



Ecologic Institute

Science and Policy
for a Sustainable World








Nature-based solutions across key European policy initiatives: A framework for enhancing local action

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UNaLab Final Conference – 7 September 2022

Key EU policies supporting NBS

European Green Deal

 Biodiversity	 Forests	 Land use and forestry	 Water and Marine	 Agriculture	 Climate change	 Disaster risk reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Restoration Law Nature Directives Pollinators Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LULUCF Regulation Soil Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Water Directive · Floods directive Marine Strategy Framework Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Agricultural Policy Farm to Fork Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy on adaptation to climate change EU Climate Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan on the SFDRR 2015-2030

Urban

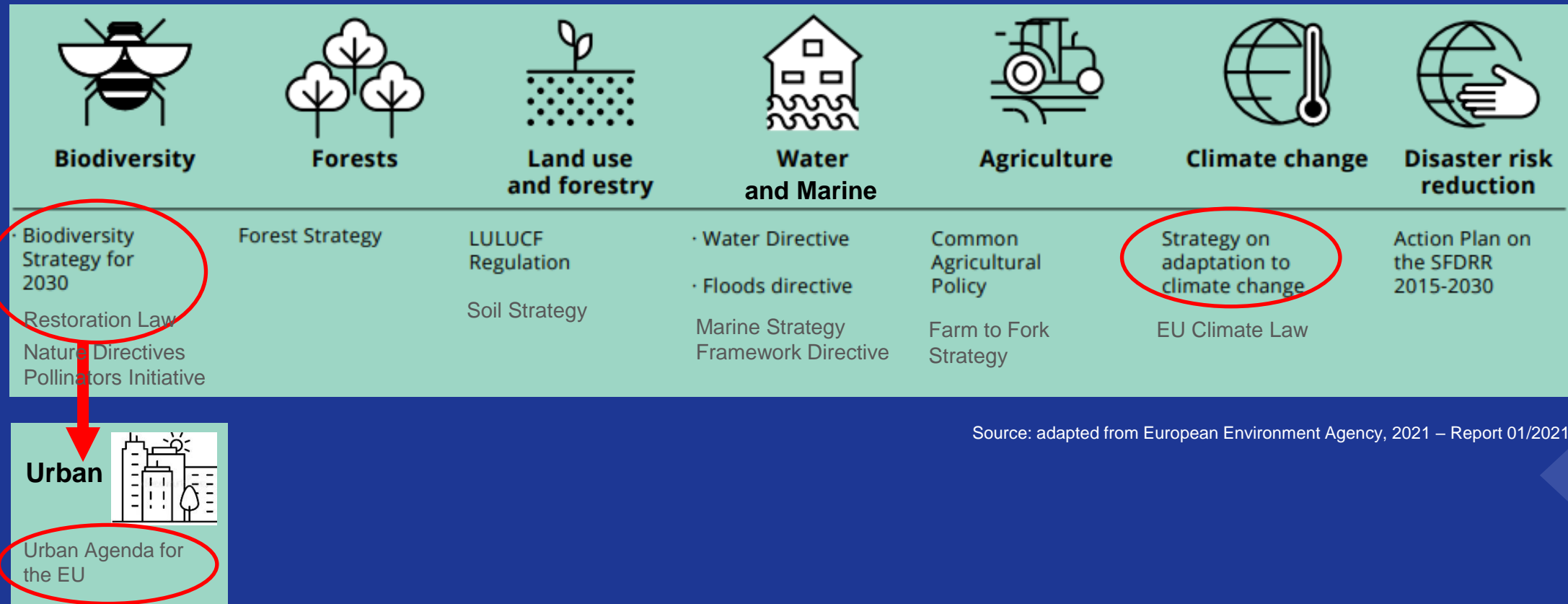


Urban Agenda for the EU

Source: adapted from European Environment Agency, 2021 – Report 01/2021

Selection of EU policies supporting NBS

European Green Deal



Source: adapted from European Environment Agency, 2021 – Report 01/2021

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
Urban Greening Plans
EU Restoration Law



EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030



- ▶ Spotlight on green infrastructure for adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- ▶ EU Urban Greening Platform – Green City Accord
 - DG ENV, ICLEI and Eurocities prepared guidance for **Urban Greening Plans** – official launch during the EU Regions Week on 13 October ([Launch of the Urban Greening Plans: what it means for my city or region ONLINE](#))
- ▶ Transformative change requires the promotion of NBS
- ▶ Increased investment in natural capital and unlocking of at least EU 30 billion / year to be spent on nature
- ▶ Ambition to create binding EU Restoration Law

