



CONTRIBUTE PROJECT

«Community Action for Sustainable Urban Development among young people»

IO2 - Digital guidebook for designing urban regeneration in abandoned or underutilized areas

SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW OF POLICIES AND GOOD PRACTICES

IN AUSTRIA, GREECE, SPAIN, TURKEY, & BELGIUM

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1. INTRODUCTION

Revitalization of abandoned spaces has emerged as a critical topic in Europe, gaining momentum as cities seek sustainable, community-driven solutions to urban development challenges. This report compiles desk research findings from Greece, Austria, Turkey, Spain, and Belgium exploring the diverse manifestations of the policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces in these countries.

In the case of Austria, a particular focus has been given to the city of Vienna and its urban regeneration planning. Vienna, celebrated as one of the world's greenest cities, has embraced the concept of repurposing neglected areas as flourishing urban gardens. This report investigates how initiatives by community actors, individuals, and government bodies, such as Magistrate 42 and Magistrate 69, have contributed to Vienna's position at the forefront of the green revolution.

In Greece, the government has recognized the potential of abandoned spaces for economic, social, cultural, and environmental development. This report examines current policies and strategies aimed at revitalizing derelict sites, emphasizing citizen participation and bottom-up approaches. The role of youth in sustainable urban development and the integration of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) is also explored in the Greek context.

Turkey faces pressing challenges concerning abandoned spaces, prompting a research focus on developing strategies for their revitalization and reuse. The report aims to promote youth citizen participation in sustainable urban regeneration and to empower young individuals with the knowledge and skills to actively contribute to the transformation of their cities. By fostering a shared vision and integrating SDG11, Turkey aims to create more habitable, sustainable, and inclusive communities.

In Spain, as urbanization continues to shape the country's cities, there is a growing interest in sustainable and community-oriented solutions to repurpose neglected areas. During this report, we explore burgeoning urban gardening initiatives, ranging from community gardens to rooftop farming, and delve into successful case studies of abandoned space transformations. By also examining the current challenges and opportunities, this report sheds light on Spain's progress in creating greener, more vibrant, and socially connected urban environments.

Belgium stands as an innovative sustainable urban planning amidst the global challenges of rapid urbanization and climate change. Its cities like Brussels, Antwerp, and Ghent prioritize

sustainability and resilience. This report analyses how Belgium is advocating urban development, reducing its ecological footprint and fostering interconnected communities. Extensive public transport networks, cycle paths and pedestrian-friendly zones not only relieve congestion and pollution, but also promote active lifestyles. The country's investment in renewable energies enhances its climate resilience. However, the complex balance between preserving cultural heritage and modern urban development and addressing social inequalities remains a complex challenge that requires constant attention from policy makers.

2. SITUATION IN EACH COUNTRY

2.1 AUSTRIA

Green areas represent an important urban infrastructure. From a social and ecological point of view, publicly accessible green spaces are of great importance for the understanding of nature as well as for the quality of life and leisure behaviour of the population.

Conversely, green spaces that are heavily polluted by recreational use are naturally also limited in their ecological functions. Considering the design and implementation of green spaces, the analysis of their pollution, therefore, contains not only information about their quality as recreational spaces but also an essential statement about their ecological quality and stability.

Overview of Vienna's supply of publicly accessible green spaces

50 percent of Vienna's area is green space. This is an international top value. However, these areas are not evenly distributed over the city area and are not always generally accessible.

To determine how many publicly accessible green spaces there are in Vienna and how the Viennese are provided with green space, the Department of the City of Vienna - Environmental Protection (MA 22) conducted an extensive survey from 2013 to 2015. For this purpose, all publicly accessible green spaces in the city were digitally recorded and the access points to these spaces were surveyed. The areas were divided into different categories according to accessibility or catchment area:

Area types

The recorded areas were categorised into types based on their usability from the perspective of the recreational function as well as their shape. The categories chosen were the following:

- Forest and meadow landscape



Current policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces in Vienna and Austria.

Aural law and building regulations.

A detailed description or reproduction of the most important building laws and building regulations is not possible within this framework, as there is not one, but nine different building regulations in Austria. Building and strategies for urban design of urban landscapes are subject to each provincial legislation, being those provinces: Vorarlberg, Tirol, Salzburg, Kärnten, Steiermark, Oberösterreich, Niederösterreich, Burgenland, and our focus: the city of Vienna.

Type of Initiatives in Vienna:

For years, as the main strategy to re-use urban spaces the City of Vienna has been providing financial support for the establishment of neighborhood and community gardens, but also increasingly through service and advice. Here you can find the most important ones:

- Gardening in Vienna
- Gardening around the corner
- Garden polyog
- Urban renewal (GB* for short)
- Local Agenda 21 Vienna
- Bio Forschung Austria
- MA 28 - road administration and urban construction
- MA 42 - Vienna City Gardens
- MA 49 - Forestry Office and Agricultural Holdings of the City of Vienna
- Wohnpartner Vienna
- ZV allotment gardeners

In Vienna it is possible to join in gardening once the citizens show the initiative to do it, they have the chance to participate in solidarity farming or helping on a farm in exchange for room and board is a welcome option for time-pressed gardeners.

City, suburban and private organizations

"Garteln in Wien" was set up in Bio Forschung Austria (Bio research) as a coordinating and supportive contact point on the part of the city: Viennese can find out where they can garden themselves in Vienna or where they can get fresh, regionally produced vegetables. It offers a list of organizations as well that orient people into gardening.

Since Gardening in the big city is booming and more Viennese want to grow, care for, harvest and eat their fresh vegetables themselves - be it on leased plots, in community and neighbourhood gardens or simply on a plot of land that has not (yet) been developed or a tree pit in front of the front door.

In order to give those city dwellers who do not own a private garden the opportunity to become active as a gardener, various departments of the city lease areas. Examples of this are MA 49 – forestry and agricultural operations of the City of Vienna, on whose area the eco-parcels and some community gardens are located, and MA 28 – road administration and urban development, which provides tree grates for gardening around the corner. MA 42 – the Vienna City Gardens supports one community garden in each district, leases parking spaces for community gardens, and offers free help with questions about plant protection.

For support in implementing their ideas in the district, Viennese in most districts can also contact the urban renewal area support (GB* for short) or the Local Agenda 21 Vienna, which works in cooperation with the districts and the Vienna City Gardens (MA 42) help with greening in public spaces. When it comes to the implementation of neighborhood gardens in community buildings, Wohnpartner is the initiative that helps and provides advice. Another example is the Gartenpolyog association supports the development of community gardens and accompanies existing and new garden groups in terms of organization, group dynamics, and horticultural expertise. In addition, the association contributes to the publicizing and networking of community gardens.

Distribution of urban gardens in Vienna



Guerilla Gardening

In addition to these organisations and municipal bodies, other movements are also rustling in Vienna. For example, there is guerrilla gardening or "fruit in public space", through which

public areas are planted and harvested by people who are independent of each other. In its beginnings, guerrilla gardening was more political protest and art action than simple gardening in urban space. Politically motivated guerrilla gardeners made their protest visible with the help of seed bombs (balls of soil/compost, clay, and seeds), through which surprise plantings were intended to draw attention to the problem of genetic engineering in food or to encourage more green space use in the city.

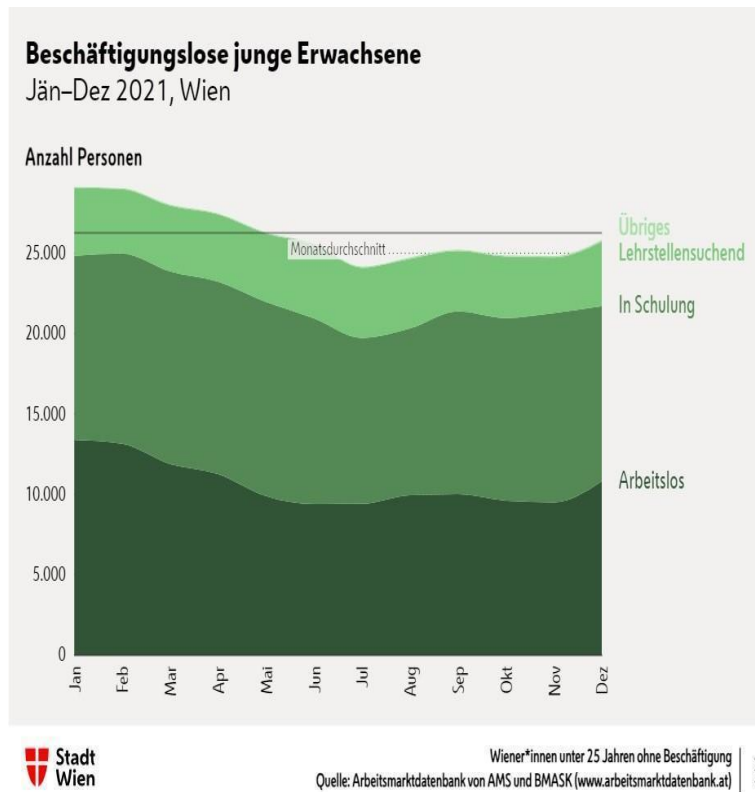
Target group overview

- Young people and young people who have disadvantaged backgrounds, socio-economic difficulties, from ethnic minorities, NEETs.

The situation of Adolescents and young adults in Vienna

- Unemployment - Young adults do not yet fully benefit from labor market developments.
- Indebtedness of young people - unemployment and money management as the most important reasons.
- In 2021, 10,175 young adults were in the Viennese minimum income system. The number decreased by 0.5% or 49 persons compared to the previous year.
- 47% of the young recipients are women, and 53% are men.
- In 2021, more young recipients will be available to the labor market without restrictions, while at the same time, the number of employed young recipients with earned income will decrease by 13% (-181 persons).
- Fewer young adults in Vienna, but more at risk of poverty
- In Vienna, every fourth young person between 18 and 24 years of age is at risk of poverty in 2021 (25%), which is about 13,000 young Viennese and significantly more than in the previous year, when only every seventh person (15%) was at risk of poverty. This is due to two developments: On the one hand, the age group of young adults is the only one whose population figures are declining compared to 2020. All other age cohorts in Vienna are stagnating or increasing. At the same time, however, the number of young adults at risk of poverty is increasing compared to the previous year.
- Unemployment - Young adults do not yet fully benefit from labour market developments.





Knowledge about sustainable urban planning and use of underutilized areas among youth in Vienna.

Throughout the research, no concrete evidence has been found on the knowledge of the young population on the mentioned topic, nor on the use of digital tools. On the other hand, as far as Urban Gardening is concerned, initiatives of particular benefit have been found that focus on teaching the use of land for agricultural purposes to schoolchildren and young people such as Wohnpartner Naturvermittlung who go on excursions and use their private gardens. At the same time, we have been able to identify that at the planning level, in the design and implementation of urban gardens, the young population is one of the major focus groups, however, the focus is family and mainly at the neighborhood level. The common objective of all the initiatives is to integrate the inhabitants of a certain district.

2.2 SPAIN

The reuse of abandoned spaces is an increasingly common practice in the field of urban planning and the revitalization of degraded areas. The policies and strategies for the reuse of these spaces aim to transform them into functional and active places once again, instead of leaving them unused or in a state of deterioration.

