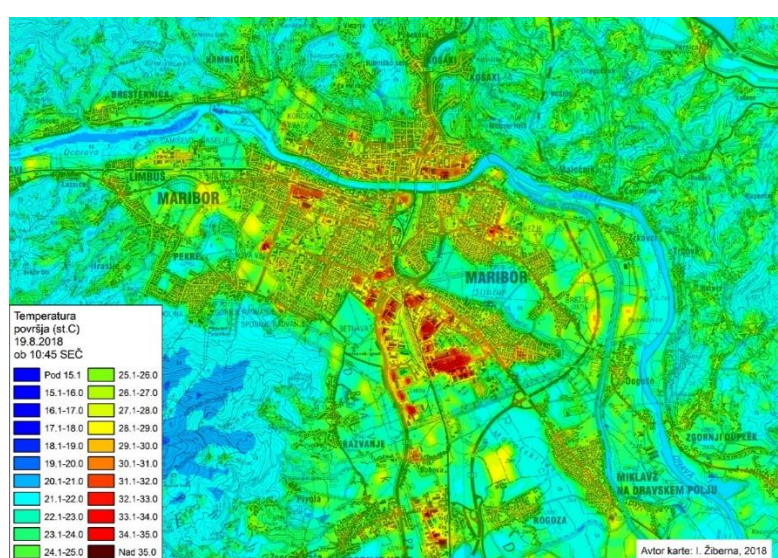


Greening and nature-based solutions in Maribor, Slovenia

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HUB SLOVENIA*Authors: DIHS, Slovenia*

Nature-based solutions provide a carbon sink, contribute to disaster risk reduction, food and water security, biodiversity and human health through addressing hot spots and urban heat islands, provide space for recreation, and can also reduce noise, improve ambient air quality, etc.

The greening and nature based solutions installment in Maribor had **financial sources** from: Climate fund (part of the state budget) replenished by EU ETS auctioning of emission allowances Different European funds and projects such as Urban Innovative Actions, Horizon 2020 and ERDF

There are many different initiatives striving for the greening of the city and more nature-based solutions in the city of Maribor, which is the second largest city in Slovenia, the capital of Podravje region, which is one of most vulnerable regions in Slovenia. The following have built on each other and contributed to more green spaces:

- Planting of tiny urban forest in the Miyawaki method in Magdalena city quarter after an analysis of UHI and degraded areas
- An inventory of courtyards within the former city walls, a survey on their use and competition for Best Courtyard prize in the form of greenery
- Planting of a 400 m green belt along the degraded Radvanje stream in coordination with the utility company and volunteers
- Planting of a Mini Urban Tree Nursery to make the purchase of saplings less costly and have more locally grown seedlings that are best adapted to local conditions and thus more resilient
- Interventions of the UPSURGE project: green corridor, riparian cycling route, pocket gardens, blue infrastructure and an urban mobile forest; including the regeneration of the riparian park (planting of trees) alongside Pekrski brook
- Urban Soil4Food project that used biological waste to produce soil that was used for establishing 4 organic urban gardens and a local food chain, but also for parks and Agri living lab for social innovations related to the circular economy
- Ready4Heat project established pergolas for providing shade in kindergartens, recommendations on using different plants are prepared and local heat strategy and action plan in preparation

Applicability in the wider Danube region is high

if there is sufficient leadership and community for implementation, cooperation across departments and institutions, as well as communication, outreach and participatory approach in place and implemented



Monitoring and evaluation of the developed/implemented nature-based solutions is important!