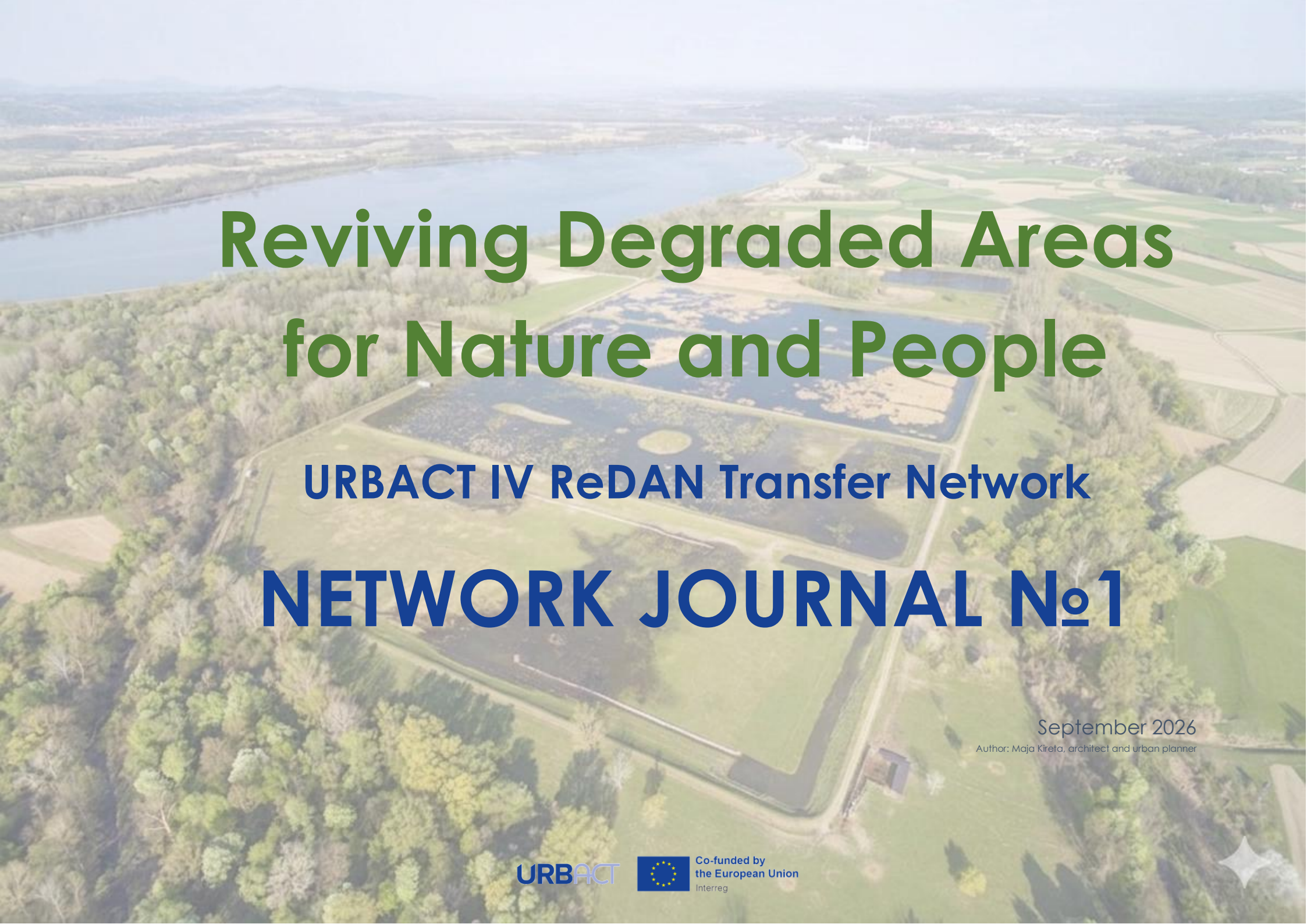


Reviving Degraded Areas for Nature and People

URBACT IV ReDAN Transfer Network

NETWORK JOURNAL №1

September 2026

Author: Maja Kireta, architect and urban planner

URBACT
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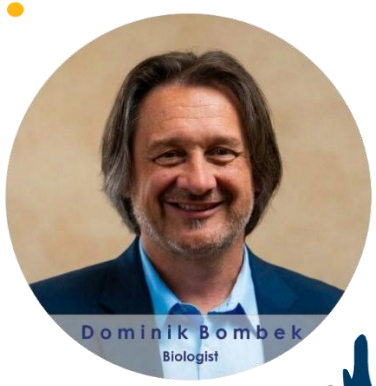
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1 Introduction

Laying the Foundations

The story of the URBACT Good Practice, Ormož Basins Nature Reserve in Slovenia, is a remarkable journey from industrial infrastructure to a thriving biodiversity hotspot. Located on the alluvial plain of the Drava River, the site was originally constructed in 1980 as a system of wastewater basins for the Ormož Sugar Factory. Designed to collect nutrient-rich wastewater from sugar beet processing, these shallow settling ponds unintentionally laid the ground for a valuable wetland habitat.