Urban planning policies often play an important role in the reuse of abandoned spaces. Local governments can develop regulations that promote the adaptation of these spaces, such as the relaxation of zoning rules or the simplification of bureaucratic procedures for their transformation.

A common strategy is the rehabilitation and conversion of abandoned spaces to adapt them to new uses. For example, an abandoned building can be converted into housing, offices, cultural centers, or commercial spaces. This involves investing in the renovation and adaptation of existing structures.

Active participation of the local community is crucial in the process of reusing abandoned spaces. Policies and strategies can promote citizen participation through public consultations, working groups, and collaborations with community organizations. The opinions of residents and other local stakeholders can help determine the most appropriate and beneficial uses for these spaces.

Collaboration between the public and private sectors can be an effective strategy for the reuse of abandoned spaces. Local governments can establish incentives to attract investors and developers interested in rehabilitating these spaces. Through partnerships, the costs and benefits of transforming abandoned spaces can be shared.

Promoting the creative and cultural economy can be a successful strategy for the reuse of abandoned spaces. These spaces can be transformed into artistic centers, artist studios, spaces for cultural events, or incubators for creative ventures. This not only contributes to urban revitalization but also promotes job creation and cultural development in the area.

Policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces can also focus on sustainability. This involves promoting rehabilitation with environmental criteria, such as energy efficiency, the use of sustainable materials, and the integration of green areas. In addition, sustainable transportation and connection to public transport networks can be encouraged.

These are just some of the policies and strategies that can be implemented for the reuse of abandoned spaces. It is important to note that each location and context may require specific approaches adapted to its particular needs.

The policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces are necessary for several reasons:

Urban revitalization: The reuse of abandoned spaces allows for the revitalization of degraded and deteriorated areas in cities. These spaces often serve as a reminder of decay and can generate a sense of insecurity and abandonment in the community. By transforming them into

functional and attractive places, the quality of life for residents improves, and positive development in the area is promoted.

Resource utilization: Abandoned spaces represent underutilized resources. Instead of leaving them unused, it is more efficient and sustainable to reuse them for new purposes. This avoids unnecessary urban expansion and the consumption of virgin land, leveraging existing infrastructure and services.

Job creation and economic activity: The reuse of abandoned spaces can drive job creation and economic activity in the community. By converting these spaces into shopping centers, offices, creative studios, among others, employment opportunities are created for the local population. Additionally, it can attract investment and stimulate entrepreneurship in the area.

Heritage preservation: Many abandoned spaces have significant historical, architectural, or cultural value. By reusing them instead of demolishing them, the preservation of urban heritage is contributed to, and the community's identity is preserved. This is especially relevant in buildings or areas with historical or symbolic value.

Sustainable development: The reuse of abandoned spaces aligns with the principles of sustainable development. Instead of consuming new resources and occupying natural areas, the focus is on utilizing and revitalizing what already exists. Furthermore, sustainability criteria can be applied in rehabilitation, promoting energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, and the integration of green spaces.

Citizen participation and social cohesion: Policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces are often designed to involve the local community in the decision-making process. This promotes citizen participation, strengthens community ties, and fosters social cohesion. Additionally, by adapting new uses to the needs and desires of the community, the quality of life is improved, and a sense of belonging is strengthened.

In summary, policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces are necessary to revitalize degraded areas, make better use of underutilized resources, generate employment, preserve heritage, promote sustainable development, and enhance citizen participation and social cohesion.

Policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces have evolved over time in response to the changing needs of cities. Although it is difficult to determine an exact starting date, early examples and precedents of initiatives related to the reuse of abandoned spaces can be identified throughout history. In recent decades, the reuse of abandoned spaces has gained greater attention and has become a central focus in urban planning. Local governments, community organizations, and developers have developed more structured and specific

policies and strategies to address the reuse of abandoned spaces in various cities around the world.

It is important to consider that the evolution of policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces may vary depending on the geographical context and specific needs of each location.

Current Policies and Strategies in Spain

In Spain, the reuse of abandoned spaces has become a priority in recent years due to the goal of revitalizing urban areas, promoting sustainable development, and combating real estate speculation. Among some of the policies and strategies currently applied in the country, we can mention:

Law on Rehabilitation, Regeneration and Urban Renewal: This law, approved in 2013, establishes measures for the rehabilitation and renewal of urban areas, including the reuse of abandoned spaces. It promotes the regeneration of degraded urban areas, the improvement of energy efficiency in buildings, and the promotion of universal accessibility.

Territorial Action Plans: Autonomous communities in Spain have developed Territorial Action Plans to address the reuse of abandoned spaces and urban regeneration. These plans establish specific guidelines and strategies to revitalize urban areas and promote the rehabilitation of abandoned buildings.

Program for the Promotion of Urban Regeneration and Renewal: The Ministry of Transport, Mobility, and Urban Agenda has a specific program to promote urban regeneration and renewal. This program provides economic support and technical advice to building rehabilitation projects and the reuse of abandoned spaces.

Housing Cooperatives and Self-management Projects: In recent years, there has been an increase in the creation of housing cooperatives and self-management projects that seek to reuse abandoned spaces. These initiatives allow residents to participate in the rehabilitation and management of abandoned spaces, creating sustainable and participatory communities.

Cultural Transformation Projects: Various cultural transformation projects have been developed to reuse abandoned spaces as cultural centers, art spaces, libraries, or coworking spaces. These projects aim to promote creativity, citizen participation, and the development of the cultural economy.

It is important to note that policies and strategies may vary in each autonomous community and municipality, as they have competencies in urban planning and urban regeneration. Therefore, if we focus on the policies of the autonomous community of Andalusia, we can

consult official organizations in Andalusia, such as the Ministry of Development, Infrastructure, and Territorial Planning of the Junta de Andalucía. Organismos oficiales en Andalucía, como la Consejería de Fomento, Infraestructuras y Ordenación del Territorio de la Junta de Andalucía.

Regarding the municipality of La Palma, where the participating City Council is located in this project, if we talk about interests regarding the reuse of abandoned spaces, we focus on the planning of the Junta de Andalucía. The municipality bases its urban regeneration planning and best practices on the guidelines provided by the Junta de Andalucía.

Level of Knowledge and Tools for Young People in Spain

The level of knowledge about urban regeneration planning among young people in Spain can vary considerably and depends on various factors such as education received, access to information, and personal interest in the topic. Some young people may be familiar with the concept and have basic knowledge, while others may have limited or no understanding.

Regarding resources, tools, and digital materials to raise awareness among young people about urban regeneration, there are various initiatives and platforms that seek to promote awareness and knowledge in this area. Here are some examples:

Educational platforms and organizations: Some organizations and platforms in Spain are dedicated to promoting education about urban planning and urban regeneration. These organizations may offer digital resources such as guides, manuals, videos, and interactive materials that are designed to inform and raise awareness among young people about these topics.

Outreach and citizen participation projects: There are initiatives that seek to involve young people in planning and urban regeneration through outreach and citizen participation projects. These projects may include workshops, competitions, social media campaigns, and events related to urban regeneration. These activities allow young people to learn about the topic in a practical and participatory manner.

Online resources: There are online resources such as government websites, specialized blogs, social media posts, and video channels that provide information about planning and urban regeneration. These resources may include case studies, examples of best practices, interactive tools, and other materials that can be accessible to young people interested in learning more about the topic.

It is important to note that the availability of resources and materials may vary depending on the region and institution. Specific initiatives in the area of interest can be explored, as well as

searching for resources in educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, local governments, and online platforms to obtain updated and relevant information on raising awareness among young people in urban regeneration planning.

Level of Knowledge about Planning Among Young People in Spain

Sustainable urban planning is an interdisciplinary field that encompasses environmental, social, and economic aspects. Some young people may be more familiar with certain aspects of urban sustainability, such as energy efficiency or sustainable mobility, while others may have less knowledge about other related topics, such as inclusive urban design or waste management.

However, in general, there has been a growing interest and awareness among young people about the importance of urban sustainability and the associated challenges. Many young people are actively participating in movements related to climate change, social justice, and the construction of more sustainable cities.

In addition, there are educational initiatives, programs, and projects that seek to promote education and awareness about sustainable urban planning among young people. These initiatives may include activities in schools and universities, outreach campaigns, workshops, conferences, and participatory projects that aim to engage young people in the planning and design of more sustainable urban environments.

Young people in Spain can participate in urban sustainability in various ways. Here are some ideas:

Education and awareness: Young people can learn about urban sustainability and share that knowledge with others. They can organize talks, workshops, or events in their communities to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable practices in the urban environment.

Participation in organizations: They can join local organizations or groups dedicated to urban sustainability. These organizations often carry out projects and campaigns to improve the urban environment and reduce environmental impact. Participating in these initiatives can allow them to collaborate with other young people interested in the topic and make a greater impact.

Activism and advocacy: Young people can raise their voices and advocate for changes in public policies related to urban sustainability. They can join environmental activism movements and participate in demonstrations, awareness campaigns, or petition drives to push for more sustainable measures in cities.

Implementation of local projects: They can develop practical projects in their communities to promote urban sustainability. For example, they could organize recycling activities, promote the use of bicycles as a mode of transportation, promote energy efficiency in homes, or collaborate in the creation of green spaces in urban areas.

Use of technology: Young people can leverage technological tools to promote urban sustainability. For example, they can develop mobile applications or digital platforms that facilitate the exchange of information about sustainable practices, the location of recycling points, or the monitoring of energy consumption in homes.

Urban sustainability is a multidisciplinary topic that encompasses environmental, social, and economic aspects. Therefore, young people can find opportunities in different areas to participate and contribute to the construction of more sustainable cities.

In summary, although the level of knowledge may vary, there is a growing interest and awareness among young Spaniards about the importance of sustainable urban planning and the associated challenges. However, there are always opportunities to expand and strengthen education and awareness in this field. In this case, this project can be a new practice to implement at the municipality, regional, and provincial levels.

SDG 11: Actions being implemented to achieve this objective in Spain

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 11, play a crucial role in promoting more livable, sustainable, and inclusive communities in Spain. SDG 11 specifically focuses on "making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable." Some of the targets associated with SDG 11 include ensuring access to adequate housing, improving urban planning and management, providing equitable access to public spaces and basic services, and protecting cultural and natural heritage.

In Spain, actions are being taken to achieve the objectives of SDG 11 and promote a more livable, sustainable, and inclusive community. Some of these actions include:

Urban plans and policies: There are national, regional, and local plans and policies that seek to promote sustainable urban development. These plans include measures for improving the energy efficiency of buildings, urban regeneration, sustainable mobility, and the protection of cultural heritage.

Sustainable infrastructure: Investments are being made in sustainable infrastructure, such as efficient public transportation, the creation of pedestrian and cycling areas, and the promotion of renewable energy in cities.

Citizen participation: Citizen participation in urban planning and decision-making is encouraged. Processes of citizen participation are carried out to gather ideas, needs, and perspectives from residents and ensure that decisions are made inclusively.

