

FIRST E-NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

Welcome to our first CONE project newsletter!
We're excited to share our initial activities with you.
In this newsletter, we'll introduce the project and our partners.

Our project CONE - Cities of Nature: Nature-Based-Solutions in Urban Living Labs aims to establish five urban Living Labs to apply nature-based solutions as a cross-sectoral, more digitally-driven and democratic approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The partners design and test new participatory and digitally driven processes that support the application of nature-based solutions in five urban pilot areas. Learnings from these urban living labs are then evaluated and inform a new transnational strategy for the introduction of urban greening plans.

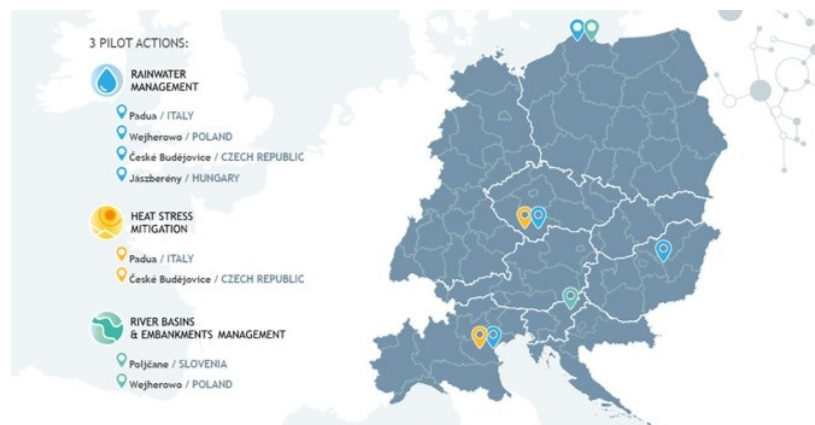
Main message of the project is:
TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE IN CITIES TOGETHER WITH THEIR CITIZENS

Please follow us on our platforms to stay updated on all CONE activities.
We hope you enjoy learning more about our project and its progress!

This project is supported by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme with co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund.



CONE project partnership



The CONE project helps city officials work effectively with the public to create green cities. Project partners design and test new participatory and digitally-driven processes that support the application of nature-based solutions in five urban pilot areas. Lessons from these pilot urban living labs are evaluated and utilized for a new green city planning strategy.

Kick-off Meeting Padua, June 11 - 12, 2024

On June 11 and 12, 2024, the kick-off meeting of the CONE project took place in Padua, Italy. The event was hosted by UniSMART-Foundation of Padua University. The participants of the meeting were welcomed by the lead partner UniSMART (LP) and host Padua Municipality. UniSMART presented the project overview.



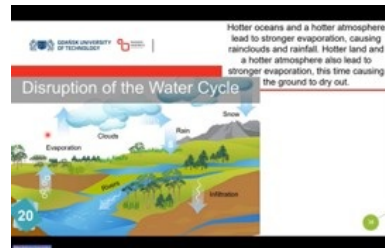
JS representative Ms. Anna Boruch, Programme Officer-Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Joint Secretariat, kicked off project implementation. After the introduction of the project partners, the INTERREG CE logical framework and Budget overview with financial reporting rules were discussed.

On the second day of the meeting, the CONE project was first presented, followed by capitalization activities. These activities included presentation of UNaLab project and Urban Living Labs, Verona's Climate Expo, presentation of the projects PRIN PNRR-URBioPark and "Un filo naturale" and presentation of projects focused on nature-based solutions.

1st Workshop "Training of trainers" March 3, 2025

The 1st workshop of the CONE project "Training of trainers" took place on March 3, 2025. It was an online workshop organized by the Gdańsk University of Technology, attended by representatives of the project partners.

