

## 3RD COMMUNITY MEETING

Municipality of Pestszentlőrinc-Pestszentimre, 18th District of Budapest

16–17 May 2026

### Report, or a professional summary supporting decision-making

**Venue:** 1184 Budapest, Üllői út 400., Municipality of Pestszentlőrinc-Pestszentimre, 18th District of Budapest, Council Chamber of the Representative Body

**Date:** 16–17 May 2026

**Participants:** 42 district residents, in five mixed-composition small groups

**Focus [1]:** the validation of the EUI Innovation Action proposal under the working name CIVIC-RES; research of this kind was conducted in Hungary for the first time.

**Focus [2]:** developing the community, cultural, green-space, recreational and participatory role of Bókay Garden.

## 1. Executive summary

Based on the experience of the community meeting, the 18th District of Budapest has significant but currently fragmented community resources. The participants thought primarily not in terms of large investments, but of predictable, regular programmes accessible at the neighbourhood level, better information flow, meeting points free of any obligation to consume, and the year-round, nature-oriented and community-focused activation of Bókay Garden.

For the participants of the community meeting, Bókay Garden is not merely a park or event venue, but a potential district community hub: a sports and recreation space, a local-history learning space, a nature-study site, a family picnic spot, a youth and cultural venue, a local arts forum, and a participatory-democratic meeting point. The development can be considered professionally well-founded only if it does not strengthen the central role of Bókay Garden in isolation, but connects it with neighbourhood-scale community points and with programme communication covering the entire district.

### Key lessons

- The strongest recurring problem is the lack of information: the programmes exist, but many residents learn about them late, only partially, or not at all.
- The district lacks everyday, easy-to-use meeting spaces that carry no obligation to consume.
- The spatial distribution of programmes is uneven; alongside the more central venues, the peripheral areas and smaller neighbourhoods need their own community occasions.
- Teenagers, young adults and mixed-age groups are reached less effectively than families with young children and older residents.
- The existing assets of Bókay Garden – its green environment, sports functions, larger events, child-friendly character, outdoor cinema and inclusive playground – provide a good foundation, but a more permanent operating structure is needed.
- The implementation of the proposals retains its participatory credibility only if residents receive feedback on which ideas are taken forward, when, in what form and with what justification.

Priority	Intervention area	Rationale
1.	Unified, multi-channel programme communication	Quick to prepare, low-cost, and addresses several identified problems at once.
2.	Bókay Garden 365 pilot programme	Tests the year-round, small-scale, regular activation of the garden without excessive infrastructural risk.
3.	Neighbourhood community points and micro-programmes	Counterbalances the excessive centralising effect of Bókay Garden and addresses spatial inequalities.
4.	Youth and mixed-age programme package	Provides a targeted response to one of the most strongly perceived gaps in the current offering.
5.	Participatory follow-up mechanism	Ensures that the community meeting is not a one-off consultation, but a decision-preparation process with feedback loops.

## 2. Methodological framework and the interpretation of participation

The methodological value of the community meeting lies in the fact that it incorporates into the development processes not merely retrospective commentary, but residents' knowledge, local familiarity and user experience. The method does not replace municipal decision-making, but strengthens its social grounding.

### 2.1. Participant pool and selection

Over the weekend, 42 district residents took part. The participants worked in five small groups of 8–11 people. In forming the groups, the organisers took territorial and age considerations into account and marked the teams with colours: blue, orange, red, yellow and green.

The selection followed a sampling logic based on gender as well as on demographic and territorial quotas. The ideal pool targeted for representativeness consisted of 77 people, which the author of the methodology defined on the basis of Central Statistical Office (KSH) data, neighbourhood and gender distribution, and age-group proportions.

#### Methodological clarification

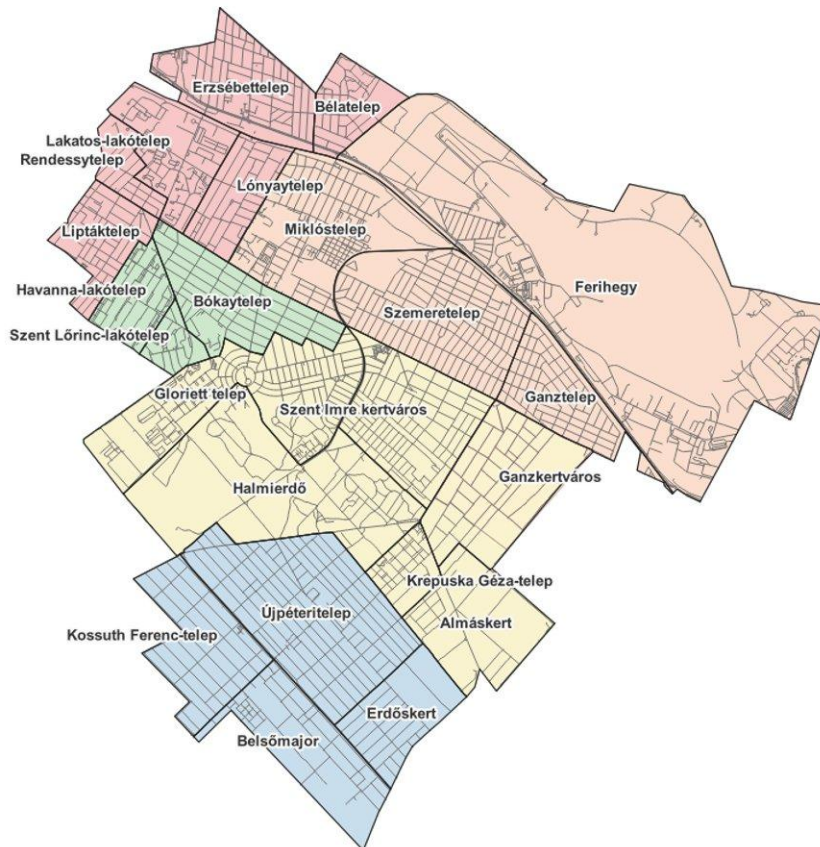
The selection process was coordinated by the professional staff of INNOK. From the pool of applicants, a random selection procedure adjusted to demographic and territorial quotas produced the 76–77-person participant pool aiming for theoretical representativeness, intended to reflect, as far as possible, the district's neighbourhood, gender and age-group proportions. An important methodological circumstance is that this pool did not consist merely of residents who had been contacted: the 76–77 selected people also confirmed their intention to participate through registration.

