GreeningCities

Pathways for the Green Future -Supporting Finnish Municipalities in Urban Greening Plans





Scientific background

- ➤ To help reverse biodiversity loss in urban and peri-urban areas, the European Union (EU) has called cities with at least 20,000 inhabitants to develop greening plans by the end of 2021
 - measures to mainstream naturebased solutions and urban greening initiatives into policy, legislation and governance
 - promote citizen engagement (Target
 11 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy)

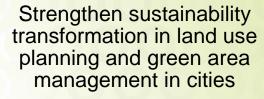






GreeningCities Goals







Assist municipalities in implementing greening plans



High-societal impact by helping to improve the quality of urban settings



- Clarify how EU level strategy targets should be streamlined into local level municipal decision-making
- Deepen the knowledge gained in the VASU project of urban greening plans and related other plans or programs
 - Highlight prerequisites, needs and challenges
- Explore urban greening plans of different European/global cities
 - o identify enablers, challenges, and obstacles
 - reveal the best practices and co-develop pathways forward together with Finnish municipalities.
- Support municipalities in urban greening by providing interpreted knowledge of the EU biodiversity strategy's urban greening requirements and data

Methods and Implementation

- Explore local level implementation of urban greening plans
 - ✓ Explore the mandate of EU-level strategies & study in-depth how the targets set by the EU strategies correlate with the municipalities' own biodiversity and greening targets
 - ✓ Interview experts at the Ministry of the Environment and the Association of the Finnish municipalities
 - ✓ Gather more extensive data on the greening plans and corresponding other plans
 - ✓ Carry out semi-structured interviews with municipal planners and decision-makers to learn in-depth what stances and issues support or hinder urban greening and making plans for it.



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Explore exemplary urban greening plans from different cities across Europe

- ✓ Identify 3-5 cities across Europe to collaborate and share different lessons, tools, and methodologies in implementing urban greening initiatives
- ✓ Compile a list of different measures and actions that the cities undertake to protect and enhance nature
- ✓ Identify specific urban goals, challenges, and institutional barriers for incorporating green space policies into their cities' agendas
- ✓ Conduct interviews to explore different perspectives, goals, and challenges among the selected case studies

Identify best practices for the transition towards nature-based cities and information sharing among Finnish municipalities.

- ✓ Work closely with the Finnish Network of Nature Municipalities to cocreate understanding of the current state-of-the-art in the greening plans development and implementation.
- ✓ Co-design and co-create a pathway towards reaching the target of producing urban greening plans that balance economic growth with sustainable development
- ✓ Present, and review lessons learned during the first tasks from the other European cities highlighting new opportunities and limitations





S Y K E

Let's work together!