Overall EU Report

State-of-the-art and local mapping analysis

Co-creating biodiversity
CO-BIO
in urban areas

Funded by the European Union

Developed by CESIE, May 2024

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The partnership

Green Forum is organized under the Technical and Environment Department of Vejle Municipality, as a network for citizens and civil society organisations, with an interest in climate, ecology, nature and the environment.

Greenformation Ltd. is a small enterprise based in Budapest aiming to trigger green and social transition and transformation through catalysing biodiversity conservation, the enhancement of society, sustainable and just energy use, biodiversity conservation as well as behaviour change.

The Center for Citizen Dialogue is a consultancy and knowledge center with expertise and competences in citizen involvement in municipal work. We are based in Copenhagen, Danmark, and advice Danish and Scandinavian municipalities on how to involve citizens and stakeholders and how to lead and facilitate co – creation processes

Gartenpolylog promotes the development of community gardens and care of communities for green spaces since 2007. It supports the network of community gardens in Austria, offers workshops for grown-ups and children in environmental education as well as group organisation

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The Rightchallenge Association is a NGO which aims to promote education and training as a means of social inclusion and sustainable development. Education must focus on the holistic development of all people in order to prepare them to intervene and participate in all dimensions of society.

CESIE is a European Centre for Studies and Initiatives based in Palermo, Sicily. It is a non-profit, apolitical, and non-governmental organisation, implementing projects in more than 80 countries. Established in 2001 and inspired by the work and theories of the Italian sociologist Danilo Dolci (1924-1997).

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute is a research and education institute, based in Athens, Greece. Its mission is to foster and enhance innovation processes mainly in the areas of education and lifelong learning, human capital development, knowledge society and social inclusion.

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Introduction

The report provides a summary of the results in each country with specific recommendations during the development of the Desk Research, Best Practices, Interviews and Focus groups that have been aimed to map the local contest regarding urban biodiversity and co creation.

This document is a EU Overall Report produced under the scope of the project Co-Bio - Co-creating Biodiversity in Urban Areas, referred as Co-Bio. This report is translated in all partner languages and be available on the project website. This EU Overall Report was one of the results of the WP2 - State-of-the-art and local mapping analysis. CESIE was responsible for coordinating the WP2 activities. All partners contributed to collecting data that have been recorded in each partner country's national report.

The WP2 main aims are:

1. Identify important insights and knowledge on how to develop a qualified learning framework for the project teaching methodology

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2. Identify the most urgent challenges concerning urban biodiversity and actions adopted to address them in the partner countries
3. Promote citizens, experts, and relevant stakeholders' involvement in co-creating urban biodiversity through their contribution to the qualitative research activities
4.Develop an innovative reporting approach combining both quantitative and qualitative research methods
5.Increase awareness of aspects concerning management and political agenda within the field of urban biodiversity through mapping of different urban contexts and collection of best practices

This report provides a summary of the results in each country with specific recommendations during the development of the Desk Research, Best Practices, Interviews and Focus groups that have been aimed to map the local contest regarding urban biodiversity (UB) and co-creation.

1. *Desk Research:* served to identify current national practices, challenges and legislation for Urban Biodiversity (UB) protection,national progress on European programs and policies regarding UB, and to identify the best-practice cases

2. *Focus Group (FG)*: which involved ordinary citizens,civil society volunteers and specialists as potential local agents of change and stakeholders. The partnership reached 6 FG, one per partner country with five experts minimum in each FG

3. *Interviews*: the consortium identified and contacted a range of professionals in the urban biodiversity field who wanted to be part of the project in this phase.

4. *Best Practices*: the cases that have been considered by the partnership have been addressed to last after the project and allowed the development of a network/institution that was responsible for the case, ensuring its positive impacts in a systematic manner. The cases have an educational impact on the surrounding population by promoting eco-literacy and active participation. Three Best Practice cases were collected per partner countries.

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Methodology

The objective of this section is to provide an overview of the methodology employed in conducting the activities under the WP2 across the partnership. The activities were performed between February and April 2024. CESIE, as the leader of WP2, developed guidelines and templates, which were subsequently approved by all consortium partners. This report outlines the structured approach taken and highlights the key steps involved in the implementation of the activities. The methodology adopted for WP2 activities ensured a cohesive and systematic approach across all participating countries. The guidelines and templates created by CESIE provided a solid framework for data collection and analysis, facilitating the generation of reliable and comparable results. The collaborative effort in developing these documents highlighted the importance of partnership and shared understanding in achieving the objectives of WP2.

Desk research

Desk research was conducted to identify current national practices, challenges, and legislation related to protecting and promoting urban biodiversity in the partner countries. Additionally, the research aimed to assess national progress on European programs and policies concerning urban biodiversity and to identify case studies.

Biodiversity – the current condition in each country

Denmark

Farming: Denmark is the most intensely cultivated country in Europe, with farmland covering approximately 60% of its area. This intensive agriculture significantly impacts biodiversity. The use of fertilizers and chemicals on an estimated 56% of the country's area annually degrades natural habitats and pollutes ecosystems.

Space: There is insufficient space for natural habitats due to extensive farming and urban expansion, leading to habitat fragmentation.

Pollution: Nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from farming activities threaten aquatic environments, causing oxygen depletion and harming aquatic species.

Lack of large grazers: The absence of large grazing animals, which historically maintained open areas and diverse flora, has led to overgrowth and reduced biodiversity.

Invasive species: Non-native species such as giant hogweed, ragusa rose, mink, and raccoon dogs displace native species and disrupt ecosystems.

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Portugal

Urbanization and urban sprawl lead to habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity.
Lack of connectivity between green spaces restricts gene flow and reduces biodiversity.
Pollution and soil sealing: urban development seals land, affecting water circulation and soil balance. Lack of monitoring and data: limited data on species and ecosystems hinders effective conservation planning.
Integrating biodiversity into urban planning: economic growth often prioritized over environmental considerations

Italy

Habitat loss and fragmentation: Urbanization, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure development reduce natural habitats, disrupting ecosystems.
Invasive species: Invasive alien species outcompete native species for resources, disturbing ecological balances.
Climate change: Shifts in temperature and precipitation patterns alter habitats, threatening species unable to adapt.
Pollution: Industrial activities, agriculture, and urban areas pollute habitats and waterways, harming wildlife. Overexploitation of natural resources: Unsustainable harvesting, overfishing, and illegal logging deplete populations and disrupt ecosystems
Land use change: Conversion of natural habitats to agriculture or urban areas reduces biodiversity.
Lack of awareness and conversation efforts: Public engagement and education on biodiversity conservation need improvement.

Greece

Urbanization and agricultural expansion lead to habitat loss and fragmentation. Coastal forests and low-altitude forests are particularly affected.
Climate change: Expected to intensify loss and degradation of ecosystems, particularly wetlands.
Unsustainable Practices: Intensive farming and abandonment of traditional agriculture degrade ecosystems.
Pollution: Soil, water, and air pollution from various sources harm biodiversity.
Biological Invasions: Invasive species disrupt native ecosystems.
Wildfires in the forests: frequent fires degrade forests and reduce biodiversity.

