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CONE

REPORT

ON LOCAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS OF 5 „MODEL REGIONS"

FOR NBS AND THE DEVELOPMENT

Report prepared within the framework of the project: CONE - CITIES OF NATURE: NATURE-BASED-SOLUTIONS IN URBAN LIVING LABS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introductory information regarding the project

Due to significant environmental, socio-economic, and human health impacts, Central European regions must increase resilience to climate change. According to the conceptual framework of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on resilience, it is defined as the ability to face shocks and lasting structural changes in such a way that social welfare is maintained without compromising the heritage of future generations (JRC). To achieve this and ensure further urban development and adaptation of the local urban environment, CONE aims to address identified challenges and needs through local innovation living labs that engage actors from the quadruple helix: public sector, private sector, civil society, and academia.

Despite the numerous negative effects of climate change on the environment and people's health, climate risk awareness is generally quite low among citizens. To change this, there is a need to target and actively involve all generations.

The CONE project helps city authorities to work better together with citizens to make cities greener. 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.

The project aims to establish a multidimensional "Living Lab" to apply nature-based solutions in local contexts as a cross-sectoral, more digital, and democratic approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change. The project contributes to increasing resilience to climate change and natural disasters by implementing tailored measures with a participatory approach and supporting integrated climate adaptation policies at the local and regional levels.

The Urban Living Lab method includes three implementation phases:

1. Joint research and context analysis to confirm identified challenges and recognize needs and barriers in the local context.
2. Experimental phase, which includes ideation of innovative solutions, their incubation, and strategy development.
3. Experiments and feedback: testing the implemented solution, collecting feedback, suggestions for improvements, validation, and replication.

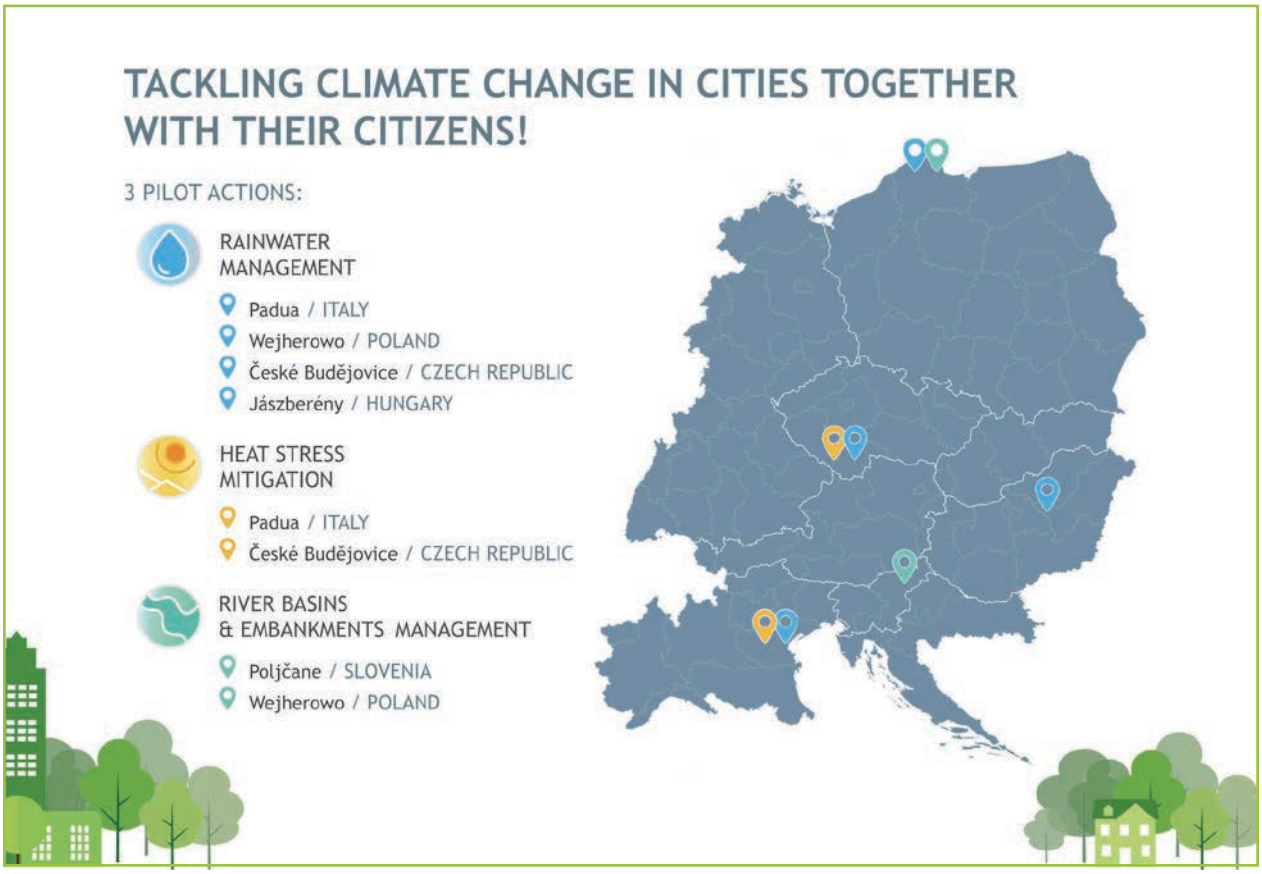
There is a strong need to incorporate climate change issues into strategic risk-based planning and resilience-enhancing measures. Therefore, the innovation lies in a more democratic and data-driven approach that leads to community empowerment and raising awareness regarding climate change and potential mitigation and adaptation solutions. Within this framework, even if not technologically advanced, nature-based solutions can be a valuable and sustainable ally in combination with a participatory approach.

The CONE project will explore how the Urban Living Lab approach can be scalable and adaptable in more rural, small, and medium-sized settlements in Europe. The partnership will select co-creation / participatory design, implementation, and monitoring methods for NBS that are feasible and affordable in such Central European municipalities. The main focus will be on exploring and testing specific "living lab" methods that help municipalities design and implement - based on broader citizen engagement and better data collection, management, and use.

Focusing on three areas of the NBS relating to:

- Rainwater management
- Heat Stress Mitigation actions
- River Basins and Embankments management

Partners must conduct a thorough analysis of the situation before taking action and implementing the activities themselves.



The CONE partners preparing themselves and local stakeholders to implement specific investments related to testing the adopted optimal NBS solutions, which in turn requires appropriate background knowledge related to legal and strategic preparation, enabling the planned activities to be positioned within the relevant legal acts and strategic frameworks.

The above report constitutes an DELIVERABLE 3.1 of the CONE project under the name: Report on local policy frameworks on NBS and development of 5 "model regions"

This rapport serve as a 'replication plan' for implementing NbS in Central Europe and raising awareness and knowledge among citizens and decision-makers aim to facilitate the understanding and application of concepts and guidelines, including legal ones, relating to the implementation of NBS in Europe, with particular regard to the conditions in Central Europe. It was developed on the basis of in-depth and detailed analyses of guidelines and strategic and legal frameworks for conducting activities and implementing investments using NBS, carried out by consortium members under the leadership of the Association of Municipalities of the Baltic Euroregion.
The above report was prepared in detail on the basis of research conducted in five areas participating in the Cone project from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia.
It was created as a result of secondary research - desk research, i.e. the compilation, analysis and processing of data and information from existing sources, and then formulating conclusions based on them regarding the problem under study.

The report on case studies concerning strategies and frameworks for nature-based solutions includes an introduction to the issue, a multidimensional discussion of overarching guidelines, a summary of both current legislation and dedicated NBS policies for Europe and the case countries, as well as a description of the specific cases analysed and the local and national specificities in the project, for subsequent replication and consideration of the guidelines indicated by successors and entities wishing to start investment activities in the field of NBS and comply with the existing legal framework.
The report focuses in particular on acts and strategies that relate to methods of improving rainwater management, heat stress, and rivers and flood defences.

Purpose of the document:
The protocol is an ex ante, process-oriented document that guides municipalities and partners step by step through the process of understanding the legal and strategic umbrella that must be taken into account when testing nature-based solutions (NbS).

Report aims:

- serve as a repeatable guide for cities wishing to initiate similar processes, focusing on the preparatory and planning phase, prior to physical implementation,
- provide a compendium of access to normative and legal acts focused on NbS
- ensure minimum compliance with legal requirements in Central European and EU countries,
- support respect for the law by ensuring co-creation, transparency and repeatability.

2. Definition of NBS and the most important legal acts relating to it at European level.

2.1. How should we understand NBS?

Definitions in the EU. The European Commission defines nature-based solutions as "solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits, and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions." The definition also emphasises that "nature-based solutions must benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services."

Definitions existing in the literature. In March 2022, at the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), the United Nations agreed a resolution on nature-based solutions, which shows many similarities to the European Commission's definition. This relates to Resolution No. 48/13 "The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment," adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2022. Although the resolution does not focus directly on NBS, it recognises the planetary crises (climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss) and creates a legal context in which supporting nature-based solutions as a way to address these challenges is natural.The resolution refers to key challenges facing humanity such as climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

Nature-based Solutions (NBS): Although not the main subject of the resolution, NBS are an integral part of actions linked to implementing the human right to a clean environment. NBS are nature-inspired solutions that deliver ecological, social and economic benefits, helping with climate adaptation and building resilience.

Definitions existing in Poland. Nature-based solutions (NbS) are solutions inspired and supported by nature that are cost-effective while providing environmental, social and economic benefits and helping to build the resilience of cities and non-urban areas. They use a comprehensive, systemic process of co-design and co-creation of innovative ideas adapted to local conditions and efficient in the use of existing resources (definition published in "Nature-supporting solutions in the city – A guide and inspirations," City of Poznań).

Key components of the definition

- **Purpose** – counteracting the negative effects of climate change in the areas of biodiversity, retention, and the use of blue-green infrastructure.
- **Inspiration by nature** – nature is a direct constituent element of the solution.
- **Broad implementation benefits** – environmental, social and economic advantages.
- **Financial viability** – economic efficiency of the solutions.
- **Universal character** – a tool applicable in urban and non-urban areas, providing an alternative to linear city-management approaches.
- **Enrichment of fauna and flora** – bringing more nature into cities through well-planned, local and resource-efficient actions.

What the mainstream definitions agree on?

Across the European Commission (EC), the UN system, IUCN and specialist communities, a clear centre of gravity has formed. NBS are actions that use living systems and natural processes as the primary mechanism to solve societal challenges (climate, water, health, hazards), while delivering net benefits for biodiversity and multiple co-benefits (social and economic). The EC's formulation stresses locally adapted, resource-efficient, systemic interventions that "bring more - and more diverse - nature and natural processes" into cities, landscapes and seascapes and explicitly requires biodiversity benefit and ecosystem-service delivery. UNEA-5/5 (the current intergovernmental reference) similarly frames NBS as actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified ecosystems, thus making space for hybrid/urban contexts. IUCN's *Global Standard for NbS* turns these ideas into eight criteria and 28 indicators, widely used by funders and authorities to check credibility.

2.2. Synergistic concepts and terms related to NBS.

Specialised terms sit under the same umbrella:

- **EbA / Eco-DRR** emphasise adaptation and disaster-risk reduction;
- **NCS** (Natural Climate Solutions) emphasise mitigation;
- **Green/Blue-Green Infrastructure** underline networked urban form;
- **NNBF / Engineering with Nature** are engineering-led families for flood/coastal safety.

In practice they are **subsets or adjacent approaches** whose acceptance as NBS depends on **biodiversity safeguards and multi-benefit performance**, not only on their primary objective.

In reference to NbS - Nature-based Solutions, the items below have a direct relationship to NbS.

Acronym	Full name	Author	Definition	Brief description / relation to NbS
NCS	Natural Climate Solutions	Griscom et al. (2017), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*	Actions that protect, better manage, and restore ecosystems in order to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and store carbon.	Climate change mitigation; a subset of NbS.
EbA / EBA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	IUCN (2017), *Ecosystem-based Adaptation: A Resource Book*	The use of ecosystems to help people adapt to climate change.	Climate adaptation; a subset of NbS.
EbM / EBM	Ecosystem-based Mitigation / Ecosystem-based Management	IUCN; IPCC (2017), *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land*	Protection and restoration of ecosystems for carbon sequestration or integrated resource management.	Mitigation or resource management in the NbS context.
Eco-DRR	Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction	UNDRR (2020), *Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction: Implementing Nature-based Solutions*	Managing ecosystems to reduce disaster risk (floods, storms, landslides).	Disaster-risk reduction within NbS.
NBI / NbI	Nature-based Infrastructure	European Commission (2020), *EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*	Integration of natural systems with technical infrastructure (e.g., retention, slope stabilisation).	Infrastructure that supports ecosystem functions.
NNBF	Natural and Nature-Based Features	USACE (2020), *Engineering With Nature*	Natural and semi-natural features used in coastal engineering / flood protection.	Ecosystem engineering in NbS practice.

GI / BGI	Green Infrastructure/ Blue-Green Infrastructure	European Commission (2020)	Networks of green and blue-green areas in cities (green roofs, parks, wetlands).	Urban form of NbS.
NN / NbR	Nature-based Recovery / Nature-based Restoration	IUCN (2022), *Nature-based Solutions for Recovery*	Post-disaster recovery; green reconstruction of the economy.	Restoring ecosystem functions; a form of NbS.
EbMgt / EBMgt	Ecosystem-based Management	IUCN (2019), *Guidelines for Ecosystem-based Management*	An ecosystem management strategy; a broader approach that supports NbS.	Ecosystem management; a framework for implementing NbS.
EBAFOSA	Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly	FAO; UNCCD (2019), *EBAFOSA: A Framework for Action*	A network promoting ecosystem-based adaptation in agriculture and food security.	Agricultural sector; climate adaptation within NbS.
SBN / SbN	Solutions (Based on / Inspired by / Supported by) Nature	Seddon et al. (2020), *Nature Sustainability*	Less frequently used synonyms for "Nature-based Solutions."	Synonym of NbS.
NbF / NBF	Nature-based Finance	EIB (2023), *Investing in Nature-based Solutions*	Financing mechanisms for NbS projects (green bonds, carbon credits).	Financing the implementation of NbS.
NbI (finance)	Nature-based Investments	JP Morgan (2025), *Sustainable Investment Report*	A banking/ESG term for investments that support NbS projects.	NbS-oriented investments.
EWN / Eco-ENG	Engineering With Nature	USACE (2020), *Engineering With Nature*	A concept that combines ecosystem solutions with engineering.	Integration of engineering and ecosystems within NbS.
LBI	Landscape-based Interventions	Pauleit et al. (2017), *Land Use Policy*	Actions at the landscape scale (river renaturation, agroforestry).	Landscape interventions supporting ecosystem functions.

2.3. Typologies that help organise policy and delivery

There is no single "official" EU typology of NBS, but practice-oriented classifications are well supported in the literature and EU guidance. Foundational work by EKLIPSE (for the European Commission) and by IUCN shows that NBS can be grouped along functional themes (e.g. water, biodiversity, urban systems) and along policy domains (climate, biodiversity, water, soil, zero pollution) to help decision-makers translate objectives into portfolios of measures. EKLIPSE explicitly presents NBS diversity along axes of ecosystem engineering and spatial scale and recommends thematic groupings for planning and evaluation. IUCN's Global Standard frames NBS as living-system actions delivering multi-objective outcomes, which policy domains can then operationalise. The EEA and EU handbooks further use thematic families such as Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) and SuDS within water policy, while EU green-infrastructure guidance groups urban blue-green interventions as a network that often qualifies as NBS when designed for ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Division I — by dimension & geographical level (global → local)

When analysing references to the NBS and seeking a basis for understanding the related strategic frameworks, we should rely on the first categorisation based on dimension and geographical character.

1. **International/Global dimension**
2. **European dimension**
3. **National dimension**
4. **Regional dimension**
5. **Local dimension (municipal, urban)**

Summary: Classifying NBS by governance level helps map who sets goals (international/EU), who transposes and funds (national/regional), and who implements and maintains (local/municipal). It shows how strategies cascade from broad standards into concrete place-based actions and monitoring responsibilities.

Division II — by operational theme (supported by EKLIPSE, EEA, NWRM/SuDS guidance)

1. **Water and water management.** River and floodplain restoration, NWRM (e.g., wetlands, riparian buffers, re-meandering), urban SuDS and source-control measures that deliver hydromorphology, retention, attenuation and water-quality gains under WFD/FD planning. These families are widely documented and standardised at EU level through NWRM guidance and the SuDS Manual.
2. **Biodiversity legislation and nature management.** Habitat restoration/enhancement, ecological connectivity, fish passage, invasive control, close-to-nature forestry and peatland rewetting—interventions aligned with Natura 2000 objectives and now with binding targets under the Nature Restoration Regulation.
3. **Green and blue infrastructure and NBS (urban).** De-sealing, permeable/vegetated streets, rain gardens, street trees, green roofs/walls and park water features that function as blue-green networks. These qualify as NBS when they use living systems to address defined risks (heat, stormwater, air/noise) and deliver biodiversity outcomes, as described in the EC Green Infrastructure approach and EKLIPSE urban guidance.

Summary: Grouping by themes (water management, biodiversity and nature management, urban blue-green infrastructure) organizes portfolios into well-documented measure families like NWRM/SuDS, habitat restoration/connectivity, and de-sealing/green roofs/streets. This makes technical guidance, performance metrics and co-benefits easier to compare and combine across projects.



Division III — by policy domain (consistent with EU strategies and IUCN/EEA framing)

1. **Climate.** NBS for adaptation and disaster-risk reduction (cooling, drought/flood management, coastal resilience) with mitigation co-benefits (carbon sinks), as highlighted by the EU Adaptation Strategy and IUCN's standard.
2. **Biodiversity.** Measures that restore habitats and networks in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy and Natura 2000 safeguards (and the Nature Restoration Regulation's targets).
3. **Water.** Catchment and urban NBS delivering WFD status via hydromorphology, pollution control and retention (RBMPs/FRMPs; NWRM/SuDS families).
4. **Natural resources, regeneration, revitalisation, zero pollution.** De-sealing, soil/biomass reuse, circularity and diffuse-load reduction consistent with the Zero Pollution Action Plan and urban regeneration practice referenced by EKLIPSE/EEA.

5. **Soil strategy (Earth).** Soil health for infiltration, fertility, carbon and erosion control (agroforestry, hedgerows, wet meadows, peatland rewetting) as promoted in the EU Soil Strategy and recognised in the IUCN/EEA NBS framing.

Summary: Aligning NBS with domains (climate, biodiversity, water, zero-pollution/circular regeneration, soil) links actions directly to EU strategies and regulatory targets, clarifying funding routes and evaluation criteria. It also supports multi-objective design - e.g., measures that serve adaptation while delivering WFD status gains and biodiversity restoration.

