



Sarajevo Action Plan

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Project information

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Executive Summary

The Sarajevo Bauhaus Bites Action Plan outlines a locally grounded and community-driven roadmap for transforming Sarajevo urban food environments in alignment with the values of the New European Bauhaus (NEB): sustainability, inclusion, and beauty. The City of Sarajevo, in partnership with the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Sarajevo, has developed a Local Action Plan as part of the Bauhaus Bites project. The Plan translates the broader Bauhaus Bites Vision into actionable steps tailored to Sarajevo's unique cultural, social, and ecological context.

As a Twin City within the Bauhaus Bites project, Sarajevo is committed to co-creating the Sarajevo Food Forest – a model urban ecosystem designed to promote healthier, more sustainable diets while enhancing community well-being.

The Action Plan builds on a participatory process that has included stakeholder mapping, workshops with citizens, expert sessions, and youth engagement events. This collaborative approach ensures that the envisioned food environment reflects the aspirations of local communities and strengthens their role as co-creators and long-term stewards. The Sarajevo approach emphasises intercultural dialogue, environmental education, and inclusive access, recognising food as a connector between people, place, and purpose.

The plan identifies several strategic objectives:

1. Regenerate urban and nature ecosystems
2. Activate/Increase citizen participation in food-related policies and initiatives
3. Increase community food literacy and biodiversity knowledge
4. Transform the cultural and educational environment to support sustainable development

Implementation will be closely monitored through agreed KPIs and impact indicators, ensuring alignment with NEB principles and enabling iterative improvement based on community feedback. The Action Plan is conceived as a living document that will evolve alongside pilot activities and expanding local partnerships.

1. Introduction

The Sarajevo Bauhaus Bites (BB) project emerges as a response to the urgent need for sustainable transformation in urban food systems, guided by the values of the New European Bauhaus (NEB): sustainability, inclusivity, and beauty and its working principles. Within this framework, Sarajevo, as a Twin City in the Bauhaus Bites network, seeks to co-create innovative, nature-based, and community-led solutions in the food sector that reflect the city's unique cultural, social, and ecological context.

Sarajevo, located in the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina, faces challenges related to urbanisation, social inequalities, and climate change. At the same time, it benefits from a strong tradition of civic engagement and a growing number of initiatives focused on sustainable urban development, local food production, and environmental stewardship. These conditions make it a suitable context for developing and testing innovative approaches to urban food systems that connect local identity with broader social and ecological goals.

The Sarajevo Local Action Plan is the result of an extensive participatory process, including stakeholder mapping, citizen workshops, expert sessions, and youth engagement activities. The plan has been developed in close collaboration with the University of Sarajevo's Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, municipal services, and local civil society organisations, ensuring that the envisioned food environment reflects community aspirations and strengthens their role as co-creators and long-term stewards.

At the heart of Sarajevo's pilot is the Sarajevo Food Forest, located in the courtyard of the High School "Druga gimnazija" Sarajevo. This urban ecosystem serves as a living laboratory where residents, students, teachers, local authorities, and community and civil society partners collaboratively shape the school environment through nature-based solutions (NbS). The Food Forest promotes healthier and more sustainable diets, environmental education, and inclusive spaces for social interaction and intercultural dialogue.

The Action Plan is structured around several strategic objectives:

- Regenerate urban and nature ecosystems
- Activate/Increase citizen participation in food-related policies and initiatives
- Increase community food literacy and biodiversity knowledge
- Transform the cultural and educational environment to support sustainable development

By combining ecological solutions, participatory design, and cultural diversity, Sarajevo aims to demonstrate how cities in the region can creatively foster healthier, more resilient, and socially inclusive urban futures. The Action Plan is conceived as a living document, evolving alongside pilot activities and growing

local partnerships, contributing to the broader objectives of the New European Bauhaus movement.

2. Objective

The objective of this document is to present a Short-Term Local Action Plan that provides a clear, participatory, and operational roadmap for implementing the Sarajevo Food Forest pilot. It aligns Sarajevo's ambitions with the overarching goals of the Bauhaus Bites project and the values and principles of the NEB, translating strategic vision into locally meaningful actions. The plan is designed as a living document, responsive to evolving community needs and anchored in participatory processes that reflect the city's social and cultural diversity.

