

# REGREEN At the EUROPEAN URBAN RESILIENCE FORUM 2021

*By Vasileios Latinos (ICLEI Europe) and Stine Kondrup (INTUGREEN). REGREEN 3<sup>rd</sup> Newsletter, Dec. 2021*

The European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) has become widely known as the leading European platform for discussing climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and urban resilience, but also taking further the legacy of the Resilient Cities Congress series (which run from 2010 to 2019). This year, the EURESFO21 was hosted by the city of Malmö in Sweden, known for its pioneering climate measures and projects, with a specific focus on blue and green infrastructure.

The event took place from 19 to 20 October, and was a great opportunity to reunite with many stakeholders from cities, research institutes, NGOs and international organizations. While more than 100 participants enjoyed live sessions and workshops at Studio Malmö next to the transformed old port docks in Malmö, more than 400 participants joined the event online.

Eminent speakers from cities such as Thessaloniki, Nijmegen, Barcelona, Athens, Rotterdam, Zagreb and of course, host city Malmö, institutes such as the Nordic Institute for Urban Resilience, the European Environment Agency and the Euro-Mediterranean Center for Climate Change, companies such as NOW Partners and Tecnalia, but also international financing institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, UNDRR and the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative presented their views on urban resilience from different angles and agreed on one thing: Accelerating climate adaptation efforts is more than urgent!.



More funding opportunities and collaborative work are essential for cities' resilient recovery. After two days of intense discussion, city representatives, industries, and stakeholders highlighted the imperative need for innovative financing solutions, and to take a holistic approach to integrated mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Among the conference's main outcomes were agreements that cities need more financial support from the European Union and national funds to scale-up action, and that they must work in collaboration with stakeholders, private sector and research institutions. Discussions pointed to the need for integrated work

on different fronts, such as nature-inspired solutions for whole cities rather than just in specific patches (parking lots, protected areas etc.); better data collection and use for integrated climate strategies; actions to ensure future-proofing beyond the individual building level; and consideration of smaller municipalities' particular challenges. Our sister projects ProGIreg, Clever Cities and Connecting Nature charmed the audience with concrete examples of how nature-based solutions can be implemented but also scaled-up in several EU cities. In addition, the Nordic Institute for Urban Resilience and the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change introduced us to the challenges of small and medium-sized municipalities to move forward in adaptation planning and gave us some ideas for using, among other things, exchanges and cooperation between municipalities. and get the best support from regional and national authorities.

Finally, REGREEN represented by Stine Casparij Kondrup from Intugreen and Vasileios Latinos from ICLEI had the chance to point out examples of local NBS initiatives in Copenhagen, and how the co-creation and engagement of citizens can stimulate ownership of the NBS. Furthermore, Stine pointed out the importance for greater recognition and financial support to Nature-based Enterprises.

Over the past 8 years, the European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) has been a unique platform for city representatives, experts and stakeholders from local and regional institutions to discuss strategies, initiatives and actions for adapting to climate change and building urban resilience.

The event is an initiative of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and the European Environment Agency (EEA) since 2013.

It definitely will be repeated in 2022! Stay tuned at: <https://urbanresilienceforum.eu>