Hungary

Grasslands and forests particularly the Pannonian steppes, are among Hungary's most significant ecosystems but are increasingly threatened by agricultural

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expansion and urban development. Forest fragmentation is a major concern as it disrupts wildlife corridors and diminishes habitat quality.
Wetlands, especially the Hortobágy and Kiskunság National Parks, are under threat from drainage, land conversion, and water management practices.
River habitats, such as the Danube and Tisza, are affected by hydrological alterations, dam construction, and pollution, leading to habitat degradation and species decline.
Intensive agriculture results in the runoff of pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals into water bodies, causing eutrophication and harming aquatic life.
Industrial activities contribute to air and water pollution, impacting both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
Shifts in temperature and precipitation patterns affect species distribution, phenology, and ecosystem dynamics.
Invasive species such as the common ragweed (Ambrosia artemisiifolia), which causes significant economic and health problems, outcompete native species and disrupt ecosystems. Aquatic invasive species like the zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha) alter freshwater ecosystems and outcompete native molluscs.

Austria
Hydrological Changes: Loss of wetlands and other water bodies due to hydrological alterations impact biodiversity.
Agriculture: Both agricultural intensification and abandonment threaten biodiversity through pesticide use and habitat degradation. Despite a high percentage of organic farming (27.7%), industrial farming practices remain a significant threat.
Forestry: Removal of dead wood and other forestry practices impact biodiversity.
Climate change: Increasingly affects species and habitats, posing a major threat to biodiversity.
Land use and fragmentation: High rates of land consumption and soil sealing reduce habitat availability and create urban heat islands.

Conclusion
All partners have highlighted common themes on biodiversity such as habitat loss, pollution, climate change, and the impact of invasive species. Nowadays, addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts, improved policies, and increased public awareness. Lastly, it requires engagement to safeguard Europe's biodiversity for future generations.

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Summary of the National policies and practices on biodiversity

Denmark

Denmark's biodiversity policy aligns with EU and UN goals, heavily relying on EU funding for rural area initiatives. The country faces significant challenges in meeting biodiversity targets. As of 2020, Denmark achieved only one of the 20 Aichi biodiversity goals, with most goals showing no progress or worsening conditions. Political power from the agricultural sector hinders robust biodiversity measures, favouring voluntary regulations. Despite this, a political biodiversity package, adopted in 2021 allocates significant funding to improve biodiversity, including establishing new national nature parks and virgin forest areas. The "rewilding" initiative, involving large animals and natural habitat development, has sparked public debate but generally garners support.

Portugal

Portugal faces challenges in biodiversity conservation due to increasing urbanization, particularly in the Greater Lisbon and Greater Oporto metropolitan areas. Recognizing the critical role of urban biodiversity in ecosystem services and human well-being, municipalities have started initiatives to protect and promote urban biodiversity, governed by various national policies and strategies. Portugal is committed to the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Action commissioned the "Biodiversity 2030" study to support policy-making and outline reforms. The National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030 focuses on conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits. Legal frameworks like Decree-Law 142/2008 and the National System of Classified Areas (SNAC) aim to protect 30% of Portugal's territory by 2023. Municipal plans, including the Green Infrastructure Development and Maintenance Action Plan and the National Climate Change Strategy 2018-2030, promote biodiversity conservation. These strategies emphasize the importance of ecosystem services and green infrastructure in climate adaptation and sustainable development

Italy

Italy's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP), aligned with the CBD, outlines comprehensive strategies for biodiversity conservation, including habitat, species, and genetic diversity protection. The country has established a network of protected areas, including national and regional parks, nature reserves, and marine protected areas. Italy's legislation, such as the Environmental Code and the Framework Law on Protected Areas, supports biodiversity conservation and environmental management. Sustainable agricultural and forestry practices are promoted to minimize biodiversity impacts.

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Measures to prevent invasive species include early detection and public awareness campaigns. Scientific research and monitoring by institutions like ISPRA are crucial for assessing biodiversity status, identifying threats, and tracking changes. These efforts underpin Italy's commitment to international biodiversity conservation goals.

Greece

Greece has reinforced its biodiversity conservation framework through robust laws and management bodies for protected areas. The National Biodiversity Strategy integrates biodiversity into various sectoral policies. Expanding the Natura 2000 network has improved habitat conservation status. Greece's efforts focus on enhancing biodiversity knowledge and status, supported by comprehensive action plans. The Natura 2000 network, under EU directives, protects numerous habitats and species of European importance, contributing significantly to Greece's biodiversity conservation.

Hungary

National Environmental Programme until 2026
National Nature Conservation Base Plan until 2026
National Biodiversity Strategy until 2030
Green Infrastructure Development Concept
National Climate Change Strategy 2018-2030
The Second National Climate Change Strategy mentions that diverse systems are more resistant to changes, including climate change, while the National Biodiversity Strategy (described above) emphasizes that ecosystem services and green infrastructure elements promote adaptation to climate change.
The National Landscape Strategy (2017-2026) can indirectly contribute to the protection of biodiversity through the protection of natural resources, which is one of the main objectives of this strategy.
The National Framework Strategy for Sustainable Development and the National Development 2030 – National Development and Territorial Development Concept promote the conservation of natural resources and highlight the protection of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

Austria

Austria's biodiversity conservation efforts are anchored in its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The plan includes strategies and actions for conserving habitats, species, and genetic diversity. Key measures involve implementing EU directives like the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive, alongside national regulations. Austria has established a network of protected areas, including national parks, regional parks, and nature reserves, such as the

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Dürrenstein Wilderness Area, a primary forest and a World Natural Heritage site. Despite these measures, the condition of Austria's Natura 2000 sites is concerning. Reports indicate that 80% of these protected areas are in poor condition, highlighting the limited impact of existing regulations. The Nature Restoration Law, which aims to restore 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, faces opposition from state nature conservation officers in Austria. Biodiversity monitoring remains insufficient, with significant gaps in data collection and analysis, essential for assessing the status of biodiversity and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land).

Conclusion

European countries exhibit a variety of approaches to biodiversity conservation, influenced by local conditions and challenges. Austria and Italy have comprehensive national strategies and legal frameworks, while Portugal focuses on integrating urban biodiversity into its policies. Denmark's efforts are hampered by political dynamics, despite significant funding and public support for new initiatives. Greece's robust legal framework and expanded protected areas demonstrate a strong commitment to biodiversity conservation. Hungary has a structured framework of actions to protect and defend the natural resources nationally as achieving the biodiversity goals on the European level too.

