



SUP4SUD NEWSLETTER #1

STRATEGIC URBAN PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH FOR EUROPE'S URBAN FUTURE

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SUP4SUD

ABOUT THE SUP4SUD PROJECT

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CITIES: INTRODUCING THE SUP4SUD PROJECT

As urbanisation continues to spread, urban areas face significant social and environmental challenges that require complex and integrated solutions.

Over the past three decades, European cities have made efforts to tackle these challenges through various strategies, such as the [Amsterdam Pact](#) and the [Urban Agenda for the European Union](#). Despite this, local and regional governments departments often lack the capacity to implement holistic and comprehensive approaches.

European urban strategic planning has historically focused on economic development and urban regeneration, with recent shifts towards sustainability, citizen participation and governance.

However, integrating **sustainable development** into these plans is complicated by diverse local public management models across Europe. [The Interreg Europe SUP4SUD project](#) addresses the **integration of socially and environmentally sustainable development** within **urban strategic planning in European cities**.

The project explores how **urban strategic planning** can incorporate **sustainable development principles**, align local sustainability policies, and contribute to the 2030 Agenda and the New European Bauhaus.

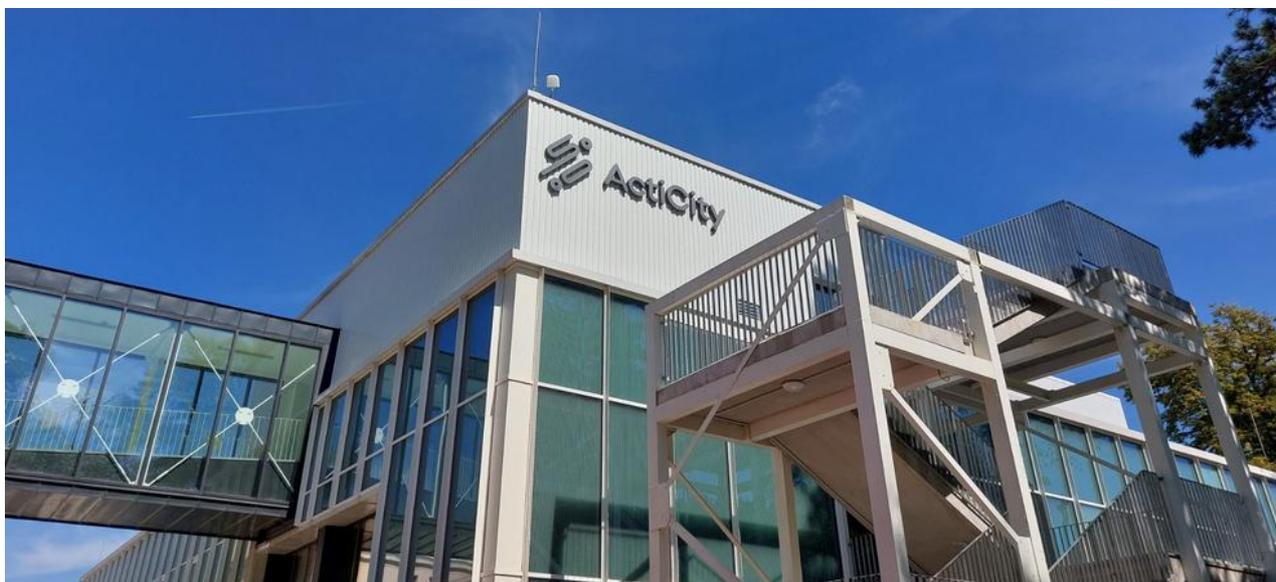


According to **Akos Szépvölgy** from the project **Lead Partner, the Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency (Hungary)**: “SUP4SUD brings together a diverse consortium of partners from all corners of Europe, to share good practices from a range of models for urban management, and develop guidelines for policy makers, to support sustainable urban strategic planning. In doing so, partners will enhance the effectiveness of sustainable urban development policies in their regions”.

The SUP4SUD project hosted its **Kick Off Meeting in Székesfehérvár, Hungary on 1 to 3 September 2025**. Day 1 was spent introducing the project concepts and exchanging good practices, Day 2 on a study tour and Day 3 on project management. You can find a full report on the study tour hosted on Day 2 of the kick-off meeting in this newsletter.

