

Urban ReLeaf

Bridging ethics and data integration in urban citizen science: a use case from Urban ReLeaf

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IIASA

ECSCA conference 2026, Oulu, Finland



6

Pilot cities

15

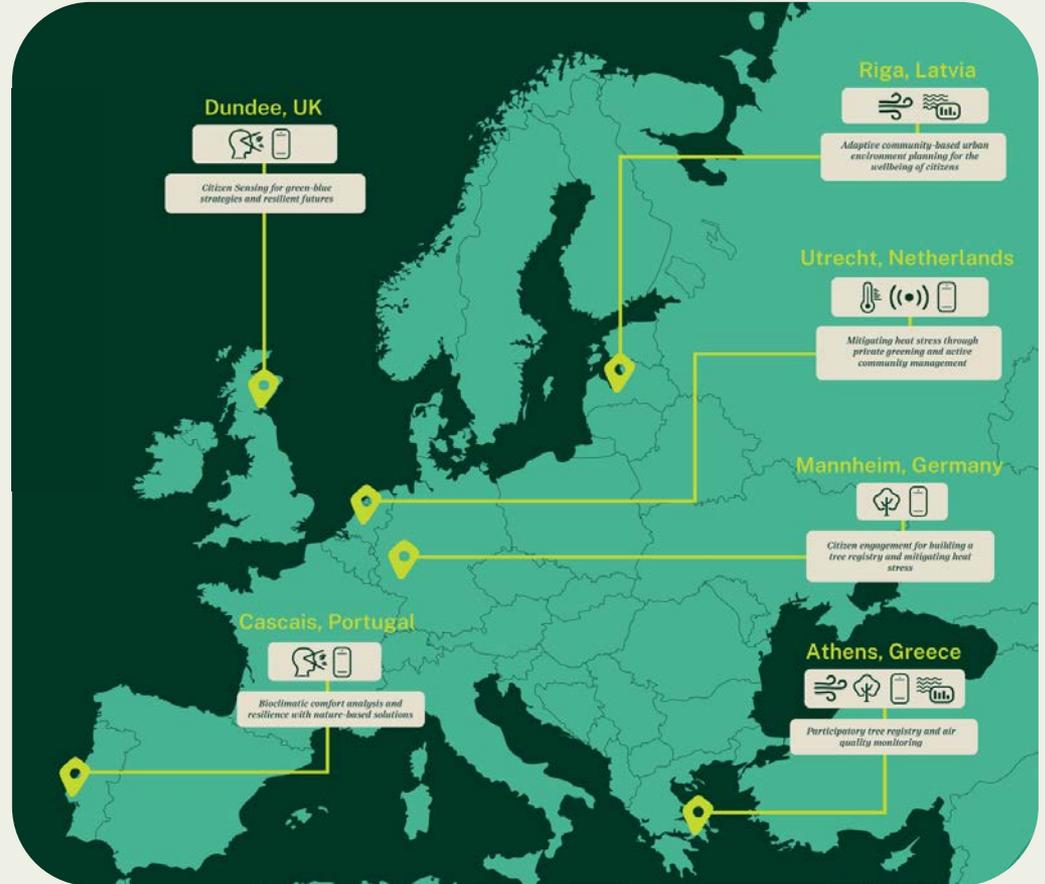
Partners

9

Countries

4

Years



Innovating together for just and green urban transitions



Increasing environmental stresses in cities.

Accentuated inequalities related to greenspace access, ecosystem services and health-related benefits.

Important data gaps in urban policy and planning.

Unequal **public participation**.

Urban Relief Campaigns

Technology + accessibility: Multi-format data collection (apps, sensors, web, paper) ensured inclusion of digitally-excluded groups

Data collection & *engagement* metrics

-  330.000+ air quality measurement hours
-  3.500+ citizens engaged
59% female participants
-  450.000+ temperature & relative humidity observations
-  110+ parks, greenspaces, neighbourhoods, sites investigated
-  2.500+ surveys completed
-  350+ sensors installed/deployed
-  1.000+ tree updates
-  600+ app downloads/users

6 Cities

Athens, Cascais, Dundee, Mannheim, Riga, Utrecht

4 Themes

-  Greenspace perception
-  Urban Trees
-  Air quality
-  Heat stress

Technologies

-  Wearable Sensors
-  Mobile Applications
-  Air Quality Monitors PM2.5



Urban Release Campaigns

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We've got a poster!!