Co-creating biodiversity

The successful implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) necessitates inclusive partnerships among governments, the private sector, and civil society. This principle is encapsulated in SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the goals. Biodiversity conservation, specifically covered under SDG 15 (Life on Land), requires transformative and structural changes facilitated by collaborative approaches. This report explores the co-creation of biodiversity initiatives in Austria, Denmark, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Hungary, highlighting the legal frameworks, key initiatives, and recommendations for enhancing biodiversity through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Denmark:

Local and Regional Biodiversity Initiatives, Collaborative Frameworks, Denmark emphasizes local and regional collaboration for biodiversity conservation. Temporary political commissions, known as §17.4 udvalg, involve elected politicians and external representatives in policy-making. Key Initiatives: Lyngby-Taarbæk Municipality: Engaged local companies in developing a biodiversity strategy for their grounds Ringsted Municipality: Facilitated dialogue among citizens and landowners for establishing a local nature park .

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NGO-Led Projects: Organizations like ‘Vild med Vilje’ enhance biodiversity by engaging various stakeholders through activities and educational programs. Fjord Collaborations: Initiatives such as ‘Odense Fjord samarbejdet’ and ‘Sund Vejle Fjord’ involve multiple stakeholders in restoring aquatic environments.

Portugal

Exploring Innovative Co-Creation Projects Legal Framework and National Initiatives. Portugal is increasingly exploring co-creation approaches to biodiversity conservation. Collaborative projects are emerging at local and national levels, involving diverse stakeholders.

Key Initiatives

URBiNAT Project: This project in collaboration with the Municipality of Portimão aims to develop nature-based urban solutions.

Local Adaptation Plans to Climate Change (PLAAC): These plans for Setúbal, Sesimbra, and Palmela aim to adapt to climate change through various strategies.

LivingSoiLL Project: Focused on sustainable soil management, this project involves creating "living labs" for testing innovative solutions.

New Green Pact: A collaborative effort involving government, academia, and associations to develop a sustainability framework. Recommendations. Enhance Community Participation: Involve local communities more actively in biodiversity projects to ensure sustainability. Promote Knowledge Sharing: Facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovations among different regions.

Italy

Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Biodiversity. Collaborative Frameworks Italy’s approach to biodiversity conservation involves collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, businesses, scientists, and the public. Key Initiatives.

WWF Italy: Collaborates with government agencies on protected areas, sustainable agriculture, and fisheries.

Business Engagement: Companies are involved in habitat restoration, biodiversity offsets, and sustainable supply chain management. Citizen Science and Education: Public engagement through educational programs and citizen science projects helps in monitoring and conservation efforts. Recommendations, Strengthen Business Partnerships: Encourage more businesses to engage in biodiversity conservation through corporate social responsibility. Enhance Public Engagement: Increase support for citizen science and educational initiatives.

Greece

Comprehensive Strategies and Community Involvement National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Greece’s NBSAP provides a framework for

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biodiversity conservation through stakeholder engagement, policy integration, and enhanced monitoring.
Key Initiatives: Natura 2000 Network: Involves collaborative management of protected areas, balancing conservation goals with socio-economic interests.
Community-Based Projects: Initiatives like community-managed forests and coastal zones empower local communities.
Scientific Research and Citizen Science: Collaborative research projects and public participation in biodiversity monitoring enhance knowledge and engagement. Recommendations Expand Community-Based Projects: Increase the number and scale of community-managed conservation projects. Support Research and Monitoring: Provide funding for collaborative research and citizen science initiatives.

Hungary
Collaborative Approaches to Biodiversity Conservation
Current State and Challenges: Hungary faces biodiversity threats from habitat loss, pollution, and climate change, despite having rich ecosystems and endemic species.
Key Initiatives:Tisza River Basin Restoration: Collaborative efforts have improved water quality and biodiversity
Pannon Eagle Life Project: Aimed at conserving the Eastern Imperial Eagle through habitat restoration and community engagement.
Community-Based Ecotourism: Projects in areas like Őrség National Park promote conservation and provide economic benefits.

Austria
Integrating SDGs into National Policies Legal Framework and National Commitment Austria has committed to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, with all federal ministries tasked with their implementation. The interministerial working group on the Sustainable Development Agenda, established by the Council of Ministers, coordinates these efforts, emphasizing multi-stakeholder partnerships as crucial for addressing societal threats like climate change and biodiversity loss.
Key Initiatives: respACT As the national coordination center of the UN Global Compact, respACT promotes sustainable development among businesses. It involves 129 member organizations as of 2020.
Federal States Involvement, Nature conservation laws and biodiversity initiatives are also driven by Austria's federal states, underscoring the importance of bottom-up governance.
Strenghten Interninisterial Collaboration, Enhance coordination among federal ministries to integrate biodiversity goals across all sectors.

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Conclusion

Co-creating biodiversity involves the active participation of diverse stakeholders across multiple sectors. This collaborative approach is essential for addressing the complex challenges of biodiversity conservation. By fostering partnerships, enhancing community engagement, supporting scientific research, and promoting sustainable practices, European countries can ensure the resilience and sustainability of their natural heritage. The experiences and initiatives in Austria, Denmark, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Hungary provide valuable insights and models for the future

Focus Groups

Methodology Overview

Phase 1: Participant Selection and Invitation

Network Engagement:

We initially contacted our established network of stakeholders, specifically those with whom we have previously collaborated and have built trust. These stakeholders are known for their effective project implementation in urban biodiversity.

An invitation was extended to citizens and volunteers within our network through various channels, including LinkedIn, Instagram, and email.

Partner Collaboration:

A call for participants was also sent to partnering organisations, who are actively involved in community initiatives and has a strong network of citizens and volunteers.

Phase 2: Pre-Session Preparation

Scheduling: A specific date was set for the focus group sessions, which were conducted both in person and online.. Question Formulation: A set of questions was developed and agreed upon in collaboration with our partners. These questions targeted specific aspects of urban biodiversity, including challenges, perceptions, potential solutions, and opportunities. The questions were then sent to the selected attendees in advance to facilitate thoughtful and prepared responses. Consent and Ethics: An invitation letter and a Danish consent form were formulated to seek permission from participants regarding data handling. The form detailed the purpose of the interview and how the information would be used in the project. The consent form was translated where necessary to ensure clarity and understanding among all participants.

Phase 3: Conducting the Focus Group

Session Introduction:

The session began with an introduction to the project, outlining its objectives and relevance. This introduction helped set the context for the discussion and engage participants.