Division IV - by region type

1. **Urban/Metropolitan** - Dense settlement, heat islands, stormwater stress, typical NBS Focus: Green roofs, SuDS, pocket parks
2. **Agricultural/Rural** - Intensive land use, soil/water retention needs, typical NBS focus: Hedgerows, agroforestry, re-wetting peatlands
3. **Forest/Mountain** - steep slopes, erosion risk, biodiversity value, typical NBS focus: woodland restoration, slope stabilization
4. **River Basin/Floodplain** - high hydrological variability, flood management, typical NBS focus: Floodplain reconnection, wetland buffers
5. **Coastal/Marine** - Sea-level rise, erosion, saline intrusion, typical NBS focus: Dune rebuilding, seagrass restoration.

Summary: Context-based grouping matches typical pressures to an indicative "menu" of NBS (e.g. SuDs in cities, hedgerows/agroforestry in farmland, floodplain reconnection in river basins). This helps practitioners prioritize fit-for-place measures and coordinate the right stakeholders.

2.4. Practical applications and challenges of the NBS definition

Where definitions diverge?

- Scope of "nature." UNEA explicitly includes modified ecosystems (e.g., streets, brownfields), whereas many early EU texts implied "natural" settings. The practical effect is that urban SuDS, pocket wetlands, bio-engineered embankments are unequivocally eligible as NBS if they meet biodiversity and performance tests.

- Biodiversity as a hard criterion vs. soft co-benefit. The EC and IUCN place biodiversity gain (or at least no-net-loss) at the core. Some mitigation-oriented NCS or minimalist "green infrastructure" usages historically accepted functional gains (cooling/carbon) with weak biodiversity evidence; these are increasingly screened out unless redesigned with habitat value, native structure, and monitoring.

- Primary-objective bias and metrics. EbA/Eco-DRR communities lead with risk metrics (return periods, damage avoided), NCS with carbon accounting, NNBF with safety/performance standards. Without a shared verification frame, projects risk being judged by incommensurate criteria. The IUCN Standard and EEA guidance help harmonise expectations (hydraulic, water-quality, biodiversity, microclimate, social use).

- Evidence & maintenance. Definitions are often silent on O&M and monitoring. Practice is converging on performance-based approval (design storms, draw-down times, pollutant-removal proxies, habitat indices, canopy/cooling KPIs) and biodiversity-aware maintenance (mosaic/seasonal regimes), which turns definitions into operational acceptance.

Energy efficiency - how NBS deliver (and how to claim it credibly).

NBS contribute to operational and embodied energy efficiency, although definitions seldom highlight this explicitly:

- **Operational energy**: urban trees/blue-green corridors reduce cooling demand via shade and evapotranspiration; floodplain reconnection and natural retention lower pumping energy and peak-flow energy in drainage; soil/vegetation pre-treat stormwater, reducing treatment energy at plants.
- **Embodied energy**: bio-engineering, de-sealing and reuse of soils/biomass can displace high-energy materials and heavy civil works.

Claims should use transparent methods (e.g., kWh/m^2 cooling savings; kWh avoided pumping; LCA of materials) and remain additional to, not a substitute for, biodiversity outcomes.

The most common definitional mistakes

1. **Confusing "environmental" with "nature based."** Actions that are good for the environment (e.g., insulation, end-of-pipe scrubbers) are not NBS unless living systems are the mechanism and biodiversity benefits.
2. **Green veneer**: single-species tree lines, decorative lawns or planters without habitat design, hydrologic function or monitoring do not meet NBS criteria.
3. **"All SuDS are NBS"**: drainage features qualify only if they are designed and managed for ecosystem function and biodiversity, not merely water conveyance/storage.
4. **Offsets in lieu of local solutions**: distant carbon/biodiversity offsets with no local co-benefits do not satisfy NBS expectations in urban adaptation/DRR briefs.
5. **No O&M/monitoring**: projects without KPIs, maintenance regimes and monitoring plans tend to underperform and face weak acceptance.
6. **Social equity omissions**: ignoring access, safety and co-creation undermine the "solutions for people" dimension now expected in EU programming.

EU legal anchors relevant to the definition and use of NBS

There is **no single binding EU legal definition** of NBS. Instead, several instruments collectively embed what NBS do:

- **Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)**: achieving good status; restoration, floodplain reconnection and natural retention align with its measures.
- **Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)**: encourages non-structural and nature-based flood-risk reduction.
- **Habitats & Birds Directives** (Natura 2000): set biodiversity baselines and safeguards that NBS must respect and, ideally, enhance.

Strategic anchors that name/promote NBS or their urban form include:

- **EU Green Infrastructure Communication** (COM(2013)249) — first EU policy home for GI/NBS in planning.
- **EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (2021)** — elevates NBS as priority measures.
- **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** — calls for large-scale restoration, GI investment and mainstreaming NBS.

Internationally, the UNEA-5/5 resolution provides the most cited intergovernmental definition, and IUCN's Global Standard functions as the de facto verification tool for projects and calls.

Practical conclusions for NBS programmes and projects

- Treat UNEA-5/5 + EC as the twin reference to frame eligibility; then use IUCN's Standard to structure design briefs, procurement and monitoring.
- Make biodiversity performance explicit (targets, indicators, baseline) and pair it with sectoral KPIs (hydraulic, water-quality, cooling/energy, social).
- Anchor legal compliance via WFD + Floods + Habitats/Birds, deliver through GI/Adaptation/Biodiversity strategies, and document plan consistency.
- Quantify energy efficiency as a co-benefit with clear methods and do not trade it against biodiversity.
- Avoid the pitfalls: environment ≠ nature; SuDS ≠ NBS by default; offsets ≠ local resilience; no monitoring/O&M.
- In urban settings, agree bespoke cross-sections (permeable/vegetated geometries, tree-root corridors, inlet/outlet details) with road/utility owners; codify mosaic/seasonal maintenance; and secure performance-based acceptance to match NBS' living-system character.

Summary: NBS are framed consistently across the European Commission, UNEA-5 and IUCN as actions that use living systems and natural processes to address societal challenges (climate, water, risk, health), while delivering net biodiversity gains and multiple co-benefits; the IUCN Global Standard operationalizes this through criteria and indicators used by funders and authorities. Compliance with the legal framework requires a thorough, shared understanding of what NBS actually are — not only among implementers but across all involved groups—because clear basic concepts are essential for interpreting subsequent analyses and guidance. This report therefore explains what NBS are, what they are based on, why they matter, and shows their growing prominence across contemporary guidelines and programmes.
This section of the report clarifies adjacent terms (e.g., EbA, Eco-DRR, NCS, GI/BGI, NNBF) and positions them as subsets or neighbours to NBS when biodiversity safeguards and multi-benefit performance are met, improving transferability by giving other actors a clear "starting map." A broader, well-explained definition is explicitly intended to maximise transferability of results and help stakeholders understand where to begin.

There is no single binding EU legal definition; instead, NBS are embedded through a constellation of instruments and strategies. The paper highlights practical pitfalls (e.g., "environmental" ≠ "nature-based," SuDS ≠ NBS by default, weak biodiversity evidence, neglect of O&M/monitoring) and recommends using UNEA-5 plus the EC definition to frame eligibility, with the IUCN Standard to shape design, procurement and verification.

Lead-in to the next section – Main EU-level Guidelines: The raport now turns to the principal European anchors for NBS practice: the Water Framework Directive, Floods Directive, Habitats & Birds Directives (Natura 2000), Nature Restoration Regulation and UN Environment Assembly Resolution on Nature-based Solutions as the key references for compliance, funding alignment and evaluation.

3. Main guidelines at the European level – indication of the most important documents regarding the study

Below are the five most consequential legal instruments at European or UN level that shape how Nature-based Solutions (NBS) are understood, mandated or enabled. Each entry briefly explains scope, obligations, and why it matters for NBS. The selection balances definition, biodiversity safeguards, river-basin governance, flood-risk management, and binding restoration targets.

1) EU Water Framework Directive — Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD)

Scope & obligations. The WFD establishes a basin-scale framework to achieve "good" ecological and chemical status of surface and ground waters via River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) updated every six years and Programmes of Measures. It requires Member States to diagnose hydromorphology, water quality, pressures and risks, and to select measures proportionate to objectives.
Why it matters for NBS. The WFD is the primary legal home for catchment NBS: river and floodplain restoration, reconnection of side channels, removal or modification of barriers, natural water retention features (wetlands, riparian buffers, re-meandering), and soil-vegetation solutions that reduce diffuse pollution. Because RBMPs guide public spending and permitting, they are the main vehicle for NBS portfolios at scale.

2) EU Floods Directive — Directive 2007/60/EC

Scope & obligations. Complementing the WFD, the Floods Directive requires preliminary flood-risk assessment, hazard and risk maps, and Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs)—also on a six-year cycle and aligned to river-basin districts.
Why it matters for NBS. The Directive explicitly promotes non-structural and nature-based approaches (e.g., floodplain reconnection, room-for-the-river, coastal dunes and wetlands) as part of prevention, protection and preparedness. When RBMPs and FRMPs are prepared together, NBS can deliver dual benefits—risk reduction and WFD ecological objectives—improving cost-effectiveness and eligibility for funding.

3) Natura 2000 acquis — Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC & Birds Directive 2009/147/EC

Scope & obligations. These two directives create the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and species safeguards across the EU. Any plan or project likely to significantly affect a site must undergo Appropriate Assessment; conservation objectives and management measures must be set and maintained for listed habitats and species.
Why it matters for NBS. Natura 2000 provides the biodiversity baseline and legal safeguards that distinguish credible NBS from purely "green" infrastructure. Well-designed NBS in or near Natura 2000 (e.g., wetland creation, fish passage, riparian restoration) often advance site conservation

objectives, easing approvals. Conversely, the Appropriate Assessment procedure forces NBS designs to demonstrate ecological fitness, raising quality and long-term resilience.