Technologies

Wearable Sensors

Mobile Applications

Air Quality Monitors PM2.5

Map of Quinta da Carreira Urban Park

"How do you feel about the temperature in this place?"

"At what time do you usually visit this place?"



TRH campaign

(heat stress)



Utrecht Selected Artists

Martijn Aerts, Aniek Karina & Sebastiaan Buwalda

Urban Releaf

How can technology help communities recover from floods, heatwaves, or other disruptions?

Urban Releaf

Join the Urban ReLeaf Accelerator Programme

Become part of a growing movement shaping greener, more resilient urban futures.

2025 Athens Heat Stress Campaign Data

92 Sensors distributed

84 Active data sensors

91% Participation rate

157,451 TIRH recordings collected

87 Thermal discomfort events recorded

7 Municipal districts covered

2025 Καρπένια Θερμικής Επιβάρυνσης στην Αθήνα

92 αισετήρες διαμοιράστηκαν

84 αισετήρες χρησιμοποιήθηκαν

91% ποσοστό συμμετοχής

157,451 δεδομένα συλλεχθέντα

87 φασές καταγράφηκε θερμική επιβάρυνση

7 Δημοτικά Διαμερίσματα καλύφθηκαν



Paid Commission Opportunity

1 week left to apply!

Co create a climate mural in Rigel!

How can apps, digital maps, and online surveys help people shape local decisions?

Session 3

Albin Hunia
Policy Advisor
Urban Nature
Utrecht Municipality

Dr. Ed Pope
Science Fellow
Met Office

Anna Bruen
Senior Expert - ICLEI



CASCAIS

Urban Releaf

Take the first step towards a greener Cascais!

Take part in this citizen science project and help us map the levels of thermal comfort in urban green spaces in Cascais!

Find out more:

CASCAIS

Urban Releaf

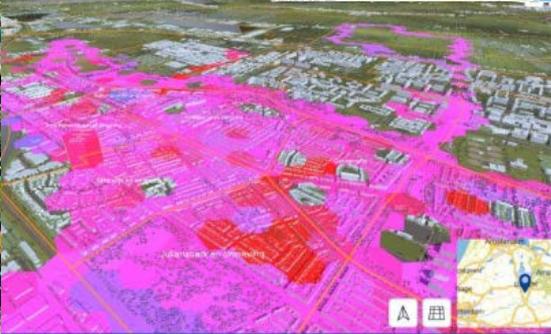
How can you help?

Come and explore urban green spaces with a purpose!

What will you do?

- Walk through green urban parks with a sensor and an innovative application.
- Map critical zones of thermal discomfort.
- Engage in interactive activities that educate and inspire action.
- Share your observations with the community.

Find out more:

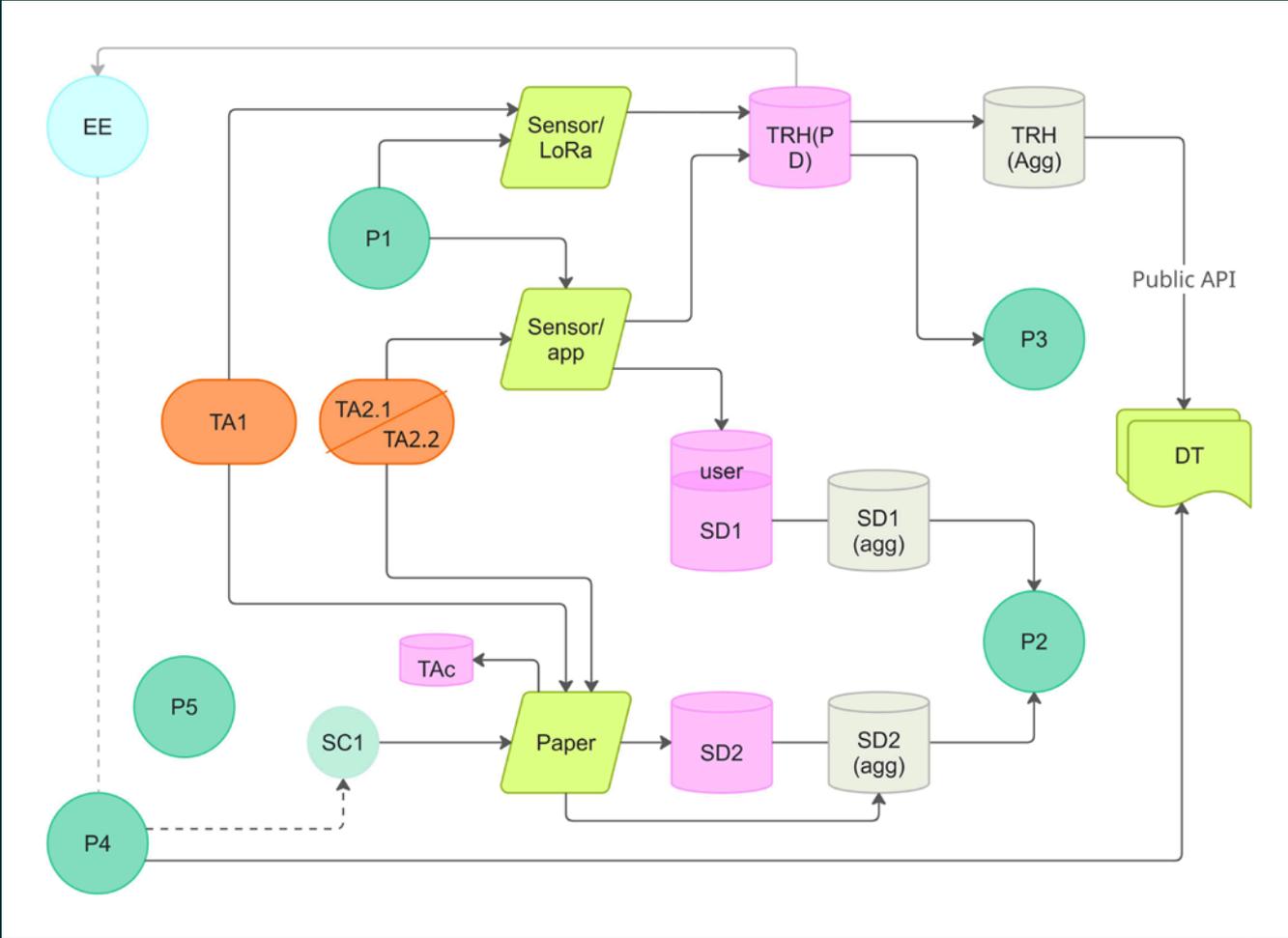


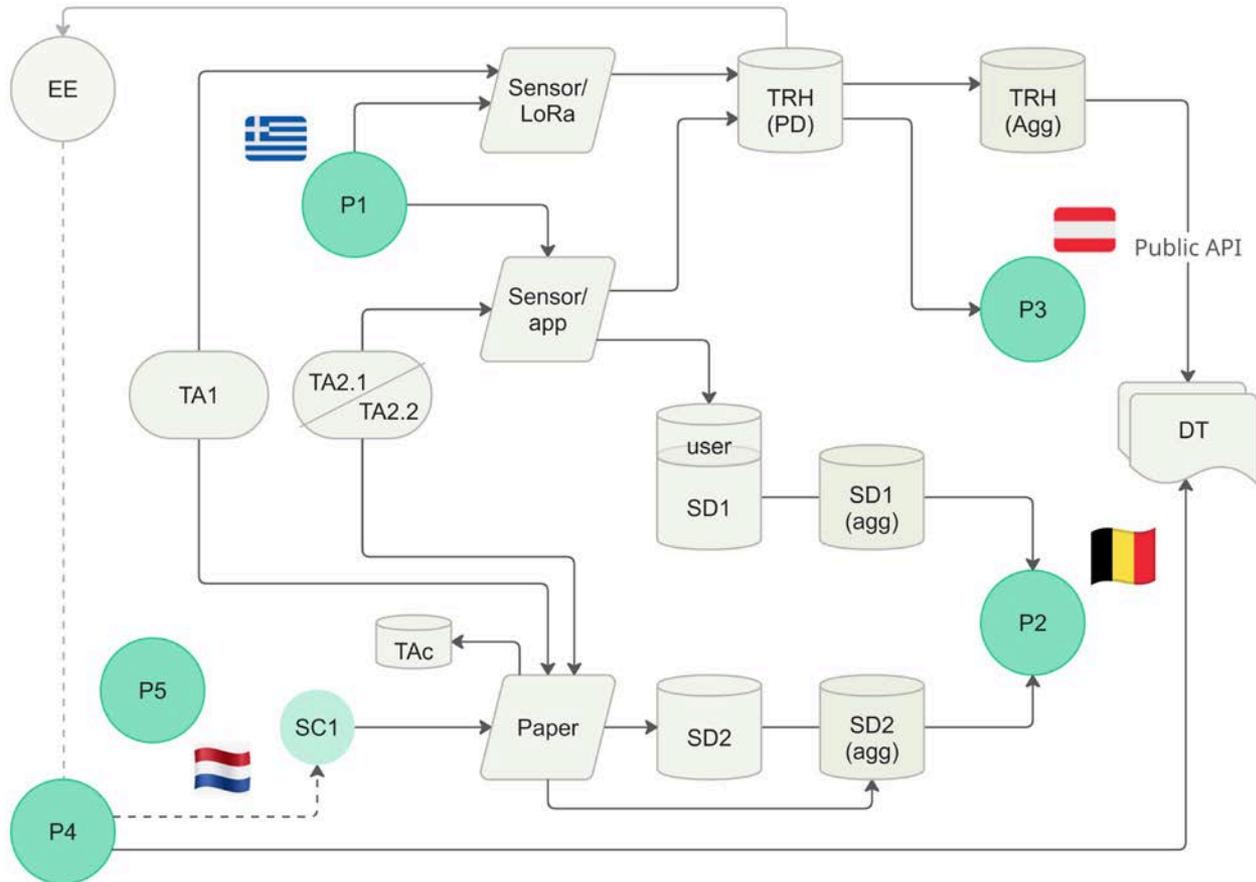
Legal considerations (GDPR)

