

According to Eurostat and OECD data, 72% of the EU population lives in urban areas. The results indicate a continuous growth of cities and population density, as well as urban transformation, especially in EU countries, as a result of commercialization and densification of urban areas, and the expansion of built-up areas, which are devouring green spaces, leading to a disconnect between people and nature.

Urban trees play a significant role in addressing climate change, social and health well-being, economy, air pollutant removal, lowering surface temperatures, mitigating wind impacts, reducing stormwater runoff, providing shade, recreational and aesthetic benefits, facilitating social interaction, and reducing the frequency of healthcare facility usage.



## Arboriculture as an essential technique for managing urban green areas

Urban areas are facing skills gaps as workers often lack basic knowledge and essential skills in the field of ARBORICULTURE which mostly relate to:

-  inappropriate soil treatment and watering
-  planting trees in too small or shallow spaces
-  inadequate identification of diseases and pests
-  physical damage due to improper pruning
-  improper planting techniques and maintenance
-  poor knowledge of tree species and their characteristics
-  use of inappropriately or tight tree supports
-  insufficient removal of invasive plant species that suppress tree growth



## About the project

ArborTech aims at assuring professional approach to described demand of urban greenery through the adequate VET program to ensure basic arboriculture knowledge, skills and competences and train the students participants and teachers to implement it.

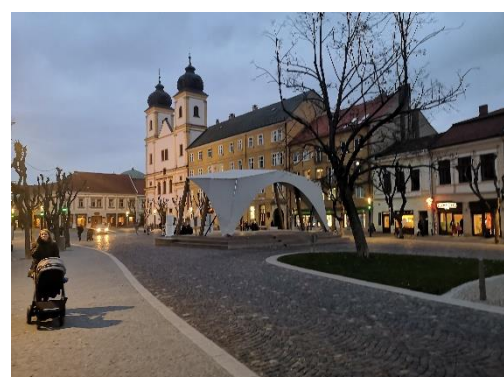
Urban trees play an important role in the fields of climate change, social and health well-being and economy, removing air pollutants, reducing surface temperatures, mitigating wind effects, reducing storm water, providing shade, recreational and aesthetic benefits and enable socialtion and decline in use of healthcare facilities.



## ArborTech and Meeting in Slovakian VET School Centre Stredná odborná škola Pruské



In November 2022, Partners of the project ArborTech Erasmus+ were the first time in Pruské, Slovakia. It was a wonderful experience for all. The Secondary Vocational School in Pruské is part of the natural landscape area, which owns the dominant English landscape Park, grassy areas and the Podhradský stream. The Park is an external part of the school area, it provides enough greenery and space not only for practical teaching but also for rest and relaxation of students. The school has received financial support from several projects that are being implemented on an ongoing basis, thus positively influencing students' environmental education, which leads students to a comprehensive understanding of the interrelationships between organisms and the relationship of man to the environment.



The partners agreed and worked out how to make a virtual dendrology laboratory for 90 different trees and shrubs. The virtual lab will allow finding and viewing of the different plant species with descriptions and photos of the plant parts. The partners want students to use the virtual dendrology lab as part of their classes and modules. In addition to the laboratory, we have determined what content the 'Arboriculture for Gardeners' training programme will include. The programme will have 4 training modules that will be accessible on the e-learning platform. First, the partners will set up a curriculum with learning outcomes that will be the starting point for the content development. At the meeting, the partner Biotechnical Centre Naklo explained the structure of the curriculum. In addition, the OnProject partner presented the structure of the learning e-platform where all project results will be available to students, teachers, employers who offer services in the field of arboristics, and to all interested parties.