

Report: Horizon 2020 Nature-based Solutions Cluster Taskforces Meeting, 31 May 2021

The Taskforce meeting brings together Taskforce members, NetworkNature, and the European Commission (REA and DG R&I) for an interactive dialogue to take stock of achievements to date and to strengthen synergies and exchange to further increase the impact that the Horizon 2020 nature-based solutions projects create.

All the presentations of the meeting are available [here](#)

Updates by the European Commission, impacts, policy developments and Horizon Europe

**Philippe Tulkens, European Commission
DG Research and Innovation**

- “The momentum has never been so good for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and biodiversity as well...the growth and interest in NbS is striking in the policy area. What are we doing to prepare for the future? We know we need to deploy NbS – this includes further research.”
- The work plan of [Horizon Europe](#) (entered into force legally from the 12th of May) was introduced. The work plan will be published soon with 20 topics including natural capital. NbS feature prominently in cluster 6, but the audience is encouraged to look outside of the usual silo’s for opportunities (e.g. DRR, cluster 5) as biodiversity and NbS are mainstreamed across Horizon Europe.
- The Missions will be launched in June. NbS is at the center of the mission for climate change adaptation specifically. This Mission includes the type of transformation we need for a climate resilient Europe. There are also other relevant mission such as soil, ocean and cities. All these Green Deal Missions are relevant and present good opportunities to apply NbS.
- Independent expert reports have been published on state of the art NbS to raise to the challenges facing society today. For example, the recent publication of Task Force 2: [handbook that outlines a robust NbS impact assessment framework](#) helped us give input into CBD negotiations and was important for policy mainstreaming of NbS. The Task Force members are encouraged to share these reports.
- Key common outcomes and contributions to the Green New Deal and other key policy events are being prepared. The Task Force members were thanked for their contributions to this and to creating synergies on NbS across Europe.

Aims for the day

**Javier Peinado Lebrero, European
Commission - REA and
NetworkNature, Alice Reil, ICLEI**

- Mr. Peinado Lebrero introduces the vision behind the Task Force meetings. There will be two of these meetings every year to get an update on the progress and new initiatives of each of the task forces. New members will also be welcomed as the NbS family continues to grow. This will allow us to create new networks and form a critical mass of knowledge.
- The objective of the Task Forces is to exchange knowledge, develop synergies, build on each other’s results and to have a critical mass for creating impact when communicating results.
- If you have not yet received, there will be a welcome package, which provides information on the TFs.
- It is great to see that the NN TF spaces are operational, as this will enable you to more easily exchange and work together, such as for the TF 2 publication Evaluating the impact of Nature-based Solutions – a handbook for practitioners, which gained the top tweet on the EU_H2020 account and the projects will jointly present at the Covenant of Mayors event on 15 June
- The Task Forces and workstreams are flexible and can be adapted to project interest and policy demand and cooperation can go beyond the SC5 H2020 NBS project, for example through linkages with the ERANET Biodiversity Climate and Biodiversity projects and with SC1 H2020 Health Projects
- Alice Reil introduced specific aims for this meeting which include:



- Task Forces: Work and achievements, synergies of collaborating across Task Forces
- NetworkNature: Update and engagement opportunities
- Landscape of H2020-funded NBS projects: Introduction to new and 'good bye' to ending projects
- Looking forward: Upcoming activities of Task Forces, events and opportunities to shape policy-making
- NetworkNature Green Week Partner Event - Joining forces for health and nature recovery

Highlights from the Task Forces

TF1 – Data management and EU NBS repository (Jonathan Porter)

- Aim: Each project has its own data resources. The aim of this Task Force is to bring this together.
- Case studies: These have been collected by Oppla and Network Nature. This is a growing resource from both closing and new projects.
- API: Allows different platforms to gain access to the repository. Some projects such as UNALAB already have access while others are testing the access.
- Shared data management plan: Trying to develop a common approach to data management to allow projects to link up, share resources and help the wider community.
- TF2: Working across task forces to work on outputs and sharing this data with the repository.

