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## COMMUNITY ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

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SUSTAINABLE  
URBANISM  
DIGITAL  
GUIDEBOOK



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# 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 Guidebook 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.

# INTRODUCTION



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 policymakers.



# THE SIGNIFICANCE & LOGIC OF URBAN REGENERATION

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Urban regeneration in Europe holds immense significance as it plays a pivotal role in shaping the socio-economic and environmental landscapes of cities across the continent. This multifaceted process encompasses the revitalization, renewal, and transformation of urban areas, typically characterized by ageing infrastructure, declining industry, and social challenges. The logic behind urban regeneration is rooted in a plethora of interconnected factors and objectives that contribute to its prominence in European urban development.

First and foremost, urban regeneration seeks to counteract the decline of urban areas. Many European cities, including Greece, Spain, Austria, Turkey, and Belgium faced a post-industrial decline in the late 20th century, resulting in derelict industrial zones and impoverished neighbourhoods. Urban regeneration offers a strategic response to reverse this decline by breathing new life into neglected areas, ultimately fostering economic growth, job creation, and increased property values.

This not only benefits local communities but also contributes to broader regional and national economic prosperity. Furthermore, urban regeneration aligns with sustainability goals. Europe is at the forefront of environmental consciousness, and urban regeneration provides a sustainable alternative to urban sprawl, promoting the efficient use of existing infrastructure, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and conserving natural resources. The revitalization of brownfield sites, the refurbishment of historical buildings, and the development of mixed-use spaces are all ways in which urban regeneration promotes environmentally responsible urban development. Moreover, urban regeneration carries a social imperative. It aims to tackle inequality and foster inclusive communities by improving housing, infrastructure, and access to essential services in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Creating vibrant, safe, and attractive urban spaces, enhances the quality of life for residents and attracts new inhabitants, thereby enhancing social cohesion and cultural diversity.

# THE SIGNIFICANCE & LOGIC OF URBAN REGENERATION

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In addition, cultural preservation and heritage restoration are central components of European urban regeneration. It capitalizes on the rich history of European cities by preserving and renovating historic structures, contributing to a sense of place and identity. This attracts tourism and ensures the continuity of cultural heritage for future generations.

The European Union has been pivotal in promoting urban regeneration through funding programs like the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). These financial incentives further underscore the significance of urban regeneration by offering resources to address economic disparities and promote sustainable development across the continent.

The **components of a vision plan for urban regeneration** can vary based on the unique characteristics and challenges of the area in question, but here are some common elements that are typically included:

**Community Engagement:** Engage local communities, stakeholders, and experts in the planning and decision-making processes. Promote citizen participation to ensure that regeneration projects reflect the unique needs and aspirations of each community.

**Sustainable Infrastructure:** Prioritize sustainable design and infrastructure, including green spaces, energy-efficient buildings, and sustainable transportation options. Implement green technologies and promote a circular economy to reduce the ecological footprint of urban areas.

**Cultural Preservation:** Identify and protect historical and cultural assets, ensuring their integration into regeneration projects. Encourage cultural events and festivals to celebrate the heritage of the area.

**Inclusive Housing:** Develop a range of housing options to cater to diverse income levels. Promote mixed-income neighbourhoods to create more inclusive and cohesive communities.

**Innovation Ecosystem:** Foster an environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship by providing spaces for startups, creative industries, and research institutions. These innovation hubs will be a driving force for economic growth.



# THE SIGNIFICANCE & LOGIC OF URBAN REGENERATION

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Generally, by prioritizing the active involvement of residents, fostering environmentally conscious design, preserving cultural heritage, promoting inclusive housing options, and nurturing innovation hubs, such a comprehensive approach not only addresses the immediate needs of the community but also lays the groundwork for a resilient, vibrant, and forward-thinking urban landscape. Through careful consideration of these elements, but also the specific characteristics of each place or country, urban regeneration can become a catalyst for positive transformation, creating communities that are not only sustainable but also reflective of the unique identity and aspirations of their inhabitants.



# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## AUSTRIA

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### CURRENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE REUSE OF ABANDONED SPACES IN AUSTRIA

Green spaces play a vital role in urban infrastructure, offering both social and ecological benefits. They provide opportunities for people to connect with nature, enhance their quality of life, and engage in leisure activities. However, green spaces used heavily for recreational purposes can become polluted, affecting their ecological functions. Therefore, analyzing the pollution of green spaces not only informs their recreational quality but also reveals their ecological health and stability. Vienna stands out with its abundant green areas, covering 50% of the city's total land area, ranking as a top international value.

However, these green spaces are not uniformly distributed across the city and vary in accessibility.

To assess the extent of publicly accessible green spaces in Vienna and their availability to residents, the Department of the City of Vienna – Environmental Protection (MA 22) conducted an extensive survey from 2013 to 2015. This survey digitally documented all publicly accessible green spaces and mapped access points. The areas were categorized based on accessibility and catchment areas, including forest and meadow landscapes, field landscapes, vineyard landscapes, park landscapes, spaced greenery, ruderal areas, and urban green.



# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## AUSTRIA

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Of Vienna's total area, publicly accessible green spaces make up 31%, with 73% being forest and meadow landscapes, 19% park landscapes, and 4% field landscapes. Notable figures include 23% of the area being publicly accessible forest and meadow landscapes and 6% public parkland. Green spaces along the Danube Canal, the Liesing, and the Augarten serve the most residents within a 250-meter catchment area.

In Vienna, there are a total of 12,600 hectares of public green space, with over 9,000 hectares managed by the City of Vienna, primarily overseen by the Forestry Department, the City Garden Department, and the Vienna Water Board. Remarkably, two-thirds of Vienna's population resides within 250 meters of the nearest publicly accessible green space.

### RURAL 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 neighbourhood 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

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## AUSTRIA

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### CITY, SUBURBAN AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

In Vienna, the "Garteln in Wien" project by Bio Forschung Austria serves as a central resource for urban gardening. It connects residents with gardening opportunities and locally sourced produce. With a growing interest in city gardening, various city departments lease areas for gardening, including MA 49 (forestry and agriculture) and MA 28 (road administration). MA 42 (Vienna City Gardens) supports community gardens, provides parking spaces, and offers plant protection guidance. Urban renewal area support (GB\*), Local Agenda 21 Vienna, and Wohnpartner assist residents in greening public spaces and implementing neighbourhood gardens. The Gartenpolyog Association supports community garden development, organization, and networking. This collaborative effort encourages urban gardening and promotes community engagement.

### GUERRILLA 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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## SPAIN

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### CURRENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE REUSE OF ABANDONED SPACES 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:

**the 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 such as cultural centres, art spaces, libraries, or coworking spaces. These projects aim to promote creativity, citizen participation, and the development of the cultural economy.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## SPAIN

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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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## SPAIN

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**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.

### **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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## SPAIN

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**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.**

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## SPAIN

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### SDG 11: ACTIONS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE IN SPAIN

In Spain, actions are being taken to achieve the objectives of SDG 11 and promote a more liveable, 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 liveable and inclusive community.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## TURKEY

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### 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.



# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## TURKEY

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### CURRENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN TURKEY

- **Urban Transformation Policies:** Urban transformation policies play a significant role in the redevelopment of abandoned areas and the creation of sustainable urban spaces. Urban transformation projects aim to transform derelict areas into more liveable 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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## TURKEY

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### LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN TURKEY

#### Level of Knowledge and Tools for Young People in Turkey

In Turkey, universities like Istanbul Technical University (ITU) offer programs related to urban planning, sustainability, and architecture to educate young people on sustainable urban development. Youth-led organizations and environmental NGOs focus on sustainability and urban planning, providing opportunities for engagement and learning. Youth-led events, workshops, and campaigns also promote awareness of sustainable urban planning. However, knowledge levels can vary based on access to education, exposure, and socioeconomic disparities. To raise awareness among youth about urban regeneration planning, digital resources, and tools can be utilized.