Heritage protection: Measures are being implemented to protect cultural and natural heritage in cities, promoting the conservation of historic buildings, parks, and green spaces, as well as the revitalization of degraded areas.

Education and awareness: Educational campaigns and awareness-raising activities are being conducted to inform and raise awareness among the population about the importance of urban sustainability and the promotion of a livable and inclusive community.

These are just some of the actions being implemented in Spain to advance towards the objectives of SDG 11. However, it is important to highlight that there is still work to be done, and the effective implementation of these actions will require a comprehensive and collaborative approach among different stakeholders, including governments, institutions, businesses, civil society organizations, and the community itself.

2.3 TURKEY

Current Policies and Strategies in Turkey

The legal framework regarding abandoned and derelict areas in Turkey is generally regulated by various legislations such as the Turkish Civil Code (TCC) and the Construction & Zoning Law.

- **Property Law:** The Turkish Civil Code is the fundamental law that regulates property ownership, including immovable property. Abandoned and derelict areas are considered within the context of property law. According to the TCC, ownership of an immovable property is obtained through its possession and use by the owner. As abandoned areas are places where property owners have lost interest or abandoned them, it is important for the property owner to exercise their rights to regulate or use such areas.
- **Zoning Law:** In Turkey, the Zoning Law exists to regulate construction activities and ensure controlled development. The Zoning Law covers aspects such as planning construction and preparing and implementing zoning plans. Local administrations can establish zoning plans or modify existing ones to rehabilitate or reuse abandoned areas.



- **Municipal Law:** Local administrations in Turkey are responsible for controlling, maintaining, and regulating abandoned areas. The Municipal Law regulates the powers and responsibilities of municipalities. Municipalities are obligated to identify and inventory abandoned areas, take necessary measures, and make the required regulations for rehabilitating or reusing such areas.
- **Environmental Legislation:** Abandoned areas often carry environmental risks and potential pollution. Therefore, environmental legislation in Turkey is also effective in terms of environmental protection and management. The Environmental Law and relevant regulations ensure control of the environmental impact of abandoned areas, facilitating their cleanup and preventing harm to the environment.
- **Other Relevant Legislation:** Legal regulations regarding abandoned areas are also connected to other legislation. For example, in addition to the Zoning Law, the Urban Transformation Law can be utilized to enable the redevelopment and transformation of abandoned areas.

The aforementioned legislations encompass topics such as the regulation of abandoned areas, protection of property rights, control of environmental risks, and the promotion of reuse. This framework enables local administrations and other relevant stakeholders to establish legal regulations and develop strategies concerning abandoned areas. However, specific legal regulations and policies regarding abandoned areas are based on guidelines and local regulations set by local administrations or relevant government institutions. Moreover, the detailed explanation of policies and strategies regarding abandoned and derelict areas in Turkey:

- **Urban Transformation Policies:** Urban transformation policies play a significant role in the redevelopment of abandoned areas and creating sustainable urban spaces. Urban transformation projects aim to transform derelict areas into more livable and sustainable urban environments. This policy involves various stages such as identification, planning, financing, project design, and implementation. Urban transformation strategies may include building reinforcement, demolition and reconstruction, green space creation, improvement of public services, and adherence to principles such as public-private sector collaboration, protection of property rights, social justice, and sustainability.
- **Environmental Regulations and Rehabilitation:** Abandoned areas in Turkey often pose environmental risks and pollution potential. Therefore, various environmental regulations and rehabilitation strategies are implemented to mitigate the environmental impact of derelict areas. These strategies involve waste management, control of water and soil pollution, afforestation, green space creation, monitoring, and enforcement of environmental

regulations. Furthermore, financial support and incentives may be provided for the cleanup and environmental restoration of abandoned areas.

- **Public-Private Collaboration and Financing:** Redevelopment and reuse of abandoned areas can be costly processes. Therefore, in Turkey, public-private collaboration and financing mechanisms are utilized to support abandoned area projects. The private sector investors are encouraged to participate in urban transformation projects through various incentives, tax advantages, or grant programs. Additionally, public resources, credit facilities, or low-interest loans may be provided as financial support.
- **Participatory Planning and Stakeholder Engagement:** In the processes of transforming and reusing abandoned areas in Turkey, participatory planning and stakeholder engagement are crucial strategies. This approach involves the active involvement of local communities, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders. Projects are planned and implemented by considering the opinions, needs, and demands of stakeholders. Participatory planning ensures social justice, meets the needs of local communities and strengthens sustainability.
- **Information and Awareness Campaigns:** Information and awareness campaigns are conducted in Turkey to educate and raise awareness regarding the redevelopment and reuse of abandoned areas. These campaigns aim to help the public, property owners, and other stakeholders understand the importance of abandoned areas and explore the available opportunities to utilize them. Information and awareness campaigns increase public participation, promote collaboration, and contribute to the successful implementation of abandoned area projects.

The policies and strategies mentioned above encompass various approaches for the regulation, rehabilitation, reuse, and urban transformation of abandoned and derelict areas. These policies and strategies are supported by government policies, strategic plans of local administrations, and initiatives of relevant institutions.

Level of Knowledge and Tools for Young People in Turkey

The level of knowledge about sustainable urban planning among youth in Turkey can vary depending on various factors such as education, exposure to sustainability concepts, access to information, and personal interests. Sustainable urban planning is a multidisciplinary field that encompasses various aspects of urban development, including environmental, social, and economic considerations. In recent years, there has been a growing global awareness and emphasis on sustainability, including sustainable urban planning. This awareness has also reached younger generations, including youth in Turkey.

Environmental issues, climate change, and sustainable development have gained significant attention, leading to increased discussions and educational initiatives about sustainable urban planning.

Many universities and educational institutions e.g. Istanbul Technical University (ITU) in Turkey offer programs and courses related to urban planning, architecture, environmental studies, and sustainability. These programs aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable urban planning practices. Through these educational opportunities, young people can learn about sustainable urban development, green infrastructure, transportation planning, energy-efficient buildings, and other related topics. Furthermore, various youth-led organizations, environmental NGOs, and initiatives in Turkey focus on sustainability and urban planning issues. These platforms provide opportunities for young people to engage, learn, and contribute to sustainable urban development. Youth-led conferences, workshops, and campaigns also contribute to raising awareness and promoting sustainable urban planning practices among young people. However, it is important to note that the level of knowledge may vary among individuals and regions within Turkey. While some youth may have a good understanding of sustainable urban planning, others may have limited exposure or awareness. Factors such as access to education, exposure to sustainable practices, and socioeconomic disparities can influence the level of knowledge among youth.

The level of awareness of urban regeneration planning among youth in Turkey can vary depending on individual interests, exposure to the topic, and access to information. The digital resources and tools that may help raise awareness among youth about urban regeneration planning are:

- Online Platforms and Websites:

Websites of relevant government institutions: The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and local municipalities often provide information and resources on urban regeneration projects and initiatives.

Sustainable urban planning organizations: Explore websites of organizations working on sustainable urban development, such as the Turkish Green Building Council, Turkish Urban Planners Association, or NGOs focusing on urban regeneration projects.

Online forums and discussion platforms: Participate in online forums and platforms where discussions on urban planning and regeneration take place, engaging with experts, practitioners, and fellow enthusiasts. Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Turkey): The official website provides information about urban regeneration projects, policies, and guidelines in Turkey. (Website: <https://www.csb.gov.tr/>) İstanbul Bilgi University - Urban

Regeneration Research Center: The center conducts research and provides resources on urban regeneration projects, including reports and publications. (Website: <https://www.bilgi.edu.tr/>)

- Educational Videos and Webinars:

YouTube channels and video platforms: Look for educational channels or playlists that cover urban planning, regeneration, and sustainable cities. Examples include TEDx talks, university lectures, and educational content from urban planning experts.

Webinars and online courses: Many organizations and academic institutions offer webinars and online courses on urban regeneration and sustainable urban planning. These resources provide valuable insights and practical knowledge.

To illustrate, TEDx Talks: TEDx events in Turkey often feature talks related to urban planning and regeneration. The TEDx YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/tedxturkey>) provides access to recorded talks from various events held in Turkey.

Istanbul Technical University OpenCourseWare: The university offers online courses related to urban planning, sustainable development, and regeneration.

These courses provide educational content accessible to a broader audience. (Website: <http://opencourseware.itu.edu.tr/>)

- Mobile Apps:

Sustainability and urban planning apps: Some mobile applications focus on sustainable urban development, providing information, interactive tools, and resources related to urban regeneration and sustainable practices. Explore app stores for options available in Turkey. For instance, YAPIRUH: A mobile application that focuses on sustainable architecture and urbanism in Turkey, providing information, case studies, and design principles related to urban regeneration. (Available on iOS and Android platforms.)

- Social Media:

Follow relevant social media accounts: Follow the social media accounts of government agencies, NGOs, and professionals working in the field of urban planning and regeneration. They often share updates, case studies, and resources related to urban regeneration.

Twitter Accounts: Follow accounts such as the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (@csbgovtr) and urban planning organizations like the Turkish Urban Planners Association (@tmmd_org) for updates on urban regeneration projects, events, and resources.

Instagram Accounts: Follow accounts like "Sustainable Istanbul" (@sustainable_istanbul) for visual content and information on sustainable urban development and regeneration initiatives.

- Online Publications and Reports:

By utilizing these digital resources and tools, youth in Turkey can access valuable information and raise their awareness about urban regeneration planning, sustainable urban development, and related practices. For instance: "Regeneration in Turkey" Report: A publication by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Turkey that highlights successful urban regeneration projects in Turkey. (Available on the UNDP Turkey website: <https://www.tr.undp.org/>)

Level of Knowledge about Planning Among Young People in Turkey

The level of knowledge about planning among young people in Turkey can be influenced by various factors. Those pursuing academic programs related to planning, such as urban planning, architecture, or geography, are likely to have a deeper understanding of planning principles and practices. These programs provide students with comprehensive knowledge about urban development, land use planning, environmental considerations, and related topics. Furthermore, young professionals working in planning-related fields, such as urban planning, urban design, or architecture, gain practical knowledge and experience in planning processes, including familiarity with planning regulations, development policies, and the implementation of planning projects.

In terms of awareness, young people in Turkey are increasingly conscious of urban challenges and the importance of sustainable development. They may possess a general understanding of urban issues such as traffic congestion, housing affordability, environmental sustainability, and the need for inclusive and accessible urban spaces. This awareness is often shaped by exposure to media, social movements, and global conversations on urban sustainability. Access to information is another important factor. Young individuals who actively seek information through online platforms, publications, academic journals, and professional networks may have a higher level of knowledge on planning topics. Engaging with scholarly articles, attending seminars or conferences, and participating in online forums dedicated to urban planning contribute to their knowledge base. Engagement in community initiatives also plays a significant role in shaping young people's knowledge about planning. By participating in local projects, workshops, or urban planning competitions, they gain practical insights into planning processes and become more aware of the challenges and opportunities involved. This hands-on experience fosters a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances of planning in a real-world context. However, it is important to acknowledge that the level of knowledge may vary among individuals and regions in Turkey. Factors such as access to

education, exposure to planning-related issues, socioeconomic disparities, and personal interests can influence the level of knowledge about planning among young people as it was mentioned above.