The Project Partners are:

- [Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency \(KDRIÚ\) \(HU\)](#) - Lead Partner
- [Northern and Western Regional Assembly \(IE\)](#)
- [Stadt Mannheim \(DE\)](#)
- [Oslo Municipality \(NO\)](#)
- [Metropolitan Strategic Plan of Barcelona \(ES\)](#)
- [Chisinău City Hall \(RO\)](#)
- [Krakow Metropolis Association \(PL\)](#)
- [The Prague Institute of Planning and Development \(IPR Prague\) \(CZ\)](#)
- [Pablo de Olavide University \(ES\)](#) – Advisory Partner
- [Ialoveni City Hall \(MD\)](#) – Discovery Partner
- [City of Tallinn \(EE\)](#)
- [Avanhard township council of Odesa district of Odesa region \(UA\)](#) – Discovery Partner
- [Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda \(ES\)](#) – Associated Policy Authority



LATEST NEWS



GREEN AND INCLUSIVE URBAN RENEWAL IN PRACTICE - LESSONS FROM VESZPREM

On 2 September 2025, **project partners spent a full day in Veszprém**, Hungary - a regional model for sustainable urban transformation. The Deputy Mayor and the Sustainability Councillor welcomed the group to the region and outlined local priorities from energy-efficient buildings to community engagement.

What we saw in the field

- **Acticity complex**: building revitalisation and functional transformation.
- **Acticity Garden**: green walls, a rain garden, and a community composting system—hands-on climate resilience and circularity.
- **Séd Valley**: landscape rehabilitation and reimagined green public spaces.
- **Haszkovó district**: wildflower meadows, urban beekeeping, and deadwood installations to support biodiversity.
- **Gyárkert district**: large-scale urban district rehabilitation and adaptive reuse.

A working lunch at Hangvilla Restaurant enabled partners to exchange first impressions and discuss transferability to their regions. The day closed with a short cultural stop in Tihany, blending professional exchange with local heritage.

Why it matters for SUP4SUD

The visit offered **tangible examples** of how **socially and environmentally sustainable solutions** can be **embedded in strategic urban planning**. Insights gathered will feed into our shared pool of good practices and the improvement of policy instruments across 11 countries.



FUNDING FOR REVITALISATION OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN IRELAND

In December 2023, Ireland recorded 20, 870 properties on its register of derelict housing.* The most high-profile of these properties are government owned heritage buildings in town centres. The decline of these buildings significantly impacts a town's ability to fully function as a vibrant social, cultural and recreational hub for both visitors and the local community.

In September 2025, €27.6 million in funding was granted to restore four landmark heritage buildings in Counties Sligo, Donegal, Monaghan and Galway under the [Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme \(THRIVE\)](#).

The projects awarded funding were:

- Sligo Gaol (up to €7m) will be redeveloped as a regional community and cultural tourism destination.
- Letterkenny Courthouse, Co Donegal, (up to €7m) will be adapted into a multi-use space for arts, education, leisure and cross-border tourism.
- St Louis Convent Chapel, Co Monaghan (up to €7m) will become a performance and community events venue, with new public realm works connecting it to the town centre.
- Tuam Station House, Co Galway (up to €6.6m) will be reimagined as a state-of-the-art enterprise hub and social space as part of the wider Tuam Regeneration Strategy.

The projects must embed the principles of the [New European Bauhaus](#) – promoting solutions that are sustainable, inclusive and beautiful.



Artist's impression of the County Monaghan Thrive Site

The funding will enable local authorities to bring long-vacant heritage buildings back into public use, transforming them into vibrant community, cultural, enterprise and tourism destinations. In this way, the four projects will not only conserve important heritage assets but also deliver lasting **social and economic benefits**. The projects will blend preservation with modern needs and guarantee these valuable sites remain useful for generations to come.

The **THRIVE scheme** is part of **the Northern and Western Regional Programme** which is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union. The **Northern and Western Regional Assembly** is the Managing Authority for the Programme and a partner in the SUP4SUD project.

