

**Interreg
Europe**



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Bringing back nature to the city

Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

31 May, 1st June 2023

Rethinking Local Policies
Ghent, Belgium



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31 May 2023

Welcome!

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Restoring urban nature

Astrid Severin and Magda Michaliková

Thematic Experts | Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

31 May 2023



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The benefits of urban nature

Introduction

... Riverbanks – Green spaces – Urban forests – Green and blue infrastructure – Wild flowers – Tree-lined streets – Parks

...

- **Keeping temperature down**
- **Removing and storing CO2**
- **Reducing impact of natural disasters**
- **Providing space for rest, exercise and relaxation**



Source: EEA (2020)

Restoring urban nature

Presentations



**Eva Velebná
Brejchová**

Pilsen City
Development
Department, Czech
Republic

(EURE)



**Beáta Stefanics
Natália Szécsényi**

Lépték-Terv for
Municipality of
Budapest,
Hungary

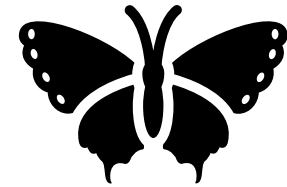
(RENATUR)



**Emer
O'Callaghan**

Cork
County
Council,
Ireland

(INTENSIFY)



**Tom
Beyaert**

City of Ghent
Environment
Department,
Belgium



Restoring urban nature

Study visit in Ghent

- Captain Zeppos park
- Reopening the waterway at the Reep
- Franse Vaart / Kerkstraat





Nature and biodiversity

Policy briefs



POLICY BRIEF



Rivers and wetlands: drivers of sustainable regional development

Read this policy brief and get an overview of how the current EU policy framework may guide and support local and regional authorities in the implementation of river and wetland restoration measures.

19 May 2021 | By Platform



POLICY BRIEF



Preserving and restoring biodiversity

Explore this policy brief to discover what role do public authorities across Europe play in the development of a sustainable and low-carbon economy, and what transformations are needed in every sector and area of public life.

05 April 2022 | By Platform



POLICY BRIEF



Natural and cultural heritage in coastal regions

Explore this policy brief to learn about EU initiatives that local and regional authorities can refer to for improving their management of cultural and natural heritage on coasts, in compliance with the EU Directives.

27 July 2022 | By Platform

Coming soon!

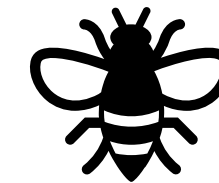


Ecosystems and nature restoration

A Policy Brief from the Policy Learning Platform on Environment and Resource Efficiency

June 2023





Climate adaptation in deltas

Webinars



View of coastal area

15 JUN 2023

Online

Climate adaptation I: Coastal restoration

On 15 June 2023, the Policy Learning Platform is hosting the first episode of the climate adaptation webinar series. Join us for the first session on coastal restoration from 14:00 to 15:30 CEST.

By Platform



28 JUN 2023

Online

Climate adaptation II: Wetland restoration

On 28 June 2023, the Policy Learning Platform is hosting the second episode of the climate adaptation series. This episode will focus on wetland restoration. Join us from 14:00 to 15:30 CEST.

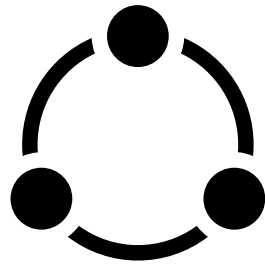
By Platform





Matchmaking Sessions

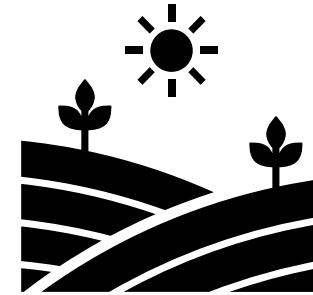
Feel free to join us tomorrow!