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Interview Structure: The focus group followed the pre-formulated set of questions, addressing specific aspects of urban biodiversity. The questions were designed to elicit detailed insights and were based on the expertise of the interviewees. Open introductory questions were included to create a comfortable atmosphere and gather background information on the participants' profiles, interests, and living areas. In-Person Session: For sessions held in person, such as the one at the Local Agenda office in Vienna, Alsergrund, participants were provided with healthy snacks and drinks to maintain a focused yet relaxed atmosphere.
Phase 4: Documentation and Data Handling Online Session Documentation: The online focus group session was documented through screenshots and a Zoom recording to ensure accurate data capture. In-Person Session Documentation: In-person sessions were documented with a written summary, a signature sheet, and photos to capture the discussions and participant interactions comprehensively. Each session lasted approximately 2 hours, providing ample time for in-depth discussions. Data Analysis: The collected data were analyzed to identify common themes, challenges, perceptions, potential solutions, and opportunities regarding urban biodiversity. Each partner compiled a summary report on the results of the focus group session.

Conclusion
The methodology employed in these focus groups ensured a comprehensive and inclusive approach to gathering insights on urban biodiversity. By engaging trusted stakeholders, using structured questions, obtaining consent, and thoroughly documenting the sessions, the partners were able to gather valuable data that will inform future initiatives and policies in urban biodiversity.

Focus group set of 10 questions
1. What is your vision of Urban Biodiversity (U.B.)?
2. Do you know what is happening within the U.B in your city/area/country?
3. Do you see it important to increase the level of biodiversity in your city/area/country?
4. What would your life look like if biodiversity came first?
5. What would make an Urban Biodiversity initiative sustainable?
6. What kind of green space is important for you?
7. Talking about the importance of green spaces in your city, do you think they are enough? 8. Would you improve them and how?
9. What are the challenges for improving U.B. in your local area?
10. How would you like to contribute to improving U.B?

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Focus Group Participants

List of Focus Group Participants for each country

Denmark
Five citizens from Vejle Municipality area
Two citizens with an interest in biodiversity but without engagement in volunteer groups or organizations
One citizen with "two roles" - employed by the municipality in the Nature and outdoor life department and volunteer in a volunteer group in her home area, who has a community garden
One with "two roles" – an entrepreneur with an event and resort business in a nature area in the municipality, and a volunteer in the association "The butterfly movement", which was formed in Vejle a few years ago.
One volunteer citizen who has initiated a project on community gardens and more biodiversity at her home, which is a housing association

Portugal
Five citizens from the municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia
Two citizens interested in biodiversity, one citizen who is an environmental technician, two landscape architects.

Italy
Five professionals
The WWF president - North Western Sicily branch
The WWF Vice President - North Western Sicily branch
Two WWF volunteers
Tu Sei la Città (non profit organization) volunteer

Greece
One citizen of Nea Smyrni in Athens, retired high-ranking civil servant of the Greek Ministry of Education with a history of managing environmental education projects and a connnuing interest in environmental issues and co-creation
One project officer at an NGO, citizen of Athens, extensive professional involvement in environmental projects.
One owner of an NGO, citizen of Kifissia in Athens, active volunteer in many projects
One citizen of Chania in Crete who also lives part-time in Athens, studied agriculture and is the owner of an organic park and farm in Crete.
One citizen of Chania in Crete, who studies agriculture and is involved in several co-creation initiatives, such as tree-planning in collaboration with municipal authorizes and NGOs

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One civil servant in the General Secretariat of Social Solidarity, working with vulnerable communities and involved in projects on urban renewal through co-creation
One civil engineer who has overseen several green projects and is keen and continuous activist on environmental issues
One agronomist and project manager at a non-profit. She has pioneered the application of co-creation methods in the greater Athens area.

Hungary
An employee of XIX. District Municipality / Green Program Office Anonymous
A citizen of XIX. District, and member of an association, called Kiserővédő Egyesület (Smallforest Protection Association). The association aims to protect a small urban forest within the XIX.
A citizen of XIX. District and community organizer within the Transition Wekerle community. Transition Wekerle is a member of the Hungarian Transition initiatives (a network called Small Communities in Transition) and the international Transition Towns movement. It aims to promote urban gardening, active citizenship, new ways of cooperation and solidarity, and organizing events to raise awareness on these topics
A Citizen of XIX. District and member of an association called Kiserővédő Egyesület (Smallforest Protection Association).
A Citizen of XIX. District and President of the Mohamanó Experience Workshop Foundation. The foundation helps and supports disadvantaged, cumulatively disadvantaged children and people with disabilities. Their activities include raising awareness about the importance of our environment.

Austria
Six citizens from Vienna:
one in the field of edible cities as activist and researcher
One active in several groups, passionate birder and active in the field of landscape conservation on active in the GYBN and participation in restoration projects in Vienna
One managing the Forum as a platform for sustainability in Vienna
One active in a community garden in Vienna that is a huge landscape park
One active in a project in the southern part of Vienna he initiated in a living area, where the mowing was extensified and there have been habitats established.
All participants have given their consent to be included in the focus groups report

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Interviews

Methodology overview

Permission and Purpose Explanation: prior to the interviews, explicit permission was obtained from each participating professional. The purpose of the interviews and the intended use of the information collected were clearly explained to each interviewee. Preparation of Interview Guide: A comprehensive list of questions and topics was developed to steer the interviews. Introductory questions were included to gather background information, focusing on the interviewee's work and expertise. Focus Areas: the questions were tailored to cover key aspects of urban biodiversity, including challenges, successes, current trends, and potential solutions. The same set of ten questions has been used for each interviewee. Interview Execution: invitations were extended to three biodiversity experts, each agreeing to participate in a virtual interview. Each interview lasted approximately one hour and was recorded for accuracy. Data Collection and Analysis: responses were collected during the interviews, focusing on expert opinions and experiences regarding urban biodiversity. The recorded interviews were transcribed verbatim to ensure the accuracy of the information. A national summary of all responses was compiled by each partner, highlighting key insights and common themes.

Interview's set of 10 questions

1.What priority does biodiversity have in your professional work?
2. What is the current status/level of biodiversity in your city/region/country? Please, consider relevant methods, tools and technologies that have been working so far.
3. Who are the key stakeholders involved?
4. What legal framework supports/acts as barriers to biodiversity measures?
5.What works/or does not work in term of these legal framework identified? Give 3 main examples
6. Do you think there is a need for more strategies? Please, consider relevant methods, tools and technologies that have been working do far.
7. What adaptations do you think is needed to ensure that Urban Biodiversity thrives? (infrastructure, economic and social level)
8. What do you think about co-creation, did you have any experience in it?
9. Could you share what was the first benefit of experiencing co – creation? Please, consider relevant methods, tools and technologies that have been working do far.
10. What do you think are the main issues that requires immediate intervention in urban scenarios?