On the weekend of the community meeting, however, 42 people ultimately attended in person. This difference between the registered intention to participate and actual attendance can be interpreted as a phenomenon well known in participatory processes: confirmed participation does not in every case guarantee actual attendance. From a methodological point of view, the prior quota-based selection and the composition of the registered participant pool ensured that considerations connected to the district's various neighbourhoods, age groups and resident experiences could appear in a structured way in the joint work.

Given its deliberative genre, the community meeting is not to be interpreted as an opinion-polling instrument. Its aim was not to measure numerically generalisable resident opinions, but for the participants, starting from their own experiences, to identify local problems, resources and development directions through facilitated small-group and plenary work. The actual attendance of 42 people provided a manageable group size that allowed for meaningful contributions and active participation in this work.

From a logistical perspective, it is also significant that the layout of the Council Chamber, suitable for small-group work, facilitated discussion and plenary feedback, would only to a limited extent have allowed for a significantly larger physical headcount. Thus the actual number of participants can be

interpreted not only in terms of the attendance rate, but also from the perspective of the quality of the deliberative work, the manageability of group processes and the safeguarding of active participation.



Source: own compilation

## 2.2. Professional interpretation of the process

The working atmosphere that developed at the community meeting was positive and constructive. The participants not only named problems, but also proposed operating principles, specific programmes and community roles. The discussions were community-building in their own right: several participants obtained information from others about already-existing local opportunities.

### Interpretive conclusion

The strongest lesson is not that there are no programmes or resources in the district, but that their visibility, regularity, territorial accessibility and interconnection are not strong enough.

### 3. Resident diagnosis: main systemic problems

The participants' findings can be organised into several recurring problem areas. These are not isolated shortcomings, but mutually reinforcing systemic problems: the lack of information reduces participation, the absence of meeting points weakens spontaneous connection, and territorial inequality results in community life being perceptible to differing degrees across the various parts of the district.

Systemic problem	Participant experience	Development implication
Lack of information	Many learn about programmes late or after the fact; the channels are scattered.	A unified programme calendar, neighbourhood poster points, and coordination of printed and digital channels.
Lack of meeting spaces	There are few comfortable community spaces, usable on weekdays too, that carry no obligation to consume.	Small-scale community points, bench-and-table infrastructure, covered areas, toilets and basic amenities.
Territorial inequality	More programmes are perceptible at the more central venues; the peripheral areas are less active.	Neighbourhood micro-programmes, outreach cultural and community events.
Weak engagement of young people	Teenagers and young adults see few local alternatives; they often go to the city centre.	Youth club sessions, safe evening programmes, local performance and discussion opportunities.
Fragmentation of civil-society cooperation	Many civil-society organisations are active, but the collaborations are not visible or regular enough.	Shared district goals, civil-society coordination, the creation of programme-owner roles.

#### 3.1. Lack of information and weak programme communication

One of the strongest themes of the community meeting, appearing in almost every group, was that information about programmes does not reach the various groups of residents in time and in an appropriate form. For older residents this can mean a digital-access problem, while for younger ones it points to shortcomings in the language and channels of engagement.

- Social media, the district newspaper, posters and institutional pages do not form a unified system.
- Many people are unaware of the cultural, artistic, community and sports programmes that already exist.
- There is a lack of clearly visible neighbourhood advertising surfaces, poster points and regular programme booklets.
- The communication problem is not merely a matter of information, but of participation: those who do not know about a programme cannot become participants in it.

#### 3.2. Lack of meeting points and community spaces in which to spend time

According to the participants, many residents in the district cannot name a natural, everyday meeting place to which they could go locally with friends, family or for a community purpose. The shortcoming does not necessarily point to large investments, but to human-scale, well-located and predictably operating community points.

- There are few permanent community meeting places with appropriate opening hours.

- There is a lack of cafés, tea houses, clubs or easily accessible hospitality-type venues.
- Several green areas and housing-estate spaces would be suitable for community functions, but are currently not activated.
- Part of the public space encourages passing through rather than staying.

### 3.3. Territorial inequalities and neighbourhood differences

According to the participants, owing to the district's large extent, the programmes tied to more central venues are not accessible to everyone. In Pestszentimre, Erzsébet- and Bélatelep, certain housing-estate areas, the Alacska area and other peripheral neighbourhoods, strengthening locally accessible, smaller-scale programmes would be especially important.

#### Planning conclusion

Developing Bókay Garden on its own cannot replace neighbourhood community infrastructure. The garden can be a centre of district-wide significance, but alongside it decentralised, residence-adjacent programmes and meeting points are also needed.

### 3.4. Engaging young people and mixed age groups

According to the participants, there are more well-known programmes for families with young children and for older residents, while the local engagement of teenagers, young adults and young workers is weaker. There is a lack of cultured evening meeting places, music-and-dance occasions, discussion evenings, club-type spaces, creative workshops and amateur performance opportunities.

- Young people should be involved not only as a target group, but also as organisers, performers and opinion-shapers.
- For programmes aimed at young people, a safe, not overly formalised yet cultured environment is especially important.
- Mixed-age events can strengthen the bridges between generations.

