

# REGREEN: "Fostering nature-based solutions for equitable, green and healthy urban transitions in Europe and China"



# REGREEN

---

## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

### Dear REGREEN followers!

This newsletter is the fourth newsletter from REGREEN addressed to both experts and non-experts and the general public to provide updates on the progress of our project. This 4<sup>th</sup> issue provides - in parallel to the project website - information on the latest news, reportings, upcoming events and other issues of interest.

### REGREEN 4<sup>th</sup> Newsletter overview

*By Marianne Zandersen/AU, Photo: Aarhus daylighted canal - © Marc Barra/IPR*

REGREEN is now already in its final year. We conclude end of February 2024 and look forward to presenting our insights, tools and guidances to bringing high quality nature into cities and to discussing challenges at our final conference in Brussels 28-29<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Below you'll find an overview of some of the many activities, processes, tools and guidelines that we have or will be soon finalizing.

[more](#)





## REGREEN's walkable floormaps in different european ULLs

*by ULL Aarhus and ULL Velika Gorica*

Floormaps have become an important tool for training and awareness raising among children and in the educational setting. In addition, the floormaps have shown great potential in governance.

In spring 2022, four floormaps were created by UFZ with inputs from the City of Aarhus departments for Aarhus ULL.

During five workshops with public policy makers and planners, the floormaps and associated processes were examined and developed to adapt the floormap format to local governance.

Two floormaps of Velika Gorica municipality were presented at the tourist information centre as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> REGREEN internal meeting in May 2022, and later at a public event in the townhall of the ULL.

[more](#)

## Webinar – Sustaining cities, naturally

*By Marianne Zandersen, AU*

Urbanisation is one of the key drivers for degrading ecosystems. By 2030, cities are expected to cover three times as much land as they did in 2000, with much of the expansion occurring in biodiversity hotspots. By 2050 two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, running from 2021 through to 2030, aims to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight climate change and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity. The current post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework calls for at least 20% of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems to be restored by 2030.

REGREEN, together with the three sister projects [CLEARINGHOUSE](#), [INTERLACE](#) and [CONEXUS](#) funded under the Horizon2020 programme on urban ecosystem restoration and international cooperation, hosted a widely attended webinar during the European Week of Regions and Cities.

[more](#)





## Technical day – Renaturing cities

*By Gwendoline Grandin and Marc Barra, IPR*

As part of the REGREEN project, the Paris Region Institute (IPR) organised an online technical day dedicated to the renaturation of cities on 31 January 2023 to accompany the release of its guide "Renaturing cities: methods, examples and recommendations".

The renaturation of cities is a major challenge, whether it is to implement a strategy of zero net artificialisation on its territory or, more broadly, to make our urban spaces more resilient, more biodiverse and more pleasant to live in. Cities are full of areas that are unnecessarily paved with asphalt or concrete and where nature could regain its rights, but many questions remain to be answered: what knowledge and techniques should be used to implement renaturation projects? How can sectors with high renaturation potential be located? Which case studies are available?

[more](#)

## NBS in the field – A journey to the Velika Gorica ULL

*By Josip Beber, Valentina Kuzmić, Gordana Mikulčić-Krnjaja, Katarina Baković (ZEZ, GVG)*



The City of Velika Gorica is the smallest of six cities in Regreen project, but the sixth largest in Croatia. It has strong history and culture that nourishes and respects the nature and heritage of green urban planning from previous political systems. But with the passing time and closeness to the main city of Zagreb, Velika Gorica is exposed to the fast urbanization caused by rapid population and traffic growth, economic and business development, leaving little to no space for nature in the city center and suburban areas. To address occurring challenges the city joined the colorful Regreen consortium to find and redefine the city development path that offers high-quality life for its dwellers in balance with nature.

[more](#)



## REGREEN @ URBIO

By Ellen Banzhaf, UFZ

At the hybrid URBIO 2022 International Conference (*Integrating Biodiversity in Urban Planning and Design Processes*), we co-hosted the special session "Blue-green infrastructures and nature-based solutions for resilient cities" and contributed with 3 out of 6 presentations.

We brought in different perspectives to biodiversity and urban planning through our fields of research such as urban ecology, education and nature-based solutions, mapping and monitoring green infrastructure.

Now, the book of abstract is published as open access: Ignatieva, M., Dushkova, D., Nilon, C., Haase, D., Knapp, S., Bittorf, N. (eds., 2023) - <http://dx.doi.org/10.57699/hd4s-e705>.

