

INSIDE THE CITIES

BUCHAREST DISTRICT 2

MAYOR RARES HOPINCĂ ON GREENER STREETS AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

WeGenerate is bringing new life to Bucharest's Tei neighbourhood. We spoke with **Rares Hopincă, Mayor of Bucharest's 2nd District**, about how the project is shaping safer streets, open campuses, and stronger local connections.



Rares Hopincă, Mayor of Bucharest's 2nd District

A GREENER, SAFER TEI

WeGenerate will transform the Tei neighbourhood into a greener, safer, and more people-friendly area. According to Mayor Rares Hopincă, the partial pedestrianisation of Dorin Pavel Street between the student canteen and School No. 31, together with the creation of a one-way system on Inginerilor Tei Street, will make the area safer for children and families.

"By redesigning public spaces and introducing new green areas and urban furniture, we aim to create a lively community space for students, residents, and children alike," says Mayor Hopincă.

These changes mark a significant step in turning Tei into a model for sustainable urban living — one where streets are not just for traffic, but for people.

OPENING THE CAMPUS TO THE COMMUNITY

A central part of this vision is the **Open Campus for People and Climate**, an initiative that will reshape how residents and students share public space.

"The Open Campus reflects our vision of an inclusive, connected city," Mayor Hopincă explains.

"Removing the fences around the UTCB campus and regenerating the surrounding area into open, green public space will create a shared environment for education, leisure, and community interaction – a true campus open to all residents."

By opening its borders, the campus becomes not just an educational hub, but a shared space that brings together generations and fosters daily connection between citizens and students.

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

For Mayor Hopincă, involving young people in the regeneration process is essential. *"Involving students and young people ensures that the regeneration truly meets the community's needs,"* he says. *"Through co-creation activities and participatory design, they help shape spaces they will use daily – encouraging civic responsibility and belonging."*

This approach allows residents, especially the younger generation, to have a tangible role in shaping their neighbourhoods. It builds ownership, and with it, pride in the community's shared achievements.

BUILDING TRUST AND PLANNING AHEAD

Beyond the visible improvements, WeGenerate also aims to strengthen social ties and rebuild trust between citizens and local authorities.

"By engaging residents in every stage of design and implementation, WeGenerate strengthens trust and collaboration," Mayor Hopincă explains. *"When people see visible improvements – greener streets, safer access, better facilities – they feel ownership of the change and confidence in local institutions."*

This participatory model will not stop in Tei. Mayor Hopincă notes that District 2 will use the Digital Twin developed through WeGenerate to guide future investments and replicate success elsewhere. *"The project's integrated model – combining urban regeneration, green transition, and citizen participation – will serve as a blueprint for sustainable transformation in other areas of Bucharest."*

A MODEL FOR FUTURE CITIES

From safer streets to open campuses and digital planning tools, Bucharest's District 2 is setting an example of how collaboration and innovation can reshape urban life.

WeGenerate shows that when citizens and local authorities work together, cities can become not only greener and safer – but truly shared spaces for everyone.