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NEXT Black Sea Basin

Green Urban Resilience

# Newsletter 03

## Green Urban Resilience, BSB00006

## Welcome to the 3rd Edition of the Green Urban Resilience Newsletter!

Dear readers,

We are delighted to share **the third edition of the Green Urban Resilience (BSB00006) newsletter** — a space where we continue our journey toward more sustainable, climate-resilient, and livable urban environments.

In this issue, we bring you updates on our latest project milestones being implemented across partner cities, and inspiring stories for a resilient future.




**Stay with us as we continue to turn green ideas into concrete actions for a more resilient tomorrow!**

Together, we are strengthening cross-border cooperation and building the capacity to adapt to climate challenges. Thank you for being part of our growing community.

**Warm regards,**

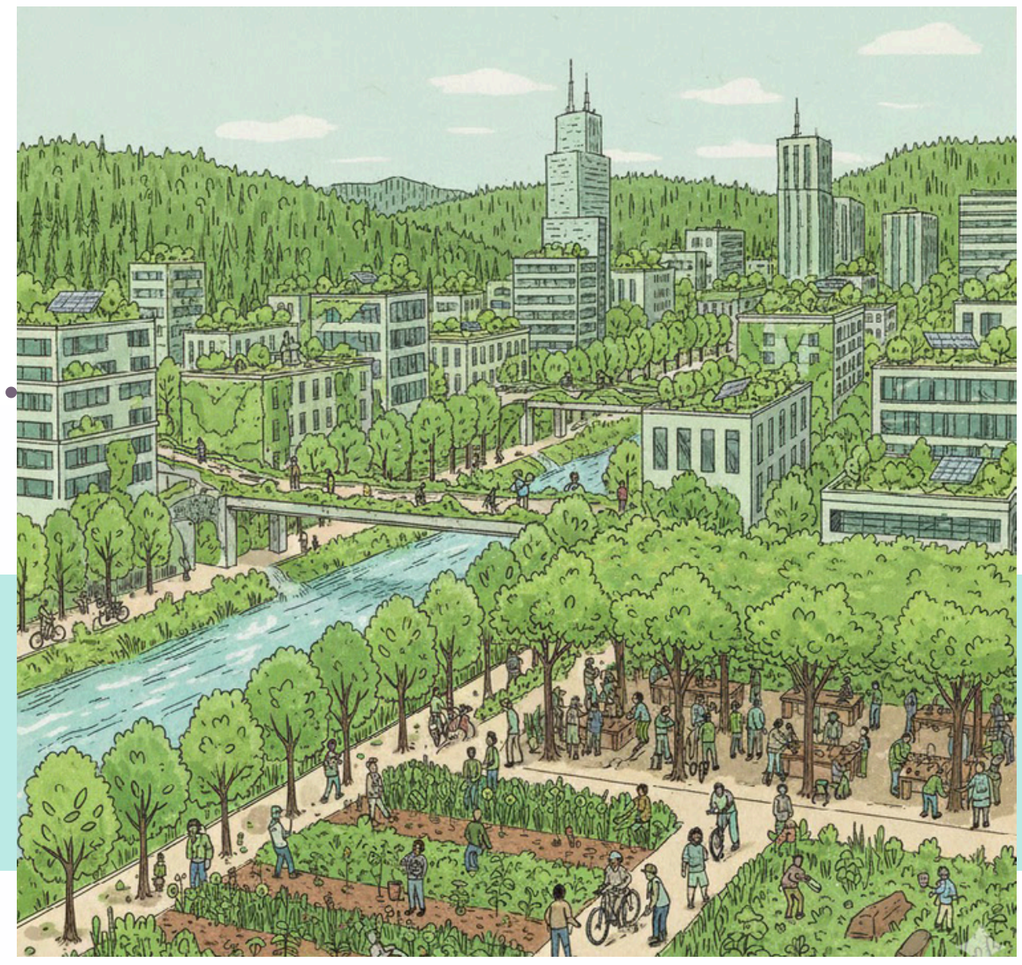
**The Green Urban Resilience Project Team**

| LP | PP2 | PP3 | PP4 | PP5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uzunköprü Municipality | Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa | Municipality of Sozopol | City Hall of Batumi Municipality | Kavala Municipality |

# Pathway Planning GUIDE

## Climate Change Adaptation Through Green Infrastructure in the Urban Areas

LANDLAB



Through cross-border cooperation, local authorities and academic experts are working together to integrate green infrastructure into urban planning, aiming to reduce heat stress and build climate-resilient cities. Under Activity 1.2, all planned actions were successfully completed. Thermal walk workshops were carried out in the four target cities—Uzunköprü, Sozopol, Kavala and Batumi—and all data collected through thermal discomfort observations, questionnaires and field evaluations were compiled and analysed. Based on these inputs, the LANDLAB experts prepared a comprehensive joint report consolidating the findings from all cities. The report identified heat-stress hotspots, documented participants' thermal comfort perceptions and defined priority locations for further measurements. This joint output served as a key input for the development of the Pathway Planning Guide - "Climate Change Adaptation Through Green Infrastructure in the Urban Areas". It supported the ongoing strategic work under the project by offering a common planning framework and guiding principles for climate adaptation through green infrastructure.

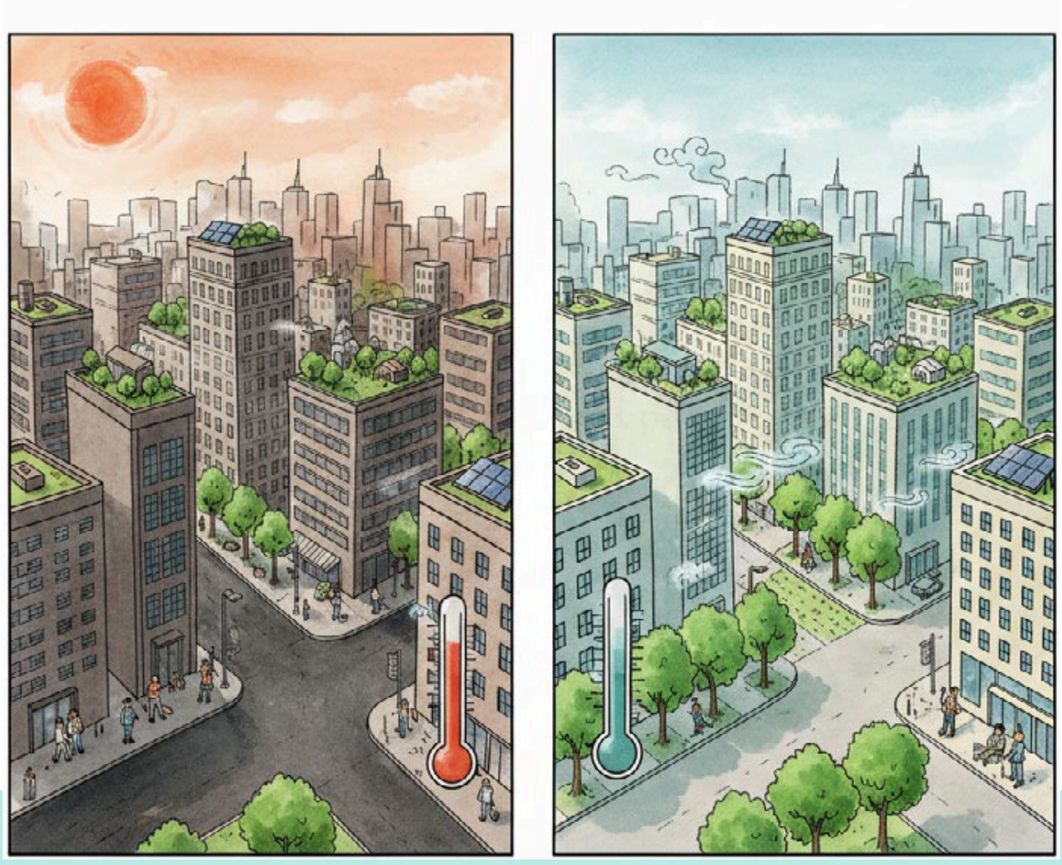
The guide was structured to include climate change impacts, Urban Heat Island effects, thermal comfort principles, green and blue infrastructure solutions, best practice examples, analyses of the target cities, and policy-oriented planning recommendations.

**You can download the guide at:**

**www.greenurbanresilience.com**

The guide aims to support the development of adaptation pathways to climate change for BSB countries using nature-based solutions and to develop a transnational tool for green urban solutions that contribute to climate change adaptation and are integrated into local and regional plans for urban resilience.

While the principles and methodologies presented are applicable to pilot regions and other BSB countries, the guide highlights the unique challenges and opportunities faced by cities and their inhabitants, including climate change-related indicators.