Belgrade's Urban Greening Plan

Created Urban Greening Plan for a Linear Park along former railway corridor along the Danube

Aim: improve microclimate within the park, support biodiversity, and ensure co-benefits for public health and resident well-being by creating ecological corridor

Process began in 2019 with a public survey on urban nature, landscape architectural design competition, and finalization of winning proposal after public comment (adopted by EC in June 2022)

Plan also lists green roofs and green walls as obligatory elements of any new construction adjacent to the park



Source:
<https://www.urbanbynature.eu/news/belgrades-urban-greening-plan-makes-history>

Proposal for a binding EU Restoration Law



- ▶ Proposal adopted by European Commission in June 2022
- ▶ Focus on large-scale restoration of degraded ecosystems, particularly to capture and store carbon and minimize natural disaster impacts
- ▶ **Urban ecosystem target:** no net loss of green urban space by 2030; 3% increase in the total area covered by green urban space by 2040 and 5% increase by 2050 (as compared to 2021); minimum of 10 % urban tree canopy cover by 2050
- ▶ Further targets based on existing legislation across habitat types
- ▶ Next steps:
 - Discussion in the European Parliament and Council; adoption expected by March 2024
 - EU countries expected to submit National Restoration Plans to the Commission within two years of the Regulation coming into force



EU Adaptation Strategy

- ▶ Outlines long-term vision for EU to become a climate-resilient society, adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change by 2050

Increased focus on ...

- ▶ Systemic / integrative and transformative approach across policy fields and governance levels
- ▶ Development of adaptation strategies on regional and local level, including the implementation of solutions (moving from planning to action)
- ▶ Nature-based solutions for adaptation as one of three cross-cutting priorities



- ▶ Launched in May 2016 to stimulate urban growth, liveability and innovation and tackle social challenges and renewed in 2021 through the Ljubljana Agreement
- ▶ Develops actions to improve existing regulations around urban areas, support/improve innovative funding, and share/develop knowledge (data, studies, good practices)
- ▶ New, multi-level working method promoting cooperation between Member States, cities, the European Commission, and other stakeholders
- ▶ Launching a **new thematic partnership on Greening Cities** – applications until September 16th
 - [Call for Partners: Urban Agenda for the EU Partnerships on Greening Cities \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu/call-for-partners-urban-agenda)

Translating EU ambition into local action



Need to integrate NBS into urban planning and policies

Policy instruments and their governance act as critical enablers or barriers to adoption

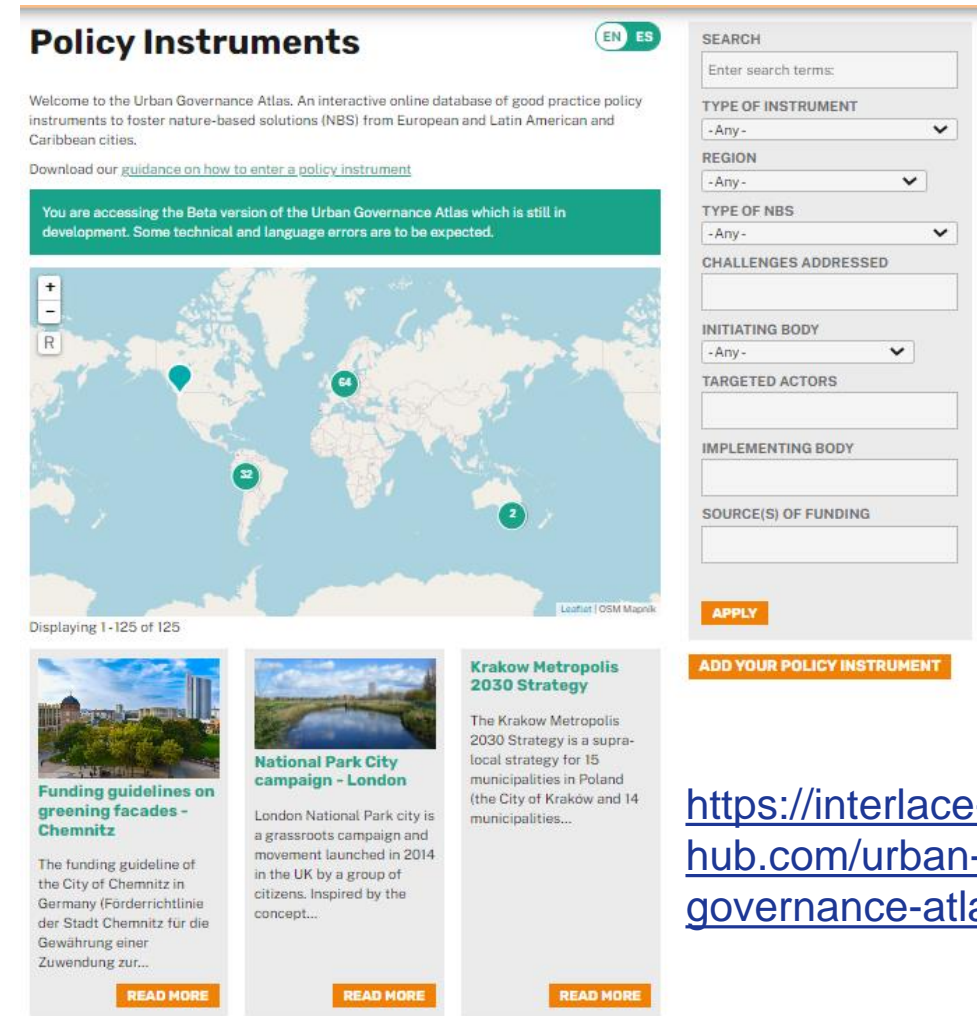
„Shift from government to governance“ (*UNaLab Municipal Governance Guidelines*)



