



The UPSURGE Project Final Conference

Guiding Cities to Deliver Regenerative Urban Transformation

Regenerative Innovation in Practice

Enikő Korpos,
Budapest 18th District, Hungary (BP18)



10 February 2026
Katowice, Poland



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 101003818

Identified Problems in BP18

- Before UPSURGE
- Air quality – commuters traffic load & heating
- Torrential rain flooding & hot and dry summer
- water retention with NBS
- During UPSURGE
- Low participation willingness
- Shortage of human resource and inhouse expertise
- targeted Place Lab activities





1st Step: Flagship Intervention (2023)

- 34 m² raingarden at Tomory Lajos Museum – as reference
- Important venue for district education, concerts, summer camps, UPSURGE workshops
- Green attitude of staff



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 101003818

The UPSURGE Project Final Conference: Guiding Cities to Deliver Regenerative Urban Transformation

10.02.2026, Katowice, Poland

2nd Step: Passive Involvement (2024)

- 25+7 public raingardens (mostly 4-6 m² size)
- Between road & sidewalk, in front of citizens' properties
- Information boards, invitation for voluntary maintenance



3rd Step: Active Involvement (2024-2025)

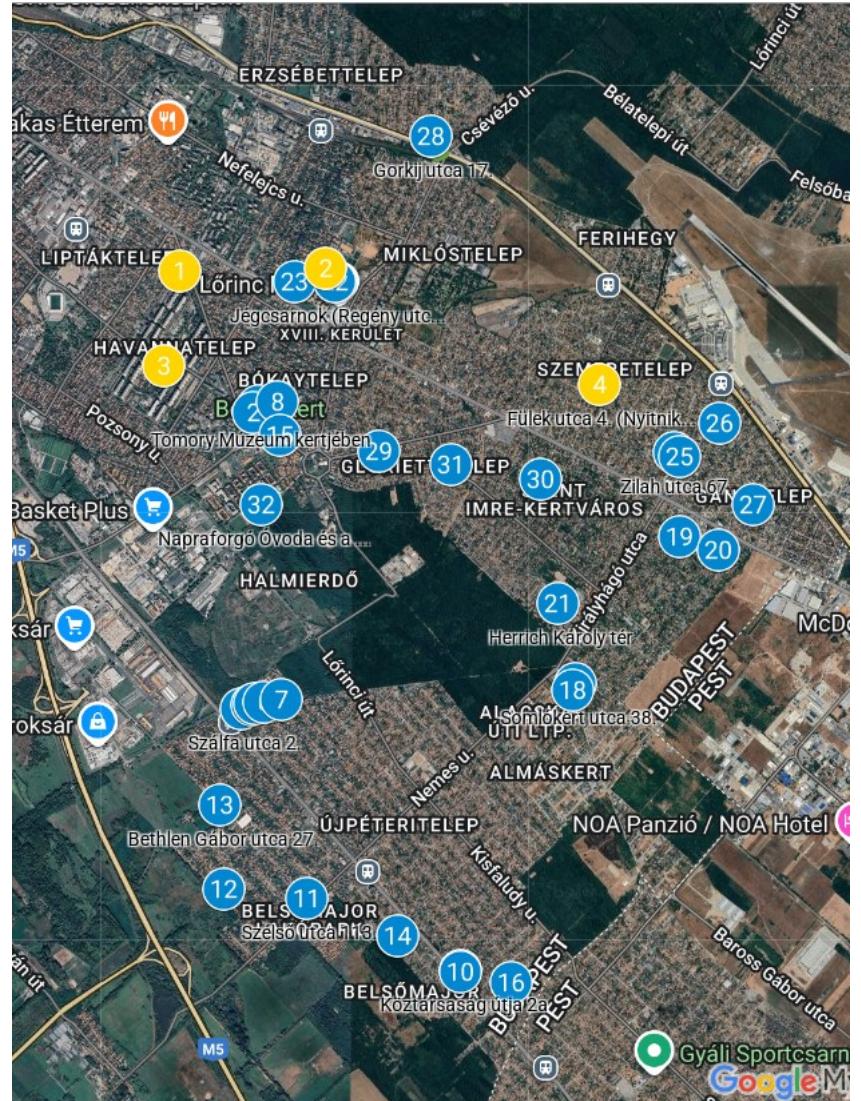
- 25 private raingardens (2-3 m² size)
- Call & applications, on private properties
- Workshop to get comfortable with concept



Key Learnings

- Mosaic interventions
- Less resource, than grey infrastructure, find hotspots, create network
- Improves climate-resilience
- Visibility – education purposes

- Citizen involvement and education
- Resistance before physical positive experience
- Key to ensure maintenance and replication