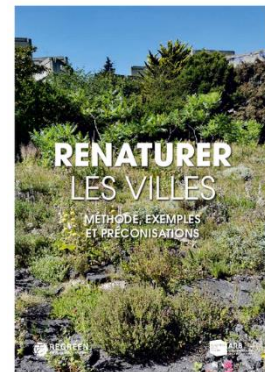
[more](#)

## Guidelines for "depaving" and "regreening" Strategy in Cities

By Gwendoline Grandin & Marc Barra, IPR

The loss of soil functions and ecosystem services is one of the major environmental challenges Europe is facing. Despite a reduction in the last decade, land take in EU28 still amounted to 539km<sup>2</sup>/year between 2012-2018. Since the mid-1950s, the total surface area of cities in the EU has increased by 78% while the population has grown by just 33%. To address this global problem, the European Commission has proposed in the EU Environment Action Programme to 2020 (7th EAP) to achieve 'no net land take' by 2050. Sealing agricultural land and open spaces should be avoided as far as possible and the focus should be on building on land that has already been sealed.

In this context, slowing urban growth and renaturing urban environments have become key strategies.



[more](#)

## Tools and guidelines for mapping and modelling procedures

By Gregor Levin, AU



In REGREEN, we develop and utilize a diverse range of mapping and modeling techniques to evaluate the ecosystem services (ES) provided by nature-based solutions (NBS). This report (D3.4 REGREEN) presents an

overview of the mapping and modeling procedures that have been developed and utilized in the first three years of the REGREEN project. The mapping and modeling approaches are described in brief and easy-to-understand factsheets that can be used to guide similar projects and explain the methods used.

[more](#)

## Transition Workshop with REGREEN at EURESFO 2022, Athens, Greece

*By Elena Petsani, ICLEI*

The Transition Workshop was held at the 9<sup>th</sup> European Resilience Forum (EURESFO), hosted by the Municipality of Athens, and organised by ICLEI, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. It brought together more than 60 stakeholders from 20 cities. The programme of the Transition Workshop was developed in consultation with REGREEN's project partners and external stakeholders to ensure the outcomes would be tailored to the needs of practitioners.

[more](#)



## Using Photo-elicitation to explore the human health and well-being impacts of NBS

*By James A. Fullam, UNEXE*

In REGREEN we're carrying out photo-elicitation focus groups with members of the public in Paris, Aarhus and Velika Gorica, using photos of street trees and other NBS captured by our ULL partners. Photo-elicitation is a method of qualitative research that uses photographs as the basis for discussion. Photographs evoke information and memories that text and oral discussion do not, and researchers have found that it is not simply more information, but a different kind of information that is evoked from participants.

[more](#)

## REGREEN podcast series continues

*By Hans-Peter Ellmer, JR*

Innovation and impact creation are focus topics of the REGREEN project and our podcast series is part of this. With a series of eight episodes, you can easily dive into the field of nature-based solutions and listen to experts, showing the importance of NBS on the path of transition towards greener, healthier and equitable cities in Europe and China. After podcasts one to four have been presented in our 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter, here is an overview of the latest released episodes:



- Episode 5: Citizen Science – how to increase critical thinking about nature, biodiversity and nature-based solutions
- Episode 6: Kids and nature learning - how young people can be involved in the greening of our cities
- Episode 7: ULL Velika Gorica - how the forest can both be part of the problem and especially an important part of the solution
- Episode 8: ULL Beijing - the green side of a huge city

All podcast episodes are available [here](#)!



## Nature-based solutions training workshops in Aarhus and Velika Gorica

*By Gwendoline Grandin & Marc Barra, IPR*

Training workshops on NBS have multiple objectives. Firstly, to redefine the concept as it remains open to different interpretations. The aim is to enable participants to understand the complexities of NBS, identify how they can be applied in different settings and the various approaches it encompasses. In addition, training workshops provide a valuable opportunity to share experiences and feedback, enabling a better understanding of how theoretical concepts can be applied in practical situations. They offer ideas for action and facilitate meetings between agents from different departments within a city, who do not usually work or interact with each other.

[more](#)



## Medal given to REGREEN member, Anne-Caroline Prévot, MNHN

*By Jeppe Læssøe, AU & Jeplae Consulting*

The 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022, Anne-Caroline Prévot became "chevalier" of the French national "ordre du mérite", which is the second French National order to honor French citizens – it rewards distinguished merits acquired either in a public, civil or military function, or in the exercise of a private activity. At the ceremony, the honor to Anne-Caroline was motivated by the interdisciplinary component of her research, her collaboration with colleagues, her enthusiasm as well as the originality of her academic and public contributions.