Lack of specific and proven local policy instrument examples in support of NBS, especially regarding new approaches to governance ... *until now!*

Urban Governance Atlas

- Interactive online database (currently in Beta format)
- 250 policy instruments from the EU / CELAC / beyond
- Inspire action through the exploration of good practice policy instruments
- Includes: factors making instruments successful, financing, lessons learned in design, implementation and governance
- Foster ecologically coherent, inclusive planning for urban ecosystem restoration and green space planning
- Four types of policy instruments featured:
 - Legislative, regulatory, and strategic
 - Economic and fiscal
 - Agreement-based or cooperative
 - Knowledge, communication and innovation



The screenshot displays the 'Policy Instruments' section of the Urban Governance Atlas. At the top, there are language toggles for 'EN' and 'ES'. A search bar is located on the right side, labeled 'SEARCH' with the placeholder 'Enter search terms:'. Below the search bar, there are several filter dropdowns: 'TYPE OF INSTRUMENT' (set to '- Any -'), 'REGION' (set to '- Any -'), 'TYPE OF NBS' (set to '- Any -'), 'CHALLENGES ADDRESSED' (empty), 'INITIATING BODY' (set to '- Any -'), 'TARGETED ACTORS' (empty), 'IMPLEMENTING BODY' (empty), and 'SOURCE(S) OF FUNDING' (empty). An 'APPLY' button is at the bottom of the filters. On the left, a world map shows the distribution of instruments with markers for 64 in Europe, 32 in Latin America, and 2 in the Caribbean. A green banner above the map states: 'You are accessing the Beta version of the Urban Governance Atlas which is still in development. Some technical and language errors are to be expected.' Below the map, it says 'Displaying 1 - 125 of 125'. Three featured policy instrument cards are shown at the bottom: 'Funding guidelines on greening facades - Chemnitz', 'National Park City campaign - London', and 'Krakow Metropolis 2030 Strategy'. Each card includes a brief description and a 'READ MORE' button.

<https://interlace-hub.com/urban-governance-atlas>

Urban Governance Atlas: Spotlight on the NL



Map of opportunities and city safari - Breda

The Map of Opportunities is a knowledge and innovation instrument created by citizens, communities and other local stakeholders together...

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Repurposing streets to green transit areas - Amsterdam

The repurposing of streets into green transit areas is an agreement-based instrument to increase the amount of urban green spaces in...

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Amsterdam 'Urban Parks' Strategy

"Urban Parks" is one of the strategic scenarios within The Quality Impulse Green (Kwaliteitsimpuls Groen), Amsterdam's city-...

[READ MORE](#)



Green Roof Subsidy - Rotterdam

Since 2008, citizens can apply for a green roof subsidy from the city of Rotterdam in the Netherlands to partially cover the otherwise...

[READ MORE](#)



Urban Traffic Plan - Rotterdam

The Rotterdam Urban Traffic Plan 2017-2030+ is a strategic planning document of the Municipality of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The...

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Thank you!

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