Key Learnings

- Development of best practice
- Challenges, technical design, plant selection, timing of implementation
- Inhouse expertise in raingarden NbS development and maintenance
- Education of city maintenance company
- Replication
- 3 new raingardens by municipality
- Knowledge share with other cities, project, University of Landscaping



City-centered approach to catalyze nature-based solutions through
the EU Regenerative Urban Lighthouse for pollution alleviation and regenerative development



WWW.UPSURGE-PROJECT.EU



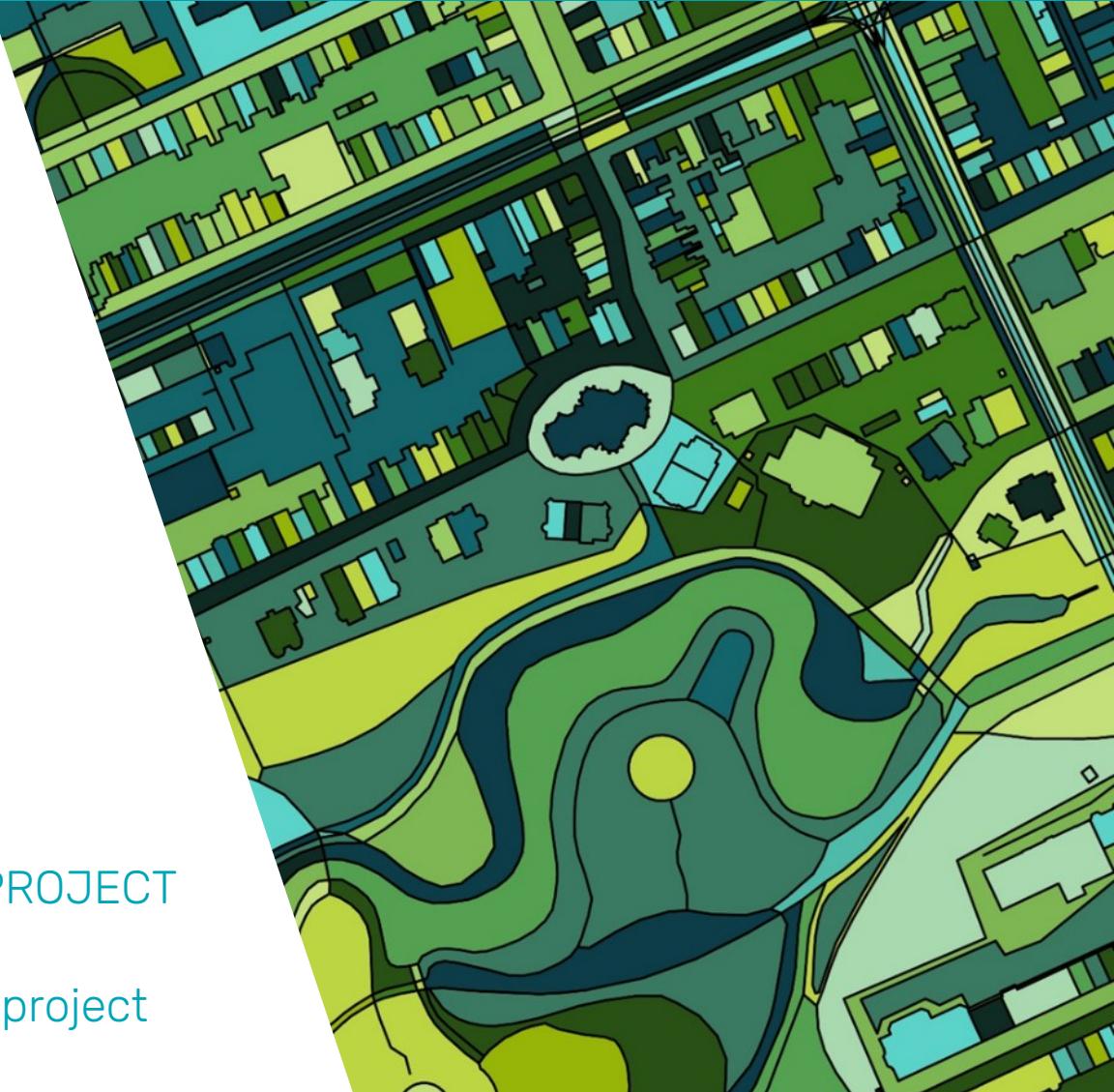
[@UPSURGE_H2020](https://twitter.com/UPSURGE_H2020)



[UPSURGE-PROJECT](https://www.linkedin.com/company/upsurge-project/)



[@UPSURGE.project](https://www.facebook.com/UPSURGE.project)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 101003818

The UPSURGE Project Final Conference: Guiding Cities to Deliver Regenerative Urban Transformation

10.02.2026, Katowice, Poland