



Digest

JULY 2023

Nature-based Solutions: **working together**

An update from NetworkNature
and the NBS Cluster Task Forces



NetworkNature Task Forces

Providing a space for dialogue and exchange
for the nature-based solutions community



—
The NetworkNature Team
—

Welcome to the final Digest from the NetworkNature project. This Digest will be a celebration of all the Task Force's achievements over the previous three years.



We're excited to reconnect as NetworkNature+ later this year and to share more details on our plans to maximise the outreach and accessibility of the Task Forces.

Collaboration has been at the heart of all of the Task Forces. The synergies and connections made between projects have allowed us to create valuable outputs that would have been impossible to achieve in isolation.

The pages ahead showcase evidence of each Task Force's impactful achievements including influential reports and handbooks, a map of case studies, promotional videos, social media campaigns, policy briefs, online tools and more.

And this is not the end! In August 2023 the NetworkNature+ project launches. NetworkNature+ will continue to serve and support EU-funded nature-based solutions projects, answer needs of target audiences and inform and connect policies at the EU level.

The work of the Task Forces will continue to be supported and developed in NetworkNature+. Plans are being developed to assist the Task Forces in creating new demand-based products with direct relevance for policymakers and an updated co-production workspace will make collaboration even easier to manage.

We're excited to reconnect as NetworkNature+ later this year and to share more details on our plans to maximise the outreach and accessibility of the Task Forces.

Thank you to all Task Force members for helping to make the Task Forces such a success.

Task Force 1 update

Data and Knowledge Sharing



Jonathan Porter

Oppla

Task Force 1 has continued to grow the NBS evidence base.

The database of nature-based solutions case studies submitted via Oppla and Network Nature has grown significantly over the past three years with many research and innovation projects sharing their outputs.

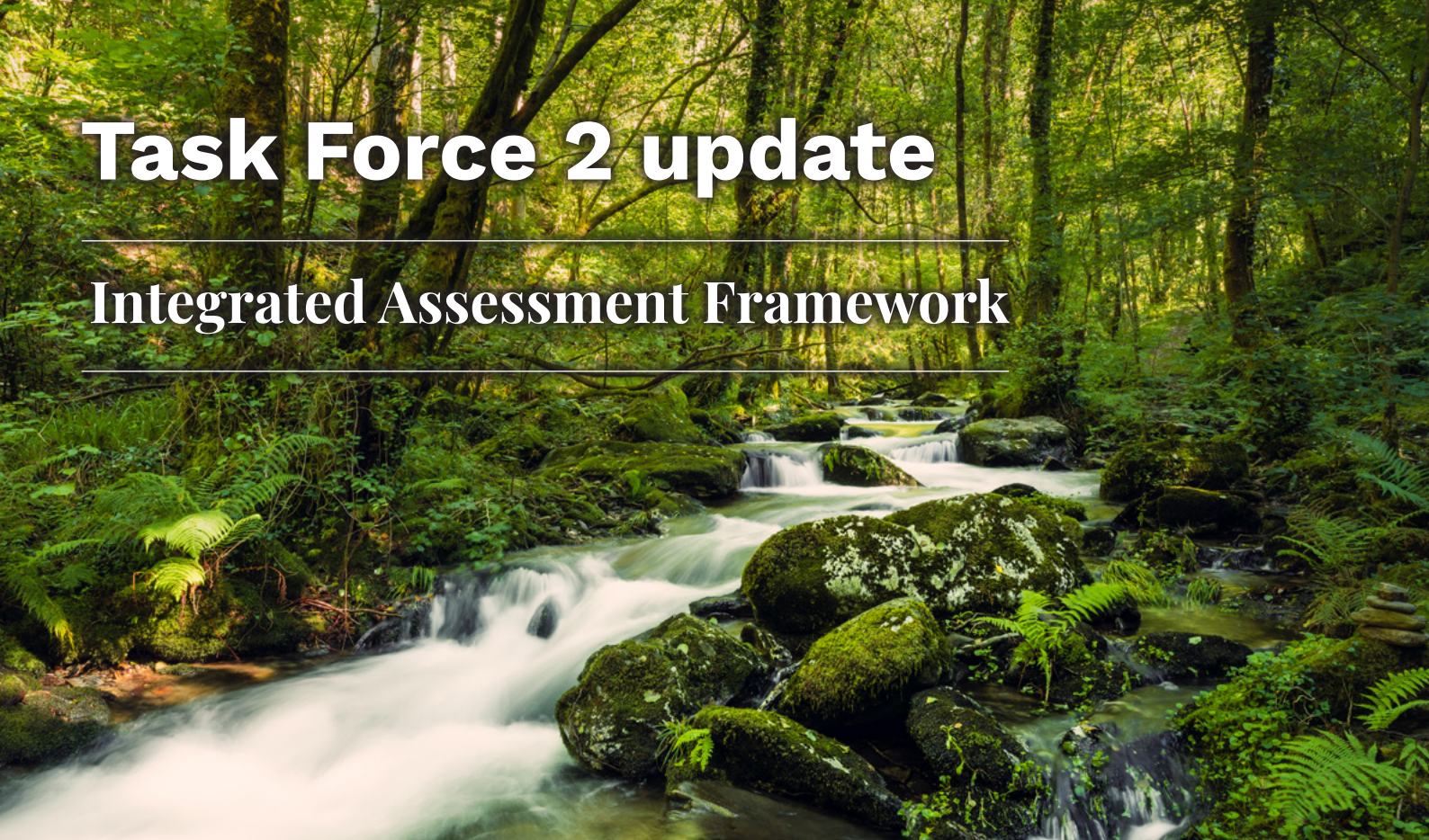
This heatmap shows the parts of the world that have the densest concentration of recorded case studies in the EU NBS Repository.

