

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: CA17133

STSM title: The role of NBS in urban planning – A case study for Novi Sad (Serbia)

STSM start and end date: 01/09/2021 to 01/10/2021

Grantee name: Maria Viota

PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

(max.200 words)

The general purpose of STSM was to contribute to an interdisciplinary platform aim at exploring and understanding how city councils and local governments across Europe deal with current challenges cities are facing such as phenomena like urban heat island effect, flooding, treatment of waste and runoff waters from different origins as well as healthy and secure food provision.

As contemporary sustainable urban planning and design has to respond to these challenges, the STSM aimed specifically at the understanding of how nature is brought into the city, *i.e.*, how the tools and methods of nature-based solutions (NBS) as well as the elements of circular economy are applied in the urban context taking a case study the city of Novi Sad (Serbia) to better understand their potentiality and extract information that might guide sustainable urban planning.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

(max.500 words)

During the STSM, the factors influencing urban planning and city council policies have been explored for the city of Novi Sad (Serbia) in order to formulate recommendations to introduce NBS at the local level. The STSM was based on an exploratory case study methodology to understand and compare the practices of urban planners concerning NBS which involved both qualitative and quantitative methods.

The main tasks carried out during the STSM consisted of conducting interviews with decision-makers, planners, researchers and representatives of local population. The list of interviewees was prepared by the host institute with the collaboration of the STSM grantee. The interviews were semi-structured and were assisted by members of the host team in order to assure the optimal outcome of work. Interviews had a duration of 1-1.5 hour approximately and consented notes and recordings were taken for further analysis.

Afterwards the interviews were transcribed by the STSM grantee and the information was analyzed by means of analysis of content tools for the further preparation of the case study.

The field work also included some on-ground visits to better understand the practice of NBS in the city. For instance, PUC City Greenery Novi Sad – GREEN which is an example of circularity for the public urbanspace. They recover the green leftovers from the public parks and gardens to produce compost as well as they grow plants for the city, as displayed in the following pictures:





During the STSM, the grantee also attended online coordination meetings with the Action members to share advances and receive guidance on the process of the STSM.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

The STSM has also contributed to the co-creation of knowledge among researchers and practice-oriented experts for the discussion and development of urban nature-based solutions (NBS) to cope with urban challenges that compromise city dwellers' well-being.

The main result of the STSM is the contribution for the city of Novi Sad to a comparative analysis on the use of NBS in urban planning in several European cities that has covered the different aspects of water management, resource recovery, urban agriculture, climate change mitigation and built environment.

Specifically, this case study preparation has produced two outcomes. On the one hand, the production of a short description of the city focusing on the use of NBS (a *status quo*) and a stakeholder map; on the other hand, the capture of the variety of interviewees' (*i.e.*: city planners, civil servants, architects, biologists and researchers) opinions, values, and attitudes to understand how an NBS appears or does not appear in urban planning and it all ultimately contributes to bridge the gap among science, policy and society.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

The collaboration with the host institute will continue after the end of the STSM to prepare a collaborative paper together with the all institutes involved in the research.

The interdisciplinarity of the Action platform will allow creating synergies and research collaboration with Dr. Dragan Milosević whose work is very much of interest for the grantee and potentially with other members of the Action in line with the idea of the nature contributions to people and the NBS.