



Strategic management of urban ecosystems and Urban Governance Atlas



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Nature based Solutions and local policy action

A brief discussion on strategic management of urban
ecosystems and the Urban Governance Atlas

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Nature-based solutions

(NBS)

*“NBS are solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, **which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits** and help build resilience.*

*Such solutions **bring more**, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through **locally adapted**, resource-efficient and systemic interventions.*

NBS must benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services.”

European Commission (2020)



NBS have multiple benefits



"No-regrets" actions are actions by households, communities, and institutions that can be justified from economic, and social, and environmental perspectives whether natural hazard events or climate change take place or not".








(Heltberg, Siegel, Jorgensen, 2009; UNDP, 2010).

European Commission, DG RTD. 2021. *Evaluating the impact of nature-based solutions: a handbook for practitioners*,



Key EU policies recognize NBS potential and support their implementation

European Green Deal

 Biodiversity	 Forests	 Land use and forestry	 Water and Marine	 Agriculture	 Climate change	 Disaster risk reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Restoration Law Nature Directives Pollinators Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LULUCF Regulation Soil Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Water Directive · Floods directive Marine Strategy Framework Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Agricultural Policy Farm to Fork Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy on adaptation to climate change EU Climate Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan on the SFDRR 2015-2030

Urban



Urban Agenda for the EU

Source: Davis. M. Adapted from European Environment Agency, 2021 – Report 01/2021





Translating EU ambition into local action

- Need to integrate NBS into urban planning and policies
- Policy instruments and their governance act as critical enablers or barriers to adoption
- „Shift from government to governance“ (*UNaLab Municipal Governance Guidelines*)



- Lack of specific and proven local policy instrument examples in support of NBS, especially regarding new approaches to governance ... *until now!*

Source: Davis. M.



Urban Governance Atlas

- Interactive online database (currently in Beta format)
- 250 policy instruments from the EU / CELAC / beyond
- Inspire action through the exploration of good practice policy instruments
- Includes: factors making instruments successful, financing, lessons learned in design, implementation and governance
- Foster ecologically coherent, inclusive planning for urban ecosystem restoration and green space planning
- Four types of policy instruments featured:
 - **Legislative, regulatory, and strategic**
 - **Economic and fiscal**
 - **Agreement-based or cooperative**
 - **Knowledge, communication and innovation**

Policy Instruments EN ES

Welcome to the Urban Governance Atlas. An interactive online database of good practice policy instruments to foster nature-based solutions (NBS) from European and Latin American and Caribbean cities.

Download our [guidance on how to enter a policy instrument](#)

You are accessing the Beta version of the Urban Governance Atlas which is still in development. Some technical and language errors are to be expected.

Displaying 1 - 125 of 125

Funding guidelines on greening facades - Chemnitz
The funding guideline of the City of Chemnitz in Germany (Förderrichtlinie der Stadt Chemnitz für die Gewährung einer Zuwendung zur...

National Park City campaign - London
London National Park city is a grassroots campaign and movement launched in 2014 in the UK by a group of citizens. Inspired by the concept...

Krakow Metropolis 2030 Strategy
The Krakow Metropolis 2030 Strategy is a supra-local strategy for 15 municipalities in Poland (the City of Kraków and 14 municipalities...

SEARCH
Enter search terms:
TYPE OF INSTRUMENT
- Any -
REGION
- Any -
TYPE OF NBS
- Any -
CHALLENGES ADDRESSED
INITIATING BODY
- Any -
TARGETED ACTORS
IMPLEMENTING BODY
SOURCE(S) OF FUNDING
APPLY
ADD YOUR POLICY INSTRUMENT



Legislative, regulatory and strategic

- Broad variety of **laws, regulations and strategies**.
- Laws and regulations: their main characteristic is that a public authority sets binding requirements.
- Strategies: are used by governments to set a vision, strategic goals and define roles and responsibilities

Category	Subcategory	Examples
Legislative, regulatory and strategic instruments	dedicated strategy or plan	NBS, green infrastructure, or green space strategy or plan
	sectoral or overarching strategy or plan	adaptation, biodiversity, circular city, smart city strategy or plan; masterplan, integrated plans; action plan on (innovation/green) public procurement
	urban planning mechanisms	spatial (zoning), infrastructure or socio-economic development plans; green space factor restrictions on development of green areas; targets (regulation and planning) standards; scoring
	standards	green public procurement standards



Binding standards for tree protection during construction - Wroclaw

In 2019, the Wroclaw Green Spaces Authority in Poland launched binding standards for the protection of trees during ongoing construction...