<https://oppla.eu/case-study-finder>



Task Force 2 update

Integrated Assessment Framework



—
Dorsa Sheikholeslami

IUCN
—

Task Force 2 (TF2) has been focusing on promoting the monitoring of Nature-based Solutions' impacts on various societal challenges, testing the handbook indicators in the already involved and new projects, with the involvement of more than 70 experts from about 30 EU Horizon projects.

As part of this effort, TF2 is working on further developing the indicators for new areas with discussions on NbS & Health and NbS & Marine environment. In addition, the workstream on NbS and Biodiversity is continuing to develop a mini-handbook on Biodiversity.

Task Force 3 update

Governance, Business Models and Financial Mechanisms



—
Victoria Blessing
Steinbeis Europa Zentrum
—

Over the past three years, Task Force 3: Governance, Business Models and Financial Mechanisms has supported the collaboration between NBS projects through sharing information and fostering debate on relevant topics. The overall goal of TF3 is to promote the systemic integration of NBS into sustainable urban and land planning and management, as well as the creation of business opportunities in the context of a green economy.



The Task Force has generated synergies through internal and external exchanges. From the initial meetings in 2020, where the way forward was co-designed with the contributions of EU officials and Horizon2020 project representatives, to the consolidation of the internal structure of the Task Force and its Workstreams from 2021 onwards, many interesting exchanges have taken place in each working call.

The approach has been to allow NBS projects to reach out to their colleagues from sister projects with news, events, etc. in a rather open fashion, but also to foster systematic work and collaboration in dedicated thematic workstreams, namely:

- **WS1 – EU Mapping of financing instruments**
- **WS2 – Nature-based Economy**
- **WS3 – Valuation of NbS benefits**
- **WS4 – Economic Planning**

Moreover, collaboration opportunities throughout workstreams and other Task Forces have been identified and addressed. For instance, WS3 collaborated with TF2 to contribute to further improve the Handbook **“Evaluating the Impact of Nature-based Solutions: A Handbook for Practitioners”**. All workstreams within TF3 see potential for future cooperation with other Task Forces.

Several speakers have also been invited to share their expert knowledge and experience from the field of NBS. Among them, in 2021 Mariem El Harrak from Biodiversa explained the efforts being made to develop a European Nature-Based solution Research & Innovation Roadmap (October) and Siobahn McQuaid from Trinity College Dublin presented the mobile NBS exhibition Connecting Nature Roadshow 2022 (December).



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In 2022, Graeme Nicholls from Trinomics and Ben Hikmet from Bankers without Boundaries presented a working paper for the European Investment Bank that maps the financial actors and instruments currently being used to finance NBS in the EU (this was split in two sessions, one in February and one in April). Shortly afterwards Gerard Bos from IUCN presented insights and results of the project WeValueNature related to the thematic areas “**business, finance and governance**” (May).

In 2023, TF3 invited Sophie Mok from The Nature Conservancy and talked about a project that they are implementing together with the government of the city of Stuttgart (April). The initiative is called “**Stuttgart Climate Innovation Fund**” and aims to financially support the implementation of NBS projects within the boundaries of the city.