TF2 – NBS Impact Evaluation (Veronica Ruiz Garcia)

- Coordination meetings have established a new dynamic to move forward the work on NBS. Main output was the NBS handbook published in May.
- Building on this, task force will focus on the gaps in the handbook. The five working groups include:
 - WS1: Handbook monitoring, testing and implementation. A summary for policy makers will be developed as one of the first next steps.
 - WS2: Economic valuation of NBS benefits (on hold): to be discussed during current breakout session
 - WS3: Health and NBS. A mapping of relevant project outputs is being compiled to check for synergies and possible collaborations.
 - WS4: NBS and biodiversity: actions to be decided in upcoming meeting
 - WS5: Marine environment (to be confirmed)

TF3 – Governance, Business Models and Financial Mechanisms (Matthieu Grosjean)

- Meeting bi-monthly and working in six work streams which include:
 - WS1: Mapping the landscape of financing mechanisms: working on an at last for financial solutions. Currently collecting information and planning activities.
 - WS2: Nature-based Economy: Working on a white paper to be launched for consultation at the Network Nature summit in 29 June. To be published in November 2021 at the EU Business for Nature Summit.
 - WS3: Elements of NBS business case: Special issue to be published soon in Sustainability – “State of the art and latest advances in exploring business models for nature-based solutions”
 - WS4: Valuation of NBS benefits: Update coming soon.
 - WS5: Insurance & NBS and Spatial: More participants sought.
 - WS6: urban planning frameworks as enablers for NBS: Started identifying contributors to the two subjects before exchanging further with task force 6.

TF4 – Nature-based Solutions Communicators (Nea Pakarinen)

- Discussing how to develop common messaging across projects.
- In the future international coordination will be further explored.

TF6 – Co-creation and Co-governance (Piret Noukas)

- A relatively new task force to promote co-creation and co-governance including the two paradigms in current spatial planning practices for inclusive nature-based regeneration.

- Working towards effective guidelines for better integrating guidelines for better integrating co-creation and co-governance of NBS into local decision-making. This will support Urban Greening Plans.
- There are work streams on:
 - NBS introduction
 - Co-creation for/with who?
 - Co-governance and policy making
 - Co-creation good practice and resources
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
- Next steps will include agreed plan of work stream actions and an initial draft of guidelines.
- City partners encouraged to join task force 6 specifically to contribute to the guidelines to ensure the added value to their stakeholders.

Live polls – achievements, semester facts

NetworkNature

- During the pandemic, respondents visiting green spaces more than once a week increased from 55% to 80%. [Link](#) Authors: *Koos Fransen, Nicola da Schio, Amy Phillips, from Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Dennis Roitsch, Jakob Derks and Rik De Vreese from the European Forest Institute (EFI)*
- Lower rates of antidepressant prescriptions found among people living in areas of higher density of street trees within 100 m of people’s residencies. [Link](#) Authors: *Melissa R. Marselle, Diana E. Bowler, Jan Watzema, David Eichenberg, Toralf Kirsten & Aletta Bonn*
- Looking at the benefits of NbS for job creation as part of the Resilience and Recovery plans, on average 56 jobs created by agroforestry per 1 million euro invested. This compares to 45 jobs for electric vehicles and 31 jobs for road building. Source: Vivid Economics [Link](#)

Updates from NetworkNature

Bettina Wilk (ICLEI)

- **NetworkNature online platform**
- **NetworkNature Semester theme**
- **Engaging target audiences**

Chantal van Ham (IUCN)

- Launch of [the online platform](#) (Nov 2020): Includes NbS Resources (83+ products and resources), case study repository (61), events calendar (126) and a help desk to help navigate the platform. The platform now has 411 members with most visits coming from the US. Functionality since improved including the improved filters for the search bar and semester theme filters. As a registered user you can:
 - Submit case studies tagged with your project name (this allows you to filter the case studies according to your project)
 - Submit a resource
 - Submit an event
- [Taskforce workspace](#) added to the platform. Similar to a facebook group where members invited to join where they can discuss, post updates and add resources for collaborative work. Taskforce welcome package also accessible there.
- Network nature has various work streams including capacity building and information sharing with new audience, finding a joint language to communicate with the wider public, creating a policy interface, creating understanding of NBS market context and business opportunities, and by generating a strong evidence base for NbS pointing to knowledge gaps to inform the NBS R&I roadmap.
- [Semester themes](#) have started; these are intense reflection putting spotlights on some of the topics that are the most pertinent to our target audience. The work includes focusing on adding specific resources, creating more visibility on the platform (blogs, opinion pieces, case studies, etc). A roadmap of events relevant to the semester theme are also added.
 - Semester Theme 01: The current one running until the end of July is NBS in light of the pandemic. This looks at how NBS can contribute to recovery and directly in fighting similar

threats. Currently looking at health interlinkages and how biodiversity can provide a buffer zone in terms of zoonotic disease.