- 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/>) Istanbul Bilgi University – Urban Regeneration Research Center: The centre conducts research and provides resources on urban regeneration projects, including reports and publications. (Website: <https://www.bilgi.edu.tr/>)

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## TURKEY

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### LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN TURKEY

- 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 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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## TURKEY

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### LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN TURKEY

The level of knowledge about planning among young people in Turkey is influenced by multiple factors. Those pursuing academic programs related to planning, like urban planning, architecture, or geography, tend to have a deeper understanding of planning principles and practices. Young professionals working in planning-related fields gain practical knowledge and experience in planning processes. In terms of awareness, young people are increasingly conscious of urban challenges and sustainable development, influenced by media, social movements, and global discussions. Access to information, including online platforms, publications, and academic engagement, also contributes to their knowledge. Participation in community initiatives and hands-on experiences, such as local projects and urban planning competitions, deepens their understanding. However, knowledge levels may vary due to factors like access to education, exposure to planning-related issues, socioeconomic disparities, and individual interests.

### SDG 11: ACTIONS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE IN TURKEY

**Urban Regeneration:** İzmir Bayraklı Project aims to transform a deteriorated area into a sustainable district, involving demolishing old buildings, constructing earthquake-resistant structures, developing green spaces, and improving infrastructure.

**Sustainable Transportation:** Istanbul's Public Transportation System expansion includes metro lines, tramways, and BRT systems to reduce traffic congestion, enhance air quality, and offer sustainable transport options.

**Green Buildings:** Turkey implements LEED certification in various buildings, focusing on sustainable design, energy-efficient systems, and green materials.

**Disaster Resilience:** Earthquake-resistant housing projects like TOKI housing complexes improve building safety and resilience in Turkey's seismically active region.

**Urban Green Spaces:** Göztepe Park, Istanbul, exemplifies creating green spaces within cities, offering recreation, biodiversity promotion, and community well-being.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## GREECE

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### 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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## GREECE

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### THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT IN URBAN REGENERATION PLANNING AMONG GREEK YOUTH

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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## GREECE

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### THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT IN URBAN REGENERATION PLANNING AMONG GREEK YOUTH

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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## GREECE

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### **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.



# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## BELGIUM

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### 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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## BELGIUM

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### THE CURRENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE REUSE OF ABANDONED SPACES IN BELGIUM

- **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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## BELGIUM

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### THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT IN URBAN REGENERATION 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 neighbourhood 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.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## BELGIUM

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### THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING AMONG YOUTH IN BELGIUM

In Belgium, youth's knowledge of sustainable urban planning has been shaped by several factors since September 2021. The educational system introduced these concepts in relevant fields, and the country's strong tradition of environmental awareness and activism, especially among the youth, contributed to raising awareness. Access to information via various media channels and active participation in community initiatives also played a role. However, the level of awareness and knowledge may vary across regions in Belgium and could change due to evolving curricula and government initiatives.

In terms of youth involvement in urban planning, initiatives like the "teenage space network plan" in Wilrijk District were developed in collaboration with young teens, focusing on designing public spaces that meet teenagers' needs. Similarly, the town of Beerse involves youths aged 12 to 25 in decision-making for the municipal budget, based on their input from the "Let Us Hear from You" study. Youth organizations in the area frequently engage with energetic young people to implement these ideas, especially in infrastructure for children and young people.

# SITUATION ANALYSIS & REVIEW

## BELGIUM

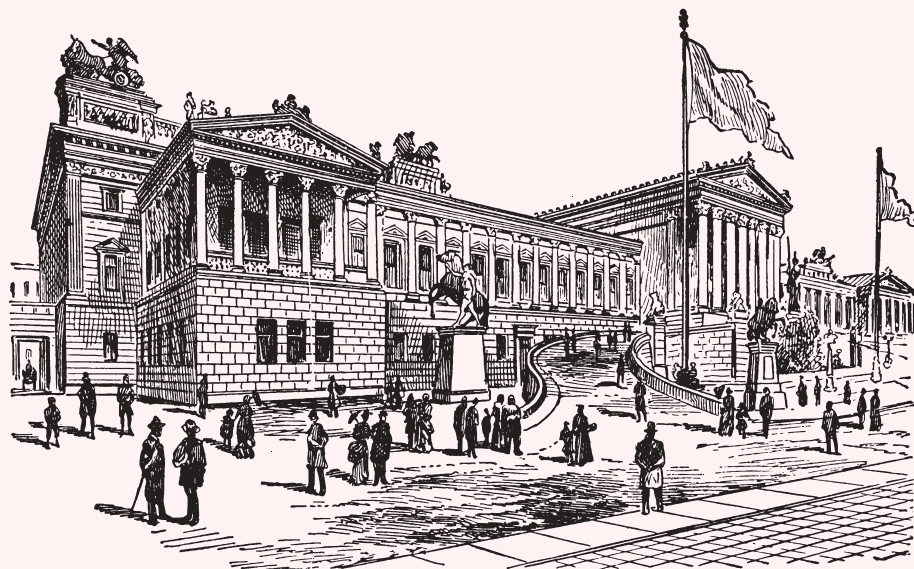
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### SDG11: A CRUCIAL STEP TOWARDS A MORE HABITABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY IN BELGIUM. ACTIONS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE

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 liveable urban landscape.

# AUSTRIA

## BEST PRACTICES



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### **1** CITY FARM IN VIENNA

The City Farm is an urban garden located in the heart of Vienna, specifically in the Augarten area. It stands as the first and largest urban garden in the city. This community-driven initiative is dedicated to promoting the diversity of vegetables and provides a wide range of engaging and educational programs and events throughout the year.

### **2** DONAUKANAL COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Donaukanal Community Garden, founded in 2013, is a place for encounter, recreation, and creativity. It's designed as a space where there's no pressure to consume, emphasizing the love of gardening and the joy of a green oasis in an urban environment. The garden is also a thriving ecosystem for butterflies, bees, birds, and insects, fostering a diverse community of plants, animals, and people.

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### **3** GRÄTZLGÄRTEN 9

The Grätzlgärten Alsergrund association, in collaboration with the Local Agenda 21 and Alsergrund district council, has established a neighbourhood garden near the Narrenturm on the old General Hospital grounds. This garden emphasizes community engagement, bringing people of diverse backgrounds closer through gardening, connecting with nature, and contributing to local sustainability.

### **4** WIENEN HOUSE

In the Wieden House, gardening enthusiasts have transformed two terraces into a thriving community garden with 16 raised pallet beds. They cultivate herbs, lettuce, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, and more. In 2021, the agenda group expanded the project with five additional raised beds in the newly designed Wanda Lanzer Park.