## 4. The district's existing resources

The participants did not give a deficit-focused picture of the district: they identified numerous existing assets, institutions, programmes and elements of identity. It is worth building on these during development, because one of the keys to strengthening residents' attachment is not the creation of new structures, but the better interconnection of existing resources.

Resource	Examples	Development opportunity
Sports and family programmes	Public sports equipment, running tracks, sports clubs, the ice rink, the traffic-education park (KRESZ park), children's days, summer camps.	Recreational sport, family recreation and community sports events between neighbourhoods.
Cultural institutions and	Music school, libraries, community-culture	Improving visibility, regular presentations

traditions	houses, PIK programmes, Szeptemberfest, ethnic-minority events, local arts groups.	by local artists and amateur groups.
Airport identity	Aeropark, airport visits, local features connected to aviation.	Themed programmes, an aviation local-knowledge day, district identity communication.
Green mindset	Community gardens, plant distribution, the green grant, rainwater-harvesting support, a green-belt environment.	Environmental education, biodiversity programmes, tree adoption, community stewardship.
Senior programmes	Pensioners' clubs, the Senior Academy, lectures and physical-activity programmes for older people.	Intergenerational programmes, knowledge transfer, voluntary mediator roles.

## 5. Diagnosis of Bókay Garden

Bókay Garden was one of the central topics of the meeting. The participants saw in it both one of the district's strongest assets and an under-utilised community potential. The main direction for developing the garden is not excessive event-staging or hospitality-centred transformation, but the strengthening of year-round, nature-oriented, community and educational operation.

### 5.1. Identified shortcomings

Shortcoming	Resident interpretation	Possible response
Lack of a permanent programme structure	There are larger events, but few weekly or monthly, predictable occasions.	A Bókay 365 programme calendar: small-scale, seasonal and year-round programmes.
Under-utilisation of the outdoor stage	The venue would be suitable for showcasing local musicians, theatre groups, amateur artists and young performers.	A local performer series, a talent search, summer concert and theatre occasions.
Limited resident use of sports facilities	Use of the sports pitches and the pool is not always transparent; recreational sport may be pushed into the background.	Making availability information public, community sports time slots, resident championships.
Lack of hospitality and places to spend time	There is a lack of simple, predictable, non-exclusive hospitality and of comfortable community spaces in which to spend time.	A seasonal buffet, community tables, picnic and barbecue points within regulated limits.
Visibility and regularity of the outdoor cinema	The programme exists or is known, but it is not regular enough and does not reach everyone.	A themed outdoor cinema broken down by age group, with a programme shaped by resident voting.
Lack of adventure and skill-based elements	The absence of the former adventure park was felt as a loss; young people have few active challenges.	Skill days, BMX/skateboard events, adventure tours.
Lack of nature-based education	A personal nature experience would bind children and families more	Bird- and pollinator-friendly programmes, nature-study stations, a petting-zoo concept

	strongly to the garden.	put up for discussion.
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## 5.2. Identified strengths

- A large, green, child-friendly park with features that are exceptional even across Budapest.
- Existing sports functions: running track, BMX park, ski slope, sports pitches, ice-skating facility.
- Already well-known major events: Bókay Evenings, Szeptemberfest, the May Day fair, children's day, Bókay Days, summer concerts.
- Summer camps, family programmes and an inclusive playground.
- Outdoor cinema and open-air cultural opportunities to build on.
- Historical past, green-space potential, a teaching garden, biodiversity, habitat development, a producers' market and the possibility of a participatory pilot project.

### Professional conclusion

The key to developing Bókay Garden is the more intensive but not overloading use of its existing features. The garden must remain at once open, green, quiet, programmed and community-oriented; a continuous balance must be maintained among these.

## 6. Summary of the teams' development concepts

### 6.1. Development proposals for Bókay Garden

On this occasion, the focus of the community meeting was on strengthening the community role of Bókay Garden, further developing its green and cultural functions, and exploring the gaps and resources of district community life. In the participants' discussions, Bókay Garden – with its more than 160-year past – appeared not merely as a park or event venue, but as a shared district resource that can be at once a green refuge, a community meeting place, a cultural space, an educational site and a practical arena for resident–civil-society–municipal cooperation. The focus of the development thinking was therefore that Bókay Garden should take a sustainable, educational and community-oriented direction, in which environmental education, community experience, local-history identity and green-space management appear as mutually reinforcing elements.

On Sunday, the second day of the process, the participants of the community meeting concentrated on the cultural-community development of Bókay Garden, building on the local challenges and resources previously identified. Each team developed its own development concept. The work was supported by a playful planning tool developed specifically for this purpose, which helped to define the possible functions of the selected area and the specific actions needed to create them. The board-game-based method made the joint planning more relaxed, more creative and more accessible, while providing a framework for the proposals to appear not merely as ideas, but as development elements that can be connected to one another.

In Sunday's work it was already clearly perceptible that the teams had grown accustomed to one another during the previous day's joint thinking. The participants discussed ideas more skilfully, built more easily on one another's suggestions, and a complex interpretation of Bókay Garden as a whole increasingly appeared in the proposals. The shared direction of the concepts was clear: they envisaged the garden not simply as an occasional event venue, but as a year-round, nature-oriented, community, educational and recreational district centre. Several teams also emphasised that they were thinking not in terms of large mass events, a party zone or excessively hospitality-centred development, but in terms of experiential, small-scale, nature-oriented and community-strengthening programmes that offer connection opportunities to residents of all ages alike. This approach also appeared in the “365” idea: Bókay Garden should be a community space that is usable, lovable and filled with programmes not only in summer, but also in winter, spring and autumn.

**Orange team:** The team presented its concept under the title “Bókay, the Heart of the District”. The starting point of the proposal was that Bókay Garden can become a true community hub only if it is not merely an event venue, but also a regular meeting and connection point for the district's residents. The group proposed filling the garden with life: sports championships between neighbourhoods, recreational sports programmes, outdoor yoga and tai chi, guided and self-guided city walks, “Bókay Tells a Tale”-type app-based routes, industrial-heritage tours, restrained night-time light-and-sound installations, and community picnics. The strength of the concept is that it interprets Bókay Garden at once as a sporting, historical, recreational and community space, that is, it does not narrow the development possibilities down to a single function.