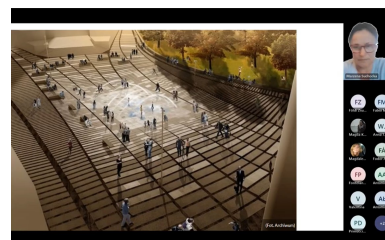
Magdalena Gajewska presented the basics of climate change and also adaptation & mitigation strategies for cities. Dominika Wróblewska spoke about collaborative research and context analysis and, together with Paulina Duch-Żebrowska, about stakeholder involvement.



2nd Workshop "Training of trainers" April 11, 2025

The 2nd workshop of the CONE project "Training of trainers" took place on April 11, 2025. It was an online workshop organized by the Gdańsk University of Technology, attended by representatives of the CONE partners.

Marzena Suchocka (SGGW) gave a lecture about heat stress mitigation. She was talking about Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, urban biodiversity in the context of NBS and cooling effect of urban vegetation. Fabio Masi (IRIDRA) presented two case studies, projects AWARD and CARDIMED. Magdalena Gajewska (GUT) spoke on the topic NBS towards adaptation and mitigation for cities. Wojciech Szpakowski (Gdansk Water Company) presented the topic of river basins and embankment management.



Launch of Living Labs March, 2025

The CONE project aims to establish 5 urban Living Labs to apply nature-based solutions as more democratic approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Project partners design and test new participatory and digitally driven processes that support the application of nature-based solutions within 3 pilot actions in 5 urban pilot areas.



Living Labs for rainwater management are created in Padua (Italy), Wejherowo (Poland), České Budějovice (Czech Republic) and Jászberény (Hungary). Living Labs dealing with heat stress mitigation are being established in Padua (Italy) and České Budějovice (Czech Republic). Living Labs for river basins & embankments management are being established in Poljčane (Slovenia) and Wejherowo (Poland).

Who are the partners of the CONE project?

UniSMART - Foundation of Padua University

UniSmart - University of Padua Foundation, is the University's foundation established to promote Technology Transfer and Post-graduate Education. Lead partner of the project.



BURST Non-profit Ltd.

BURST is a non-profit research and knowledge provider company with the mission to support urban authorities in finding smart and workable solutions for contemporary urban challenges and making cities prepared for the future. BURST is co-founder and coordinator of "TeAM Hub" - the Hungarian NetworkNature Hub for Nature-based Solutions.



Wejherowo municipality

Wejherowo wants to be a friendly town for its residents and attractive for visitors from outside, which is why it relies on nature-based solutions in its development plans and strategies.



APC Euroregion Baltic

APC ERB - Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic is an organization established to support foreign cooperation of local self-governments. The main goal of APC ERB is to improve the living conditions of the population living in the area of the Association's activities, with particular emphasis on border areas.



Gdańsk University of Technology

Through its cutting-edge research and technological advancements, Gdansk Tech can help develop and implement nature-based solutions in urban living labs, enhancing the integration of green spaces, improving biodiversity, and promoting sustainable urban development.



JAIP - South Bohemian Agency for Support to Innovation

Since 2005, JAIP has been at the forefront of innovation management in South Bohemia, bridging the gap between businesses, research units, and public institutions. JAIP is responsible for coordinating communication activities in the project.



City of České Budějovice

České Budějovice has prepared an Adaptation Strategy and an action plan, based on which implement studies and projects focused on mitigation and adaptation measures to mitigate the on sequences of climate change.



Municipality of Poljčane

Poljčane is uniquely situated in a protected area under Natura 2000, with the picturesque Dravinja River flowing through it, preserving its natural meanders. This makes the region an ideal place for developing innovative nature-based solutions (NBS) to further protect and enhance its rich ecosystem.



Municipality of Jászberény

In spite of all local efforts the city of Jászberény is regularly hit by all sorts of climate change impacts thus it is paying special attention to climate resilience measures. The City aims to enhance the role of nature-based solutions.



Municipality of Padua

Municipality of Padua is one of the most active Italian municipalities in the management of public greenery and in the application of Nature-Based Solutions, and has already carried out leading interventions in this sense following the guidelines of the Municipal Green Plan.



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