

## THE GREEN CHARTA OF BUDAPEST

The aim of the European-Green City initiative is to improve the quality of life in the cities by creating more public and private green spaces. Green spaces have positive effects on the well-being of people, social co-existence in the society and the environment. These benefits are reflected in economic, ecological and sociocultural values.

The European Green City Movement under the patronage of ELCA is committed to promote the awareness of the value of green in the cities towards the decision-makers, stakeholders and the public in order to create urban environment that is worth to live in.

It is through the conscious increasing of the quality and the quantity of vegetation and living green spaces that the social, economic and environmental challenges of cities can be solved.

The Green City idea is even more relevant today than it was in 2009. To keep the Green City Convention not just alive but even more fit to be able to answer the ever increasing urban challenges, it is very important to pump fresh blood through its body: to update and upgrade the Green City Initiative year by year, based on successes, failures, changes in the environment and upcoming new ideas and technologies.

We communicate these updates in the form of Chartas. The unchanged bases of the present Charta are the three former Green Chartas, therefore this document is the natural extension of the Strasbourg Convention, The Green Charta of Milano and the Green Charta of Zurich.

**The „One Goal” has not changed:      make more and quality living green in the cities NOW!**

**The UN Agreement of December 2015, Paris emphasizes the role of the cities addressing climate change. The greening of cities is the way through which we can deal with the impacts of climate change.**

We, the Green City Countries, would like to emphasize our common strong intentions in the following areas:

1. Each and every European city and town should have widespread, holistic, ecologically serving **Green Infrastructure in place.**
2. Each European City should have a **Green Infrastructure Plan by Law.**
3. Each of these **Green Infrastructures should be integrative** ones: integrating landscape experts, experts of related fields of traditional infrastructure and be ecologically connected to the local, regional and European ecological network, in order to make the urban ecosystem more fit, resilient and sustainable.
4. Each independent and construction-related green surface design and construction should be **sustainable** and carried out using **Nature Based Solutions.**
5. Each independent and construction-related green surface design and construction should aim at **eco-friendly maintenance.**
6. A **design and construction analysis and accreditation tool** should be recommended in order to *stop „green wash”*, calculate benefits and manage ecological process integration.
7. An even more sophisticated and instant **IDEA-DATA-INFO SHARING** process should be set up between and within the countries.

8. From the almost worldwide identical Sustainable Landscaping Toolbox elements (e.g. green roofs and walls, SUDs, unsealed surfaces, indigenous plant communities, material reuse etc.) **creative, locally relevant, unique** patterns should be realised .
9. Make urban eco-landscaping: the living **GREEN a real FASHION** for citizens and an indispensable badge both for political decision makers and companies by citizen and children education and communication, lobbying and company communication.

Our mission therefore is to promote the improvement and establishment of living green spaces in the cities, to support their sustainable design, construction and maintenance, and to communicate the value of the services of nature.

The signing parties welcome the Spanish organization among the members of the European Green City Movement.

Budapest, 29th September 2016

The Green Charta of Budapest is subscribed by

On behalf of EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (ELCA)

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On behalf of IFLA EUROPE

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Anna EPLÉNYI, Vice-President of Hungarian Association of Landscape Architects (HALA)

On behalf of ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS OF HUNGARY (MAKEOSZ)

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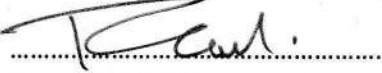
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