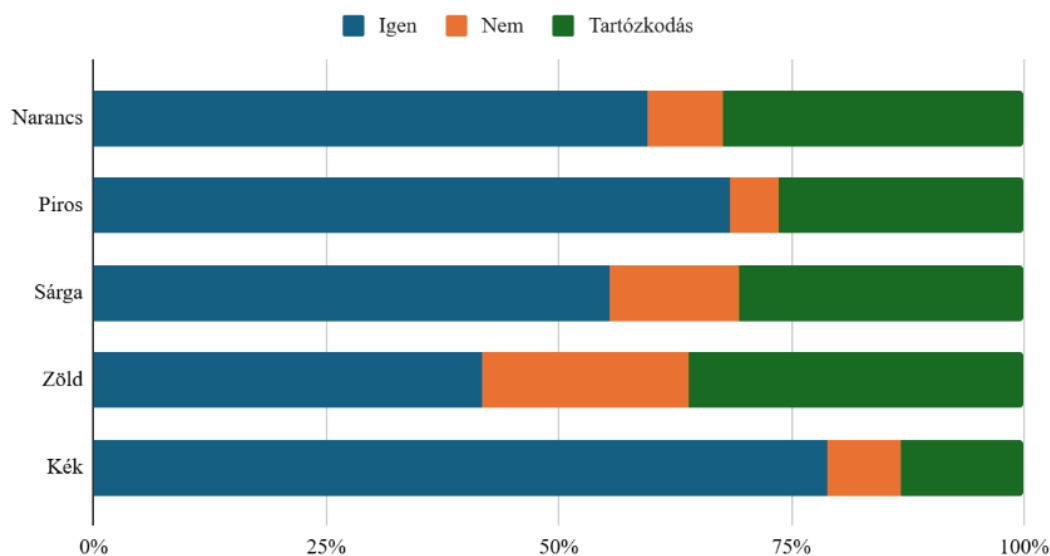
**Red team:** The Red team's concept, titled Bókay365, was built on the idea that Bókay Garden should not function as an occasional, seasonal event venue, but as a community space usable all year round by every age group. The group explicitly rejected the logic built on huge mass events, party zones and excessively hospitality-centred development. Instead, it placed experience, closeness to nature, community-strengthening and awareness-raising at the forefront. As part of the programme package, they proposed a petting zoo, environmental-education days, equal-opportunity solutions, a tactile map, board-game lending, community sports programmes, a local arts festival, a community film screening, craft workshops, picnics and seasonal small markets. One important message of the concept is that the garden's development can be truly community-oriented only if it attends simultaneously to families, older people, young people, people living with disabilities, and also those who would connect with the space not as event-goers but as calm, nature-oriented users.

**Yellow team:** The Yellow team's concept, titled “Heart and Soul for Bókay”, was built on strengthening local identity and community attachment. Their proposals included a juried graffiti or public-art competition, a community concert based on an estate-by-estate talent search, a theatre evening engaging teenagers, a monthly quiz evening, an informative fair for new arrivals, the creation of local-history models, an “Adopt a Tree” programme, community yoga, civil “scout” supervision, a guestbook and suggestion forum, as well as children's programmes linked to wheeled sports and traffic education. One professionally important strength of the concept is that it envisages civil-society organisations not as external contributors or occasional partner figures, but as actors taking part in the operation and



Red	Bókay365: a community space usable all year round by every age group.	Petting zoo, environmental-education days, barrier-free experience, tactile map, board-game lending, community sport, local arts festival, film screening, workshops, seasonal small markets.
Yellow	Heart and Soul for Bókay: local identity and a civil-society operating partnership.	Graffiti or public-art competition, estate-by-estate talent search, teen theatre evenings, quiz evening, fair for new arrivals, local-history models, tree adoption, civil scouts, guestbook, wheeled sports.
Green	Urban picnic and educational-creative programmes.	Seasonal picnics, gastronomy days, cooking competitions, board games, Bókay quiz, family relay race, Easter egg hunt, donation of leftover food, crafts-and-technology class, bird-feeder competition, QR-code stations.
Blue	An environmental, community and digital programme package.	Quarterly workshops, bird- and pollinator-friendly programme, tree adoption, environmental education, petting zoo, urban picnic, app-based barbecue and cauldron-cooking booking, themed outdoor cinema, resident use of sports pitches, concerts, relaxation light-and-sound promenade.

Figure 2 – Support for the team concepts



Source: own compilation

### Interpretation

Based on the vote, the Blue team's concept received the most supporting votes. In decision preparation, however, it is worth carrying forward not only the concept that received the most votes, but the common denominators of all the teams: year-round use, closeness to nature, regular programmes, resident participation, youth engagement and accessibility.

## 7. Prioritised development directions

The participants' proposals can become a manageable municipal programme package only if a clear timeframe, responsibility, cost level and risk screening are attached to them. The breakdown below is not a final decision, but a professional prioritisation proposal.

### 7.1. Elements achievable in the short term, 0–6 months

Proposal	Content	Why can it be started quickly?
Unified programme-communication package	A district programme calendar, neighbourhood poster points, a printed monthly programme booklet, and coordination of institutional and social media.	Primarily an organisational and communication task, with a lower investment requirement.
Bókay 365 trial calendar	2–4 small-scale programmes per month: a walk, a picnic, outdoor activity, a family or youth occasion.	Can be tested as a pilot, with measurable participation and feedback.
Resident feedback interface	An online questionnaire, a paper-based suggestion box, an on-site guestbook and a short quarterly feedback round.	Strengthens the credibility of the participatory process and can be set up quickly.
Local arts and amateur performance occasions	Small-scale stage programmes, involving local musicians, theatre groups, school and civil-society groups.	Builds on existing infrastructure and local resources.