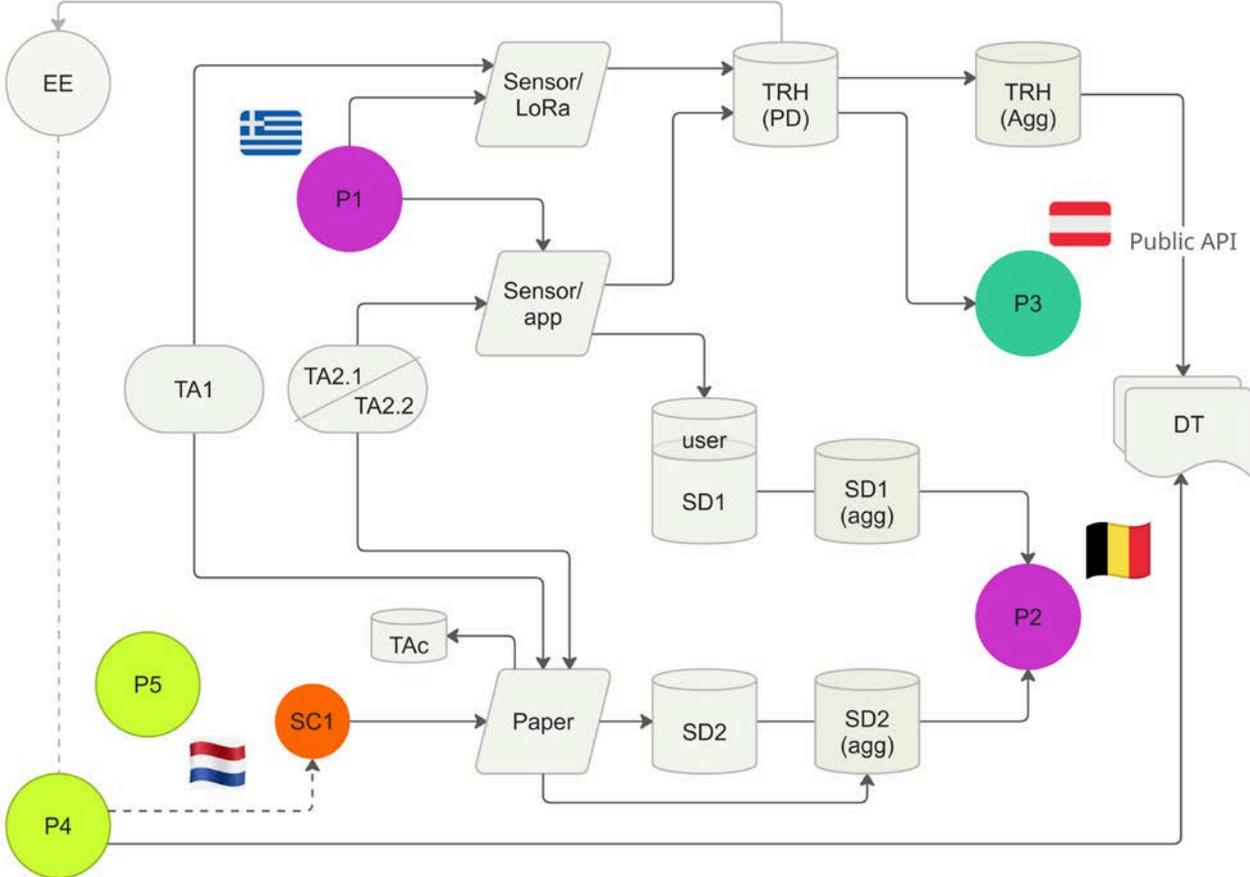
- Roles associated with design of data collection, data handling and analysis
- Data types (PD, SCPD)
- DPOs, legal departments
- DPIAs, DS agreements, JCAs