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Economic and fiscal

- Governments influence market mechanisms through e.g. disincentives, incentives, payments, subsidies, financing mechanisms and market-based instruments.
- Compliance often has a more voluntary character

Category	Subcategory	Examples
Economic and fiscal instruments	disincentives	taxes and charges/fees, tariffs; trading of permits for using a resource or trading
	payments, subsidies, incentives	subsidies or payments to landowners/ private actors for practices; public financing/grants; payments for insurance covering the risk associated with newer green technologies
	financing mechanisms / market-based instruments	'green finance' or debt-based instruments; blended finance; payments for ecosystem services (PES); public-private-partnerships (PPP)



Tax for stormwater and meltwater - Rumia

In response to the growing problem of local floods and an overloaded sewerage system, the municipality of Rumia in Poland introduced a tax...

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Agreement-based or cooperative

- Government and/or involved actors jointly and voluntarily decide to behave in a certain way.
- They often arise from a shared agenda, mostly consisting of both public as well as private actors.
- Often the agreements reached between the parties are fixed in a covenant code or agreement.

Category	Subcategory	Examples
Agreement-based or cooperative instrument	direct engagement of citizens / multistakeholder collaboration	citizen science programmes, citizen assemblies, participatory budgets, neighbourhood development plans, community management of green spaces on public lands, community asset transfer
	joint regional planning/ action	inter-municipal exchange platforms

Krakow Metropolis 2030 Strategy

The Krakow Metropolis 2030 Strategy is a supra-local strategy for 15 municipalities in Poland (the City of Kraków and 14 municipalities...

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Knowledge, communication and innovation

- Try to influence behavior through disseminating information to actors on certain issues or involving (novel) actors in critical processes in innovative ways in the hope that this will inspire voluntary behavioral changes.
- These instruments can target a broad audience using the media or can be targeted educational programs to reach a specific audience

Category	Subcategory	Examples
Knowledge, communication and innovation instruments	communication / awareness raising	targeted educational programs; certification (labelling) or ranking; awareness raising campaigns
	knowledge and innovation	communities of practice; living labs; creating workshops; pilots; constructing business cases or land use plans; green hubs



Bujna Warszawa: Community Garden Support Programme - Warsaw

Bujna Warszawa ("Lush Warsaw") is a programme established in 2017 to support the inhabitants of Warsaw (Poland) in setting up and...

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The Parque Lineal Las Vegas, Portoviejo



- Policy instrument: Urban planning mechanism
- NBS-Types:
 - Rivers, wetlands
 - Parks and green spaces
- Challenges and benefits:
 - Flood protection, stormwater drainage/runoff
 - Ecological and social connectivity
 - Biodiversity
 - Urban regeneration
 - Reconstruction and economic reactivation
 - Creation of new public recreational and cultural spaces

Renaturation & revitalisation of flowing waters

Photo: Alcaldia de Portoviejo

Come to our workshop we will...

- Explore what other cities are doing to mainstream NBS in urban policies
- Share our experiences
- Reflect on challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming NBS in urban policies



"Grey into Green" programme to make schools greener - Wrocław

The Grey into Green (Szare na Zielone) funding programme aims to convert grey, sealed areas surrounding schools and kindergartens into...

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Szczecin's Green Courtyards

Szczecin's Green Courtyards (Zielone Podwórka Szczecina) is a grant programme launched in 2008 for homeowners' associations in...

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Binding standards for tree protection during construction - Wrocław

In 2019, the Wrocław Green Spaces Authority in Poland launched binding standards for the protection of trees during ongoing construction...

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