

Which city wins?

The articles in this journal often refer to the sustainable development goals (SDGs) that the leaders of 193 countries unanimously adopted at the UN summit in 2015. In line with this journal's topic, SDG 11 – sustainable cities and communities – is the goal that is highlighted most frequently among the seventeen adopted. Many studies have analysed cities' performance in achieving this goal, and this issue of *Urbani izziv* presents findings for Hungarian and Turkish cities.

Cities compete against one another to win various titles, such as the greenest, the smartest, and the most sustainable city. Comparisons between years show whether a city maintains its position, or whether it has been overtaken by another city that pursues the goals and meets the required criteria faster and more successfully. Of course, achieving sustainable development also requires extensive capital and wise investments. The most sustainable cities in the world are usually also the ones with the best economic performance. Just like cities, people also compete every year to be the most successful in the world, in Europe, or in an individual country. We can only hope that some of their profits are also used to benefit the entire community. A good example is a successful businessman from a medium-sized city in Slovenia, who sold his company and donated part of the money to his municipality. One of the projects that the municipality carried out using these funds included planting trees in the municipal seat and building public open spaces intended for all. However, because the municipality is aware that the funds donated cannot stay in cities alone, it has also used them to lay out green areas in the surrounding villages, which often remain neglected and overshadowed by the municipal seat, as though their residents did not have the same needs and wishes. The project's simplicity and great impact are truly inspiring – also because, once completed, the green areas are regularly and professionally maintained.

The improved living environment experienced by the locals has, of course, also been noticed by visitors. Especially those from neighbouring municipalities have been following these changes with strong approval, hoping things will also improve where they live. Let us hope that these good examples encourage others to emulate them, and that people that can share part of their success with their community and environment choose to do so.