SDG 11: Actions being implemented to achieve this objective in Turkey

Turkey's actions to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, "Sustainable Cities and Communities," which encompasses sustainability, planning, accessibility, preservation of green areas, resilience to disasters, and urban transformation. Turkey has undertaken various actions to support SDG 11.

1. **Urban Transformation Projects:** Turkey is implementing urban transformation projects to convert abandoned areas into sustainable cities. These projects involve renovating old and risky buildings, increasing green areas, improving infrastructure, implementing energy efficiency measures, and developing social housing projects. For example, the Gaziosmanpaşa Urban Transformation Project in Istanbul aims to transform a deteriorated area into a sustainable neighborhood with modern buildings, green spaces, and improved infrastructure.

2. **Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development:** Turkey is engaged in efforts to plan sustainable cities and develop infrastructure. This includes holistic urban planning, creating sustainable transportation systems, promoting energy-efficient buildings, and implementing water and waste management measures. As an example, the Izmir Bayraklı Urban Regeneration Project focuses on transforming an earthquake-prone area into a sustainable district with improved infrastructure, transportation options, and green spaces.

3. **Preservation of Green and Open Spaces:** Turkey is taking action to preserve and enhance green and open spaces. Initiatives include creating parks, gardens, woodlands, and recreational areas, strengthening green infrastructure, and protecting biodiversity. The Belgrad Forest in Istanbul serves as a valuable green space and provides recreational opportunities for residents, contributing to a sustainable city environment.

4. **Resilience to Disasters and Risk Management:** Turkey is working on creating disaster-resilient cities and implementing risk management measures. This involves strengthening buildings against natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, conducting risk assessments, and establishing early warning systems. The Red River Basin Rehabilitation and Development Project in Sivas aims to mitigate flood risks by improving infrastructure, drainage systems, and floodplain management.

5. **Social Housing Projects:** Turkey is taking steps to provide affordable housing through social housing projects. The goal is to create sustainable cities and ensure access to suitable living

conditions for everyone. The TOKI (Housing Development Administration of Turkey) project in Kayabaşı, Istanbul, focuses on constructing affordable housing units with sustainable design features and improved community facilities.

6. Community Participation and Awareness: Turkey is fostering community participation and raising awareness to promote the creation of sustainable cities. Encouraging the participation of citizens, local communities, and civil society organizations in decision-making processes and raising awareness about sustainability are key aspects. For instance, the "Sustainable Neighborhoods" program in Ankara engages local residents in community-based sustainable development initiatives, fostering active participation and creating a sense of ownership.

7. These actions exemplify Turkey's efforts to achieve SDG 11. However, it's important to note that these examples are not exhaustive, and Turkey continues to implement additional actions and policies to achieve sustainable cities and communities.

Here are some actions and concrete examples of initiatives undertaken in Turkey to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, "Sustainable Cities and Communities":

- **Urban Regeneration Projects:** Example of İzmir Bayraklı Urban Regeneration Project: This project focuses on transforming a deteriorated area in İzmir into a sustainable district. It includes the demolition of old buildings, construction of earthquake-resistant structures, development of green spaces, and improvement of infrastructure. The project aims to create a livable and resilient urban environment.
- **Sustainable Transportation:** Example of Istanbul Public Transportation System: Istanbul has invested in the expansion and improvement of its public transportation system. This includes the development of metro lines, tramways, and bus rapid transit (BRT) systems. These initiatives aim to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and promote sustainable transportation options.
- **Green Building Initiatives:** Example of LEED-Certified Buildings: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification is being implemented in Turkey. Several buildings, including residential, commercial, and public structures, have achieved LEED certification. These buildings incorporate sustainable design principles, energy-efficient systems, and green building materials.
- **Disaster Resilience:** Example: Earthquake-Resistant Housing Projects: Turkey, being in a seismically active region, has implemented earthquake-resistant housing projects. These projects involve the construction of housing complexes designed to withstand earthquakes.

For instance, the TOKI housing projects incorporate seismic isolation techniques and advanced structural design to enhance the safety and resilience of buildings.

- **Urban Green Spaces:** Example: Göztepe Park, Istanbul: The Göztepe Park in Istanbul is an example of creating green spaces within urban areas. The park provides recreational opportunities, promotes biodiversity, and contributes to the overall well-being of residents. It serves as a sustainable urban oasis in a densely populated city.

2.4 GREECE

The current policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces in Greece

Current policies and strategies in Greece prioritise urban regeneration, sustainable development, and community engagement to address the pressing issue of abandoned spaces that are scattered across the country. Recognizing the potential inherent in these neglected areas, the government has implemented a comprehensive framework encompassing legislative measures, financial incentives, and support for public-private partnerships to revitalise and breathe new life into these abandoned spaces, with the aim of unlocking their untapped potential for economic, social, and cultural growth.

A key principle underlying these policies is the promotion of citizen participation and the adoption of bottom-up approaches. By actively engaging citizens, policymakers strive to foster a sense of ownership, empowerment, and collective responsibility, ultimately leading to the establishment of a shared vision for the revitalization of abandoned spaces.

To facilitate citizen involvement, the government has instituted mechanisms that encourage and facilitate active participation from community members. These mechanisms include public consultations, community workshops, and collaborative platforms where residents, local organisations, and experts can contribute their insights, ideas, and expertise.

Furthermore, the policies in place provide financial incentives and support to encourage public-private partnerships, leveraging the expertise and resources of both sectors to maximise the impact of the regeneration initiatives. This collaborative approach allows for innovative solutions, efficient resource allocation, and a wider range of possibilities when it comes to transforming abandoned spaces into thriving hubs of economic activity, social interaction, and cultural expression.

The level of knowledge about sustainable urban planning among youth in Greece

The level of awareness and engagement in urban regeneration planning among Greek youth can vary across different segments of the population. While some young people actively participate and possess a deep understanding of urban regeneration initiatives, others may have limited knowledge or interest in the subject. However, there is a growing recognition among them of the significance of sustainable and inclusive urban development.

Many young individuals are becoming increasingly aware of the environmental, social, and economic benefits associated with repurposing abandoned spaces and integrating sustainable practices into urban planning. They understand that urban regeneration can lead to the revitalization of neglected areas, creating vibrant and inclusive communities that offer improved quality of life, economic opportunities, and environmental sustainability.

To enhance awareness and engagement among them, various digital resources, tools, and materials have been developed. Online platforms and social media campaigns serve as accessible channels for sharing success stories, case studies, and best practices in urban regeneration. They showcase the transformative power of sustainable urban development, highlighting the positive impact it can have on communities. Schools, universities, and community organisations can also integrate urban regeneration topics into their curricula or offer specialised workshops and seminars. Through these efforts, young people can be empowered to actively participate in decision-making processes, advocate for sustainable practices, and contribute their ideas and perspectives to shape the future of their cities.

The level of knowledge about sustainable urban planning among youth in Greece

The level of knowledge and awareness about sustainable urban planning among Greek youth is progressively expanding. Concepts related to sustainability, such as green infrastructure, energy efficiency, and social inclusion, are gaining traction among young individuals who recognize the importance of creating environmentally friendly and socially equitable cities.

Educational institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and government bodies are playing a proactive role in promoting sustainable urban planning among the youth. They organise workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns specifically targeted at young audiences, aiming to equip them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to actively contribute to sustainable urban development and advocate for positive change in their communities.

Furthermore, the increasing availability and accessibility of information and resources on sustainable urban planning through digital platforms and technology have contributed to the expanding knowledge among Greek youth. Online resources, educational websites, and digital tools provide interactive materials, case studies, and practical guides on sustainable

urban planning. Social media platforms also serve as effective channels for disseminating information, inspiring discussions, and fostering a sense of community among young individuals passionate about sustainable urban development.

SDG11: A crucial step towards a more habitable, sustainable, and inclusive community in Greece. Actions being implemented to achieve this objective.

Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) holds paramount importance in driving Greece towards a more habitable, sustainable, and inclusive community. As part of the United Nations' global agenda for sustainable development, SDG11 centres on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. It provides a comprehensive framework for addressing urban challenges and advancing sustainable development practices. In Greece, SDG11 is integrated into national policies and strategies, guiding efforts to create liveable and inclusive communities that ensure the well-being and prosperity of their residents.

Various actions are being implemented to achieve the objectives of SDG11 in Greece. These actions encompass diverse dimensions of sustainable urban development, including physical infrastructure, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. For instance, there are initiatives aimed at developing sustainable urban plans that prioritise efficient transportation systems, green spaces, mixed-use development, and the preservation of cultural heritage. Efforts are also underway to enhance public transportation networks, promote affordable housing, improve the quality of public spaces, and ensure access to essential services. Additionally, smart city technologies are being leveraged to optimise resource management, enhance connectivity, and foster innovation, ultimately enhancing the overall liability and resilience of urban areas.

2.5 BELGIUM

The current policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces in Belgium

Since the latest update in September 2021, Belgium has implemented several policies and strategies to promote the reuse of abandoned spaces, often referred to as brownfield sites. These initiatives aim to revitalize and repurpose vacant or underutilized areas, fostering sustainable urban development while minimizing the need for greenfield development. Here are some key aspects of Belgium's policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces:

- **Brownfield Decree:** Belgium has enacted legislation, commonly referred to as the "Brownfield Decree," which provides a legal framework for the redevelopment of brownfield

sites. This decree encourages local authorities and developers to prioritize the transformation of these spaces into sustainable, mixed-use developments.

- **Zoning and Land Use Planning:** Regional governments in Belgium, including the Brussels-Capital Region, Flanders, and Wallonia, have zoning and land use plans in place that designate areas for redevelopment and revitalization. These plans often prioritize brownfield sites for redevelopment, making it easier for developers to obtain permits and incentives for their reuse.
- **Financial Incentives:** Various financial incentives are available to encourage brownfield redevelopment. These may include tax incentives, grants, or subsidies for developers willing to invest in the rehabilitation of abandoned spaces. In some cases, these incentives are tied to sustainable development goals and environmental performance criteria.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Belgium has increasingly embraced public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a means to finance and manage brownfield redevelopment projects. PPPs can bring together the expertise of both public and private sectors to accelerate the transformation of abandoned spaces.
- **Environmental Remediation:** Brownfield sites often require environmental remediation due to past industrial activities. Belgium has policies in place to ensure that contaminated sites are cleaned up before redevelopment, thus mitigating potential environmental hazards.
- **Community Engagement:** Many brownfield redevelopment projects in Belgium involve extensive community engagement to ensure that the reuse of abandoned spaces aligns with the needs and preferences of local residents. This participatory approach helps build community support for redevelopment initiatives.
- **Sustainable Design and Innovation:** Belgium places a strong emphasis on sustainable design and innovation in brownfield redevelopment. This includes incorporating green infrastructure, energy-efficient building designs, and sustainable transportation options into new developments.
- **Heritage Preservation:** In cases where brownfield sites have historical or cultural significance, Belgium's policies seek to balance preservation with redevelopment. Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings is encouraged when feasible.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regional governments in Belgium typically monitor and evaluate brownfield redevelopment projects to ensure they meet sustainability and economic development objectives. This helps refine policies and strategies over time.



