



Baia Mare

City of Baia Mare

City profile downloaded from CitiesWithNature

31 May 2026

Chapter 1

Profile overview



About

Baia Mare is a municipality along the Sasa River in north-western Romania. With a population of ca. 145.000 and a metropolitan area home to more than 230,000 residents, the city is the capital of the Maramures county. The city is currently transitioning from its past as Romania's mining capital towards a new sustainable social, economic and environmental development model:

- Moving from a polluted city towards a green one
- Integration of the built space in the surrounding green area
- Transformation of industrial areas into green public spaces
- Involvement of the community in this green transformation

For years, the city of Baia Mare has been given as a negative example when it comes to pollution. Today, Baia Mare is the greenest municipality in Romania. And this is confirmed by data centralized by the National Institute of Statistics (Baia Mare is the only municipality in Romania that exceeds the norms imposed by the World Health Organization of 50 square meters / inhabitant of green space, having 119.2 square meters / inhabitant of green space).

Overview

145000

Population size

Romania

Country

Europe and the Middle East

Region



Catalin Chereches, Mayor of City of Baia Mare

Head of government

The city of Baia Mare must become one in which pollution is related to history. We want to respect all the rules related to the environment and even overcome them to become an example for other communities. And in this context, I believe in the education of the community made by young people through the example given by them so that the city shall be transformed in accordance with their thoughts and dreams.

Platform engagement statistics



6

Actions made on the Action Platform



1

Tools & Resources uploaded

Achievements

Profile awards

The city has updated their profile and achieved the following:



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
0% complete

The Nature Pathway

The city has engaged with the Nature Pathway to integrate nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



Starter profile
0% complete



Frontrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Tools & resources hub

The city has made uploads to the CitiesWithNature tools & resources hub, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for cities to share information and inspire one another.



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
34% complete



Star profile
20% complete

Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
50% complete

Chapter 2

The Action Platform



The Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Action area 1

Protect and restore nature

Commitment Made:

Protect, connect and restore ecosystems

Restore and/or rehabilitate terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

Description of how city is taking action

Basically, over the next years, a total area of about eight hectares of heavy polluted land will become Living Labs. The nature based solutions will be used on five lands in Baia Mare, with a total area of 7.3 hectares, located in the city, which have negative effects on the population. The lands are divided as follows: - 2 lands located near RomPlumb (of 1.25 ha and 0.8 ha), so polluted with lead, located in the Ferneziu district. The second plot is near the school fence. - 1 land contaminated with copper and zinc (3 ha). This land is the dividing line between the residential area and the industrial area and was polluted from Cuprom. It is located in the largest neighborhood of the city, Alecsandri. - 2 lands with combined pollution from the 2 major polluters in the area: Romplumb and Cuprom (1.5 ha and 0.75 ha). The first plot is in the Ferneziu neighborhood On these lands will be planted different varieties of plants to identify which of them are best suited for decontamination. When selecting plants, the following will be taken into account: they must decontaminate the soil, be aesthetic and can be used for various economic activities. Then the land will be analyzed with the help of mobile installations, and data on reducing soil pollution will be added to an iGIS platform. This platform will make a forecast and based on the data we will know the time period needed for the land to be handed over to potential investors - the time period required for decontamination will be known.

Commitment Made:

Conserve and restore fauna and flora

Commitment Made:

Control Pollution

Reduce other types of pollution, such as solid waste, air pollution, noise pollution and light pollution

Description of how city is taking action

Our city proposes a revolutionary approach to adaptive phytoremediation and ecosystem creation on urban Heavy Metal-polluted land, as a strategy for long-term (2050) land use management and economic re-profiling. It leverages on the potential for cascading value chains presented by the bio-based material flows, and supports its translation into new economies and social entrepreneurship through a system of incentivization via a local token value system creating a circular environmental bonification system. The approach brings radical and innovative improvements to the burdensome way in which cities are currently forced to deal with the complex negative externalities of brownfields. SPIRE experiments with land (re)use planning, renaturing and adaptive high-value biomass reuse, addressing the needs of a vast share of EU cities

Other commitments under this action area

Conserve and restore fauna and flora

Manage invasive alien species

Climate change adaptation and mitigation



Action area 2

Use nature sustainably

Increase equitable and inclusive access to nature to enhance people's health and wellbeing.**Description of how city is taking action**

The city is currently transitioning from its past as Romania's mining capital towards a new sustainable social, economic and environmental development model: • Moving from a polluted city towards a green one • Integration of the built space in the surrounding green area • Transformation of industrial areas into green public spaces • Involvement of the community in this green transformation For years, the city of Baia Mare has been given as a negative example when it comes to pollution. Today, Baia Mare is the greenest municipality in Romania. And this is confirmed by data centralized by the National Institute of Statistics (Baia Mare is the only municipality in Romania that exceeds the norms imposed by the World Health Organization of 50 square meters / inhabitant of green space, having 119.2 square meters / inhabitant of green space)