Razvojno raziskovalni center RRC Ormož



DOPPS

Recognizing its growing ecological importance, members of the association DOPPS BirdLife Slovenia identified the site in the 1980s as a critical habitat for migratory and breeding waterbirds. Following the closure of the sugar factory in 2006, dedicated conservation efforts led to the acquisition and ecological restoration of the land. Through targeted habitat management - including the introduction of water buffalos for natural vegetation control - the degraded industrial site was successfully transformed into an internationally recognized nature reserve.

In 2010, the Slovenian government officially protected the Ormož Basins, declaring it a wetland of national importance. Today, spanning over 66 hectares, this vibrant ecosystem supports 220 bird species, providing a vital sanctuary for wildlife while serving as an educational and ecotourism hub for the region.

URBACT IV Transfer Network



After three decades of dedicated work on establishing and developing the Ormož Basins Nature Reserve in Slovenia, The Ormož Development and Research Centre (RRC Ormož) took a bold and natural next step: applying as the Lead Partner for the URBACT IV Transfer Network. Building on thirty years of commitment to nature restoration, spatial transformation, and community integration, Ormož felt ready to share our journey and learn alongside other ambitious European cities.

Following a rigorous and competitive expert evaluation process by URBACT, the project was officially approved in October 2026.

The ReDAN (Reviving Degraded Areas for Nature and People) Transfer Network focuses on transferring Good Practice in ecological restoration, sustainable spatial planning, and participatory governance. It addresses the critical challenge of revitalizing neglected, degraded, or natural urban and peri-urban spaces, turning them into vibrant, resilient, and accessible public assets.

A 30-month transfer journey guiding collaborative work through to the end of 2028 has officially been embarked upon. Moving forward together, this shared path brings together a diverse partnership of European cities: Alcanena (Portugal), Bogovinje (North Macedonia), Limerick (Ireland), Priboj (Serbia), Srebrenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Yaremche (Ukraine).

To navigate this complex process, the network is supported by Maja Kireta, an experienced architect and spatial planner from Croatia who is an URBACT Lead Expert for Strategic Urban Planning and Urban Design.

2 City visits

Alcanena, Portugal

The Lead Expert's visit to the project target area and challenges in Alcanena took place from January 27 to 29 2026.



The Municipality of Alcanena plans to implement an innovative solution inspired by a best practice from the city of Ormož: the creation of a wetland system near the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), using macrophyte and riparian plants to promote the regeneration of gallery forest alongside Ribeiro do Carvalho, contributing to increase in biodiversity and water source protection and simultaneously filtering wastewater. This approach will support the ambitious goal of achieving "zero discharge", contributing to environmental protection and sustainability.

Through its participation, Câmara Municipal de Alcanena reinforces its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and territorial development, placing nature at the core of solutions to urban challenges.



Bogovinje, North Macedonia

The Lead Expert's visit to the project target area and challenges in Bogovinje took place from March 31 to April 2 2026.



The Municipality of Bogovinje is committed to promoting sustainable development through NbS and improved environmental management. Our focus within the network is the Bogovinje River, a natural resource that plays an important role in biodiversity, water supply, agriculture, and community well-being.

Along the banks of the Bogovinje River the challenges such as riverbank degradation, erosion, and illegal waste disposal threaten the natural environment. Bogovinje aims to explore innovative and sustainable solutions that will restore the river corridor, strengthen community engagement, improve ecological resilience, and create a more attractive and accessible public space.

By working together with the local stakeholders and ReDAN partners, Bogovinje looks forward to exchanging knowledge and developing practical Nature-based Solutions that contribute to a greener and more resilient future for Bogovinje.



Limerick, Ireland



The Lead Expert's visit to the project target area and challenges in Limerick took place from March 4 to 5 2026.

> Limerick City and County Council is adapting and applying the regeneration model developed by the Lead partner while also sharing their own local knowledge and experience.

The focus is Groody Valley, where the aim is to protect and enhance biodiversity, connect people with nature and balance conservation with thoughtful improvements.

Through ReDAN, Limerick brings valuable experience in Green and Blue Infrastructure, biodiversity protection and sustainable urban development. Its work in Groody Valley shows how degraded or underused landscapes can become important spaces for nature, local communities and long-term climate resilience.



Priboj, Serbia

The Lead Expert's visit to the project target area and challenges in Priboj took place from March 26 to 27 2026.



The Municipality of Priboj is committed to transforming degraded areas into sustainable, nature-rich spaces. Priboj aims to restore degraded land at the confluence of Lim and Uvac rivers, turning it into an area with higher biodiversity and ecological value.

Planned approaches include rain gardens, planting of native species, and improvement of the ecological, aesthetic and functional quality. Another important focus is the involvement of the local community through educational and recreational spaces. The installation of information boards will support environmental education for students, residents and visitors, while raising awareness.



Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Lead Expert's visit to the project target area and challenges in Srebrenica took place from March 24 to 25 2026.



Srebrenica is known for its rich natural heritage, including the Drina River, Lake Perućac, the medicinal Guber springs, and the Drina National Park. Protecting these valuable ecosystems while supporting sustainable local development is one of the Municipality's key priorities.