**Circular Economy for
municipalities**

**Province of East
Flanders, Belgium**

13:30 - 14:45








**Connecting green spaces
in Antwerp**

**Regional Landscapes,
Belgium**

15:15 – 16:30

Examples of IR-E projects tackling the topic of **Nature restoration and biodiversity**

 <p>BID-REX Interreg Europe</p>	2016-2021	From biodiversity data to decisions
 <p>BIOGOV Interreg Europe</p>	2018-2022	Celebrating biodiversity governance
 <p>RENATUR Interreg Europe</p>	2019-2023	Improving regional policies to better protect natural heritage
 <p>WaVE Interreg Europe</p>	2018-2022	Water-linked heritage valorisation by developing an eco-systemic approach
 <p>EURE Interreg Europe</p>	2019-2023	Effectiveness of environmental urban policies to improve resource efficiency

Examples of IR-E projects tackling the topic of **Nature restoration and biodiversity**

Recently
APPROVED



Nature and biodiversity – Green Infrastructure



Climate change – nature-based solutions



Climate change – nature-based solutions

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Thank you!

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<https://www.interregeurope.eu>





Coffee break and Site Visits



Good morning!

1 June 2023

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Reaching ambitious targets

EU Nature Restoration Law
Global Biodiversity Framework

Astrid Severin and Magda Michaliková

Thematic Experts | Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

1 June 2023



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Reaching ambitious nature restoration targets

Introduction

EU Nature Restoration Law

- **Long-term recovery** of Europe's nature: at least 20% by 2030 and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050
- **Upscaling measures:** rewilding, returning trees, greening cities and infrastructure, removing pollution
- Top priority: **ecosystems with greatest potential** for removing and storing carbon, preventing or reducing the impact of natural disasters
- Reversing the decline of **pollinator populations** by 2030
- Restoring at least 25 000 km of **rivers to a free-flowing state** by 2030



Reaching ambitious nature restoration targets

Introduction

Urban nature restoration

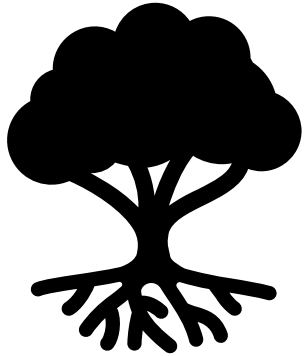
- No net loss of green urban spaces by 2030, a 5% increase by 2050
- Minimum 10% tree canopy cover in every European city
- Net gain of green space integrated to buildings and infrastructure

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework - EU joined

- A global roadmap to protect and restore nature
- Setting measurable targets by 2030 and 2050
- Spurring investments for a green global economy with the Global Biodiversity Fund

Reaching ambitious nature restoration targets

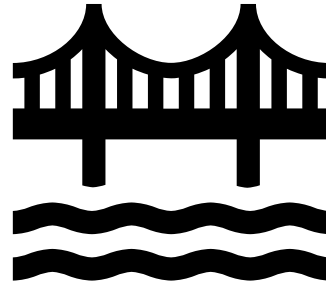
Presentations



The Flemish belt
around Brussels

Johan Laeremans
Flemish Land Agency
Belgium

(RENATUR)