Lastly, the specific policies and strategies may vary by region within Belgium, as each regional government has a degree of autonomy in urban planning and development.

The level of knowledge about sustainable urban planning among youth in Belgium

Sustainable urban planning concepts are often introduced in educational programs, including environmental studies, urban planning, architecture, and related fields. The level of knowledge among youth may vary depending on their exposure to such educational programs. Belgium has a strong tradition of environmental awareness and activism. Youth-led environmental movements and organizations often advocate for sustainable urban development, raising awareness among their peers. Also, access to information through various media channels, including the Internet, television, and print media, plays a significant role in shaping the knowledge of youth about sustainable urban planning. News reports, documentaries, and online resources can influence their understanding of urban sustainability.

In addition, active participation in community initiatives and local government programs can expose young people to sustainable urban planning concepts. Youth engagement in neighborhood improvement projects and sustainability campaigns can enhance their knowledge. Young people often learn from and influence each other. If sustainability and urban planning are topics of interest among a group of friends or peers, it can lead to greater awareness and knowledge sharing.

On the other hand, Belgium consists of distinct regions, each with its own cultural and linguistic characteristics. The level of knowledge about sustainable urban planning may vary across regions, influenced by regional policies and local priorities. Government policies and initiatives at the federal, regional, and municipal levels can impact youth awareness. If governments actively promote sustainable urban planning and engage with youth through educational programs or youth councils, it can contribute to increased knowledge. Besides, Belgium's position within the European Union may also influence youth awareness of sustainable urban planning, as EU directives and funding often address urban sustainability.

The level of knowledge about sustainable urban planning among youth in Belgium

Since September 2021, the level of knowledge about sustainable urban planning among youth in Belgium appeared to be influenced by a combination of factors. Belgium's educational system introduced sustainable urban planning concepts in relevant fields of study, creating a foundation for understanding. Additionally, the country's strong tradition of environmental awareness and activism, particularly among young people, has played a significant role in raising awareness of urban sustainability issues. Access to information through various media channels has further contributed to youth engagement with these concepts. Active

participation in community initiatives and local government programs has also provided opportunities for young Belgians to become more knowledgeable about sustainable urban planning. However, it's important to note that the level of awareness and knowledge may vary across regions within Belgium and may have evolved since 2021 due to changing educational curricula, government initiatives, and global events.

Regional initiatives and non-profit organizations support young people's involvement in urban planning by providing necessary information and encouraging them in the civil and political arenas. The Wilrijk District "teenage space network plan" was created with the help of young teens (12–15 years old) by Kind & Samenleving (Childhood & Society Research Centre), under the direction of the City of Antwerp.

This strategic policy plan offers recommendations for the design of public areas that take teenagers' needs into account. As a consequence of prior studies with young people in Flanders, the idea of a "teenage space network" had been established. However, this local authority's full jurisdiction in Belgium is currently using this planning tool for the first time.

Also, Beerse, a tiny town in Belgium, recently made the choice to involve youths between the ages of 12 and 25 in the decision-making process when it comes to setting up the municipal budget. Following a "Let us hear from you" study of residents between the ages of 12 and 25, it was decided to involve young people in the Beerse municipal and urban development. The majority of respondents to the poll believe that young people should have more influence on the direction of the municipality.

The municipality said in a statement that youth organizations in the area frequently interact with energetic young people. Additionally, the new budget is a fantastic method to implement these concepts, particularly in infrastructure intended expressly for children and young people.

SDG11: A crucial step towards a more habitable, sustainable, and inclusive community in Belgium. Actions being implemented to achieve this objective.

Belgium has taken significant steps to align its urban planning efforts with Sustainable Development Goal 11, which focuses on "Sustainable Cities and Communities." The country's commitment to creating more habitable, sustainable, and inclusive communities is evident in its multifaceted approach. This includes urban regeneration and brownfield development to revitalize existing infrastructure, policies to ensure affordable and inclusive housing, and a strong emphasis on public transportation and sustainable mobility. Belgium also integrates green spaces and biodiversity into its urban planning, promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy, and fosters social inclusion and diversity within cities. Additionally, resilience to climate change is addressed through measures like flood prevention, and

community engagement is prioritized in decision-making processes. Belgium's dedication to monitoring progress and engaging in international cooperation underscores its commitment to advancing the goals of SDG 11, shaping a more sustainable and livable urban landscape.

3. BEST PRACTICES ON ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN ACTIONS AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

3.1 AUSTRIA

BEST PRACTICE 1: CITY FARM AUGARTEN

The City Farm is an urban experience garden of vegetable diversity and the first and largest urban garden in the middle of Vienna. At the Augarten, the community offers a diverse range of educational garden programs and events all year round. These range from practical garden workshops to exciting, guided tours through the Diversity Garden and vegetable tastings. In this way, people experience together how our vegetables find their way from the bed to the plate.



BEST PRACTICE 2: GEMEINSCHAFTSGARTEN DONAUKANAL

According to what is written on the garden's website, the garden is a place of encounter, recreation, and creativity for its caretakers. In their own words "a space designed by us, where there is no compulsion to consume. It focuses on the love of gardening, on watching plants grow, and on enjoying every day anew a green oasis in the urban built-up area. The garden is also an ecosystem for butterflies, bees, birds, and insects. A garden is therefore a place with a diversity of plants, animals, and people where one learns to be a community".

The "Donaukanal Community Garden" was founded in 2013 with only five raised beds. Since then, about 40 members take care of each on their own or in pairs of a raised bed as well as some community beds. The association is organised in different working teams. This ensures a fair and communal sharing of the work that goes on in a vegetable garden.

They are open to the public every 13th of the month, usually at 18.00 or 19.00 hours. If it is raining or cold, they meet in a warm place.



BEST PRACTICE 3: GRÄTZLGARTEN 9

The Grätzlgärten Alsergrund association has found a suitable place for their neighborhood garden near the Narrenturm on the grounds of the old General Hospital. The garden is the result of an initiative of the Local Agenda 21 and with the approval of the Alsergrund district council.

The focus is on the community aspect of the garden, people of different origins and social backgrounds should get closer to each other while gardening, experience nature, and contribute to local supply.

Shared responsibility strengthens social contacts in the Grätzl (little garden) and promotes appreciation of the immediate living environment. In cooperation with schools and children's

groups from the surrounding area, natural processes are to be demonstrated and the youngest children are to be taught how to treat nature as gently as possible.

Location: The garden is located on the grounds of the old AKH. Access is possible from Sensengasse and from courtyard 6 of the old AKH.



BEST PRACTICE 4: GEMEINSCHAFTSGARTEN "JUNGES GEMÜSE WIEDEN"

On two terraces in the Wieden house, gardening enthusiasts from Wieden cultivate 16 raised beds in pallet format. even in a small area of just one square meter, herbs, lettuce, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines and much more flourish wonderfully. To make the garden beds more attractive for the residents of Wieden House, the gardeners also rely on flowering plants that the senior citizens can enjoy. The togetherness of the generations is an important aspect of the project. the community garden enlivens the events on the terrace through its integrative character. the gardeners get water for watering from the rainwater cistern of Wieden house. Since 2021, the agenda group has grown - in the newly designed Wanda Lanzer Park, five more raised beds are part of the garden.

In order to offer other interested residents of Wiedner a chance to garden, the garden community has agreed on a "rotation principle": every three years, half of the beds are reallocated (decision by lot).

The Goals of this initiative are:

- To grow their own vegetables and flowers organically.
- To gather and exchange experiences - to learn from each other and from nature.
- To promote cooperation between the generations - to exchange ideas with the residents of Wieden House.



BEST PRACTICE 5: SALAT PIRATEN:

The Salad Pirates* is an association for the promotion of urban agriculture in urban areas. The flagship is the community garden Kirchengasse 46, 1070 Vienna.

The association aims to bring agriculture to one of Vienna's inner districts and to inspire residents with the concept of "urban gardening". members are residents and interested people, gardening experts, and newcomers, from different professions and of different ages. Since 2013, the area in Vienna's 7th district has been jointly cultivated. It's about gardening itself, but also about urban design, and about bringing people together.

Excerpt from the association's statutes:

"The association, whose activities are non-profitmaking, is concerned with urban agriculture in open spaces in the city of Vienna. By setting up a demonstrative neighbourhood garden,

the association wants to show how important urban agriculture is becoming for the future of the city and at the same time make it clear that agriculture and the city can also be connected. The association sees itself as an ambassador for future agriculture in the city and wants to encourage people to think about it and get involved with its projects."



3.2 SPAIN

BEST PRACTICE 1: City 30 Sapin

Ciudad 30, a pioneering initiative adopted by the city of Madrid as part of its Environmental Sustainability Strategy, Madrid 360, has transformed the urban landscape by reducing maximum speed limits to 30 km/h (approximately 18 mph) in various areas. This strategic move is driven by a multifaceted vision aimed at improving road safety, creating more sustainable and pedestrian-friendly environments, and elevating the overall quality of life for residents.

Implemented gradually, Ciudad 30 has made its debut in residential areas and zones with a high concentration of pedestrians and cyclists. By establishing lower speed limits, the main objective is to decrease the frequency and severity of traffic accidents, protecting all road users, especially the most vulnerable ones. A safer, more secure urban environment is envisaged, with improved reaction times and fewer collisions, contributing to enhanced road safety and well-being for the city's inhabitants.

Beyond its paramount focus on road safety, Ciudad 30 champions sustainable mobility and encourages the adoption of environmentally friendly modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, and public transit. This shift in emphasis aims to reduce traffic congestion and promote a greener, healthier city, ultimately leading to lower air pollution levels and decreased greenhouse gas emissions.

The impact of Ciudad 30 extends far beyond safety and mobility considerations. Residents can relish an elevated quality of life, with quieter streets, reduced exposure to traffic noise, and increased comfort for pedestrians and cyclists alike. The transformation not only alters the physical landscape but also fosters a cultural shift towards responsible and respectful driving, creating a more harmonious coexistence among diverse road users.

The successful implementation of Ciudad 30 in Madrid has garnered international attention, inspiring other cities in Spain and around the world to consider this transformative approach. By prioritizing safety, sustainability, and a more people-centric urban environment, Ciudad 30 has set a powerful precedent for reimagining urban spaces in the pursuit of a safer, greener, and more inclusive future.

Link: <https://ciudadesquecaminan.org/accion/iniciativa-ciudad-30/>

BEST PRACTICE 2: Building Energy Rehabilitation in Spain

Energy retrofitting has emerged as a pivotal strategy in Spain to address environmental challenges, improve sustainability, and reduce the country's carbon footprint. Through a comprehensive and innovative approach, Spain is transforming its built environment by integrating renewable energy systems, enhancing energy efficiency, and optimizing the building envelope.

Renewable energy integration, exemplified by the installation of photovoltaic solar panels on rooftops, allows buildings to generate electricity from solar energy, thus decreasing reliance on conventional power sources and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, energy efficiency improvements, such as adopting LED lighting systems, energy-efficient appliances,

and smart control systems, optimize energy consumption and contribute to a more resource-efficient society.