The Sarajevo Local Action Plan responds to a set of interconnected challenges identified through stakeholder mapping, community workshops, expert consultations, and youth engagement:

The need to strengthen local food governance through inclusive, collaborative, and participatory structures.

The urgency to improve food literacy, environmental awareness, and access to nature-based learning spaces for all age groups.

The ambition to promote sustainable diets, circularity, and ecological innovation in urban food systems while respecting local heritage and environmental limits.

To address these challenges, the plan establishes the following key objectives:

Objective 1: Regenerate urban and nature ecosystems

Objective 2: Activate/Increase citizen participation in food-related policies and initiatives

Objective 3: Increase community food literacy and biodiversity knowledge

Objective 4: Transform the cultural and educational environment to support sustainable development

Through these objectives, Sarajevo aims to demonstrate how participatory design, ecological solutions, and cultural diversity can foster healthier, more resilient, and socially inclusive urban futures. The plan serves both as a practical guide for pilot implementation and as a foundation for long-term collaboration and urban food innovation in the city.



Figure 1. Workshop with citizens

2. Sarajevo Action Plan for People, Places and Policy

The Sarajevo Local Action Plan is grounded in a holistic vision that connects people, places and policy to co-create a more sustainable, inclusive and educational urban food environment. Built around the Sarajevo Food Forest pilot in the courtyard of the High school “Druga gimnazija” Sarajevo, the plan operationalises New European Bauhaus values – sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics – through concrete, place-based and community-led actions.

Inspired by Sarajevo’s diverse social fabric and strong academic partnership with the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, the Action Plan emphasises participation, co-design and the integration of nature-based solutions. It translates the city’s ambition to innovate in urban food systems into practical steps that enhance environmental resilience, community well-being and food literacy.

People

The Sarajevo Food Forest connects diverse urban communities and focuses on engaging vulnerable and marginalised groups, including children, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income families. The project creates a space for shared learning, recreation, and social interaction, where local stakeholders – schools, NGOs, cultural and creative teams, and engaged citizens – actively participate in planning and maintaining it. Through participatory workshops, collective planting and educational activities, the Food Forest fosters a sense of ownership, strengthens social cohesion and intergenerational collaboration, and enables the community to apply practical knowledge about sustainable food practices.

Places

The Food Forest will be developed in the courtyard of the High School “Druga gimnazija” Sarajevo, within the school’s immediate educational environment. This location ensures strong integration of the project into school curricula and daily activities of students and teachers, creating a direct link to both formal and non-formal education, particularly in environmental education, food literacy, and hands-on learning in nature.

The school courtyard provides a safe, controlled, and easily accessible space suitable for continuous student involvement in the planning, planting, maintenance, and monitoring of the Food Forest. The site enables the

creation of functional outdoor learning zones, workshops, and collaborative activities.

Located in an urban context close to main roadways and public transport stops, the courtyard ensures good accessibility and connectivity with the wider city area. The space is open and accessible not only to students and teachers but also to visitors and community partners, thereby strengthening its public character and inclusive function.

As an urban school space with existing green elements and infrastructure, the location offers opportunities for ecological enhancement, including soil improvement through the addition of organic matter and compost, as well as the strengthening of biodiversity. Situated within a dense residential environment, the site has strong potential to support a school-based sustainability model and foster cooperation with the local community.

Policy

The Food Forest is fully aligned with local strategies for sustainable urban development, climate resilience, green infrastructure, and the promotion of local food systems. The project supports circular economy principles and actively contributes to food waste reduction through education, awareness-raising, and practical, place-based solutions.

Special attention is given to promoting responsible consumption, reducing organic waste at the community and school level, and encouraging composting practices within the Food Forest. In this way, the project contributes to closing nutrient loops, improving soil quality, and fostering a culture of sustainability and resource efficiency among citizens.

At the same time, the city actively works to remove administrative barriers in order to enable innovative, efficient, and transparent implementation.

Beyond strategic alignment, the project is strongly grounded in an ethical framework developed through participatory processes and dedicated workshops with key stakeholders. This framework ensures inclusive decision-making, active involvement of students, teachers, and the wider community, transparency of processes, and fair and responsible management of space and resources. Particular attention is given to equal access, non-discrimination, user safety, and the recognition of diverse needs and perspectives within the school and local community. Ethics is not treated as an additional component, but as an integrated principle guiding the design, implementation, and long-term governance of the Food Forest initiative.

