

# PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

**A working conference to develop a road map for planting 3 billion trees in Europe by 2030 through involving civil society as well as celebrating and awarding the winners of the European Tree of the Year contest.**

## Main organiser

Nadace Partnerství on behalf of the Environmental Partnership Association

## Auspices and co-hosting

- MEPs: patrons of the European Tree of the Year award ceremony in Brussels – Luděk Niedermayer and Michal Wiezik
- Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Tomáš Petříček
- European Landowners' Organisation

## Venue and date:

Online format on **ZOOM**

**Date: March 17th, 13:00 – 15:30**

## Why is it important?

To plant **3 billion trees by 2030 (6 trees per each EU citizen)** beyond existing forests and plantations is one of the very ambitious goals of the new EU Green Deal.

Fulfilling this commitment will have great impact especially on the resilience and adaptation to climate change of European landscapes and cities, also it has the potential to contribute to mitigation goals (one solitary leaf tree planted in 2021 can sequester ca 1.2 ton CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050).

Partners of the Conference:



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Nadace Partnerství **is running a similar campaign at national level**, and we can witness how difficult it is to reach even a six times less ambitious goal - to plant a tree for each citizen (though within 5 years). It would not be possible without the support of the Ministry of the Environment, state institutions or local governments as well as without involving private sector, small or large companies, NGOs, schools, farmers, landowners, arborist organisations or VIPs and influencers. The Czech lesson is that the key factor of success is mobilising civil society to participate across the political and/or social status spectrum.

Ten years of experience in organising the **European Tree of the Year Contest** through national organisers in fifteen EU member states demonstrates that there is a capacity to mobilise the public at EU level.

Let's discuss how the European Commission and EU Member States can catalyse and support civic engagement for reaching the common goal of planting 3 billion trees. The aim of this conference is to formulate recommendations based on the practical experience of relevant stakeholders across Europe.

## Format

A working on-line conference with limited participation (up to 60 invited leaders) of senior representatives from key stakeholder groups across the EU. The suggested format enables interaction bottom up from grassroots or towns in member states up to national governments, and to European institutions or international corporations. The ZOOM will be used for on-line communication, and the Conference will be streamed on our social media.

There will be no speeches beyond the introductory keynote. The participants will share their experience and recommendations related to tree planting as part of their respective climate policies and activities in four working groups (break out rooms).

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We will have 50 minutes for intensive debate in four parallel working groups, each of them facilitated by a moderator and notemaker. Time for contributions in the discussion will be limited to 3 minutes. The aim is to summarise what works, and what does not work in the tree planting and carbon capturing initiatives of participating stakeholders. Recommendations for EU policy level as well for national governments are very welcome.

## Programme

- General introduction by moderator (Ladislav Miko, European Commission)
- Keynote speech EC **Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans** (tbc)
- Working group discussion on:
  - **1st WG Land Access and Planting Methods**  
*(where and how to plant 3 billion trees)*
  - **2nd WG Trees for Resilient Cities and Landscapes**  
*(engagement of the public sector - EC, national, regional and municipal governments)*
  - **3rd WG Civil and Corporate Engagement**  
*(role of private sector and civil society)*
  - **4th WG Investing in Greener Future**  
*(financing tree planting, matching of public and private sources, flexibility of financial mechanisms, experience from member states ...)*
- Wrap up on behalf of each Working Group - recommendations to the European Commission
- Feedback from the plenary and Concluding remarks by moderator
- Celebration of and award to the winners of the **European Tree of the Year 2021**

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## Stakeholders to be invited

- **European Parliament**
- **European Commission**
- **Other public authorities - national, regional governments, tree planting cities**
- **Brussels stakeholders**
- **Green NGOs / CSOs**
- **Local / European tree planting initiatives**
- **Private sector / Business / CSR**
- **Media**

Partners of the Conference:

