URBAN 500





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Creating walkable streets together with citizens

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Summary

Urban500, led by the Placemaking Western Balkans, is a citizen science-driven initiative with a clear mission: to start constructing a robust open database on the quality of pedestrian spaces in the densely populated areas of the Balkan cities. The initiative will evaluate walkability within a 500-step radius, which equals an average of 15 minutes of walking, the basis of the "15 minutes city" concept.

The project will address three key challenges in the Balkans cities:

- Rapid deterioration of walkability due to excessive car dependency
- Declining physical and mental health caused by the lack of pedestrian-friendly public spaces
- "data desert" situation, which hinders a comprehensive understanding of the needs of diverse groups of pedestrians, especially those who walk the most: children, women, and the elderly.

The collaboratively generated data will capture and visualise diverse user perceptions of streets, squares and parks in everyday life.

