

URBAN NATURE PLANS +

Short Brief



What kind of support is available for Urban Nature Plans?



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This short brief provides an entry point to better understand the available support for advancing urban nature plans.



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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.

What kind of support is available for urban nature plans?

There are a diversity of existing resources available that can support learning and better understanding of how to design, develop, implement and monitor UNPs. Here we highlight some programmes, podcasts, platforms and pathways.



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Insights from Mannheim



As an industrial centre and an important part of the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region, Mannheim faces the challenge of balancing urban development with environmental sustainability. Issues such as lacking funds for de-sealing paved surfaces, limited green space in densely populated areas and maintaining biodiversity amidst urban growth are key concerns. Natural spaces cover 50% of the total area in Mannheim (14,500 hectares). This includes 4,800 hectares of conservation areas, 1,800 hectares of woodland and numerous parks such as Luisenpark and Herzogenriedpark. More recently, the city has reclaimed former military areas and transformed them into new green residential districts, adding 80 hectares of accessible green space.



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Podcasts

The REGREEN podcast explores the concept of nature-based solutions, and how these solutions can help accelerate the transition towards equitable, green, and healthy cities in Europe and in China.

[Link](#)

Creating Green Cities is a podcast on urban-nature based solutions, explained through stories of inspiring innovators from across Europe.

[Link](#)

Platforms

CitiesWithNature is shared platform for cities and partners to engage and connect, working with commitment towards a sustainable urban world with nature in focus.

[Link](#)

The Urban Nature Platform by the European Commission supports towns and cities in restoring nature and biodiversity.

[Link](#)



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Programmes

UrbanByNature works with local governments and communities to integrate nature into the development of every urban, peri-urban, and rural space.

[Link](#)

The Urban Nature MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) explores nature-based solutions in cities in Europe and around the world, and how nature can shape the design of cities.

[Link](#)

Pathways

The Berlin Urban Nature Pact is an initiative for cities, local and regional authorities around the world that are leading the transition towards implementation of bold biodiversity action.

[Link](#)

The Urban Nature Accelerator is a commitment by cities to establish ambitious nature targets to achieve climate resilience and create an agenda for people and nature.

[Link](#)



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Further useful and helpful publications include the foundation document for urban nature plans by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the German Environment Agency as well as the recent guide for urban nature plans created by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

Tackling the climate and biodiversity crises in Europe through Urban Greening Plans [Link](#)

Bettina Wilk, Andreas Vetter and Alice Schröder

Urban Nature Plan: Considering quality of life, climate and biodiversity together! [Link](#)

Rieke Hansen, Lena Enderich and McKenna Davis

And finally, there are databases in the form of atlases that include examples of nature-based solutions in cities.

Urban Nature Atlas – A collection of more than 1000 examples of nature-based solutions in cities. [Link](#)

Urban Governance Atlas – A collection of more than 250 good practice policy instruments supporting nature-based solutions in cities. [Link](#)



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