[more](#)



## NBS in the field II – A journey to the Aarhus ULL

*By Branwen Messamah, AU*

As October's project meeting drew to a close, Aarhus municipality led an informative field tour around several key sites, showcasing different interpretations and implementations of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS). From the wide expanse of the restored lake, Årslev Engsø, to the urban ponds in the heart of the city, seeing NBS in action at all kinds of scales was truly inspiring.

Three case studies provide an inspiring range of examples, helping demonstrate what's possible with NBS.

[more](#)

## NBS EduWorld

*By Francesca Tedeschini, JR*

The launch of the Nature-Based Solutions Education Network (NBS EduWORLD) project under Horizon Europe is an exciting development for researchers, educators, practitioners, and even sports community members who are passionate about creating engaging educational resources that focus on the environmental, social, and professional benefits of NBS.

The purpose of EduWORLD matches perfectly with an important part of REGREEN activities, also focusing on education and the connection between nature-based solutions and education.



The NBS EduWORLD project seeks to foster collaboration among individuals and organizations from various fields to develop educational resources and to create a vibrant network committed to promoting sustainable practices. The project also aims to equip educators at all levels, from primary schools to universities, with the resources they need to teach students about the importance of NBS and their potential benefits.

How to get in touch:

- The newsletter: <https://lnkd.in/edP57uUw>
- The website: <https://nbseduworld.eu>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NBSEduWORLD>
- Twitter: [https://twitter.com/NBS\\_EduWORLD](https://twitter.com/NBS_EduWORLD)



## Paper: A typology for urban Green Infrastructure

*By Jo Garrett, UKCEH*

The open access paper published in the journal Nature-based Solutions provides a typology for urban Green Infrastructure and rates these for the ecosystem services they provide. We hope this will be a useful tool for decision makers in implementing Nature-based Solutions in their towns and cities.

We hope this will be a useful tool for decision makers in implementing Nature-based Solutions in their towns and cities.

Brief summary: [more](#)

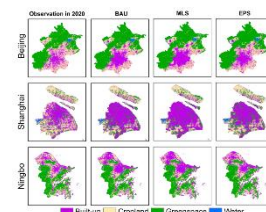
Full paper available here: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbsj.2022.100041>

## Paper: A European-Chinese exploration part 2

*By Ellen Banzhaf, UFZ*

### Urban Ecosystem Service Patterns, Processes, and Contributions to Environmental Equity under Different Scenarios

The impact of urbanization on land cover and its subsequent effect on ecosystem services (ES) is a significant concern for sustainable development. Therefore, we investigated the spatiotemporal changes in land cover and ecosystem services in the three ULLs each from China

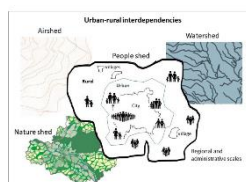




and Europe with different development histories, and for three contrasting future scenarios. Urbanization from 2000 to 2020 was more intense in the three Chinese cities (+84% in built-up area) compared with the three European cities (+11.6 % in built-up area). To estimate future development of all the cities under investigation, we simulated future land-cover changes under three different scenarios, including business-as-usual (BAU), a market-liberal scenario (MLS), and an ecological protection scenario (EPS).

[more](#)

Full paper available here: <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs14143488>



## Paper: Urban-rural dependencies and opportunities to design NBS for resilience in Europe and China

*By Ellen Banzhaf, UFZ*

Based on the article in the 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter Link where we introduced our strong contribution to the URP2020 Int. Conference (Sustainable & Resilient Urban-Rural-Partnerships), we elaborated a journal article in which we discuss urban-rural dependencies (see figure below) and introduce case studies for Chinese and European cities. For equity in cities, the people shed is introduced as a central concept. Dwellers are embedded in various geophysical dimensions (airshed, watershed, natureshed), suffer from various environmental pressures and also implement NBS through these urban-rural interdependencies.

Full paper available here: <https://doi.org/10.3390/land11040480>.

This publication has become part of the Special Issue “[Urban-Rural Partnerships: Sustainable and Resilient](#)”

## REGREEN at COP15 in Montreal, Canada

*By Elena Petsani, ICLEI*

The 7<sup>th</sup> Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities constitutes an unprecedented global milestone to welcome significantly strengthened contributions from subnational governments and cities to the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This official parallel event to COP15, focused on taking action for biodiversity and centred around three elements: Engage, Influence and Act. With over a thousand registrants and 80+ high level



speakers, this high-level Summit gathered governors, mayors and other subnational government leaders from around the world to engage directly with national leaders, their key stakeholders and partners at CBD COP15.

ICLEI European Secretariat, had the opportunity to showcase the REGREEN project and how some of these outcomes can be replicated in the Chinese Cities and further strengthen the collaboration between Europe and China.