Critical to the success of energy retrofitting is the enhancement of the building envelope, accomplished through thermal insulation, high-performance windows, and effective sealing of air leaks. These measures significantly reduce heat loss during winter and minimize heat gain in summer, leading to improved indoor comfort and substantial energy savings.

The methodology of building energy rehabilitation follows a systematic approach, encompassing initial assessment, detailed diagnosis, solution design, implementation, monitoring, and maintenance. By adhering to this method, Spain ensures the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of its energy retrofitting initiatives.

The impact of building energy rehabilitation extends beyond environmental considerations. Improved energy efficiency results in reduced energy consumption, leading to long-term cost savings and a lowered carbon footprint. In turn, energy-efficient buildings enjoy enhanced market value, contributing to a more resilient and thriving real estate sector. Furthermore, energy retrofitting projects stimulate job creation and foster economic growth, demonstrating Spain's commitment to a sustainable and energy-secure future.

Link: <https://www.idae.es/ayudas-y-financiacion/para-la-rehabilitacion-de-edificios/convocatorias-cerradas/programa-pree>

BEST PRACTICE 3: Barcelona's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (PMUS)

Sustainable mobility plans in Spain represent a pivotal strategy to address environmental challenges and transform urban transportation systems into more sustainable, efficient, and equitable entities. Among these initiatives, Barcelona's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (PMUS) stands as a notable case study, exemplifying the potential for positive change in urban mobility.

At the core of sustainable mobility plans is the goal of promoting greener modes of transportation and reducing the ecological footprint of cities. By encouraging the adoption of sustainable alternatives such as public transit, active mobility (walking and cycling), and shared mobility, these plans aim to decrease dependence on private vehicles and foster more environmentally friendly modes of transportation.

One of the fundamental objectives of sustainable mobility plans is to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. By promoting low or zero-emission modes of transportation,

such as electric public transit and active mobility, these plans play a critical role in mitigating climate change and improving air quality in urban areas.

The methodology of this practice encompasses a series of well-defined steps. It begins with a comprehensive diagnosis, analyzing the current mobility situation in the city, including traffic patterns, air quality, and citizens' mobility needs. Importantly, citizen participation is actively encouraged throughout the planning process, ensuring that the PAMUS accurately reflects the expectations and demands of the community.

Clear and measurable objectives are established based on the diagnosis and citizen input, setting the direction for proposed measures and actions. These measures may include the improvement of public transportation services, the expansion of cycling networks, the promotion of active mobility, the implementation of traffic management strategies, and the introduction of congestion charges, among others. To ensure effective implementation, the proposed measures are thoroughly evaluated in terms of technical feasibility, economic viability, social acceptance, and environmental impact, leading to the selection of priority projects.

The impacts of Barcelona's PAMUS have been both significant and far-reaching. By promoting sustainable and low-emission modes of transportation, the plan has contributed to a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, positively impacting air quality and public health. Moreover, the PAMUS has resulted in an increase in the usage of public transportation and active mobility options, effectively reducing traffic congestion and creating a more efficient urban transportation network.

Link: <https://www.barcelona.cat/mobilitat/es/quienes-somos/plan-de-movilidad-urbana>

BEST PRACTICE 4: María Luisa Park in Seville

María Luisa Park in Seville stands as an exemplary urban green space in Spain, providing a serene oasis amidst the bustling city centre. Designed to enhance citizens' quality of life, the park offers a diverse array of spaces and activities, from lush green areas and botanical gardens to tree-lined walks and picturesque plazas. Additionally, iconic monuments like the Plaza de España add cultural significance to the park.

The primary objectives of María Luisa Park and similar urban green spaces in Spain include creating a natural environment in the heart of the city, fostering citizens' well-being, preserving biodiversity and natural heritage, and promoting environmental education. By providing

opportunities for outdoor activities, rest, and appreciation of nature, these spaces significantly contribute to improving citizens' quality of life and promoting a more sustainable and healthy urban environment.

The methodology employed in the development and management of María Luisa Park involves careful design and planning to maximize the use of space and integration with the urban landscape. Conservation efforts focus on protecting biodiversity and natural resources, while citizen participation plays a pivotal role in shaping the park's features and services. Environmental education initiatives aim to raise awareness and appreciation for nature among visitors.

The impact of María Luisa Park and other urban green spaces is far-reaching. These spaces enhance the quality of life, contribute to health and well-being through opportunities for physical activity, mitigate climate change by absorbing greenhouse gases, conserve biodiversity, and promote social cohesion by creating communal gathering spots.

Link: <https://www.andalucia.org/es/sevilla-turismo-cultural-parque-de-maria-luisa>

BEST PRACTICE 5: Circular economy practices in Spain

In Spain, the circular economy is exemplified by the waste recycling and reuse system. The country has implemented strategies to promote waste separation and recycling of various materials, such as paper, glass, plastic, and metals. Selective collection systems have been set up in cities to facilitate proper waste classification and recycling.

The objectives of this initiative include waste reduction, promotion of reuse and recycling, efficient use of resources, innovation in business models, job creation, sustainable economic development, and reduction of environmental impact.

The methodology of the circular economy in Spain is based on principles like designing for circularity, adopting a full life cycle approach, promoting collaboration along the value chain, embracing digitalization and technology, and prioritizing education and awareness.

The impact of these actions has also been significant, leading to waste reduction, conservation of natural resources, sustainable economic growth, reduced emissions and carbon footprint, and improved supply chain security.

Link: <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/economia-circular/estrategia/>



3.3 TURKEY

BEST PRACTICE 1: Seka Paper Factory - Transforming Izmit's Industrial Area into an Exemplary Urban Park

Sekapark, once the Seka Paper Factory, has undergone a magnificent transformation into one of the world's largest urban parks. Spanning 580 acres, this project has reinvigorated the industrial area while preserving its historical and cultural heritage. Designed with an ecological approach, the park boasts a lush floral landscape and integrates transportation accessibility via rail, road, and sea routes.

Preserving existing buildings to maintain their originality, Sekapark now offers an incredible array of facilities, including museums, recreational areas, restaurants, playgrounds, sports fields, art workshops, and exhibition halls. Special planning decisions safeguard historically significant structures within the industrial area.

Beyond its massive size and ecological design, it serves as a focal point for Izmit's development. It has become an identity-defining urban park that attracts visitors and enriches the city's urban environment. Offering opportunities for leisure, sports, and cultural activities, the park connects people with nature, promoting a sustainable and responsible approach to urban renewal.

By successfully repurposing industrial land, Sekapark has become an exemplary project for industrial renewal and urban development. Its transformation has elevated the city's overall well-being and quality of life, making it a captivating destination for locals and tourists alike.

Link: <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/1474714>

<https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/3428>

<https://www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/kocaeli/gezilecekyer/sekapark-zmit>

BEST PRACTICE 2: Hasanpaşa Gashouse - Re-functioning of Gashouses as an Example of Industrial Heritage

The Hasanpaşa Gasworks project in Kadıköy, Istanbul, has successfully transformed an idle industrial structure into a vibrant cultural center and energy museum. The project's objective was to repurpose the historic gasworks and its surroundings, creating a dynamic public space for culture, art, and green areas.

Collaborating with the Hasanpaşa neighbourhood residents and professional chambers, the project carefully considered the region's needs and environment to determine suitable functions for the building. The result is a multifunctional space that houses restaurants, cafeterias, workspaces, libraries, theatres, exhibitions, workshops, and museums.

Emphasizing design integrity and historical preservation, the project incorporated additional structures and sculptures in a similar architectural style. Visitor feedback and digital surveys played a crucial role in shaping the development of the space, ensuring it catered to the preferences and experiences of the community.

As a result, the repurposed gasworks now serve as an active cultural hub, enriching the city's cultural landscape and maintaining its place in the collective memory. The transformation has not only revitalized the gasworks site but also contributed to the overall urban environment of the Hasanpaşa neighbourhood.

Link: <https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/2903384>

<https://muzegazhane.istanbul/hakkinda/>

BEST PRACTICE 3: From Factory to Island: Bomonti

The Bomontiada project in Şişli, Istanbul, has successfully revitalized the Bomonti industrial zone and transformed the historic brewery into a lively cultural, dining, and entertainment centre. It caters to diverse age groups and tastes, attracting a wide range of visitors and enhancing the livability of the neighbourhood.

The objective of this project is to create a dynamic gathering place that not only attracts people through organized activities but also provides them with a unique and immersive experience. The project also aims to integrate with the modern world without disrupting the historical texture of the area and contribute to the overall livability and development of the neighbourhood.

The Bomontiada project follows a methodology that considers both the preservation of the existing building and its integration with the surrounding urban fabric. The project has focused on re-functionalizing the brewery while maintaining its original character and heritage elements. Additionally, it has created a diverse range of venues and activities to cater to different preferences and age groups. However, there have been discussions about the lack of architectural harmony with the surrounding buildings and the dominance of nearby structures. The project has also sought to strike a balance between integrating with the modern world and respecting the historical texture of the area. Ongoing evaluations are being

conducted to ensure that the transformation of Bomontiada aligns with its historical significance and enriches the overall urban experience.

Link: <https://www.arkitera.com/gorus/fabrikadan-adaya-bomonti/>

<https://yapikredibomontiada.com/aboutus>

BEST PRACTICE 4: Istanbul Museum of Modern Arts - Dry Cargo Warehouse No. 4

The Istanbul Modern Museum project stands as a remarkable endeavour, skillfully transforming a former warehouse into a prominent institution dedicated to modern and contemporary art in Turkey. This visionary project places a strong emphasis on presenting modern and contemporary art productions while also offering a diverse array of cultural activities, exhibitions, educational programs, and social initiatives.

The overarching objective of the museum is to establish itself as a leading centre for modern and contemporary art, engaging both local and international audiences. Through its carefully curated collections, thought-provoking exhibitions, and inclusive approach, the museum seeks to foster a deep appreciation for art and cultivate meaningful interactions between artists and visitors.

A key feature of the project's methodology is the adaptive reuse and transformation of the warehouse structure into a dynamic museum space. Strategically chosen for its proximity to the historic peninsula of Istanbul and its captivating view of the iconic Topkapi Palace, the museum's location adds to its allure and cultural significance.

The museum's design also prioritizes functionality, utilizing the large volumes of the building to create flexible spaces that can be adapted to suit the specific requirements of each exhibition. Technical equipment is left exposed without aesthetic concerns, exemplifying a harmonious blend of form and function.

The transformation of the warehouse into the Istanbul Modern Museum has had a profound impact on Turkey's artistic and cultural landscape. It has positioned itself as a platform for both national and international art productions, fostering a lively dialogue and interaction between artists and audiences.

Moreover, the museum's commitment to educational programs has kindled a genuine interest in art and nurtured a new generation of art enthusiasts. The project's holistic approach to art appreciation ensures that art is accessible to diverse audiences and that it thrives as an integral part of society.