4) EU Nature Restoration Regulation — Regulation (EU) 2024/1991

Scope & obligations. The NRR sets binding, time-bound restoration targets across ecosystems — rivers and floodplains (including targets for free-flowing rivers), wetlands/peatlands (including rewetting), forests, agro-ecosystems and urban green space. It requires national restoration plans, milestones, monitoring and reporting.
Why it matters for NBS. The NRR shifts NBS from "good practice" to legal obligation: Member States must deliver outcome-based restoration at landscape scale, making NBS the default delivery mechanism for multiple ecosystems. It also catalyses coherence across RBMPs/FRMPs, agricultural policies and urban planning by tying them to measurable ecological recovery.

5) UN Environment Assembly Resolution on Nature-based Solutions — UNEA-5/5 (2022)

Scope & content. UNEA-5/5 provides the most widely cited intergovernmental definition of NBS as actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified ecosystems to address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, while delivering human well-being and biodiversity benefits.
Why it matters for NBS. Although not an EU law, UNEA-5/5 is the global definitional anchor now referenced by EU institutions, funders and standards. It clarifies that NBS must use living systems as the mechanism, must benefit biodiversity, and may occur in modified environments (e.g., cities). This framing underpins EU guidance, funding calls and the evaluation of claims (distinguishing NBS from purely "environmental" measures that lack a nature mechanism).

Additionally, it should be noted that, several acts strongly reinforce the five above in practice: the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)** (coastal/marine NBS), the **recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (EU) 2024/3019** (integrated urban water planning where blue-green systems cut loads and energy), and the **LULUCF Regulation (2018/841, as amended)** (carbon accounting that valorises restoration, rewetting and close-to-nature forestry). Depending on project context, these often act as decisive enablers for NBS deployment and financing.

Taken together, the five "most important" instruments presented—**WFD (2000/60/EC), Floods Directive (2007/60/EC), Natura 2000 (Habitats & Birds), Nature Restoration Regulation (EU) 2024/1991,** and the **UNEA-5/5** NBS definition—form the legal and conceptual backbone onto which the EU's forward-looking policy set is now fastening operational detail and finance.

- The **Water Resilience Strategy** builds directly on **WFD/Floods**, turning basin-scale diagnostics and six-year planning cycles into a more integrated drought–flood–demand response where NBS (natural retention, reconnection, buffers) are first-line options and where synergies with urban water (UWWTD recast) and energy efficiency are made explicit.

- The **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030** extends **Natura 2000** logic from protection to proactive restoration and connectivity**,** aligning funding and governance with **WFD** hydromorphology goals and with agricultural measures that deliver biodiversity-positive NBS at landscape scale.
- The **Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (2021)** elevates **NBS** recommended under **WFD/Floods/Natura**into mainstream resilience policy for cities, coasts and river basins, using **UNEA-5/5** as the widely accepted definitional anchor.
- The **Zero Pollution Action Plan** operationalises chemical and nutrient load reductions and source control; in practice it channels investments toward catchment NBS that help **WFD** status objectives and coastal quality targets (with the Marine Strategy).
- The **EU Soil Strategy for 2030** complements **WFD/Natura** by prioritising soil functions (infiltration, carbon, fertility), thereby validating agro-ecological NBS (hedgerows, agroforestry, peatland rewetting) and closing the land–water loop that RBMPs manage.

Summary: This section of the NBS report identifies the five most consequential instruments shaping how NBS are defined, mandated, and financed: the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC), the Natura 2000 acquis (Habitats & Birds), the Nature Restoration Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 with binding restoration targets, and the UN Environment Assembly Resolution UNEA-5/5 that anchors the intergovernmental definition of NBS. These were selected because together they provide the legal and conceptual backbone for basin-scale governance, risk reduction, biodiversity safeguards, and outcome-based restoration—i.e., the essential context and direction-setting framework for NBS across Europe. The chapter also notes enablers frequently used in practice (Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (EU) 2024/3019, and the LULUCF Regulation), and situates NBS within current EU strategies: Water Resilience, Biodiversity 2030, Adaptation to Climate Change, Zero Pollution, and the EU Soil Strategy, which collectively align funding, planning cycles, and monitoring around nature-positive measures.

This section of the report should be linked directly to Annex 1 — "Relevant EU And Cross-Border Strategies & Frameworks Recommended by Consortium Members as a Legal Basis Of Reference to the NBS Area" — which enumerates 28 additional acts considered pivotal for understanding the broader policy context and for operationalising NBS across sectors and geographies.

4. Analysis of the framework at the European level

Where NBS "live" in EU policy and law.

The European Union has no single, binding legal definition of Nature-based Solutions (NBS), yet a robust enabling architecture makes them practicable across sectors. In water policy, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires good ecological and chemical status, legitimising river restoration, floodplain reconnection, natural water retention and soil–vegetation measures as core instruments in programmes of measures. The Floods Directive complements this by promoting non-structural, nature-based approaches within six-year planning cycles at river-basin scale. Biodiversity law—the Habitats and Birds Directives and the Natura 2000 network—operates both as safeguard and opportunity: NBS in and around protected sites must pass appropriate assessment, but restoration and ecological connectivity are fully consistent with site objectives. Strategically, the European Green Deal provides the political umbrella. The 2021 EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change elevates NBS as priority instruments for resilience; the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 mainstreams restoration and green infrastructure; and the Nature Restoration Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 moves NBS from pilots to outcome obligations by setting binding targets for wetlands, rivers and floodplains, peatlands, forests and urban green. Recent water policy updates reinforce this direction: the Union's Water Resilience Strategy frames NBS as essential to balance demand and supply, address droughts and floods and mobilise finance. Other sectoral acts open additional pathways: the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive requires integrated urban water planning, source control of micropollutants and energy neutrality—contexts where blue-green infrastructure reduces hydraulic loads and energy use. The EU Soil Strategy 2030 and the Zero Pollution Action Plan encourage riparian buffers, wetlands and regenerative land practices; the EU Forest Strategy 2030 emphasises close-to-nature forestry, protective forests and tree-planting in support of water, microclimate and risk-reduction functions. At macro-regional level, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) provides a transnational coordination space for nutrient reduction, river continuity and coastal resilience, particularly relevant for Polish partners (GUT, APC ERB, Wejherowo, Tolkmicko). Finally, National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), prepared under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, are an underused lever: by recognising cooling-demand reduction, avoided pumping/treatment energy and carbon sinks, Member States can connect NBS to energy-system goals and funding.

Additional instruments to note.

Beyond the core water–nature–climate acquis, marine and land-use laws significantly widen the legal home for NBS. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) requires Good Environmental Status and favours dune, reef and wetland restoration as NBS for risk reduction and water quality; paired with the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (2008/105/EC, as amended by 2013/39/EU) it tightens chemical constraints and supports catchment NBS that curb pollutant loads before they reach coasts and estuaries. The LULUCF Regulation (2018/841, amended by 2023/839) brings binding carbon accounting for soils, wetlands and forests—directly valorising restoration, rewetting and close-to-nature forestry as NBS. The 8th Environment Action

Programme (Decision (EU) 2022/591) operationalises Green Deal goals and repeatedly points to nature-based approaches. The reformed Common Agricultural Policy (2023–27) via Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 enables eco-schemes for riparian buffers, hedgerows, agroforestry and peatland rewetting—agro-ecological NBS that also reduce diffuse pollution. Urban integration is steered by the EU Urban Agenda Partnership on Sustainable Land Use & NBS and the Green Infrastructure Communication, while the Water Resilience Strategy (2025) and the UWWTD recast (2024/3019) mainstream nature-based retention, source control and energy-neutral, integrated urban water plans; macro-regionally, the EUSBSR aligns nutrient-reduction and river-continuity NBS across borders and funding streams.

Discrepancies, ambiguities and definitional frictions

Because there is no uniform legal definition, practice borrows from the European Commission's formulation and from intergovernmental and standard-setting sources (UNEA-5/5; IUCN Global Standard). Differences persist in scope and acceptance tests. UNEA explicitly includes natural and modified ecosystems, which suits urban and hybrid settings; early EU texts sometimes implied "natural" settings, leaving uncertainty for street-embedded SuDS or bio-engineered embankments unless biodiversity benefits are explicit. Another friction concerns biodiversity: the Commission's usage and the IUCN Standard treat biodiversity outcomes as a hard criterion, whereas some mitigation-focused "natural climate solutions" or minimalist "green infrastructure" deployments have historically accepted functional gains (cooling or carbon) with weak habitat design and monitoring. Sectoral lenses also diverge: ecosystem-based adaptation and Eco-DRR prioritise risk metrics; NNBF and "engineering with nature" emphasise hydraulic and safety performance; carbon projects stress mitigation accounting. Without a shared verification frame, projects risk being judged by incommensurate criteria.

Regulatory gaps

Three gaps recur in implementation. First, there is no EU-wide operational standard for urban NBS that sets design, performance and maintenance expectations comparable to those used for grey assets—e.g., design storms and draw-down times, pollutant-removal proxies, biodiversity KPIs and mosaic/seasonal maintenance regimes. This leaves acceptance uneven among road and utility managers. Second, procurement and financing frameworks still presume fixed-output assets; living infrastructure needs performance-based contracts that accommodate ecological maturation and adaptive management over multiple years. Third, monitoring under the WFD focuses on ecological and chemical status, but multi-benefit data (heat mitigation, biodiversity, water-quality proxies, social use and energy co-benefits) are not yet systematically embedded, limiting replication and scale-up. In parallel, many NECPs underplay NBS as energy-efficiency and system-integration measures, leaving avoided operational energy and embodied-carbon gains uncaptured.

