

re-value

The Burgas Brief

Burgas Study Visit
Highlights and Insights

Version 1
July 2024



Over 35 Re-Value project partners - mostly practitioners from Re-Value Cities and local partners - met in Burgas, Bulgaria, from 12 - 14 June 2024, for the third Study Visit of the Re-Value Capacity Development and Exchange Programme.

The Study Visit agenda included facilitated work sessions mixed with classic Burgas summer experiences, which enabled Community of Practice members to meet, relax, and take conversations and ideas about Burgas' climate action deeper than ever before.

The Burgas Brief summarises the Burgas Study Visit experiences and the key contributions and insights from the Sarafovo Observation Journey and Workshop. The next Re-Value Study Visit took place directly subsequent to this in Constanța, Romania, from 17-19 June 2024.

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Re-Value Community of Practice members from Smart Písek, İzmir, Bruges, Burgas, Constanța, and Rijeka, as well as scientific partners from Sofia University, University of Forestry - Sofia, IFLA - Bulgaria, IFLA Europe, Ecoten, NTNU, UniBo, University of Nova Gorica, ICLEI and GIB.



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1 Burgas Study Visit Programme

The Burgas Study Visit was the first part of a “Super Study Visit to the Black Sea”, where Re-Value partners spent 2.5 days in Burgas, Bulgaria, and 2.5 days in Constanța, Romania. The Burgas Study Visit was held from 12 - 14 June 2024 with approximately 40 participants joining the planned activities. The Burgas Study Visit Programme was designed with four core objectives:

- **Strengthen** the Community of Practice by creating opportunities to professionally socialise and deepen relationships between partners in a relaxed environment;
- **Observe & Learn** as we travelled along the Coastal Corridor between the city centre’s Sea Garden to Sarafovo’s Sea Park and made notes of what we saw using sensory / analog and digital approaches;
- **Ideate & Exchange** during a workshop on nature-based solutions for Burgas’ Re-Value Waterfront Pilot, Sarafovo Sea Park; and
- **Support** Burgas Municipality to identify new ideas, resources, and professional networks to help reimagine and co-design a future-proof Sarafovo Sea Park.

The Burgas Study Visit programme enabled partners to deeply immerse themselves in the city’s cultural realities, and better understand its relationship to the natural environment, rich biodiversity, and critical regional (and European) ecosystems. Scientific discussions on coastal erosion were integrated into the nature-based solutions workshop and further enriched through hands-on observation and interactive exploration of the (urban) environment. The planned activities highlighted the Black Sea’s significance for Burgas’ ambition to remain a high-quality visitor destination (balancing both traditional beach tourism and “ecotourism” related to its surrounding protected cultural and natural areas, including undeveloped beaches to the south), but also its systemic challenges as a seaport city with a substantial carbon economy embroiled in geopolitics - specifically the Balkans’ largest crude oil refinery, owned by Lukoil (Russia). This juxtaposition sparked many discussions about local sustainable urban development in these contexts and how urban planning and design can support pathways to a different economic future.

1.1 Strengthen the Community

With each Study Visit, the group of Re-Value partners grows increasingly familiar with one another. They increasingly exchange insights about their capabilities and expertise, share stories of navigating the challenges of working within or alongside local governments, and discuss cultural complexities and community engagement. Through these shared experiences and moments during the Study Visits, they forge stronger personal and professional connections.

In previous Re-Value Study Visits, we had very ambitious - and full - agendas that left little time for unstructured or unprogrammed socialising. More “down time” was something that participants had been requesting in previous Study Visit evaluations. As organisers, we were concerned that partners would only socialise with colleagues from their city or with partners they had already worked with in the past - defeating the purpose of the Study Visits. However, we have since learned that planning for some unstructured social time often leads to longer and richer conversations between partners. After four Study Visits and numerous online sessions encouraging active participation and exploration of vulnerability, the community has matured to the point where partners are now voluntarily engaging and collaborating with one another.