Srebrenica is focusing on a degraded bay area along Lake Perućac, which faces challenges related to floating waste, illegal dumping, environmental pollution, and pressures on aquatic ecosystems. Through knowledge exchange and cooperation with project partners, the municipality aims to explore innovative and sustainable solutions for restoring this valuable natural area.

Srebrenica seeks to strengthen local capacities, improve environmental management, and create long-term benefits for both nature and the local community.



Yaremche, Ukraine

The Lead Expert's visit to the project target area and challenges in Yaremche took place online on March 12 2026.



Yaremche Municipality is exploring ways to regenerate an underused area along the Prut River, drawing on the Ormož Good Practice shared through the ReDAN network while building on its own local experience and priorities.

The Municipality's focus is the riverside area, aiming to enhance the natural environment, improve public spaces and strengthen the connection between people and nature through Nature-based Solutions.

Within the ReDAN project, Yaremche seeks to develop a more sustainable approach to the area, protecting biodiversity and making better use of the riverfront for both residents and visitors.





3 Communication plan



The Communication Plan defines the main communication objectives, target audiences, key messages, communication channels, milestones, actions, budget principles, monitoring approach and contact details for the ReDAN network. It is designed as a practical working document for the Lead Partner, the Network Communication Officer, the Lead Expert and all Project Partners.

The Communication Plan has been developed in accordance with the URBACT IV Programme Manual – October 2024, with particular reference to the requirements for communication at network level. It also builds on the Terms of Reference for the URBACT IV Call for Transfer Networks, the ReDAN Application Form, the URBACT network communication plan template and the ReDAN branding document.

The plan is conceived as a living and operational document for the entire duration of the ReDAN network. It will be reviewed and updated when necessary, in order to reflect the development of the transfer process, the evolving needs of the partnership, communication opportunities arising during implementation.

Details are available in the full *Network communication plan* document.

4 Transferability Study

The Transferability Study represents one of the foundational steps in the URBACT ReDAN Transfer Network, laying the analytical and strategic groundwork for a successful process of knowledge exchange. Its primary ambition is to systematically assess how the Ormož Good Practice can be adapted, scaled, and effectively implemented across diverse urban and ecological contexts within the partner cities.

TRANSFERABLE ELEMENTS

- ✓ **Spatial & legal frameworks** for land transformation
- ✓ **Stakeholder engagement** tools
- ✓ **Habitat restoration** techniques
- ✓ **Education & awareness** models
- ✓ **Light tourism and sustainable agriculture** integration

Rather than attempting a direct or rigid replication of the Lead Partner's experience, the study emphasizes contextual adaptability. Each participating city possesses unique geographical, regulatory, socio-economic, and environmental characteristics. Consequently, the study functions as a diagnostic tool that evaluates both the opportunities and the potential barriers inherent to

each local ecosystem. By thoroughly examining technical feasibility, spatial conditions, governance frameworks, and community readiness, the study ensures that the core principles of nature restoration, sustainable spatial planning, and participatory management are tailored to fit local realities.

To guarantee a structured and participatory execution, the study explicitly defines the composition of each URBACT Local Group (ULG) to the greatest extent possible. By identifying key municipal actors, regional authorities, environmental experts, civil society organizations, and local residents early on, each city establishes a solid, well-rounded core team. Furthermore, the study outlines a clear operational Roadmap, charting the precise steps, milestones, and methodologies that will guide local activities throughout the transfer process.

TRANSFER PILLARS



Wastewater Treatment



Small Urban Infrastructure



Biodiversity



Awareness & Education

URBACT Lead Expert



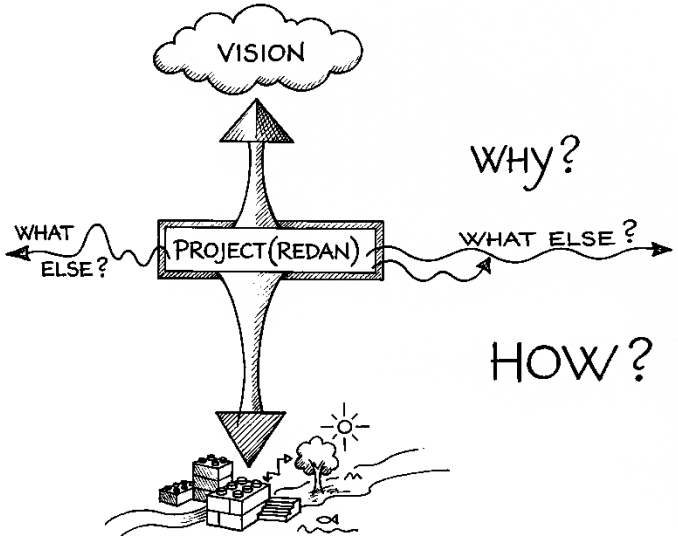
In addition, the study candidly addresses local challenges and knowledge gaps. Whether dealing with complex land-ownership structures, degraded industrial soils, fluctuating water tables, or public scepticism, understanding these obstacles early in the process allows partners to design targeted learning activities and capacity-building workshops. This analytical rigor ensures that transfer activities remain focused, practical, and directly aligned with the specific operational needs of each city.

