

## Project Summary: JUSTGREEN- Making Greening More Equitable

JUSTGREEN focuses on the importance of making our cities greener and more equitable in the face of global warming. As temperatures rise and extreme weather events like floods and heatwaves become more frequent, European cities are recognizing the urgency of taking climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

**The Challenge:** Policy makers have noticed that not everybody benefits equally from these climate adaptation and mitigation measures. Greener areas often align with wealthier districts, leaving low-income communities with less greenery and consequently poorer health outcomes. Paradoxically the communities most affected by climate change often benefit the least from greening initiatives. With urbanization in Europe expected to hit 83% by 2050, and cities being major energy consumers and greenhouse gas emitters, the need to balance climate action with social equity is clear.

**Our Vision:** JUSTGREEN aims to add social and equity perspectives to how cities approach greening and climate adaptation. We're focusing on making these initiatives more inclusive, ensuring they're not just environmentally effective but also socially equitable. Our goal is to ensure that the most vulnerable communities are not only shielded from climate risks but also benefit from and are actively involved in shaping greening policies.

### Three Pillars of JUSTGREEN:

1. **Distribution:** We're looking to distribute greening efforts and funds more equitably, based on a careful analysis of socio-economic and spatial data.
2. **Procedure:** Our focus is on inclusive processes, where communities most affected by climate change are deeply involved in planning and implementing greening initiatives.
3. **Recognition:** We strive for a greater understanding and acknowledgement of diverse perspectives on greening and climate adaptation.

**Impact:** By tailoring greening policies to protect and involve the people most impacted by climate crisis, JUSTGREEN aims to make them active participants in the fight against climate change. This approach not only addresses climate risks but also enhances the overall health and well-being of these communities.

**Collaboration for Success:** The project brings together a dedicated consortium, including Rotterdam, Burgas, Ghent, Katowice, Murcia, Tallinn, and the Regional Development Fund of Attica. Each partner brings unique policy instruments and focuses to the table, ensuring a rich and diverse approach to tackling this global challenge.

Partner	Summary context	Challenge
Rotterdam, Netherlands		
Murcia, Spain	Murcia has developed a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy (SECAP) targeting its challenges towards 2030. This includes plans for emission reduction, energy efficiency, sustainable waste management, and climate resilience, with a focus on urban greening. They aim to reduce emissions by 40% from the 2007 levels and are simultaneously developing a greening strategy to be integrated into SECAP by 2024.	Integration of a Greening Strategy while simultaneously reducing emissions. Murcia must effectively merge its greening strategy into its existing climate plan (SECAP) by 2024, and achieve a 40% emission reduction by 2030.

<b>Ghent, Belgium</b>	Ghent, the third-largest city in Belgium, is adapting its city to climate challenges such as droughts, flooding, and heat stress. Efforts include creating a green-blue network, depaving the city to add green spaces, and developing more green zones in the city. These measures aim to make the city more resilient, especially in densely built areas and for vulnerable communities. However, data on the effectiveness of these plans, particularly in helping vulnerable communities, is lacking.	Ghent faces the challenge of lacking data to evaluate the impact of its greening efforts, especially in vulnerable communities.
<b>Attica, Greece</b>	Attica, with Athens as its metropolitan area, is focused on increasing and improving green spaces to counter climate change effects. In particular for vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and immigrants. Plans include budget increases for greenery enhancement, establishing pocket parks, and strengthening Green Services Directorates. The emphasis is on making Athens a greener city with improved public spaces.	Attica's challenge is to expand and improve green spaces in Athens, catering to the needs of various community groups including vulnerable communities.
<b>Katowice, Poland</b>	Katowice, a city in southern Poland, is transforming from a heavy industrial city to one focusing on climate adaptation. The northeastern part, with a history of heavy industry, faces environmental, social, and economic challenges, requiring further revitalization. The city is working on pro-climate measures, addressing issues like land subsidence, flooding, and unequal greenery distribution, particularly affecting the elderly.	Katowice needs to address the challenges caused by its industrial past and revitalize the city with a focus on climate adaptation, particularly in its heavily urbanized northeastern areas.
<b>Burgas, Bulgaria</b>	Burgas, the fourth-largest city in Bulgaria, is focusing on sustainable development in Blue and Green Economy sectors. Recent research found unequal distribution of green areas, with newer developed neighbourhoods having more greenery compared to the older central areas. The city is part of various international green initiatives and is working to improve the connectivity and distribution of green spaces.	Burgas is challenged with ensuring equal distribution and connectivity of green spaces across all neighbourhoods, both new and old for all its residents.
<b>Tallinn, Estonia</b>	Tallinn, the Green Capital of Europe in 2023, is committed to becoming a sustainable and socially equal city under the EU Green Deal. Rapid urbanization has led to social inequality and public health concerns due to insufficient green spaces and heat islands. Tallinn is engaging citizens and experts in planning for more green spaces and better public spaces,	Tallinn's main challenge is managing rapid urbanization while ensuring equitable access to green spaces and addressing public health concerns related to heat islands.

	supporting the New European Bauhaus movement for sustainable living.	
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