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Interview participants

Denmark
A project manager in Nature & Outdoor in the Vejle Municipality and works with projects within nature management, subsoil projects, animal husbandry, and urban nature.
A nature guide at Økolariet, Vejle Municipality works on conveying nature and biodiversity at "eye level" to various target groups.
A project manager at organization 2030skov, works on establishing mini forests throughout Denmark

Portugal
A Biologist, Senior Environmental Technician at GaiUrb
A Biologist, Coordinator of VERDE
A Biologist, Executive Director of Laboratório da Paisagem

Italy
A landscape and territory architect and member @tuseilacittà – a Palermo based NGO that deals with local projects on citizens participation and urban regeneration
A biodiversity manager @Legambiente – is an Italian environmentalist association with roots in the anti-nuclear movement that developed in Italy and throughout the Western world in the second half of the 1970s.
A Biologist

Greece
The Director-General of the Company of Research, Education, Innovation and Development of the North Aegean Region (ELORIS)
Head of the design and implementation of educational environmental workshops in Organization Earth

Hungary
Chief Landscape Architect, Head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Municipality of Budapest
Biologist, Research Group Lead at the Ecological Research Centre
Co-founder and professional Director of the Green City Hungary NGO

Austria
Former Global2000, BMK Ministry of Climate Action and Energy

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Someone from the BMK - Ministry of Climate Action and Energy
A zoologist
A landscape planner

All participants have given their consent in being included in the interviews report

Best Practices

Methodology overview

The process began with a comprehensive review of several projects The criteria for selecting the best practices included: social Innovation: Practices that foster social change and community engagement. Impact Economy: Initiatives that generate significant positive economic and environmental impacts. Biodiversity Enhancement: Projects aimed at increasing biodiversity through various methods. Circular Economy: Models that promote sustainability and improve local tourism. Educational Activities: Programs targeting disadvantaged people to enhance skills and opportunities. Land Identification: Collaboration with municipalities to identify suitable land for biodiversity projects.

Best Practice cases

Denmark
Vejle Municipality: More Nature in the Cities project (www.vejle.dk/borger/mit-liv/natur-og-udeliv/biodiversitet-og-naturpleje/vilde-vejle/natur-i-byen/)
The residential area Tirsbæk: Tirsbæk hills project (www.vejle.dk/borger/mit-liv/natur-og-udeliv/biodiversitet-og-naturpleje/vilde-vejle/biodiversitetsprojekter/tirsbaek-bakker-det-vildeste-villakvarter/)
Municipality of Vejle: WILDE VEJLE (https://www.vejle.dk/borger/mit-liv/natur-og-udeliv/biodiversitet-og-naturpleje/vilde-vejle/)

Portugal
Plantar Lousada, Lousada, municipality of the Porto
FUTURO – projeto das 100.000 árvores na Área Metropolitana do Porto (www.100milarvores.pt/)
National: Act4Nature (www.act4nature.com/en/)

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Italy
Largo alla Scuola project in Palermo (www.facebook.com/TuSeiLaCitta/)
Nature-Based Solutions to Regenerate Mediterranean Cities project, Catania
Fioraia Project– A new landscaper for biodiversity, Turin (www.torinosocialimpact.it/attivita/progetto-fioraia-una-filiera-del-paesaggio-per-la-biodiversita)

Greece
Pocket Parks, Municipality of Athens (www.cityofathens.gr/)
The "Center of the Earth" by the "Organization Earth" (https://www.organizationearth.org/)
National level: Company of Research, Education, Innovation and Development of the North Aegean Region (ELORIS) (https://www.eloris.gr/)

Hungary
Budapest: Aurora Climate Garden in Budapest (https://auroraonline.hu/klimakert/)
Climate-adaptive grassland management in the city of Veszprém or "Wildflower Veszprém"
National ecosystem service mapping and assessment- Ecosystem map of Hungary

Austria
City of Vienna: Gardening around the corner – greening tree pits //"GARTELN UMS ECK - BAUMSCHEIBEN BEGRÜNEN (https://www.gbstern.at/themen-projekte/urbanes-garteln/garteln-ums-eck/)
St.Pölten, Austria: Sonnenpark St. Pölten - The park of diversity http://www.solektiv.at/
"Biodiverse Campus of the University of Vienna" by Öko Campus Wien (https://oekocampuswien.com/)

Summary of main results of the Desk Research

Denmark
Biodiversity and Urban Development
Denmark faces biodiversity decline primarily due to intensive farming, habitat fragmentation, and pollution. National policies aim to align with EU and UN biodiversity goals but face challenges from strong agricultural interests.
Challenges

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Urban Design: Current urban designs prioritize human needs and financial gain over biodiversity.
Public Engagement: Need for greater citizen involvement and understanding of biodiversity issues.
Key Initiatives
Municipal Projects: Grassroots initiatives co-created with citizens to promote biodiversity.
Education and Communication: Enhancing public awareness and engagement through educational programs and citizen science projects.

Portugal
Biodiversity and Urban Strategies
Portugal, home to a significant portion of Europe's species, faces threats from urbanization and climate change. National and local policies aim to address these through strategies like the Lisbon Green Corridors and Ilhas Sombra project.
Challenges
Urban Sprawl: Habitat loss due to expanding urban areas.
Green Space Connectivity: Need for better connectivity of green spaces to support biodiversity.
Key Initiatives
Co-Creation Projects: Initiatives like URBiNAT and the New Green Pact, involving citizens in conservation efforts.
National Strategies: Policies guided by the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030.

Italy
Biodiversity Status and Policy Implementation
Italy, while rich in biodiversity, faces significant challenges due to pollution and habitat fragmentation. Despite policies supported by the state and EU, achievements remain weak due to low awareness and education on biodiversity.
Challenges
Awareness and Education: Lack of widespread understanding and education on biodiversity issues.
Urban Green Spaces: Need for better planning and distribution of green spaces in urban areas.
Key Recommendations
Focus on Native Species: Support for native species and allowing nature to grow wild in urban areas.
Public Engagement: Making biodiversity actions more accessible and understandable to the general public.

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Greece

Biodiversity Status and Policies

Greece's rich biodiversity is threatened by urbanization, habitat fragmentation, pollution, invasive species, climate change, and fires. While habitat conservation status has improved, the status of many species remains unfavorable.

Challenges

Lack of Comprehensive Monitoring: Greece has yet to establish a national biodiversity monitoring system.

Sectoral Integration: Insufficient integration of biodiversity concerns into key economic sectors like agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.

Legislative Gaps: Need for better development and enforcement of biodiversity-related legislation.

Key Initiatives

Awareness Programs: Efforts to promote urban biodiversity awareness through various initiatives.

Policy Development: Ongoing work to improve and implement relevant legislation and integrate biodiversity into sectoral policies.

Hungary

Institutional Framework and Policies

Hungary has implemented a range of laws, strategies, and regulations to protect biodiversity, aligning with both global and EU directives. Key national policies include the National Environmental Programme, National Nature Conservation Base Plan, and National Biodiversity Strategy. These policies emphasize habitat protection, sustainable land use, and ecosystem management.

Challenges

Institutional Fragmentation: Responsibilities for biodiversity are spread across multiple ministries, leading to coordination challenges.

Lack of Centralized Authority: Absence of a dedicated Ministry of Environment hampers unified environmental governance.

Low Public Engagement: Limited citizen involvement and awareness due to insufficient public consultation processes.

