

**-Document translated from Romanian-**

The investment objective "Municipal Hippodrome Park" - entitled:

**MUREȘ PARKS, TÂRGU-MUREȘ**  
**THE HIPPODROME PARK, MUNICIPAL PARK, TURBINEI CANAL BLUE-  
GREEN ENSEMBLE**  
DESIGN COMPETITION

**Annex 8.7.6. REPORT ON THE TAKEOVER OF OPPORTUNITY ELEMENTS FROM  
THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS IN THE COMPETITION BRIEF**

TOPIC OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Târgu-Mureș City Hall in partnership with the Romanian Order of Architects is organizing an international design competition, a public procurement procedure for architectural and design services, in order to obtain the best proposals for the transformation and design of these public spaces in accordance with the history and context of the city, as well as with the wishes and needs of citizens.

PURPOSE OF THE PROCEDURE

The public consultation process is a necessary stage in any urban space restructuring initiative. In the current context, its relevance is all the more accentuated, since the redesign of these public and natural spaces related to the Mureș involves significant transformations at the scale of the city and the landscape and must respond, in a fair manner, to the interests and needs of the community as a whole. Thus, the future project has the obligation to integrate the widest possible spectrum of collective requirements and desiderata.

The establishment of an articulated and nuanced dialogue between the actors involved can contribute to an adequate calibration between the principles and values promoted by the competition brief, on the one hand, and the expectations, aspirations, and perceptions of the city's inhabitants, on the other.

In this perspective, the public consultation process manifests its relevance on three complementary levels:

1. **Informing the public** about the strategic directions of the project constitutes not only an exercise in administrative transparency, but also an educational approach, through which the local community is familiarized with the European values and principles that govern the recent processes of rehabilitation of public spaces and the integration of nature in these projects.
2. **Involving citizens** in the early stages of the design process fosters a sense of belonging and personal adhesion to the project, with positive

effects in the medium and long term. Extended to the urban level, this phenomenon translates into an increase in interest in the quality of housing, public spaces, and the natural environment, and in assuming the individual role in the sustainable development of the city.

- 3. Capitalizing on public contributions** by integrating pertinent points of view expressed during the consultation process into the content of the competition brief represents the pragmatic dimension of this approach, ensuring a more accurate correlation between the designers' intentions and the real needs of the community.

## STAGES OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

In order to substantiate the design brief of the competition, an extensive public consultation process was launched with citizens, through the online public questionnaire, as well as through a series of public debates involving the Romanian Order of Architects – Mureș Branch, NGOs active in the Municipality of Târgu-Mureș, neighbours, and directly interested actors, and, of course, the general public.

### A. Public online questionnaire

During the period 3.07.2025 – 28.07.2025, residents were invited to express their opinion and vision on the green areas of the municipality, by filling in an online questionnaire.

The summary of the responses of the 344 participants is presented here, constituting support for the general public debate.

Although the majority of the participants in the questionnaire do not live in the immediate vicinity of the targeted areas, the interest in them is high, signalling their importance at the level of the entire city. Currently, these spaces are visited less frequently, probably due to the reduced attractiveness and the lack of adequate pedestrian and bicycle facilities or connections. Travel is mainly done on foot or by personal car, which suggests the potential for increasing accessibility and frequency of visits through coherent, diversified designs that are well-connected to the urban network.

The questionnaire highlighted a number of clear community needs, focused on creating a richer and more accessible green environment. Accessibility for all age groups is considered essential, along with increasing the number of playgrounds, sports facilities, and opportunities for direct contact with nature and water.

In the case of the Municipal Park, the emotional picture shows a combination of nostalgia and attachment but also a high level of indifference and some negative perceptions. This suggests that although the space has historical and emotional value, its current attractiveness is limited, and the emotional connection with the community is partially eroded.

For the Mureș Riverbanks, the image is much more positive, dominated by attachment, nostalgia, and feelings of appreciation, with very few negative reactions. These areas

are perceived as a valuable and pleasant space, with a strong affective connection, providing a solid basis for future designs and developments.

## **B. Consultation with representatives of local NGOs**

On Thursday, 11 September 2025, at 10:00 AM, a meeting with representatives of NGOs took place at the headquarters of the Târgu Mureș City Hall.

Representatives of local civic organizations were registered in the registry, including the **Unda Verde Association** (Klaus Birthler, Georgiana Birthler), the **Milvus Group** (Miholcsa Tamás) and the **Mureș Community Foundation** (Gál Sándor), as well as representatives of institutions with environmental responsibilities.

After the presentation of the objectives and the intervention area, a series of questions and proposals came from the NGOs regarding the following topics: the purpose of the consultation and the context of the brief, the delimitation of the study/competition area, the dialogue with key institutions, regimes and ownership, the floodable nature and building limitations, urban connectivity and crossings, sustainable mobility vs. real estate pressures, the urban planning vision, the relationship with water and nautical activities, vegetation and biodiversity, preservation of mature trees and combating invasive species, protection of the relict meander, the Pocloș stream - integration and renaturation, events and public uses, the stud center / hippodrome, parking lots and grey spaces, other perimeter extensions for coherence, bicycle connections to Libertății Street, replicability of technical solutions, bicycle network at the site scale, possible additional pedestrian/bicycle bridges, calendar and next steps.