Impact monitoring is conducted through participatory tools and tailored key performance indicators (KPIs), enabling continuous evaluation, learning, and adaptation of activities. This approach ensures the long-term

integration of inclusive, sustainable, and educational urban food spaces within the broader development context of Sarajevo.

3.1 Localised Sarajevo Vision towards BB Impact Pathways

The localised vision for Sarajevo within the Bauhaus Bites Impact Pathways is grounded in the city's unique identity, shaped by the meeting of cultures, its rich natural surroundings, and the need for regenerating public spaces. Sarajevo is a city of green corridors and shared life among diverse communities, yet it also faces challenges, including fragmented urban development, limited access to high-quality green spaces, and intensifying climate pressures. In this context, the Food Forest pilot represents a step toward reimagining the local food system – as a shared good, an ecological resource, and a space for learning, collaboration, and creativity.

Sarajevo's vision within the Bauhaus Bites project aims to demonstrate how the values of the NEB, sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics, and NEB working principles, can be translated into locally relevant, participatory, and experience-rich interventions that connect people, place, and policy. In doing so, Sarajevo emphasises three strategic directions:

1. Regenerating and reconnecting urban and natural structures

Transforming neglected or underused areas into productive, healthy, and aesthetically appealing spaces. The Food Forest pilot promotes nature-based solutions that enhance urban resilience, increase biodiversity, and highlight the value of spaces co-created by residents and local stakeholders.

2. Activating the community as co-creators of change

The process relies on the knowledge and experience of residents, schools, experts, and local organisations through workshops, consultations, and collaborative space design. Participants are not only users but also shapers of sustainable food and ecological practices.

3. Transforming food and educational environments

The Food Forest serves as a living laboratory where new models of education on regenerative agriculture, healthy habits, and ecological literacy are developed. Through intergenerational activities, seasonal events, and creative educational formats, food becomes a medium for connection and for creating a shared sense of belonging.

3.2 Sarajevo Community of Practice

The central approach to transforming the food system in Sarajevo is the belief that change must be co-created through open dialogue, mutual learning, and the active participation of diverse social groups. The Sarajevo Community of Practice

(CoP) is being established as a dynamic network of local stakeholders who contribute to the development, implementation, and scaling of the Sarajevo Food Forest pilot project, serving as a key component of the Local Action Plan.

3.2.1 Target audiences

The first phase of building the Sarajevo Community of Practice focused on identifying the key stakeholders to be involved in the process. To this end, a mapping of target audiences was conducted – the groups of people and stakeholders the project aims to reach with its key messages to achieve its objectives. Based on this mapping, the following target audiences have been identified, taking into account their different roles and influence in the decision-making process:

- Local and national policymakers (City of Sarajevo, Centar Municipality, Sarajevo Canton)
- Academics and schools (Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Architecture Sarajevo, High School “Druga gimnazija”, QSI International School Sarajevo)
- Local residents, neighbourhood councils, and citizens
- Non-profits and NGOs working in food policy (e.g. Mozaik Foundation, CENER 21, Association Vidasus)
- International and EU-level partners, including the New European Bauhaus Initiative

Given the differing roles and levels of influence among these stakeholders, the project will adopt a participatory and inclusive approach to ensure balanced decision-making and actively involve local communities, particularly residents and end users of the space. To achieve this, workshops, co-design sessions, and other participatory activities will be employed to ensure that all stakeholders have a tangible impact on the planning and implementation of the project.

3.2.2 Sarajevo Food Lab – SDG Hub Sarajevo

Within the Community of Practice, Sarajevo is currently developing the Sarajevo Food Lab network, provisionally titled “SDG Hub Sarajevo” (hereinafter: the Hub). The Hub serves as a platform for collaboration among actors from the public, private, academic, and civil society sectors, with a focus on improving the quality of life in Sarajevo through sustainable, inclusive, and innovative practices.

