



URBAN-ROOTS: Youth-Led Regeneration



Sporta Pils dārzi | Rīga

Inside this issue

From research to action: our first project results, learning resources, urban gardens and upcoming webinars.

Rooting Communities in Nature

Newsletter Issue 01 | September 2026

Connecting young people, educators and communities through urban greening, sustainable learning and youth-led urban regeneration across Europe.



Lucavsala



Co-funded by
the European Union

6 countries, different cities and local realities, but one shared question: how can urban spaces become greener, more useful and better connected to the people who live there?

— URBAN-ROOTs Consortium



Lucavsala

Welcome to URBAN-ROOTs

Exploring greener, more sustainable urban spaces together

URBAN-ROOTs started in November 2025, bringing together partners from Portugal, Austria, Greece, North Macedonia, Spain and Latvia around a shared interest in youth-led urban regeneration. 🇵🇹🇦🇹🇬🇷🇲🇰🇪🇸🇱🇻

Across Europe, cities contain spaces that are abandoned, underused or disconnected from the communities around them. At the same time, questions around green space, climate resilience, participation and quality of urban life are becoming increasingly important.

URBAN-ROOTs looks at these questions from both an educational and practical perspective. The project explores how underused urban spaces can be reconsidered, and how young people and local communities can have a more active role in that process.

The 6 partner countries bring different urban contexts, experiences and approaches to the project. Rather than looking for one solution that can be applied everywhere, URBAN-ROOTs uses these differences to explore what sustainable urban regeneration can look like in different local settings.

Research and learning are then connected with practice through local activities, including urban gardening workshops, where project topics can be explored in relation to real places and communities.

In this newsletter, you can discover the project's first results, see how the work is beginning to take shape locally and find out how to join the upcoming webinars.



PROJECT AT A GLANCE

A snapshot of our progress so far



Our Progress

Building the foundations for youth-led urban regeneration.

Urban Regeneration Planning Framework

A practical framework for planning sustainable, inclusive and youth-led urban regeneration.

Digital Handbook

Five learning modules exploring sustainable urbanism from different perspectives.

Instructional Videos

One instructional video accompanies each handbook module, helping bring learning into practice.

Urban Gardening Activities

Local workshops have begun across the partnership, with more activities continuing through October 2026.



Limbaži



How can abandoned or underused urban spaces become useful, sustainable places for local communities?

This is the question behind the URBAN-ROOTs Urban Regeneration Planning Framework.

The Urban Regeneration Planning Framework

Research and practical guidance from across the URBAN-ROOTs partnership

The Urban Regeneration Planning Framework is one of the first major results developed by the URBAN-ROOTs partnership. It brings together research from Portugal, Austria, Greece, North Macedonia, Spain and Latvia on the regeneration of abandoned and underused urban spaces.

Each partner researched the situation in their own country, including relevant policies and strategies, and collected examples of good practices. Bringing these different perspectives together allowed us to identify common challenges, useful approaches and ideas that can be adapted to different local contexts.

Based on this research, the partnership developed a Framework that can be used when planning the regeneration of an underused urban space. It covers the process from identifying and analysing a space to planning possible interventions, involving local communities and thinking about how the space can be used in the longer term.

Urban gardening is one of the approaches explored in the Framework, together with broader aspects of sustainable urban development, community participation and the use of nature-based solutions.

The Framework is intended as a practical reference for those interested in exploring how underused urban spaces could be regenerated in their own local context.



3.2 Inclusive Planning in Practice

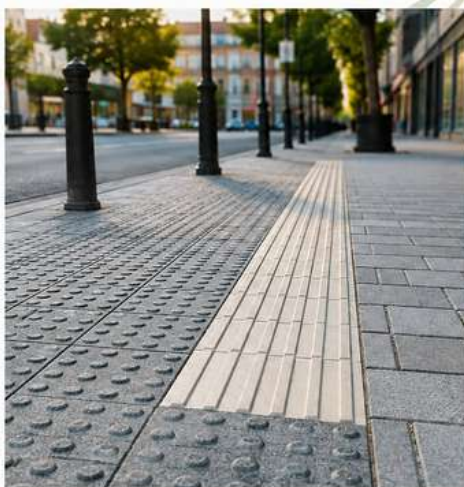
Inclusive urban planning means designing cities so that everyone – regardless of age, ability, gender, or income – can access and enjoy public spaces, services and opportunities.