- Semester Theme 02: Ecosystem Restoration begins in September
- Target audience engagement strategies have been developed to proactively engage with and respond to the needs of the emerging audiences who have a major role to play in upscaling the implementation of Nature-based Solutions but are not yet actively involved: land, forest and water managers and owners, the infrastructure and finance sector, as well as the public through media engagement. Cross-cutting audiences are policy makers, businesses, practitioners and researchers. NetworkNature will engage with the target audiences through knowledge exchange, collaboration and dialogue, and will share best practices, tools and guidance and create opportunities for new partnerships for NBS. To implement the NetworkNature pathways for impact effectively, we will work in close partnership with key actors, leading organisations and networks that operate at the forefront of practice, science, policy, business and finance. For each of the target audience groups, one or a few champions will be invited to work together with NetworkNature to provide advice and inspiration for further upscaling actions.
- NetworkNature is currently mapping scientific as well as policy and practice knowledge on NBS at European and global level, and we are bringing together an overview of EU funded projects related to Nature-based Solutions beyond Horizon 2020, such as through Interreg and LIFE+. In this way, the community that acts for protecting biodiversity, restoring the natural functions of our ecosystems, and ensuring the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources will grow through involvement of a community of active partners and supporters, which will be of major importance to help deliver the European Green Deal.

Synergies of TF collaboration: Spatial planning as a vehicle for NBS upscaling – perspectives from policy, finance and governance Julie Delcroix (DG R&I), Clive Davies (TF6), Tom Wild/Efren Feliú (TF3)

- *Urban synergies and policy (JD)*: There is a focus on cities where there is a need to balance land use in cities. The Urban Agenda Partnership (global partnership of a network of cities and regional authorities) identified objectives to include mainstreaming NBS. In the current post-2020 CBD framework there is an updated target for urban green and blue infrastructure. Guidance on cities is provided by ICLEI. H2020 projects provide a way to link to global authorities around the world. EU policy is all about integrating NBS and biodiversity into spatial planning. EU DG is looking at how to deliver on the urban green plan; this will include guidance on nature-based spatial planning in collaboration with taskforce 6.
- *European Green Deal (JD)*: NBS embedded as a way to implement the Green Deal in various components. In the Biodiversity strategy the urban ecosystems are recognized as key component to realizing the vision of the EU for a path to recovery for 2030. ICLEI and IUCN are also supporting the process of identifying SMART urban restoration targets.
- *Anchoring mechanisms for mainstreaming NBS through spatial/urban planning (EF – TF3)*: The focus was on structural planning, development plans and urbanization projects, and legal frameworks that support implementation. Relevant projects include Grow Green and Clever projects among many others. Additional considerations include integrated approaches, multilevel governance frameworks (TF6), and a balance between formal planning, private or public private initiatives and community practices.
- *How can spatial planning deliver and upscale NBS at different scales (CD – TF6)*: Specifically looking at the whole landscape or local authority land use or development plans at the sub city level. Five mechanisms presented:
 - Using multi-scale integrated and holistic planning approaches
 - Refreshing and updating current strategies to include spatial NBS interventions
 - Presumption in favor of co-creation of NBS in plan delivery
 - Inclusion of NBS policies in spatial plans
 - Urban Green Plans proposed to ensure NBS as a 'key (feature) element'

- [Nature4Cities \(Stephanie Decker\)](#): The main objective of the project was to increase awareness of NBS and to promote new collaborative projects. The Nature4Cities Platform offers 8 modules on the creation, implementation and assessment of NBS. Main audiences include elected officials, professionals, researchers and citizens. To create an NBS project, there is an NBS catalogue explorer, NBS project observatory and pre-selection tool and “Diagnose your city’s trends” (in collaboration with colouree and GreenCity). To assess an NBS project there is a diagnostic of your assessment needs and an assessment tool. For implementation there is the NBS handbook, the IM pre-selection tool and the NBS projects participation tool. The audience is invited to test the platform.
- *New family members*: NICE, UpSurge and JustNature projects have joined. For further information, please contact the project leads.

Taskforce synergies breakout sessions

1. Economic valuation of NBS benefits

Status and progress of workstream in TF3 (Marianne Zandersen and Wenting Chen)

Workstream 4 of TF3 has started with a mapping of activities regarding economic valuation of NBS / cost-benefit analysis of NBS. The goal is to generate a comprehensive overview of NBS project contributions in that field. The related work stream in TF3 has started with the mapping of these contributions which can be found [here](#).