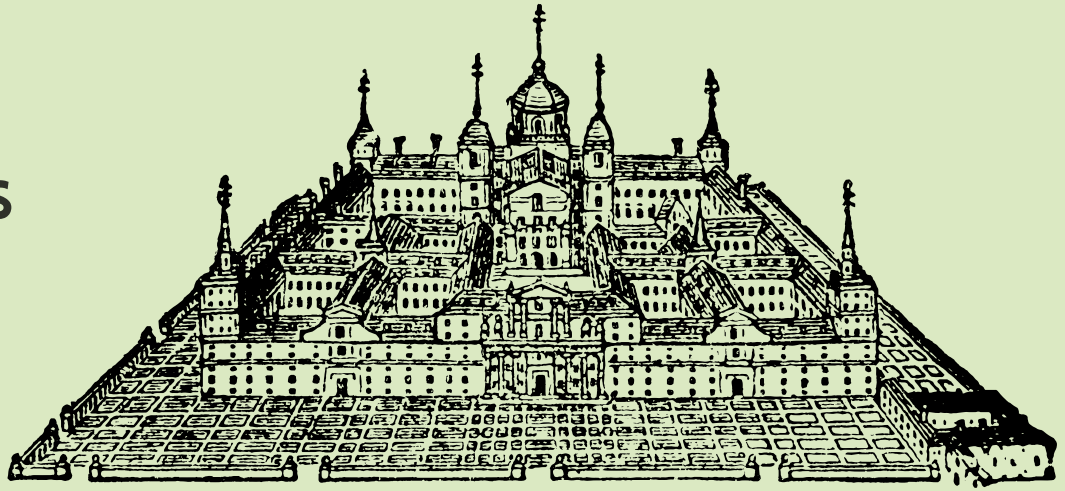
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### **5** SALAT PIRATES

The Salad Pirates is an association for the promotion of urban agriculture in urban areas. 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

# SPAIN

## BEST PRACTICES



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### **1** CITY 30 SPAIN

Madrid's "Ciudad 30" initiative, part of its Environmental Sustainability Strategy, has reduced speed limits to 30 km/h in select areas. This aims to enhance road safety, create pedestrian-friendly spaces, and improve residents' quality of life. Ciudad 30 sets a precedent for safer, greener, and more inclusive urban spaces.

### **2** BARCELONA'S SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY PLAN (PMUS)

Spain's sustainable mobility plans, like Barcelona's PMUS, aim to make urban transportation greener and more efficient. They promote public transit, walking, cycling, and shared mobility to cut emissions. Barcelona's PMUS has cut emissions, improved air quality, and increased public transport and active mobility use, reducing congestion and enhancing the city's transportation network.

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### **3** MARÍA LUISA PARK IN SEVILLE

María Luisa Park in Seville is a prime example of an urban green oasis in Spain's city center. It offers diverse spaces and activities, from gardens to iconic monuments like the Plaza de España. These urban green spaces aim to create a natural environment, improve well-being, preserve biodiversity, and promote environmental education.

### **4** CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRACTICES

Spain's circular economy is characterized by robust waste recycling and reuse system. It promotes waste separation and recycling of materials like paper, glass, plastic, and metals, with selective collection systems in cities. The initiative aims to reduce waste, boost reuse and recycling, optimize resource use, foster innovative business models, create jobs, support sustainable economic development, and reduce environmental impact.

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### **5** BUILDING ENERGY REHABILITATION

Spain's energy retrofitting strategy is pivotal for environmental sustainability. By integrating renewable energy like solar panels, improving energy efficiency with LED lighting and smart systems, and enhancing building envelopes through insulation and high-performance windows, Spain addresses environmental challenges and reduces its carbon footprint. Beyond environmental benefits, energy retrofitting leads to cost savings, higher property values, job creation, and economic growth, reflecting Spain's commitment to a sustainable, energy-secure future.

# TURKEY

## BEST PRACTICES



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### **1** HASANPAŞA GASHOUSE

The Hasanpaşa Gasworks project in Kadıköy, Istanbul, has successfully turned an old industrial site into a lively cultural centre and energy museum. Collaborating with the local community and professionals, the project repurposed the gasworks and its surroundings to create a multifunctional space, including restaurants, libraries, theatres, and museums.

### **2** THE BOMONTIADA PROJECT

The Bomontiada project in Şişli, Istanbul, has successfully revitalized the Bomonti industrial zone and turned the historic brewery into a vibrant cultural, dining, and entertainment hub. The project aims to attract a diverse range of visitors and enhance the neighbourhood's livability. It prioritizes creating a dynamic gathering place and preserving the historic character of the area.

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### **3** ISTANBUL MUSEUM OF MODERN ARTS

The Istanbul Modern Museum project has repurposed a former warehouse into a leading institution for modern and contemporary art in Turkey. The museum offers a range of cultural activities, exhibitions, and educational programs, with the goal of engaging both local and international audiences.

### **4** KADIR HAS UNIVERSITY

The Kadir Has University project, housed in a historic tobacco factory, is an outstanding example of adaptive reuse and restoration. It preserves the factory's original identity while integrating modern elements for a contemporary educational institution. The project's purpose is to sustainably conserve the factory, celebrate its heritage, and provide a high-quality educational space.

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### **5** SEKA PARK

Seka Park, formerly a paper factory, has transformed into one of the world's largest urban parks spanning 580 acres. It combines industrial heritage preservation with ecological design, featuring lush landscapes and multiple transportation options. The park offers museums, recreational areas, and restaurants while preserving historic structures. It serves as a model for industrial land repurposing, elevating the city's well-being, and attracting visitors.



# GREECE

## BEST PRACTICES



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### **1** ELLINIKON METROPOLITAN PARK

The Athens International Airport, which closed in 2001, is being transformed into Europe's largest coastal park, known as the Metropolitan Park Ellinikon. The project aims to provide a restorative landscape for Athenians, connecting them with nature and their cultural heritage. The park incorporates the airport's history, preserves the terminal hall, and adds over 30,000 trees for biodiversity.

### **2** EMPORIKO TRIGONO OF ATHENS

The initiative focuses on the preservation and sustainable development of a triangular area in Athens encompassing Ermou Street, Athinas Street, and Peiraios Street. It aims to address issues related to unnecessary land use, preserve green spaces, and promote sustainable urban planning and historical character preservation in the city centre.

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### **3** THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The initiative focuses on repurposing the historic FIX brewery building in Athens into a contemporary art museum. This project aims to preserve architectural heritage while fostering cultural exchange and public engagement through exhibitions and educational programs. It contributes to Athens' cultural revitalization, preserves architectural heritage, and brings international recognition to the city's art scene.

### **4** THE CITY OF VOLOS

Volos, Greece, has undertaken an initiative to repurpose and revitalize five abandoned industrial buildings within the city's urban area. This practice preserves the city's historical identity while creating new public spaces for various functions, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing the city's image.

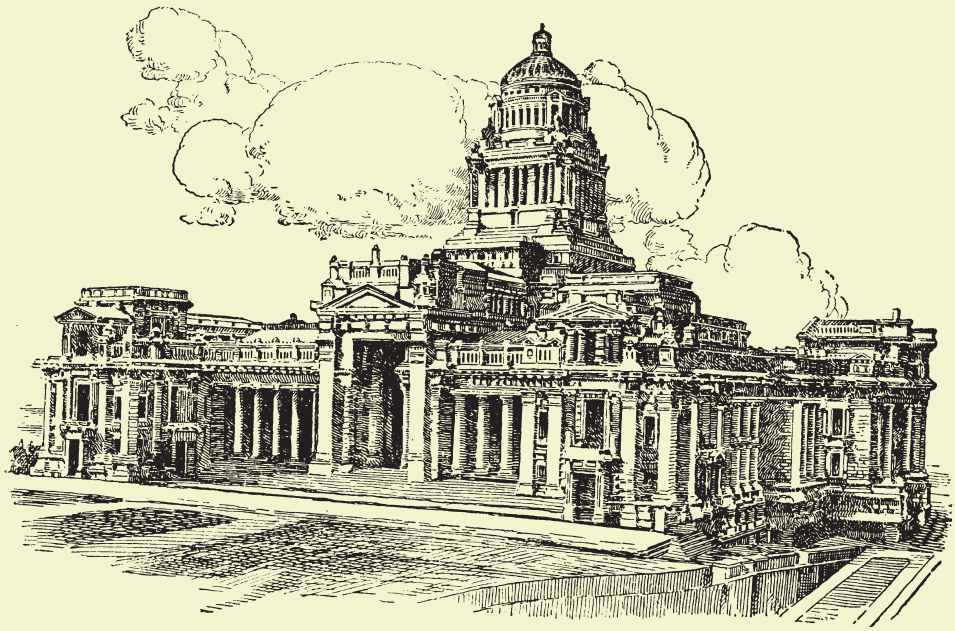
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### **5** THE PIRAEUS PORT