Regulatory bottlenecks

Promoters often face fragmented permitting: water authorities, nature bodies, heritage and landscape services, road authorities and utilities may each act as gatekeepers. Without early, coordinated scoping, approvals become sequential and slow. Legacy maintenance regimes in flood management favour "clear and convey" practices that can erode NBS function by removing habitat complexity and hydraulic roughness; safety and ecology can be reconciled only if selective maintenance and seasonal windows are explicitly codified. Prescriptive tendering and rigid liabilities deter adaptive planting and phased establishment. Finally, municipal and utility teams frequently lack biodiversity-savvy specifications and budgets for long-term monitoring.

Opportunities for NBS

The Nature Restoration Regulation creates binding momentum: free-flowing rivers, peatland rewetting and urban green targets directly translate into catchment-scale and city-scale NBS portfolios. The Water Resilience Strategy and the wastewater recast provide formal urban pathways for blue-green source control, storage and energy-neutral water services. Biodiversity, Soil and Forest strategies legitimise soil-first retrofits, riparian buffers, close-to-nature forestry and tree-canopy expansion for microclimate and slope stability. EUSBSR enables cross-border flagships for eutrophication control, floodplain reconnection and coastal resilience in the Baltic macro-region, improving eligibility and visibility of municipal projects. NECPs can recognise NBS as energy-system measures—cooling-load reduction, avoided pumping/treatment energy, resilience benefits and bio-based material substitution—opening complementary funding and KPI alignment.

Organic farming

The Green Deal's Farm-to-Fork agenda, together with CAP eco-schemes and the Soil Strategy, creates space for agro-ecological NBS: riparian buffer strips, hedgerows, agroforestry, wet meadows and peatland rewetting. These practices reduce nutrient loads and erosion, enhance infiltration and water retention, boost pollinators and biodiversity, and can lower energy inputs (irrigation and fertiliser manufacture). They also help reconcile Natura 2000 objectives with productive landscapes. Implemented at landscape scale, organic and regenerative farming thus becomes both a delivery mechanism and a beneficiary of NBS, especially when linked to RBMP measures for diffuse pollution and hydromorphology.

River Basin Management Plans

RBMPs remain the natural home for catchment NBS portfolios. Best-practice plans quantify retention and attenuation targets, integrate Floods-Directive hazard and risk maps, identify "space for rivers" and reconnection sites, and weave in Nature Restoration Regulation milestones and wastewater source-control. Crucially, they attach maintenance and monitoring protocols that preserve ecological function alongside safety. This is also where cross-sector links to agriculture (buffers,

wetlands, agroforestry), forests (protective stands, riparian shading) and urban areas (de-sealing, SuDS networks) can be made explicit, giving basin authorities a coherent path from strategy to projects.

Recommendations and de lege ferenda.

The Commission should issue an EU-level operational standard for NBS—via Recommendation or guidance—aligned with the IUCN Standard, covering design criteria, KPIs, monitoring and biodiversity-aware O&M, with annexed street cross-sections and SuDS templates. RBMPs and Flood-Risk Management Plans should be required to include quantified retention and river-space targets and selective-maintenance protocols, linked to restoration milestones. Implementing acts and guidance under the wastewater recast and NECPs should standardise methods to count cooling-load reduction, avoided pumping/treatment energy and embodied-carbon savings, allowing NBS to qualify under energy-efficiency and system-integration finance. Model procurement clauses for living infrastructure should be published to enable performance-based, adaptive contracts. Natura 2000 guidance should clarify screening and appropriate-assessment pathways for restoration in modified urban settings, with monitor-and-adapt conditions. In the Baltic, EUSBSR flagships should explicitly bundle nutrient-reduction NBS with transnational monitoring and knowledge transfer. Finally, the EU should support basin- and city-level NBS observatories that track hydraulic, biodiversity, water-quality, energy and equity indicators and require open data as a condition of co-financing.

5. Analysis of national legal acts identified in 5 countries (at national, local and regional levels).

5.1. Poland

National operating context: institutions, consents, synergies, frictions

At national level, the enabling "mandate" for NBS comes primarily from PEP2030 (National Environmental Policy 2030), SPA2020 (Strategic Adaptation Plan), basin-scale instruments (River Basin Management Plans—RBMPs) and the Drought Plan (PPSS), complemented by air-quality policy (KPOZP/NEC) and the broad environmental assessment framework (SEA/EIA). In practice, however, the decisive gatekeepers for most NBS are Wody Polskie (Polish Waters)—through water-law permits for any intervention that changes water conditions—and the environmental protection authorities in the Natura 2000 and protected-area regimes.

Key institutions you must plan around. **Wody Polskie** issue water-law decisions (permitting works that alter water relations; surface/groundwater intakes; discharges; retention; reshaping of channels, banks and floodplains; and construction/operation of water devices). **The Minister for Climate and Environment** sets policy; **GDOŚ/RDOŚ** (General/Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection) run Natura 2000 screenings/appropriate assessments and decisions on environmental conditions for many projects; GIOŚ/Regional Inspectorates handle monitoring and enforcement; **Voivodeship marshals and assemblies** adopt regional strategies and air programmes; **County (powiat) starostas** and **municipalities** handle building, spatial planning and local environmental programmes; and **sanitary inspectorates** (Sanepid) may be needed where public health/water quality is implicated (e.g., constructed wetlands near bathing waters or infiltration close to supplies). In forested or upland areas, **State Forests** are landowners and operational partners; in coastal/lagoon areas (Tolkmicko), the **competent Maritime Office** is the shoreline authority.

Consents and procedures that recur. Most water-touching NBS will need a **water-law permit (pozwolenie/zgoda wodnoprawna)**, often accompanied by hydraulic modelling for flood-risk compatibility. Projects of larger scale or located in sensitive areas typically require a **decision on environmental conditions** (EIA screening/scoping; full EIA where significant effects are likely). In or near Natura 2000, a screening and, if needed, appropriate assessment is mandatory—even when the solution is "nature-friendly". Works in landscape parks/reserves require the protected-area authority's consent; tree felling in urban settings may need a permit under the Nature Conservation Act. Urban measures on public streets require the road manager's consent and compliance with technical standards. Where shoreline or lagoon edges are affected (Tolkmicko), **maritime/coastal consents** join the list. Depending on the design, a **building permit** (or prior notification) under the Construction Law may apply to culverts, weirs, outfalls, headwalls, retaining structures or engineered wetlands.

Synergies: what "works together". There is strong vertical alignment between PEP2030 (funding mandate), SPA2020 (adaptation logic), PPSS (explicit prioritisation of natural and artificial retention) and RBMPs (programmes of measures). Together, they give NBS a "must-consider" status for flood/drought resilience, water quality and ecological status. Air-quality policy (KPOZP/NEC) and voivodeship anti-smog rules add a supportive narrative for urban greening, permeability and ventilation corridors, making it easier to justify NBS that tackle heat, particulates and NOx indirectly. Regional environmental programmes translate these national goals into measurable tasks, and municipal environmental/adaptation programmes make them actionable locally.

Contradictions and frictions to manage. Four tensions recur across Poland. First, maintenance rules vs. renaturation: routine channel "maintenance" and vegetation clearance required by some drainage practices can pull against habitat creation and morphological complexity sought by NBS. Second, spatial planning vs. flood maps: legacy zoning or investment pressures can conflict with flood-hazard mapping; NBS require space and multi-functional zoning that not all local plans provide. Third, urban standards vs. permeability: street/parking norms and utility protection zones may promote sealed surfaces or cross-falls that undermine SuDS; explicit deviations or updated standards are often needed. Fourth, procedural parity: NBS frequently face the same (or higher) engineering-grade documentation as grey works, even when risk profiles are lower—this lengthens approvals unless scoping is agreed early with the authorities.

Where guidance is thin. Poland still lacks unified national technical standards and performance benchmarks for many urban NBS (e.g., standard SuDS sizing/acceptance criteria, O&M norms, whole-life cost templates). There is also limited national guidance on outcome-based monitoring for NBS (hydraulic, water quality, biodiversity and social KPIs integrated), and no single, authoritative compensation/offsetting playbook tailored to nature-positive solutions under the Natura regime. As a result, authorities often default to case-by-case expectations or foreign guidelines; agreeing a project-specific "evidence pack" early is critical.

Regional layer: Pomorskie (Wejherowo) vs. Warmińsko-Mazurskie (Tolkmicko)

In Pomorskie, the Regional Development Strategy 2030 and the Regional Strategic Programme for Environmental and Energy Safety provide an explicit policy bridge for blue-green infrastructure, natural retention and coastal protection. Two instruments sharpen restrictions: the regional anti-smog resolution for towns and cities (fuel/boiler restrictions) and the Regional Air Protection Programme (POP) with corrective measures and reporting deadlines. These do not hinder NBS; rather, they condition design choices—for example, favouring tree canopies and permeable networks along active-mobility corridors to co-deliver air and climate benefits. Institutionally, the Voivodeship Marshal's Office (environment and agriculture departments), the Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection, Regional Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, and regional units of Wody Polskie and RDOŚ are the principal interlocutors beyond the municipality and county.