What was also unusual about this Study Visit was the fact that it was organised together with the following Constanța Study Visit. In addition to opportunities for informal professional exchange during the Burgas Study Visit program, some project partners and city representatives were able to stay in Burgas for the weekend, visit Lake Atanasovsko together, spend free time together, get to know each other better personally and finally, travelled together from Burgas to Constanța by bus. This was positively emphasised as a community relationship and trust-building moment.

Finally, a key moment of community building and support during the program was the exchange session “Stone and a Story”, which served as the culminating activity of the Burgas Study Visit. Participants were asked to bring a stone from their home country along with a story connected to it. During the Reflection Round, they presented their stones to the Burgas host and shared short stories of support, encouragement, strength, or resilience. This meaningful exchange provided an interesting and fitting conclusion to two enriching days of study visits.



Intentional acts and stories hold meaning.



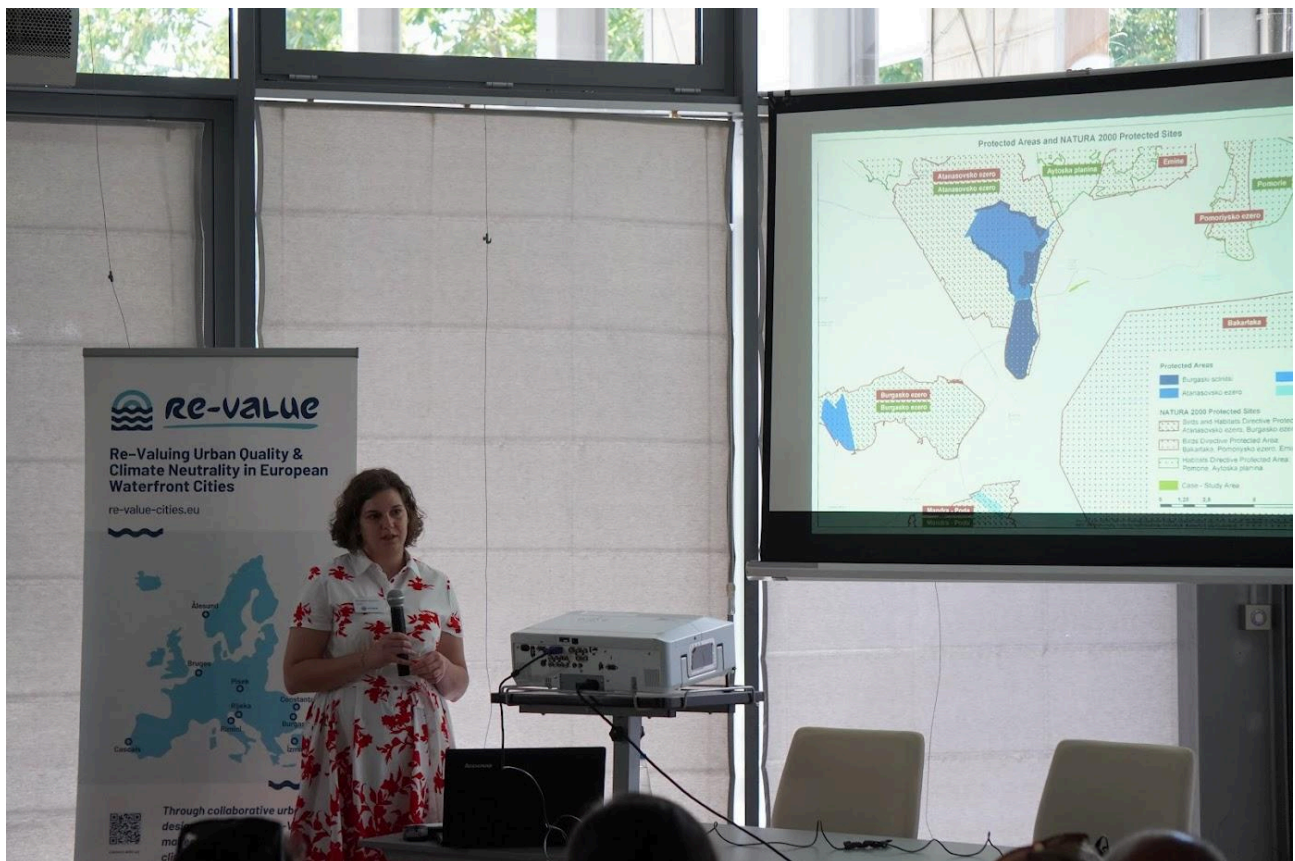
Meaningful interactions are deeply memorable.