Example – Tactile paving

Tactile paving helps people with visual impairments navigate safely in public spaces. It is a simple but powerful example of how inclusive design improves independence, accessibility and safety for all.

Key takeaway

Small changes in design can remove big barriers and make cities more welcoming for everyone.



10

The URBAN-ROOTs Digital Handbook brings together practical learning materials on sustainable urban development.

It is designed for young people, youth workers and educators exploring greener, more inclusive and sustainable cities.

Explore the Digital Handbook

Five modules on sustainable urbanism for young people, youth workers and educators

Educational Modules



01

Principles of Sustainable Urbanism



02

Urban Gardening and Green Spaces



03

Social Entrepreneurship in Urban Settings



04

Inclusive Urban Planning and Development



05

Integrating Technology for Sustainable Urbanism

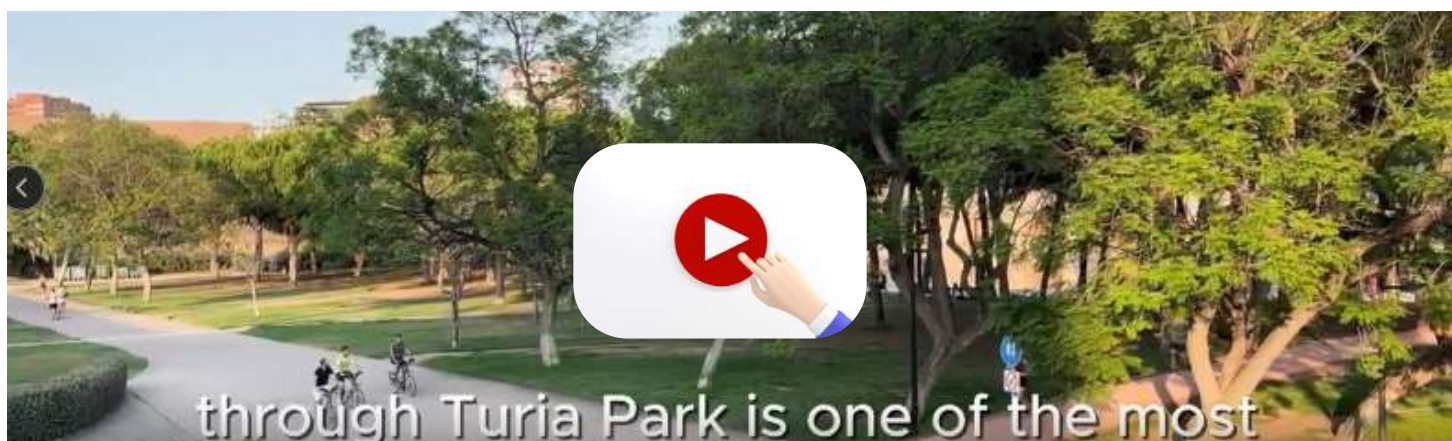
Instructional Videos

Each of the five modules is accompanied by an instructional video, offering another way to explore the topic and support learning activities.



Available in Partner Languages

The Handbook and supporting materials are available in the languages of the URBAN-ROOTs partner countries, making the resources easier to use in different local contexts.



WORKING TOGETHER IN SPAIN

Partners meet to review progress and plan the next steps



Transnational
Project Meeting

*La Vall d'Uixó,
Spain*

June 2026

Sharing Progress, Planning What's Next

Partners from Portugal, Austria, Greece, North Macedonia, Spain and Latvia — around one table.



Partners from across the URBAN-ROOTS consortium came together to review the work completed so far, discuss ongoing tasks and coordinate the next steps of the project.



With partners working in different countries, meeting face to face provided valuable time to compare experiences and discuss practical questions in detail.



The meeting also focused on the months ahead, including the local urban gardening activities, upcoming webinars and coordination between partners as the project moves further into its practical phase.