Ultimately, the Transferability Study serves as a strategic roadmap for the creation of local Transfer Plans. By linking the rich experience of Ormož with the distinct aspirations, the study guarantees that the transfer journey is not merely a passive learning exercise, but a proactive process of mutual growth, innovation, and lasting environmental impact.

Details are available in the full *Transferability study* document.

5 Kick – off meeting

Ormož, Slovenia, May 2026



The first official Transnational Partner Kick-off Meeting was held in Ormož, Slovenia in May 2026. The primary objective of this initial meeting was to bring all project partners together on-site to officially launch the cooperation, introduce the project context within the host city of Ormož, and establish a shared foundation for the transfer of good practice. Over the course of the event, partners had the opportunity to present their respective cities and project target area, outline their local contexts and expectations, and actively engage in the first series of project workshops.

The session opened with the host presentation of the Ormož Nature Reserve. Following this baseline, partner cities presented their local spatial challenges and strategic goals for practice transfer.

The Chunking methodology was introduced as the core operational tool to simplify practice transfer. Grounded in cognitive psychology, it breaks complex environmental planning into digestible modules, structured around four primary ReDAN pillars. Partner teams applied this method during a hands-on exercise to condense their local SWOT analyses down to the three most critical priorities per quadrant.

The goal of the World Café workshop was to define working methods and operational guidelines for the overall project by discussing four key topics:



ReDAN Online Meetings	Experiences, needs, format, duration, and frequency
Transnational Meetings (TM)	Planning, logistics, preparation, and hosting field visits in host cities
Local and National Communication	Channels, target groups, and messaging strategies
URBACT Local Groups (ULG)	Format, dynamics, venues, and facilitation of stakeholder meetings



Following the interactive sessions, partners embarked on a site visit to gain first-hand insight into the context of Ormož Nature Reserve.

The agenda included Administrative issues, as the Lead Partner and the URBACT Secretariat presented the core administrative and financial framework.

To conclude the meeting, participants engaged in a hands-on workshop focused on stakeholder mapping, identifying key local and regional actors, assessing their levels of influence and interest, and defining tailored engagement strategies for the transfer process.



Details are available In the full *Report from Ormož kick-off* document.

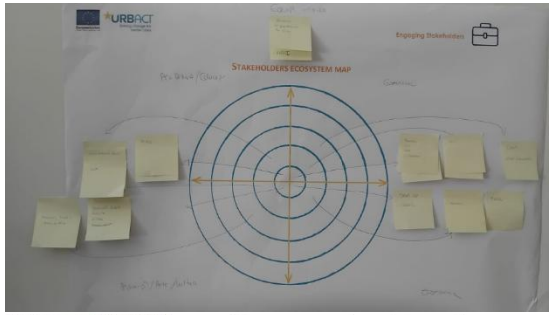
6 Local level activities

Alcanena, Portugal



Município de Alcanena participa no Projeto ReDAN

Alcanena participa no projeto europeu ReDAN para impulsionar a regeneração de áreas...





Reunião Transnacional do projeto ReDAN, em Limerick

Mais do que recuperar espaços degradados, regenerar é devolver valor à...



1st Media report [Feb 6 2026]
First official ReDAN meeting with key stakeholders (LE, APA, CTIC, GEOTA, AQUANENA) presented the project framework and showed how it will boost the Municipality of Alcanena's capacity to build constructed wetlands near the WWTP.

Initial stakeholder ULG mapping session [March 11 2026]
The meeting was dedicated to presenting the project's vision and participatory approach by identifying other key stakeholders using URBACT tools.

1st ULG Meeting [April 24 2026]
Attended by 15 participants, the meeting introduced the project, outlined the ULG operating model, and planned the first local implementation stages.

2nd Media report [June 2 2026]
The purpose, objectives, and structure of the ReDAN project are outlined, along with the intentions of the Municipality of Alcanena within the network.

3rd Media report [June 2 2026]
The first ReDAN Transnational Meeting took place in Ormož on 5–6 May 2026. Attended by Alcanena and all partner cities, the event presented project objectives, showcased Ormož's good practice, and hosted implementation workshops.

4th Media report [October 20 2026]
Participation in the 2nd ReDAN TM (Limerick, 6–7 Oct 2026) enabled Alcanena and network partners to examine site-based Nature-based Solutions, advancing urban regeneration, biodiversity, social cohesion, and community inclusion.

Ongoing activities
Water samples and treated effluent from the Alcanena WWTP outlet are periodically collected and analysed under the pilot project to monitor and compare quality parameters.

URBACT | Co-funded by the European Union Interreg | ALCANENA

ALCANENA | KEY LESSONS FROM THE UNDERSTAND PHASE

ReDAN - Reviving Degraded Areas for Nature and People

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

1 TRANSFER FOCUS > **2 CHALLENGES** > **3 KEY LESSONS**

1 TRANSFER FOCUS: Funding | Awareness | Cooperation

2 CHALLENGES: Operational system | Regulation | Land

3 KEY LESSONS: Governance | Shared understanding | Early involvement

WHERE WE STARTED

Our original transfer focus from Ormoz remains the same

FUNDING

EUR

EU programmes + private investment

How do we fund a high-investment NbS and mobilise private actors?