Piraeus, Greece's largest port, is undergoing a major urban regeneration effort with projects like extending the metro line, repurposing the SILO building into a Museum of Underwater Antiquities, revitalizing the Piraeus Tower, restoring the Old Railway Station, and remodelling the Mikrolimano coastal area. These initiatives improve transportation, preserve cultural heritage, and create sustainable, green, and recreational spaces, attracting investment and boosting the city's economic growth and vibrancy.

# BELGIUM

## BEST PRACTICES



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### **1** THE PROJECT HAL5

In Leuven, the "Hal5" project revitalized a historic railway hall behind the station, emphasizing sustainability and community enrichment. Hal5 features food, exercise, community building, and sustainable entrepreneurship initiatives. It was developed and financed by users and community members.. The project embodies the spirit of 'city making' and promotes inclusivity through collaboration with 15 partners.

### **2** THE SLUISPARK PROJECT

Sluispark in Leuven's Vaartkom neighbourhood is a green, sustainable urban park focused on enhancing community life and environmental consciousness. It integrates the Dyle River, offering recreational opportunities and educational experiences. The park's aesthetic appeal improves the neighbourhood's attractiveness and has won the European Green Leaf award for its sustainability.

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### **3** THE BUURBOOMGAARD PROJECT

The Buurboomgaard project revitalizes neglected urban areas by creating neighbourhood orchards and fostering community engagement, sustainable food practices, and environmental consciousness. Volunteers plant, care for, and harvest fruit trees, promoting connections among neighbours and shared gardening knowledge. These orchards support local food production, reduce carbon emissions from transportation, minimize food waste, and provide educational opportunities.

### **4** BELEXPO

BELEXPO is an educational initiative for youth aged 10 to 16, focusing on climate change and sustainable urban living. It uses interactive exhibits, workshops, guided tours, and technology like augmented reality to engage and educate. Participants learn about topics like renewable energy, waste reduction, and urban planning. BELEXPO also provides resources for continued learning and encourages young people to get involved in environmental initiatives.

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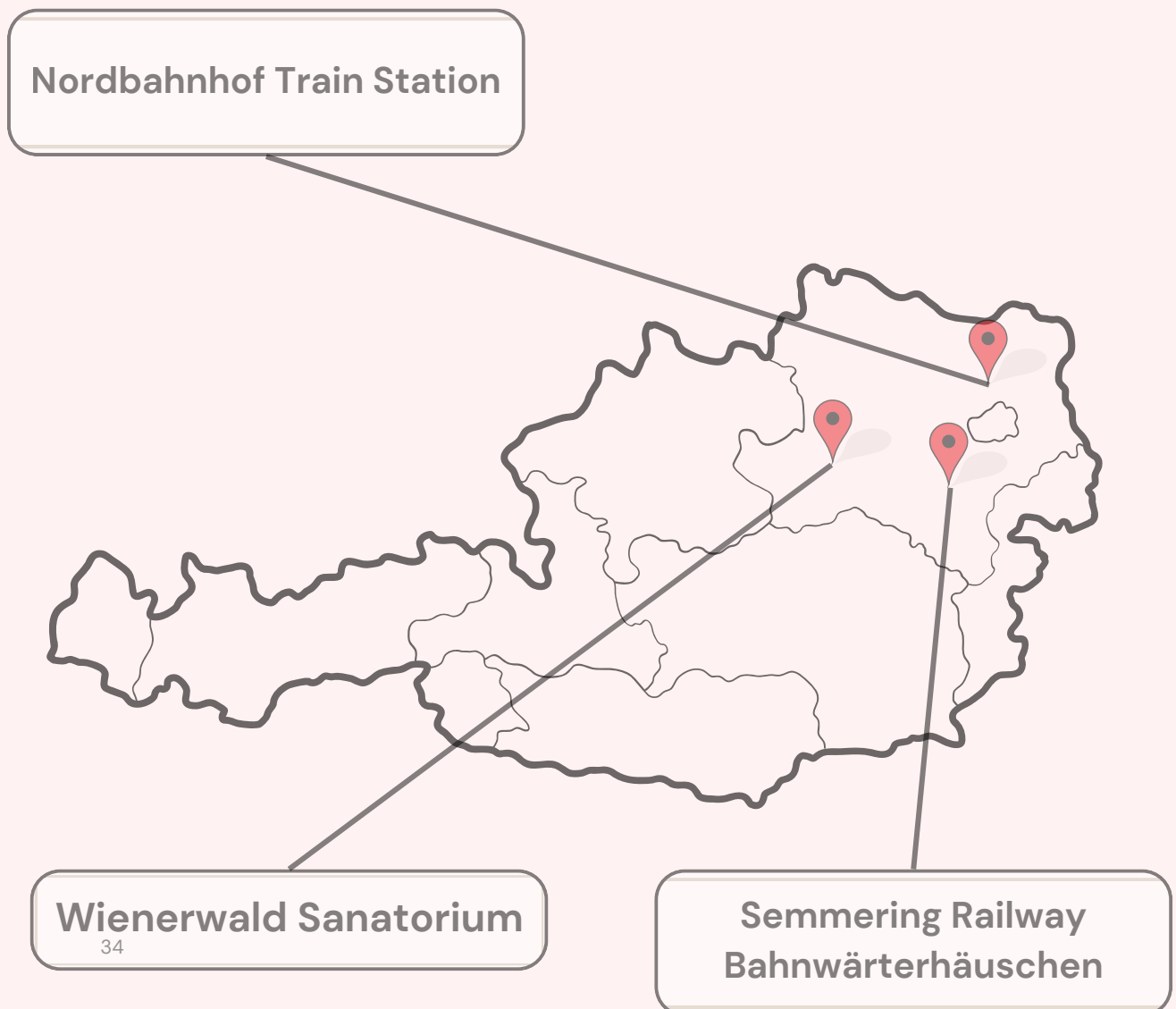
### **5** BRUSSELS URBAN TRANSPORT MUSEUM (MTUB)

The Brussels Urban Transport Museum (MTUB) is a project that preserves and celebrates the history of urban transportation. It restores historic vehicles like trams, buses, and taxis and operates through dedicated volunteers. The project began with a committee of transportation enthusiasts, involving extensive research and repurposing a historic tram depot. MTUB promotes community involvement and environmental awareness by showcasing the evolution of urban mobility.

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## AUSTRIA

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# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## AUSTRIA

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### Wienerwald Sanatorium

The Wienerwald Sanatorium in Vienna Woods once stood as a sanctuary for those battling tuberculosis. However, time has rendered it a haunting relic, abandoned and engulfed in decay. The dilapidated state of the buildings poses significant safety risks, warranting caution and awareness of potential legal restrictions for those tempted to explore its forsaken halls.

