

Promoting urban resilience through Nature based Solutions: insights from five Central European cities in GreenScape CE

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Abstract In the context of the growing climate challenges increasingly impacting Central European cities, the GreenScape CE project – Climate-proof landscape through renaturing urban areas in Central Europe, funded by Interreg CE, has developed and tested innovative approaches for the strategic integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Green Infrastructure (GI) in five urban areas that differ significantly in terms of challenges and scale: Metropolitan area of Milan (IT), Zagreb (HR), Warsaw (PL), Ptuj (SI) and Szeged (HU).

The oral presentation will focus on the three core dimensions of the NbS that were tested and refined across the five pilot cities:

1. Citizen engagement and co-creation models with key local stakeholders, aimed at increasing ownership and long-term sustainability of NbS;
2. Technical and tendering solutions, including design and procurement strategies adapted to complex urban contexts;
3. Financing models for the development and implementation of NbS/GI, from public and private funding to citizen-led initiatives.

These elements will be illustrated through concrete examples from the pilot cities, highlighting what worked, what didn't, and what can be adapted elsewhere. In addition, the conference will serve as an opportunity to present three key outputs developed within the project. These tools are targeted at public authorities, planners, and project developers, and are designed with replicability and scalability in mind for use in other urban contexts across Central Europe:

- Technical handbook for the implementation of NbS: offers practical technical guidance and key lessons from the pilot cities to support public authorities in replicating urban NbS.
- Handbook for financing NbS: presents financing strategies (public, private, and citizen-driven) across different project phases, based on real experiences from the pilot cities.
- Guide to co-creating urban NbS with citizens: provides local governments with tested tools and engagement models to involve citizens in the design and implementation of nature-based urban projects.

Together, these results contribute to a growing body of knowledge on how to implement NbS effectively, inclusively, and sustainably, supporting the transition toward more resilient, livable, and climate-proof cities.