiency above 50%, 4 times higher proportion of Green Areas and 2 times wider service areas and other aspects;
- A new 21-hectare urban forest is being cultivated in the area, planting around 4,000 new trees (high-quality local woody plants), as well as providing conditions for 28 species of fauna in a special protection regime.

In order to strengthen community links and self-consumption cultures, the city's gardens are also being cultivated.

2. Nature of the action

An integrated co-operation project is to be developed within the framework of the action, with the participation of three local governments and one local government capital company. The project has a high degree of integration. In its development and implementation, each project partner must envisage significant investments, therefore it is important that the development of the Granīta Street territory is included in the territorial development planning documents of all municipalities involved in the project and the Riga Planning Region. Taking into account the areas of solid pavements in existing and potential industrial facilities and catchment areas, integrated landscaping solutions should be developed in the area, which ensure rainwater retention, flow



equalization and on-site treatment using green infrastructure solutions, such as rain gardens, bio-estuaries, artificial wetlands , ponds, permeable coverings, green roofs, etc .; Also, efficient transport driveways, driveways and junctions should be created, a rain and domestic sewerage system should be developed, as well as the establishment of electrical substations should be promoted, support and basic engineering infrastructure for high loads and intensive use should be created.

Actions to be carried out under Action 2:

- 1) Development of the zoning of the cooperation pilot project territory and determination of the pilot project implementation stages;
- 2) Agree on the preparation of the terms of reference with stakeholders and prepare the terms of reference in accordance with the purpose of the project and the interests of the parties involved;
- 3) Agree on workloads and their distribution among stakeholders;
- 4) Develop recommendations for the introduction of “green” solutions for the improvement of the territory, as well as for the “greening” of production and inclusion of circular economy activities;
- 5) Develop a cooperation project application and technical documentation;
- 6) Start of implementation of the cooperation project.

3. Stakeholders involved

The City of Riga, Salaspils Municipality, Ropaži Municipality and the Riga Planning Region; companies operating in the city of Riga, Ropaži Municipality and Salaspils Municipality, as well as other companies that will use the established infrastructure. Residents of Granīta Street area. Other residents whose workplaces are located in the territory of Granīta Street.

4. Time frame

From the 1st quarter of 2022 to the 4th quarter of 2023 inclusive.

5. Costs

EUR 100,000 for the development of initial construction documentation.

6. Funding sources

The action 2 will be financed by **municipal budget** - from the City Infrastructure Fund, for the development of initial construction documentation. Project is also included in the Investment plan of Riga City, intended to be financed by EU funds but action 2 is first step towards this project implementation and will be financed by Riga City so far.



ACTION 3

PROMOTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE OLD RIGA (OLD TOWN) PUBLIC OUTDOOR SPACE, incl. DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Relevance to the project

The Old Town of Riga - Old Riga is one of the priority development areas of the city's public outdoor space, but the development of the historical center of Riga, which is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, and the adjacent territories are within the goals defined by the Sustainable Development Strategy of Riga until 2030 (hereinafter the Strategy).

Within the framework of the strategy, it is planned to unite the biological centers of the city, the green centers of the urban environment and the "green belt" adjacent to the city, as well as to connect the water areas with the green corridors and trails. In order to improve the quality of the environment and human life, in order to achieve the goals defined in the Strategy, where the transport infrastructure of the city is built according to a hierarchical system: pedestrian - cyclist - public transport - personal transport - freight transport, reduce traffic as well as offer and promote alternative modes of transport.

Transfer of knowledge gained during cooperation: Two examples of good practice of the project partners directly serve as an inspiration for the development and implementation of the idea of the project for the development and accessibility of the Old Riga public outdoor space.

Significant experience was gained during the project's study visit to Pontevedra, Spain, where the Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy (EDUSI) and its results were introduced. The city of Pontevedra purposefully develops and implements a model of urban transformation and development focused on a good quality of living environment, with a special focus on mobility, environmental, social and public outdoor issues. The city of Pontevedra is implementing the Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy, promoting the development of attractive and affordable housing in the urban area, developing an urban model that is more sustainable, greener and more comfortable. CO² emissions have fallen by 70%, and while other cities in the region are shrinking, the population of central Pontevedra is growing every year. In Pontevedra, a family-friendly 'pedestrian' policy has helped to increase the number of children, despite the low birth rate in Spain, and statistics on demographic trends in the city are positive.

Another source of inspiration is the HUB-IN (Hubs of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the Transformation of Historic Urban Areas) project, an example of good practice from Cyprus, which aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in historic urban areas while preserving the unique identity of the historic areas in relation to the natural, cultural and social values of these cities. HUB-IN will have two main phases. The project is currently underway, with a first phase of a network of innovation and business centers in the historic urban areas of the eight city partners, while the second phase will expand the methods and tools used in a global network of followers. Good practice shows that innovation and entrepreneurship should be promoted in historic urban areas alongside with urban improvement activities.

2. Nature of the action

The aim of the project is to develop the historical center of Riga and improve the accessibility of public infrastructure, increase the socio-economic potential to ensure the development and diversification of cultural and tourism services. It is expected that the project will directly promote the change of habits of Riga residents when pedestrians on the streets, including people with special needs, will become a priority. By using traffic calming on the streets, reducing the number of cars and improving the bicycle traffic infrastructure, the use of bicycles, electric scooter and



other micro-mobility tools would increase, which will generally promote clean and sustainable mobility in Riga. The project idea will reduce the environmental impact by promoting the sustainable consumption of resources in Old Riga, for example, by promoting the integration of green infrastructure solutions (use of water permeable coverings, improvement of green areas and greenery, reduction of heat island effect and CO2 capture), will developed an attractive urban space.

The project aims to preserve and develop the cultural heritage by strengthening local, national and European identities. It is planned to introduce uniform design principles corresponding to the cultural and historical specifics of the place, improving the territory. It is also planned to create a unified, modern and dynamic system of tourism and other services in order to promote the accessibility of the Old Town to various groups of the population, especially evaluating its accessibility for pedestrians and people with special needs. A healthy environment in Old Riga is beneficial for all population groups

Actions to be carried out under Action 3:

- 1) To carry out the development or feasibility study of the initial construction documentation, including the involvement of experts, to develop recommendations for the implementation of green infrastructure solutions and to promote the accessibility of the territory;
- 2) Develop project application and technical documentation;
- 3) Start of project implementation.

3. Stakeholders involved

The National Cultural Heritage Board, The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, SJSC "State Real Estate" (SRE) and involved non-governmental organizations, etc.

4. Timeframe

From the 1st quarter of 2022 to the 4th quarter of 2023 inclusive

5. Costs

EUR 100,000 for the development of initial construction documentation

6. Funding sources

Municipal budget



Date: _____

Name of the organisation(s):

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s): _____