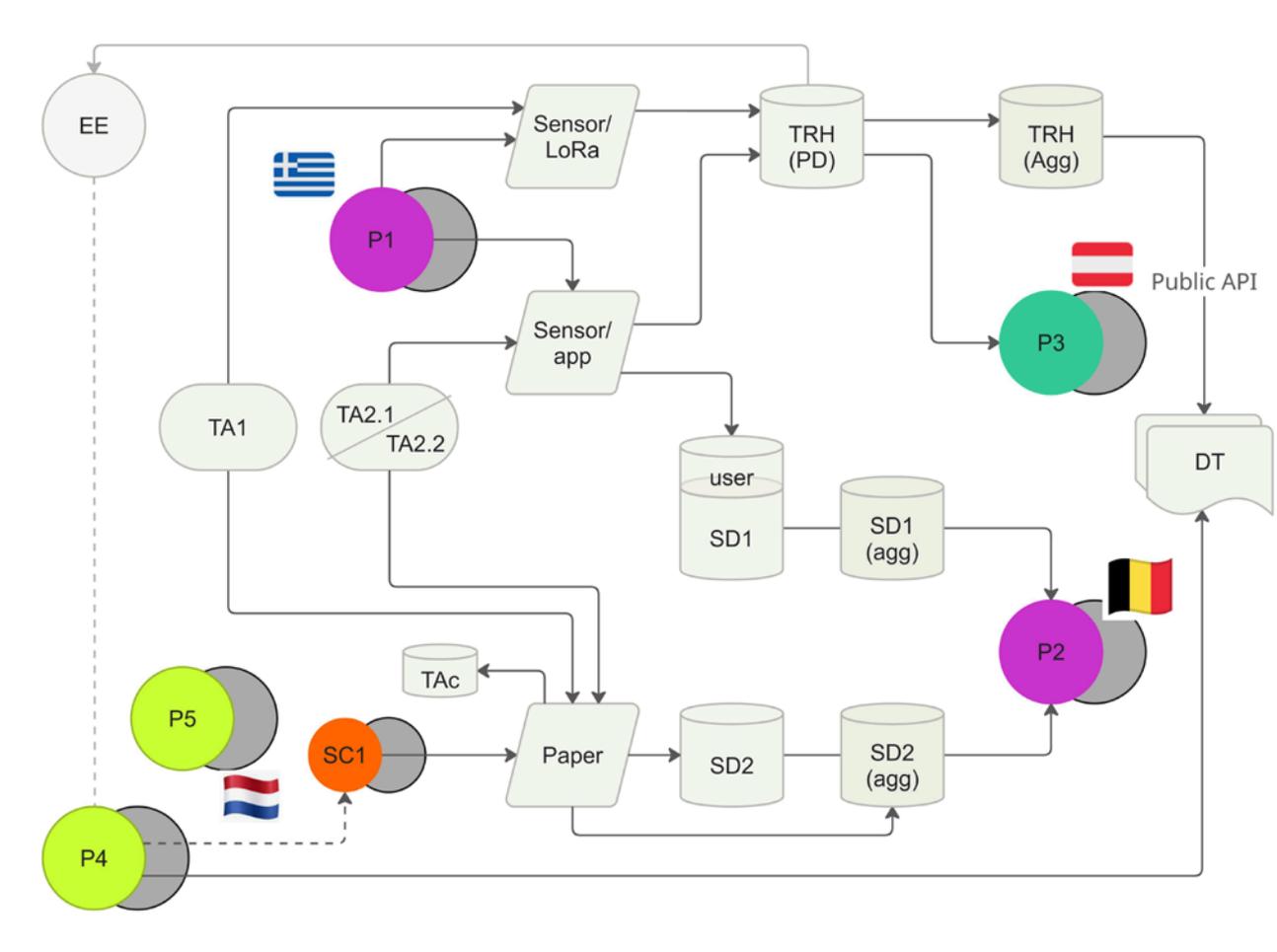
Ethics

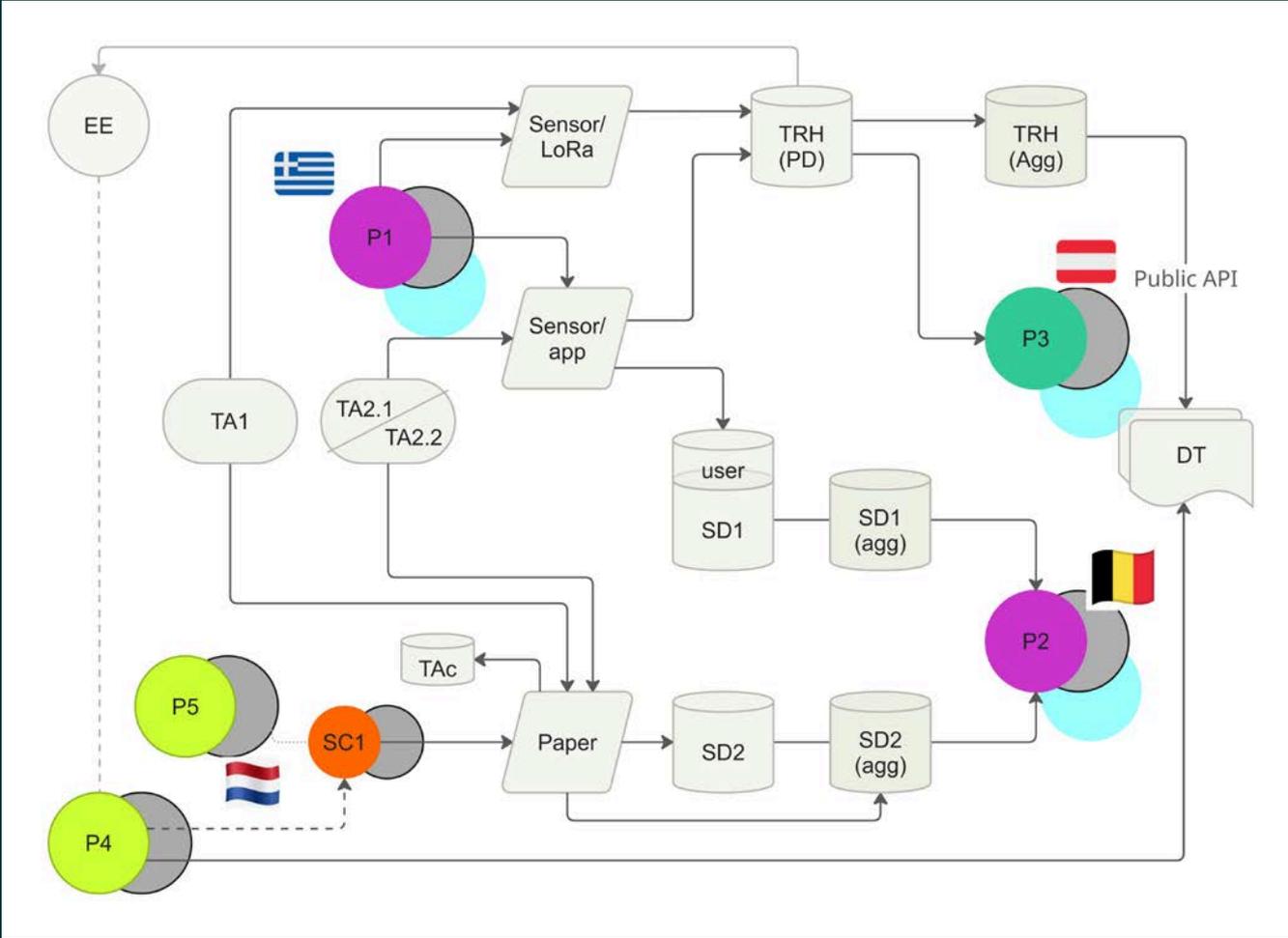
- Informed consent, age considerations, vulnerabilities etc.
- Ethics guidelines, best-practices, ethics assessment (EC), ethics documentation (WP7)
- Ethics boards
- Ethics review/vote