### 7.2. Elements to be prepared in the medium term, 6–18 months

Proposal	Content	Preparation requirement
Neighbourhood community points programme	Activation of smaller parks, housing-estate green spaces and peripheral venues.	Site survey, resident consultation, basic infrastructure and the designation of programme owners.
Expanding resident use of sports facilities	Community sports time slots, transparency of pitch availability, resident championships.	Institutional consultation, operating rules, capacity assessment.
Outdoor cinema and a themed cultural series	Screenings broken down by age group, resident voting, season extension.	Licensing fees, technology, noise and time limits, a communication plan.
Environmental-education programme package	Bird- and pollinator-friendly programme, a nature calendar, tree adoption, QR-code stations.	Professional partners, maintenance responsibilities and the development of educational content.

Youth participation programme	Teen evenings, discussion evenings, creative workshops, wheeled sports, a circle of young organisers.	Target-group-specific involvement, safety and supervision frameworks.
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### 7.3. Elements to be examined over the longer term, 18+ months

Proposal	Potential value	Why is examination needed?
Petting zoo or farmyard	A strong nature-connection and educational experience, especially for children.	Issues of animal welfare, licensing, operation, hygiene, cost and liability.
App-based participation system	Registration, booking, voting, activity tracking, city-card discounts.	Development cost, data protection, maintenance, the risk of digital exclusion.
Light-and-sound installation and relaxation promenade	A restrained, special evening experience and identity-strengthening.	Noise, light pollution, nature-conservation impact, maintenance, vandalism.
Full infrastructure for barbecue and cauldron-cooking spots	Encouraging community dining and family and friendly gatherings.	Fire-safety, waste-management, noise and usage rules, supervision.
Larger physical alterations	Strengthening durable community and recreational functions.	Design, budget, maintenance and public-procurement issues.

## 8. Risks and sustainability considerations

The value of the residents' proposals is not diminished by the fact that their implementation carries risks. On the contrary: the early identification of risks helps the ideas to be carried forward in a feasible, sustainable form suitable for conflict management.

Risk area	Affected proposals	Management proposal
Operational sustainability	Barbecue spots, petting zoo, app, light-and-sound installation, programme calendar.	Before every pilot, the designation of a responsible party, cost, maintenance regime and minimum service level.
Noise and environmental load	Evening programmes, concerts, outdoor cinema, installations.	Time slots, volume limits, resident feedback, nature-conservation oversight.
Digital exclusion	App, QR-code stations, online voting and booking.	A personal or paper-based alternative alongside every digital function.
Accessibility and equal opportunity	Programmes, use of space, communication, wayfinding.	Barrier-free information, tactile and audio-based elements, plain-language communication.
Over-use and damage to the park's character	Frequent events, hospitality, sports programmes.	Small-scale programming, protection of rest zones, a load-capacity assessment.
Vandalism and public safety	Installations, picnic tables, sports and barbecue infrastructure.	Visible maintenance presence, civil-society mediators, lighting, a usage code.

Animal-welfare and hygiene issues	Petting zoo, farmyard.	A prior assessment by the competent authorities and animal-welfare bodies; cannot be launched without a professional operator.
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## 9. Proposed participatory follow-up

The credibility of the community meeting's results depends to a large extent on whether the participants and the wider public receive feedback on the fate of the proposals. The aim of follow-up is not merely to inform, but to ensure that the joint work can continue.

Step	Content	Suggested deadline
1. Professional processing	Thematic ordering of the proposals, filtering out overlaps, a short/medium/long-term breakdown.	Within 30 days of the meeting.
2. Feasibility screening	A prior assessment of cost, legal conditions, operation, and environmental and social risk.	Within 60 days.
3. Resident feedback	A plain-language summary of what is starting as a pilot, what requires further examination, and why.	Within 90 days.
4. Launch of pilot programmes	Trialling 2–4 smaller programmes or interventions in Bókay Garden and at least one neighbourhood venue.	In the next programme season.
5. Evaluation	A summary of participation figures, satisfaction, operator experience, conflicts and proposed modifications.	Within 1 month after the pilot.

## 10. Proposed first pilot package

The aim of the first pilot package is to test, at lower risk and in a measurable way, the most important common denominators of the community meeting. When selecting the pilots, a key consideration should be that they respond simultaneously to information-related, territorial, generational and Bókay-Garden-related problems.

Pilot	Description	Metric
Bókay 365 mini-season	A three-month trial period with 2–4 events per month: a walk, a movement programme, an outdoor cinema or a craft occasion.	Number of participants, share of returning participants, satisfaction, age-group reach.
Neighbourhood micro-programme	A smaller community event on a green area or housing-estate point outside Bókay Garden.	Local participation, new participants, number of proposals, site-use experience.
Communication trial system	A coordinated test of the programme calendar, poster points, social media, the printed programme booklet and institutional channels.	Reach, feedback, the source through which people learned about programmes.
Youth trial occasion	A creative, musical, discussion-based or sports	Number of young participants,

	event for young people, with the involvement of young organisers.	young people involved as organisers, demand for continuation.
Resident feedback	An online and offline opportunity to comment, a suggestion box, brief public responses to incoming proposals.	Number of proposals received, response time, recurring themes.

## 11. Closing summary

The community meeting can be considered a success, because the participants not only identified shortcomings, but also formulated interconnectable proposals that can realistically be developed further at several points. The weekend confirmed that the residents of the 18th District of Budapest accurately perceive the strengths and problems of their own environment. The participants were at once critical and constructive: they named the lack of information, the absence of meeting points, the difficulties of engaging young people, the uneven spatial distribution of programmes and the untapped possibilities of Bókay Garden, while also marking out concrete, interconnectable development directions.

