

Urban Agenda for the EU - Sustainable Use of Land - **Draft Action 4**

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Draft Action 4: INDICATORS OF LAND TAKE



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BOTTLENECKS

Land take can be defined as the loss of undeveloped land to human-developed land. Concerning **net land take**, for the EC “no net land take” means that sealing agricultural land and open spaces should be avoided as far as possible and the focus should be on building on land that has already been sealed” (European Commission, 2016). It is used as a proxy indicator to account for the amount of soil being sealed by the increase of built-up areas due to urban expansion.

At present, no clear measurement of net land take has been developed and it may not deliver information on its actual impacts nor on its efficiency, considered in terms of employment or density of inhabitants, or soil sealing. Moreover, the definitions of land take and net land take provided at EU level do not frequently

adhere with the ones adopted in the national and regional urban planning laws, thus generating a discrepancy between what is mapped at EU and national levels by the agencies in charge of these tasks and what is mapped by local and regional authorities for measuring land take.

There are difficulties in accurately measuring net land take and of sufficiently measuring the land taken (i. e. reflecting compensation mechanisms) in a way that is useful to support sustainable urban planning, and furthermore, the datasets provided by the EEA to map land take have a resolution which is not able to map changes at urban and neighbourhood levels. As such, there is a need to complement the net land take indicator by a set of other indicators (e.g. soil sealing; urban dispersion, etc.), which will support a better approach to identifying and understanding the expected environmental impacts from spatial planning.

OBJECTIVE

This action aims to define a set of common indicators or a composite index of net land take that takes into account urban greening and re-naturalisation processes, as well as soil sealing / desealing at different spatial levels and with different resolutions. The intention is that this would provide a common reference indicator for MS and for EC in assessing the environmental impact of spatial plans and decisions and for setting reasonable targets for net land take.

On the one side, the action will review the land take indicators currently defined at EU and international levels and at the local level. On the other side, the possibility to map these indicators by using the datasets already available at EU level, which are the reference basis for all the Member States, will be explored. Many MS and regions use their own systems for mapping land take, but they are frequently based on datasets developed at European level. At the same time, municipalities and local administrations do not find proper datasets and mapping of specific phenomena within their territories in the existing national and even at regional level data sets (e.g. permeability of soils, heat island, etc.).

Moreover, this action will also explore whether the data collected by EEA responds to the identified need and, eventually, will aim to improve the way that data on the land take is collected and delivered.

OUTPUT

The Partnership will discuss with the European Environment Agency and with the DG ENV on the development of an updated definition of net land take. This will be made possible since EAGLE 2015, the new classification system for land cover/land use, has revised the way land cover changes are classified and can open to more precise ways to define net land take.

The final phase will consist of selecting and then testing a common composite land take definition/ index on real case studies to assess its effectiveness and its applicability (e.g. partnership cities).

NOTE: The actions are open for Public Feedback until Wednesday, 19 September 2018. The individual contributions to this Public Feedback will not be published on the Internet. You will be able to choose between providing your personal details or submitting your contribution anonymously. The results of the Public Feedback will be taken into consideration by the members of the Partnership for the preparation of the final version of the Action Plan and presented on DG meeting on Urban Matters in end-2018. Replies may preferably be submitted in English.

Read the [full draft Action Plan](#) for more detailed descriptions of all ten draft actions of the Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-Based Solutions Partnership.

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1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the weakest and 5 the strongest), to what extent do you find this issue crucial and why?

	1- Weakest	2- Weak	3- Regular	4- Strong	5- Strongest	N /A
* To what extent do you find this issue crucial?	<input type="radio"/>					

1.a. Please briefly justify your choice

* 2. Based on your experience, do you believe that this action would contribute to addressing the abovementioned bottlenecks?

- Mostly yes
- Partially yes
- No
- I do not know

2.a. Please briefly justify your choice

* 3. How do you think the bottleneck presented above could be better solved?

3.a. Which other actions do you think could tackle the above-mentioned bottleneck? Please briefly indicate which actors should be involved in its implementation.

* 4. Are you aware of initiatives or documentation developed at international, EU, national, regional or local level that could be relevant for this action?

- Yes
- No

4.a. If yes, thank you for providing relevant details

Respondent's profile

* 1.a. Which country are you from?

- | | | |
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| <input type="radio"/> Austria | <input type="radio"/> Germany | <input type="radio"/> Poland |
| <input type="radio"/> Belgium | <input type="radio"/> Greece | <input type="radio"/> Portugal |
| <input type="radio"/> Bulgaria | <input type="radio"/> Hungary | <input type="radio"/> Romania |
| <input type="radio"/> Croatia | <input type="radio"/> Ireland | <input type="radio"/> Slovak Republic |
| <input type="radio"/> Cyprus | <input type="radio"/> Italy | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia |
| <input type="radio"/> Czech Republic | <input type="radio"/> Latvia | <input type="radio"/> Spain |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Sweden |
| <input type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg | <input type="radio"/> United Kingdom |
| <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Other (Please specify) |
| <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Netherlands | |

Please specify

* 2. Are you a public, private or non-governmental organisation?

- Public
- Private
- NGO
- Other

Please specify

* Please specify the level of your public organisation:

- Local
- Regional
- National
- EU
- International

* 2.b. In which country is your organisation based?

- | | | |
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| <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Other (Please specify) |
| <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Netherlands | |

Please specify

3. Name, surname and position of the respondent

4. Name of the institution

5. Email

* How did you learn about the Public Feedback?

- Via Futurium
- Via the Urban Agenda for the EU newsletter
- Via Twitter
- Through a member of your network
- Other (Please specify)

Please specify

Thank you for participating in the Public Feedback! **More information:**

Read the [full draft Action Plan](#) and contribute to other actions of the Sustainable Use of Land and Nature-Based Solutions Partnership.

- [Draft Action 1](#): INCLUDING LAND TAKE IN IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES
- [Draft Action 2](#): FINANCING MODELS FOR BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT
- [Draft Action 3](#): IDENTIFYING AND MANAGING UNDER-USED LAND
- [Draft Action 5](#): PROMOTING FUA COOPERATION AS A TOOL TO MITIGATE URBAN SPRAWL
- [Draft Action 6](#): BETTER REGULATION TO BOOST NBS AT EUROPEAN, NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS
- [Draft Action 7.1](#): BETTER FINANCING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS - PREPARE AN NBS FUNDING GUIDE TO ASSIST CITIES IN ACCESSING FUNDING FOR NBS PROJECTS

- [Draft Action 7.2](#): BETTER FINANCING ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS - OVERCOMING THE BIAS FOR EXISTING SOLUTIONS THROUGH NBS FINANCIAL INCENTIVES MAINSTREAMING
- [Draft Action 8](#): AWARENESS RAISING IN THE AREAS OF NBS AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF LAND (URBAN SPRAWL)
- [Draft Action 9](#): DEVELOPING COMMON STANDARDS AND INDICATORS - AGREEING ON COMMON TARGETS AND INDICATORS FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, URBAN GREEN STRUCTURE, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN CITIES

[About the Public Feedback - Disclaimer](#)