Water in an
urban context

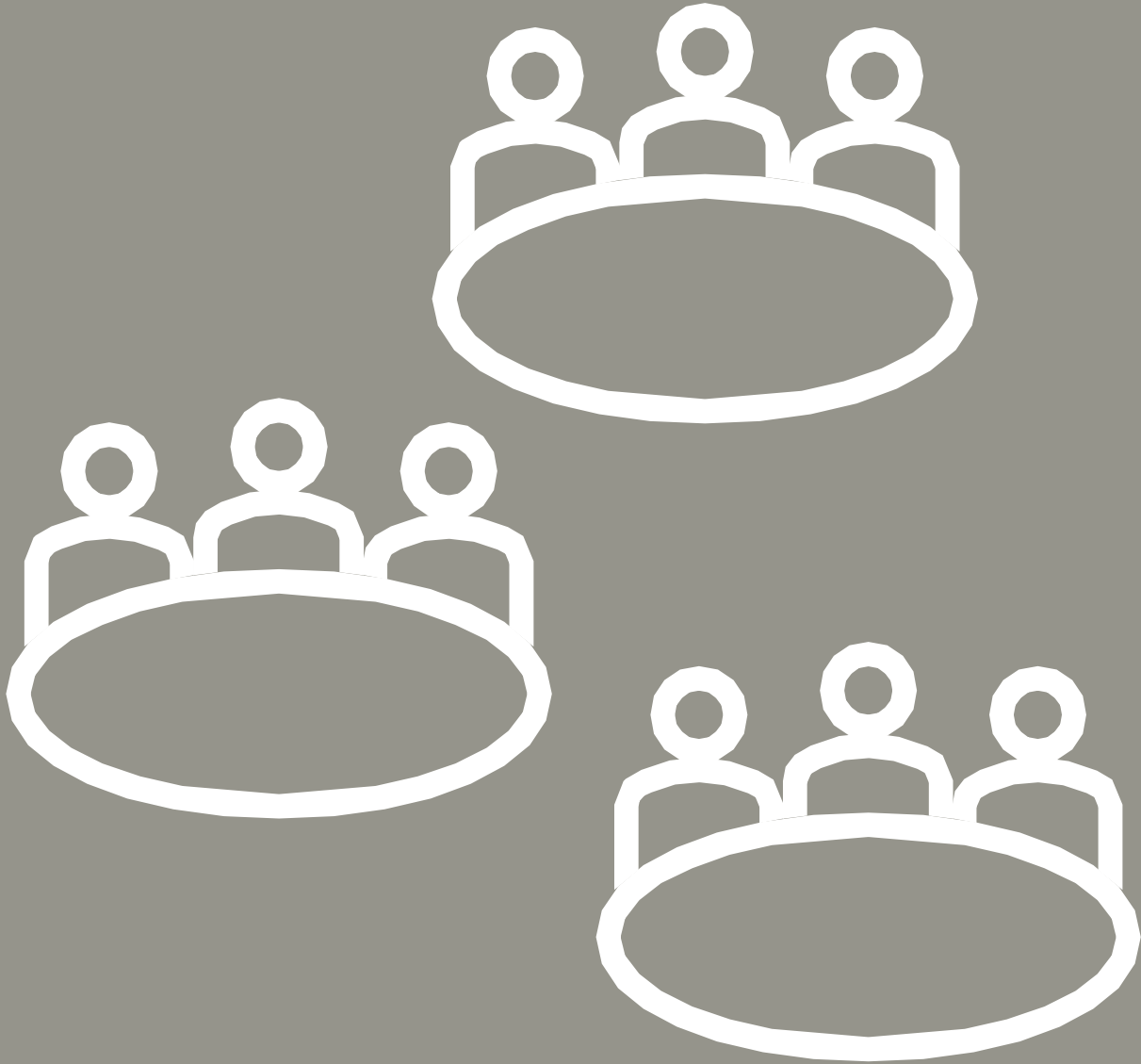
Hans Thoolen
City of Breda
The Netherlands

(WAVE)



Sustainable water use
in green spaces

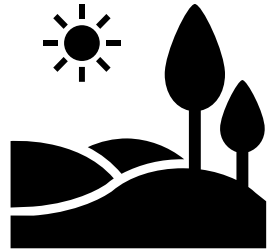
Mariana Cruz
Porto Metropolitan Area
Portugal



World Café Sessions

Reaching ambitious nature restoration targets

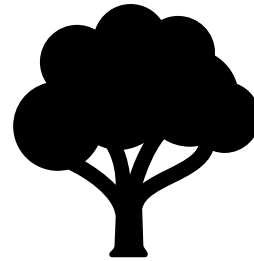
World Café Sessions



Green belts and peri-urban nature

Host

Johan Laeremans
Flemish Land Agency
Belgium



Urban planting and afforestation

Host

Natália Szécsényi
Lépték-Terv for
Municipality of Budapest
Hungary



Water in an urban context

Host

Hans Thoolen
City of Breda
The Netherlands



Reaching ambitious nature restoration targets

World Café Sessions

- **Key questions**

- What are the **main challenges** for increasing the rate of nature restoration in an urban context in your territory?
- What **types of policy interventions / projects** would help speeding-up the implementation of nature restoration in an urban context in your territory?



REPORTING TO PLENARY

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Thank you!

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Coffee break
Back 11:30