**A climate-resilient city is an urban area prepared for the acute shocks (floods, storms, heatwaves) and chronic stresses (drought, sea-level rise) caused by climate change. It possesses the ability to adapt, absorb impacts, recover quickly, and maintain essential functions during these events.**

# Green Climate Change Adaptation Solutions for Smart and Resilient Cities in BSB

Based on the collected data during the thermal walks, thermal discomfort observations, questionnaires and joint measurement of the Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect, concrete green recovery projects are being implemented in the partner cities. This is one of the longest-running phases of the project. LANDLAB creates heat-stress maps and strategic reports with green solution proposals for the target cities based on the measurement results.

Three pilot investment projects are being implemented. After the green spaces are created, the heat stress in these areas will be measured again to evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions.




## Uzunköprü, Türkiye

### Climate & Community Garden Park

## Sozopol, Bulgaria

### Coastal Forest Park & Rainwater Collection Facility





## Kavala, Greece

### Shade Trees for Local Microclimates

**CREATING COOLER, HEALTHIER CITIES**

# Uzunköprü



Climate Adaptation and Community Garden Park, Uzunköprü

RECENTLY COMPLETED

GREEN URBAN RESILIENCE-BSB0006

## Green Climate Change Adaptation Solutions for Smart and Resilient Cities in BSB

## Uzunköprü Municipality finalized the construction of the first Climate Adaptation and Community Garden Park in the town

The investment is a part from the case studies that the project partners realize with the aim mitigating with the heat stress and climate change. The investment includes establishing climate adaptation and community garden center in the town.

The park includes several parts:

- community garden center

People will come together and receive information for the climate change and how their activities could support the work of the local authorities in their fight with the warming and ensuring urban climate resilience.

- community garden part

Green areas will be provided to the citizens for their gardening in urban conditions. This vegetation in the city will build a self reliant community through Regenerative-organic farming and composting food scraps.

At the same time, teaching sustainable skills needed to improve the local community and heal the land. This will lead to decreasing the UHI effect and at the same time decrease food deserts while increasing health.