The Hub has several key roles:

- bringing together relevant stakeholders and supporting participatory planning;
- coordinating activities related to the Sarajevo Food Forest pilot;
- facilitating knowledge exchange and sharing of good practices;
- promoting inclusive, sustainable, and creative solutions within the urban community;

- continuity and long-term impact on local policies and projects will be ensured through stakeholder engagement and monitoring of outcomes.

3.3 From the Sarajevo Vision to the Pilot

The transition from the Sarajevo Vision to the Food Forest pilot reflects the city's commitment to turning strategic aspirations into tangible actions. Guided by the principles of the NEB – sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics – the pilot project is designed to respond to the urban context, local needs, and the broader goals of the BB initiative.

The pilot project Food Forest aims to create a multifunctional urban space that integrates sustainable food production, environmental stewardship, social interaction, and educational opportunities. It seeks to strengthen community resilience, promote ecological awareness, and support local cultural and social dynamics through nature-based solutions and circular approaches.

This pilot project demonstrates how food can be more than nourishment: it can act as a connector between people, places, and policy, fostering learning, creativity, and community well-being. By embedding NEB principles in its design and implementation, the Sarajevo pilot serves as a model for inclusive, sustainable, and aesthetically meaningful urban interventions.

Based on this vision, the objectives have been defined to guide the pilot's implementation. The tables below present in detail the interventions proposed for implementation during the pilot phase by the City of Sarajevo, with expert support from the University, in close collaboration with the local community and relevant regional and national stakeholders.

Objective 1: Regenerate urban and nature ecosystems

Description of the Action:	This action aims to create a rich, multi-layered urban ecosystem in the courtyard of the High School “Druga gimnazija” Sarajevo by establishing the Sarajevo Food Forest. The intervention includes planting native and edible plant species, soil regeneration, and enhancing biodiversity, with active involvement from students, teachers, and the wider community.
Objectives:	1) Integrate field-based learning, workshops and demonstrations into the Food Forest; 2) Install educational and interpretative elements explaining plant species, uses and health benefits; 3) Enable long-term educational use of the space by schools, universities and community groups.
Links to other city policies or strategies:	Local strategies for green infrastructure and urban development; Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP); Climate adaptation and biodiversity strategies of the City and Canton Sarajevo; Bauhaus Bites project; NEB values

	and principles.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action:	City of Sarajevo
Local partners to involve:	Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences UNSA; Municipality of Centar; local schools and universities; citizens.
Time required for implementation:	18 months (April 2026 – October 2027)
Potential risks to implementation:	Insufficient ecological expertise during implementation, which may affect the long-term ecological sustainability of the Food Forest for the school community. Delays in planting due to seasonal or climatic conditions, potentially influencing the timely establishment of the ecosystem; Limited engagement of educational institutions, which may affect the educational and institutional sustainability of the initiative.

Objective 2: Activate/Increase citizen participation in food-related policies and initiatives

Description of the Action:	This action aims to empower citizens and local stakeholders to actively shape the Sarajevo Food Forest through participatory planning, co-design workshops and collective implementation activities. The process strengthens community ownership, social cohesion and long-term stewardship of the space.
Objectives:	1) Engage citizens, schools and local organisations in co-design and decision-making processes 2) Strengthen community ownership and responsibility for the Food Forest 3) Build long-term participatory governance and stewardship mechanisms.
Links to other city policies or strategies:	Strategies for citizen participation and social inclusion; Urban development and public space activation strategies; SECAP; BB project; NEB principles.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action:	City of Sarajevo
Local partners to involve:	Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences UNSA; Municipality of Centar; local schools and universities; local NGOs; youth; citizens.

Time required for implementation:	26 months (August 2025 – October 2027)
Potential risks to implementation:	Low or uneven participation of community members; Participation fatigue over time; Insufficient facilitation of co-creation processes; Power imbalances between different stakeholders (e.g. school management, teachers, students, and community members), which may affect equitable participation and influence in co-creation processes.

