



Group Study Visit in Zagreb, Croatia Urban Greening, Climate Finance and Citizen Participation

As capital city with a population of 770,000 inhabitants, Zagreb is committed to becoming a leading example of urban sustainability and climate resilience by integrating climate action into all aspects of city governance. Through its Climate Action Plan, the city has set a clear pathway towards climate neutrality by 2050, supported by interim targets for 2030 that combine both mitigation and adaptation measures.

Key Climate Actions to discover

Legal and Political framework enabling Citizen Engagement: Strong political will from the City enabled the legal framework for engaging both residents and privately owned courtyards in achieving net-zero goals. Climate action is closely linked to a participatory approach, recognising citizens as key stakeholders who directly influence quality of life in densely populated urban areas. By actively involving residents, the City strengthens its capacity to address climate challenges and advance decarbonisation efforts.

Urban greening and nature-based solutions: Zagreb is implementing urban greening and nature-based solutions to address climate change impacts, specifically in privately owned courtyards. These initiatives contribute to climate adaptation while improving environmental quality and quality of life at neighborhood level.

Climate financing mechanisms and use of public funding: The city is using climate financing mechanisms, including the use of public funding to support decarbonisation and greening measures.

Citizen participation and participatory budgeting: Citizen participation is a central element of Zagreb's climate approach. The city has established good practice examples in participatory budgeting, enabling residents to directly shape greening and sustainability projects.

Learn from these enabling factors

- **Governance and Policy** - Showcasing the legal and regulatory processes that enable urban greening in the city.
- **Democracy and participation** - Zagreb's approach to addressing individual residents' needs and neighbourhood-level challenges, with a strong focus on improving quality of life at neighborhood level.
- **Learning capacity and capability building** - A dedicated project team, supported through the NZC framework, has enabled focused collaboration and concrete results.
- **Finance and funding** - The project team has identified key replication challenges related to financing decarbonisation and greening measures.

Learn about the collaboration with local stakeholders

- **ODRAZ – Sustainable Development NGO** – Civil society organisation supporting community engagement and sustainable urban development initiatives.
- **University of Zagreb – Faculty of Agriculture** – Academic partner providing expertise in urban greening, soil, and plant-based climate solutions.
- **Croatian Society of Landscape Architects** – Professional association contributing knowledge on landscape design and nature-based urban interventions.
- **REGEA – North-West Croatia Regional Energy and Climate Agency** – Regional energy and climate agency supporting technical planning and implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures.
- **Other city offices, agencies and institutions** – Municipal bodies involved in planning, environmental management, and delivery of local climate and sustainability actions.