AWARENESS

EDU

Long-term benefits need long-term trust

How do we explain a solution whose ecological benefits take time?

COOPERATION

NET

Many sectors, one objective

How can we effectively coordinate and cooperate with stakeholders across different levels and sectors - including public authorities, utilities, academia, industry and local communities?

WHAT BECAME CLEAR DURING "UNDERSTAND"

The transfer is not only about adapting a Nature-Based Solution. Its success depends on creating the right technical, regulatory, financial, territorial and governance conditions.

KEY CHALLENGES REVEALED DURING THE UNDERSTAND PHASE

Six conditions now shape the feasibility of the project

01 OPERATIONAL WWTP

The NbS must complement a fully operational wastewater treatment plant and integrate with its existing treatment processes.

02 TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE

Alcanena's wastewater has a strong industrial component, requiring more demanding treatment conditions. The NbS must therefore demonstrate safe and effective performance under this specific context.

03 LAND + TIME

Land acquisition is underway, but ownership negotiations and administrative procedures affect the timeline.

04 LICENSING

Environmental-related licensing is a complex and time-consuming process, requiring early and continuous coordination with the competent authorities.

05 GOVERNANCE

Many stakeholders must be heard without losing technical coherence, project focus or decision speed.

06 INVESTMENT + RESULTS

The project requires significant upfront investment, while its full ecological benefits will only become measurable over time. This makes funding and long-term monitoring critical from the start.

WHAT WE LEARNED

1. **THINK LOCAL AND NATIONAL**

   The project is implemented locally, but its impacts and implications extend to the national level, particularly in water management and environmental regulation. This requires early involvement of both local and national authorities.

2. **PARTNERS, NOT ONLY CONSULTEES**

   Key regulatory, operational, technical and scientific actors should help shape the solution.

3. **BUILD A SHARED UNDERSTANDING**

   Stakeholders may approach the project from different perspectives - wastewater treatment, biodiversity, climate adaptation, research, education or community value. Aligning these perspectives around a common purpose is essential for coordinated decision-making.

4. **PILOT TO DE-RISK**

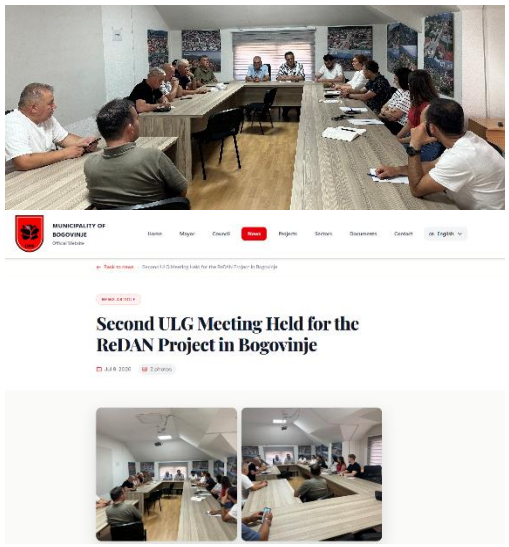
   Use the pilot to test assumptions and reduce technical, institutional and social uncertainty.

MOVING INTO THE ADAPT PHASE

The Understand phase has given us a clearer picture of what transferring the Ormoz Good Practice means for Alcanena. We now move into Adapt with a better understanding of the technical, regulatory, financial and governance conditions that need to be addressed alongside the Nature-Based Solution itself.

Our next challenge is to translate this knowledge into a feasible approach for Alcanena - technically sound, institutionally supported and adapted to our local context.

Bogovinje, North Macedonia



1st ULG meeting, Municipal Council Hall [Mar 12 2026]
The meeting presented the ReDAN Transfer Network, local methodology, and Bogovinje's environmental challenges, establishing a core working group to select a realistic project site and define practical next steps.

2nd ULG meeting, Municipal Council Hall [Jul 8 2026]
Refreshed on ReDAN goals and Ormož visit insights, the group evaluated adapting Good Practice to Bogovinje, addressing stakeholder gaps and local application to advance the transfer process and target area plans.

1st Media report [Jul 9 2026]
Reporting on the 8 July 2026 ULG meeting, the Municipality highlighted local ReDAN progress, Ormož study visit insights, potential local adaptations, and stakeholder engagement to guide next steps in the transfer process.

ReDAN

KEY LESSONS FROM THE UNDERSTAND PHASE

Municipality of Bogovinje | URBACT IV ReDAN Transfer Network | Feb-Aug 2026

UNDERSTAND > ADAPT

TRANSFER THE APPROACH, ADAPT IT TO BOGOVINJE'S CONTEXT.

Ormož taught us to transfer the approach - restore nature, build shared ownership, create low-impact public value and phase implementation - not to reproduce a wetland reserve in a mountain-river context.