Objective 3: Increase community food literacy and biodiversity knowledge

Description of the Action:	This action establishes the Sarajevo Food Forest as an open-air learning environment that provides hands-on educational opportunities related to sustainable food systems, biodiversity and urban ecology. The space supports formal and informal education for citizens, students and visitors.
Objectives:	1) Organize field classes for pupils and students within the Food Forest area 2) Install educational and informational panels with plant names, their benefits and uses for health and nutrition 3) Create a “digital learning hub” with QR codes linked to educational content about plants and ecosystems.
Links to other city policies or strategies:	Education and youth strategies; Environmental awareness and sustainability education frameworks; SECAP; BB project; NEB values and principles.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action:	City of Sarajevo
Local partners to involve:	Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences UNSA; Municipality of Centar; primary and secondary schools; educational and cultural institutions; tourism organisations; local NGOs.
Time required for implementation:	24 months (November 2025 – October 2027)
Potential risks to implementation:	Limited capacity of schools to integrate outdoor learning – some teachers may not have the time or capacity for additional activities; Insufficient resources for educational materials – materials and tools may not be available for all students; Weather-related constraints on activities – rain or extreme

temperatures may disrupt outdoor activities.

Objective 4: Transform the cultural and educational environment to support sustainable development

Description of the Action:	This action integrates cultural, artistic and creative elements into the Sarajevo Food Forest to promote innovation, sustainability and local identity. Through cultural events, creative workshops and artistic installations, the Food Forest becomes an inspiring and culturally meaningful public space aligned with NEB principles.
Objectives:	1) Organization of creative workshops and cultural events connecting the space with local culture, tradition and aesthetics 2) Educational activities conveying knowledge about the importance of cultivating native plant species and their use in nutrition and health 3) Digital and interactive educational installations (QR codes, mobile apps).
Links to other city policies or strategies:	Cultural development and creative industry strategies; Urban regeneration and public space activation policies; SECAP; BB project; NEB principles.
Entity responsible for coordinating the action:	City of Sarajevo
Local partners to involve:	Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences UNSA; Municipality of Centar; cultural and creative organisations; artists and designers; schools and cultural institutions; local community groups.
Time required for implementation:	36 months (November 2024 – October 2027)
Potential risks to implementation:	Limited funding for cultural activities – insufficient resources to carry out planned artistic and educational programs; Insufficient coordination between cultural and environmental actors – risk that different sectors do not work in a coordinated way, reducing project impact; Low public visibility of creative interventions – risk that activities do not reach the wider community and target groups.

3.4 Sarajevo Long-Term Strategy Plan for People, Places and Policy

The City of Sarajevo is committed to a long-term strategic approach that ensures continuity, learning and scalability of the Sarajevo Food Forest and related initiatives beyond the project duration.

The strategy builds on the pilot implementation in the courtyard of the High School “Druga gimnazija” and aligns with key local and cantonal frameworks, including the Sarajevo Canton Development Strategy (2021–2027) and the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP). Through the Sarajevo Food Forest, these policy objectives are translated into concrete, place-based actions that support climate resilience, biodiversity enhancement, inclusive public spaces and sustainable urban development.

Guided by the New European Bauhaus principles of sustainability, inclusion and beauty, the long-term approach promotes participatory governance, cross-sectoral collaboration and community stewardship of urban food spaces. The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences of the University of Sarajevo plays a central role as a knowledge and education partner, supporting research, learning and capacity-building activities.

The Sarajevo Food Forest is envisioned as a long-term model for the regenerative use of public green spaces through nature-based solutions, with potential for replication across other suitable urban locations. By integrating ecological, social and cultural dimensions, the strategy ensures that the outcomes of Bauhaus Bites are embedded into local practice and generate a lasting positive impact for the city and its residents.

4. Sarajevo Innovations and Exploitable Results

Sarajevo contributes to the BB project by developing the Sarajevo Food Forest, a multifunctional, nature-based, and community-driven urban space. The city integrates ecological regeneration, participatory governance, education, culture, and creative methods into a single place-based model, aligned with the values of the NEB: sustainability, inclusion, and beauty. Innovations developed through the pilot project in the courtyard of the High School “Druga gimnazija” Sarajevo are designed to be replicable, adaptable, and practical, with potential for application in other cities in Southeast Europe and post-socialist urban contexts.

