

# Rethinking local policies – Bringing back nature to the city

An Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform event

**31 May – 1 June 2023, Zebrastraat, Ghent (Belgium)**

<b>AGENDA</b>	
<b>Day 1: 31 May</b>	
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Registration &amp; light welcome lunch – XYZ Lounge</b>
<b>14:00</b>	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introduction – Plenary – Ned Kahn hall</b></p> <p>Welcome, presentation of the agenda and objectives of the four workshops <i>Erwin Siweris, programme director, Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat</i></p> <p>Keynote: ‘The city of Ghent, a laboratory of integrated policies for local development’ <i>Mathias De Clercq, Mayor of Ghent</i></p>
<b>14:30</b>	<p><b>Start of the thematic sessions</b></p> <p>Participants are guided towards a specific room depending on their chosen workshop. Coffee is available throughout the afternoon.</p>
<b>14:45</b>	<p><b>Restoring urban nature – Nick Ervinck hall</b></p> <p>Introduction – Thematic experts Environment and resource efficiency (5min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Astrid Severin and Magda Michalíková</i></li> <li>▪ 4 case studies inspiring ‘Urban biodiversity and nature restoration’ and Q&amp;A</li> <li>▪ <b>Urban Parks – Restoring Lobze Park in Pilsen (Czech Republic) – EURE</b> <i>Eva Velebná Brejchová, Pilsen City Development Department</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Urban Green – Green Infrastructure Booklets (Hungary) – RENATUR</b> <i>Beáta Stefanics and Natália Szécsényi, Lépték-Terv for Municipality of Budapest</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Urban planting: Nurturing nature in Cork city (Ireland) – INTENSIFY</b> <i>Emer O’Callaghan, Cork City Council</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Urban Nature – Rivers and wetlands in Ghent (Belgium)</b> <i>Tom Beyaert, City of Ghent, Department of Environment</i></li> </ul> <p>Conclusions and take-aways</p>

15:45	<b>Coffee &amp; preparation for study visits</b>
16:15	<b>Departure for local study visits:</b> - Oude Dokken
18:15	Return to the venue
18:30 - 20:00	<b>Networking cocktail with food</b> , venue TBC
<b>Day 2 : 1 June</b>	
08:30	<b>Welcome coffee</b>
09:00	<p><b>Reaching the ambitious targets of the EU Nature Restoration Law and the Global Biodiversity Framework (World Café Style) - Nick Ervinck hall</b></p> <p>Introduction on the session by the Thematic experts (5 min)</p> <p>Impact presentations on key issues for urban nature restoration (35min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Peri-urban nature: The Flemish belt around Brussels</b> <i>Johan Laeremans, Flemish Land Agency (Belgium) – RENATUR</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Water in an urban context</b> <i>Hans Thoolen, City of Breda (The Netherlands) – WAVE</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Sustainable use of water in public green spaces</b> <i>Mariana Cruz, Porto Metropolitan Area (Portugal)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive World Café (60min) - Nick Ervinck hall</b></p> <p>Participants will be split into three groups / tables (10-12 participants each). Each group/table is dedicated to one specific subject. Participants cycle between the tables (two rounds, with time for movement), each is moderated by above presenters. Each has a rapporteur to take notes and report back to group (with flipcharts/post-its).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Group 1: Green belts and peri-urban nature</b> – Table host: Johan Laeremans, Flemish Land Agency (BE)</li> <li>▪ <b>Group 2: Urban planting and afforestation</b> – Table host: Natália Szécsényi, Lépték-Terv for Municipality of Budapest (HU)</li> <li>▪ <b>Group 3: Water in an urban context</b> – Table host: Hans Thoolen, City of Breda (NL)</li> </ul> <p><b>Report back to group (Rapporteurs) + wrap-up (20 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Conclusion of session</b></p>
11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:30	<b>Concluding plenary</b>

	The concluding plenary is an opportunity to organise a small celebration for the community members that were active in the development of the Policy Learning Platform services, acknowledging their commitment and their value for the community.
12:30	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00	End of the event
<b>Day 2: 1 June (afternoon)</b>	
13:30	<b>Matchmaking session 1 - <i>Nick Ervinck hall</i></b>
15:00	<b>'How can the Province Oost-Vlaanderen support local governments in strengthening local circular economy?'</b>
15:15	<b>Matchmaking session 2 -<i>Nick Ervinck hall</i></b>
16:45	<b>'Connecting green spaces in Antwerp'</b>