Key Policies

National Environmental Programme: Integrates various sectoral strategies, aligning with EU policies such as the European Green Deal.

National Nature Conservation Base Plan: Focuses on preserving biological diversity through coordinated state actions and monitoring programs.

National Biodiversity Strategy: Reflects EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and supports UN Sustainable Development Goals, with specific urban green infrastructure development goals.

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Austria

Biodiversity Status and Challenges

Austria boasts high biodiversity but faces significant challenges due to habitat fragmentation, pollution, and insufficient data. The current condition of many Natura 2000 protected areas is poor.

Challenges

Data Deficiency: Lack of comprehensive biodiversity data and resources to improve it.

Urban Threats: Issues like light pollution, habitat fragmentation, and the ecological impact of urban infrastructure.Land consumption and sealing.

Public Awareness: Need to enhance public understanding and involvement in biodiversity conservation.

Summary of the main results about the Focus Groups

Denmark

Biodiversity and Urban Development

Denmark faces biodiversity decline primarily due to intensive farming, habitat fragmentation, and pollution. National policies aim to align with EU and UN biodiversity goals but face challenges from strong agricultural interests.

Challenges

Urban Design: Current urban designs prioritize human needs and financial gain over biodiversity.

Public Engagement: Need for greater citizen involvement and understanding of biodiversity issues.

Key Initiatives

Municipal Projects: Grassroots initiatives co-created with citizens to promote biodiversity.

Education and Communication: Enhancing public awareness and engagement through educational programs and citizen science projects.

Portugal

Biodiversity and Urban Strategies

Portugal, home to a significant portion of Europe's species, faces threats from urbanization and climate change. National and local policies aim to address these through strategies like the Lisbon Green Corridors and Ilhas Sombra project.

Challenges

Urban Sprawl: Habitat loss due to expanding urban areas.

Green Space Connectivity: Need for better connectivity of green spaces to support biodiversity.

Key Initiatives

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Co-Creation Projects: Initiatives like URBiNAT and the New Green Pact, involving citizens in conservation efforts.
National Strategies: Policies guided by the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity 2030.

Italy
Biodiversity Status and Policy Implementation
Italy, while rich in biodiversity, faces significant challenges due to pollution and habitat fragmentation. Despite policies supported by the state and EU, achievements remain weak due to low awareness and education on biodiversity.
Challenges
Awareness and Education: Lack of widespread understanding and education on biodiversity issues.
Urban Green Spaces: Need for better planning and distribution of green spaces in urban areas.
Key Recommendations
Focus on Native Species: Support for native species and allowing nature to grow wild in urban areas.
Public Engagement: Making biodiversity actions more accessible and understandable to the general public.

Greece
Critical Importance of Urban Biodiversity:
Participants unanimously agreed on the importance of urban biodiversity for environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and improved living conditions.
Emphasis was placed on the responsibility of individuals, civil society, and public authorities at all levels to preserve and enhance urban biodiversity.
Current State and Challenges:
The biodiversity in Greece is currently unsatisfactory, though there have been positive developments such as the implementation of "pocket parks."
Major issues include inefficient recycling, pollution, chaotic urban planning, and flooding.
Education and Public Engagement:
Education is vital for stimulating involvement and highlighting the importance of biodiversity.
Practical steps to increase biodiversity, such as more green spaces and less concrete, were seen as beneficial for daily life.
Sustainable Initiatives:
Successful urban biodiversity initiatives can be promoted through clever advertising, school education, and secure funding.

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There is a pressing need for more trees and protection for stray animals in public parks.
Administrative Challenges:
Bureaucratic inefficiency was identified as a significant barrier to improving urban biodiversity.
Issues include inadequate training for civil servants, lack of technical equipment, and an overwhelming number of regulations.

Hungary
State of Biodiversity:
Participants noted a decline in biodiversity, particularly in insects, pollinators, and swallows.
There is a variation in biodiversity status across different regions and parts of the capital.
Public Awareness and Education:
Better education and awareness regarding the importance of biodiversity are needed.
Younger generations show more interest in biodiversity and climate change issues.
Green Infrastructure:
Enhancing urban biodiversity faces challenges due to economic costs and the complexity of urban environments.
All kinds of green areas, including small balconies, vertical gardens, mini forests, and bigger forests, are highly valued.
Community Involvement:
Strong community support and continuous engagement are crucial for successful biodiversity initiatives.
Small, short-term goals could help maintain public interest and involvement.
Challenges and Solutions:
Key challenges include competition for space, lack of knowledge, and the need for long-term stakeholder involvement.
Suggestions for improvement included adding native plants, improving accessibility to green spaces, and better regulation of constructions.

Austria
Need for More Green Spaces:
Participants highlighted the need for healthier soils, more plants and animals, and biodiversity in cities, including on rooftops and walls. Unsealed and unpaved public spaces are needed. Community Involvement:
Opportunities for citizens to green their neighborhoods are essential.
Cultural diversity can increase biological diversity through gardening.
Public Spaces and Biodiversity:

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Healthy, green public spaces are crucial for everyone's well-being and require diverse green infrastructure and efficient climate and biodiversity measures.
Policy and Vision:
Courage, visionary thinking, and partnerships are needed to change the current system. Flagship species can be used to communicate and convince people to protect certain areas.
Education and Misconceptions:
It is important to reduce fears and clear misconceptions about biodiversity, such as the role of insects.
Changing minds and hearts through examples and explanations is crucial.

Summary of the main results from the Interviews

Thanks to the interviews process the partnership got in touch with a wild range of experts within the urban biodiversity field who shared the following:
Interdisciplinary Cooperation: Enhancing UB requires collaboration among biologists, planners, architects, and policymakers. Effective cooperation can address multiple operational levels to improve biodiversity outcomes.
Spatial Planning and Soil Protection: Effective land use and spatial planning are crucial for soil protection and reducing land consumption. Unsealing soils and creating permeable, habitat-rich areas are essential steps.
Integration in Urban Design: Urban planning must incorporate biodiversity considerations, including the selection of native plant species, habitat structures, and legal regulations governing urban green spaces.
Habitat Creation and Preservation
Special Structures: Cities should incorporate deadwood, infiltration areas, hedges, water bodies, and fallow lands to support diverse species.
Low-Nutrient Soils: Utilizing low-nutrient soils and native plant species (e.g., thyme, mullein, poppies) can create suitable habitats for insects and small mammals, particularly wild bees.
Green Urban Plans: Developing comprehensive green urban plans can secure green corridors and ensure the preservation and creation of diverse habitats.
Policy and Legal Frameworks
National and International Directives: Strengthening national laws and international directives is necessary to enhance biodiversity conservation efforts. The EU's Nature Restoration Law and Biodiversity Strategy are pivotal in this regard. Regulatory Support for Planting: Legal regulations should guide the selection of species, substrates, and seeds used in urban planting to promote biodiversity. Public Awareness and Education
Environmental Education: Enhancing environmental education and fostering a connection to nature are vital for improving public understanding and engagement in biodiversity conservation.