Link: <https://www.istanbulmodern.org/>

https://acikerisim.uludag.edu.tr/bitstream/11452/11793/1/MUSTAFA_SAGLIK.pdf

BEST PRACTICE 5: Kadir Has University - Cibali Tobacco Factory

The transformative project of Kadir Has University, nestled within the historic tobacco factory, stands as a remarkable example of adaptive reuse and restoration. With a keen focus on preserving the factory's original identity and architectural components, the project successfully integrates contemporary additions to cater to the demands of a modern educational institution.

At its core, the endeavour aims to serve as a sustainable conservation effort, breathing new life into the once-abandoned factory and repurposing it as a centre for producing qualified knowledge through education. By safeguarding the historical significance of the factory structure, the project celebrates the rich heritage of the site while providing a high-quality educational space for students and faculty.

Furthermore, the project extends its impact beyond the confines of the factory walls. It aspires to enhance the social and physical fabric of the surrounding area, creating a positive ripple effect on the local community and fostering a sense of pride in their historical heritage.

The meticulous methodology behind the project involved the application of scientific restoration principles, with a keen eye towards industrial archaeology approaches. By understanding the intricate construction process of the factory, the restoration decisions were thoughtfully made to retain the original essence of the building. Simultaneously, new spaces were thoughtfully integrated to cater to the modern requirements of a university campus.

As the Cibali Tobacco Factory embraced its new identity as Kadir Has University, the impact has been nothing short of transformative. The historic factory, once left to decay, now stands as a vibrant and bustling centre for education, innovation, and collaboration. Its successful restoration and adaptive reuse serve as an inspiring model for sustainable conservation efforts, breathing new life into industrial heritage buildings and ensuring their lasting relevance.

Link: https://acikerisim.uludag.edu.tr/bitstream/11452/11793/1/MUSTAFA_SAGLIK.pdf

<https://www.khas.edu.tr/kampusumuz/>

3.4 Greece

BEST PRACTICE 1: Ellinikon Metropolitan Park in Athens



Co-funded by
the European Union

Piraeus is the largest port in Greece and one of the largest ports in Europe. It has great maritime importance for Athens and Attica in general. Nowadays, various projects are being implemented focusing on its restoration as a cultural and recreational destination that will use and promote environmental and sustainable practices.

Through these urban regeneration projects, Piraeus aims to enhance its urban landscape, promote cultural heritage, and create a more vibrant and sustainable city for both residents and visitors.

One significant action is the extension of metro line 3, connecting Piraeus to Athens and the airport. This will improve transportation access, and traffic congestion, and reduce the environmental impact. The metro station at Piraeus will showcase archaeological exhibits, including a house from ancient Piraeus and ruins of the city's water supply system. Additionally, the abandoned SILO industrial building will be transformed into a Museum of Underwater Antiquities. The revival of the Piraeus Tower, the tallest building in the city, is another ambitious undertaking. The redesigned tower will accommodate offices, shops, and restaurants, incorporating sustainability and energy conservation practices. The historic Piraeus Old Railway Station will also be restored to house the "Home of Rebetiko," a cultural and exhibition centre dedicated to rebetiko music. Surrounding spaces will be utilized for cultural events and concerts. Lastly, the remodelling of the coastal front of Mikrolimano includes the creation of green spaces, and public areas, and the reduction of water pollution.

The urban regeneration initiatives in Piraeus, Greece, have a significant impact on the city. They stimulate economic growth, attract investments, and create employment opportunities. The extension of the metro line and improved infrastructure enhance accessibility and reduce traffic congestion. Cultural preservation efforts highlight Piraeus' heritage, while sustainable practices promote environmental conservation. The projects enhance the city's image, create recreational spaces, and contribute to a more vibrant and sustainable urban environment.

Piraeus, Greece's historic port, is undergoing urban and sustainable regeneration. Projects include extending the metro line, transforming the SILO building into a Museum of Underwater Antiquities, revitalizing the Piraeus Tower, restoring the Old Railway Station, and remodelling the coastal front of Mikrolimano. These initiatives aim to enhance transportation, preserve cultural heritage, create sustainable spaces, and promote Piraeus as a green, cultural and recreational destination.

Link: <https://www.greeknewsagenda.gr/topics/business-r-d/7659-regeneration-piraeus>

BEST PRACTICE 2: Emporiko Trigono of Athens



Co-funded by
the European Union

It's about a triangular-shaped region in the city centre of Athens, that encompasses three major streets: Ermou Street, Athinas Street, and Peiraios Street. This area holds historical and commercial importance, featuring a blend of ancient landmarks, neoclassical architecture, and bustling commercial activity. The actions implemented focused on the problems caused by the unnecessary leisure and tourism uses, which suppress the traditional and residential character of the area, and on the preservation strategies for the reuse and development of the area aiming towards the preservation of the historical character of the commercial centre and its sustainable development.

The actions of this initiative aim to assess the impact of unnecessary land use on urban and historical spaces in Athens, Greece. Specifically, it focuses on the triangular-shaped region in the city centre of Athens, which encompasses three major streets: Ermou Street, Athinas Street, and Peiraios Street. The action's approach also aims to identify the risks of losing green spaces and propose strategies for sustainable urban planning and conservation. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of historical spaces in Athens to support traditional character, ecological resilience, and the overall livability of the city.

The unnecessary use of the historic centre of Athens is a problem that often leads to the deterioration of the historical, architectural and functional character of the city, as well as to the loss of local residents. To address this issue, the importance of venue management was analysed and a multifunctional reuse model for sustainable development in abandoned or degraded areas of the historic city of Athens was proposed. Considering the case of the Historic "Commercial Triangle" of Athens, an extensive research was carried out, which led to the mapping and analysis of the particular identity of the area. These results then led to the presentation of the problems caused by the dominant leisure and tourism uses, which suppress the traditional existing commercial and residential uses. The methodology for the implementation of this initiative concluded by proposing conservation strategies for the reuse and development of the area and emphasizing the importance of a management plan aimed at preserving the historic character of the commercial centre and its sustainable development.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage: The Historic Commercial Triangle holds historical and architectural significance. Multifunctional reuse initiatives can help preserve and showcase this cultural heritage by adapting existing buildings and spaces while respecting their historical character.

Sustainable Urban Development: Reusing existing infrastructure and buildings can contribute to sustainable urban development. It minimizes the need for new construction, reduces resource consumption, and promotes efficient land use. Incorporating green infrastructure and sustainable design principles can further enhance environmental sustainability.

By repurposing and revitalizing the area, this initiative can benefit local residents by improving their quality of life, preserving the area's cultural heritage, and promoting sustainable urban development. Furthermore, by providing spaces for cultural and creative communities, this initiative promotes artistic expression and contributes to the cultural identity of Athens. Through these combined efforts, the multifunctional reuse initiative has the capacity to transform the Historic Commercial Triangle into a dynamic, sustainable, and thriving urban space, benefiting various stakeholders and creating a positive impact on the city as a whole.

Link: <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/11/1/114>

BEST PRACTICE 3: The National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens

This initiative focused on the reuse and valorisation of the Fix building, a historic former brewery in Athens, into a museum of contemporary art.

This project aims to establish a dedicated space for showcasing and promoting contemporary artistic practices, both from Greece and the international art scene. The restoration and repurposing of the building not only preserve its architectural heritage but also contribute to the cultural identity of Athens. The museum will foster cultural exchange, dialogue, and public engagement through exhibitions, educational programs, and cultural events. By creating a platform for contemporary art, the initiative seeks to enhance Athens' reputation as a vibrant centre for artistic expression and creativity.

In the late 19th century, the brewery was relocated to its current location near Syngrou Avenue and Kallirois Avenue in Athens, gradually evolving to meet the brewery's growing needs. In 1957, the Fix family decided to modernize the building and hired architect Takis Zenetos to redesign and renovate it. Zenetos integrated the existing structures into a flexible and extroverted design, reflecting post-war modernism. The building was later abandoned in the late 1970s and faced preservation concerns. In 2000, it was decided that the Fix building would become the permanent home of EMST. The architects undertook the design development, preserving the main façades while introducing new elements inspired by the Ilissos River trail. Today, the building provides an 18,142 m² space on a 3,123 m² plot, offering panoramic views and serving as a symbol of collective memory, hosting the present and future of contemporary art.

Cultural Revitalization: The establishment of the museum contributes to the cultural revitalization of Athens by providing a dedicated space for contemporary art.

Preservation of Architectural Heritage: The renovation and adaptive reuse of the historic FIX brewery building respects the building's original design while integrating new elements, ensuring its long-term preservation and adding to the city's architectural identity.

International Recognition: The establishment of EMST as a prominent contemporary art museum brings international recognition to Athens and its art scene. It positions the city as a hub for contemporary art, attracting attention from artists, curators, scholars, and cultural institutions worldwide.

This project showcases the successful adaptive reuse of a historic building, preserving its architectural heritage while repurposing it for a contemporary cultural institution. The establishment of EMST contributes to the cultural revitalization of Athens, providing a dedicated space for contemporary art that engages and educates both locals and tourists. Moreover, the initiative generates economic benefits through increased tourism and cultural activities, further contributing to the city's overall development. Furthermore, the transformation of the FIX brewery into EMST underscores the power of art in transforming spaces, preserving heritage, and enriching the cultural fabric of a city.

Link: <https://www.emst.gr/en/the-museum/fix-building>

BEST PRACTICE 4: The City of Volos

This practice focuses on the rehabilitation and utilization of 5 abandoned industrial buildings in the urban area of Volos, Greece.

The aim of this initiative is the utilization of abandoned industrial buildings in the city of Volos, Greece. In particular, an attempt is made to rehabilitate and reuse five factories located within the urban area of Volos: The old brick factory "Tsalapata", the silk factory, the cotton mills "Adamopoulos", the tobacco warehouses "Papastratos", the building of Spirer and the old electric factory. The aim of this practice is to study and analyse the way in which these buildings affect the transformation of the social and cultural image of Volos in the context of the city's development orientation towards sustainable ways.

The city of Volos has taken a distinguished initiative at the national level by reestablishing and reusing inactive 5 industrial buildings. This undertaking preserved the city's historical identity while accommodating modern functions. The renovated industrial buildings provide new public spaces for various purposes, such as education, culture, administration, and entertainment. Due to their size and central location within the urban area, these buildings offer advantages for accommodating different uses. The presence of abandoned spaces is a result of the

industrial recession, and local government and private sector initiatives have been instrumental in their redevelopment. Since the 1980s, numerous industrial buildings have been restored and repurposed, contributing to public use and revitalizing the cityscape. Currently, there are also other ongoing restoration projects for several industrial units, with a focus on cultural, educational, and combined-use functions.

Reusing the 5 industrial spaces in Volos enhances the city's sustainable development, improves the quality of life, and avoids urban sprawl. These actions also improve the renewal of the city's image and promote the preservation of cultural heritage. Additionally, sustainable decision-making and utilizing local characteristics ensure long-term benefits and urban growth.

The initiative to utilize abandoned industrial buildings in Volos, Greece, has successfully revitalized the city. By rehabilitating and reusing five factories, Volos preserves its historical identity while creating new public spaces for education, culture, administration, and entertainment. These actions promote sustainable development, improve quality of life, and enhance the city's image. Through collaborative efforts, Volos has effectively repurposed derelict spaces, ensuring long-term benefits and urban growth.