The list collects inputs based on: Type of primary monetary or non-monetary valuation method, type of value involved (i.e. use and non-use values, market values), type of review, review of existing valuation studies, type of cost method, type of monitoring of effectiveness of NBS, type of NBS, type of related ecosystem services (often multi-functional), scale, location, barriers, advantages, output and expected dates of deliverables.

So far, there are entries from NAIAD; N4C, Urban GreenUp, UnaLaB, Urbinat, Regreen (cost-benefits analysis, benefit-function transfer, a range of non-economic valuation methods (photo-elicitation), Clearing House (cost-effectiveness, cost of inaction), CONEXUS (understand existing practices in using meta-review); FutureMARES (methodologies – market benefit using bio-economic modelling for habitats and fisheries, certain cases with no-market valuation, location for fisheries is the North Sea; direct and social costs of NBS) and INTERLACE (early stages in discussion looking at wide range of urban NBS);

The **overall ambition is to create an inventory of methodologies and evidence** (based on case studies) – a potential output could be a living database or Atlas for cost-benefit analysis of NBS; there is the option to combine such an atlas with the envisaged atlas of financing mechanisms by work stream 1 in TF3 (lead: Monica Altamirano), further discussions with OPPLA should be held if these elements can be integrated in the existing case studies portfolio / map on OPPLA/NetworkNature.

Action points:

- Google Sheet to be shared with projects that have not yet provided their input, especially those that are ending or have just ended, i.e. N4C, NAIAD; Naturvation;
- Include Edoardo Croci and Benedetta Lucchitta from Urban GreenUp – which have published the following related work: Croci, E., Lucchitta, B. “Climate Change and Urban Nature: impacts and policies at the urban level”. In Planning Climate Smart Cities edited by Kwi-Gon, K. and Massamba T. The Urban Book Series, Springer Nature. Forthcoming.

Status of TF2 (Sofie Vandewoestijne)

The main focus in TF2 was the publication of the indicator handbook. Several gaps were identified where more work is needed: valuation of economic benefits was one of those; it also came up as a point of interest during the relaunch of TF2; one suggested action was to focus on the cost-benefit analysis of impacts of NBS and supplement the existing indicator work, complementary to the relevant work stream in TF3. The decision was

made to wait until after this TF meeting to determine next steps and actions. The ambition for today is to explore where the two work streams in TF2 and TF3 can complement each other.

Interactive MURAL session to find common ground and chart way into the future

Attendees were asked to provide their inputs on this MURAL board, which contained already a few ideas from work stream 4 [on valuation of economic benefits of NBS in TF3](#)

Discussion of topics to be addressed in a joint activity of TF2 and TF3

Marian Zandersen briefly introduced the four existing ideas from the related work stream in TF3:

- *Definition of values at play → cities need to argue for making budget ambitions and plans come true; there are not only economic values at play but also non-monetary ones; making these different values at play explicit could be one of the topics;*
- *Systematic update and collection of outputs related to economic valuation from EU-NBS granted projects – in relation to the objective mentioned above to create a database/atlas/living document; members of TF2 could be invited to add on to the current list;*
- *Define some standard indicators related to valuation of NBS benefits → there are links with TF2 and complementing the indicator handbook;*
- *Develop recommendations considering the economic valuation of NBS → it is important to define the target audience of such recommendations, there are also potential links with TF2.*

Reactions from the audience:

It would be favourable to also collect monitoring data (i.e. on avoided rain water through rainwater use, health benefits, UHI identification, etc.);

Monitoring stream could be added to the excel sheet to track that as a base for economic analysis and costing of NBS; WC: could also add a column on methodology of monitoring;

Identify barriers;

GrowGreen has developed an economic framework for the evaluation of the demonstration sites that he is happy to share;

Identify mechanisms that "return" benefits/return on investments to the agency that implemented/and is managing the NBS (E.g. NBS provide benefits to health, but it is the healthy insurance who is getting the savings, not the parks department who is paying for the green space); would be good to feature concrete examples from return on investment – especially from health sector and insurance.

Discussion on potential results/outputs

Four potential outputs have been pre-identified by workstream 4 in TF3 as the base for discussion:

- *'Handbook' based on challenges identified in EKLIPSE report, including methods linked to purposes of assessments and evidence from NBS projects on how to employ them;*
- *Collation of evidence base generated in the NBS projects on cost-effectiveness of NBS for which there is a great need; Marian Zandersen: atlas could be interesting in combination with case studies (see above); Bettina Wilk to contact WeValueNature for their input based on their extensive work on valuation of natural capital;*

- Paper focusing on how costs and benefits/values can be used to support financing decisions.