Participants sharing a stone and a story with Burgas Municipality as a closing activity

1.2 Observe & Learn

Urban Planner, **Antoaneta Ivanova**, provided a [detailed analysis](#) of the Re-Value pilot intervention zone, namely the Sea Park Sarafovo area, highlighting key characteristics and challenges to address. The key tensions include: coastal erosion risks and identifying nature-based solutions; catering for local resident's needs while responding to tourism dynamics; mitigating externalities from the adjacent airport; managing the dependency on state action due to partial land ownership; improving the connectivity to Burgas and formalising the car parking; and natural habitat conservation.



Antoaneta Ivanova presents the Sea Park Sarafovo Re-Value pilot intervention zone with its characteristics and challenges.

The Community of Practice also heard from **Professor Steliyan Dimitrov**, Director of the National University Centre for Geospatial Research and Technologies at Sofia University, about data collection for digital geo-twin use cases in the Sarafovo area, as well as for the city of Burgas. He presented a backpack-like device typically worn while riding an e-bike that can capture high resolution data points via LIDAR laser scanning technology also below tree covers, which with aerial methods is not possible in all places. Exemplary use cases for their data include:

- Digital replication of the green infrastructure (e.g. cartography of all trees in Burgas and Sarafovo)
- Exact measurements of distances between electric power lines and trees
- Interior plus exterior scans of buildings to determine wall thickness
- Modelling different scenarios

During his presentation, **Prof. Stelivan Dimitrov** provided further insights into climate change, geospatial challenges, and data-based approaches. The integration of 3D point clouds and high resolution data from the land-based LIDAR system, LIDAR (micro) drones, 3D photogrammetric modelling, and unmanned aerial systems impressed the Study Visit participants.



Stelivan Dimitrov presents a backpack-like device typically worn while riding an e-bike to capture high resolution data points via LIDAR laser scanning technology.

Burgas' Directorate of Spatial Planning Director, **Nikolay Tsotsomanski**, presented the [current state of urban development in Burgas](#) with its key characteristics, high-profile projects, and future plans. The current plans include a paediatric clinic which shall be an almost net-zero building, a university campus, several public sports facilities, and public transportation to allow any citizen to reach a bus stop in 5 minutes.

The very interesting “**my city, my neighbourhood, my street**” programme was also presented. It was developed to create a framework to transform common areas in residential complexes and neighbourhoods into more attractive, social and safer spaces, by inspiring and enabling neighbours to work together. Burgas Municipality developed a [Healing Island](#) park in the city centre that used climate-adaptive and biophilic design to showcase different treatments and inspire others to imagine how common spaces could be sustainably regenerated to better serve residents - and visitors. The park is part of their wider framework to connect small green spaces throughout the city and improve the physical and mental health of residents.



Nikolay Tsotsomanski and his interpreter present Burgas' most significant current urban development projects and future plans

Maya Ruseva, Head of Directorate Strategic Development, presented the [Burgas' Vision and Ambition for Climate Adaptation](#), including their participation in the Green City Accord, the EU Mission on Climate Adaptation, and the Covenant of Mayors Mission Innovation. **Ruseva** provided some details on the Burgas' climate plans, specifically on measures targeting energy efficiency, renewable energy installation, electrification of public transport and the municipal car fleet, and expanding bike lanes and rental bike infrastructure.

One of the Burgas Study Visit's key experiences was the **Observation Journey** on e-bikes (and by bus) along the Black Sea coast to Sarafovo Sea Park, as well as the exploratory and interactive **Sarafovo Sea Park site tour**. These were followed by and **Observation Reflection and Ideation Workshop** on the second day.