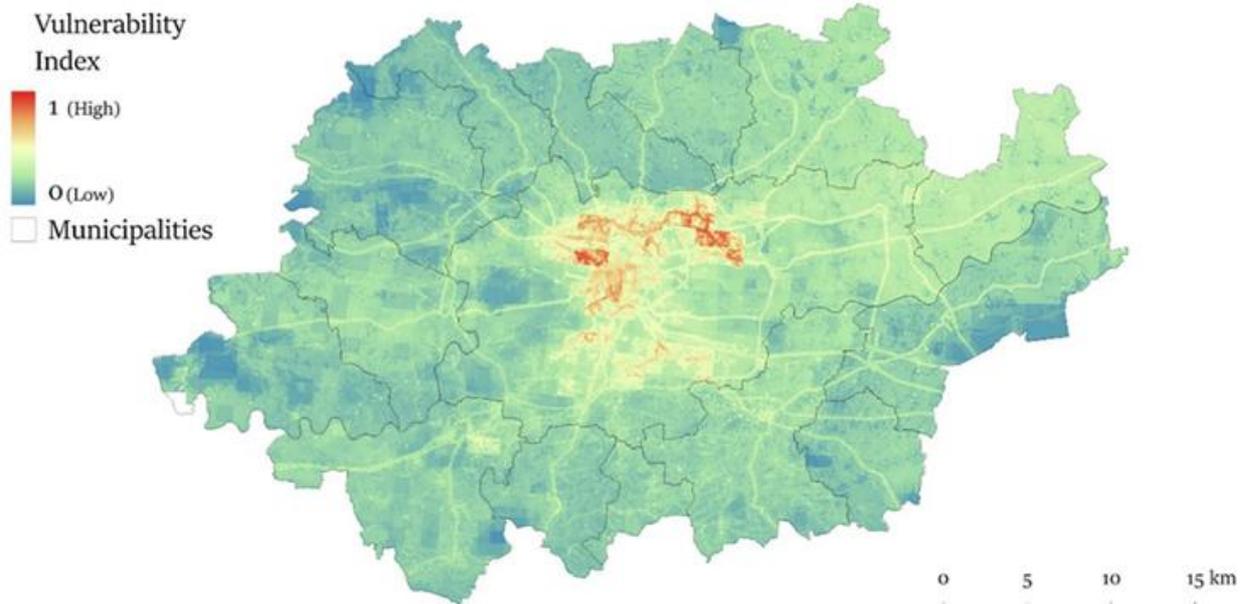
*Geodirectory 2023

MAPPING URBAN VULNERABILITY FOR SMARTER CITY PLANNING IN KRAKOW METROPOLITAN AREA

Did you know that more than half the world's population is concentrated in urban areas, where people and ecosystems are most vulnerable to climate change and the extinction of species? However, the degree of vulnerability is highly uneven, leading to spatial injustices. **Strategic urban planning can help enhance socio-ecological justice**, but for this to happen, the needs of cities' most vulnerable people and ecosystems must first be assessed and analysed.

A new study, focusing on the **Krakow metropolitan area**, explored **how cities can better respond to environmental and social risks** through the **spatial vulnerability lens**.

The study includes the city of Krakow and 14 neighbouring municipalities, an area inhabited by around 1.2 million people. The study analysed how different pressures – such as heat, flooding, air pollution or biodiversity loss – intersect across urban and suburban areas.



Map of the Krakow Metropolitan Area

Using 47 spatial indicators, the study identified areas where communities and ecosystems are most at risk. This comprehensive mapping will enable the municipal authorities of the Krakow metropolitan area to plan green spaces and climate adaptation measures based on the social and ecological needs of the different communities, ensuring more equitable and effective urban planning.

The findings provide valuable insights for **metropolitan cooperation and policy design**, helping cities transition towards more resilient and inclusive futures.

This research was conducted in the **Krakow Metropolitan Area** (a SUP4SUD project partner)

Read more on the [CORDIS website](#).

MEETING OUR STAKEHOLDERS

LAUNCH OF THE LOCAL SUP4SUD STAKEHOLDER PROCESS IN PRAGUE

The first **stakeholder group meeting** of the **SUP4SUD project in Prague on 23 June 2025** brought together 20 representatives from various organisations engaged in sustainable urban development.