In **Warmińsko-Mazurskie**, the 2030 Strategy and the regional Environmental Protection Programme foreground exceptional natural capital, ecological connectivity, restoration of native habitats, and climate-risk reduction. For Tolkmicko, this is enabling, but the setting is sensitive: the Elbląg Upland Landscape Park and multiple Natura 2000designations intersect with the Vistula Lagoon shore. The competent Maritime Office oversees shoreline belts and aquatic structures; RDOŚ Olsztyn handles Natura screening/assessment; Wody Polskie manage water-law decisions; park management sets conditions within the landscape park; and State Forests are essential neighbours on upland slopes. The implication is not that NBS are constrained—soft shoreline, reedbed restoration, wet meadows and ravine stabilisation are typically preferred—but that baseline data, seasonality and adaptive management must be built into permits. Expect more iterative reviews and multi-body consultations than in a typical urban setting.

Local reality: how delivery is governed in Wejherowo and Tolkmicko

Wejherowo has aligned strategies that point directly to NBS: the Development Strategy 2023–2033 elevates the spatial-environmental dimension (green public space, storm-rain management, drought and heat mitigation); the Municipal Environmental Protection Programme sets objectives across eight domains; and the Climate Adaptation Strategy under preparation is already linked to an investment task on stormwater and small retention. The Study of Conditions and Directions (Studium) and municipal ordinances on cleanliness and waste underpin implementation. Institutionally, the city's environment and investments departments, the road manager, county starosta (for building-law competences), RDOŚ Gdańsk, Wody Polskie, and (where relevant) Sanepid are the core approval constellation. Frictions to anticipate include reconciling SuDS with street cross-sections, utilities and parking ratios, and negotiating land tenure where optimal infiltration/retention sites involve mixed ownership. Approvals are smoother when the city presents a SuDS network concept (not only site-by-site) tied to POP/anti-smog benefits (canopy, permeability, ventilation corridors) and supported by a clear O&M model.

Tolkmicko presents a different mix. The municipal environmental and spatial instruments work within regional priorities, but permitting plays out across Wody Polskie, RDOŚ Olsztyn, the Landscape Park, and the Maritime Office. Designs should reflect lagoon morphodynamics, hydroperiods and species/habitat needs (reedbed dynamics, fish corridors, bird nesting and migration). Consents may sequence across authorities; for example, Natura 2000 screening conclusions inform water-law permitting, and maritime consent conditions feed back into detailed design. Because measures span upland–lowland–shoreline, phasing and construction windows (outside nesting/spawning) are often embedded in permits. Here, a catchment suite—upland slope stabilisation and forestry edge management, lowland wet meadows/wetlands for nutrient retention and flood storage, and soft shoreline works—usually meets the region's restoration logic while satisfying sensitive-area requirements.

Legal-act synergies and conflicts. High-value synergies. PEP2030 + SPA2020 justify NBS as mainstream adaptation; PPSS and RBMPs prioritise natural retention and water-status improvement; regional strategies/programmes translate those into local tasks and funding lines; municipal environmental/adaptation programmes operationalise them. For urban settings, air-quality policy (KPOZP/POP/anti-smog) synergises with urban greening and SuDS, improving the business case and eligibility across funds (regional ERDF, national funds, Interreg/LIFE).

Likely conflicts to pre-empt.

- Drainage "maintenance" vs. NBS morphology—agree vegetation management regimes in permits so habitat features are not stripped out annually.
- Legacy zoning vs. flood hazard—secure plan adjustments or special area plans that reserve space for floodplain reconnection and storage.
- Urban technical standards vs. permeability—obtain written acceptance for permeable pavements, shallow swales, reduced kerb upstands, alternative cross-falls and tree-root corridors.
- Shoreline hardening vs. soft protection—document wave/ice performance for soft-engineering solutions to satisfy maritime safety while avoiding unnecessary armouring.
- O&M uncertainty — embed ownership and maintenance responsibilities and performance monitoring in consent conditions; otherwise, authorities may hesitate.

Project teams should be ready to propose design/acceptance criteria for SuDS and wetlands (sizing, freeboard, drawdown, pollutant removal); integrated KPI dashboards (hydraulic, water quality, biodiversity, microclimate, social use); maintenance plans with cost curves and regimes compatible with biodiversity goals; adaptive-management protocols for lagoon/river dynamics.

Final practical note

Across both sites, the fastest approvals come when you (a) present a vertical-alignment memo proving that the project *implements adopted policy* (national → regional → local → basin); (b) agree an approvals map with authorities at concept stage (who issues what, in what order); (c) table a concise evidence pack (hydraulic, ecological, water quality, urban climate) that anticipates Natura questions; and (d) include clear O&M and monitoring commitments in your applications. Where regulations seem to pull in different directions—channel "maintenance" vs. habitat, sealed street standards vs. permeability, hard shore protection vs. soft—use pilot data, modelling and phased designs to secure written acceptance of nature-positive departures that still meet safety and performance requirements.

5.2. Italy

National level

At the national level, the policy mandate for Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) is created by a cluster of strategies and laws that, taken together, legitimise ecosystem restoration, floodplain reconnec-

tion, urban green-blue infrastructure and soil/water retention as mainstream responses to climate and water risk. The Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE) sets the overarching direction on climate adaptation, biodiversity and water policy (including the National Adaptation Plan and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development). The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MIT) and the civil-works arms (Genio Civile - Genio civile is a governmental technical body responsible for overseeing, regulating, and ensuring the safety of civil works and infrastructure, as well as managing territorial and environmental risks. It is staffed by professionals such as civil and hydraulic engineers, geologists, architects, technicians) shape hydraulic safety, river works and public-works standards, while the Ministry of Culture (MiC)—through the Soprintendenze Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio—acts as gatekeeper for landscape authorisations under D. Lgs. 42/2004 wherever landscape restrictions (*vincoli*) apply. National technical oversight is complemented by ISPRA and the regional environmental agencies (ARPA), which provide monitoring and binding/consultative technical opinions that frequently condition permits. The national legal architecture also establishes the principal environmental assessment procedures: strategic environmental assessment "Valutazione ambientale strategica" VAS (SEA) for plans and programmes and VIA(EIA) for projects likely to cause significant effects; and it requires environmental impact assessment "Valutazione di Incidenza (VIncA)" in or near Natura 2000 sites (screening first, then appropriate assessment if significant effects cannot be excluded). Where discharges or intentional infiltration connect to the water cycle, authorisations under D.Lgs. 152/2006 (water chapter) may be necessary. National synergies are strong between EU-derived water and flood law, the Nature Restoration agenda, the Urban Wastewater recast, Law 10/2013 on urban green areas and the National Forest Strategy, all of which collectively validate NBS and open funding channels (notably PNRR and cohesion policy). Guidance gaps remain at this level for standardised SuDS design/acceptance criteria, O&M norms and integrated KPI frameworks; in practice, project teams should table a concise, project-specific evidence pack (design criteria, monitoring, maintenance) for agreement with competent authorities.

Regional level (Veneto / Po River District)

At the regional scale, institutions translate the national mandate into operational rules for water, landscape and spatial planning. The Po River District Authority sets basin objectives and measures; for anything that touches a water body or floodplain in Veneto (including Padova), the decisive operational actors are the regional Genio Civile and the Consorzi di Bonifica (e.g., Consorzio di Bonifica Bacchiglione), which issue hydraulic/water-law permits for works that alter channels, banks or floodplains (new wetlands, reconnections, in-channel structures, removal of embankments, outfalls) and, where relevant, concessions on the public water domain. The regional environmental agency ARPAV provides monitoring and technical opinions that often shape permit conditions. In protected areas or Natura 2000 sites, the regional/park authority and the competent Natura office decide screening and appropriate assessment; where regional parks are involved (e.g., Parco Regionale dei Colli Euganei), the park's authorization "nulla osta" is a hard gate prior to works. Regional flood-risk zoning (PGRA/PAI) and the Regional Territorial Plan orient green-blue corridors and de-sealing and should be explicitly referenced in applications. Typical regional-level tensions arise between routine hydraulic safety maintenance (vegetation clearance, bank regularisation) and renaturation goals; between flood-risk zoning and legacy spatial planning that has

encroached on floodable land; and between inherited urban technical standards (road cross-sections, kerb heights, impermeable surface assumptions) and the permeability and surface-water storage NBS require. These tensions are best managed by co-designing maintenance regimes (selective/mosaic management), establishing special planning overlays that reserve floodplain space for retention, and obtaining written acceptance from road managers/utilities for permeable pavements, swales, alternative cross-falls and tree-root corridors. Where landscape constraints under D.Lgs. 42/2004 apply, early "Landscape authorization" Autorizzazione Paesaggistica with a landscape architect on the team prevents late redesigns. Finally, procurement frameworks should allow performance-based specifications and adaptive-management clauses so living systems are not forced into rigid, one-off public-works models.