Key innovations and exploitable results include:

- Sarajevo Food Forest as a regenerative urban model: A layered, edible landscape combining native and climate-resilient plants, soil regeneration, and biodiversity enhancement. This provides a replicable model for transforming public green spaces into productive, educational, and climate-resilient landscapes, applicable in parks, schoolyards, and underused urban plots.
- Participatory co-design and shared stewardship: Active involvement of citizens, schools, civil society organisations, and municipal actors in planning, implementation, and maintenance of the Food Forest, fostering long-term ownership, inclusive participation, and a sustainable community.
- “Living classroom” for education and research: Integration of formal and informal education, research, and experiential learning in collaboration with the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Sarajevo. Strengthens food literacy, encourages intergenerational learning, and is adaptable for schools, universities, and community initiatives.
- Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate resilience: Implementation of NbS in urban contexts, including soil regeneration, biodiversity-friendly planting, and microclimate improvements. Provides guidance for small-scale urban interventions that support climate adaptation, ecological performance, and environmental quality.
- Cultural and creative activation of urban spaces: Integration of artistic, cultural, and creative activities to strengthen local identity, community engagement, and the aesthetic dimension of sustainability. Offers a transferable model for integrating food, culture, and public-space activation in line with NEB values.
- Digital and educational knowledge platform: Development of educational materials, guides, and modules for schools, communities, and practitioners to strengthen food literacy and collective management of urban green and food spaces, with potential for adaptation in other cities.
- Tools for inclusive design and social engagement: Development of design principles and participatory methods that ensure accessibility,

inclusiveness, and shared responsibility, providing a model for implementation in other urban contexts and public space projects.

All innovations are being documented for inclusion in the Bauhaus Bites Playbook through case studies, methodologies, and lessons learned. In this way, the City of Sarajevo offers a replicable and adaptable model for cities seeking to implement the principles of the New European Bauhaus within long-term urban transformation processes. The Food Forest demonstrates how public space can simultaneously function as a productive landscape, an educational environment, and a shared community asset, providing exploitable tools and methods for other cities, practitioners, and policymakers.

5. Sarajevo Impact Monitoring, Evaluating and Measuring

The monitoring and evaluation approach for the Sarajevo Food Forest has been designed as a practical, adaptable framework to assess the environmental, social, and governance impacts of the pilot intervention. The City of Sarajevo applies a combination of quantitative indicators and qualitative insights, with a focus on continuous learning and improvement over time.

Environmental impact will be tracked using key indicators of biodiversity, soil quality, and microclimate. This includes monitoring plant diversity and survival, pollinator presence, and visible improvements in soil condition resulting from regenerative planting and maintenance practices. These data provide insights into the effectiveness of nature-based solutions in an urban context.

Social and community impact will be assessed by monitoring space use and participation in Food Forest activities. Quantitative data include visitor numbers, frequency of visits, and attendance at workshops and community events. Particular attention will be given to user diversity and accessibility across different age groups and social backgrounds.

Qualitative evaluation will play a key role in understanding user experience. Feedback will be collected through participatory discussions and informal sessions with the community. Special attention will be given to creating a safe and supportive environment where all participants feel comfortable sharing their views. In addition to quantitative data, a participatory workshop and/or an anonymous survey with students and park users will be conducted after the project implementation. These approaches will allow for the gathering of insights into user satisfaction, perceptions of safety and well-being, and a sense of belonging to the space, while ensuring participant privacy. These insights will capture perceptions of safety, well-being, learning, and the sense of belonging to the space.

Educational and research impact will be monitored in collaboration with schools, and academics. Indicators include the number of learning activities conducted, student and researcher involvement, and the use of the Food Forest as a “living classroom” for applied research, outdoor learning, and food system literacy.

Monitoring and evaluation results will be systematically documented and used to guide the adaptive management of the Food Forest. Key lessons learned and practical tools will be included in the BB Playbook, contributing to European knowledge exchange and providing a reference model for cities aiming to develop nature-based, inclusive, and community-driven urban interventions.

6. Sarajevo Inclusivity, Diversity and Ethics Consideration

Sarajevo places inclusivity, diversity, and ethical responsibility at the core of all activities related to the Sarajevo Food Forest. These principles are not treated as separate concerns but are embedded across decision-making, spatial design, and community participation. The project aligns with the New European Bauhaus principles – sustainability, inclusion, and beauty – and with ethical frameworks such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (the right to participate in cultural life) and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (the integration of persons with disabilities).