# Green Climate Change Adaptation Solutions for Smart and Resilient Cities in BSB

## Uzunköprü

RECENTLY COMPLETED

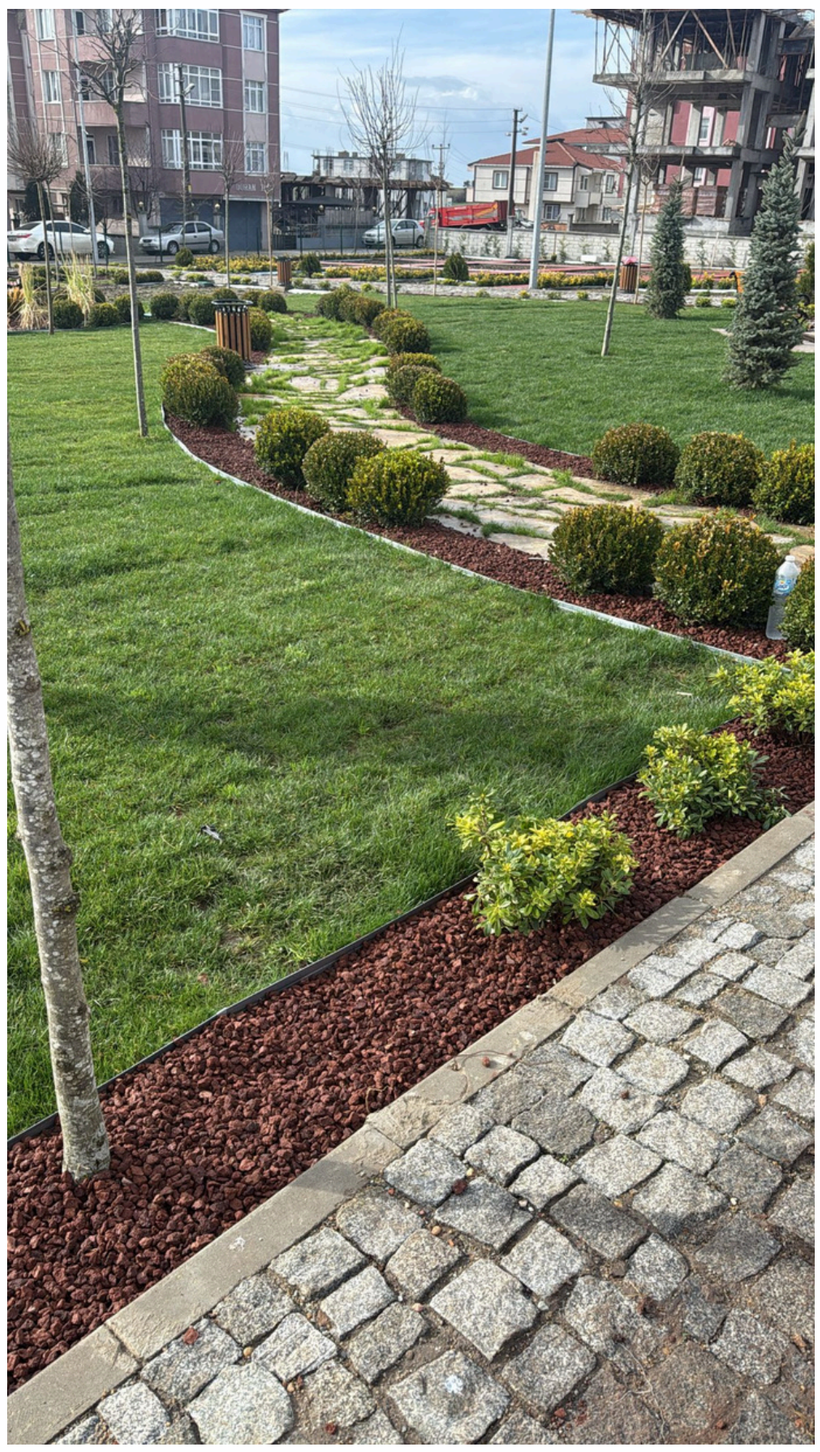
- landscaped rain garden

Feature that can significantly assist with reducing peak flows into the drainage network. Soil cells beneath enable stormwater storage, taking pollution to run off and gradually percolating through the specialist soil, maintaining nutrients enabling healthy green infrastructure and enhancing biodiversity.

- tree plant areas.







# Green Climate Change Adaptation Solutions for Smart and Resilient Cities in BSB

RECENTLY COMPLETED

## Uzunköprü




The park area is now available for the citizens!

COMING SOON

**Official openning ceremony 17/07/2026**

**The park will be a key instrument and pilot study area where heat-stress mitigation interventions will be done in Uzunköprü.**



# Green Climate Change Adaptation Solutions for Smart and Resilient Cities in BSB

## Sozopol

Specialized equipment was delivered for the needs of the Municipality of Sozopol. This equipment will be used for preparation of the site for socialization and implementation of the pilot solution, clearing the excessive vegetation and its subsequent maintenance, clearing and maintenance of forest and green vegetation in all green areas in the town.