Regrettably, this abandoned edifice has become a hotbed for unauthorized activities, its solemn halls violated by occult gatherings and vandalism. Such incidents have stirred concern among neighbors and the local community, prompting official measures to curb entry. The area is now under the vigilance of a security service, with surveillance cameras in place to deter trespassers. The property, known as the former “Wienerwald Home” in Feichtenbach near Pernitz, remains under strict scrutiny due to the ongoing decay and safety hazards.

Complicating matters further, the ownership of this forsaken complex rests with elusive German proprietors, shielded behind a veil of anonymity and represented in Austria through a law firm based in Vienna. Communication channels with the property owners remain indirect, posing challenges for local authorities, including Mayor Hubert Postiasi (ÖVP), in their efforts to address the situation.

While the presence of the Wienerwald Sanatorium has cast a shadow over the surrounding community, local authorities are actively seeking viable solutions for its rehabilitation. Various proposals have surfaced, including the idea of repurposing the space to accommodate Long Covid patients, an endeavor supported by two SPÖ national councilors. However, concrete plans remain elusive, as the owners are still in the initial stages of exploring potential development and renovation options.

Despite its past and the challenges it presents to the community, efforts persist to transform the Wienerwald Sanatorium into a potential beacon of revitalization and purpose. The search for viable solutions continues, driven by the aspiration to reclaim this historic space while mitigating its negative impact on the local area.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYGxAbq3Kxk>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## AUSTRIA

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### Semmering Railway Bahnwärterhäuschen

The railway houses near the Semmering Railway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stand as echoes of history, once serving as abodes for railway workers. While some of these quaint houses have fallen into disrepair and abandonment, the Semmering Railway itself continues to function, celebrated for its architectural and engineering marvels.

A comprehensive management plan has been devised by relevant national and local authorities in Austria with a clear objective: to safeguard, explore, and encapsulate the intrinsic values that earned the Semmering Railway its place on the World Heritage List. The plan seeks to convert these values into tangible development objectives while establishing a robust institutional framework for managing this World Heritage area.

The core focus of the management plan is to preserve, utilize, and sustainably develop both the known and yet-to-be-discovered treasures within the Semmering Railway vicinity. Embracing the principles and recommendations of the World Heritage Convention, this plan articulates values, future aspirations, and strategic pathways to be pursued. It delineates short, medium, and long-term goals, firmly rooted in existing legal frameworks encompassing federal, state, and municipal laws, binding documents, and decrees, as well as local and supra-local planning initiatives.

By meticulously preserving the physical structures that form the World Heritage site and encapsulating the historical narratives intertwined within it, the management plan aims to foster a rich cultural and historical experience. This preservation is expected to resonate with both visitors and locals alike, particularly those drawn to the area's enthralling hiking trails. It not only serves as a magnet for tourists seeking to delve into the region's rich history but also fosters a sense of pride and appreciation among local communities for their heritage.

Link: [https://www.initiative-denkmalschutz.at/denkmail/Denkmail\\_Nr\\_10\\_web.pdf](https://www.initiative-denkmalschutz.at/denkmail/Denkmail_Nr_10_web.pdf)

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## AUSTRIA

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### Nordbahnhof Train Station

The history of the Nordbahnhof in Vienna spans back to its inauguration on 6th January 1838. Swiftly becoming inadequate due to surging passenger volumes, the station underwent reconstruction, culminating in the erection of a new station building near Praterstern between 1858 and 1865.

Designed akin to an exhibition structure, the station was meticulously planned by multiple architects, adorned by sculptors and fresco painters. Upon its opening on 15th November 1865, it burgeoned into one of Europe's eminent stations during the Austria-Hungary era, serving as Vienna's principal railway hub linking the city with destinations like Brno, Prague, and Warsaw. For many immigrants, it was their gateway to Vienna. Moreover, the neighboring Nordwestbahnhof, inaugurated in 1872, facilitated train traffic to Germany and its seaports. However, World War II inflicted severe damage upon the station through bombings, resulting in its subsequent abandonment.

Fast forward to the present, a transformative endeavor is underway to repurpose the Nordbahnhof site into a 10-hectare nature and park area, slated for completion by 2025. Embracing the historical essence of the site characterized by its railway systems and varying elevations, the "Freie Mitte" integrates iconic landmarks like the water tower and one of Austria's oldest railway bridges. The area's rich biodiversity is preserved, maintaining an urban wilderness, while wooden walkways enhance accessibility.

This project, heralded as the "new green oasis at Nordbahnhof," introduces expansive public spaces and parks within the Nordbahnviertel. Beyond offering recreational havens for local residents, these redesigned spaces wield a positive climatic impact, benefiting not only the immediate vicinity but also neighboring districts. The endeavor not only pays homage to the area's historical significance but also catalyzes a rejuvenated, nature-infused landscape for communal enjoyment and environmental sustenance.

Link: <https://mahlerfoundation.org/mahler/locations/austria/vienna/nordbahnhof-railway-station/>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## SPAIN

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# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## SPAIN

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### Olmeda de la Cuesta

Olmeda de la Cuesta, a village nestled 52 km away from Cuenca in Spain, stands at an elevation of 899 meters. With a mere 21 inhabitants, it bears the mark of "Empty Spain," a testament to its sparse population, an issue now at its most challenging juncture.

In a bid to revitalize and populate this haven, the town council has taken proactive measures. A visionary initiative involves the auctioning of land parcels at an enticing cost averaging between 5 to 10 euros per square meter, beckoning prospective settlers to forge new roots within its rustic confines. Efforts also aim to reduce housing costs while championing the town's rich heritage and the allure of its natural and touristic treasures.

An innovative focal point of this revitalization is the proposed participatory greenhouse. Here, residents and youth would immerse themselves in cultivating traditional garden crops, nurturing a seedbed for these gardens and a sanctuary for replenishing native flora.

Concurrently, efforts to reclaim abandoned orchards, which currently pose fire hazards due to a year of harsh drought, aim to restore the village to its former glory. These endeavours not only safeguard against danger but also resurrect the essence of Olmeda de la Cuesta—the enduring stone walls, undulating slopes, and historic boundaries.

This resurgence holds promise for the revival of iconic local products like the celebrated area's cucumber, once more abundant through the reclaimed orchards. Furthermore, plans to restore two municipally-owned oil mills, alongside their sculpture parks, anticipate a surge in tourist allure, enriching the village's cultural tapestry.

Lastly, a pivotal focus rests on refurbishing the environs surrounding the Ermita de Santa Quiteria hermitage and delineating a guided access route. This strategic enhancement aims to elevate a natural vantage point located 1,100 meters away, poised to beckon and captivate tourists, bolstering the village's tourism prospects.

This comprehensive action plan endeavours to breathe new life into Olmeda de la Cuesta. It aspires not only to augment the population but also to herald tourism, enhance the village's aesthetic appeal, reinvigorate local produce, and stimulate the growth of the local economy. With these concerted efforts, Olmeda de la Cuesta envisages a revival, blending tradition with innovation and reclaiming its cherished place as a gem nestled in the heart of Spain.



# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## SPAIN

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### El Membrillo Bajo

El Membrillo Bajo, a village once nestled within Zalamea la Real in the southern province of Huelva, now lies in ruins. Once home to around a hundred residents, its past served as the backdrop for the novel 'La Raya del Miedo' (2003). The village met its demise in 1937, engulfed in flames and bombarded during the Civil War. This event forced its inhabitants to seek refuge in neighboring villages, marking the ruins of Membrillo Bajo as an official Site of Historical Memory.