Local level (Province/City of Padova)

At local level, municipalities (Comune di Padova and neighbouring communes) and the Province of Padova control spatial planning, public-realm works, utilities interfaces and local ordinances, and water-service governance structures (e.g., Consigli di Bacino/ATO) may issue opinions on network interfaces and discharges. This is where urban NBS—SuDS in streets and squares, pocket wetlands, green roofs/walls, riparian buffers—are designed, permitted and maintained. Consents follow the institutional chain: urban SuDS typically require road-manager consent, utility-owner clearances, and either a building permit (permesso di costruire) or a works notification (SCIA/CILA) through the municipal one-stop building desk (SUE); works inside parks or regional reserves add a park authorization "nulla osta". If excavations are substantial, the Soprintendenza may require archaelogical investigations "preventive archaeology". Slope or woodland bioengineering can require a hydrogeological permit and consents from State Forest authorities or forestry offices "vincolo idrogeologico permit and State Forests/forestry consents". In or near Natura 2000 sites, VIncA is mandatory; if the site also lies under a landscape vincolo, an landscape authorization "Autorizzazione Paesaggistica" is required and frequently conditions materials, earthworks profiles and vegetation. The primary local contradictions to anticipate are: the clash between street design standards and SuDS geometry/permeability; the need for space where legacy urban form is tight; and the mismatch between public-works procurement (fixed outputs) and living systems (adaptive performance). These are resolved by preparing site-specific cross-sections accepted by the road manager and utilities at concept stage, using special area plans or implementation plans to reserve space for retention and floodplain reconnection, and embedding O&M responsibilities and monitoring KPIs in the permit set so the owning authority recognises the assets and funds their upkeep.

Final note. In Veneto and Padova, NBS are fully compatible with the legal landscape and—in many cases—explicitly encouraged by planning and water-risk instruments. Success depends on bringing the right institutions to the table early (Genio Civile, Consorzio di Bonifica, ARPAV, Soprintendenza, Po District Authority, Park/Natura offices, municipal engineering and green-space departments), sequencing consents so that landscape/Natura conditions inform hydraulic permits rather than collide with them, and filling guidance gaps with a concise, shared set of design criteria, O&M routines and monitoring KPIs. Do that, and you convert supportive policy into buildable, maintainable NBS that withstand technical scrutiny and deliver the risk-reduction, ecological and urban-climate outcomes your consortium is aiming for.

5.3. Slovenia

National level

Slovenia's national framework gives Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) a clear mandate and an increasingly practical route to approval. The Long-Term Climate Strategy to 2050 (ReDPS50) commits to climate neutrality and couples mitigation with adaptation, biodiversity protection and resilient water/land management; the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) translates near-term targets to 2030; and the Spatial Development Strategy 2050 (ReSPR50)directs planners to adopt water-compatible, morphology-sensitive designs that minimise flood risk—language that fits NBS. The legal backbone is the Water Act (ZV-1), which requires that planning and interventions do not deteriorate water status, sustain natural processes and riparian ecosystems, and ensure protection against harmful water effects while enabling sustainable use. Two implementation tools convert this into practice: the General Guidelines for Water Management (Water Directorate, 2022), which instruct municipalities to reduce instantaneous runoff at source (retention, infiltration, grass swales, dry basins), and the Nature Conservation Guidelines for watercourse interventions in the Danube River Basin District (Government, 2023), which set expectations for riparian vegetation, natural-material bank protection, continuity, sediment handling and timing of works. After the 2023 floods, the ZORZFS law added a strong lever by requiring that—especially outside built-up areas—the possibility of using NBS be examined in water-infrastructure rehabilitation, provided they ensure at least equivalent flood-risk effectiveness.

Key institutions are the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy (MOPE), housing the Water Directorate and the Directorate for Spatial Planning and Construction; ARSO (the environment agency) for hydrology, flood mapping and environmental oversight; and the Natural Resources and Spatial Planning Inspectorate for enforcement. For nature impacts and Natura 2000 decisions, the competent nature-conservation authority under MOPE leads screening and appropriate assessment. The Urban Planning Institute functions as a national methods/knowledge actor.

Consents follow from ZV-1 and spatial law. Expect water-management conditions and permits for any works that alter water relations (wetland creation or reconnection, bank reshaping, in-channel features, floodplain set-backs, controlled infiltration). ZUREP-3 governs spatial placement and the construction/works procedures; plans and programmes may trigger SEA (VAS), while projects in sensitive settings undergo EIA (VIA) screening and, where relevant, full EIA. In or near Natura 2000, screening and appropriate assessment are obligatory; timing and methods often follow the Danube-district Guidelines. None of these instruments are NBS-specific, but they generally favour NBS where impacts are lower and co-benefits are clear.

Synergies are strong: ReDPS50 + NECP + ReSPR50 set direction; ZV-1 + Water-Directorate Guidelines (2022) + Danube-district Guidelines (2023) translate direction into technical expectations; and ZORZFS (2023) adds a duty to consider NBS in post-flood works. Likely frictions include "effectiveness" tests that, if not well evidenced, can bias choices toward familiar grey options; traditional conveyance-oriented maintenance that conflicts with NBS roughness/habitat; uneven national standards for urban SuDS (sizing, draw-down, acceptance), O&M norms, and integrated KPIs; and

legacy zoning that limits space for floodplain reconnection. Areas of restriction include Natura 2000 sites and riparian protection strips, flood-hazard zones, and groundwater protection areas for infiltration—conditions that shape design and phasing rather than prohibitions.

Regional level (Podravje / Drava basin)

Regionally, the Podravje Regional Development Programme 2021–2027 (though not using the term "NBS") prioritises a low-carbon, greener region, green spaces and biodiversity—an enabling policy hook for catchment retention, river-corridor restoration and urban blue-green networks. The Regional Development Agency Podravje – Maribor is the programming counterpart and helps align projects with EU/national funding lines. Technically, Poljčane sits within the Drava (Danube) River Basin District, so the Danube-district Nature Conservation Guidelines (2023) and the Water-Directorate runoff-reduction Guidelines (2022) are directly applicable, alongside basin programmes of measures and regional flood-hazard maps prepared under ZV-1/WFD.

Most regional "permits" are issued by national bodies through regional units (Water Directorate, ARSO, Inspectorate), but early regional coordination is valuable. Convening a single scoping session to confirm permit needs, the order of decisions (e.g., Natura screening before water permits) and the shared evidence base (hydraulic model domain, design storms, ecological baselines, sediment budgets) prevents serial, stop-start reviews. The main tensions here are jurisdictional rather than legal: the same project may require opinions from Water Directorate, ARSO (hydrology/flood), nature-conservation services, the Inspectorate, and in some cases agrarian/forestry offices. Aligning a maintenance regime that satisfies both hydraulic safety and biodiversity (mosaic/seasonal clearance) addresses the common conflict between legacy drainage expectations and retention-first design.

Restrictions tighten where projects intersect mapped floodplains, Natura 2000 polygons or riparian strips. These do not bar NBS, but they do lengthen review unless timing and method statements reflect the Danube-district Guidelines (e.g., work windows outside fish spawning and bird nesting, natural-material bank protection, sediment protocols). Presenting paired metrics—peak-flow attenuation and no increase in residual risk—plus a feasible maintenance plan is decisive for acceptance.

Local level (Municipality of Poljčane – OPN Ordinance, 2020)

Locally, the Ordinance on the Municipal Spatial Plan (OPN) of Poljčane, 2020 determines where NBS can be sited, relevant land uses, and how public-realm works integrate with roads and utilities. Delivery is coordinated by municipal urban planners and line departments, supported by komunala (municipal utility) and landholders (notably farmers, where valley-bottom retention, riparian buffers and hedgerows require private parcels). The municipality implements national law through its procedures: location compliance with the OPN; building/works authorisations under ZUREP-3; and the collection of state-level clearances (water-management conditions/permits; Natura screening/assessment) before issuing local approvals.

For urban/peri-urban NBS—rain gardens, swales, permeable pavements, pocket wetlands, street trees—the municipality typically requires OPN conformity (or minor amendment), road-manager consent, utility-owner approvals, and stormwater design consistent with the runoff-reduction guidance (pre-treatment, storage, controlled release/infiltration). A concise maintenance plan should define who maintains what (komunala vs. parks vs. roads), how often, and with which biodiversity safeguards (mosaic mowing, no blanket clearance). For river-corridor or floodplain NBS—set-back berms, side-channel reconnection, riparian planting, lowland wet meadows—add water-management permits under ZV-1, Natura screening/appropriate assessment where relevant, and seasonal restrictions in line with the Danube-district Guidelines. Where agricultural land is converted to wet meadow or buffer strips, the municipality should help arrange easements/agreements/compensation.

The most frequent local contradictions are geometric and managerial. Existing street standards (kerb heights, turning radii, fixed cross-falls) and dense utility corridors can make SuDS appear awkward even when technically sound; producing agreed cross-sections at concept stage (permeable surfaces, alternative cross-falls to vegetated strips, tree-root corridors with utility offsets) avoids late redesign. A second tension is O&M realism: NBS approved as capital projects can underperform without assured maintenance budgets; approvals move faster when the O&M responsibility/cost matrix is explicit and aligned with komunala's routines. A third is data sufficiency: where floodplain space is scarce, site-scale hydraulic modelling and soil infiltration testing help demonstrate compliance with peak-attenuation and draw-down targets without raising residual risk.

To close local guidance gaps, attach project-specific acceptance criteria (design storms, storage depth, allowable discharge, maximum draw-down hours), a biodiversity-aware maintenance manual, and a brief monitoring plan with practical KPIs—storage (m^3), time-to-peak shift, infiltration/recharge estimates, suspended-solids/nutrient proxies, canopy gain and permeability, summer surface-temperature reduction. Areas of restriction that shape method and phasing include mapped flood-hazard zones, Natura 2000 sites/buffers, riparian protection strips, groundwater protection areas (for infiltration), and parcels with valuable topsoil or active drainage where historic maintenance regimes exist.

