EU URBAN AGENDA: Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-Based Solutions Partnership

Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-Based Solutions is one of 12 Priority Themes identified in the Pact of Amsterdam, adopted in 2016. Based on the Pact, the Urban Agenda for the EU was established and one of the Partnerships has focused on the above-mentioned theme.

The Partnership is jointly **coordinated by Poland** (represented by the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development) **and the city of Bologna, Italy**. Other partners are:

* **Partners representing Urban Authorities**: Antwerp (BE), Cork (IR), Métropole Européenne de Lille (FR), Stavanger (NO), Verband Region Stuttgart (DE), City of Zagreb (HR);
* **Partners representing the Member States**: Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia;
* **Partners representing the European Commission**: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), Directorate-General for the Environment (DG ENV), Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD), Joint Research Centre (DG JRC);
* **Partners representing other Stakeholders**: European Investment Bank (EIB), Catalan Land Institute (INCASÒL), EUROCITIES, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), European Environment Agency (EEA), International Society of City and Regional Planners  (ISOCARP)
* **Observers**: URBACT
* **Support**: Ecorys, European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)

The Partnership has defined its focus as being on the aim to: *“****ensure the efficient and sustainable use of land and natural resources to help create compact, liveable and inclusive European cities for everyone”****.* This general aim is followed by two objectives:

1. to **promote a liveable compactness city model** and
2. to **mainstream and promote Nature-Based Solutions as a tool for building sustainable and liveable urban spaces**.

A wide range of topics has been explored in the context of the Partnership, all related to the sustainable use and management of sparse land and other natural resources in urban development.

The priority themes that the partnership decided to focus on are:

1. **Land take;**
2. **Brownfields and under-used land;**
3. **Functional Urban Areas;**
4. **Nature-based solutions.**

The partners progressed with in-depth stock-taking and analysis of the above-mentioned themes, which resulted in the development of **9 proposals for actions**. Each action proposal has identified bottlenecks, objectives and desired outcomes. Each action has been formulated with the intention of contributing to one or more areas: **better regulation, better funding, better knowledge**, which aim to strengthen EU policies and approaches in the area of sustainable land use and nature-based solutions.

Sustainable Use of Land

* [Draft Action 1:](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-1-including-land-take-impact-assessment-procedures)INCLUDING LAND TAKE IN IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES (Bologna and UNIBO)
* [Draft Action 2:](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-2-financing-models-brownfield-development) FINANCING MODELS FOR BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT (Luxembourg)
* [Draft Action 3:](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-3-identifying-and-managing-under-used-land) IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING UNDER-USED LAND (URBACT)
* [Draft Action 4:](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-4-indicators-land-take) INDICATORS OF LAND TAKE (Bologna and UNIBO)
* [Draft Action 5](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-5-promoting-fua-cooperation-tool-mitigate-urban-sprawl): PROMOTING FUA COOPERATION AS A TOOL TO MITIGATE URBAN SPRAWL (Poland)

Nature-Based Solutions

* [Draft Action 6:](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-6-better-regulation-boost-nbs-european-national-and-local-levels)BETTER REGULATION TO BOOST NBS AT EUROPEAN, NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS (Bologna and UNIBO)
* [Draft Action 7.1:](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-71-prepare-nbs-funding-guide-assist-cities-accessing-funding-nbs)BETTER FINANCING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS - PREPARE AN NBS FUNDING GUIDE TO ASSIST CITIES IN ACCESSING FUNDING FOR NBS PROJECTS (Zagreb)
* [Draft Action 7.2:](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-72-overcoming-bias-existing-solutions-through-nbs-financial)BETTER FINANCING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS - OVERCOMING THE BIAS FOR EXISTING SOLUTIONS THROUGH NBS FINANCIAL INCENTIVES MAINSTREAMING (Bologna)
* [Draft Action 8:](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-8-awareness-raising-areas-nbs-and-sustainable-use-land-urban) AWARENESS RAISING IN THE AREAS OF NBS AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF LAND (URBAN SPRAWL) (Zagreb)
* [Draft Action 9:](https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/sustainable-land-use/draft-action-9-agreeing-common-targets-and-indicators-nature-based-solutions)DEVELOPING COMMON STANDARDS AND INDICATORS - AGREEING ON COMMON TARGETS AND INDICATORS FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, URBAN GREEN STRUCTURE, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN CITIES (Stavanger)

For each action the Draft Plan attempts to identify/address:

* Area of impact:
* What is the specific problem?
* How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?
* What action is needed? (by the partnership)
* How to implement the action?
* Which partners will be involved?
* What timeline applies?

In each of the ten online questionnaires respondents are asked ….

* How important they consider the issue in question to be
* To what extent they feel the proposed actions likely to successfully address the issue/s
* What might serves as a better solution
* Whether they are aware of “other initiatives or documentation developed at international, EU, national, regional or local level that could be relevant for this action”

Details and justifications are invited in regard of each of the above.

SUBMISSIONS ONLINE AT:

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: SEPTEMBER 19 2018**