URBAN GARDENING IN PRACTICE

From sustainable urbanism principles to practical work in Limbaži, Latvia



Limbaži, Latvia
July 2026



URBAN-ROOTs
workshop
& community
garden

URBAN-ROOTs Workshop in Limbaži

Learning about the city, exploring it on foot and working on a new urban garden location

On 19 July, Bioville organised an URBAN-ROOTs workshop in Limbaži in collaboration with Biedrība “Limbažu Filcs” and Roc un Stādi. The full-day workshop began with an introduction to the main principles of sustainable urbanism, followed by a walk through Limbaži to explore its public spaces, green areas and urban environment from a new perspective.

The practical part took place at the Limbažu Filcs community space, where participants worked together to create a new urban garden area. Roc un Stādi provided plants for the garden, while old tyres and metal containers found on site were reused as planters.

Rather than planting directly in the ground, the group created a flexible garden that can be adapted or moved as the space develops. The garden will form part of the community area, where further activities and gatherings can take place.



URBAN GARDENING IN PRACTICE

Preparing a new green space for learning and biodiversity in Madeira, Portugal



Funchal, Madeira
August 2026



*My Madeira
Forest
URBAN-ROOTs
activity*

A New Green Space Takes Root in Madeira

Learning about local biodiversity while preparing the ground for future native planting

On 31 August, My Madeira Island brought together its team and volunteers for an URBAN-ROOTs activity at My Madeira Forest, a 0.6-hectare site made available through a collaboration protocol with the Municipality of Funchal.

Participants learned how to identify endemic and invasive plants and then moved into practical work, clearing and preparing the land for the planting of native trees once Madeira's rainy season begins.

The site is being developed as a space for future green workshops, learning and practical activities, while also contributing to the protection of Madeira's local biodiversity.



URBAN GARDENING IN PRACTICE

Fresh perspectives on urban greenery with international students in Vienna, Austria



Vienna, Austria

September 2026



*URBAN-ROOTS
workshop with
international
students*

Looking at Vienna Through New Eyes

Sharing ideas and experiences to imagine greener and more inclusive neighbourhoods

Think Green GmbH, together with researcher Nijat Gafarov and the URBAN-ROOTS team, held a workshop with newly arrived international students living in different districts of Vienna.

The 2.5-hour session combined a short introduction on urban greenery with interactive activities. Students shared examples of challenges and solutions from their home countries and explored how small local ideas can contribute to greener, more liveable neighbourhoods.

The workshop encouraged participants to look at their own districts from a new perspective and consider how small local actions could contribute to making their part of Vienna greener in the future.



UPCOMING WEBINARS

Empowering Youth for Greener Cities



What if we brought nature back into our cities?

This autumn, URBAN-ROOTs launches a series of online webinars exploring greener and more sustainable cities.

SAVE THE DATES

10 September 2026

What Makes a City Sustainable: 8 Principles.

15 September 2026

Climate adaptation in urban areas

Lessons from Turia Park Valencia

17 September 2026

Design Your City: A Youth Guide to Inclusive Urban Planning

24 September 2026

Turning Ideas into Impact

Social Entrepreneurship in the City

29 September 2026

Plant. Grow. Live. - Touch Grass, Literally

01 October 2026

Tech That Grows Green Cities

**REGISTER
FOR THE WEBINARS**



SCAN TO REGISTER



All webinars start at 10:00 CET



WHAT'S NEXT?

URBAN-ROOTS continues into 2027, with more activities taking place across the partner countries, new project resources and further opportunities to get involved.

Stay Connected with URBAN-ROOTS

Follow the project for new activities, resources and updates.

 www.urban-roots.eu

 info@mymadeiraisland.com

 Instagram: @urban.roots.eu

► URBAN-ROOTS on YouTube

ABOUT URBAN-ROOTS

URBAN-ROOTS is an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership bringing together organisations from Portugal, Austria, Greece, North Macedonia, Spain and Latvia.

Project No. 2025-1-PT02-KA220-YOU-000350035

Duration: November 2025 – October 2027



Co-funded by
the European Union

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Agência Nacional Erasmus+ Juventude/Desporto e Corpo Europeu de Solidariedade. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.