# URBAN GREEN UP

New strategy for Renaturing Cities through Nature Based Solutions

Methodology

# Introduction

This guide presents an integrated methodology for the development of Renaturing Urban Plans (RUP). The goal is to help cities worldwide to increase environmental sustainability and to address climate, social and economic challenges via the local implementation of Nature-based solutions (NBSs).

The methodology should be fully integrated in the city's urban planning and land use planning processes. It consists of four steps, explained in more detail in the next pages:
» Understand your present
» Choose your future aspirations
» Write the actual RUP plan
» Implement and monitor the actions

The methodology has been developed as part of the EU-funded project URBAN GreenUP. The project has also tested the methodology in the cities of Valladolid (Spain), Liverpool (UK), Izmir (Turkey) where NBS were implemented and monitored, and cities of Ludwigsburg (Germany), Mantua (Italy), Medellín (Colombia), Quy Nhon (Vietnam) and Chengdu (China) where RUP plans were written.

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The deliverables mentioned in this document are available at www.urbangreenup.eu/resources/

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## Step 1 / UNDERSTAND YOUR PRESENT

### IDENTIFY AND INVOLVE STAKEHOLDERS

Identify all key stakeholders for your RUP, including people in your organization, the public, businesses, and relevant governmental agencies. It is important to identify and involve them early on in your project. Once identified, the stakeholders will become a central part in the development and implementation of the RUP at some level.

Main output:
» List of key stakeholder groups.
» List of capabilities, interests, relationships for each group.

### MAP CHALLENGES

Define the green infrastructure picture by identifying the focus areas for each challenge and NBS. For each challenge, spatial data is required wherever possible. When it's not available, use the information to provide context for the RUP. This will be less useful and robust than mapped data.

Main output:
» Key focus areas for NBS cus paria.

### UNDERSTAND YOUR NEEDS AND CAPACITY

Identify the most important urban re-naturing trends and your goal. This will help understand the value of re-naturing your city and choose the most interesting scenario. Depending on the context (political, technical, legal, social, and financial implications) and the NBS characteristics, consider advantages and disadvantages of their integration. More information in "Organization of the 1st Kick-off City Workshop"

Main output:
» The city re-naturing goal.
» City profile (base) definition.
» 1st Kick off City Workshop.

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## Step 2  /  CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE

### PREPARE FOR CO-DELIVERY

Prepare a clear engagement plan which outlines clearly how your stakeholders will be involved with the preparation and delivery of the RUP.

Main output:
» Co-creation plan

### EVALUATE NBS SCENARIOS AND SELECT ONE

Find the best NBS for the needs, targets, and capacities of the city. You can do so by checking Deliverable D1.7 and by using the NBS selection tool developed by URBAN GreenUP and publicly available here: www.urbangreenup.eu/resources/nbs-selection-tool/nbs-selection-tool.kl

Main output:
» NBS scenario Tool

### CHOOSE YOUR "CITY" TARGETS

Identify the targets of your city and translate them into the language of challenges and sub-challenges. Select specific targets for each challenge, along with the reason why the challenge has been prioritized. More information in "NBS Catalogue" in Deliverable 1.1.

Main output:
» List of city challenges and sub-challenges.

### SET SPATIAL PRIORITIES

The main goal of this action is to identify the priority precincts for action – where will the NBS go. The mapping of the challenges had allowed the identification of the areas in "need", while the mapping of the existing green infrastructure and its functionality indicated which NBS are already in place across the city. More information in "Zoning for NBS"

Main output:
» List of green assets and pinch points





**Picture 1** / Plant carbon sink, Valladolid

**Picture 2** / Landscaping roads with permeable surfaces, Izmir

# Step 3 / **WRITE THE ACTUAL PLAN**

## ESTABLISH BASELINES AND KPIS

Establish the baseline condition of the locations where the NBS will be implemented. This includes the development of key performance indicators (KPIs), to monitor the baseline condition and assess the NBS impact. It must also link to the diagnosis process and provide a clear link between identification of needs, opportunities, and barriers to investment in NBS.

Main output:
»   Plan for collecting baseline data across a set of indicators

## PUBLISH AND PROMOTE RUP

Creating an NBS Community of Innovators and improving NBS communication are crucial for the renaturing urban areas. To this aim, publish the RUP and promote it via a local communication plan. Budget, and responsibilities will complete the strategic planning step.

Main output:
»   Promotion among the stakeholders
»   Validation of the early list of NBS
»   Write the RUP plan.

## CHOOSE HOW SUCCESS WILL BE MONITORED

Choose and prioritize KPIs. To this aim, establish a monitoring programme to track indicators and progress, considering the challenges and needs of the cities. Define a review process, as well as an adaptive management as milestones are met/missed and learnings derived. More information in "Use of the URBAN GreenUP NBS Scenario Tool" www.urbangreenup.eu/resources/nbs-selection-tool/nbs-selection-tool.kl.

Main output:
»   KPIs Guide
»   KPIs prioritization for NBS Tool







**Picture 1**
/ URBAN GreenUP Frontrunner City of Izmir

**Picture 2**
/ URBAN GreenUP Frontrunner City of Liverpool

**Picture 3**
/ URBAN GreenUP Frontrunner City of Valladolid

# Step 4 / IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR THE ACTIONS

## INTEGRATION INTO THE CITY COUNCIL'S URBAN PLANS

Identify the regulatory frameworks restricting the implementation of the RUP. This includes all the legal elements at international/national (standards, laws) and local level (rule, norm, ordinance, plan). Identify procurement processes and funding opportunities.

Main output:
» List of the main constrains to public procurement
» Funding opportunities.
» Outline to the integration of the RUP methodology into the Municipality Planning.

## ASSESS LESSONS LEARNT AND VALIDATE THE STRATEGY

Collect feedback on the implementation of the RUP, and insights concerning the early adoption of NBS. This will help improve RUP implementation for future applications, and help other cities develop successfully.

Main output:
» Collection of lessons learned and strategy validation through continues monitoring of KPIs.

## DEFINE BUDGET, ROLES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Create the team within the City Council that will implement the RUP. The team must be multidisciplinary and include members from various areas of the City Council. The financial plan should set a schedule for funding in accordance with the implementation timetable.

Main output:
» Definition of internal roles and responsibilities
» Co-create a Local Communication plan with your stakeholders
» Financial plan, innovative financial tools, annual budget







**Picture 1** / Green Shady Structure, Valladolid

**Picture 2** / Fruit wall, Izmir (©SinanAlper)

**Picture 3** / Green wall

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