[more](#)



## Floormap event with a thinktank from Roskilde

*By Anders Branth Pedersen, AU*

Here at Campus Risø, we demonstrated our REGREEN floormap for 'Radikale Grønne Tænketaank' in Roskilde Municipality today. We used our floormap for Aarhus Municipality, had exciting discussions on nature-based solutions and talked about the possibility of developing a map for Roskilde Municipality.

The participants from the thinktank liked the possibilities floormaps offer as a facilitator for in-depth discussions of nature-based solutions. Additionally, the potential of further developing floormaps with new geographical layers were discussed.

## Paper: Street trees and mental health – developing systems thinking-informed hypotheses using casual loop diagrammes

*By Marianne Zandersen, AU*

At REGREEN, we believe in the power of nature-based solutions (NBS) to promote urban liveability and well-being. That's why we're excited to share a recent REGREEN paper led by Miriam R. Alvarado, and co-authored by Rebecca Lovell, Cornelia Guell, Tim Taylor, James Fullam, Ruth Garside, Marianne Zandersen and Benedict W. Wheeler and co-developed with our European Urban Living Labs in Aarhus, Paris Region and Velika Gorica. We use systems thinking to develop hypotheses on the relationship between street trees and mental health, which are important when planning new street trees.



Check out the open-access paper here: <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-14013-280201>.

[more](#)



## Deliberative Valuation Workshops in European Urban Living Labs

*By Marianne Zandersen, AU*

At REGREEN, we are wrapping up the Deliberative Valuation Method (DVM) workshops in our European Urban Living Labs and we are looking forward to analyzing the rich results! At the beginning of May, we will host the last two workshops with ca. 50 citizens from Velika Gorica, discussing tree cover, park accessibility, water features and green roofs.

The DVM workshops aim to generate improved economic valuations of Nature-Based Solutions benefits in urban and peri-urban settings compared to conventional monetary valuation approaches. This is achieved through a novel merge between large-scale monetary survey techniques and small-scale group deliberation, allowing for consideration of the social context of participants and group dynamics.

[more](#)

## Invest4Nature

*By Marianne Zandersen, AU*



REGREEN has led to a direct spin-off: the Horizon Europe funded project [Invest4Nature](#) (I4N), launched in July 2022. JOANNEUM RESEARCH and Aarhus University focusing on promoting investments in NBS and accelerating market uptake by gaining a better understanding of the economic performance of NBS, considering climate mitigation and risk reduction.

REGREEN partner JOANNEUM RESEARCH is the proud coordinator of the project and supported by the REGREEN coordinator Aarhus University.

I4N seeks to promote investments in NBS and to accelerate market uptake by gaining a better understanding of the economic performance of NBS, considering climate mitigation and risk reduction.

## EVENTS



## EVENT

### REGREEN-CLEARINGHOUSE Final Conference

*28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 2023, Brussels, Belgium  
Participation from China via translated online presence*

We are excited to be hosting our final conference together with our sister project CLEARINGHOUSE to share and discuss insights, evidence and guidance on restoring and rehabilitating urban ecosystems in Europe and China. The conference will take place in Brussels and will enable our Chinese partners and stakeholders to participate online and with translation. Registration and agenda will follow shortly.

Please stay tuned on [LinkedIN](#), [Twitter](#) or our [website](#).

Both projects are funded under the same call on international cooperation with China on sustainable urbanisation: nature-based solutions for restoration and rehabilitation of urban ecosystems



## EVENT

### EU Green Week 2023

*3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Brussels, Belgium  
Partner events across Europe and online*

EU Green Week is your annual opportunity to debate, become familiar with, or even celebrate EU environment policy.

It's an opportunity to celebrate the progress we've made, and to encourage individuals, communities and organisations to take stronger action in future – to protect, preserve and restore our environment, for now and for future generations, while constantly promoting sustainable development.

[more](#)

Source: [https://green-week.event.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://green-week.event.europa.eu/index_en)



## EVENT

### Brussels Urban Summit 2023

12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Brussels, Belgium

This unique gathering is an initiative of Brussels Capital Region, Eurocities, Metropolis and the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative.

We know that for all our diversity, cities all over the world share common challenges. Offering a varied programme of plenary sessions, workshops, side events and site visits, BUS will be a forum for exchange and debate. The summit offers a unique opportunity to engage in a strategic global dialogue to help define our common urban future.