The most important strategic conclusion is that the development of Bókay Garden should be treated not as a stand-alone park programme, but as a community-development intervention for the 18th District of Budapest. The garden can become one of the organising centres of district community life, but only if its operation does not replace or push into the background the development of neighbourhood, residence-adjacent community points. In this interpretation, Bókay Garden is not merely the “green heart” of the district, but a community, cultural, recreational and participatory space that can operate durably only if resident participation does not end with the planning, but is maintained in the implementation and evaluation phases as well.

In the coming period, therefore, what is needed is not a single major development decision, but prioritised, testable steps with feedback loops. The short-term communication and programming developments, the medium-term neighbourhood and youth interventions, and the infrastructural elements to be examined over the longer term can together form a development path that takes the residents' proposals seriously, while also organising the future of Bókay Garden in the community life of the 18th District of Budapest within frameworks that are verifiable from professional, operational and sustainability perspectives.

## **Consolidated summary of the participant evaluation**

### **1. General evaluation**

The participant evaluation of the community meeting presents, on the whole, a very favourable picture. Based on the responses to the closed questions, every examined aspect of the event reached an average above 5 points on the 6-point scale, indicating high and balanced satisfaction. The aggregate satisfaction value was 5.6, meaning that the overwhelming majority of participants judged the event positively.

The open responses confirm the results of the closed questions, while giving a more nuanced picture of exactly what gave the event its value for the participants. Based on the feedback, the most important strengths of the community meeting were the well-organised execution, the supportive atmosphere, the opportunity for joint thinking, and the concrete participatory work linked to the development of Bókay Garden.

The areas for development relate not primarily to the basic quality of the event, but to the continuation of the participatory process. The participants expect more feedback, better information flow, more detailed documentation, and continuation opportunities suitable for the further elaboration of the proposals.

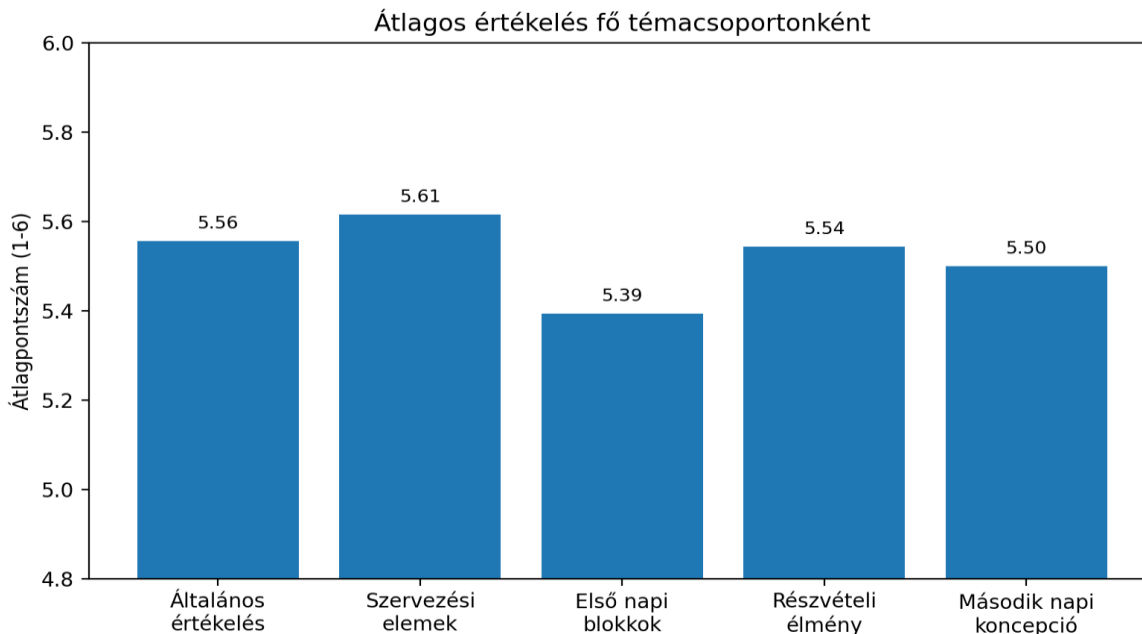
## 2. Main strengths of the community meeting

Topic group	Average	Share of 5–6 ratings	Share of 1–3 ratings	Interpretation
General evaluation	5,56	93%	0%	Overall, very high general satisfaction.
Organisational elements	5,61	93%	0%	Very strong satisfaction with organisation and execution.
First-day blocks	5,39	85%	5%	Positive, but this is where the largest differences between programme elements are visible.
Participation experience	5,54	94%	2%	The experience of involvement and group work is one of the main strengths of the event.
Second-day concept work	5,50	91%	3%	Concept-building and joint work functioned well, but there is room for fine-tuning in the voting and closing elements.

### 2.1. High satisfaction with organisation and execution

Based on the closed questions, the venue, the organisation and the execution received outstandingly high ratings. This indicates that the basic frameworks of the event were stable, well prepared and comfortable for the participants.

From the perspective of the participatory process this is especially important, because an appropriate organisational background is not merely a technical matter. Well-functioning frameworks contribute to the climate of trust in which participants speak up, debate, think together and formulate proposals more easily.



## 2.2. A strong experience of involvement

One of the most important results of the evaluations is that the majority of participants genuinely felt involved in the joint thinking and decision-making. In the closed questions, involvement received a high score, and the open responses showed in detail what this experience stemmed from.

It was especially valuable for the participants that people of different ages, backgrounds and from different parts of the district were able to work together within a short time. Several emphasised that strangers quickly formed cooperative groups in which attentiveness to one another, debate, the search for compromise and joint proposal-making appeared.