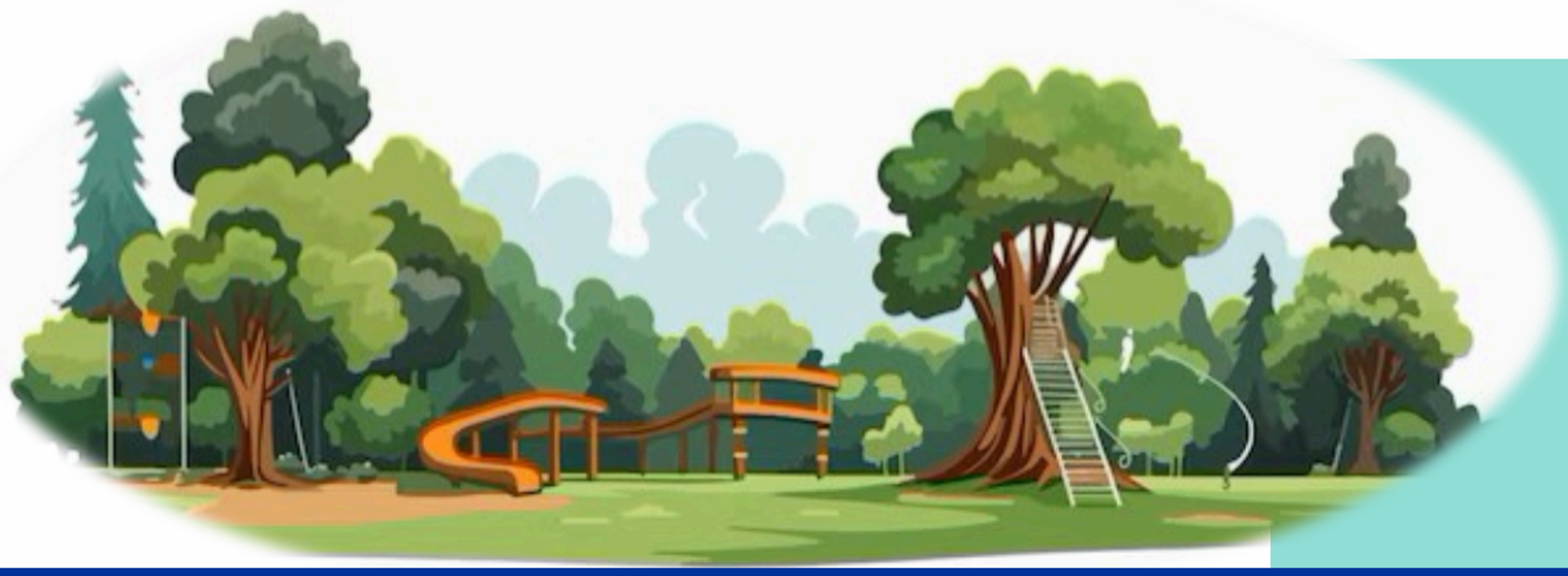




## Coastal Forest Park & Rainwater Collection Facility

After extensive preparation of technical design projects in different parts in compliance with the national legislation, the Municipality of Sozopol successfully finalized procurement procedure for works in February 2026. The implementation of the construction works started from signing of the Construction site opening protocol in March 2026.

The activities subject to the investment are socialization of the park territory and clearing excessive vegetation while at the same time maintaining the surrounding environment. A pedestrian alley will be designated, a rainwater collection facility will be built, which will be used to water new afforestation and newly planted  flower beds. Energy-saving alley lighting from a renewable source and benches will be installed. Recreation areas will be designated.



# Booklet on Climate-Smart Public Spaces: A Guide for Municipalities




This guide for municipalities serves as a practical reference for municipal administrations, especially departments responsible for parks, green areas, urban planning, and maintenance. It supports municipalities in planning, designing, planting, and maintaining climate-resilient urban green spaces that improve urban cooling, ecological resilience, and quality of life.

It provides clear and adaptable guidance on:

- integrating green infrastructure into urban planning,
- selecting climate-resilient plant species,
- improving maintenance practices, and
- strengthening institutional and community capacity.

By applying the approaches presented in this guide, municipalities can take concrete steps toward reducing urban heat stress, enhancing biodiversity, and building more resilient and livable cities.

**Municipalities play a central role in addressing climate-related challenges.**

**By acting at the local scale, municipalities are uniquely positioned to translate climate adaptation policies into tangible, site-specific actions that directly benefit communities.**

LANDLAB

# Booklet for Home Gardens for Climate Resilience – A Practical Guide

**You can download the booklets at:**

**www.greenurbanresilience.com**

The guide for home gardens aims to raise awareness and build capacity among citizens, gardeners, and local experts on how to design and maintain climate-resilient home gardens.

It provides simple, visual, and easy-to-apply information on:

- selecting drought-tolerant and native plants,
- improving soil and composting at home,
- conserving water efficiently, and
- creating small-scale green systems that support biodiversity and reduce urban heat.

By following the methods in the guide, households can take practical steps to adapt to climate change, enhance urban greenery, and contribute to a greener and cooler future.

**Home gardening is the small-scale cultivation of plants within or around the home environment — including backyards, balconies, terraces, or rooftops.**



# Capacity-Building Trainings on Climate-Resilient Urban Green to Be Held

## Kavala

On 9–10 July 2026, the Municipality of Kavala will organize two local training events within the framework of the Green Urban Resilience (BSB00006) project, funded by the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme.

The trainings will aim to strengthen the capacity of professionals and stakeholders deal with urban green and to raise public awareness about climate-resilient gardening and sustainable green infrastructure.

The first session will bring together municipal experts and practitioners working in the maintenance and planning of public green infrastructure, while the second will focus on citizens, volunteers, and residential garden owners. Participants will receive practical guidance on the selection of climate-resilient plant species, sustainable maintenance practices, and nature-based solutions that can help cities adapt to climate change.

The training programme and educational materials have been jointly developed by the project partners and the LANDLAB research team, promoting knowledge exchange and the adoption of climate-smart approaches across the Black Sea Basin region.

Through these activities, the Municipality of Kavala will continue to support the development of greener, healthier, and more resilient urban environments for both present and future generations.

**Training for Trainers - scheduled for April 2026**

**Such capacity-building trainings are to be organized and held in all partnering countries - Türkiye, Bulgaria, Georgia and Greece.**



# Project Promotion and Synergies

In June 2025, the project activities were presented in Vienna, Austria during the official opening of the project TiCCA4DANU by Mrs. Şenay Çekic - Project Manager and Mr. Celal İnal - Deputy Mayor of Uzunköprü Municipality.

In an interview Mr. İnal shared the municipality's perspective on the importance of cooperation in addressing climate change. He reflected on how cities and regions can work together to identify practical solutions and apply project results at the local level.