This vestige of history falls under the jurisdiction of the municipality of Zalamea, which bears the responsibility of devising an action plan to reclaim its legacy. One idea is to leverage the land and remnants for filming purposes—inviting film, short film, or documentary projects. This initiative necessitates the town hall's collaboration with the film commission and the necessary landscaping and maintenance of the area. This initiative could involve recreating the village's past life through temporary installations and local actors portraying the roles of its former inhabitants.

Through this strategic action plan, Membrillo Bajo stands to regain its prominence. The concerted efforts not only promise increased visibility and attraction for tourists and film companies but also breathe new life into this historical site. By offering a platform to showcase its past and reimagine its former vibrancy, Membrillo Bajo is poised to transcend its current state of obscurity and become a thriving hub of cultural and cinematic interest.

Links:

<https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/organismos/turismoculturaydeporte/areas/cultura/memoria-democratica/lugares-memoria-democratica/paginas/aldea-membrillo-viejo.html>

<https://huelvabuenasnoticias.com/2016/08/14/los-pueblos-abandonados-de-la-provincia-de-huelva-que-un-dia-hicieron-historia/>

<https://www.revistalacomuna.com/cultura-y-memoria/membrillo-bajo-tierra-nuestra/>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## SPAIN

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### Aldealcardo

Aldealcardo, referred to as "The Village," stands as an abandoned medieval relic within the province of Soria. Once adorned with around twenty houses, its history took a turn in 1972 when all its residents sought a better life in the city of Soria, leaving the village desolate and devoid of inhabitants.

In this village, there is an abandoned church that could serve as a venue for special occasions like weddings, or baptisms. The allure lies in ceremonies within the historic church followed by outdoor receptions. However, realizing this vision requires extensive preparation. Collaborating with a wedding planning company becomes pivotal to orchestrating events while hiring a marketing agency to craft a strategy aimed at attracting potential clients.

This comprehensive action plan aspires to achieve two vital goals: revitalizing Aldealcardo and garnering attention for this forgotten gem. The concerted efforts aim to thrust the village into the limelight through strategic marketing campaigns and the spread of positive word-of-mouth. By offering a unique and picturesque setting for life's memorable celebrations, it is envisaged that Aldealcardo will not only reclaim its identity but also witness a revival through an influx of events and visitors.

Links: <https://www.lospueblosdeshabitados.net/2014/12/aldealcardo-soria.html>  
<https://despoblados.amigosdelmuseonumantino.es/despoblado-de-soria/aldealcardo/>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## TURKEY

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# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## TURKEY

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### Büyük Valide Han

The abandonment of a place, such as Büyük Valide Han, can have various negative impacts on both the site itself and the surrounding community. Historical sites like Büyük Valide Han have the potential to attract tourists and contribute to the tourism industry. Abandonment means missed opportunities for cultural and heritage tourism, which could have economic benefits for the community. Moreover, abandonment can hinder economic development in the vicinity. The unused space could have been repurposed for businesses or cultural activities, contributing to local economic growth.

To address these challenges and revitalize Büyük Valide Han, several strategies can be implemented. Restoration and preservation efforts are crucial to maintain the structural integrity and historical significance of the building. Public-private partnerships can provide the necessary funding and expertise for restoration projects, while cultural and educational initiatives can raise awareness and foster community engagement. Tourism development strategies can strategically integrate Büyük Valide Han into tourist itineraries, generating revenue and attracting visitors interested in Ottoman history and architecture.

Exploring adaptive reuse options and seeking grant programs can further support the revitalization efforts. Strengthening legislation for the protection of historical sites and collaborating with experts can ensure the long-term sustainability and preservation of Büyük Valide Han for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

Link: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/turkey/istanbul/bazaar-district/attractions/bueyuek-valide-han/a/poi-sig/1285590/1324697>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## TURKEY

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### Büyükada Greek Orphanage

The Büyükada Greek Orphanage, a historic wooden structure designed by architect Alexandre Vallaury in 1899, faces abandonment and neglect due to geopolitical changes and economic challenges. To save this cultural gem, stakeholders must collaborate, resolve legal issues, and conduct feasibility studies. Public-private partnerships can finance restoration, while community engagement and cultural programs raise awareness. Integration into tourism initiatives and international support are crucial. Sustainable restoration and regular maintenance are priorities. Immediate action is needed to prevent further decay and preserve this important heritage site for future generations.

Link: <https://www.bbc.com/turkce/haberler-turkiye-54401378>



# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## TURKEY

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### Cağaloğlu Pink Mansion

The Pink Mansion, a historic site in the Cağaloğlu district of Istanbul, holds significance as the location where the Ottoman Empire decided to enter the First World War and hosted the Cumhuriyet newspaper. However, since 1974, when the Cumhuriyet newspaper relocated, the mansion was left abandoned and eventually repurposed as a parking lot before its complete removal in April 2019.

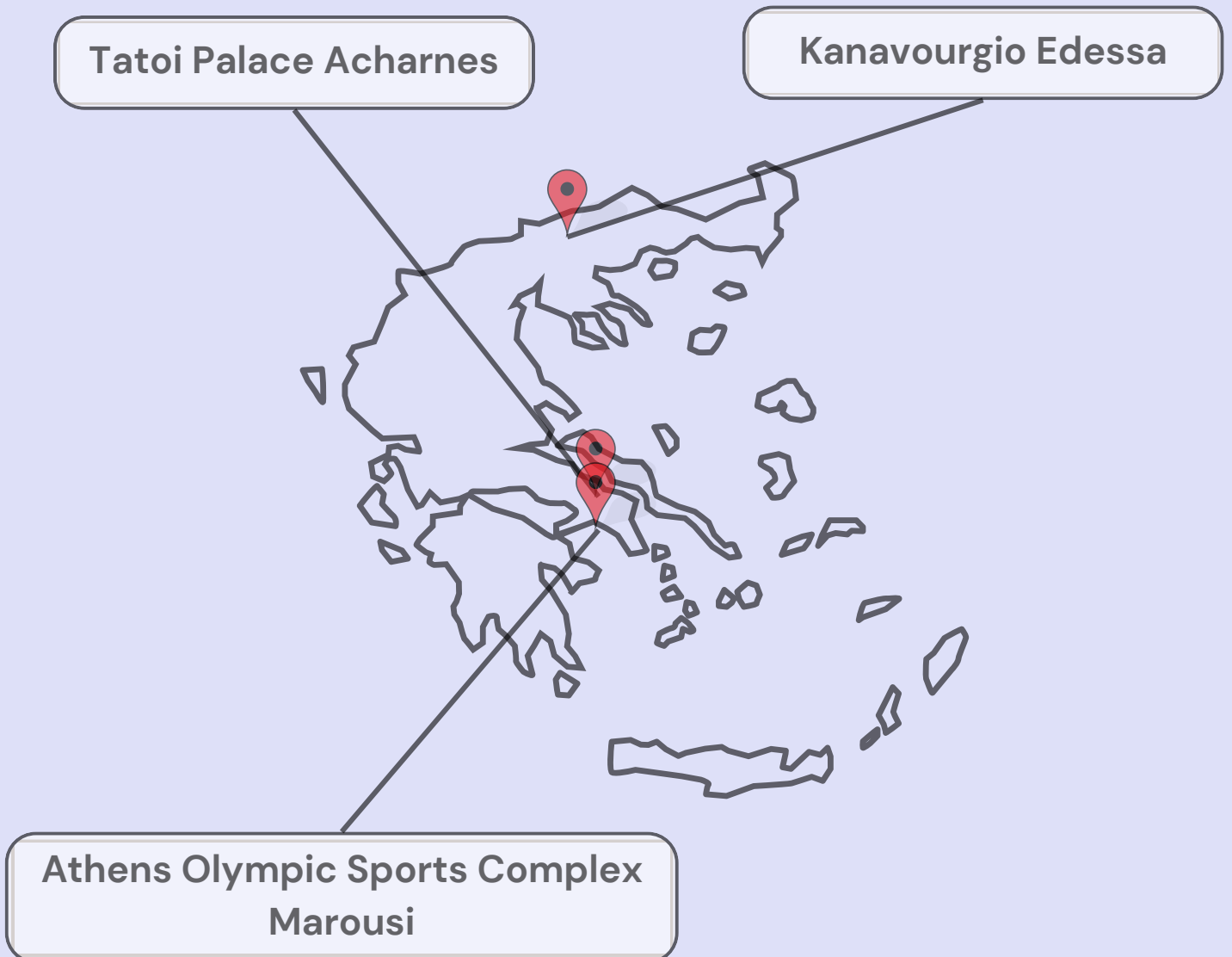
Addressing concerns about the Pink Mansion of Cağaloğlu requires collaboration among stakeholders. A thorough structural assessment must be conducted, and immediate safety measures implemented to prevent harm. Developing a comprehensive preservation and restoration plan, with input from heritage preservation organizations and experts, is essential. Engaging relevant government authorities to support the restoration project and obtain necessary permits is imperative.