WHAT CHANGED IN OUR THINKING

1. **Integrated, not single-use**
   One degraded area can support biodiversity, education, recreation and local development together.

2. **Shared stewardship, not municipality alone**
   Long-term results need a functioning ULG and clear roles for schools, community, public services and civil society.

3. **Phased action, not everything at once**
   Start with realistic, visible steps; learn from evidence; strengthen the model before scaling.



FOCUS NOW

1.9 ha section of the Bogovinje River bank

Selected in the Transferability Study after assessing two candidate locations.

CHALLENGES / MISTAKES TO CORRECT EARLY

1 WE STARTED TOO BROAD	April work assessed both Kamenjane Waterfalls and the Bogovinje riverside. The TS later narrowed the focus to one 1.9 ha riverbank target.	**Lesson: one clear target makes the baseline, ownership and next actions stronger.**
2 OUR COALITION IS NOT COMPLETE	The stakeholder ecosystem map is strong on municipality, youth, schools and community actors, but explicitly notes that Industry / Enterprise is missing.	**Lesson: broaden the ULG before moving deeper into Adapt.**
3 DESIGN CANNOT OUTRUN THE EVIDENCE	The June PP-LE review put drone photography and chemical water analysis among the mandatory technical activities for the next stages.	**Lesson: map, measure and monitor before deciding interventions.**
4 AMBITION MUST MATCH LOCAL CAPACITY	SWOT work identifies illegal dumping, degraded riverbanks, limited infrastructure and low municipal funds/technical capacity.	**Lesson: use maintainable NbS, phase investments and connect bigger remediation to external funding.**

CARRY INTO ADAPT:	FOCUS	EVIDENCE	BROADEN	TEST SMALL
	one target	baseline first	ULG actors	then scale

URBACT Co-funded by the European Union

Limerick, Ireland



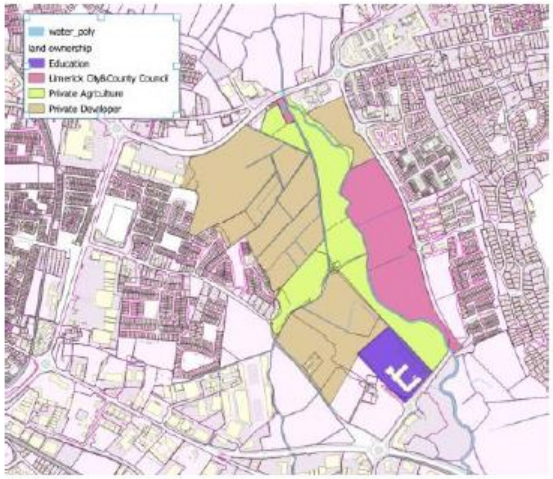
1st ULG meeting [May 21 2026]
Members refined the SWOT analysis, explored site constraints and NbS biodiversity integration, and agreed to expand community participation and local knowledge to strengthen the project design and next steps.

2nd ULG meeting [Sep 17 2026]
Discussions highlighted stakeholder engagement after URBACT University insights, aligned green-blue infrastructure with climate goals, reviewed water quality, Problem Tree exercise, and preparation for the October partner visit.

Lessons Learned – Understand Phase ReDAN Limerick

Key Lessons learnt

- Act of translation not replication
- Site visit essential
- Follow the process
- Manage expectations
- Chunking







Challenges

- Public/Private Land Ownership
- Siloed Council Portfolios
- Translating the good practice to our suburban green wedge
- Youth mobilisation

Understand → **To** → **Adapt**

Mistakes



- Delayed Landowner Interactivity
- Copy – Paste Temptation

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City & County Council

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Priboj, Serbia



Partner meeting Srebrenica - Priboj, Priboj [Feb 4 2026]
Establishing initial contacts and fostering better collaboration on the project, as well as exchanging information and consulting on the URBACT methodology, project implementation, and reporting requirements for the EU-funded project.

1st Media report [Apr 13 2026]
ReDAN. Turning degraded areas into nature-rich places. Introduction to the programme.

1st ULG meeting, Priboj [Mar 18 2026]
The meeting introduced members to programme objectives and upcoming activities, fostering team introductions while identifying key stakeholders to expand future project involvement.

2nd Media report [Feb 5 2026]
The article was intended to introduce the wider public to the Municipality of Priboj's participation in the ReDAN, present the project's key objectives and most important facts, as well as an overview of the main activities planned within the project.

2nd ULG meeting [May 15 2026]
Focused on summer activities, the meeting mapped the local stakeholder ecosystem to identify key actors, driving ideas for revitalising the Lim–Uvac river confluence and fostering broad citizen participation.

Drone photos [Aug 13 2026]
Drone site imagery provided critical insights into seasonal landscape variations to support project analysis and site planning.

Municipality of Priboj

Key lessons learned:

- How impactful the revitalisaton of devasteded area can be for the entire community.
- The importance of the involvement of all the potential stakeholdes is for the sustainability of the project.
- Broader ULG is necessary for delagating tasks and getting more ideas for the target area.



- Motivating the community to take part in the programme and finding effective way to do so.
- Adapting the good practice to the local context.
- Involving more experts from the beginning to get a clearer vision of the potential sustainable changes we can make to the targeted area.



