



DEPARTMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

worldskills
Romania

ATLAS OF PROFESSIONS AND COMPETENCIES IN URBAN GREENING 2021 SUMMARY REPORT





SUMMARY

OF THE RESEARCH REPORT in the field of **URBAN GREENING in Romania and related qualifications and competencies**

The Department of Sustainable Development of the Romanian Government and WorldSkills Romania Foundation developed the initiative called “Atlas of Professions and Competencies in Urban Greening” to address the need to identify current professions and competencies in the field of urban greening, in line with the objectives of Romania’s Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.

This research report is part of this initiative and creates the necessary prerequisites to guarantee the quality of the results of a subsequent process to define the future of qualifications, competencies and training programs needed to develop the field of urban greening. Based on this process, it will be possible to develop new occupations or update the current ones, develop occupational and training standards, develop relevant curricula and appropriate training programs.

The first part of the report provides the context in which the research was carried out and the research design which explains the research methodology. The research was conducted using semi-structured interviews and literature review as techniques, the two complementing each other. The interviewees are associations and institutions relevant to the field of urban greening (The Romanian Landscape Architects Association, The Romanian Professional Association of Urban Planners, The Romanian Green Building Council, The International Federation of Landscape Architects, Groene Hotspot Houten - The Netherlands, The Social Innovation and Expertise Group, The Romanian Order of Architects, The International Society of Arboriculture - USA), all of them with extensive professional experience at the national and European level. The data were collected in September and October 2021. The literature review was based on: the Romanian Classification of Occupations (COR), the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) EU policies and regulations, studies, projects and published scientific papers. A data analysis was carried out based on individual interview transcripts, with interview data supplemented by literature review, incorporating interviewees’ statements into a broader context of published policies, regulations, studies and scientific articles. In order to facilitate the interpretation of the results, a thematic analysis of the corresponding core elements included in the research instrument was chosen, accompanied by relevant extracts from the interviewees’ statements.

The research results are structured around three main themes:

1. Urban greening - definition, perspectives and relevant activities
2. Mapping occupations relevant to urban greening
3. Analysis of competencies and training needs in relevant occupations.





The conclusions and recommendations are based on the following directions, inviting further research:

- Urban greening can be **defined as a nature-based** solution to today's challenges that supports the sustainable development of society. There is no standard European or national policy definition for the concept of urban greening;
- Specific activities in the fields of landscaping, architecture, urban planning, construction and horticulture include elements of urban greening, but **new activities** need to be added to **allow for the development of this field**;
- In the fields that were studied (landscaping, architecture, urban planning, construction and horticulture), **the occupations for urban greening that are found (at the designation level) both at the level of the Romanian Classification of Occupations and at the level of the European Classification of Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations** are: architect, landscape gardener, town planner, town planner/landscaping designer,

gardener, arborist versus arboriculturist, horticultural worker, civil construction engineer, railway, road and bridge engineer, hydrotechnical construction engineer and construction worker. In the Romanian Classification of Occupations there are more occupations than at the European level, in the fields relevant to urban greening, but without clarifying the related roles and responsibilities;

- The spectrum of occupations relevant to urban greening **can also extend to the fields of** Biology, Geography, Geodesy, Sociology, Economics, Political Sciences, Public Administration, Education, Human Resources, Social Assistance;
- The existing occupations in the fields researched (Constructions, Horticulture, Architecture, Urban Planning, Landscaping) do not contain general and specific skills that ensure quality and professionalism in the urban greening and sustainable development dimensions. There is a need for **sustainable development management skills** related to sustainable greening at decision-making level to guarantee a common, articulated vision. There is also a need for **general and specific skills** training **at implementation and execution** level towards urban greening;
- It requires working in mixed-professional teams to develop strategies and identify solutions for their effective implementation and enforcement;
- There is a need to create information-training-innovation structures on urban greening;
- Representatives of the professional associations that participated in the research identified **new initiatives** that can support the development of this area and which require further investigation:
 - » The development of an information center on urban greening;
 - » The development of Green Spaces management plans / user manuals for Green Spaces;
 - » The Green Cadaster - an inventory of all green

spaces in a given territory;

» The compilation of Green Registers (an inventory and management tool for green areas);

» The development of the Green Charter (local government strategies for vegetation management, an information tool);

» The development of the Green Guides (a guide to choose the pavement, lighting, species, materials, etc.);

» The regulation of the landscaping profession in accordance with the regulations in force at the European level, in line with the Landscape Convention ratified by Romania in 2001;

» Linking the training institutions to the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) licensing criteria;

» The development and implementation of the concept of regenerative buildings which restore the relationship with nature and natural balance;

» Identify problems arising from economic development and the effects of development on the environment in general: climate change;

» The creation in Romania of Laboratories of pedology and soil studies;

» Making the most of urban outdoor spaces for learning activities;

» Education for sustainability and sustainable development for students and their parents;

» The development of training programs to support the field of urban greening by a diverse range of institutions;

» The creation of an outdoor education center as a resource center for teaching personnel;

» The creation of accelerators to develop groups to become a civic force supporting urban greening;

» Strengthening the relationship between civic groups - community - local authorities to support urban greening.

• **A further extensive research** is needed in this area, given the complexity and dynamics in terms of the European and national labour markets, as well as some different perspectives of research participants that would need to be further explored in a collaborative approach.

Research themes include:

» To what extent new occupations are needed for the development of the urban greening field;

» Clarification on the composition of interdisciplinary teams to support the development of the field of urban greening and the relationships between their members;

» Defining/updating skills to support urban greening;

» Updating qualifications and introducing occupational standards to support urban greening by taking advantage on the window of opportunity offered by the update of qualifications and development of new standards as part of the ongoing project "Increasing the administrative capacity of the NQA and the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice (now the Ministry of Labour and Social protection) by systematization and simplification of legislation in the field of qualifications" implemented by the National Qualifications Authority in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice (now the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, January 2020 - January 2023);

» A detailed analysis of the occupational standards for professions related to the field of urban greening, after the completion of the review included in the project "Increasing the administrative capacity of the NCA and the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice (now the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection) by systematization and simplification of legislation in the field of qualifications" implemented by the National Qualifications Authority in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice (now the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection);



» Identification and analysis of "green" occupations and skills on the background of international trends in the field.




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