



EU Research and Innovation for Sustainable Urban Development

Resilient Cities: Novel tools for local authorities

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Rationale and aim of EU future initiatives

- A changed policy context – new European Commission priorities:
 - 'A new boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment'
 - 'A resilient Energy Union with a forward looking climate change policy'

- A new orientation of EU R&I policy which promotes nature-based solutions to societal challenges: *"Innovating Cities with Nature"/"Re-naturing cities"*
 - to provide rationale, evidence and arguments and a road map for action at EU and possibly national level
 - to develop and scale up use of nature-based solutions that can tackle urban challenges such as climate change and related natural hazards as well as energy, water and resource efficiency, and thereby induce new local jobs, new investments and markets.

Linking past, present, and future actions

- **Fifth EU Research Framework Programme** (1998-2002) a Key Action "City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage" with a budget of 170 M € → strong focus on multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approaches.
- **Seventh EU Research Framework Programme** (2007-2013) several multidisciplinary projects on urban metabolism, transition to urban sustainability, sustainable management of coastal cities, urban resilience and climate change adaptation, urban retrofitting and energy-efficient buildings.
- **Horizon 2020**, EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) with €80 billion budget – for excellent science, industrial competitiveness and solutions to societal challenges (60 % for Sustainable development, 35 % for climate change). 2016-17 WP: Smart cities and communities – with nature-based solutions.

Nature-Based Solutions for re-naturing cities (i)



Nature-Based Solutions are inspired by or using features from nature, and they are:

- multi-purpose, multi-benefits providing simultaneously benefits for the environment, society and economy;
- energy and resource efficient;
- systemic, resilient to change and locally attuned;

Nature-Based Solutions address challenges such as:

- Climate change (flooding, heat waves)
- Natural disasters (land slides, forest fires, flooding)
- Degraded ecosystems and decline in ecosystem services

Nature-Based Solutions for re-naturing cities (ii)



New EU funded means of collaboration, e.g. large demonstration projects, dialogue platforms, innovative governance, public procurement and funding models, prizes, to

- co-design, co-develop and co-implement multi-purpose, innovative solutions that provide economic, environmental and social benefits
- deliver evidence, role-models, methods and tools that enable change to be replicated and scaled-up
- foster trans-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder involvement
- provide systemic, integrated solutions at landscape level
- innovate with governance, regulatory, institutional, social, finance and business models and frameworks
- create investment and market opportunities
- leverage multiple public (European Structural and Investment Funds, LIFE fund,...) and private sources of funding incl. crowdfunding

Stakeholder consultation and engagement (i)



- **EC/ EU Presidency Conferences:**
 - Renaturing Cities/economic benefits: Brussels, 13-14.5.2014
 - Renaturing Cities/social cohesion: Milan 1-2.12.2014
 - Nature and Urban Wellbeing: Ghent, 18-20.5.2015Call for session proposals: <http://www.alter-net.info/outputs/conf-2015/call> deadline 14 February
- **Stakeholder e-consultation** on 12.11.2014.
Report: http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm?pg=nature-based-solutions
- **EP intergroup conference** on Nature-based Solutions: Innovation Potential for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe, Brussels, 30.9.2014
- **Stakeholder Workshop** 'Nature Based Solutions and Renaturing Cities', Brussels, 8.12.2014.
- **Expert Group** 'Nature Based Solutions and Renaturing Cities', Report early 2015
- **Eurobarometer** public opinion surveys in 2015

Stakeholder consultation and engagement (ii)

The Mayors Adapt Initiative (the Covenant of Mayors Initiative on Adaptation to Climate Change)

<http://mayors-adapt.eu>

- Launched in March 2014
- To inform, mobilise and support local authorities to take action for adapting to climate impacts
- More than 100 cities or provinces already committed
- 1st Signature Ceremony (16 October 2014, Brussels): 58 European Mayors signed the relevant Political Commitment Document
- *Support for knowledge exchange & transfer*
 - Mayors Adapt Helpdesk
 - Urban Adaptation technical Support Tool (<http://mayors-adapt.eu/materials/technical-support> under the EEA Climate Adapt Platform)



Please join us...

- **Call for Ideas - Pilot / demonstration projects**
HORIZON 2020 - Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials (DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 28 February 2015):
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CALLforIDEAS-SC5>
- To be informed about **HORIZON 2020**:
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>
- To be informed about the **European Research Area**
http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm

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