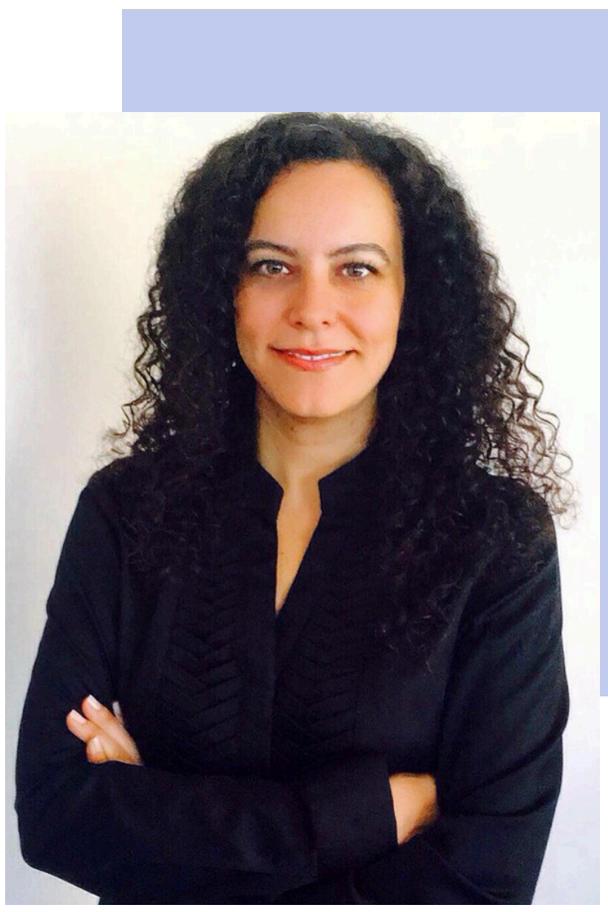
The interview highlighted the value of exchanging knowledge, adapting successful examples to local contexts, and working together to build a more resilient and sustainable future for the next generation



**Celal İnal**

**Deputy Mayor**
**Uzunköprü Municipality (Türkiye)**

**Climate change is not only a local issue — it is a shared global challenge affecting cities, countries, communities, and future generations.**



**Assoc. Prof. Dr.**
**Nilüfer Kart Aktaş**

**Department of Landscape Architecture**
**Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa**

Green Urban Resilience Project was also promoted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Kart Aktaş during an online talk, organized by the Chamber of Turkish Landscape Architects (CTLA).

This is a public institution, established on 13/05/1994 with the decision of the 33rd General Assembly of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (UCTEA). Today, CTLA has its headquarters in Ankara and continues its activities with 6 branches, 15 provinces, and 2 district representatives.

The Chamber of Landscape Architects is the only professional organisation that gathers within its membership Landscape Architects who are legally authorised to practice their profession and art within the borders of Turkiye and who are engaged in professional activities.






# Project Promotion and Synergies

Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF) is an international urban forum organized by Marmara Municipalities Union biennially in the megacity of Istanbul, Türkiye. Last year the 4th edition of MARUF was held in the period 1-3 October 2025 at Haliç Congress Center in Istanbul, Türkiye.

With the motto of **"Cities Developing Solutions",** MARUF brings together global agendas with local needs and priorities, fostering a collective search for solutions with all urban stakeholders. The forum positions cities not only as centers of problems but also as hubs of creative solutions in a world full of challenges, crises, and uncertainties.




**Green Urban Resilience at MARUF 2025**
**2 October 2025**

## What Does MARUF Offer?

- addressing a wide range of urban issues—from disaster management to climate crisis, infrastructure, mobility, social policies, governance, sustainable development, care, housing, artificial intelligence
- offering opportunities for collaboration and dialogue among urban stakeholders from local governments to public institutions, from private sector to academia, from civil society to international organizations
- bringing together policymakers, experts, practitioners and urban thinkers from all over the world around passionate debates on how to make cities more livable, sustainable, resilient, fair, inclusive and caring
- inspiring participants with practical and innovative practices that can be implemented in cities, striving to be the starting point for lasting and tangible changes
- providing participants with a forum experience that fosters strong and long-term collaborations by offering opportunities to meet new people, partners, and networks



**Assoc. Prof. Dr.**
**Nilüfer Kart Aktaş**

**Department of Landscape Architecture**
**Istanbul University-Cerrahpaşa**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Kart Aktaş was a speaker in a networking event "Sharing Innovative Ways of Construction" held on 2nd October 2025 within the Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF).

The event brought together professionals from various disciplines in construction and design to discuss innovative methods and materials in the sector.