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Public Space Design: Public spaces should be designed to highlight biodiversity, using urban nature trails and educational signage to inform citizens about local species and habitats.

Co-Creation and Community Involvement

Co-Creation: Involving citizens in planning, implementation, and maintenance of green spaces can foster ownership and enhance the success of biodiversity projects.

Community Participation: Strong local civil organizations and community-driven initiatives are crucial for successful urban biodiversity projects. Examples include community composting and local garden initiatives.

Addressing Urban Biodiversity Challenges

Water Management: Effective management of surface waters and the rehabilitation of wetland habitats are critical. Shifting away from drainage practices can support wetland ecosystems.

Invasive Species: Addressing the impact of invasive species and promoting native species is essential for maintaining healthy urban ecosystems.

Green Gentrification: Ensuring fair distribution of green spaces and addressing green gentrification are necessary for social equality in urban biodiversity initiatives. Financial and Resource Allocation

Increased Funding: More financial resources are needed to address biodiversity loss and improve urban biodiversity on a larger scale.

Subsidies and Incentives: Policies supporting nature-based solutions and providing subsidies for urban greening projects can encourage citizen participation and urban biodiversity enhancement.

Urban Agriculture and Biodiversity

Urban Farming: Promoting urban agriculture, including biological production and urban farming communities, can play a significant role in enhancing urban biodiversity. Extensive Mowing and Grazing: Practices such as extensive mowing and urban grazing with animals can serve as flagship projects for biodiversity-friendly urban practices.

Regulate Urban Planting: Establish legal frameworks governing urban planting to ensure the use of native species and biodiversity-friendly practices.

Strategic Planning and Cooperation

Develop Comprehensive Green Urban Plans: Create detailed urban biodiversity plans that integrate green corridors and diverse habitats into city planning.

Foster Interdisciplinary Cooperation: Promote collaboration among biologists, urban planners, architects, and policymakers to address urban biodiversity challenges.

Public Awareness and Education

Enhance Environmental Education: Increase efforts to educate the public about the importance of urban biodiversity and encourage community engagement through interactive programs and nature experiences.

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Design Informative Public Spaces: Utilize public spaces to educate citizens about local biodiversity through informative displays and urban nature trails.
Co-Creation and Community Involvement
Promote Co-Creation Initiatives: Encourage the co-creation of green spaces by involving citizens in the planning, implementation, and maintenance processes to foster a sense of ownership and accountability.
Support Community-Driven Projects: Strengthen local civil organizations and community-led biodiversity projects through funding and technical support.
Addressing Urban Challenges
Improve Water Management: Implement sustainable water management practices and rehabilitate urban wetland habitats to support biodiversity.
Mitigate Invasive Species: Develop strategies to control invasive species and promote the use of native plants in urban areas.
Financial and Resource Allocation
Increase Funding for Biodiversity Projects: Allocate more financial resources to biodiversity conservation projects and urban greening initiatives.
Provide Subsidies and Incentives: Offer subsidies and incentives for urban biodiversity projects to encourage citizen participation and investment in green infrastructure.
Urban Agriculture and Biodiversity Practices
Promote Urban Agriculture: Support urban farming initiatives that contribute to biodiversity and provide ecological benefits to urban areas.
Implement Biodiversity-Friendly Practices: Encourage practices such as extensive mowing and urban grazing to enhance urban biodiversity.

Summary of the main results from the Best Practice cases

Denmark
Vejle Municipality Best Practices
Initiative: Collaborative efforts to promote urban biodiversity.
Achievements:
Innovative conservation solutions.
Active community engagement.
Impact: Sustainable urban ecosystems and strengthened community-nature

Portugal
Local Initiative: Plantar Lousada
Initiative: Tree planting to enrich the ecological landscape and foster social cohesion.
Achievements:
Empowered citizens and local organizations.

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Boosted regional economy by sourcing trees locally.
Impact: Enhanced community engagement and biodiversity.
Regional Initiative: FUTURO - The 100,000 Trees Project
Initiative: Rehabilitation of degraded areas through native tree planting.
Achievements:
Improved air quality and soil protection.
Engaged thousands of residents and received international recognition.
Impact: Significant biodiversity enhancement and community participation.
National Initiative: act4nature Portugal
Initiative: Encouraging companies to integrate biodiversity conservation into business models.
Achievements:
15 companies joined in the first year.
Impact: Promoted sustainable development and biodiversity conservation at a national level.

Italy
Protected Areas Network
Initiative: Management of national and regional parks and nature reserves.
Achievements:
Conservation of diverse habitats and species.
Impact: Protection of crucial habitats and promotion of biodiversity.
Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture
Initiative: Promotion of environmentally friendly farming practices.
Achievements:
Reduction of environmental impact from agriculture.
Impact: Enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Community Engagement and Citizen Science
Initiative: Involving local communities in biodiversity monitoring and conservation.
Achievements:
Increased public awareness and stewardship.
Impact: Strengthened community responsibility towards nature conservation.

Greece
Community Engagement and Citizen Science, Involving local communities in biodiversity monitoring and conservation.
Achievements: Increased public awareness and stewardship.
Impact: Strengthened community responsibility towards nature conservation.
Promote Urban Agriculture: Support urban farming initiatives that contribute to biodiversity and provide ecological benefits to urban areas.

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Implement Biodiversity-Friendly Practices: Encourage practices such as extensive mowing and urban grazing to enhance urban biodiversity.
Financial and Resource Allocation Increase Funding for Biodiversity Projects: Allocate more financial resources to biodiversity conservation projects and urban greening initiatives.
Provide Subsidies and Incentives: Offer subsidies and incentives for urban biodiversity projects to encourage citizen participation and investment in green infrastructure.

Hungary
Aurora Climate Garden in Budapest
Initiative: A small urban garden managed by an individual to create a semi-natural habitat.
Achievements:
Over 170 tree species and other plants.
Compost bins for local citizens.
Venue for climate change awareness and the Food Not Bombs initiative.
Impact: Enhanced community engagement and awareness on climate change and biodiversity.
City Level: Veszprém Municipality Grassland Management
Initiative: Ecological and sustainable grassland management to combat climate change and promote biodiversity.
Achievements:
Comprehensive study on innovative lawn management.
Awareness-raising activities involving local citizens and schools.
Impact: Increased biodiversity and community involvement in urban green space management.
National Level: Ecosystem Services Mapping
Initiative: A six-year project to map ecosystem services across Hungary.
Achievements:
Full coverage of Hungarian territory showing ecosystem distribution.
Extensive stakeholder involvement.
Impact: Supports green infrastructure development, nature protection, and educational purposes nationwide.

