



## EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROJECT PARKATLANTIC

### Space and nature study and inventory of five Atlantic territories

#### General recommendations in line with the Benchmarking



## General recommendations in line with the Benchmarking

<b>Economic</b>	<p>The active search for funds other than municipal funds must be promoted, for both the development and management of Green Spaces. Different countries use a variety of solutions to this effect, all of which can be recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Obtaining private funding: Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), through joint management with local associations or collaboration with property developers.</i></li><li>• <i>We recommend especially the installation in the medium term, wherever possible, of Biotope Area Factors, as known and applied in Berlin and Malmo, for example, to encourage the inclusion of Green Spaces in all new property projects.</i></li><li>• <i>Actively seeking private sponsoring of firm activities/projects (redevelopment, educational, cultural, etc.).</i></li><li>• <i>Presenting projects to the various national (public, large foundations, lotteries, etc.) and community (European programmes, ERDF, ESF, etc.) funds to acquire additional, multilateral funding.</i></li><li>• <i>Having said that, caution: Environmental community funding is limited and very strict (e.g. for a Life Nature/Biodiversity project, the Green Spaces must be part of the Natura 2000 network or the Birds and Habitats directives). In this sense, one recommendation for the partners would be to focus their efforts on other community programmes with cross-cutting contents featuring different contributions from both the environment and Green Spaces. Examples are the financing of on-going training actions and exchanges (Lifelong Learning programme) or, more importantly, the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7).</i></li><li>• <i>Promoting proper classification of Green Spaces based on their size/structure/position/uses/etc. to make it easier to plan their maintenance (e.g. mowing) and reduce costs.</i></li><li>• <i>Promoting "sustainable planting" spaces to reduce maintenance and watering costs.</i></li><li>• <i>Promoting "sustainable planting" spaces to reduce maintenance and watering costs.</i></li></ul>
-----------------	--

## Social

- Whilst complying with the different national legislation, the partners could set and agree shared and uniform objectives of universal accessibility (for disabled people or the elderly) and create a common "Atlantic" manual of urban/accessibility facilities.
- In line with experiences in Zurich and the Scandinavian countries, we would recommend that children and adolescents are involved in designing and creating parks and playgrounds, not just to promote spaces that they feel they want and need but also to teach them certain values (environmental, teamwork, etc.) and to increase their awareness and creativity.
- Promoting part-time work contracts, to facilitate the inclusion of women in professions relating to the maintenance of Green Spaces and jobs and insertion programmes for certain groups at risk of social exclusion.
- Green Spaces are now viewed internationally as "open spaces" or meeting places. It is therefore important to encourage these meetings by continuing to guarantee minimum facilities, activities and services for all generations (playgrounds for adolescents and the elderly, allotments, organisation of guided didactic tours, promotion of cultural activities in the Green Spaces, etc.).
- All cities face the same problems and disagreements over allowing domestic animals in the parks (a certain confrontation between users in favour and those against). It appears that setting strict rules but which respect each individual's freedom works well (e.g. creating separate areas for domestic animals to roam freely but under a watchful eye and banning them from other specific play or relaxation areas such as playgrounds, picnic areas and lawns).

<b>Environment</b>	<i>(The water and biodiversity management I have from the Benchmarking seems a little too general for something to be included)</i>
--------------------	---

<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working in conjunction with the community, users, local associations, etc. can be considered as a cross-cutting recommendation (economic, social, environmental and governance); its outcome can result in savings in some services (maintenance, for example), enhancing the image of Green Spaces and raising citizens' environmental awareness and knowledge.</li> <li>• Similarly, institutional cooperation must be promoted to encourage the organisation of activities by third parties in the Green Spaces (cultural, educational, etc.).</li> <li>• Increased use of New Information and Communication Technologies should be promoted in the services offered to citizens and in the management of Green Spaces in general: Internet access in the parks; Creation of GIS and interactive maps easy to consult or obtain on the Internet; Use of electronic government (e-government) to facilitate exchanges with the citizens (information, consultations, surveys, possibility of submitted complaints or suggestions, etc.)</li> <li>• Environmental communication and education must be on the agenda. To this effect, every city must be given sufficient and stable human (in charge of communication) and economic (annual fixed minimum budgets) resources to ensure a strategy and on-going activity in these topics.</li> <li>• Similarly, every city must have training resources in line with its requirements and as requested by its personnel (plans and budgets), to facilitate the transmission of acquired knowledge, the acquisition of new techniques or team motivation.</li> <li>• New Green Spaces should extend beyond the traditional concept which can be difficult to create through lack of available space (parks, gardens, etc.); they could include green roofs, small urban vegetable gardens, open rainwater recovery channels, etc.</li> <li>• Carrying out annual or six-monthly satisfaction surveys.</li> </ul>
-------------------	--

## Natural spaces' urban planning/strategies

<b>Protection tools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every city should promote, according to its possibilities, the <del>adoption of environmental protection or management</del> standards, but a series of common minimum standards could be adopted by the project partners, for example by signing an "Atlantic Charter for the Management and Promotion of Urban Green Spaces".</li> </ul>
<b>Planning tools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every city should agree a medium- or long-term "Green Spaces Strategy" (proposal: ten years minimum) to ensure effective sustainability, independent of political changes.</li> <li>• An "Action and Infrastructure Plan" should be fixed in line with the adopted Strategy with clear, measurable objectives, precise timetables and budget forecasts.</li> </ul>