

Green Budget as a form of social activation to improve the urban environment – case study of Katowice, Poland



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<https://bo.katowice.eu/zielony-budzet>

KATOWICE – a case study

- **Katowice** is a city with a high concentration of industry located in south-western Poland - the center of the Silesian Metropolis
- the top-down planning in the city is being replaced by **dialogue with citizens** to engage the residents in the positive transformation process developed towards creation of **more green and friendly city**



CITIZENS BUDGET in Katowice

- **Citizens Budget** is used as a popular placemaking tool since 2013 to involve city residents in co-deciding on public spaces
- **green projects** have played a significant role in the Citizens Budget since its first edition, reflecting **social needs to improve the availability and quality of recreation areas among greenery**

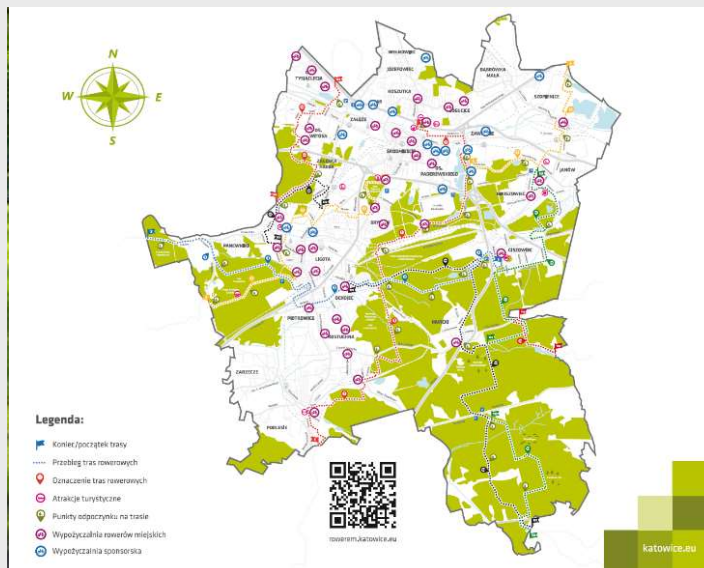


GREEN BUDGET in Katowice

- **Green Budget of Katowice** was created for **pro-environmental projects** – and is operating since 2020

➔ an initiative supporting public tasks in the field of **ecology and environmental protection**

➔ focuses on different activities supporting the development of **green areas** – important spaces for rest and recreation



MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- to indicate the direction of development of this placemaking tool based on data from the **4 editions** carried out so far in **2020, 2021, 2022** and **2023**
- to present **main trends** related to the development of greenery as important places supporting rest and recreation

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

- an **analysis of the number of projects** submitted by residents to Green Budget in each edition to indicate **general quantitative trends**
- **identification and analysis of leading project types** assigned to **8 categories**:
 - *new plantings*
 - *street greenery*
 - *maintenance of greenery*
 - *environmental education*
 - *new green areas*
 - *revitalization of green spaces*
 - *water retention*
 - *small animal care*

RESULTS – trends in the development of the Green Budget of Katowice

Green Budget Edition	Number of projects submitted	Number of projects selected in the vote / % of those submitted		Projects selected for implementation	
				Citywide	District
2020 (I)	123	54	43,90%	4	50
2021 (II)	164	89	54,27%	8	81
2022 (III)	227	96	42,29%	14	83
2023 (IV)	201	108	53,73%	15	92
Total	715	347	48,53%	41	306

➔ **715 green projects submitted** in 4 editions

➔ **347 projects selected for implementation** (48,53% of all submitted projects)

➔ **an upward trend is visible in the first 3 editions / a slight decline in 2023 = a positive forecast for improving the urban environment**

➔ **the number of projects selected for implementation is constantly growing (their share varies between 42,29% and 53,73% in each edition)**

RESULTS – main characteristics of the winning green projects

Green Budget Edition	New plantings	Street greenery	Maintenance of greenery	Environmental education	New green areas	Revitalization of green spaces	Water retention	Small animals care
2020 (I)	14	12	1	4	8	8	4	3
2021 (II)	34	3	10	7	9	16	4	6
2022 (III)	27	11	8	23	11	11	1	4
2023 (IV)	27	4	12	36	5	13	4	7
Total	102	30	31	70	33	48	13	20



the majority of all completed projects (in all four editions) belongs to the *new plantings* category (102)

- introduction of extensive structures of trees, shrubs and perennials in different public spaces, - flower meadows, - plants in pots,
- creation of small thematic gardens, - community utility gardens



these activities increase much the **environmental quality** of public spaces, and also improve their **attractiveness** for users

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➔ an *environmental education* category is second in the order (70 projects)

- series of educational activities for children carried out in schools
- ecological workshops (focused on recycling, environmental protection, etc.)
- plant cultivation classes for adults

➔ these projects confirm the social need to raise awareness and expand knowledge related to *ecological functioning of the urban environment*

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an average level applies to the projects from 3 categories supporting the development and improvement of green areas = **112 projects in total**:

- *new green areas*,
- *revitalization of green spaces*,
- *maintenance of green areas*

these projects prove the social need to increase both the number and quality of green spaces providing diverse forms of rest/recreation outdoor

MAIN CONCLUSIONS:

- increasing number of projects submitted and selected in the vote in Green Budget of Katowice confirms the importance of this bottom-up placemaking tool in the improvement of green spaces quality and availability for rest and recreation
- Green Budget of Katowice fills the gap in raising the public awareness of the role of pro-environmental activities in the city
- this knowledge is also the basis for the process of forecasting and planning pro-environmental activities in the city, including decisions to increase funds for subsequent editions of the Green Budget

Thank you for your attention!

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