During the past 3 years of work, multiple brochures, studies and reports have either already been published or are under preparation by the members of the TF3. Some of the former are **“The vital role of Nature-Based Solutions in a Nature Positive Economy”** (WS2) and the **“Nature-based solutions Business information package”** (TF3). Among the latter, insightful papers and reports are being written, such as **“Financing NBS: basic concepts and definitions”** (WS1), **“Economic valuation of NBS benefits in 19 EU funded NBS projects”** (WS3) and **“Activating climate action through spatial and urban planning: Catalysing conditions analysed in European cases”** (WS4).

In addition, members organised a side-event at the COP27 in 2022 on **“A nature-positive economy for climate and biodiversity benefits”** and a multistakeholder forum and side-event at the World Economic Forum in Davos with the title **“Revamping Green Investment for Regenerating Nature”**.

The work of TF3 has been well-received by the NBS community. Members have reported that the Task Force has provided a valuable platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing and networking. The Task Force has also been able to raise the profile of NBS and their potential contributions to sustainable development.

Task Force 4 update

NBS Communicators



Kassia Rudd

ICLEI

Task Force 4 – NbS Communicators – has been hard at work finalizing the last of three videos introducing the public to nature-based solutions:

1. [What Are Nature-based Solutions?](#)
2. [How Are Nature-based Solutions Co-created?](#)
3. **What Types of Nature-based Solutions Are There? (Coming Soon!)**

The first two videos can be viewed on our Youtube channel, and the final one will be completed this summer. We are looking forward to using these videos in a joint campaign to increase awareness of and appreciation for NbS beyond the NetworkNature circle!



TF 4 also organized a session at the in person TF meeting in Brussels this June. Representatives from other TFs joined us in mapping participant communication skills, knowledge gaps, and opportunities for cross-TF collaboration. Stay tuned for a series of TF workshops coordinated by TF4 under NN+. In each session, we will leverage the skills and knowledge within NN+ to support each other in building our communication toolboxes and capacities. Each workshop will end with the opportunity to complete a key communication task. You won't just learn about how to write a press release, you will draft one! Do you have communications skills you want to share or acquire? Contact Kassia Rudd to throw your hat in the ring. kassia.rudd@iclei.org

Task Force 6 update

Co-creation and Governance



—
Susanna Gionfra

IUCN
—

Task Force 6 has been collaborating to improve and promote co-creation, including in spatial planning, for inclusive nature-based regeneration.

Three products are currently in their final stages of development: a policy brief on encouraging co-governance, an online co-creation decision tool for practitioners on different pathways to support co-creative processes, and a report on building blocks for co-creation.

The latter offers guidelines, cases, and methodologies for decision making, as well as analyses of many implemented European NbS projects. It is intended for diverse target groups such as researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and aims to support and guide the increasing engagement of public officers, citizens, and stakeholders.

TASK FORCE MEMBER PROFILE

Ina Säumel

Member of: **Task Force 6:
Co-creation
and Governance**



Hi Ina, what interests you about the work of that Task Force?

Task Force 6 on co-creation and governance offers its members a great opportunity to exchange and share experiences on successes but also mistakes and failures. The meetings and collaborative work allow us to learn from each other about shared challenges – and how best to deal with them.

How your organisation is working with nature-based solutions?

Our research group focuses on enhancing multifunctionality – as a strategy for more healthy, biodiversity-friendly and sustainably productive urban and rural landscapes. Two of the main projects are The Edible Cities Network and Rural Futures. In all of our projects, our goal is to create knowledge that is applied in the real world – not buried in an office drawer. To do this, we are co-creating guidelines, planning tools, optimized land use models and innovative edible nature-based solutions for liveable cities. For us, one plus one can be more than two: working together with a wide range of stakeholders – from citizens to mayors – broadens our horizons and opens us up to new research questions and innovative solutions that benefit everyone.

Are there any upcoming events that you're excited for?

We're hosting our final meeting of the [Edible Cities Network project in Berlin on 4–5 September 2023](#). We will be reflecting on the past five years of the project and the key lessons learned. We will also be looking forward to the future and exploring ways to maintain and continue growing our large network of individuals, organisations, cities and research institutes. One way we plan to do this is through a new Edible Cities Network platform which will be launching to the public in September 2023 and act as an international online hub for edible cities – with a huge database of edible nature-based solutions, free learning materials, planning tools for urban agriculture and chances to network and collaborate with others from around the world.

