

ANNEX PROJECTS IN THE THEMATIC SESSION ON URBANISM

BIOVEINS - Connectivity of green and blue infrastructures: living veins for biodiverse and healthy cities

The main objective of our BIOVEINS proposal is to use functional diversity to highlight the mechanisms underpinning the link between green and blue infrastructures (GBI), taxonomic diversity and ecosystem services provisioning, and to provide, together with local stakeholders, the ecological and interdisciplinary knowledge to identify the critical features of GBI, to guide the establishment, management and restoration of GBI, and to mitigate the effects of major urban global challenges, like habitat fragmentation, air pollution, and urban heat islands.

<u>Study sites:</u> Lisboa and Almada (PT), Zurich, Geneva and Bern (CH), Paris (FR), Ghent and Antwerp (BE), Poznań (PL)

**CROSSLINK** - Understanding cross-habitat linkages between blue and green infrastructure to optimize the management of biodiversity, ecosystem services and multiple human uses

CROSSLINK aims to (i) evaluate how the extent, spatial arrangement and connectivity of riparian-stream GBI affects biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services, and resilience indicators in forested, urban and rural settings, and (ii) to produce an optimization framework capable of balancing multiple values, uses and needs with longer term adaptive capacity and resilience in riparian-stream GBI. The project will develop in particular the Crosslink learning environment, which consists of science-based information to help address conflicts, and to provide guidance for optimizing the design of stream-riparian networks in rural to urban settings.

Study sites: Sweden, Norway, Romania and Belgium

**ENABLE** – Enabling green-blue infrastructure in complex social-ecological regions - system solutions to wicked problems

Connections to the wider social-ecological system are critical to Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) performance. The successful design and implementation of GBI requires careful consideration of a number of key aspects, such as user rights, people's perceptions of the benefits of GBI, accessibility, and ecological connectivity. The ENABLE project adopts a transdisciplinary approach to investigate the role GBI can play in tackling the socio-ecological challenges facing urban regions, taking into account how these key aspects interact and influence the performance of a green or blue solution. The project will develop methods and tools for assessing 1) how and under what conditions the benefits provided by GBI are most appreciated by people, 2) the accessibility and distribution of GBI benefits among urban residents, and 3) how the continuation of GBI benefit-flows can be secured in the long-term.



Study sites: Stockholm (SE), Oslo (NO), Barcelona (ES), Halle (DE), Lodz (PL), New York (USA)





www.biodiversa.org



URBANGAIA - Managing urban Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure to increase city resilience

UrbanGaia will capitalize the untapped knowledge of the many existing Green-Blue Infrastructures (GBI) in the urban context. The project will develop strategies and techniques to improve the governance and management of the urban GBI, aiming to: [i] increase biodiversity; [ii] enhance the environmental services provided by urban ecosystems and their impacts for the quality of life; [iii] develop new strategies to improve urban ecosystems and GBI governance, including management, planning, policy and legislation levels of intervention. The project will develop realistic indicators to evaluate, manage and develop performant GBIs in cities and intensively managed landscapes and provide tools for guiding their evaluation, establishment and management. The project applies an innovative two-way approach of scientific



mobilisation and spatial data mobilisation on the one hand, and on the other the transdisciplinary project guidance by GBI stakeholders, supported by citizen science applications.

Study sites: Vilnius (LT), Leipzig (DE), Ghent (BE), Coimbra (PT)