## **C. Consultation with representatives of the professional environment – architects, landscape architects, urban planners**

On Thursday, 11 September 2025, at 3:00 p.m., a roundtable discussion with the professional environment (architects, landscape architects, urban planners) took place at the headquarters of the Târgu Mureș City Hall.

The participants were architects who are members of the Mureș territorial branch of the OAR, landscape architects and members of the local university environment, as well as architectural and student landscape architects.

Following the presentation of the substantiation structure and the intentions of the competition brief, the following aspects were debated with the participants: - the extent of the study area, clarification of the competition brief directions, bridges/crossings, correlation with the Romanian Waters project, regimes and ownership, strategic neighbourhoods, atmosphere and uses, existing sports and infrastructures, rowing/kayaking - local tradition, the riverbank of the Unirii neighbourhood, competition calendar and working time, land of M.A.P.N. (Ministry of National Defence), procedure & prizes, physical model.

## **D. General public debate**

The fourth stage of the public consultation process had as its main objective the expansion of the dialogue with the general public beyond the online environment, in order to overcome any communication limitations identified in the previous stages.

This stage was materialized by organizing a public debate, Friday, 12 September 2025, at 11:00, at the headquarters of the Târgu Mureș City Hall, during which both the general principles underlying the design brief and the centralized results of the online questionnaire were presented.

The audience included representatives of the local administration, public and private entities in the area, the associative and cultural environment, citizens of the city, local counsellors, as well as representatives of the press.

Following the presentation by the team developing the competition brief of the substantiation framework and the objectives of the competition, as well as the conclusions of the public questionnaire, the following aspects were debated with the participants: - the relevance of the public consultation, the objective of the intervention, the status of green space, the legal regime - hippodrome, the integration of equestrian activities, the synergy of functions, the Municipal Park - public space regeneration, the Municipal stadium, the MAPN field, Romgaz - sports base, the Romanian Waters, the limits of technical constraints, access to water and riverbanks, transversal connectivity, major perpendicular connections, bridges and the extension on the right bank, the railway barrier, transit traffic and metropolitan ring, the competition calendar, budget and awards, the importance of the value and number of awards, promotion and jury, student participation (it was clarified that the teams must contain at least one architect with the right of signature), workshops and volunteering (the opportunity for educational-community actions and an urban landscaping workshop, separately from the competition, was indicated).

## CONCLUSIONS AND THEIR TAKEOVER IN THE COMPETITION BRIEF

Following the analysis of the opinions and observations formulated by the public, professionals, and residents of the city and the area adjacent to the competition site, within the different stages of the public consultation process described above, a series of relevant and valuable elements were identified. These were integrated into the competition brief, reflecting a coherent approach at all scales of intervention, corresponding to the investment objectives.

Following the summarisation and interpretation of the responses to the online public questionnaire, as well as the conclusions of the discussions within the general public debate, the following relevant and valuable elements were integrated into the requirements of the design brief:

- Increasing the number of areas with trees and shade, intensive planting to create a dense green environment
- Designing areas with a natural appearance, integrated into the landscape
- Improved accessibility for all age groups
- Increasing the number of access areas to watercourses, and more activities in contact with nature and water
- Spaces for recreational and relaxation activities, places for socializing and community meetings
- Areas for sports and outdoor exercise, educational activities about nature
- Organizing events, shows, and fairs

- Connecting people with nature through trails, observation points, natural gardens
- Developing natural green spaces with high biodiversity
- Ecological integration – preserving and capitalizing on the natural landscape
- Functional mix – combining quiet areas with spaces for events and sports (without dedicated land)
- Access and connectivity – continuous pedestrian and bicycle connections between all areas of the green-blue network
- Social inclusion – facilities for all ages and social groups

Following consultation with local NGOs, the following relevant and valuable elements were integrated into the design brief requirements:

- orientation of the competition brief towards minimal landscape interventions, ecological connections, and alternative mobility,
- correlation to the Romanian Waters projects and municipal documentation (PUG, PMUD).
- recommendations regarding the protection of the Relict Meander, selection of adapted species
- renaturation of the Pocloș stream, nocturnal management
- bicycle network

Following consultation with representatives of the professional environment – architects, landscape architects, urban planners, the following relevant and valuable elements were integrated into the design brief requirements:

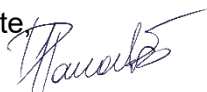
- the brief will remain focused on the park and the green-blue corridor, with light interventions, pedestrian/bicycle connectivity and ecological compatibility, coordinated with the Romanian Waters project.
- restrictions (permitted functions, limits), comparable deliverables and a fair schedule will be specified.
- the requirements include: water access points (kayaking–canoeing) and principles for temporary/cultural events; no major buildings in the park.
- designs related to mobility issues must be feasible and work in different traffic scenarios.

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