

---

# International Cooperation to Restore and Connect Urban Environments in Latin America and Europe (INTERLACE)

## Project

### Research Program

Horizon 2020

### Duration

Sep 2020 - Aug 2024

[INTERLACE project website](#)

Cities and their peripheries are constantly confronted with challenges such as urban sprawl, climate change and pollution. These processes can exacerbate the degradation of natural ecosystems, and jeopardize ecosystem service provisioning with negative consequences for human health and well-being, biodiversity, social cohesion and equity, and, finally, city resilience. The INTERLACE project brings together a unique consortium of European and Latin American partners to contribute to effectively restoring and rehabilitating urban ecosystems to make cities more livable, resilient and inclusive. The project aims to advance knowledge and awareness of restorative nature-based solutions (NBS), such as the restoration of wetlands and rivers, as well as to foster more ecologically coherent and integrated city planning processes. In addition, it lays the foundation for sustained multi-directional cooperation and exchange between European and Latin American cities for wider transformative impact.

### **Nature-based solutions to restore urban ecosystems**

Nature-based solutions (NBS) are particularly suitable for tackling the recovery of degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems, utilizing nature to build resilience and provide environmental, social and economic benefits. Examples of NBS range from creating biodiverse forests to the introduction of new green and blue areas to refitting grey infrastructure and the creation of community gardens. NBS effectiveness relies on a transdisciplinary collaboration of actors to develop, maintain and monitor locally appropriate solutions. It also depends on enabling diverse and inclusive participation of local communities in co-production of solutions, while strengthening their relationship with nature.

### **Project objectives and activities: Enabling cooperation across continents**

The overall aim of INTERLACE is to empower and equip European and Latin American cities to

effectively restore and rehabilitate (peri)urban ecosystems towards more livable, resilient and inclusive cities. To achieve this aim, INTERLACE is active in four cities: Granollers, Spain; Envigado, Colombia; Portoviejo, Ecuador; Chemnitz, Germany and two intermunicipal associations: Metropolia Krakowska, Poland and the Corredor Biológico Interurbano Río María Aguilar-San José, Costa Rica. The project will support the cities' ambition to implement urban ecological restoration through NBS and will

- strengthen cooperation between European and Latin American communities of practice on urban ecological restoration and rehabilitation;
- foster participatory engagement to co-produce and promote ownership in constructing and monitoring restorative NBS;
- engage in capacity building measures for local governments to implement integrated and ecologically coherent urban planning and governance approaches responding to their needs and challenges and,
- raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of healthy (peri)urban ecosystems for social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

INTERLACE aims to strengthen cooperation and peer-to-peer interactions on the local, regional and global scales through the City Network Accelerator: a bespoke mechanism for stakeholder exchange and learning. The six partner cities are central to this process, providing and sharing experiences with other cities globally and building technical and procedural capacities. A web-based Innovation Hub will support these efforts by disseminating INTERLACE's results and the hands-on tools for urban decision-makers and planners created by the project.

### **The role of Ecologic Institute**

Ecologic Institute is coordinating the overall project, which is funded under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme. Moreover, Ecologic Institute is leading the work package on governing restorative nature-based solutions in cities.

### **Funding**

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

### **Partner**

Ecologic Institute, Germany  
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain  
Tecnalia Research & Innovation, Spain  
Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples, The European Secretariat (Climate Alliance), International  
Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), Norway  
Yepez Salmon Asociados, YES Innovation, Ecuador  
Sendzimir Foundation, Poland  
Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO), Belgium  
Humboldt Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt (Instituto Humboldt), Colombia  
Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA), Costa Rica  
Ville de Nanterre, France  
Unión Nacional de Gobiernos Locales (UNGL), Costa Rica  
Stowarzyszenie Metropolia Krakowska, Poland  
Asociación de Desarrollo Salitrillos, Concepción (CBIMA), Costa Rica  
City of Chemnitz, Germany  
Gobierno Autónomo Descentralizado Municipal de Portoviejo, Ecuador

Alcaldia de Envigado, Colombia  
Granollers, Spain  
WWF, Colombia, Colombia

## **Team**

Sandra Naumann  
Benedict Bueb  
Ewa Iwaszuk  
Katriona McGlade  
McKenna Davis  
Doris Knoblauch

## **Duration**

Sep 2020 - Aug 2024

## **Project ID**

33011

## **Keywords**

Adaptation  
Biodiversity  
Cities  
Communication  
Governance  
International Development  
Nature-based solutions, NBS, International Development, cities, urban restoration, ecosystem-based adaptation, urban ecosystem restoration, sustainable urban development, co-production of knowledge, ecosystem services  
Latin America, Europe, Granollers, Spain, Envigado, Colombia, Portoviejo, Ecuador, Chemnitz, Germany, Metropolia Krakowska, Poland, Corredor Biológico Interurbano Río María Aguilar-San José, Costa Rica

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ecologic.eu/17542>