The session, hosted by IPR Prague, focused on introducing the project's goals, structure, and opportunities for local participation within the Interreg Europe framework. Participants were introduced to an upcoming forthcoming tool that will aim to unify and clarify the requirements for the construction of new neighbourhoods in Prague.

The meeting also explained the role of the stakeholder group, which will serve as a collaborative platform, linking municipal institutions, experts, and practitioners throughout the project.

The event concluded with a brief reflection session and **informal networking**, fostering connections among participants, and outlining topics for the next meeting.

This first stakeholder meeting marked the sort of a structured **local dialogue** on sustainable urban transformation in Prague. The insights and priorities identified during the workshop will inform the preparation of the mentioned tool and contribute to the project's Baseline Study.

The session laid out the groundwork for **continuous collaboration among local actors**, ensuring that the project outcomes reflect real urban needs and can support evidence-based policy improvement.





SUP4SUD KICKS OFF IN CHIȘINĂU

On 24 September 2025 at Chișinău City Hall, the first stakeholder meeting for the SUP4SUD project took place. The meeting focused on outlining the project's objectives and strategic directions.

Key stakeholders discussed how to make Chișinău City more resilient, inclusive, and environmentally friendly. Participants shared their interest in collaborating with other European cities to share best practices and tools for urban planning.

The meeting successfully set the stage for future activities by fostering dialogue among participants. It highlighted **the potential for adapting local strategies to European standards**. Overall, the event was well-received as a step towards promoting sustainable urban models in Chișinău.

IALOVENI LOOKS AHEAD: SHAPING ITS 2026-2031 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



With many opportunities emerging from the Republic of Moldova's status as a candidate country for accession to the European Union, **Ialoveni City Hall's involvement in the SUP4SUD project** has arisen at an opportune moment.

On 20 October 2025, the City Hall organised **their first stakeholder meeting for the SUP4SUD Project**. Taking into account results from the Evaluation and Analysis Report on the implementation of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy of Ialoveni (2019-2025), the local public administration has begun drafting a Strategy for the next period (2026-2031).

The Strategy is being developed in collaboration with Moldius NGO and the Association of Smart Communities in Moldova. The process will include extensive consultation with all stakeholders, and the new document is expected to be approved by the City Council in early 2026.

By participating in the SUP4SUD project, Ialoveni City Hall, in partnership with the other European administrations, will promote the **exchange of good practices** and **urban planning tools**, contribute to the adaptation of local strategies to European standards and the promotion of a sustainable urban development model.



KRAKÓW EMBRACES THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

The **Kraków Metropolis Association** successfully hosted the local **Kick-off Meeting for the SUP4SUD Stakeholders Group on 21 October 2025**. This initial gathering brought together **18 participants** from associated municipalities, academia,

and key professional Non-Government Organisations, including the Association of Polish Architects, the Society of Polish Urban Planners, and the Sendzimir Foundation. The primary purpose was to introduce the project framework, facilitate networking, and provide a deep dive into **Agenda 2030 and the New European Bauhaus (NEB)**.

The main focus was on **integrating sustainable design principles into local planning processes**. Representatives from the Kraków University of Economics presented the NEB framework with examples of successful European architecture, emphasising the need for projects to be aesthetic, sustainable, and inclusive. Key practical tools were also showcased: the Niepołomice Municipality shared its effective methods for comprehensive **social consultations** in strategic planning, and the Sendzimir Foundation presented a tool for consulting local spatial plans with a focus on **biodiversity and blue-green infrastructure**.

The KMA team introduced the structure of the **NEB Investment Guidelines**, highlighting key investment recommendations for stakeholders to integrate into their daily work.

The main outcome was the successful **establishment of relationships** and engagement among diverse stakeholders, leading to a valuable **exchange of knowledge**. Participants discussed future cooperation and the critical challenge of effectively consulting on projects, thereby solidifying a collaborative path for the implementation of the SUP4SUD project.

BARCELONA STRENGTHENS ITS COMMITMENT TO SUP4SUD

On October 22 2025, stakeholders from the **Metropolitan Strategic Plan for Barcelona (PEMB)** analysed the opportunities and challenges of developing a **Metropolitan Agenda** and shared their perspectives regarding the SUP4SUD project. An earlier meeting, held online on 17 July 2025 had introduced the stakeholders to the project.