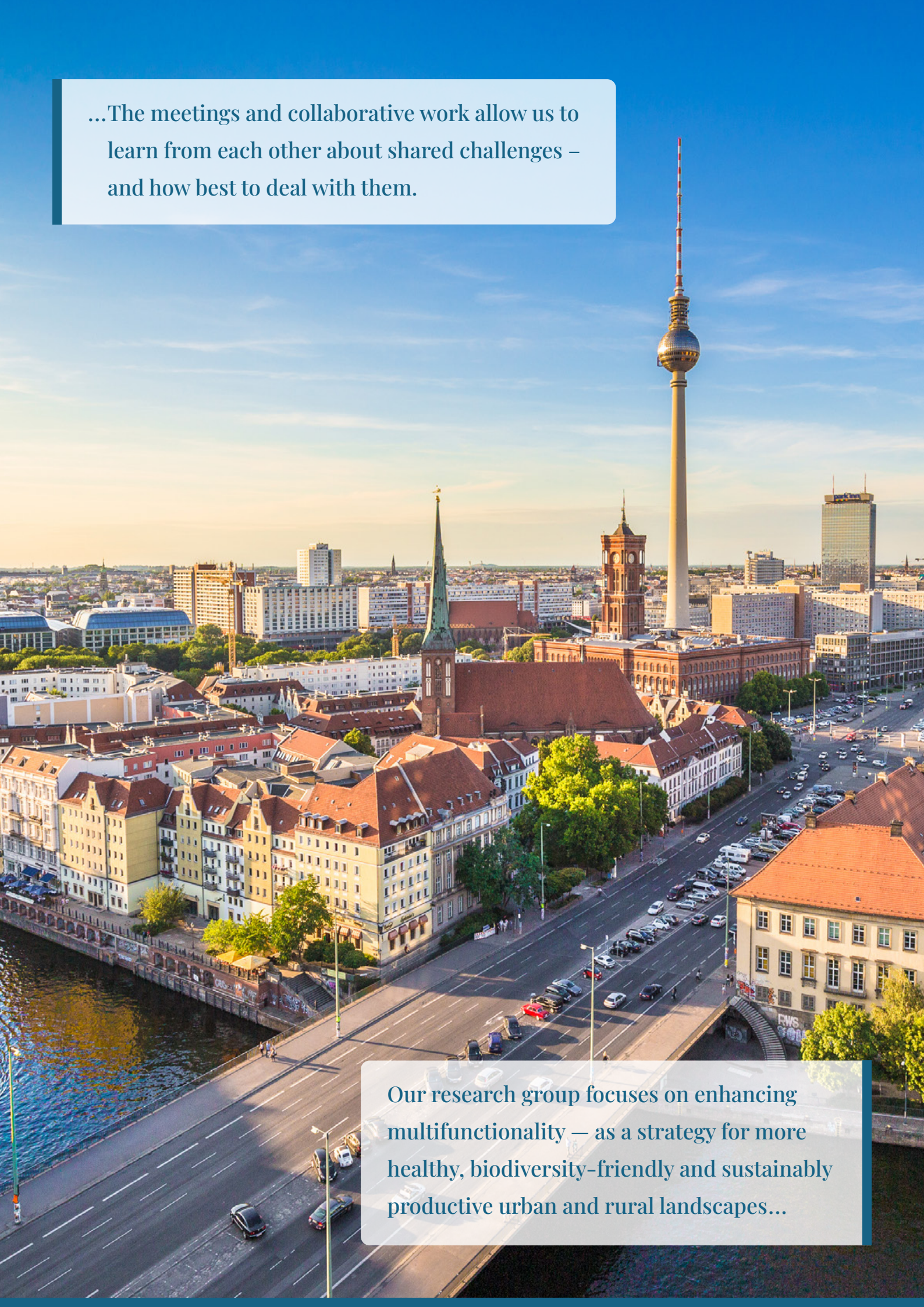
Ina Säumel

Research Group Leader

IRITHEsSys, Humboldt University Berlin and EdiCitNet (The Edible Cities Network)

<https://www.iri-thesys.org>
www.edicitnet.com

...The meetings and collaborative work allow us to learn from each other about shared challenges – and how best to deal with them.



Our research group focuses on enhancing multifunctionality – as a strategy for more healthy, biodiversity-friendly and sustainably productive urban and rural landscapes...

The EU NBS Task Force 3 goes to the World Economic Forum in Davos

The Nature-based Economy Working Group of Task Force 3 has contributed to a report summarising a workshop combined with a luncheon in Davos, a side-event to the World Economic Forum 2023.