[more](#)

Source: <https://www.urbansummit.brussels/index.html>



## EVENT

### 6th European Climate Change Adaption Conference, ECCA

19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Dublin, Ireland, hybrid

The Joint Programme Initiative "Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe" (JPI Climate), together with the MAGICA project, supported by the European Commission, is organizing this edition of ECCA. It will be an in-person event over two days for up to 500 people with live streaming of all plenary sessions and interactive hybrid formats.

*ICLEI is representing REGREEN at this conference with a session entitled "From local to european impact: sharing experiences from on the ground nature-based solutions action".*

*This session will showcase experiences and concrete products of use from REGREEN and other projects for stakeholders in different spatial and planning contexts.*

[more](#)

Source: <https://www.ecca2023.eu/>



## EVENT

### GI\_Salzburg23 – International Forum for Geoinformatics

4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Salzburg, Austria

GI\_Salzburg provides a platform for dialogue among geospatial minds, informing the GeoInformation Society,

contributing to a more just, ethical and sustainable society. It is the annual meeting place for innovation, networking and continuing education from all areas of Geoinformatics. Interdisciplinary discussions, forward-looking ideas and a personal atmosphere accompany and shape the exchange of science and research, business and application.

[more](#)

Source: <https://gi-salzburg.org/en/>



## EVENT

### IALE 2023 World Congress

*10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Nairobi, Kenya, hybrid*

The International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) is excited to announce the 2023 IALE World Congress will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, July 2023. The IALE World Congress occurs every four years and is the premier event for landscape ecologists worldwide to address topics in landscape ecology that range from local to global in scale. During the World Congress, landscape ecologists from public, private, and non-profit sectors will address a broad spectrum of environmental challenges and their potential solutions. The 2023 World Congress will be a hybrid (online/in person) event and it is for the first time being hosted in the Global South.

[more](#)

Source: <https://www.landscape-ecology.org/>



## EVENT

### European Week of Regions and Cities

*9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Brussels, Belgium*

The European Week of Regions and Cities (#EURegionsWeek) is the biggest annual Brussels-based event dedicated to cohesion policy.

It has grown to become a neutral platform to discuss common challenges for Europe's regions and cities by bringing together a diverse community of speakers and participants.

In 2022 reached a record number of almost 20.000 participants, 272 sessions and 528 partners.

[more](#)

Source: <https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/>





## EVENT

### 2<sup>nd</sup> World Forum on Urban Forests

16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Washington DC, USA,

Urban forests and green spaces are key components of sustainable and resilient urban development, providing a wide range of ecosystem goods and services. They play an important role toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG11, which focuses on making cities safe, resilient and sustainable.

The aim of the Forum is to continue to highlight positive examples of planning, design and management approaches that cities with diverse cultures, forms, structure and histories have implemented to optimize the contribution that urban forests and green infrastructure can provide in terms of economic development, environmental conservation and resilience, improved social cohesion, and increased public involvement.

[more](#)

Source: <https://www.worldforumonurbanforests.org/>



## EVENT

### EURESFO – European Urban Resilience Forum

18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Cascais, Portugal

The European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO) is a unique exchange platform for city representatives, experts and stakeholders from local and regional institutions to discuss strategies, initiatives and actions for adapting to climate change, managing disasters and building urban resilience. The event is a European initiative driven by ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and the European Environment Agency (EEA) since 2013.

This year is the 10th anniversary edition of the EURESFO.

[more](#)

Source: <https://urbanresilienceforum.eu/>

## DISCLAIMER

The REGREEN Newsletter is published periodically to inform about the project progress and engage community interested in nature-based solutions. You are welcome to send in any topics you are interested in or have questions about.

You are receiving this mail because you subscribed to the REGREEN newsletter. REGREEN will hold on to your information for the purpose of this newsletter only

and no data will be shared with any third party at any time. You can unsubscribe from the REGREEN mailing list by following the "unsubscribe" button below or by directly contacting us via [regreen@joanneum.at](mailto:regreen@joanneum.at). We will keep your contact details for as long as the REGREEN contract will continue or until you unsubscribe from the newsletter. Please also have a look at our [privacy policy](#).

Contact:

REGREEN Project Coordinator  
Marianne Zandersen, Aarhus University  
[mz@envs.au.dk](mailto:mz@envs.au.dk)

REGREEN Dissemination Manager  
Andreas Türk, JOANNEUM RESEARCH Forschungsgesellschaft MbH  
[andreas.tuerk@joanneum.at](mailto:andreas.tuerk@joanneum.at)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
Send an email to [regreen@joanneum.at](mailto:regreen@joanneum.at) or click below to unsubscribe via the link at the bottom of this newsletter.

<https://www.regreen-project.eu/>

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the grant agreement [No 821016](#)



**REGREEN**  
**NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

[Unsubscribe](#)