# Project Promotion and Synergies

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Kart Aktaş presented the project, the first international Landscape Research Lab (LANDLAB), established within the Department of Landscape Architecture at Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa's Faculty of Forestry and its activities, as well as the pilot investment projects that are being implemented.

Experts from the LANDLAB team had the chance to participate in the forum, as well. Valuable ideas and experience were exchanged. Solutions developed for sustainable and resilient cities were shared through projects and materials. At the same time participants and speakers had a space to lay the foundations for the innovations of the future.




## Green Urban Resilience at MARUF 2025
## 2 October 2025





# Project Promotion and Synergies




## Information and awareness-raising event in Batumi, Georgia

**Rusudan Zhozhadze**
**Head of the Economic Development and Municipal Organizations Management Department Batumi City Hall (Georgia)**

In August 2025, Batumi hosted an information and awareness-raising event within the framework of the international project “Green Urban Resilience – Green Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation for Smart and Sustainable Cities in the BSB” (BSB00006 – Green Urban Resilience).

Originally planned as a press conference, the event was broadened in scope to bring together a wider group of stakeholders and encourage discussion on climate adaptation and urban heat stress in Batumi.

The event introduced participants to the project’s objectives, key activities and expected results. It also focused on the growing challenge of urban heat stress, its impact on cities and communities, and possible measures to reduce its effects.

The programme was organized in two parts: the first part presented the project and its planned activities, while the second focused on urban heat stress, the local context of Batumi and practical solutions for addressing this challenge.

The event brought together representatives of local authorities, educational institutions, academia and civil society. It was also featured by Ajara Public Broadcaster, contributing to wider public awareness of the project and its objectives.