Titled [Revamping Investment for Regenerating Nature](#), the event brought together multiple organisations and partners. It highlighted the gap between pledges to fund sustainable development and actual resource flows and impacts on the ground. Featuring presentations, group discussions, and outlined project agendas, the report digs into the challenges of internalising the value of NBS, transaction costs, fragmentation, lack of collaboration, and risks of greenwashing. The importance of NBS and utilising new technologies coupled with co-creation and governance reforms is highlighted. Finally, the report sets out a way forward through joint work operationalising a collaborative and inclusive **“Impact Investment, Financing & Development Model”**.



Accelerating urban nature-based solutions:

A Latin American-European collaboration

15–17 May 2024

IEC Barcelona, C/ del Carme, 47, 08001 Barcelona, Spain



CONEXUS

Urban nature connects us
Conectados por la naturaleza urbana
Conectados pela natureza urbana



Cities face urgent global and local challenges to support biodiversity, social cohesion, wellbeing, livelihoods and resilience to climate change. We need nature-based solutions and restored ecosystems to address these priorities. Invaluable experience and good practice exist around the world in many different socio-cultural, ecological and governance contexts.

There is now a huge opportunity to move forward... faster... together.

The CONEXUS conference will showcase latest thinking on urban nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation. The event will:

- **Strengthen links between NBS research, policy and innovation.**
- **Provoke exciting discussions of emerging concepts and frameworks to improve the quality and impact of NBS and associated research.**
- **Motivate new ways of thinking about urban nature; fostering new collaborations addressing this urgent societal challenge.**

#UrbanNatureConnectsUs

conexusnbs.com/bcn24

bcn24@conexusnbs.com



The conference is organised with the kind support of the European Union through its Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation Programme. It is hosted by the [CONEXUS project](#) and partners including city Life-Labs in:

- **Barcelona, Spain**
- **Bogota, Colombia**
- **Buenos Aires, Argentina**
- **Lisboa, Portugal**
- **Sao Paulo, Brazil**
- **Santiago, Chile**
- **Torino, Italy.**

Many key decision-makers and world-leading experts and in urban nature and sustainability will attend this landmark event.

Registration

The conference programme will be developed through competitive abstracts submission. Registration is not yet open. Abstracts of up to 300 words should be submitted by 31 October 2023 and must clearly address only one of the [four themes](#):

- **Social, cultural and educational priorities**
- **Ecological and environmental qualities**
- **Economics, values and work**
- **Governance, politics and planning**

Your abstract should present novel work and be a unique contribution to the field of NBS research; empirically-based work will be prioritised in the selection process, but conceptual and opinion pieces are welcomed. Feedback on abstracts will be provided with an indicative outcome, along with suggestions.

Conference fees: €100–200 (details to be provided in due course). Registration including payment of conference fees must be completed by 15 December 2023. Places at the event are strictly limited and the organisers will select successful abstracts to present at the event – we cannot guarantee participation of delegates and only registered participants may enter the conference. We welcome feedback and invite you to take part in this vital event.

We hope to see you in Barcelona in 2024!



Accelerating urban nature-based solutions: A Latin American-European collaboration