Reactions from the audience:

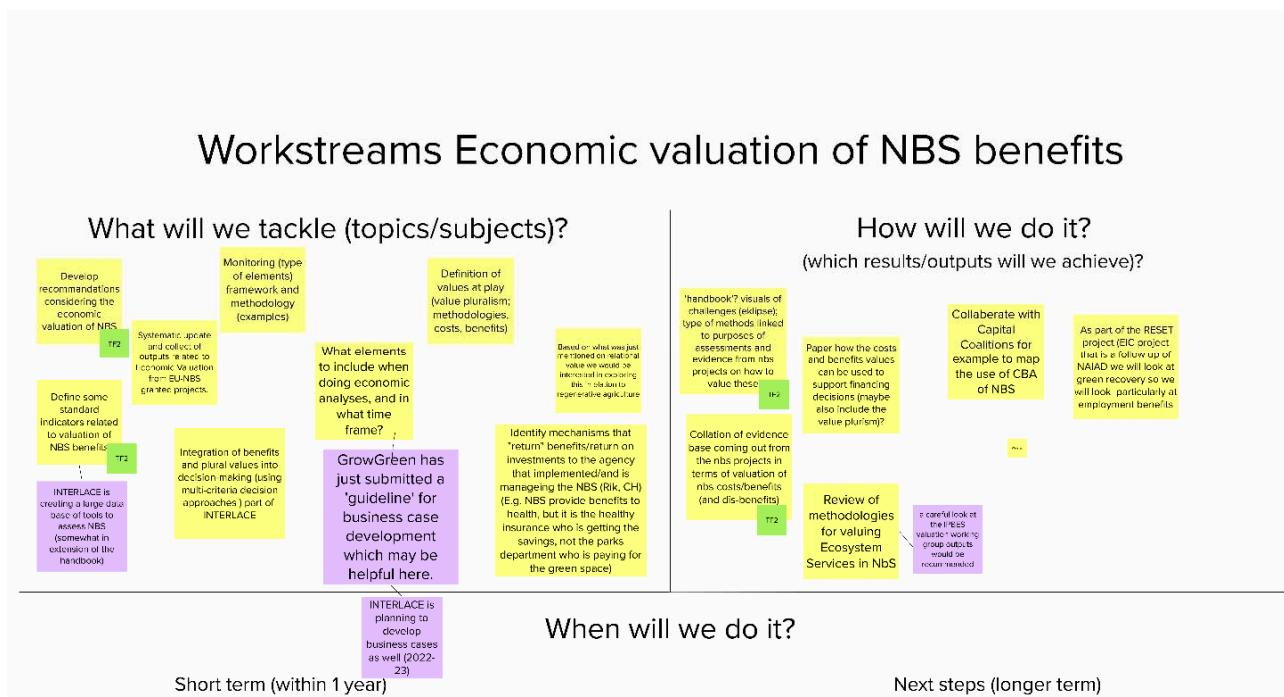
n.a.: The RESET project (EIC project - follow up of NAIAD) will look at green recovery and employment benefits, willingness to contribute;

They work on the comparison of grey and green infrastructure, there the assumption that NBS are cost-effective is based on a long-term time frame that needs to be addressed in the analysis

INTERLACE works on large database on assessing NBS benefits based on the identified lack of integrated assessment approaches beyond monetary valuation in the current version of the indicator handbook; need for focus on multi-criteria analysis approaches in order to address non-monetary approaches, how does that link into existing work

Review of methodologies for valuing ecosystem services in NBS – careful look at the IPBES valuation working group outputs is recommended; should be made explicit in this taskforce

Maybe take a step back first: we don't have the evidence available to justify that NBS is always the better option; premise that NBS are always better is a bit of an absurd starting point, we need to put evidence behind that;



Timeframe and next steps

- Current activity: mapping of project contributions; getting projects on board to fill in the excel;
- Gather list of interested parties and invite them to add to the [excel file](#)
- Communicate via email with all interested parties to determine possible joint output of both work streams, then schedule meeting before summer break for a discussion.

2: Strengthening engagement with target audiences through co-creation, impact monitoring and communication

In this session the linkages between impact monitoring, co-creation processes for Nature-based Solutions and communicating with and engaging key target audiences has been explored. We aimed find opportunities for partnering to tailor evidence and knowledge and best practices in ways that are adapted to the needs of target audiences and to join forces for communicating effectively.