Link: <https://www.indyturk.com/node/62036/k%C3%BClt%C3%BCr/bir-d%C3%B6nem-osmanl%C4%B1E2%80%99n%C4%B1n-y%C3%B6netildi%C4%9Fi-pembe-konak%E2%80%99tan-geriye-hi%C3%A7bir-%C5%9Fey-kalmad%C4%B1-bina>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## GREECE

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# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## GREECE

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### Athens Olympic Sports Complex Marousi

The Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA) is a significant architectural landmark originally constructed in the 1980s and renovated by architect Santiago Calatrava for the 2004 Summer Olympics. Despite its grandeur and once-vibrant use during the Games, OAKA now sits largely abandoned and in disrepair, facing common challenges encountered by former Olympic venues in finding sustainable post-event purposes. The complex was a multi-purpose arena, featuring a stadium, velodrome, badminton hall, and more, even hosting large-scale concerts by artists like Madonna, Bon Jovi, and U2.

Reusing OAKA poses economic and practical challenges due to its immense size and specialized facilities. To evaluate its current state and potential for redevelopment, a comprehensive assessment focusing on structural integrity, safety, and environmental impact is necessary. Additionally, a feasibility study considering maintenance costs, renovation expenses, and revenue opportunities must be conducted.

Collaboration among government entities, local authorities, and private investors is crucial for securing funding and support for the project. A clear vision for OAKA's reuse, whether as a sports and entertainment complex, cultural center, or mixed-use development, should be established. This vision should align with modern needs while preserving the complex's historical significance.

Renovation plans should address structural issues, modernize facilities, and incorporate sustainable design practices to minimize environmental impact. Marketing efforts aimed at attracting diverse users and visitors, along with partnerships with event organizers and a strong online presence, are essential for promoting OAKA's transformation. Revitalizing OAKA has the potential to benefit surrounding neighborhoods, stimulate economic activity, and serve as a cultural hub while preserving its historical importance. Through sustainable practices and international events, OAKA can symbolize unity and collaboration while attracting tourists interested in its rich history and architectural significance.



# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## GREECE

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### Kanavourgio Edessa

Kanavourgio, once the largest rope and twine production plant in Greece, was founded in 1908 but only began full operation in 1913. The machinery came to life thanks to the power generated by local waterfalls, enabling the daily transformation of imported Indian cannabis and hemp from Serbia and Greece into rope and twine. The factory thrived during its prime years from 1928 to 1940, employing around 150 workers, including many young women from nearby villages. However, the decline of the rope factory began after 1950, ultimately leading to its closure in 1966.

In the late 1990s, an attempt was made to repurpose the building. It was partially renovated and transformed into a restaurant and leisure centre. Later, it served as an event centre and museum. Unfortunately, these endeavours faced a lack of support, and in 2014, the factory was abandoned. The prospects for reusing the Kanavourgio factory largely depend on several factors, including local interest, available funding, and the preservation of its historical significance.

One option is to transform it into a historical museum, preserving the rich heritage of rope and twine production in the region. This endeavour would require significant investment in renovations and dedicated curatorial efforts to bring history to life.

Alternatively, the building could be repurposed into a cultural and event space, serving as a versatile venue for exhibitions, performances, and community gatherings. The key to success in this venture would be adequate support and effective promotion to attract a diverse range of events and audiences.

It could also be preserved as an industrial heritage site, providing visitors with the opportunity to explore the machinery and delve into the history of manufacturing in the area. Each of these options holds the promise of breathing new life into the space, offering unique experiences and opportunities for both locals and tourists alike.

Repurposing the factory as a historical museum or industrial heritage site would preserve the region's manufacturing history and attract tourists, benefiting local businesses.

Link: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/kanavourgio>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## GREECE

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### Tatoi Palace Acharnes

Tatoi Palace was a 10,000-acre estate that was primarily used as a summer residence for the Greek Royal Family. It was essentially a mini-village, featuring various houses, a winery, a butcher shop, two churches, and even a small archaeological museum. The estate was a place of relaxation and retreat for the royal family, and it also had historical and cultural significance due to the presence of the archaeological museum, housing findings from the area.

However, the history of Tatoi Palace is marked by periods of turbulence. During World War I, the main house of the estate was destroyed by fire. In the years following, there were challenges related to the property, with George II of the Hellenes briefly losing control of much of it. The German occupiers also caused significant damage to the estate during World War II, particularly to its extensive forested areas. The Greek monarchy ended, and the estate changed hands several times until 1994 when the Greek government, in a controversial move, confiscated all former royal estates, including Tatoi Palace.

The government initially had plans to turn the place into a museum, but financial difficulties and political disputes prevented this from happening. As of the present day, Tatoi Palace and its surroundings are in a state of disrepair and abandonment. The once-manicured gardens are now overgrown, sculptures are deteriorating due to exposure to the elements, and the old buildings have fallen into disrepair. There is also a royal cemetery on the estate where several members of the Greek Royal Family are buried, including George I of the Hellenes, George II of the Hellenes, and various princesses and duchesses.

