

# Newsletter 2

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European Union

**Interreg**  
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CICADA4CE



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## Presentation of latest activities

Anna Starzewska-Sikorska

Following the main objective of the CICADA4CE project, activities have started in each partner city to mobilize inhabitants around a key urban challenge – climate change. Urban Living Labs (ULLs) have been established in Břeclav (Czechia), Dubnica nad Váhom (Slovakia), Kranj (Slovenia), Nichelino (Italy), and Sosnowiec (Poland), and officially opened during dedicated events.

The launch of each ULL highlights the importance of this innovative way of involving stakeholders in urban development, especially regarding climate change adaptation. The project aims to show how social capital, experience, and creativity can contribute to new perspectives and approaches to adaptation. It seeks to foster opportunities for dialogue and co-creation, demonstrating a renewed model of social participation.

Though officially opened in April, the ULLs have been active since the early stages of the project, thanks to the strong engagement of partners – both cities and supporting research and consulting institutions. The ULL is a continuous process throughout the project.

Each roadmap includes activities to engage residents – especially students and seniors – and other stakeholders on climate change and nature-based solutions (NbS), their role and benefits. The goal is to support active, informed participation in shaping a key city document and to inspire a shift in how social inclusion is approached.



CITY OF KRANJ



# Pilot Actions – Urban Living Labs

## Smart Community Park – Climate adaptation in urban transformation (Dubnica nad Vahom - SK)



The Urban Living Lab in Dubnica nad Váhom promotes community engagement and sustainable development through education, innovation, and collaboration. It connects students, schools, local authorities, and citizens to co-create solutions for climate and environmental challenges, turning urban space into a shared learning environment. A key example was the student workshop on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, where pupils presented ideas for improving the Smart Community Park. Their creative work demonstrated how the Living Lab integrates sustainability into education and daily life. Beyond events, the Lab fosters teamwork, intergenerational dialogue, and a stronger local identity. By linking education, space, and innovation, the Dubnica Living Lab contributes to long-term resilience and connects to a broader European network working toward climate adaptation and sustainable urban transformation.

## Integrated system of innovations for thermal stress reduction and water retention (Břeclav – CZ)



The Urban Living Lab (ULL) in Břeclav was officially established on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The meeting of the initiative group took place at the pilot site in Charvatská Nová Ves, behind the Penny supermarket. Present were representatives of the Břeclav City Council, including the city architect, as well as representatives of the Na Valtické Primary School, the Na Valtické Kindergarten, and the Young Forum. All participants were welcomed by a short speech from Vice-Mayor Jakub Matuška.

The construction of pavements has been completed and will significantly improve accessibility in the area. The sidewalk design follows blue-green infrastructure principles, including on-site rainwater harvesting. The second phase - nature-friendly landscaping of the park - will follow soon. It will feature a rest area with seating and prepared sites for monitoring activities. Additional educational initiatives were also agreed upon in cooperation with the local primary school and kindergarten.

## Urban public space transformation to cool spot adapted to climate change (Kranj - SI).



The City of Kranj has successfully established an Urban Living Lab (ULL) to promote collaboration among diverse stakeholders. The ULL operates as a dynamic platform with sub-groups including youth, professionals, decision-makers, the public, and a pilot group. Before the official launch on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, several preparatory events were held. Students from the local gymnasium joined an Urban Walk led by climate experts. Activities were also part of Eco Week Kranj, encouraging community engagement. An interactive workshop with a climate quiz was held for younger audiences. The launch marked a key milestone for the project, showing the ULL's collaborative vision. It also involved two INTERREG projects: URBIO BAUHAUS and BeReady. More events will follow, including activities at Slovenski trg, a square in Kranj's Old City Centre identified as an urban heat island. This pilot site will show how green infrastructure can help mitigate climate change in heritage-protected areas.



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# Soft Pilot Actions – Urban Living Labs

## Soft pilot testing synergies of nature-based solutions and social innovations (Nichelino - IT)



The City of Nichelino, through its Urban Living Lab launched as part of the CICADA4CE project, is actively involving citizens in climate adaptation efforts. After presenting the project during the FLOReal Fair on April 5<sup>th</sup> and organizing a public walk in Boschetto Park (the pilot area) on April 11<sup>th</sup>, two new events are planned: an educational visit to the local apiary for World Bee Day on May 20, and a community clean-up on May 22<sup>nd</sup> as part of the "Let's Clean the World" initiative. Public engagement continues to grow.

## Soft pilot testing co-responsibility actions of young generation and seniors strengthening urban climate change resilience (Sosnowiec - PL).



On May 15, the city of Sosnowiec launched its Urban Living Lab as part of the CICADA4CE project, which focuses on climate adaptation in cities. The event included presentations on the project and local ULL approach, encouraging youth participation, and the signing of the ULL Declaration committing to sustainable urban action. The launch of the Urban Living Lab was accompanied by a youth workshop dedicated to designating locations in the city suitable for nature-based solutions. This is part of the activities within the living lab supporting the development of an action plan for the city's adaptation to climate change.

## Project meeting in Torino and Nichelino (IT)

On March 19–20, 2025, all CICADA4CE partners came together in Torino and Nichelino (Italy) for an important project meeting hosted by Fondazione LINKS and the City of Nichelino with the support of LAMORO Development Agency. The event took place across the headquarters of Fondazione LINKS and the stunning Stupinigi Hunting Lodge.

The first day was held at Fondazione LINKS with an introduction from the hosts, followed by an overview of project activities presented by the Project Coordinator Anna Starzewska-Sikorska. The meeting then focused on reviewing the progress of the Work Packages. Discussions covered the transnational conceptual framework for integrated actions in urban climate resilience and adaptation, including needs and challenges, available solutions, and the development of an expert pool and digital platform, as well as the setup of Urban Living Labs in pilot cities. Pilot cities also presented the status of their actions under WP2, highlighting joint efforts in testing ecosystem-based adaptation approaches. The day concluded with a discussion on lessons learned and knowledge transfer strategies, and a Project Steering Committee meeting.

On the second day, the group moved to the Stupinigi Hunting Lodge for the Kick-off Meeting of the Urban Living Lab of Nichelino. After a welcoming address by the Mayor of Nichelino, a roundtable discussion featured contributions on climate change adaptation, on mainstreaming adaptation into urban planning, and on nature-based solutions for resilience. The meeting ended with a guided tour of the historic building and a convivial working lunch.



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