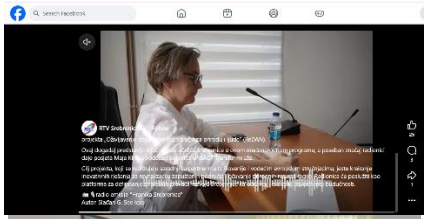
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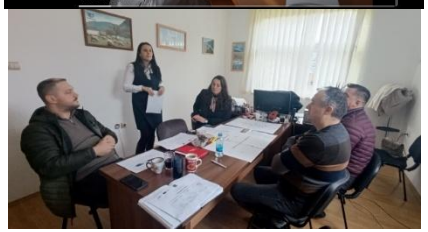
Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina











Partner meeting Srebrenica - Priboj, Priboj [Feb 4 2026]
Establishing initial contacts and fostering better collaboration on the project, as well as exchanging information and consulting on the URBACT methodology, project implementation, and reporting requirements for the EU-funded project.

Initial stakeholder ULG mapping session, Skelani [Feb 19 2026]
The meeting was dedicated to presenting the project's vision and participatory approach by identifying key stakeholders using URBACT tools, and agreeing on formalizing cooperation through the preparation of letters of commitment for the next session.

1st Media report [Feb 19 2026]
At the first ReDAN ULG meeting in Drina NP, key stakeholders were mapped and a target date was set for the Skelani gathering, launching the group's operational phase.

1st ULG meeting, Skelani [Feb 26 2026]
Participants exchanged expert opinions on environmental challenges, with a special emphasis on floating waste on Perućac Lake, which requires a strategic cross-border approach, as well as uncontrolled wastewater discharge. The meeting was highlighted by the formalization of cooperation through the signing of letters of commitment.

2nd Media report [Mar 25 2026]
Srebrenica aims to create innovative solutions, through UIV ReDAN TN, for preserving the region's natural resources and guide Srebrenica toward a sustainable, eco-conscious future.

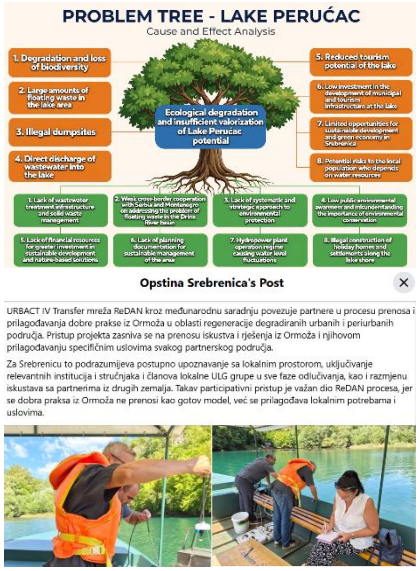
Lake Perućac clean-up campaign [May 23 2026]
NP Drina and local volunteers (fisherman, nature lovers, boat and watercraft owners, citizens) conducted an eco-cleanup at Lake Perućac, collecting floating plastic and shoreline waste to preserve the Drina River ecosystem and raise community awareness.

3rd Media report [May 23 2026]
Report on Lake Perućac eco-cleanup action.



Одржана еко акција чишћења језера Перућац





URBACT IV Transfer mreža ReDAN kroz međunarodnu saradnju povezuje partnere u procesu prenosa i prilagođavanja dobre prakse iz Ormoža u oblasti regeneracije degradiranih urbanih i periurbanih područja. Pristup projekta zasniva se na prenosu iskustva i rješenja iz Ormoža i njihovom prilagođavanju specifičnim uslovima svakog partnerskog područja.

Za Srebrenicu to podrazumijeva postupno upoznavanje sa lokalnim prostorom, uključivanje relevantnih institucija i stručnjaka i članova lokalne ULG grupe u sve faze odlučivanja, kao i razmjenu iskustava sa partnerima iz drugih zemalja. Takav participativni pristup je važan dio ReDAN procesa, jer se dobra praksa iz Ormoža ne prenosi kao gotov model, već se prilagođava lokalnim potrebama i uslovima.

2nd ULG meeting, Srebrenica [Jun 11 2026]
Following an Ormož visit debrief and an NbS presentation, participants used URBACT Problem Tree tools to map key challenges, agreeing on water testing and a September school workshop.

4th Media report [June 11 2026]
Report on the ULG Meeting and ReDAN Project Overview.

Lake water and sediment sampling, Lake Perućac [Sep 2 2026]
Water and sediment sampling in Lake Perućac combined local expertise with protected area knowledge, deepening environmental insights to establish a baseline for NbS in future revitalisation.

5th Media report [Sep 4 2026]
On lake water and sediment sampling.

SREBRENICA

ReDAN Transfer Network | Key Lessons Learned | Understand Phase

TOWARDS ADAPT

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR

Our first phase has clarified that transferring the Ormož Good Practice to Srebrenica cannot be a direct replication. The local context requires a systemic approach linking nature restoration, governance, stakeholder cooperation and the wider Drina–Perućac system.

