Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

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URBIO BAUHAUS

DELIVERABLE 2.1.1.:

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS+ COMPASS

Wrocław, May 2025

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to introduce the *New European Bauhaus+ Compass* as a tool for evaluating urban and social projects in terms of their alignment with the core values of the New European Bauhaus (NEB): sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusiveness.

The document also aims to develop a methodological proposal for more effectively integrating biodiversity-related aspects into the NEB evaluation framework. Biodiversity, as a key component of a healthy and resilient urban environment, is often underrepresented in urban planning processes, despite its importance for residents' quality of life, climate resilience, and the provision of ecosystem services.

The outcome of this work will be a proposed set of criteria and indicators for assessing pilot projects implemented by four partner cities, evaluating both their coherence with the NEB values and their contribution to enhancing urban biodiversity.

New European Bauhaus+ compass will serve as transnational method aligning all 4 cities interventions with a single goal of testing green, participative, aesthetic and biodiversity aspects within their current and future investments.

Proposal Development Process for Urbio Bauhaus Project: Urban Biodiversity Assessment

The proposal for a tool to evaluate the four pilot interventions was developed through the following stages:

Presentation of NEB+ Compass assumptions and group discussion
- Meeting facilitated by LP
- Presentation of the Compass framework and moderation of the discussion by non city partners

Workshop: Joint development of the initial assumptions for the assessment tool

Preparation of the initial draft of the peer-review approach
- Development of a preliminary methodology for mutual evaluation among partner cities

Tool testing (planned)
- Testing phase scheduled during the project meeting in Kranj

Finalization of the tool and preparation for testing phase
- Development of the final version of the tool based on feedback and refinement, in preparation for implementation

2. Urbio Bauhaus Project: Urban Biodiversity Assessment

This assessment extends the New European Bauhaus Compass to evaluate urban projects from a biodiversity perspective. Please rate each statement on a scale of 1-5:

1 = Strongly disagree
2 = Disagree
3 = Neither agree nor disagree

4 = Agree
5 = Strongly agree

CORE VALUES

Beautiful: Aesthetics, Experience, and Biodiversity

Ambition I (Activate)

1. The project enhances sensory experiences by incorporating diverse native plant species.
2. The design creates opportunities for residents to observe and interact with local wildlife.
3. The project uses visual elements that highlight natural patterns and local biodiversity.

Ambition II (Connect)

4. The project fosters emotional connections to local ecosystems through interpretive elements.
5. The design creates spaces where people can develop a sense of belonging through shared nature experiences.
6. The project uses biophilic design principles to strengthen connections between people and nature.

Ambition III (Integrate)

7. The project integrates local ecological heritage into its design narrative.
8. The design redefines urban aesthetics to include ecological functionality as a form of beauty.
9. The project creates new cultural narratives that celebrate urban biodiversity.

Sustainable: Environmental Responsibility & Regeneration

Ambition I (Repurpose)

10. The project minimizes negative impacts on existing urban wildlife habitats.
11. The design incorporates recycled or upcycled materials that provide habitat opportunities.
12. The project reclaims degraded spaces for biodiversity enhancement.

Ambition II (Close the Loop)

13. The project incorporates circular water management systems that support biodiversity.
14. The design integrates habitat corridors that connect previously isolated ecosystems.
15. The project implements zero-pollution approaches that protect sensitive urban wildlife.

Ambition III (Regenerate)

16. The project actively restores native species habitats that were previously lost in the area.
17. The design creates conditions for ecological succession and long-term ecosystem development.
18. The project measurably increases the ecological carrying capacity of the urban environment.

Together: Inclusivity, Equality, and Shared Action

Ambition I (Include)

19. The project ensures equal access to biodiversity-rich spaces for all community members.
20. The design accommodates people of various abilities in engaging with urban nature.
21. The project provides educational opportunities about local biodiversity for diverse audiences.

Ambition II (Consolidate)

22. The project creates shared biodiversity stewardship responsibilities across different social groups.
23. The design fosters cross-cultural appreciation of local ecosystems and traditional ecological knowledge.
24. The project overcomes socio-economic barriers to community participation in biodiversity initiatives.

Ambition III (Transform)

25. The project pioneers new models of community-based biodiversity governance.
26. The design establishes innovative social systems for long-term ecological care and monitoring.
27. The project transforms human-nature relationships in the urban context.

WORKING PRINCIPLES

Participatory Process: Engaging Communities

Ambition I (Consult)

28. The project solicits community input on local species priorities and conservation needs.
29. The design process includes consultation with local ecological knowledge holders.
30. The project establishes feedback mechanisms for ongoing biodiversity monitoring.

Ambition II (Co-develop)

31. The project involves community members in biodiversity planning and implementation decisions.
32. The design evolves through collaborative workshops with ecologists and local residents.
33. The project enables community participation in habitat creation and ecological restoration.

Ambition III (Self-govern)

34. The project establishes community-led governance structures for biodiversity management.
35. The design accommodates evolving community priorities for ecosystem services.
36. The project creates frameworks for citizen science and community-based ecological monitoring.