Enable meaningful experiences of nature for the health and well-being of urban communities**Description of how city is taking action**

We are using different workshops as well as direct actions of the citizens, such as: - landscaping desing with the people and for the people. The decontaminated sites will become new public spaces within the districts. - planthlatons. We are gathering citizens together to experiment on the sites both the planting and the maintenance of planted plants - Donate your Christmas tree. First edition was early this year. The donated christmas trees are used to make compost Finally, after the concrete results of the project, the partners will develop a Masterplan for the Baia Mare Metropolitan Area, which will aim at the recovery and regeneration of the approximately 650 hectares of polluted land, their reuse, the development of the bio-economy and the future implementation of the positive districts from an energy point of view (PED).

Other commitments under this action area

Equitable benefits through sustainable use of wild species

Biodiversity in urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry



Action area 3

Develop tools and solutions**Promote inclusive monitoring, evaluation and learning****Description of how city is taking action**

The land will be analyzed with the help of mobile installations, and data on reducing soil pollution will be added to an iGIS platform. This platform will make a forecast and based on the data we will know the time period needed for the land to be handed over to potential investors - the time period required for decontamination will be known. These activities will involve the students of the schools near the land together with the Civic Council (the district mayor's office). We will also find a easy way to educate children about the extremely negative effect of pollution on health and encouraging the multiplication of decontamination actions with plants in the rest of the city

Promote the value of nature through awareness and education campaigns**Description of how city is taking action**

The Schreiber House, in the center of the city, will be used as a Hub. Here all interested persons together with the citizens will be able to meet. This space is practically a place of production for prototypes and tests (Maker Space). There are other spaces that can be used if needed. The UIA SPIRE will use non-invasive methods and plants for remediation of heavy metal pollution. At the same time, the project aims to support new

economies based on nature at the local level, new initiatives in the community and ideas from young people. The project partners will help to implement a virtual rewards and payments system, called iLEU, to encourage sustainable development behaviors in the city and to support citizens' involvement in the project, but also to obtain benefits and discounts in the future.

Other commitments under this action area

Mainstreaming biodiversity values

Sustainable production and consumption

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making

Mobilize resources for biodiversity actions

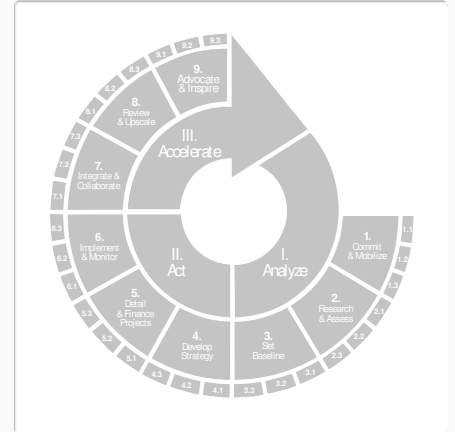
Chapter 3

Nature Pathway



Nature Pathway

The Nature Pathway assists cities with integrating nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



I. Analyze

1. Commit & mobilize

No uploads or resources have been linked

2. Research & assess

No uploads or resources have been linked

3. Set Baseline

No uploads or resources have been linked

II. Act

4. Develop strategy

No uploads or resources have been linked

5. Detail & finance projects

No uploads or resources have been linked

6. Implement & monitor

No uploads or resources have been linked

III. Accelerate

7. Integrate & collaborate

No uploads or resources have been linked

8. Review & upscale

No uploads or resources have been linked

9. Advocate & inspire

Chapter 4

City Biodiversity Index



City Biodiversity Index

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.

This city has measured the following total CBI score out of 112 points:

0 Points

Native biodiversity in the city

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 36 points

City of Baia Mare has not started on this biodiversity index section

Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 20 points

City of Baia Mare has not started on this biodiversity index section

Governance and management of biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 56 points

City of Baia Mare has not started on this biodiversity index section

Chapter 5

Tools & resources



Tools & resources

All tools & resources the city has uploaded to the CitiesWithNature Tools & resources hub.

□ **SPIRE
status**

June 30, 2025

Presentation of our Urban Innovative Actions project SPIRE

Author/s: Dorin Miclaus



This document contains information shared by this city for public use. CitiesWithNature and its partner organisations, including ICLEI, are not responsible for any consequences that may follow from the use or dissemination of the information in this report. CitiesWithNature protects the personal information of its users according to international standards. You may read the privacy policy at <https://citieswithnature.org/privacy>

www.citieswithnature.org