Link: <https://sdct-journal.com/images/Issues/2014/12.pdf>

BEST PRACTICE 5: The Piraeus port in Greece

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The urban regeneration initiatives in Piraeus, Greece, have a significant impact on the city. They stimulate economic growth, attract investments, and create employment opportunities. The extension of the metro line and improved infrastructure enhance accessibility and reduce traffic congestion. Cultural preservation efforts highlight Piraeus' heritage, while sustainable practices promote environmental conservation. The projects enhance the city's image, create recreational spaces, and contribute to a more vibrant and sustainable urban environment.

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Link: <https://www.greeknewsagenda.gr/topics/business-r-d/7659-regeneration-piraeus>

3.5 Belgium

BEST PRACTICE 1: The project Hal5 in Leuven

In the heart of Leuven, a remarkable project has taken root, offering a blend of experimentation and benefits for the entire community. This endeavour finds its home in a historic industrial railway hall spanning 2,000 square meters behind Leuven station. What sets this project apart is its commitment to sustainability, urban vitality, and community enrichment. The once-vacant railway halls have been reborn into "Hal5," a thriving urban space that embraces a multiplicity of purposes. Hal5 introduces an array of initiatives aligned with four core themes: Food, Exercise, Community Building, and Sustainable Entrepreneurship.

Under the "Food" banner, Hal5 plays host to a social grocer, a short-chain bakery, and a caterer with an eco-friendly focus, reducing packaging waste. The "Exercise" facet introduces a parkour hall and an exercise landscape tailored for children, encouraging physical activity and well-being.

In the realm of "Community Building," Hal5 houses two offices for social organizations, acting as a neighbourhood hub and fostering connectivity among residents. On the front of "Sustainable Entrepreneurship," urban agriculture and an ecological flower-picking garden flourish, demonstrating a commitment to eco-conscious ventures.

What's truly remarkable is that Hal5 was not created through conventional means. It was developed, constructed, and financed to the tune of 400,000 euros by a dedicated group of users and sympathetic community members. The project embodies the spirit of 'city making,' pushing boundaries with its diverse program mix, unconventional funding, and lightning-fast journey from concept to opening in just eight months. Collaboration with 15 distinct partners further underlines the dedication to cross-pollination and inclusivity.

However, the impact of Hal5 extends far beyond its historic railway walls. It reaches into the heart of the community, touching upon various critical aspects of urban living:

1. Increased Access to Urban Gardening
2. Biodiversity and Green Spaces
3. Food Security
4. Inspiration for Others
5. Promotion of Sustainable Practices
6. Local Economic Opportunities

Link: <https://www.hal5.be/>

BEST PRACTICE 2: The Sluispark project in Leuven

Sluispark in the Vaartkom neighbourhood of Leuven is designed to cater to a diverse range of individuals and groups, making it a valuable asset to the local community and an inviting destination for visitors. This green and sustainable urban park emphasizes water features, community engagement, and environmental consciousness. Its objectives include enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors by providing a green and recreational space, fostering social interactions and a sense of community, and improving environmental sustainability through biodiversity promotion and eco-friendly landscaping practices.

The integration of the Dyle River into the park creates a scenic waterfront space, offering various recreational opportunities such as picnics, sports, playgrounds, and cultural events. Additionally, the park focuses on education and awareness about environmental issues and sustainability practices. Its aesthetic appeal enhances the neighbourhood and the city's overall attractiveness. Winning the European Green Leaf award highlights its commitment to sustainability and serves as a model for other cities.

Furthermore, Sluispark contributes to local economic development by attracting tourists who support nearby businesses. It encourages physical activity, stress reduction, and mental well-being, providing a space for exercise and relaxation. The park's comprehensive project methodology involved extensive planning, stakeholder consultation, site analysis, eco-friendly construction, and long-term maintenance and community engagement strategies.

Link: <https://www.visitleuven.be/en/sluispark>

BEST PRACTICE 3: The Sluispark project in Leuven

The Buurboomgaard project serves as a catalyst for community engagement, sustainable food practices, and the rejuvenation of neglected green areas. It aims to enhance community cohesion, environmental consciousness, and access to fresh, healthy fruits while utilizing urban green spaces productively.

Participating in the Buurboomgaard project involves various activities such as planting trees, pruning, harvesting, making preserves, and celebrating together. Orchards offer a wealth of experiences and opportunities for volunteers, allowing them to care for multiple fruit tree types and varieties throughout the season. This collaborative approach creates a welcoming space that fosters connections among neighbours, making it an enjoyable way to meet new people.

By repurposing neglected urban areas into neighbourhood orchards, the Buurboomgaard project contributes to the creation and upkeep of green spaces within the city, aligning with the principles of urban gardening. It encourages communal engagement in orchard care, which extends to urban gardening practices, fostering a culture of shared gardening knowledge and resources. Cultivating fruit trees in urban orchards promotes sustainable agriculture, showcasing how urban gardening can be environmentally friendly by providing fresh, local produce with minimal resource consumption.

The project supports local food production, reducing the need for long-distance transportation and its associated carbon footprint. Buurboomgaard also addresses the issue of fruit waste by ensuring that fruits from neglected orchards are put to good use, aligning with the urban

gardening principle of minimizing food waste by utilizing homegrown produce. These orchards serve as educational spaces where participants learn about fruit tree care, sustainable gardening practices, and the benefits of local food production.

Access to fresh, locally grown fruits promoted by the Buurboomgaard project encourages healthier eating habits and contributes to the overall well-being of the community, aligning with the shared goal of both the project and urban gardening. Furthermore, orchards and urban gardens enhance the aesthetic appeal of neighbourhoods, elevating the quality of urban living spaces and fostering a deeper connection between residents and their environment.

Link: <https://velt.nu/buurboomgaard>

BEST PRACTICE 4: BELEXPO - the interactive course on cities and climate in Brussels

BELEXPO is an educational initiative designed for young people aged 10 to 16, around climate change and sustainable urban living. BELEXPO's mission is to instil a profound sense of environmental responsibility and empowerment, encouraging youth to take tangible actions toward creating a more sustainable and climate-friendly future.

BELEXPO achieves its educational goals through a diverse array of engaging methods and experiences. Interactive exhibits and displays leverage multimedia, hands-on activities, and simulations to make learning about climate change, sustainability, and urban development not just informative but also memorable. In-depth workshops delve into topics like renewable energy, waste reduction, urban planning, and sustainable transportation, providing participants with comprehensive insights and knowledge.

Guided tours, led by knowledgeable educators or guides, enrich the experience by offering context and a deeper understanding of the exhibition's themes. Group activities and games foster teamwork and problem-solving skills, reinforcing the educational content and encouraging active participation. Leveraging technology, such as augmented reality or virtual reality, BELEXPO creates immersive learning experiences that capture the interest of tech-savvy young minds.

To ensure that the learning journey extends beyond their visit, BELEXPO equips participants with resources, materials, and information on follow-up activities that they can engage in at home or within their communities. Furthermore, the program actively involves young participants in decision-making processes, empowering them to suggest ideas, propose solutions, and take on leadership roles in environmental initiatives.

BELEXPO recognizes the positive impact it can have on urban gardening, as it introduces participants to the concept of sustainable urban living, of which urban gardening is a crucial component. By emphasizing the importance of green spaces within cities and the role of urban gardening in promoting environmental sustainability, BELEXPO inspires young individuals to consider incorporating these practices into their own lives.

Link: <https://www.belexpo.brussels/en>

BEST PRACTICE 5: BELEXPO - The Brussels Urban Transport Museum (MTUB)

The Brussels Urban Transport Museum (MTUB) stands as a beacon of knowledge and appreciation for the history and culture of urban transportation. At its core, MTUB is an adaptive reuse and restoration project that breathes new life into historic transportation vehicles. One of the central objectives of MTUB is to act as a custodian of Brussels' vibrant public transportation heritage. The museum preserves the historical significance of trams, buses, taxis, and related artefacts, ensuring that the city's transportation legacy is safeguarded for generations to come. Also, by operating entirely through the dedication of volunteers, MTUB not only preserves history but also promotes a sense of community involvement and responsibility for preserving and sharing this crucial aspect of urban history.

The creation of the Brussels Urban Transport Museum followed a systematic methodology that began with a recognition of the need to preserve Brussels' urban transportation history. A dedicated committee, comprised of STIB members and transportation enthusiasts, spearheaded the project, defining its scope and objectives. Extensive historical research played a crucial role in identifying and acquiring significant artefacts. The selection of a suitable location for the museum involved repurposing a historic tram depot. This transformation was executed with meticulous care to meet modern museum standards while preserving the depot's original identity and architectural components.

Community involvement and sustainability practices were central to the project's success. MTUB's focus on the history of urban transportation can raise awareness about how cities have evolved over time. This historical perspective may encourage visitors to consider sustainable lifestyle choices. MTUB's emphasis on the evolution of urban mobility may indirectly promote environmental awareness. As people become more conscious of the environmental impact of transportation, they may also become more receptive to sustainability practices.

Link: <http://www.trammuseum.brussels/>



4. CONCLUSIONS

The revitalization of abandoned spaces has emerged as a crucial and dynamic topic in Europe, reflecting a growing recognition of the potential for sustainable and community-driven solutions to urban development challenges. This report has provided an insightful overview of the policies and strategies for the reuse of abandoned spaces in Greece, Austria, Turkey, and Spain.

In Austria, the city of Vienna stands out as a shining example of urban regeneration planning, with a focus on repurposing neglected areas as flourishing urban gardens. Community actors, individuals, and government bodies have played key roles in positioning Vienna at the forefront of the green revolution.

In Greece, the government's recognition of abandoned spaces' potential for economic, social, cultural, and environmental development has paved the way for revitalization efforts. Emphasizing citizen participation and bottom-up approaches, Greek policies strive to create sustainable and inclusive urban environments, while engaging the youth in shaping their cities' future.

Turkey, facing pressing challenges with abandoned spaces, is actively developing strategies to promote sustainable urban regeneration and empower the youth to actively contribute to transformation efforts. By fostering a shared vision and integrating Sustainable Development Goal 11, Turkey aims to create habitable, sustainable, and inclusive communities.

Spain, amidst ongoing urbanization, showcases a growing interest in sustainable and community-oriented solutions to repurpose abandoned spaces. Urban gardening initiatives, such as community gardens and rooftop farming, exemplify Spain's progress in creating greener, vibrant, and socially connected urban environments.

Belgium's commitment to sustainable development is exemplified through its holistic urban planning approach. It revitalizes urban areas, promotes affordable housing, prioritizes sustainable mobility, integrates green spaces, and emphasizes energy efficiency and climate resilience. This serves as a global blueprint for creating inclusive, environmentally responsible, and resilient cities.

Across these countries, citizen participation, community engagement, and sustainability are common threads that drive the success of abandoned space revitalization projects. By exploring diverse manifestations of policies and strategies, this report highlights the importance of collective efforts in transforming neglected areas into thriving, inclusive, and

environmentally conscious urban spaces. As cities continue to seek innovative solutions for urban development, the revitalization of abandoned spaces holds immense promise in shaping a sustainable and vibrant future for European urban landscapes.

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