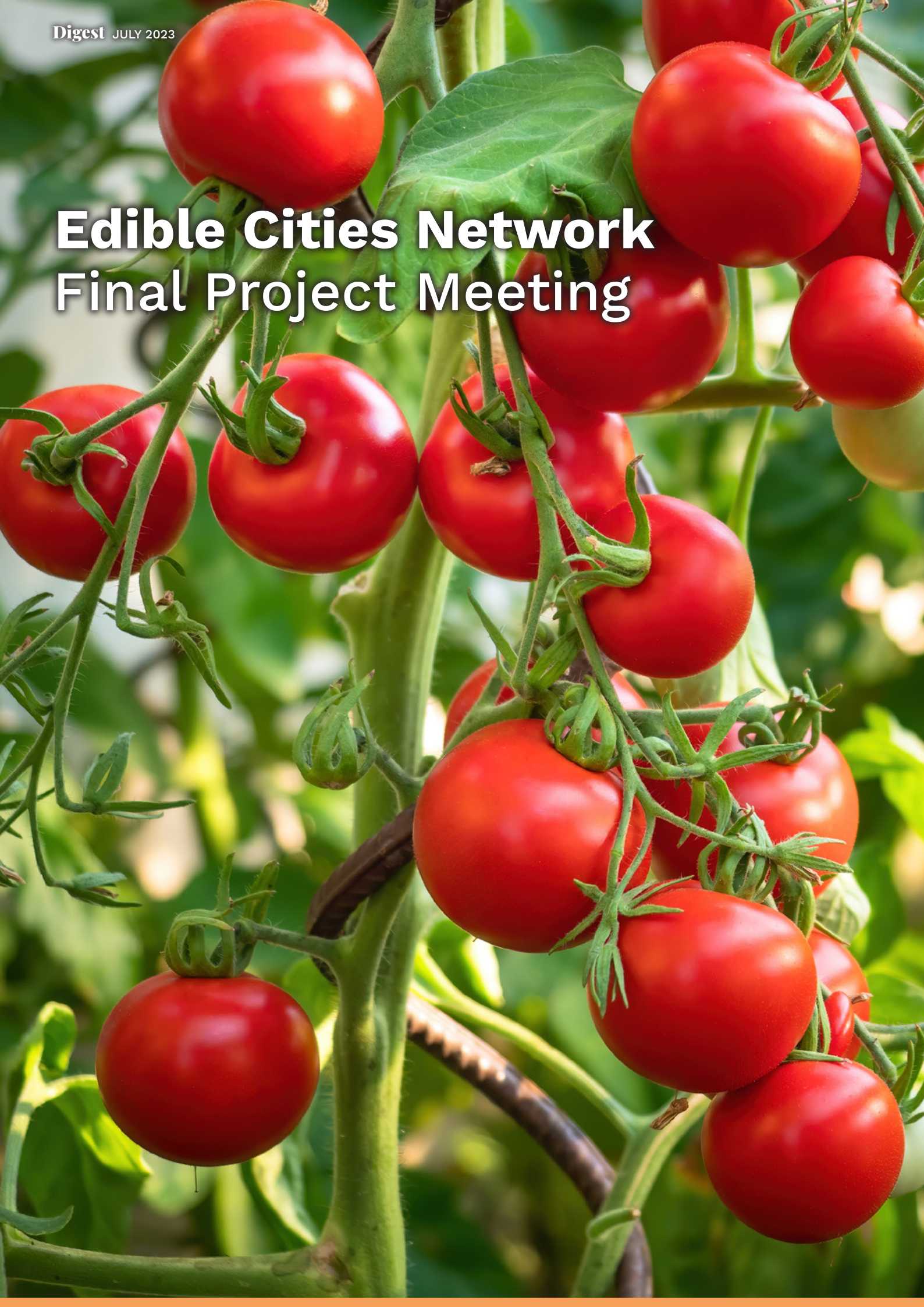
Pre-registration is open

15–17 May 2024

IEC Barcelona, C/ del Carme, 47, 08001 Barcelona, Spain



Edible Cities Network Final Project Meeting





You can now sign up to express your interest in attending the **Edible Cities Network Final Project Meeting**, which will take place **September 4 – 5 in Berlin**.

Over the past five years, the Edible Cities Network project has been working towards making cities around the world better places to live through the implementation and institutional integration of Edible City Solutions (ECS). Join us for our final project meeting and learn about the best practices and key lessons learned during the project, together with representatives of the thirty-two consortium partners – including universities, research institutes, local city administrations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and other Edible City initiatives from around the world.

Attendance is free of charge

During the two-day event you will get the chance to hear from the City Teams in the Front Runner Cities, who designed and implemented different Edible City Solutions – from community-supported agriculture programmes and water recycling technologies to networking strategies for green city initiatives – in their Living Labs. You will also meet representatives of the City Teams in the Follower Cities, who co-developed Edible City Master Plans for their own urban contexts and to tackle specific societal challenges.

On September 4th, the meeting will be held at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin (Schloßplatz 1, 10178 Berlin), while the Senatsaal of the Humboldt University (Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin) will be the venue on the second day.



REGISTER NOW

Aquatic ecosystem services: Water4All Upcoming Joint Call Pre-Announcement

The Water4All 2023 Joint Transnational Call opens 12 September 2023 and will support research and innovation projects related to aquatic ecosystem services.

The call topics are:

1. Mapping, monitoring, and assessment for a better understanding of ecosystem services in a context of changes, from local to global change.
2. Understanding and predicting multiple pressures (including anthropogenic pressures) – impact – response relationships in ecosystem services through advanced methods and techniques.
3. New tools and solutions for a better integration of ecosystem services into the management of water resources.



[VIEW THE CALL TEXT HERE](#)



Network Nature

 networknature.eu

 [NetworkNatureEU](https://twitter.com/NetworkNatureEU)

 [NetworkNature](https://www.youtube.com/NetworkNature)

 [NetworkNature](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NetworkNature)

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