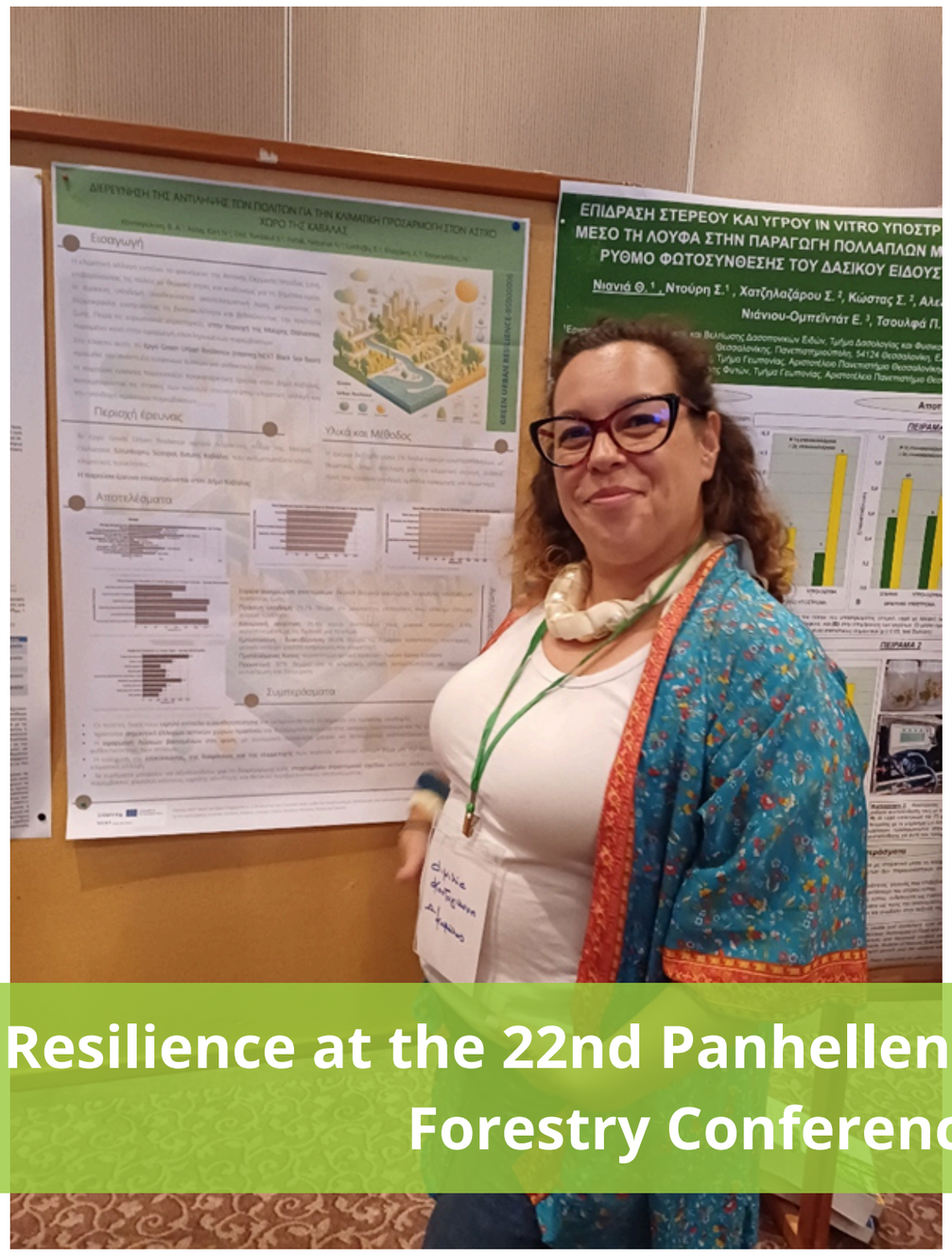


# Project Promotion and Synergies

The Municipality of Kavala participated in the 22nd Panhellenic Forestry Conference, entitled *"Sustainable and Livable Development of Mountainous Areas – Protection of the Natural Environment"*, held in Ioannina, Greece, from 28 September to 1 October 2025.

As one of Greece's leading scientific events in the fields of forestry, environmental protection, and sustainable development, the conference brought together researchers, practitioners, and public authorities to exchange knowledge and discuss innovative approaches to climate resilience and natural resource management.

Within this framework, the Municipality of Kavala presented the results of a study conducted under the Green Urban Resilience (BSB00006) project.



## Green Urban Resilience at the 22nd Panhellenic Forestry Conference

**Dr. Aimilia Kontogianni**

**Municipality of Kavala (Greece)**

**The research "Investigating Citizens' Perceptions of Climate Adaptation in the Urban Area of Kavala" was presented.**

The research, entitled "Investigating Citizens' Perceptions of Climate Adaptation in the Urban Area of Kavala", was presented by Dr. Aimilia Kontogianni on behalf of the Municipality of Kavala, in collaboration with professors and researchers from the Faculty of Forestry of Istanbul University–Cerrahpaşa – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Kart Aktaş, Prof. Dr. Seçil Yurdakul Erol, Dr. Ress. Assist. Nebahat Nihan Parlak, Dr. Esra Latifoğlu - and Mrs Despoina Vlachaki from Homeotech Co.

The study examined local citizens' perceptions of climate change and the role of urban green infrastructure in building climate-resilient cities.

Based on responses from 316 residents, the findings revealed a high level of environmental awareness among Kavala's citizens:

- 93.5% believe that climate change has already affected the city of Kavala.
- 81.4% consider existing urban green spaces to be insufficient.
- 79.2% recognize green infrastructure as an essential tool for climate adaptation.
- Residents identified the development of new green spaces, tree-lined streets, and green roofs as priority measures for improving urban resilience.
- 87% expressed optimism that climate change can be effectively addressed through proper planning and active community participation.

These findings provide an important baseline for the implementation of the project and underline the importance of involving citizens in the design and adoption of nature-based solutions.

HELLENIC FORESTRY SOCIETY

**The Panhellenic Forestry Conference is a major biennial event organized by the Hellenic Forestry Society. It brings together researchers, policymakers, and forestry professionals to discuss sustainable forest management, nature conservation, and climate resilience in Greece.**




**Through the project, Kavala continues to invest in a greener, more resilient, and more sustainable future for its citizens.**

The Municipality's participation in the conference reaffirmed its commitment to promoting sustainable urban development, strengthening climate resilience, and advancing innovative green infrastructure solutions. The event also offered valuable opportunities for networking and collaboration with experts and stakeholders from across Greece, supporting future initiatives in environmental management and climate adaptation.

GREEN URBAN RESILIENCE-BSB00006

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

**A joint workshop will be held in Sozopol, Bulgaria in May 2026 for promotion of the Pathway Planning Guide. After that special workshops with local authorities, initiative groups and other stakeholders will be held in each partnering country.**

**A "Training of Trainers" model will be adopted. First, an online training will be organized for experts from each partner country in April 2026. These trainers will then conduct in-person training sessions in their native languages for municipal park and garden experts and for the general public (e.g., garden owners, citizens).**

**An international closing conference will be held in Istanbul, Türkiye in September 2026, to present all project results, as well as the developed guides and strategies to a wide audience.**



**Follow us for updates!**

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phone: +359 550 2 57 01 website: https://sozopol.bg
Publishing date: March 2026
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**Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme is co-financed by the European Union under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and by the participating countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine.**