Taking stock of TFs activities

TF2 – The idea of a co-creation handbook is being developed by TF6; it entails co-creation processes as planning processes, TF2 has created ‘Evaluating Impacts of Nature-based Solutions’ handbook outlining successful examples and approaches from projects, different stakeholder groups and how different groups engage in co-creation processes. Indicators (quantitative and qualitative) for co-creation highlight citizen engagement in the design of NBS, but also social capacity building and learning and education of children.

TF4 – Communicators standpoint, overarching messaging, NBS as a complicated term, how to sell it and attract new audiences

TF6 – looking at the most attractive format of the joint output(s), like the planned guidelines for co-creation of NBS in the framework of spatial planning, so that they speak to the target audiences. Both TF6 and TF3 look at different aspects of co-governance. TF6 has prepared jointly a factsheet to frame the TF6 scope, objectives, its five work streams, common terms, etc., Some of the questions tackled in the group are who is being engaged in the co-creation process (taking in consideration geographical issues), profiling stakeholders (how they contribute to co-creation process, what are their roles), language used for different stakeholders (urban/rural), and different stages of planning processes. TF6 to connect with work done in TF2 to build on the existing indicators and perhaps develop new ones.

Co-governance:

- NBS as a process as well as a product
- Process in terms of gaining acceptance by the people ‘using’ the NBS
- Sense of ‘ownership’ of NBS
- A product that can be used by key stakeholders, like local policy makers and planners
- Brief booklet to share results planned

Information sources shared:

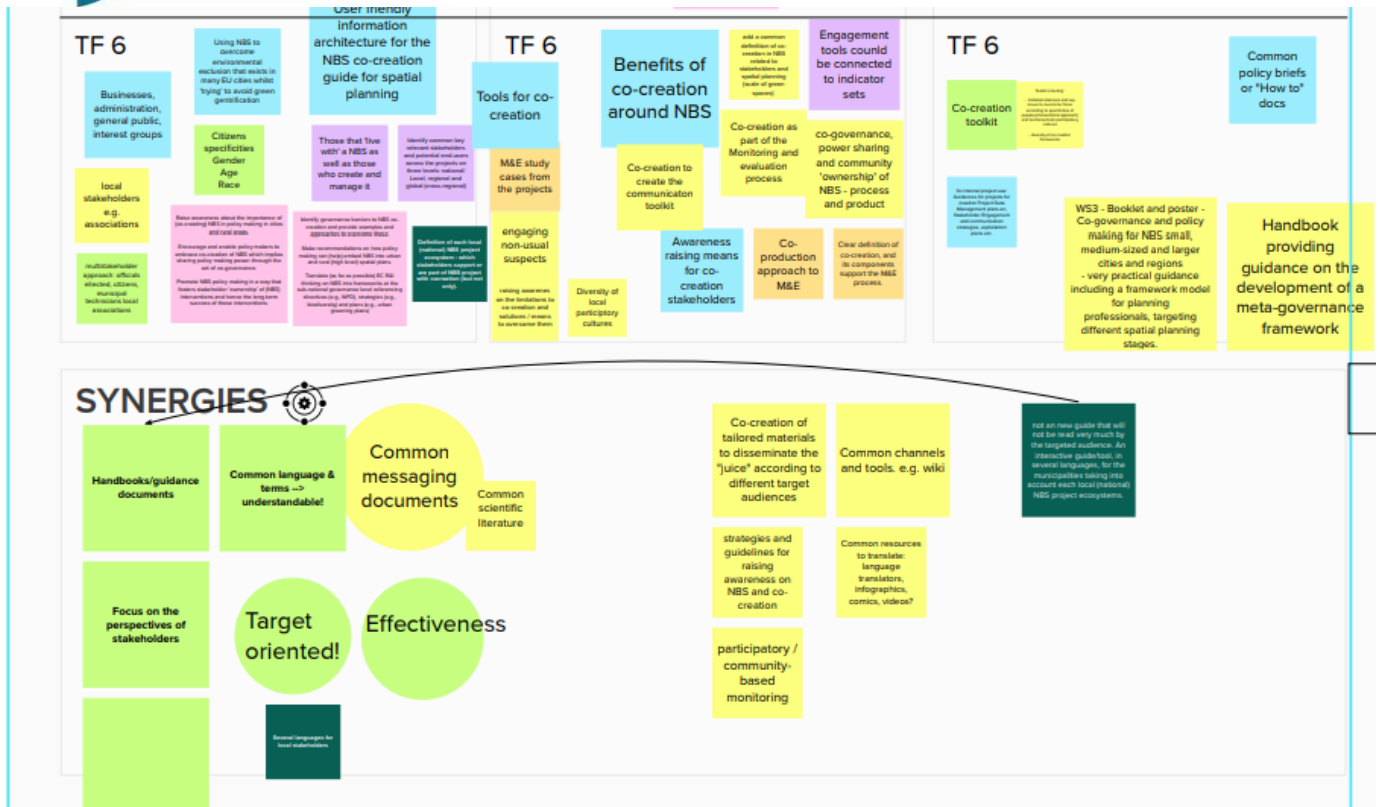
- [Grey to green – how we shift funding to green our cities](#)
- [GREENKEYS @ YOUR CITY – A GUIDE FOR URBAN GREEN QUALITY](#)
- [Urban green as a key for sustainable cities](#)
- [Greening the city](#)