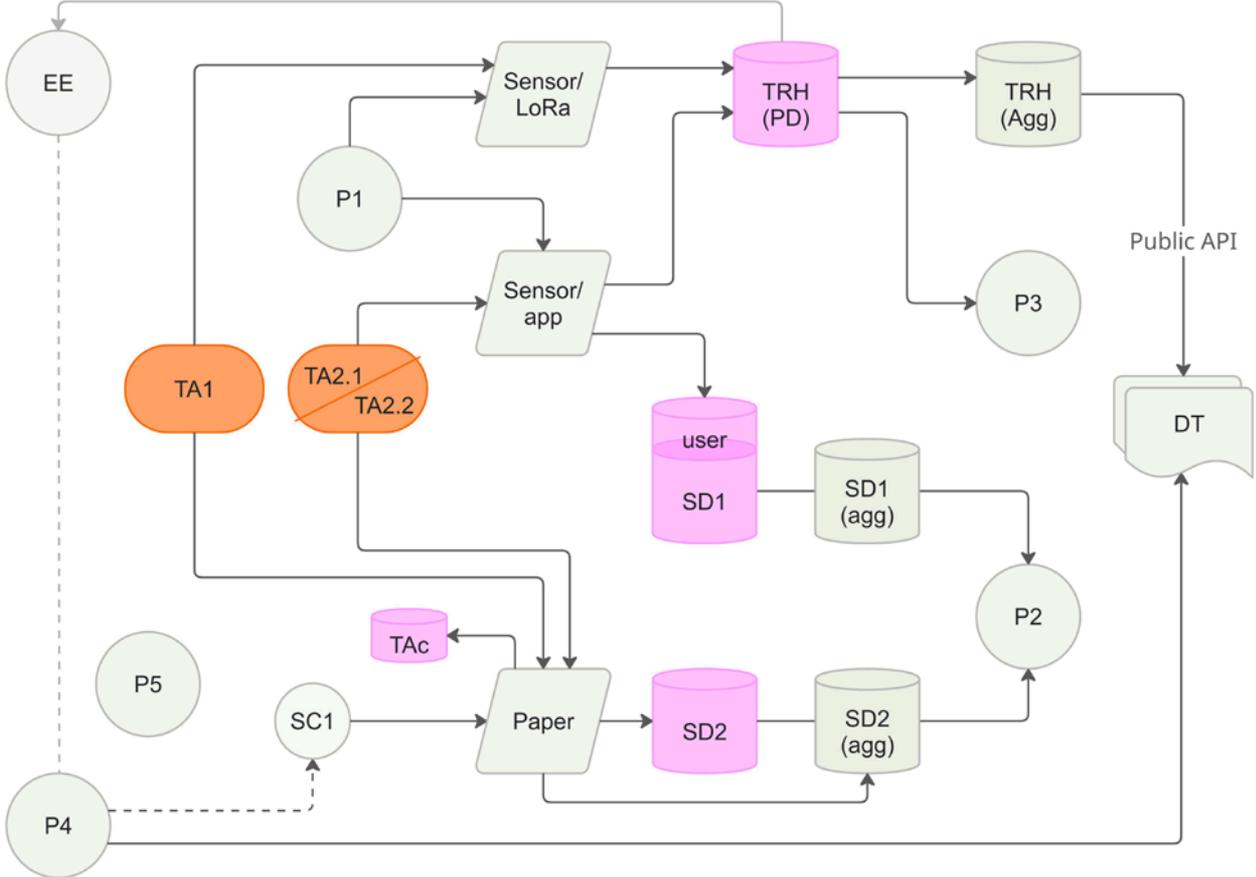






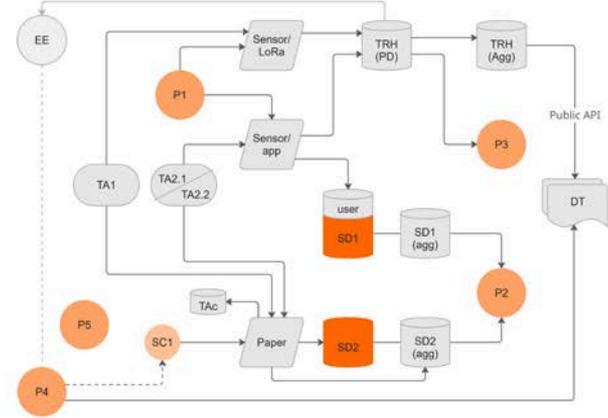
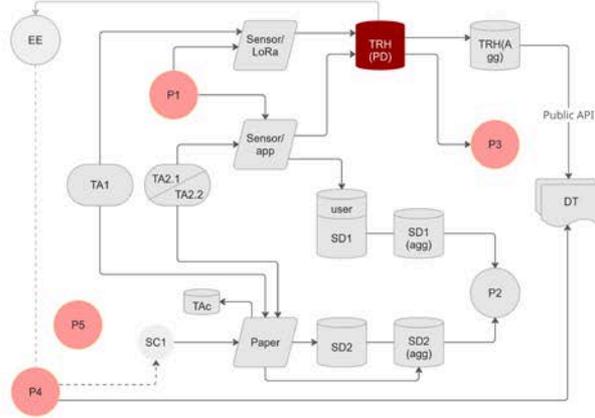




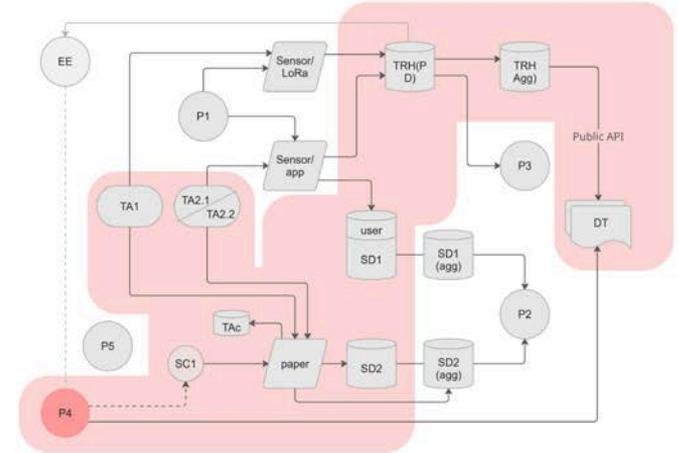
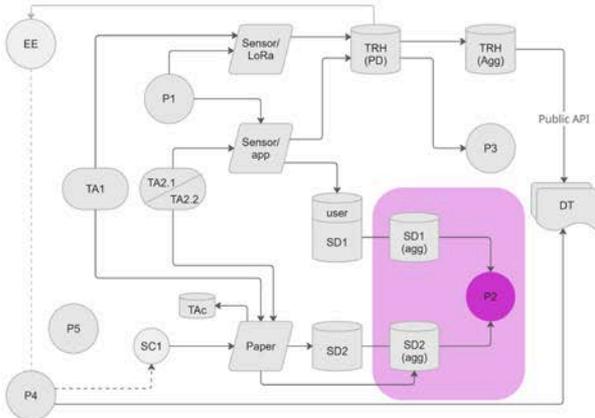


Urban
Relief

JCA
Ethics review
DPIA
Data sharing
agreements



DPC
Informed consent
templates
Partner training
and guidelines



*How can we simplify without
compromising depth of data or
inclusive engagement?*

Project Partners



Illustrations and Urban ReLeaf brand design by Agency of None



Funded by
the European Union



UK Research
and Innovation

@ECSA 2026

04/03/2026, 09:00

From Citizens to Policy: Data-Driven Collaboration for Climate Action in Urban ReLeaf Cities

05/03/2026, 09:00

Urban ReLeaf: Embedding citizen observations in urban policy for greener, healthier and more inclusive cities



04/03/2026 16:45

Posters

Inclusive Citizen Science Blueprint: empowering socially vulnerable communities to actively participate in data-driven decision making

04/03/2026 16:45

Urban ReLeaf: People-Powered Pathways to Urban Climate Adaptation Across Europe

06/03/2026, 09:00

Tech-Enabled Citizen Science for Urban Futures: Lessons from Urban ReLeaf

06/03/2026, 09:00

An Inclusive Approach to Demographic Data Collection in the Urban ReLeaf project

06/03/2026, 11:15

Opportunities for citizen science within the Global Urban Monitoring Framework

06/03/2026, 11:15

From tension to collaboration: cross-sector learning in urban citizen science



Urban Releaf

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