Austria
Promotion of Biodiversity: improving local urban biodiversity on a state-of-the-art level
Using new ways of working together and learning together reaching the aim of citizens and professionals being “natural natives”
Community Engagement: getting involved and involving others in terms of biodiversity action – and conservation projects

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Collaboration: working together for biodiversity among various stakeholders is beneficial in manyfold ways
Citizens are able to lead big UB projects and build resilient green infrastructure, it needs legal frameworks to get active
Establishing real change in (urban) ecosystems and biodiversity projects can take some time (years)
Climate adaption and measures and biodiversity-friendly design can and must go hand in hand to address the multiple crisis
We need projects on different scales and all over the city (step stone habitats and source habitats for species)

Final Conclusions

Despite the differences and the challenges that have been highlighted in this report, we would like to focus once again on some similarities among the partner countries on the urban biodiversity theme. We all agree that urban biodiversity is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems, enhancing quality of life, and ensuring sustainable urban development. To achieve this, here are some examples:
1. Commitment to Green Spaces: All countries recognize the importance of green spaces and have policies aimed at increasing and preserving urban greenery.
2. Community Engagement: There is a widespread effort to involve local communities in biodiversity projects, highlighting the role of public participation in successful biodiversity conservation.
3. Challenges of Urbanization: Rapid urbanization presents a common challenge, with cities needing to balance growth with the protection of natural habitats.
Suggestions for Improvement:
1. Enhanced Policy Frameworks: Developing comprehensive policies that integrate biodiversity with urban development plans.
2. Public-Private Partnerships: Encouraging collaborations between governments, businesses, and NGOs to fund and implement biodiversity projects.
3. Education and Awareness: Increasing public awareness and education on the importance of urban biodiversity.
4. Monitoring and Research: Investing in research and monitoring to better understand urban biodiversity trends and the effectiveness of interventions.
The case studies and the Co-B – bio project's main aims are to bring added value at the European level as a way to sustain the importance of co-creation too. The partnership has set up a process to share solutions to the biodiversity

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crisis supporting local co-creation actions to have a positive democratic effect, in raising awareness, and providing competences, mindsets, and social capital to act and get involved in important societal topics.By adopting concrete actions and addressing the highlighted challenges, European cities can enhance urban biodiversity, creating resilient and sustainable urban ecosystems that benefit both people and wildlife.

Annexes

The annexes can be found in the Google Drive folder below.
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15j9eK8IAhxNY43qdZbzX0dKj7w6If5N9

Pictures from Best Practice Cases

Denmark

More natures in the city

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Tirsbæk Hills

Wilde Vejle

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Portugal

Plantar Lousada

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Futuro Project

Italy

Largo alla Scuola

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Nature Based Solutions to
Regenerate Mediterranean Cities

Fioraia Project

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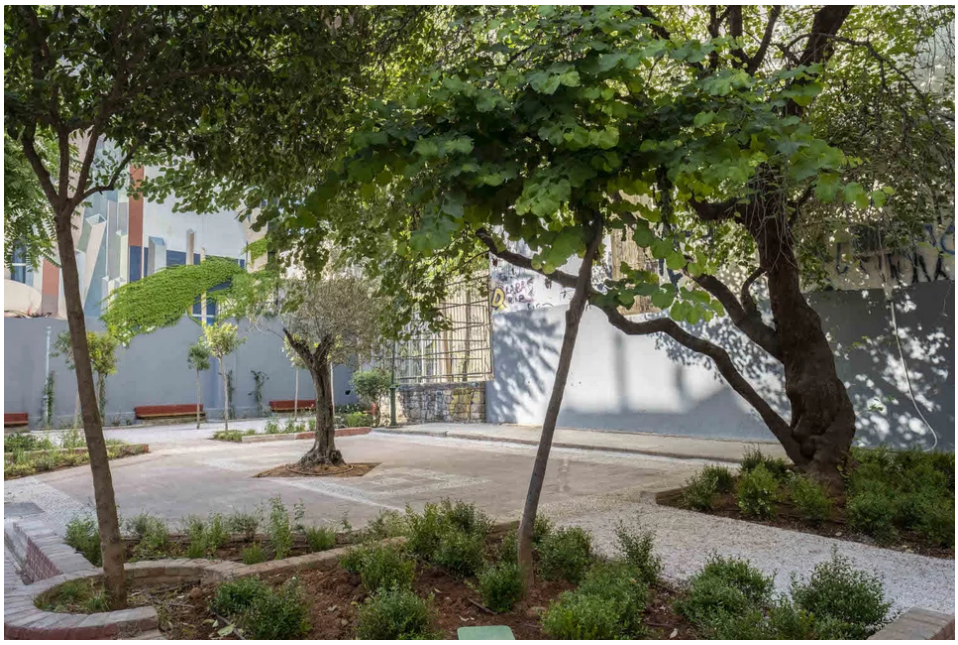
Greece

Center of the Earth

Pocket Park



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Eloris

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Hungary

Climate Garden in Budapest

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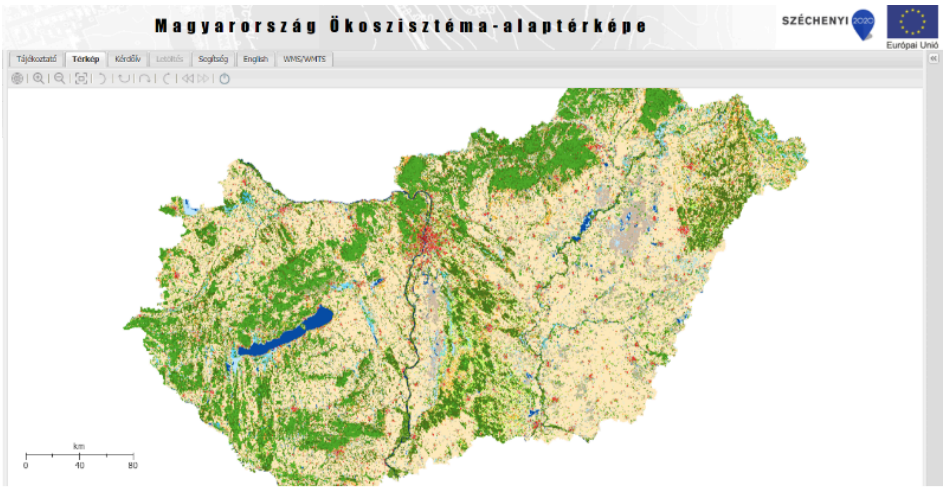
Wildflower Veszprém

Ecosystem map of Hungary



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Austria

Gardening around the corner

The park of diversity

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Biodiverse Campus of the University of Vienna

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GRØNT FORUM

VEJLE KOMMUNE

Co-creating biodiversity CO-BIO In urban areas

ATHENS LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

CfB CENTER FOR BORGERDIALOG

RightChallenge

gartenpolylog GärtnerInnen der Welt kooperieren

GREEN FORMATION

cesie the world is only one creature