



European Committee of the Regions

Thematic Seminar -

Nurturing nature for sustainable cities and regions

Implementing the Nature Directives in cities and regions: Nature-Based Solutions for key urban challenges

- in the context of the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP)

29 May 2018 in Brussels

Venue: European Committee of the Regions, Room JDE 52

Organisers: European Committee of the Regions and DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission with the support of ERRIN and ICLEI

This Thematic Seminar aims to look into innovative solutions which help implementing the Nature Directives when addressing pressing urban and regional challenges like flood protection, wellbeing and health, and the protection of our natural capital for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations: How can Nature Based Solutions in cities and in the peri-urban areas deliver on recreation and wellbeing of the citizen, whilst enhancing the quality of the 18% of Natura 2000 areas which are located in urban areas?

At the same time, the European Commission aims to gather information on the regions' research and innovation (R&I) needs and on obstacles which may be hindering them from investing in nature-based solutions.

The Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) is a concept jointly developed by the European Committee of the Regions and DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission. It is aimed at presenting new R&I solutions, innovative products and best practices in response to societal challenges facing the regions and cities of Europe. In 2018, the KEP will address the themes of Innovating cities with nature & Nature-based solutions and Cultural heritage.

Twitter: ***#KEPNature*** and ***#knowledgeexchange***

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| Part A | |
| <i>Moderator: Holger Robrecht, Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI</i> | |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | <p>Introduction to the KEP Nature-based solution strand <i>Patrick Child</i>, Deputy Director-General, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation</p> <p>Keynote speech <i>Karl-Heinz Lambertz</i>, CoR President</p> |
| The benefits of Nature Based Solutions to people and nature | |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | <p>European Research and Innovation on Nature Based Solutions and sustainable cities <i>Birgit de Boissezon</i>, Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation – Sustainable Management of Natural Resources</p> |
| Case Studies and Projects | |
| 10:20 - 10:40 | <p>Case Study I: Luxemburg <i>Roby Biver</i>, CoR member, Member of Bettembourg Municipal Council</p> |
| 10:45 - 11:15 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | <p>Showcasing EU Projects I:</p> <p>SCALLUVIA - LIFE+* <i>Veerle Campens</i>, project manager, Flemish Agency for nature and forests ANB</p> <p>GROW GREEN – H2020* <i>Jonathan Sadler</i>, project coordinator, Manchester Climate Change Agency</p> |
| 11:45 – 12:05 | <p>Case Study II: Lombardy Region, Italy <i>Matteo Luigi Bianchi</i>, CoR member, Mayor of Morazzone <i>Alessandro Corrado</i>, project Life Gestire2020, Lombardy Region</p> |
| 12:05 – 12:45 | Discussion - Q&A with the audience |
| 12:45 – 14:15 | Lunch |

Part B

Moderator: Anthony van de Ven, Head of office of the city of Eindhoven, ERRIN Representative

What can cities and regions do to unlock the potential of innovative NBS which benefit people and protect nature of European importance?

14:15 – 14:30

Natural Capital and sustainable cities: EU policies, initiatives and platforms

Nicola Notaro, Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Environment – Nature

14:30 – 14:50

Case Study III: Weststellingwerf, The Netherlands

André van de Nadort, CoR member, Mayor of the municipality of Weststellingwerf

14:50 – 15:20

Showcasing EU Projects II:

URBAN GreenUP- H2020*

Raul Sánchez, project coordinator, CARTIF Technology Centre, Spain

GREEN4GREY - LIFE+*

Pieter De Corte, Flemish Land Agency VLM, project manager

NATURVATION - H2020*

Hade Dorst, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

15:20 – 15:40

Case Study IV: Province of Novara, Italy

Matteo Besozzi, CoR member, President of the Province of Novara

Barbara Tosi, Director of Consorzio IBIS, Innovation Hub CGREEN

15:40 – 16:00

Sustainable land use and Nature-based Solutions: the EU urban agenda partnership

Marton Matko, Eurocities

16:00-16:30

Conclusions: Q&A with the audience

Holger Robrecht, Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI

Anthony van de Ven, Head of office of the city of Eindhoven

Concluding remarks:

Magda de Carli, Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation – Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation

Interpretation will be provided in English, German and Romanian.

** more information on the projects can be found on the background note:*

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/KEP-nature-sustainable-cities.aspx>