## 2.3. Joint thinking as a value in its own right

Based on the open responses, one of the most important results of the community meeting was not only the formulation of concrete proposals, but the joint thinking process itself. In several responses there appeared the recognition that collective knowledge, the meeting of different viewpoints and cooperation organised around a common goal create value in themselves.

It was instructive for the participants to experience that differing opinions do not necessarily hinder, but can enrich, the joint work. Based on the responses, the group work contributed to openness, patience, a willingness to compromise and an understanding of others' perspectives.

## 3. The development of Bókay Garden as a central theme

The development of Bókay Garden was one of the strongest and most frequently appearing themes in the feedback. The participants received the presentation of the development ideas, the insight into the

planning process, and the chance to contribute their own perspectives to shaping the future functions, with interest.

Based on the responses, many people see in Bókay Garden not only a recreational space, but also an important development opportunity from community, cultural, environmental and equal-opportunity perspectives. For several participants, the planned functions, the possibilities of community space use, the new-tourism approach, and the programmes and initiatives that already exist in the district but are less well known, represented new information.

At the same time, the responses also show that the participants would need more concrete information about the conditions of implementation, the professional and regulatory frameworks, and the way in which the proposals they formulated could be incorporated into the later development process.

#### **4. Communication and information flow**

One of the most important lessons of the evaluations relates to the role of communication. Several participants indicated that during the community meeting they learned about district programmes, opportunities or development ideas about which they had previously had no information.

This suggests that the district does not necessarily need exclusively new programmes, but also greater visibility, better interconnection and more targeted communication of existing initiatives. Based on the participants' feedback, the lack of information can reduce the uptake of existing opportunities and weaken resident participation.

From the perspective of future processes, it is therefore of particular importance that clear, regular and easily accessible information be produced about programmes, developments, decisions and participation opportunities.

#### **5. The lack of feedback as the main point of criticism**

The strongest critical element of the open responses related to the fate of the proposals formulated at the previous community meeting. Several people expressed disappointment that they had not received appropriate information about what had happened to the ideas previously developed, which proposals had been carried forward to the decision-making level, what had been implemented, what had not, and for what reasons.

This is a key question from the perspective of the credibility of the participatory process. For the participants, the primary expectation is not necessarily that every proposal be implemented immediately. It is much more that the path of the proposals be transparent, and that they receive clear feedback on how the joint work connects to decision-making.

Strengthening feedback is therefore one of the most important tasks of the continuation. The participants' motivation can be significantly increased if they receive regular, understandable and detailed information about the further fate of the proposals.

## 6. The balance of the professional programme and group work

The professional programme received a favourable evaluation overall, yet based on the open responses several participants felt that some professional presentations were long, while more time would have been needed for joint elaboration, concept-building and group work.

This does not mean a rejection of the professional content, but rather that the participants require a higher proportion of active participation. In the future it may be worth organising the professional inputs into shorter, more targeted blocks, and arranging processing, planning or decision-preparation group work directly linked to them.

The lower but still positive values of the closed questions also support this: the presentation of the user story, the educational block, the voting process and the sense of the proposals' feasibility are areas where more context, practical explanation and subsequent feedback could aid participant understanding.

No.	Item	Average	5-6 share	Comment
2.1	Venue	5,78	100%	Outstandingly positive evaluation; low scores did not occur, or barely occurred.
2.2	Organisation, execution	5,78	96%	Outstandingly positive evaluation; low scores did not occur, or barely occurred.
4	How involved did you feel in the joint thinking and decision-making?	5,70	100%	Outstandingly positive evaluation; low scores did not occur, or barely occurred.
9.1	Concept-building based on the previous day's problems and idea proposals	5,67	96%	Outstandingly positive evaluation; low scores did not occur, or barely occurred.
9.3	Presentations of development ideas, concepts and the system of objectives	5,67	96%	Outstandingly positive evaluation; low scores did not occur, or barely occurred.

## 7. Group dynamics and work organisation

Group work was one of the most important strengths of the community meeting, but based on the feedback the formation and operation of the groups may require further fine-tuning. The

heterogeneous group composition proved valuable in many respects, because it brought different viewpoints and experiences into the joint work.

At the same time, several participants indicated that the group members would have needed more time to get to know one another, especially when they had to work in a new composition. It was also raised that thematic differentiation of the groups could help the presentations repeat one another less, and have the different groups elaborate different perspectives or development directions.

In the future it may therefore be worth paying more attention to the preparation of the group work, the getting-acquainted phase, the clarification of roles, and ensuring that the groups receive clearer tasks that are more distinct from one another.

### **8. Participant composition and involvement**

Based on the responses, the participants of the community meeting were open, active and committed, yet several pieces of feedback also pointed out that broadening the participant pool is an important development direction. The involvement of younger age groups in particular appeared as a challenge.

The social embeddedness and legitimacy of the participatory process would be strengthened if an even more diverse participant pool appeared in the future. This may require more targeted engagement, a greater variety of communication channels and more flexible forms of participation.

It is also an important consideration that the different parts of the district, life situations, age groups and stakeholder groups may bring different problems and needs into the joint thinking. Representing these can strengthen the representativeness and practical usefulness of the community meeting.

### **9. Volunteer capacity and continuation opportunities**

Based on the open responses, one important result of the community meeting is that several participants would gladly join in the later implementation of the proposals as well. The offers included communication assistance, resident-community information, leaflet distribution, voluntary participation, and various professional, organisational and coordination contributions.

This shows that the community meeting can be interpreted not only as an opinion-gathering event, but also as the starting point of a more active local participation network. Maintaining participant activity, however, requires concrete, traceable and meaningful opportunities to get involved.

From the perspective of continuation, organising smaller, workshop-type occasions may be particularly promising, where interested participants can elaborate the jointly formulated proposals further with expert support.