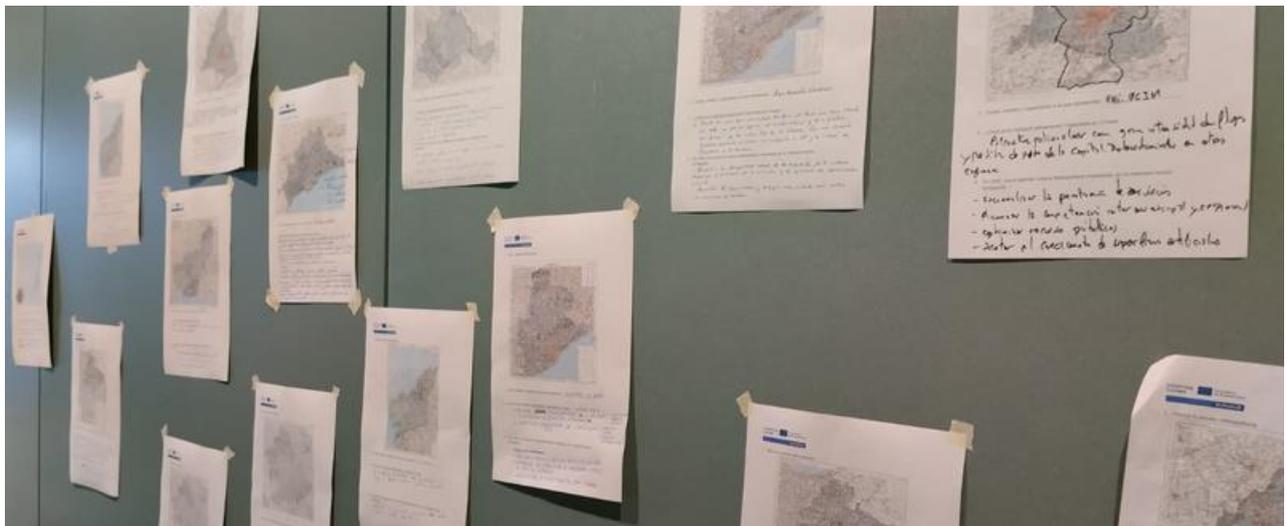


Participants expressed concerns about the absence of a national metropolitan policy framework and consequently, the lack of coordination mechanisms available to their cities. At the same time, they also recognised the **challenges of reaching joint strategies among municipalities** on issues such as **sustainability** and the **reduction of inequalities**.

Participating cities all have a Local Action Plan within the framework of the Spanish Urban Agenda and are interested in incorporating a metropolitan dimension.

Their views were expressed at the second meeting of the working group associated with the PEMB's activities under the project. The meeting was held as part of the **III Spanish Urban Forum** and brought together 26 participants from 20 public administrations, organisations, and universities, representing 18 cities and territories.

The workshop concluded with a shared commitment from these cities to continue engaging in the project, thereby contributing to the enhancement of the Spanish Urban Agenda and, more broadly, to improved urban governance in Spain.



MANNHEIM READY TO COLLABORATE WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS

In today's world, where savings and efficiency are part of our daily work, the City of Mannheim wishes to concentrate on community, cohesion and learning from each other.

On **23 October 2025**, the members of the **Mannheim stakeholder group** met for their first meeting in City Hall. The members represent a cross-section of the administration, with access to, interest in, and willingness to engage in international work.

The purpose of the meeting was the exchange of information on current international activities. The colleagues introduced themselves and outlined their various areas of work and their points of contact with international collaborations.

The project partners and policy instruments were then presented, the potential opportunities were identified, and initial ideas for upcoming project work were gathered.

All members were keen to cooperate and collaborate with other regions, to learn about both their **policy instruments** and good practices.

The city of Mannheim, together with its stakeholder group, will focus on **city-to-city learning** and, above all, promote the exchange of **best practices** and in-depth technical exchanges.



*Follow us! Stay tuned and receive the latest updates
in future newsletters.*

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Strategic Urban Planning for Sustainable Development

Co-funded by the European Union
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<https://www.youtube.com/@sup4sud>



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