Riding e-bikes from Burgas Sea Garden to Sarafovo Sea Park on the Observation Journey and arriving for the exploratory Sarafovo Sea Park site tour

In order to prepare for the exploratory Sarafovo Sea Park site tour, participants had been asked several weeks in advance to create an ArcGIS online account. During the site tour, they were provided with a shared online map and encouraged to explore the pilot area and pinpoint suggestions on the map for possible modifications and uses of the area. Over 98 suggestions were made and will be considered for the actual design of the zone.



Study Visit participants review the collected suggestions on the ArcGIS online map

On **Day 2**, the participants set sail (literally) across Burgas Bay to gain a more cultural and contextual understanding of the city-region and the marine environment Burgas is nestled in. The programme included a boat ride to **St. Anastasia Island** with a guided tour providing insights on the island's historical, cultural, and ecological significance for the region.





Study Visit participants on the boat trip to St. Anastasia Island and touring the island's old monastery / prison building that has been re-valued as a museum.

Next, the partnership sailed on to **Chengene Skele Culture and Tourist Centre**, where the Head of Burgas Tourism, **Dr. Radovesta Stewart**, introduced its history, including Burgas' settlement history, as well as the particular sustainable practices and nature-based solutions applied in this culturally-inspired tourist destination.



Dr. Radovesta Stewart introduces the participants to Chengene Skele's history and significance for the region.

A local fisherman shared stories about the realities of professional fishing and of the Black Sea's ecology in three small, but beautifully-designed, exhibition buildings on-site. The Community learned about the Black Sea ecosystem, the historic techniques and modern challenges of fishing in the Black Sea, but also about traditions and ways in which local knowledge is passed on to younger generations.



A local fisherman elaborates on the realities of professional fishing today and in the past.

The Community also learned about the conservation challenges of Bulgaria's Atanasovsko Lake, one of the biodiversity hotspots in the Black Sea region, during an exclusive viewing of the documentary 'Salty People' ([trailer](#)) at the Sea Casino. The film presents the history of the coastal lagoon and salt works through the stories of four environmentalists from the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, with salt, birds, and people being at the centre of the film.

1.3 Ideate & Exchange

The Study Visit's main focus on nature-based solutions was taken up again after a lunch of regional delicacies at the Chengene Skele restaurant. A [presentation](#) by **Marco Acri** (University of Nova Gorica) and the following workshop aimed to provide broad overview of existing resources for **Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in Waterfront Cities** and allow participants to connect the experiences and impressions gained the day before in Sarafovo by applying a nature-based solutions lens to the area's challenges.

Marco introduced the NbS concept roots and presented on how elements of traditional agricultural practices, circular economy, and conservation approaches are connected to NbS theory and practice. He further drew on multiple valuable open access [catalogues](#) and [atlases](#) providing a plethora of [NbS](#)

[approaches](#) and [best practice examples](#). He identified approaches that could be most relevant to the Waterfront Pilot area in Burgas (e.g., dune restoration, retention lakes, increase permeability, detention areas, bioswales, amongst others). Building on this, participants started reflecting and discussing ahead of the **ideation workshop**.

Associate Professor and Bulgarian Landscape Architect, **Dr. Svetlana Anisimova** (University of Forestry, Sofia) also contributed to the input session with her expertise. She shared her professional perspective on the main challenges and relevant approaches for the Sarafovo pilot. The challenges include slopes prone to landslides (partly due to mixed soil favouring erosion), the slope inclination, biodiversity challenges including invasive species, waste deposition, an increased stormwater run-off due to sealed surfaces. She recommended that the pilot area should remain an element of green infrastructure embodying a contrast to classical urban infrastructure, if possible.



Dr. Svetlana Anisimova shares her professional expertise as a practising landscape architect during the input session on NbS approaches and best practice examples.



Participants discuss solutions for the Sarafovo Sea Park site during the Nature-Based Solutions Observation Reflection and Ideation workshop at Chengene Skele Culture and Tourist Centre.

