

## SESSION DESCRIPTION

### ID: S10

“Gearing up toward Urban Greening Plans to bring nature back in cities”

#### Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:		Laura Costadone	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)	laura.costadone@syke.fi
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#### Abstract:

The EU is a global leader in climate adaptation and recently has also promoted key policy agendas like the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and the EU Soil Strategy for 2030 that have set ambitious targets to protect nature, restore ecosystems, halt biodiversity loss, achieve land-based climate mitigation and improve monitoring and governance efforts. To achieve these goals, global challenges like biodiversity loss, climate change and environmental sustainability need to be addressed not only at the regional scale but also at the city level. In this context, European cities of at least 20,000 inhabitants will need to develop Urban Greening Plans including measures to mainstream nature-based solutions and urban greening initiatives into policy, legislation and governance and promote citizen engagement. Despite the importance, the uptake and implementation of urban greening plans by stakeholders and decision-makers is still hindered by institutional constraints and discrepancy in how guidance promoted at the EU level are implemented at the local level. Insufficient knowledge of what a green plan should cover or which indicators to use to assess the performance of green infrastructure is also a major challenge for cities that want to implement urban greening plans. To help bridging gaps between science and practice, we propose organizing a dynamic co-design workshop with practitioners, researchers from different disciplines and stakeholders from municipalities across Europe. Our objective for the workshop is to bring together people with diverse backgrounds and expertise to share knowledge, better understand needs and co-design best practices to integrate in a systematic

way nature and nature-based solutions into the decision-making process. Green areas greatly contribute to people's well-being and therefore are becoming a central topic in most planning and management agendas to guarantee sustainable urban development. This workshop will also be an invaluable opportunity to compare European case studies, share learning and understanding from good practices on how to better pursue biodiversity and ecosystem services positive development at local level with a vision of no loss of green space by 2050.

#### Goals and objectives of the session:

1. Explore how the European greening strategies are implemented (or should be implemented) at the local level.
2. Discuss what approaches are adopted to support the implementation of urban greening plans and collect and exchange examples of case studies from selected European municipalities.
3. Co-design a framework to incorporate scientific evidence and specific local needs to help defining and implementing greening plans.

#### Planned output / Deliverables:

- White paper with a collection of case studies and approaches adopted by selected municipalities to implement greening plans that were discussed during the workshop
- Short video on greening cities based on session presentations"

#### Session format:

Discussion forum

#### Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

#### Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

[Sectoral Working Groups: SWG 10 – ES in the circular \(bio-\)economy](#)