

# URBAN NATURE PLANS +

## Short Brief



**How do urban  
nature plans  
work?**



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# URBAN NATURE PLANS + HOW?



This short brief provides an entry point to better understand how urban nature plans develop through a process of 10 steps.



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In the UNP+ project, we are striving to make urban nature the norm, not the exception. By working with cities, we aim to halt biodiversity loss and enhance urban ecosystems, fostering healthier and more resilient communities.

A primary goal for the UNP+ project is to develop a Capacity Building Programme (CBP) that facilitates Urban Nature Plans (UNPs) in cities across Europe in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy call for all cities over 20,000 inhabitants to do so.

## **How do urban nature plans work?**

A key to Urban Nature Plans (UNPs) is the collaborative process of developing them, including the need for working with citizens and other stakeholders, and for cross-departmental working and integration of the UNPs with other aspects of urban development, from mobility and health, air and water, to energy and climate adaptation.



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The 10 steps in UNPs include: (1) Political commitment; (2) Working structure; (3) Co-creation process; (4) Long-term vision and goals; (5) Current state of nature and biodiversity; (6) Indicators and targets; (7) Priorities, actions, responsibilities, timelines, and financing; (8) Communication, education, and public awareness strategy; (9) Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation system; and (10) Adopt, publish and implement the plan.



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# Insights from Belgrade:



Currently, Belgrade has approximately 16% of its territory covered by forests and 15% by green spaces, which contribute to its ecological diversity and urban resilience. Despite these natural assets, the city faces challenges such as the lack of a robust legal framework for renaturing infrastructure, insufficient implementation of planning regulations, and the need for stricter enforcement and inspection of green initiatives. Belgrade has taken steps to improve its urban green infrastructure. Adopted in 2019, the Green City Action Plan for the City of Belgrade reserves all green spaces for urban forests, parks, squares and tree-lined areas, ensuring future greening opportunities. The city is also actively developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy and an Urban Forest Development Programme.



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UNPs require (at least) two key actions to underpin the process of 10 steps.

First, a timetable for implementation, as well as a clear and specific budget with sources for the requisite funding identified. The delivery plan ideally needs to cover a period of 3-10 years. Second, providing a clear allocation of the responsibilities for the implementation of the policies and measures set out in the plan and the required resources.



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