Challenges identified

- Engaging key stakeholders in co-creation, in particular in policy and governance– how to create incentives
- Geographical and contextual (urban versus rural) differences
- Language of users differs and communication needs to be adapted to this, for example the difference between urban and rural stakeholders; also differences between the academic language and that of local implementers

Mural exercise: Views on synergies between co-creation and communication and how this can strengthen upscaling of NBS

- Handbooks, guidance and documents to share common approaches – user friendly information
- Different versions may be needed for different target audiences
- Starting from the needs of the stakeholders



Follow-up actions

- Co-governance and more specifically the work on spatial planning to be discussed among TF3 and TF6
- Finalisation of factsheet TF6
- Meetings to be planned between TF2, TF4 and TF6 to discuss evaluation and indicators of co-creation of NBS in the frame of spatial planning. And another with TF4 to discuss the layout/format of the user friendly, attractive outputs in TF6
- TF 4 to organise follow-up meetings to develop and develop joint documents on NBS messaging
- Decide on spatial planning to be taken up by other TFs or to create a new one
- A wiki platform for TF6 will be developed by OPPLA

3: Monitoring, collection and storage of NBS data

Overall aim

The workshop aimed to advance collaboration in the monitoring of NBS in the context of the recently published 'Evaluating the impact of nature-based solutions' and discuss a shared approach to data management for research and innovation projects.

Chiara Baldacchini, CNR-IRET & University of Tuscia & Laura S. Leo, University of Bologna

Evaluating the impact of nature-based solutions - introduction to the Handbook and approach to data

The handbook was developed with feedback from over 150 participants from 17 projects. This is an instrument to guide everyone interested in solving problems with NBS. Also provides an array of options for selecting indicators to monitor and evaluate impacts of NBS in cities. Clear steps on how to develop an impact monitor plan and ecosystem service indicators. Behind the indicators is also the raw data acquisition and management.



Chapter 7 has a focus on data requirements. Key steps in the development of a robust data management plan shown including identify data needs, acquire data, use data and archive/share data. Relevant metadata includes spatial and temporal data.

Adina Dumitru & David Tomé Lourido, University of A Coruña

Examples of approaches to data collection in the Connecting Nature project

Connecting Nature followed a co-creation process with cities led to identifying 108 indicators (including environmental and economic) which were grouped into 5 impact categories. Case studies presented: Genk connecting the city through the Steimervallei; Poznam revitalizing the Wilda District; and Glasgow Open Space Strategy which created a methodology to measure indicators and integrate data for policy uses.

Arto Leikari & Maria Dubovik, VTT

Examples of approaches to data collection in the UNaLab project

UNaLab: Monitoring enables decision making. The processed used in the UNaLaB also looks at how the impact assessment and evaluation can be used. The monitoring and the impact evaluation assessment includes KPIs, baseline or no-NBS assessment, scale of NBS impact, data acquisition and evaluation framework.

Shared data management plan

Due to the compressed time for the workshop there was not an opportunity for the discussion on a shared data management plan. This will be deferred to a future meeting of Task Force 1, and members of Task Force 2 will be invited to contribute to the discussion.

Reporting back from breakout sessions by Task Force breakout session representatives	NetworkNature and Taskforce representatives
---	--

Economic valuation of nature-based solutions benefits

Many ideas were being discussed, both TF 2 and TF3 have common ideas on the topics, ambitious plans, to define indicators and building on the work of the handbook, more conversations are needed. There will be a follow-up meeting.

Multiple topics to work on, there is not one specific topic that everyone agrees on to continue working, as there are many different views.

