

Our Mission

Urban ReLeaf promotes collaboration between local communities and public authorities to address urgent climate issues related to urban greenspace planning, heat stress, and air pollution.

Together with six European cities, we *nurture* citizen-powered environmental monitoring projects that bring the benefits of *nature* to everyone.

Our mission focuses on community placemaking, public sector innovation, and tailored strategies to reach our common goal of creating *greener*, more just and resilient cities for all.

Utrecht, Netherlands

Together with residents from four green-deprived neighbourhoods, we are co-creating community-based actions to collect data on temperature, relative humidity and heat stress. Through the use of wearables and mobile applications, women with a migration background and young people will contribute to citizen-powered monitoring to help reduce the urban heat island effect and shape effective climate change adaptation strategies.

Athens, Greece

The Greek capital faces severe heatwaves more often, while air pollution reaches high levels both during the winter and summer. To advance the spatial and temporal coverage of existing data, a network of low-cost air quality monitors will be deployed across the 7 districts of the municipality. In addition, Athens is undergoing a greening transformation with a new tree registry that combines Earth Observation and crowdsourcing methods to provide critical data for better management of greenspaces.

Riga, Latvia

Riga, is engaging diverse audiences to address concerns about air pollution and greenspace usage, to ensure better informed policies. The Riga Planning Region, the city of Riga's digital agency and local communities are joining forces to deploy 20 low-cost air quality monitors to collect temporal, hyperlocal, geospatial data on pollutants such as Particulate Matter (PM2.5). This network, which cover both high traffic areas as well as urban greenspaces, offer an efficient means of acquiring real-time data on PM2.5, to identify pollution hotspots and subsequently implement targeted interventions.

Dundee, UK

In Dundee, a city facing increasing grey infrastructure in deprived areas, actions to enhance the accessibility of greenspaces are co-developed with citizens and stakeholders. Bespoke surveys delivered through a mobile application will not only help residents discover and connect with local greenspaces, but also contribute valuable insights to help design the city's Open Space Strategy in 2025.

Cascais, Portugal

The Cascais Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (2017) was the first of its kind in Portugal. Despite progress, assessing the value of urban green infrastructure still remains a major challenge. In Urban ReLeaf, through the use of surveys conducted across 7 unique greenspaces in the region, citizens are sharing perceptions and thermal comfort levels to validate the effectiveness of its parks.

Mannheim, Germany







Known as one of Germany's hottest cities, Mannheim has become a pioneer by approving a heat action plan to safeguard its most vulnerable residents. We are co-developing a comprehensive tree registry with the help of citizen observations on mature trees and trees on public land to support urban climate protection and adaptation measures. The aim of the registry is to help city departments streamline management processes and highlight future tree planting locations.

Our Objectives

1. Understand current urban greening policies in six pilot cities and co-develop opportunities for citizen participation to complement existing practices.
2. Support the long-term inclusion of active and passive data from citizens within official data streams for urban monitoring, planning and innovation in public policy.
3. Mobilize and empower local communities in issues of public interest surrounding urban green infrastructure and environmental stewardship.
4. Establish a community of practice and an accelerator programme to encourage knowledge exchange and training across relevant actors, reaching beyond the six pilot cities.
5. Offer flexible and innovative ways of governance that can underpin inclusive green urban planning in support of the European Green Deal and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A look at the project in numbers



Themes	Technologies
 Greenspace Perception	 Wearable Sensors
 Urban Trees	 Mobile Applications
 Air Quality	 Air Quality Monitors PM2.5
 Heat Stress	

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