



A YEAR IN REVIEW



Team members in Ioannina during the AGM



Site of proposed new NBS in Ioannina linking the old military barracks to the waterfront



NBS Indicators workshop during the AGM in Ioannina

When our Connecting Nature project consortium gathered for our first AGM in the Greek city of Ioannina in June 2018, it didn't feel like a year had passed since we gathered for our kick off meeting in rainy Dublin - many of us strangers, and nearly all of us not terribly sure what lay ahead of us and how were we going to deliver on what we had committed to!

We needn't have worried however...one year on and the vision has become operationalized. Clarity and focus have emerged and thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of all project partners Connecting Nature is now running like a well-oiled machine.

One year on is a good time to reflect on our achievements thus far and to share these with our stakeholders.

Bringing cities to life, Bringing life into cities

ESTABLISHING BASELINES

In many respects much of the work in the first year was about establishing baselines, identifying and creating a database of over 340 existing nature-based solutions (NBS) in Europe, conducting a series of literature reviews establishing current situations on indicators, finance mechanisms, co-creation and knowledge co-production relating to nature-based solutions. Having established baselines, solid work could begin with the Front Runner Cities on developing their capacity and expertise in delivery of NBS.

FRONT RUNNER CITIES: FROM WORKSHOPS TO MASTERPLANS

A series of intense workshops have been held in each of our 3 front runner cities of Glasgow, Genk and Poznań to determine their priorities for their nature-based exemplar, the indicators they will focus on, where the expertise lies within each city, how their NBS will be financed and most importantly clarifying where the challenges and gaps lie. The design of the co-creation guidebook to support cities in working towards a Connecting Nature framework for NBS implementation is underway and the reflexive monitoring process in development to track progress is currently being tested in Genk.



Greening Glasgow: Pollok Country Park



Visiting NBS during a Masterplanning workshop in Genk



Poznań's famous Green Corridors or Wedges Intersecting the City

It has been an intense and challenging 12 months for each of the cities and the partners involved in these tasks. What has emerged from this process is a clarity and an agreed plan of the direction and process that each city will undergo in the creation, development and implementation of their nature-based exemplar.

GOING GLOBAL

Connecting Nature is delighted to welcome 3 new partners to the consortium. Joining us from Scotland is [Greenspace Scotland](#) who will be working closely with Glasgow City on the development of their nature-based exemplar. A core part of the Connecting Nature remit is to extend our reach beyond Europe to multiplier hubs in China and South Korea and we now welcome [CRAES - Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences](#) and [SKKU - SungKyunKwan University](#) from Korea into the team.

The work of two existing partners ABU and TTI has also been taken seamlessly by new legal entities Horizon Nua and Osmos.

It's been a busy first year for us so...

WHAT NEXT?

Over the next year, we can expect to see the final version of the Co-Creation Guidebook for Cities, the launch of the Connecting Nature Academy for Nature-based Solutions which provides a platform for multiplier (non-EU) cities to share experience and learn about NBS implementation.

Connecting Nature's fast follower cities are embarking on an Experiential Learning Programme where the knowledge gained by the front runner cities will be transferred through peer-to-peer learning and a series of planned workshops and webinars. From there the fast follower cities will begin to co-create their own plans for implement of NBS within the overall Connecting Nature Framework.

The Connecting Nature Enterprise Acceleration Programme is also gearing up to support the emergence, funding and growth of enterprises developing and supplying nature-based solutions.

To keep in touch with Connecting Nature activity don't forget to...

STAY CONNECTED

E: info@connectingnature.eu

[#connectingnature](#)

W: www.connectingnature.eu

[#transformingcities18](#)

T: [@connectingNBS](https://twitter.com/connectingNBS)

F: <https://www.facebook.com/ConnectingNBS/>

Photo Credits:

1 - Marcus Collier, TCD; 2 – Giorgos Antoniou City of Ioannina, 3 – Fiona Cooper, Horizon Nua; 4 and 5: Siobhan McQuaid, TCD; 6 – Miasto Poznań



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Union
Grant No: 730222