### **10. Development directions**

No.	Item	Average	1-3 share	Interpretation
3.3	Presentation of the user story: the operation of the system through a concrete example	5,15	7%	Not a weak result, but it indicates more uncertainty or differing experience compared with the average.
3.6	Educational block on community, participation, visitor management and the community ecosystem	5,22	11%	Not a weak result, but it indicates more uncertainty or differing experience compared with the average.
3.4	Small-group discussion: willingness to join, deterrent factors, real help	5,26	0%	Not a weak result, but it indicates more uncertainty or differing experience compared with the average.
9.4	Voting on support for the proposals	5,26	7%	Not a weak result, but it indicates more uncertainty or differing experience compared with the average.
11	How strongly did you feel that the jointly formulated proposals are realistically achievable?	5,30	4%	Not a weak result, but it indicates more uncertainty or differing experience compared with the average.

Based on the evaluations, the following directions can be identified for the future development of the community meeting:

**1. Ensuring regular feedback**

The participants should receive clear information about what happens to previous and current proposals, which are carried forward to the decision-making level, which can be implemented, and on what grounds decisions are made.

**2. Producing more detailed documentation**

Summaries are needed that not only briefly evaluate the event, but also present the proposals, the main points of debate, the decision options and the next steps.

**3. Strengthening district communication**

Existing programmes, services and participation opportunities must be made more visible, so that residents can learn about them more easily and get involved more actively.

**4. Providing more time for group work**

Alongside the professional presentations, greater emphasis should be given to joint thinking, the elaboration of proposals and the shaping of concrete project ideas.

#### **5. Establishing a workshop-type continuation**

It is worth continuing the community meeting with smaller, thematic workshops, where the participants can elaborate the ideas further with expert support.

#### **6. More targeted involvement of younger age groups**

In order to strengthen the participatory process, particular attention must be paid to engaging young people and other under-represented groups.

#### **7. Fine-tuning the organisation of group work**

More time should be provided for getting acquainted, for clarifying roles, and for ensuring that the groups receive clearer tasks that are more distinct from one another.

### **11. Consolidated main conclusion**

Based on the combined evaluation of the closed and open questions, the community meeting was a well-organised participatory event that generated high satisfaction and had a community-building effect. The joint thinking, the meeting of different viewpoints, the insight into the development of Bókay Garden and the process of compromise-based proposal-making proved especially valuable for the participants.

The high scores indicate that the basic structure of the event is workable, and the open responses show that the participants were not only satisfied, but also remain interested in the continuation of the process. The most important task of the coming period is therefore not the rethinking of the event's foundations, but the strengthening of the participatory process.

This requires, above all, more transparent feedback, more detailed documentation, better communication, more group work and smaller, workshop-type continuation occasions. If these are achieved, the community meeting can grow stronger not as a one-off consultation occasion, but as a longer-term, trust-building and action-oriented participatory process.

## 12. Evaluation sheet

### EVALUATION SHEET – 3RD COMMUNITY MEETING

Pestszentlőrinc–Pestszentimre, 18th District of Budapest

Venue: Mayor's Office, Meeting Hall

Date: 16–17 May 2026

#### 1. How useful was the event for you? (1: not at all, 6: very useful)\*

1	2	3	4	5	6
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### 2. Please rate the following (1: not good at all, 6: very good)\*

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Venue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organisation, execution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Catering (meals)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compilation of the professional programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delivery of the professional programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Facilitation and support of group work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### First day – 16 May (Saturday) – Methodological evaluation of the housing-crisis research and Bókay Garden community programme planning

#### 3. How useful did you find the following programme items? (1: not useful at all, 6: very useful)\*

Programme item	1	2	3	4	5	6
What has happened so far? – presentation of earlier results and the goals of the community meeting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presentation of the district's new community project, and its goals.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presentation of the user story: the operation of the system through a concrete example	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small-group discussion: willingness to join, deterrent factors, real help	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presentation of the infrastructural development of Bókay Garden	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational block on community, participation, visitor management and the community ecosystem	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exploring strengths and shortcomings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Team presentations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### 4. How involved did you feel in the joint thinking and decision-making? (1: not at all, 6: completely)\*

1	2	3	4	5	6
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. I feel that the proposals formulated in my group represent my opinion. (1: not at all, 6: completely)\*

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. I feel that I learned from my team and from the joint work. (1: not at all, 6: completely)\*

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. What was the most interesting or instructive for you during the first day?

(Max. 500  
character  
s)

8. What new knowledge, perspectives or skills did you gain during the first day?

(Max. 500  
character  
s)

**Second day – 17 May (Sunday) – Concept-building, presentations and priority list**

9. How useful did you find the following programme items? (1: not useful at all, 6: very useful)\*

Programme item	1	2	3	4	5	6
Concept-building based on the previous day's problems and idea proposals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thematic group work: developing the system of objectives and intervention actions – card game	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Presentations of development ideas, concepts and the system of objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Voting on support for the proposals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establishing the priority list and presenting the results	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ceremonial closing, group photo and a joint closing ritual	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. How much did the concept-building help to refine the community development proposals? (1: not at all, 6: completely)\*

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. How strongly did you feel that the jointly formulated proposals are realistically achievable? (1: not at all, 6: completely)\*

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. What was the most interesting or most valuable experience for you during the second day?

(Max. 500  
 character  
 s)

13. What new knowledge, perspectives or skills did you gain during the second day?

(Max. 500  
 character  
 s)

14. How satisfied were you with the event overall? (1: not at all, 6: absolutely yes)\*

1	2	3	4	5	6
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Comment, observation, suggestion – how could the community meeting or the participatory process be made even better?

(Max. 500  
character  
s)

16. If you wish, please describe how you would gladly help in implementing the proposals (voluntary participation, communication, professional contribution, etc.):

(Max. 500  
character  
s)

\* - Fields marked with an asterisk are mandatory to complete/select!

Family name (required):

First name (required):

E-mail (required):

