

Group Study Visit in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Participatory Governance, Nature-Based Solutions and Sustainable Mobility

A city of about 300,000 residents, shaped by its valley geography, complex governance, and rich heritage, is pursuing sustainable urban transformation through participatory governance, greener public spaces, and more sustainable mobility, while collaborating with peer cities to share practical context-sensitive approaches and adaptable financing models for climate action.

Key Climate Actions to discover

Participatory urban green transformation: Sarajevo is expanding green spaces through nature-based solutions developed with strong citizen involvement, from co-design to long-term stewardship. The approach emphasises inclusiveness, ensuring that vulnerable groups, including children with developmental disabilities and older residents, are actively considered in planning and use.

Inclusive nature-based infrastructure: Urban gardens, sensory parks, peace circles, and insect habitats demonstrate how biodiversity, climate-adapted landscaping, and low-maintenance design can also strengthen social cohesion. These spaces serve as recreational and educational environments, supported by governance models that link community participation with practical environmental interventions.

Sustainable urban mobility in a valley context: Facing air pollution challenges linked to its geography, Sarajevo is promoting a shift toward low-emission transport through cycling infrastructure, e-bikes, micro-mobility, and awareness-raising. A flagship example is the Sarajevo Cable Car, an electric connection between the city and surrounding green areas that combines mobility, tourism, and environmental benefits.

Learn from these enabling factors

- **Participatory governance** – Co-creating measures with residents to ensure local ownership and social acceptance, especially in urban green and nature-based initiatives. [📍City of Sarajevo Participatory Platform](#)
- **Institutional coordination and multi-level cooperation** – Aligning city departments, municipalities, ministries, academia, civil society, and international partners to deliver integrated actions.
- **Capacity building through pilot projects** – Using small- and medium-scale interventions as learning platforms to test solutions, strengthen institutional knowledge, and enable future scaling. [📍URBACT Good Practice label](#); [📍Biodivercity Pilot Action in Sarajevo – Insect Hotels & Peace Circle™ Parks](#)

Learn about the collaboration with local stakeholders

- **City of Sarajevo** – Municipal and technical teams coordinating participatory planning and implementation of city-wide transition actions.
- **Sarajevo Citizen Assembly on Climate Neutrality** – Residents' representatives contributing recommendations and community perspectives to local decision-making.
- **Private sector actors** – Companies active in energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, circular economy, and digital innovation.
- **Civil society organisations** – NGOs supporting community engagement, inclusion, and behavioural change initiatives.
- **Academic and expert community** – Researchers and specialists providing evidence-based input and technical expertise.