A variety of solutions and recommendations for the Sarafovo Sea Garden were proposed by the four workshop groups and presented on the third day at the Centre for Contemporary Art and Library. Recurring themes between the groups emphasised a desire to keep the park “natural” and use nature-based solutions to stabilise the soils, make low-impact enhancements to improve pedestrian access the beach, preserve mature trees and vegetation, remove invasive species, encourage sea breeze corridors, enhance viewpoints, and limit sealed surfaces, especially surface parking next to the beach.

The groups also emphasised that the planners and designers needed to consider the site from a more holistic / systemic perspective, taking into consideration connections (mobility, blue-green infrastructure, etc.) from the site to the city centre, Burgas International Airport / highway, and the Sarafovo neighbourhood itself. The groups also recommended putting in place deeper engagement with local residents and visitors to better understand their needs and wishes. These recommendations built on the insights shared during the local Impact Model Workshop, held prior to the Burgas Study Visit with local stakeholders, and enriched them.

1.4 Support

New ideas, resources and professional networks were identified by the study visit participants to support Burgas Municipality in reimagining a resilient and future-proof Sarafovo Sea Park. Their contributions included:

- **Concrete recommendations:** Specific suggestions were highlighted on the shared ArcGIS map.
- **Nature Based Solutions (NbS):** Participants identified and mapped NbS ideas during a dedicated workshop. More detail is provided in the [next section](#).
- **Expert Insights:** Valuable expertise and reflections were exchanged during informal discussions throughout the visit.
- **Impact Model Workshop:** Experiences from this workshop sparked active discussions and further reflection.

An important step was taken in supporting Burgas Municipality to identify (new) ideas for the Sarafovo Sea Park with the organisation of the Re-Value Impact Model Workshop prior to the study visits. The workshop was organised during the two days leading to the study visits and invited a multitude of local stakeholders to share their visions, concerns and ideas for the Sea Park’s future. During the Study Visit, the Burgas partners expanded on the workshop outcomes, enabling the Community of Practice to engage in discussions and compare these findings with their own ideas generated during the ideation session. For ease of reference, a summary report by Marjan Khaleghi and Zoya Stoyanova on the **Impact Model Workshop experiences** is provided below:

- The gamification model approach turned out to be a great success.
 - There was hesitation at the start, but then people started to get involved.
 - “Adult people in Bulgaria don’t play games”. But people warmed up over time.
- A wide range of stakeholders participated, including local residents, the mayor, architects, engineers, concessioners
- The participants stayed very segregated in their professional peer groups: A table of concessionaires, a table of architects with a more traditional perspective, and another for those with a more innovative approach.
 - The interpretation is that perhaps groups “speak different languages”.

- The concessioners advocated for parking lots, raising the risk of people not coming to the park otherwise.
- The architects proposed a slow and phased approach: begin by establishing parking areas away from the beach, conduct pilot tests to evaluate feasibility, and gradually introduce electric vehicles as part of the transition.
- This approach was supported by academics, who pointed out that the bay is young with land activities and movement. There is a need to phase the approach and avoid developing everything at once, with interim evaluations.
- The local residents suggested having attractions like zip lines in the forest, a place for cultural events like an amphitheatre, an area with archaeological excavations, and more.
- Young people had had an Innovation Camp the day before the Impact Model workshop and presented many interesting innovative ideas (e.g. taxi boat, youth park, use sheep wool for installations, eco parks, panoramic bird watching place, boat tours for educational sightseeing, etc.)
- An underground parking idea was brought forward during discussions which was liked by concessioners, but received some opposition from other participants. Even though participants did not always agree, they always collaborated on the various ideas, providing knowledge and support, and effectively connecting through the workshop.
 - There might need to be some scenario building or cost estimate to present attractive alternatives to the underground parking again.
- The connectivity to Burgas was a core topic.
- Looking at large-scale change (climate change), a proposal was made for Burgas to rethink the core times of activity. Tourism brings a lot of visitors in the summer months, but temperature might rise in the future during this period. Spring and autumn months might be more attractive and should be considered to anticipate changes in tourism seasonality.

In terms of next steps identified:

- After the geology report (in a few months) the next steps can be taken.
- Targeted data collection should be undertaken. Data will be key for the project going forward.
- Once the city of Burgas has identified concrete suggestions, further consultation with local residents can take place again.

