



**European Committee
of the Regions**

**Commission for
the Environment,
Climate Change and Energy**

ENVE

Enhancing Resilience of urban ecosystems through green infrastructure

**EnRoute Final conference
14th meeting of the
Technical Platform**

VMA 1

29 January 2019

09.30-17.00



**European Committee
of the Regions**



29 January 2019 | 09.30 – 17.00 | Room VMA1 (1st floor), Rue van Maerlant 2, European Committee of the Regions

Enhancing Resilience of urban ecosystems through green infrastructure

EnRoute Final conference – 14th meeting of the Technical Platform

Conference co-organised by the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission

Background and objectives

EnRoute, a European Parliament Pilot project, provides knowledge of how urban green infrastructure can support urban policy objectives at different stages of planning and for various spatial scales. High quality biodiversity-rich green areas can help policy-making for sustainable cities and contribute to resolving many challenges from air pollution and noise to tackling climate change, heat waves, floods and public health concerns. As cities grow, there is a need to improve the availability, quality and accessibility of urban green spaces. Urban planners across Europe are progressively integrating urban green infrastructure, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions in their urban planning process; but there is a need to scale up these efforts.

EnRoute demonstrates how EU biodiversity and green infrastructure policies and actions are implemented at the local scale in real-life case studies and policy-making processes. The 18 city labs¹ distributed across Europe form the project core. They experienced how science and policy interact on urban green infrastructure development at local level.

This meeting will:

- present the main scientific and policy outcomes of EnRoute;
- provide a forum for policy makers and scientists to exchange ideas of how urban green infrastructure solutions can reconcile urban growth with objectives on biodiversity quality of life and public health, adaptation to climate change, sustainable urban planning natural disaster risk reduction, etc.;
- consider possible next steps, such as how local knowledge co-created by science and policy can be further developed as well as disseminated to improve the quality of European cities, and how can the EU best support this process.

09.00 Registration and Welcome coffee

09.30 Morning session

Chair and introductory words: Charlina Vitcheva, Deputy Director-General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission.

Welcome speeches

- **Roby Biwer**, (LU/PES), Vice-Chair of Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE), European Committee of the Regions;
- **Humberto Delgado Rosa**, Director Natural Capital, DG ENV, European Commission.

¹ EU cities administrations working in partnership with scientific institutions to implement the EnRoute project.

09.45 Presentations on the main outcomes of the EnRoute project

Chair: Constantin Ciupagea, Head of Unit Land resources, JRC, European Commission.

- **Joachim Maes**, JRC, European Commission;
- Presentations by **cities participating** in the EnRoute project: illustrations from Oslo (David Barton), Utrecht (Jeroen Schenkels), Manchester (Dave Barlow and Nick Paling) and Padova (Claudia Alzetta);
- **Q&A**.

11.20 Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX): A supporting tool to share best practices on urban green infrastructure and nature-based solutions

- **Andreas Versmann**, DG ENV, European Commission.

11.30 Coffee break & EnRoute poster session by 18 EnRoute city labs & TAIEX information stand

12.00 Panel discussion with the audience

Facilitator: Martijn Thijssen, Advisor, ORG-ID, The Netherlands.

Panel

- **European Committee of the Regions:** Sirpa Hertell (FI/EPP) from Espoo; Andrew Cooper (UK/EA) from Kirklees; Andres Jaadla (EE/ALDE) from Rakvere; Kate Feeney (IE/ALDE) from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown; Kata Tüttö (HU/PES) from Budapest; Ján Ferenčák (SK/PES) from Kežmarok; Vytautas Kanevičius (LT/ECR) from Kazlų Rūda; Anthony Mifsud (MT/EPP) from Imtarfa; Paul Farrugia (MT/PES) from Ħal Tarxien; Louis Koumenides (CY/EPP) from Limassol (tbc);
- **Michel Péna**, Founder of "Fondation Paysage".

13.00 Lunch break

14.00 Afternoon session

Chair: Stefan Leiner, Head of Unit Biodiversity, DG ENV, European Commission.

Discussion roundtables (two rounds, each 40 minutes long):

- **Integrating ecosystem services in urban decision-making processes** [room VMA1]

Chair: Rayka Hauser, DG ENV; and **Martijn Thijssen**, ORG-ID.

This session introduces the forthcoming EU guidance on ecosystem services and considers how this guidance can be made applicable for urban planning processes.

- **Cross-scale assessment of urban ecosystems: from mapping and modelling to knowledge co-production** [room VMA1]

Chair: Grazia Zulian, JRC; and **David Barton**, NINA.

This session introduces the way a multiscale approach can support policies at different levels. The focus of the session will be on how EU data can also be used locally and what the challenges are.

- **The EU Urban Agenda and the Partnership on sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions: how to assess nature contribution to urban policies?**

Chair: Julie Delcroix, DG RTD.

This session will introduce Action 9 of the Action Plan developed by the SUL_NBS Partnership under the EU Urban Agenda. This voluntary Action aims to suggest targets and indicators for urban green infrastructure, nature-based solutions and ecosystem services.

- **Follow up of the EnRoute project: lessons for biodiversity policy and options for deepening the EnRoute approach** [room VMA2]

Chair: Julie Raynal, DG ENV; and **Joachim Maes**, JRC.

This session will identify options for including urban green infrastructure in EU biodiversity policy and will consider actions to tackle in a follow-up project.

15.30 Break

16.00 Reporting back from the world café by roundtable chairs

Conclusions and vision / ambition for the future

• **Stefan Leiner**, Head of Unit Biodiversity, DG ENV, European Commission.

17.00 End of the meeting

Participants may speak in & listen to: FR, EN, NL, IT, PL.



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