6.1. Equity and Accessibility

The project actively engages a wide range of social groups – children, youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, and local communities – not only as beneficiaries but as co-creators of spaces and activities. Particular attention is given to:

- Power awareness and participation: Facilitators are trained to recognise and address power imbalances using practical methods such as inclusive communication, group facilitation, and actively engaging marginalised voices, ensuring that all participants are genuinely involved and that participation is meaningful rather than tokenistic.
- Do no harm: Activities are designed to minimise social, psychological, and physical risks for participants.
- Physical accessibility: The Food Forest and associated facilities follow universal design principles – barrier-free paths, tactile surfaces, and shaded resting areas.
- Cultural and dietary inclusion: Activities and educational programmes celebrate cultural diversity and accommodate various dietary needs.

6.2. Ethics and Participation

The project is based on principles of respect, transparency, and reciprocity:

- Informed participation: All participants are provided with clear information on the purpose of activities and how their contributions will be used.
- Voluntary engagement: Participation is fully voluntary, with special care for vulnerable groups to ensure a safe and empowering environment.
- Recognition of community knowledge: Traditional, cultural, and experiential knowledge – especially of older generations, and local producers – is valued alongside technical and academic expertise.
- Privacy and data protection: All information collected during interviews, workshops, and co-creation sessions will be handled in accordance with

ethical research practices, ensuring participant anonymity, restricting data access, and using it solely for the purposes of the project.

6.3. Continuous Ethical Reflection

The project includes regular evaluation, open communication, and community feedback, ensuring that inclusivity, respect, and trust remain central to every action. By embedding ethics and participatory governance into the Food Forest, Sarajevo fosters a lasting legacy of shared ownership, social cohesion, and community-driven urban transformation.



Figure 2. Workshop with experts

7. Sarajevo Risk and Mitigation Measures

The implementation of the Sarajevo Food Forest within the BB project takes place in a dynamic urban, social, and environmental context. While the core institutional roles and partnerships are clearly established, several contextual risks may influence the pace and depth of implementation.

One potential risk relates to varying levels of long-term community engagement. As the Food Forest is conceived as a living, evolving space, sustained participation beyond initial activities cannot be taken for granted. This risk is mitigated through continuous community-based activities, collaboration with educational institutions, and the involvement of local stakeholders in stewardship and programming, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility.

Another potential risk concerns the maintenance and long-term care of the Food Forest. Nature-based interventions require ongoing attention, and insufficient maintenance could affect ecological performance and public perception. Mitigation measures include the involvement of academic partners, integration of learning and stewardship activities, and alignment with existing municipal green space management practices.

External factors, such as administrative procedures, weather conditions, or broader socio-economic uncertainties, may also impact timelines. To address this, the project adopts a flexible and adaptive implementation approach, allowing activities to be adjusted without compromising core objectives or quality.

In addition to the risks identified in the Grant Agreement and at consortium level, one additional context-specific risk has been identified: potential limitations in public accessibility and possible conflicts related to the shared use of the space, including balancing school functions, access for the wider community, child safety, and privacy considerations. The schoolyard is open and accessible to users during the day, while it is closed at night, which supports openness and community use, while also ensuring protection of the site and reducing the risk of vandalism or misuse outside operating hours. Although this risk is not considered critical for implementation, it may affect inclusiveness and the long-term social sustainability of the initiative if not properly managed. Mitigation measures include establishing clear access and governance arrangements with the school, ensuring supervised and structured community use of the space, and applying participatory governance models involving relevant stakeholders. Risk monitoring will continue throughout the project lifecycle to ensure a timely response and adaptive management.

Risk management in Sarajevo is understood as a continuous and adaptive process rather than a static administrative obligation. Through regular monitoring, open communication with partners and the community, and a

flexible approach to implementation, the City of Sarajevo strives to ensure that identified risks do not compromise the achievement of the Bauhaus Bites project objectives. This approach strengthens project resilience and lays the foundation for long-term, inclusive, and sustainable urban transformation.

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List of Abbreviations

BB	Bauhaus Bites
CENER21	Center for Energy, Environment and Resources
CoP	Community of Practice
EU	European Union
NbS	Nature-based solutions
NEB	New European Bauhaus
SDG Hub	Sustainable Development Group Hub
SECAP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan
UNSA	University of Sarajevo



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