Opportunities and ideas: TF3 has created a document to share knowledge and ideas on valuing NBS to enable sharing and learning, and new projects are welcome to join this work and be part of the workstreams.

Strengthening engagement with target audiences through co-creation, impact monitoring and communication

Main points from the conversation:

- Clear linkages between work in different TFs, building on the work of the handbook in TF2 and indicators related to co-creation and stakeholder and citizen involvement for design and implementation of NBS and social capacity building and learning, education in particular of children
- Development of guidelines and information that is user-friendly for policy makers, practitioners, citizens, anyone who is engaged in making NBS thrive – a language that anyone can clearly understand
- The work in TF 4 and T6 will be built on and there will be follow-up meeting on this topic to discuss further cooperation

Challenges

- Take into account geographical differences and context, urban and rural areas

- How can we make the TFs cooperation effective for the ongoing work in the projects – what mechanism can help us to make it efficient – a space on the NN platform, share more, lessons learned and benefit from all the great work

The work of the TFs in influencing policy – there is a plan to develop a guidance document that brings together the learning from co-creation to upscale NBS focusing on the key target audiences. There will be a follow-up meeting to shape this meeting and how NetworkNature can help to share the guidance so it reaches these audiences.

Monitoring, collection and storage of NBS data

Introduction to the evaluation framework handbook focusing on the data aspects, cross-over TF1 and TF2, data aspect of monitoring and practical monitoring from the existing projects, in partical with regards to social indicators.

The approach to data collection in the UNA Lab project was presented.

Not all the content could be covered due to time limitations.

Practical ways to use the handbook and how we can learn from the existing handbook.

Principles of open data fair principles, this should set the discussion on the shared data management plan, this discussion needs to be followed-up.

Closing remarks – Looking forward to the next Semester theme – The Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the NetworkNature annual event

NetworkNature and the European Commission (REA & DG R&I) – Sofie Vandewoestijne, Julie Delcroix, Chantal van Ham

Sofie Vandewoestijne

Thanking the project partners for their contributions and all the work and involvement. By working together we can move things forward.

It is an every-growing family, a range of projects, new ones and some that have finished. We encourage the finished projects to stay involved in the TFs.

It went from a top-down to a bottom-up approach, which is very rewarding, as well as the building on existing work, which is one of the reasons of existence of the TFs, to work more efficiently.

The break-out sessions were too short, this will be taken into account for future meetings.

When the NBS work was launched a system approach was pursued and the cross-task force work illustrates this systemic approach, we encourage this and wish you all good luck with the great work you are doing.

Julie Delcroix

Today it was exciting to see that all present today and bringing together their work, looking at synergies. Today is just the start for stock-taking and the next steps are identified, and all partners involved will build on this for better impact of the projects and influencing policy.

DG RTD is supporting this impact on policy also with Tiago Freitas and the team, to showcase the synergies that have been developing to respond to the societal challenges in Europe and the world. The Convention on Biological Diversity COP will be an important moment for the European Commission as well as the UN Climate Change COP and the work on the projects is important for influencing the decisions.

Thank you and wishing you a good continuation on behalf of DG RTD and EASME.

Chantal van Ham



Thank you to the European Commission, all the projects and TF members for their contributions, it is essential for the upscaling of NBS and the united actions of this community of practice is growing from strength to strength.

NetworkNature will follow-up on the next steps identified during today's exchange and considers this an important milestone in our planning.

NetworkNature will focus in the next Semester on – **The Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** – which is the mission of our century. To achieve the long-term protection of nature and to restore our ecosystems a transformative change is needed which requires fundamental, system-wide integration of nature in all sectors. This is one of the main ambitions of the European Green Deal.

This means as well that post-COVID recovery investments need to prioritise nature and nature-based solutions by bringing forward a credible pipeline of investable and scalable projects, developing market governance – building on robust definitions, metrics, standards and verification to improve market confidence and to strengthen public sector leadership – governments, businesses and institutions must step up to ensure a policy and fiscal landscape that rewards investment in nature

NetworkNature will organize the **first annual event on the 21st of October**. At this moment it is not clear if this will be a virtual or in person event, but we will keep you informed. Consecutively we will host the next Horizon NBS TF meeting.

NetworkNature NetworkNature hosted a partner event: Joining Forces for Health and Nature Based Recovery, the links to the presentations and the recording of the session are available here: <https://networknature.eu/networknature-eu-green-week-ecosystem-restoration-better-well-being-and-green-recovery>

There are many important opportunities ahead of us, and the NetworkNature team looks forward to work together to turn them into reality.