TRANSFORM 4EUROPE

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UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA
FACULTY OF ARTS AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE

OGRÓD OPOWIEŚCI



Garden of Shared Memories

Project summary for Transform4Europe

Project at a glance

A community garden rooted in local heritage and built through co-creation and participation.

10.2025-10.2026

project duration

EUR 10,000

total budget: 8,000 EUR from common cultural activities funds

USIL

leader university:
University of Silesia;
partner: Universidade Católica Portuguesa

PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

partners: Zamek Cieszyn, Zielone Konsorcjum, Miejska Partyzantka Ogrodnicza, University of the Third Age, Beskidzki Dom Zielin Przytulia; students and lecturers, local inhabitants of Cieszyn, local kindergarten, local musicians and craftspeople

Priority areas:

- cultural memory,
- intangible heritage
- environment and heritage,
- community interaction,
- participatory design

Core aim:

- create a social garden on Cieszyn Campus,
- restore local heritage into living public space and community engagement,
- exchange experiences with partner universities



Why a social garden? Why in Cieszyn?

The project addresses a local heritage challenge through a living, participatory space.



HERITAGE ISSUE

Home gardens once worked as places of sustenance, healing, craft knowledge and intergenerational exchange. Today, many of these practices are fading, and gardens increasingly lose their social function.

LOCAL SETTING

- Cieszyn Silesia: border region with rich natural and cultural heritage;
- Traditional plants valued for food, medicine, symbolism and everyday materials;
- Fruit-tree wood linked to musical instruments, household tools and craft traditions.

The guiding concept: ecotone

A border zone where different worlds meet, interact and become mutually meaningful.



Nature

native and traditional plant species; biodiversity; eco-friendly cultivation methods



Meeting place

a campus garden “on the border” - between countries, nature and culture, university and community



Culture

memories, craft knowledge, music, art, storytelling and living heritage

The ecotone metaphor frames the garden as a resilient space of transition: practical, symbolic and European.

Objectives

The garden was designed as a learning environment, a heritage laboratory and an inclusive civic space.

Create a living heritage space

Establish a campus garden using traditional species and eco-friendly methods.

Strengthen community bonds

Bring together students, researchers, artists, residents, NGOs, entrepreneurs and children.

Make heritage contemporary

Interpret plant knowledge through art, music, craft, storytelling and educational boards.

Support well-being and resilience

Offer a safe, restorative place for connection, reflection and shared care.

Build student competencies

Teach participatory design, stakeholder work and research-based co-creation.

Deepen T4EU exchange

Use expertise from Universidade Católica Portuguesa to compare community-garden models.

Partnership and stakeholder ecosystem

A multi-actor project connecting academic, cultural, civic and local knowledge.

Students

ethnology, arts, music, cultural animation

Researchers & artists

USIL, UCP

GLAM partners

Zamek Cieszyn (regional design center), Silesian Museum

Local community

residents and Third Age University, local musicians

Local partners

Zielone Konsorcjum, Beskidzki Dom Zielin Przytulia, Miejska Partyzantka Ogrodnicza, local kindergarten

Activity pathway

From research and mapping to planting, artistic work and public opening.

Kick-off
action plan, research plan, recruitment

→

Research
desk research, observations, interviews, stakeholder mapping

→

Walk and workshops
ethnobotanical campus walk, heritage and deep ecology workshops

→

Co-design
workshops for the stakeholders on the participatory creation of the garden

→

Making
visual identity, art projects, planting

→

Opening
stakeholders meeting, garden party, exhibition, music workshops, concert and debate






Results and contribution into Work Package 7

The project left a lasting physical space, strengthened community collaboration, and created new educational resources rooted in local heritage.

Campus garden established

community garden space on Cieszyn Campus

Living heritage documented

research and field studies on gardens, plants, practices and memories

Engagment model

students cooperation in field research, artistic activities, co-design, planting and celebration

Artistic outputs

student artworks dedicated to the garden; exhibition “Na progu”, music workshops and concert

Heritage perceived as a living resource

ecological knowledge, local traditions, cultural practices as factors allowing to shape identities and support sustainable development

Community participation

over 100 people at the opening; ongoing invitation to students, staff and residents

Impact areas

A small-scale garden as a transferable model for common European heritage.

- Common European: heritage made more tangible through plants, art and shared maintenance;
- Stakeholders' well-being and resilience: through an accessible, restorative campus place;
- Students' knowledge and skills: through research, co-design and partcicipation;
- Replicable model for other T4EU regions and future international projects.



Next step

Treat the garden not as a finished object,
but as a growing social and ecological practice.