As part of the study visit, the exchange session on the Impact Model workshop experiences was followed by a **discussion about Re-Value city experiences with beach concessions:**

- Learnings from both the Study Visit to Rimini in October 2023 and of the current Study Visit were connected.
- It was acknowledged that cities can learn from each other on how they can take back space from the concessioners and establish public ownership of the beach.
- Greece can be an example (ask Konstantina Douka), of people revolting against concessioners with the goal of reclaiming the beach.
- Rijeka, Rimini and Burgas all have experience of beach concessions. In Rijeka, the process is considered challenging, with concessioners also citizens being acknowledged as citizens. It is difficult to just “take that away from it”.

- It was noted that it is important to provide a firewall solution, so that the result is not just something being taken away, and alternatives are provided.



Marjan Khaleghi summarises the Impact Model Workshop experiences.

2 Observation Journey and NbS Workshop insights

During the **NbS ideation workshop** on Day 2, participants were divided into four groups to bring their learnings and impressions together and effectively map NbS ideas for the Sarafovo Sea Park. The detailed suggestions, highlighting challenges and solutions, from each group are provided in Annexe. Key suggestions include:

2.1 Environmental and Ecological Considerations

- **Addressing Abiotic Factors** (non-living part of an ecosystem that shapes its environment):
 - Combat coastal erosion using vegetation to stabilise the beach.
 - Manage runoff and infiltration with permeable surfaces, bioswales, and detention basins.
 - Mitigate the effects of drought and extreme rain with drought-resistant native plant species.
 - Improve soil conditions by preventing illegal waste dumping, limiting parking, and reducing soil compaction.
 - Terracing slopes for erosion control and integrating greenery into retaining walls.

- **Managing Biotic Factors** (living organism that shapes its environment):
 - Remove invasive species and replace them with native and resilient plants.
 - Avoid cutting trees; instead, adapt facilities to the existing tree cover.
 - Plant lighter native trees to minimise landslide risks.
 - Incorporate ecological features like treehouses, bird and bat houses, and insect hotels.
- **Climate Adaptation:**
 - Enhance wind corridors to capture cooling sea breezes.
 - Plan for resilience against future climatic changes and demographic shifts.

2.2 Community and Social Amenities

- **Recreational Facilities:**
 - Develop non-sealed sports facilities like rope parks and multifunctional spaces.
 - Include spaces for cultural events, concerts, and social gatherings (e.g., amphitheater).
 - Install educational trails and interactive ecological features for schools and visitors.
- **Connectivity and Accessibility:**
 - Ensure connections to the city center, airport, and green corridors.
 - Develop inclusive pathways (e.g., zigzag paths) for all age groups and abilities.
 - Improve public transport and alternatives like bike paths, boats, or electric shuttles to reduce reliance on cars.
- **Preserve Wilderness:**
 - Keep the park wild and natural, offering a low-intensity experience mainly for residents while preserving its quiet character.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Conduct a community needs assessment to align plans with local priorities.
 - Encourage long-term community stewardship through participation in management and maintenance.

2.3 Infrastructure and Urban Design

- **Parking and Transport:**
 - Avoid parking at the core of the park; centralise shaded parking under tree cover or outside the park.
 - Explore alternative transport solutions like small electrified trains or buses.
 - **Urban Features:**
 - Use porous or non-sealed paving to prevent soil movement and erosion.
 - Enhance the marina with greenery, shade, and renewable energy installations (e.g., photovoltaics).
 - **Safety and Maintenance:**
 - Improve public lighting and safety measures.
 - Analyse landslide risks using modern tools like LIDAR.
-

2.4 Strategic Vision

- **Long-Term Perspective:**

- Integrate the park into Burgas' broader green infrastructure, linking it to other parks and urban developments.
- Consider the demographic challenge by enhancing local amenities and livability to retain residents.
- Shift focus from intensive tourism to sustainable and transformative use of natural resources, preparing for economic and environmental changes.