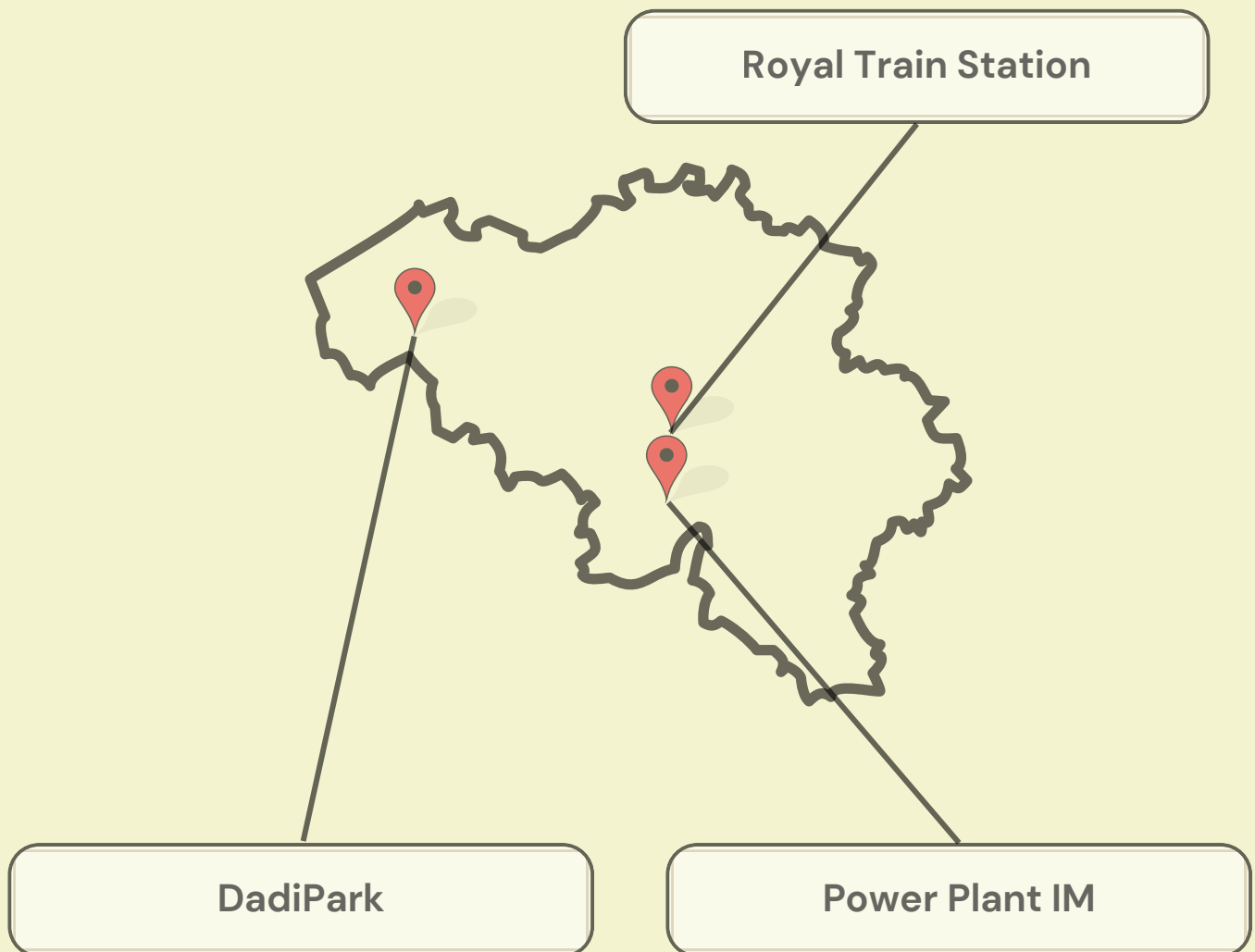
The prospects for reusing Tatoi Palace have been marred by financial challenges and political disputes, stalling plans to transform it into a museum. Currently abandoned, the palace's future hinges on potential shifts in government policies, funding availability, and preservation efforts. While its fate remains uncertain, there is a possibility that it could one day be restored and opened to the public as a historical site or museum.

Link: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/tatoi-palace>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## BELGIUM

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# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## BELGIUM

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### Power Plant IM

The closure of Power Plant IM in 2007, spurred by environmental concerns over its significant CO2 emissions, has left the site abandoned and slated for demolition. Despite security measures to deter trespassing, urban explorers still frequent the area, while discussions arise over its future.

Options for repurposing such industrial sites typically include demolition, land repurposing, historic preservation, community engagement, and green initiatives. In considering the potential impacts on urban gardening in the surrounding area, remediation efforts for soil contamination may be necessary due to the power plant's historical use.

However, repurposing the site for urban gardening or green spaces could positively influence local land use planning, aligning with growing environmental awareness and fostering community engagement. Educational opportunities stemming from the power plant's history could support initiatives for sustainable practices, enhancing both aesthetics and psychological well-being.

Furthermore, focusing on food production within urban gardening could bolster local food resilience and community cohesion. Yet, navigating safety, environmental concerns, and community involvement is essential in determining the site's redevelopment trajectory, with decisions resting in the hands of local authorities, community groups, and other stakeholders.

Link: <https://urbexvision.com/en/powerplantim/>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## BELGIUM

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### Royal Train Station

The solution for urban gardening at the abandoned royal train station involves a holistic approach that considers environmental, historical, and community factors. The royal train station, envisioned by King Leopold II in 1887, not only stands as an architectural legacy in Brussels but also holds cultural and historical significance, reflecting the monarch's influence on the city's public works.

Abandoned since the departure of the last train in 2001, the station has become a focal point for urban explorers, offering a unique lens into historical and architectural narratives. Its neglected state, marked by vandalism, adds an evocative layer to the urban landscape, presenting a symbol of change in transportation norms over time.

From an urban gardening perspective, the station's potential impact lies in its transformation. The site could undergo redevelopment, integrating green spaces or community gardens, contributing not only to the conservation of cultural heritage but also providing a sustainable and aesthetically pleasing addition to the local environment.

The integration of sustainable practices, preservation efforts, and community engagement can transform the site into a thriving urban garden, bringing both historical and contemporary value to the local community. The intersection of historical preservation, urban exploration, and the potential for urban gardening initiatives underscores the multifaceted nature of the station's impact on the urban fabric.

Link: <https://www.brusselstimes.com/196003/hidden-belgium-royal-dardenne-station>

# POTENTIAL ABANDONED & UNDERUTILIZED PLACES

## BELGIUM

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### DadiPark

Dadipark, situated in Dadizele, Belgium, stands as a symbol of historical and cultural significance, having operated as an amusement park since 1950 until its closure in 2003. Its shuttering marked the end of an era and posed economic challenges for local businesses that once thrived on the park's visitors.

Safety concerns and maintenance issues contributed to its closure, prompting discussions about the responsibility of preserving such facilities. The abandoned amusement park has become a focal point for potential redevelopment, with ongoing debates about its future use and the extent to which it should preserve its main elements. The impact of Dadipark on the local community hinges on decisions related to its redevelopment, potential economic revitalization, and community engagement in shaping the reuse of this once-entertainment destination.

Link: <https://www.pretparknostalgie.nl/dadipark-belgie/>



# CONCLUSION

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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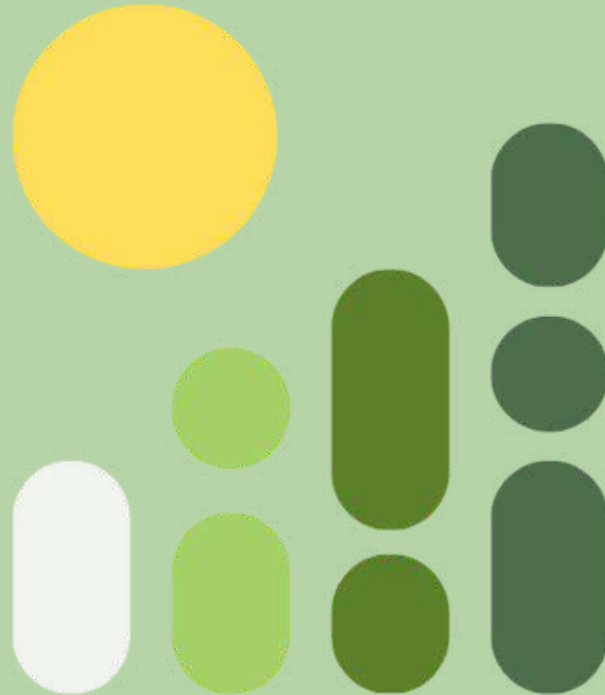
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