ReDAN

01 THE SITE IS NOT THE WHOLE SYSTEM

The 1.5 ha target area sits within a wider ecological, spatial and governance context. Its challenges are interconnected with the wider Lake Perućac and Drina river system.

→ Think beyond the physical site.

02 LOCAL ACTION HAS REGIONAL LIMITS

Floating waste reaches the bay through the upper Drina system and cannot be solved by local clean-ups alone.

→ Connect the pilot to regional cooperation.

03 GOVERNANCE COMES EARLY

The site is state-owned and protected; Srebrenica also lacks an adopted comprehensive Spatial Plan.

→ Clarify legal, ownership and institutional conditions early.

04 PARTICIPATION IS A STRENGTH

Srebrenica already has experience with focus groups, public hearings and stakeholder dialogue, supported by a multi-sectoral ULG.

→ Move from consultation to co-creation.

05 CAPACITY & RESOURCES MATTER

Key constraints include specialised ecological expertise, waste-removal equipment and reliance on external funding.

→ Build capacity and a realistic funding pathway.

06 TRANSFER ≠ COPYING

The Ormož practice provides principles and tested approaches; Srebrenica needs a locally adapted model.

→ Transfer the principles — adapt the solution.



ADAPT PHASE PRIORITIES

System thinking | Regional cooperation | Legal clarity | Structured ULG | Baseline & monitoring | Scalable pilot

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Yaremche, Ukraine





1st Media report [Jun 12 2026]
Joining the URBACT IV ReDAN project opens opportunities for Yaremche to collaborate with European cities, exchange local development best practices, strengthen institutional capacity, and expand international partnerships.

1st ULG meeting, [Mar 6 2026]
The first working meeting introduced project objectives, implementation framework, and partner roles, establishing a shared understanding, timeline, and communication channels for future cooperation.

2nd Media report [Jun 12 2026]
A working meeting of members of the ULG Group took place within the framework of the ReDAN international project implemented within the framework of the URBACT IV program.

2nd ULG meeting [Jun 12 2026]
Following the Ormož study visit, the group evaluated the Prut River project site, identifying key challenges and design ideas to shape a sustainable, attractive recreational area tailored to local needs.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED



Challenges

- Limited capacity: International project work runs alongside everyday municipal responsibilities .
- Complex site conditions: The area has erosion and degraded spaces.
- Small team and limited language capacity make international coordination more time-consuming.



Mistakes

- Unclear roles at the beginning: Responsibilities were not clearly defined from the start, which sometimes led to misunderstandings and delays.
- Reactive rather than proactive communication: Some tasks were addressed only when deadlines were approaching, leaving less time to solve unexpected issues.
- Lack of a clear project workflow from the start: At the beginning, it took time to understand how tasks, approvals, reporting and communication should flow within the municipality.



Lessons Learned

- Clear roles from the start: Define responsibilities and ownership before tasks begin.
- Proactive communication: Clarify information early and keep everyone updated before deadlines.
- Plan ahead: Allow enough time for unexpected issues, approvals and external inputs.
- Learn and adapt: Review what works, adjust the approach and use each challenge as a learning opportunity.

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Details are available in the full *ULG learning log* document for each City.

7 URBACT University

Cork, Ireland, August 2026

The URBACT Summer University 2026, served as a key capacity-building event focused on participatory approaches and stakeholder engagement for URBACT Transfer Networks. The ReDAN network actively participated in Hub F alongside networks SpongeMeasures, Eat4Climate, CityLake and PARKS.



During the interactive network sessions, participants engaged in a structured gamified mapping process based on the Quintuple Helix model. This framework allowed the team to map local stakeholder ecosystems across the public, private, academic, civil society, and environmental sectors, identifying key missing actors such as elected officials, tourism representatives, and youth groups.

	Missing stakeholder	
PUBLIC SECTOR	Elected persons	*
	Municipality	
	Public enterprises/utilities	
	Tourism	**
	National	****
	City department - Environment	
	City department - Urbanism	
	City department - Finance	***
	City department - Youth	*
PRIVATE SECTOR	Interested parties € € €	
	Consultants & External experts	***
ACADEMIA & RESEARCH	Schools elementary and secondary	
	Research	
	University	***
CIVIL SOCIETY	Voluntary / NGO	**
	Citizens / people	***
	Future people (youth)	**

Through deep empathy mapping and first-person role-playing, partners stepped into challenging stakeholder roles using Identity Cards to understand underlying motivations, barriers, and perspectives. This perspective-taking exercise enabled participants to craft meaningful engagement narratives, transition stakeholders into active commitment zones, and design concrete testing actions, such as a community Green Day event.



The event concluded with a closing plenary where ReDAN established its network exhibition space. While a designated network narrator presented the overarching goals, two representatives acted in character as transformed stakeholders to demonstrate how empathetic engagement shifts local dynamics. Other team members gathered insights from cross-network exchanges using treasure maps.

Combined with study visits showcasing Cork's local green infrastructure, the event successfully equipped the ReDAN network with practical methodology to drive integrated, participatory urban transformations.

Details are available in the full *USU Cork summary* document.

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