Multi-Level Engagement: Connecting Across Scales

Ambition I (Local)
37. The project addresses neighborhood-level biodiversity challenges and opportunities.
38. The design connects residents with hyperlocal ecosystems (building, street, block scale).
39. The project enhances biodiversity at the site level while considering immediate surroundings.

Ambition II (Across Levels)
40. The project aligns with citywide biodiversity corridors and ecological networks.
41. The design involves collaboration between local communities and municipal ecological agencies.
42. The project contributes to regional conservation goals while addressing local needs.

Ambition III (Global)
43. The project connects local biodiversity efforts to global conservation initiatives.
44. The design accounts for migratory species and their international movement patterns.
45. The project addresses climate change impacts on local biodiversity through global perspectives.

Transdisciplinary Approach: Integrating Diverse Perspectives

Ambition I (Multidisciplinary)
46. The project incorporates input from ecologists, landscape architects, and urban planners.
47. The design process includes expertise from wildlife specialists relevant to urban contexts.
48. The project integrates knowledge from multiple environmental science disciplines.

Ambition II (Interdisciplinary)
49. The project merges ecological sciences with social sciences to address community-biodiversity relationships.
50. The design process integrates arts and sciences to create compelling biodiversity narratives.
51. The project combines technological innovation with ecological principles.

Ambition III (Beyond-Disciplinary)
52. The project incorporates traditional ecological knowledge alongside scientific approaches.
53. The design process values experiential knowledge from long-term residents about local species.
54. The project creates new knowledge frameworks that transcend conventional disciplinary boundaries.

URBAN BIODIVERSITY SPECIFIC FACTORS

Urban Design Impact on Ecosystems

55. The project minimizes light pollution impacts on nocturnal wildlife behavior.
56. The design reduces urban heat island effects to benefit temperature-sensitive species.
57. The project mitigates noise pollution that can disrupt wildlife communication.
58. The design minimizes bird collision hazards through appropriate building materials and features.
59. The project creates microhabitats that support specialist urban species.

Green Space Integration

60. The project connects previously fragmented habitat patches in the urban landscape.
61. The design incorporates vertical greening systems that expand habitat opportunities.
62. The project optimizes biodiverse plantings in small urban spaces.
63. The design integrates green infrastructure with recreational spaces.
64. The project creates productive landscapes that provide both ecological and human benefits.

Community Biodiversity Engagement

65. The project creates opportunities for ongoing community learning about urban ecology.
66. The design incorporates spaces for community-based ecological monitoring.
67. The project facilitates intergenerational transfer of biodiversity knowledge and stewardship.
68. The design creates meaningful volunteer opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.

The project establishes celebratory events connected

SCORING AND INTERPRETATION

Calculate scores for each section to determine strengths and areas for improvement:

- **Beautiful Value**: Questions 1-9
- **Sustainable Value**: Questions 10-18
- **Together Value**: Questions 19-27
- **Participatory Process Principle**: Questions 28-36
- **Multi-Level Engagement Principle**: Questions 37-45
- **Transdisciplinary Approach Principle**: Questions 46-54
- **URBAN BIODIVERSITY SPECIFIC FACTORS** Questions 55-68

Interpretation:

The NEB biodiversity principles align at a level of **4-5** on the scoring system. Projects in this range demonstrate outstanding biodiversity integration through careful planning and implementation that supports both ecological health and human requirements. The projects implement unique urban biodiversity methods which surpass standard practices to generate substantial positive effects on local ecosystems and nature-based community involvement. These projects establish benchmark standards which guide best practices and motivate new initiatives to showcase urban biodiversity integration potential.

The assessment scores of **3** show a moderate level of biodiversity alignment which requires further development. The projects fulfill minimum biodiversity standards yet they do not achieve the level of ecological transformation needed for urban environments. The assessment reveals multiple opportunities to enhance biodiversity integration through targeted planning and implementation and community engagement improvements. The projects need specific targeted interventions in their lower-scoring areas through ecological specialist consultation and study of successful case studies that resolve similar challenges. Strategic modifications to these projects will enable them to advance from satisfactory to outstanding in their biodiversity implementation.

The scores **1-2** show major areas which need substantial improvement. The projects in this range demonstrate essential biodiversity shortcomings which threaten other sustainability targets and reduce ecological sustainability in the long term. The project needs complete reevaluation of its urban ecological

approach which may necessitate redesign phases and additional funding for biodiversity improvement. The projects need to start by implementing urgent measures in their most critical low-scoring areas while creating a strategic plan to handle all biodiversity aspects. The projects will likely cause additional ecological damage instead of ecological restoration unless they undergo major changes.

This assessment can be used at multiple project stages to track progress and ensure comprehensive integration of biodiversity principles in urban development.

Application

To facilitate the use of the NEB+ compass approach, an application has been developed and is in the testing phase.

LINK: Biodiversity Compass

https://compasscalc.pythonanywhere.com