- **Innovative Concepts:**

- Explore multi-functional detention basins that serve ecological, recreational, and infrastructural purposes.
- Include mobile or permanent tree installations in urban areas like the marina.
- Propose alternatives to beach concessions to maintain the park's natural and quiet appeal.

The consensus across groups emphasises a balance between preserving the natural character of Sarafovo Sea Park and enhancing accessibility and usability for the community. This includes strategic interventions to address ecological challenges, community-driven initiatives, and innovative designs to ensure the park remains a valuable resource for both locals and visitors.





Challenges and possible solutions for the Sarafovo Sea Park site presented to the larger group at the Centre for Contemporary Art and Library in Burgas

Annexe - NbS Workshop - Group Discussion

Group 1

Challenges

Abiotic factors:

- **Coastal erosion processes**
 - Soil and climatic conditions
 - Adverse wind regime (increases evaporation and dries the soil out)
 - Drought periods with months without rain
 - Extreme rain (and storm) events
 - Illegal deposition of waste → non-consolidated soils
 - Non-regulated parking → soil compaction
 - Topography: steep slope conditions
 - Sealed surfaces at top of slope → strong run-off eroding the soil. Increased infiltration is needed.
 - Lack of groundwater
- **Lack of facilities for recreation / inaccessibility of the natural environment for people**

Biotic factors:

- Invasive species exist and they spread into (protected) areas around.
 - This needs to be managed
- Large trees can contribute to landslides due to their weight.
 - If you plant new trees, favorise smaller/lighter kinds and predominantly native species.

Solutions

- Don't cut trees! Make playgrounds and other applications under the tree cover. Integrate projects into nature.
- No sealed roads. The soil is moving so there will be cracks. No pavement, favour other materials. If paved, then use porous paving.
- Make the top of the hill more permeable so that water infiltrates to have less run-off.
- Create accessible routes via serpentine.
- Terrace the slope (possible without cutting down trees? Maybe see where invasive species have to be removed anyways and terrace the slope where a lot of plants are gone)
 - If that creates walls, we should make them green. Vertical plant growth over the walls.
- Solve the parking issue. Centralised parking, 1-2 spots, under the trees for shaded parking and tree conservation, then possibly electrified little train transport into the park
- Provide sports facilities, currently missing in Sarafovo, but non-sealed ones, e.g. rope park
- Create cultural event space
- Manage roadway ditches
- Install detention basins? With multiple functions (sports courses, also the parking lots) maybe even keep tree cover

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- Plant drought resistible species
- Create nature sightseeing spots
- Build treehouses for kids, birds and bats houses, insect hotels
- Plan for ecological educational trails, educational areas, for schools to do outdoor lessons.
- Make an amphitheatre at the location of steepest slope. It should be covered by trees for shade. Try not to cut many trees.

Group 2

- Key takeaway: The area is already special as a natural resource and it should be kept as a natural resource but made better through specific changes, without drastically transforming it. "Keep it as a natural resource."
- Keep connectivity to the city centre and to the airport in mind as well as green infrastructure connections.
- What amenities are in the neighbourhood and who is living there (50% villas of outsiders, and 50% locals living there permanently.) Some people moved away because of lack of amenities.
- Community needs assessment needs to be done. The structural concepts need to be investigated before planning in concrete.
- The beach is less industrial than in the north. Let's try to preserve this quietness.
- It would be better to avoid installing parking at the core of the site.
- Use it in the "salt pan model" (referring to adjacent Lake Atanasovsko)
- Remove invasive species, replace them with resilient species stopping landslide situations and erosion.
- Make it climate adaptive in the future.
- Celebrate the viewpoint but not with commercial interest.
- Capture some of the cooling seabreezes: selective thinning or other concepts.
- Try to look at the whole corridor (we know the state is responsible for parts of it). But try to look at it as a whole, people moving from the centre through this natural environment.
- In Burgas city it is very nicely done that you have a transect from the city with traffic, and parking there, but then the green park and the beach with no parking opportunities at the beach. This can also be done for Sarafovo.
- What is the larger picture, the vision for Burgas in the long term? Is it concessioners, is it extending the tourism season by one month, or is it more transformative? We need to step back sometimes and ask hard questions about the future.

Group 3

- Connectivity to the city centre is essential.
- Keep it as wild and natural as possible. Less urbanised than the urban park in the centre.
- Offer the residents of Sarafovo a kind of "wild park".
- Try to exclude parking slots in Sarafovo sea park and have boats or electric trains bring people there from the centre (and bikes).
- How to improve the quality of the neighbourhood? Provide a more natural environment, create some green corridors within the quarter, provide tree-lined streets, limit the two-way car movement in some of the streets.
- Nature interpretation and education sites (insect hotels etc.)

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- Amenities for social gatherings should be included.
- Provide some amenities and facilities like multifunctional wooden structures (like in centre park in Burgas) for shade etc.
- Consolidate the resistance of the sea shore from coastal erosion with suitable vegetation that is protecting the beach from erosion.
- “Low intensity place”, which is mainly for the residents. And the tourists who come to this place should expect that it is a place where they are close to nature.
- Include bioswales and other catalogue NbS in the Sarafovo quarter.
- Consider letting the community manage the space if possible. Them being the stewards of this place in the long run.
- Animal sightseeing solutions inside the forest rather than an intense hiking environment.
- Provide some trees or rest areas along the bike path from Burgas to Sarafovo for shade and recovery. Place art along the way.
- Add movable trees in the port area.
- Concert and social gathering spaces would be nice. Make the space less empty.
- Boost the place’s wilderness. You already have a lot of great tourist facilities and opportunities.
- Safety needs to be increased: public lighting, etc.

Group 4

- The area needs to be conceptualised within a larger perimeter, to include the beach and parts of the sea and of the neighbourhood in the discussion. Also look at the larger picture connecting it to the city, the path there, the salt pans, etc.
- A local community needs assessment is important: How does the community in the quarter connect with the pilot...e.g. community gardens, community kitchens, would this make sense for the community?
- Create more zigzag paths instead of steep paths, these are more inclusive for elderly etc.
- Consider creating a calm outside swimming pool protected from larger waves.
- Put more trees into the marina, as there is mainly concrete currently (mobile or fixed trees).
- Make the marina more self-sufficient for electricity e.g. more photovoltaics.
- Keep the place as wild as possible.
- Consider wind corridors to get the sea breeze into the quarter.
- Connect the area to other parks in the quarter.
- Parking might be needed for people who come to the park with kids and a lot of beach equipment. Alternatively, you could also have more bus connections per day, so the public transport connection is easier.
- Conduct an analysis of landslide risks (LIDAR data etc) to see what can be done and where to manage and mitigate this risk.
- The largest oil refinery of the Balkans is in Burgas. Oil tankers etc need to leave over time. The project can maybe contribute (small parts) to these greater changes. A lot of the conditions around the area will change. Make the area prepared for these shifts as well.
- The biggest challenge of the future is demographic. Not to lose the people, moving away.
- Move away from beach concessions and some current tourism models.

About Re-Value

The Re-Value partnership consists of nine European waterfront cities and selected European organisations that work to make the urban transition irresistible for everyone. This is done by demonstrating how climate neutrality and urban quality can be aligned, by re-valuing the cities' connection to their waterfronts, strengthening co-benefits and mitigating potential adverse impacts.

Ålesund (Norway), Bruges (Belgium), Burgas (Bulgaria), and Rimini (Italy) demonstrate how integrated urban planning and design can be optimally deployed to achieve climate neutrality and significantly reduce GHG emissions by 2030.

In addition, Cascais (Portugal), Constanța (Romania), İzmir (Türkiye), Písek (Czechia), and Rijeka (Croatia) learn, replicate and develop their own participatory story-building, data-driven scenarios and financial and partnership models on integrated urban planning and design to accelerate their journeys to climate neutrality.

The partnership is coordinated by Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and is funded by the European Union's Research and innovation funding programme 'Horizon Europe'.

Learn more about the partnership and the outcomes on re-value-cities.eu.

Partners



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