



Co-designing Locally-tailored Ecological Solutions for Value-added, Socially Inclusive Regeneration in Cities (CLEVER Cities)

Project

Research Program

[Horizon 2020](#)

Duration

Jun 2018 - Nov 2023

[CLEVER Cities Guidance](#)

With three quarters of the European Union's population living in cities and further increases expected, societies are increasingly facing socio-political shifts and marginalization. Limited availability of physical space, changing urban demographics, and increasing cultural diversity compound these challenges and create issues like high crime rates, social inequality, poverty, health threats, and unemployment. Some areas are particularly vulnerable, such as economically deprived, abandoned and neglected urban areas with a low share of green spaces. The Horizon2020 funded project “**CLEVER Cities**” responded to these challenges by designing and implementing locally tailored nature-based solutions (NbS) to foster sustainable and socially inclusive urban regeneration.

Coordinated by the City of Hamburg, CLEVER Cities (i.e. *Co-designing Locally tailored Ecological solutions for Value added, socially inclusivE Regeneration in Cities*) involved 33 partners from Europe, South America, and China. The cities of Hamburg, London and Milan implemented a range of NbS interventions during the project, and partake in exchanges with six further cities (Sfântu Gheorghe, Quito, Madrid, Belgrade, Larissa, and Malmö) to share experiences, facilitate mutual learning and stimulate local NbS planning. In particular, the locally-tailored NbS focused on improving human health and well-being, sustainable economic prosperity, social cohesion and environmental justice, and citizen security for urban populations. The deployment, monitoring, and replication of a range of ecological solutions helped CLEVER Cities to achieve the following objectives over its five-year duration:

- Advance the knowledge base on NBS for inclusive urban regeneration,
- Integrate NBS in urban regeneration and planning process, and
- Produce governance, business and financial models for NBS projects.

Ecologic Institute in CLEVER Cities

Within the transdisciplinary research and implementation project, Ecologic Institute coordinated the development of the *CLEVER Knowledge Framework*, consisting of a series of targeted guidelines, factsheets, and checklists to guide project activities. It also led the policy analysis in the case study sites and on the European level to identify policy gaps and formulate multilevel recommendations. The Institute further coordinated the development

of the *CLEVER Cities Guidance*, providing planning authorities and decision makers, businesses, academia and other stakeholders with tools and tailored information to successfully plan, design and implement collaborative NbS for urban regeneration. Finally, Ecologic Institute supported outreach and dissemination activities to increase the reach and impact of *CLEVER Solutions* and other project outputs.

Funding

European Commission, [Directorate-General Research & Innovation](#) (DG Research & Innovation), International

Partner

[Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg](#), Germany
[Agenția Națională pentru Protecția Mediului](#) (ANPM), Romania
[Ambiente Italia](#), Italy
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[City of Belgrade](#), Serbia
[Centre for Experiments in Urban Studies](#) (CEUS), Serbia
[Comune di Milano](#), Italy
[Municipality of Larisa](#), Greece
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[Tecnalia Research & Innovation](#), Spain
[Greater London Authority](#), United Kingdom
[Green4Cities](#) (G4C), Austria
[Groundwork London](#), United Kingdom
[The HafenCity University Hamburg](#) (HCU), Germany
[Hamburgisches WeltWirtschaftsinstitut](#) (HWWI), Germany
[ICLEI European Secretariat](#) (ICLEI Europe), International
[Local Governments for Sustainability](#) (ICLEI), International
[Malmö City](#), Sweden
[Municipality of Sfântu Gheorghe](#), Hungary
[Peabody](#), United Kingdom
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