Operating note. Engage MOPE/Water Directorate, ARSO, the Inspectorate, the Regional Development Agency, and—locally—the Municipality of Poljčane, komunala and landholders at concept stage; confirm permits and sequence (Natura → water-management → local works); submit a compact evidence pack (hydraulic, ecological, water-quality, microclimate) with O&M and KPIs; and schedule works within the seasonal windows prescribed by the Danube-district Guidelines. This turns an enabling national framework into buildable, maintainable NBS that deliver flood/drought resilience, ecological gains and better urban–rural liveability.

5.4. Hungary

National level

Hungary's framework gives Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) a solid mandate, with water and spatial rules providing the operative pathway. Strategically, NKP5 (2022), NÉS2 (2015) and the Clean Development Strategy 2020–2050 (2021) set climate objectives; the 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy (2023) and National Landscape Strategy 2017–2026anchor habitat connectivity, invasive control and landscape-scale planning. The National Sustainable Development Framework (2018) supports cross-sector alignment. For water, the VGT3 River Basin Management Plan (2022–2027) and the ÁKK Flood Risk Plan (periodic) are decisive: they prioritise good status, natural retention, flood-risk prevention and drought resilience—core NBS outcomes. Forested/riparian measures align with the National Forest Strategy 2016–2030, soils with the Soil Protection Action Plan. In urban areas, two recent levers—the TÉKA basic planning/construction decree (2024) and Gov. Decree 282/2024 on municipal green infrastructure/green-space certificate/green label—can embed green infrastructure and SuDS expectations into settlement-level controls.

Institutions to engage. Policy leadership sits with the Ministry of Agriculture (nature, forests, soils, water), the Ministry of Construction & Transportation (planning/building; TÉKA), the Ministry of Energy (climate/NECP), and the Ministry of Public Administration & Regional Development (territorial coordination). Permitting is delivered through County Government Offices (environment, construction, nature units) and the territorial water directorates—here the Middle Tisza Valley Water Authority (KÖTIVIZIG).

Core consents. NBS that touch waters/floodplains typically require a water rights licence (planning + implementation phases) from KÖTIVIZIG, with hydraulic calculations and flood-risk compatibility. Depending on scale/sensitivity, obtain environmental impact screening/permit from the County Government Office and nature-conservation consent/assessment for Natura 2000/ protected sites (often with timing/method conditions). Built elements and significant earthworks need construction/works permits; works in road corridors need road-manager and utility-ownerapprovals. Forestry or soil actions may trigger forest authority notifications and soil-protection decisions.

Synergies. Strong alignment exists where NKP5/NÉS2/Clean Development (climate), Biodiversity/ Landscape(ecology) and VGT3/ÁKK (water/flood) intersect—supporting floodplain reconnection, riparian buffers, wetlands, drought storage and urban SuDS. The green-infrastructure decree and TÉKA help formalise urban GI/SuDS standards and certification.

Contradictions and gaps. Recurrent tensions arise between conveyance-focused maintenance (channel clearance, hardening) and morphology-based retention; between legacy agricultural drainage and rewetting/buffer strips; and between standard street cross-sections and SuDS geometry/permeability. Guidance remains uneven on SuDS sizing/acceptance, O&M norms and multi-benefit KPIs, and procurement often prefers rigid specifications over performance-based, adaptive maintenance suited to living systems.

Areas of restriction. Expect tighter scrutiny in Natura 2000/protected areas, flood-hazard zones, river protection strips, groundwater protection zones (for infiltration) and prime agricultural soils (for conversion). These shape design, siting and seasonality rather than block NBS outright.

Regional level (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County / Middle Tisza)

The county tier translates national aims into place-based priorities and coordinates approvals. The County Climate Strategy and the Territorial Development Concept & Programme (2021–2027) support risk reduction, water efficiency, green infrastructure and ecological connectivity, providing a programming hook and funding alignment for NBS portfolios. The Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Government Office consolidates environmental, construction and nature functions; the Middle Tisza Valley Water Authority (KÖTIVIZIG) licenses water works and manages floodplains; the County Administration coordinates development instruments.

Consents and sequencing. Regionally, most formal decisions are issued by national-law authorities operating at county/territorial scale. Good practice is to convene a joint scoping with KÖTIVIZIG and the Government Office (environment, construction, nature) to confirm permits required; order of decisions (e.g., Natura screening informing water rights); and the evidence base (hydraulic model domain, design events, groundwater/infiltration tests, ecological baselines). Where county roads or regional utilities are affected, secure asset-owner approvals early.

Synergies and frictions. ÁKK hazard maps and VGT3 measures reinforce natural retention and flood prevention; county climate goals favour cooling corridors, tree canopy, de-sealing. Frictions emerge where flood-safety routines demand rapid conveyance/vegetation clearance, or where agricultural drainage conflicts with seasonal inundation. These are resolved by demonstrating paired performance—no increase in residual risk and measurable peak-attenuation/storage—plus mosaic/seasonal maintenance compatible with biodiversity.

Restrictions. The Tisza/Zagyva sub-basins have extensive floodplains; designs must respect hazard zones, levee set-backs and operational corridors. In Natura polygons, expect work-window constraints (nesting/spawning) and natural material/method requirements.

Local level (Municipality of Jászberény)

Local planning instruments provide the levers for siting and integrating NBS:

- **TFK – Településfejlesztési koncepció (2015):** long-term vision; policy anchor for resilience and green-blue networks.
- **ITS – Integrált településfejlesztési stratégia (2022):** medium-term projects; embed NBS in streets, parks and redevelopment packages.
- **HÉSZ (2017):** binding local building rules; codify **permeability ratios, drainage corridors, tree-pit/soil volumes, set-backs**; amend if needed to reflect **TÉKA** and the **green-infrastructure decree**.
- **ITVT – Integrált települési vízgazdálkodási terv (2022):** technical reference for **stormwater, infiltration, storage and controlled release**.

- **Települési vízkárelhárítási és vízminőség-védelmi terv (2020):** emergency/flood and water-quality protection—align NBS to demonstrate **damage avoidance**.
- **TKP – Települési Környezetvédelmi Program (2022):** settlement-level environmental objectives (canopy, de-sealing, habitat links).

Local institutions to involve. Municipality (urban planning, public works/roads, green management); JVV Zrt.(utility/water services); Eszterházy Károly Catholic University – Jászberény Campus (monitoring/education); neighbourhood associations and landowners (for easements/access); local branches of national authorities via the **County Government Office**.

Consents and typical packages.

- Local conformity: show alignment with TFK/ITS/HÉSZ/ITVT/TKP; prepare HÉSZ adjustments where permeability/sections need updating (supported by TÉKA and GI decree).
- Road/utility approvals: cross-sections for permeable pavements, swales, tree-root corridors, utility offsets and overflow routes; road-manager and utility sign-offs.
- Water rights licence: for outfalls, infiltration galleries, wetlands, reconnections, floodplain set-backs—issued by KÖTIVIZIG.
- Environmental/nature: EIA screening as required; Natura 2000 assessment where applicable; work-window/method conditions.
- Construction permit/notification: for structures/earthworks via the Government Office.
- Forestry/soil: if riparian planting, reforestation or soil works are involved.

Where rules pull apart—and how to reconcile.

- Street standards vs. SuDS geometry: secure bespoke agreed sections (kerb heights, cross-falls to vegetated strips, inlet/outlet details) and reference TÉKA/HÉSZ.
- Conveyance maintenance vs. habitat/roughness: embed mosaic/seasonal regimes and reference them in licence conditions.
- Agricultural drainage vs. rewetting/buffers: combine seasonal inundation with farm access and soil-protection; use easements/compensation backed by the Soil Action Plan.
- Procurement rigidity vs. adaptive systems: specify performance targets (storage m^3, time-to-peak shift, draw-down hours, TSS/nutrient removal) and adaptive O&M, not only fixed items.

Guidance still thin locally. Standard SuDS sizing/acceptance, O&M norms and multi-benefit KPIs are not yet harmonised. Attach a concise project evidence pack: design storms and storage targets; infiltration/groundwater checks; pre-treatment and water-quality logic; biodiversity-aware O&M; and a monitoring plan with practical KPIs (storage, time-to-peak, infiltration/recharge estimate, TSS/nutrient proxies, canopy/permeability, surface-temperature reduction).

Areas of restriction. Closer scrutiny in ÁKK flood-hazard zones, Natura 2000/protected areas, river protection strips, groundwater protection zones (infiltration), and utility corridors; these shape method, siting and seasonality.

Operating note. Start with a joint scoping (KÖTIVIZIG + County Government Office) to confirm permits and sequence (Natura → water rights → construction/road). Submit a 2–3 page plan-consistency memo (national ↔ county ↔ local). Attach a compact evidence pack and O&M/monitoring plan with performance KPIs. Where conflicts appear, obtain written acceptances (and HÉSZ updates if necessary) supported by TÉKA and the green-infrastructure decree. This enables Jászberény to lawfully and efficiently deliver NBS that reduce flood/heat risks, improve ecological status and public amenity, and meet national climate-biodiversity commitments.

5.5. Czech Republic

National level

The national spine for NBS combines climate, biodiversity, circular economy and innovation. The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Gov. Res. 785/2021) frames risks (drought, floods/flash floods, cloudbursts, heat, wind, fires) and promotes measures that reduce vulnerability of people and ecosystems. The Biodiversity Protection Strategy 2016–2025underpins habitat quality, connectivity and invasive control—key for catchment restoration, riparian buffers and wetlands. The Circular Economy Framework 2040 supports de-sealing, soil/biomass reuse and water efficiency, complementing urban NBS. The RIS3 Strategy 2021–2027 enables piloting and co-funding with city–university–industry partnerships.

Institutions to involve. Ministry of the Environment (MŽP) (adaptation, biodiversity, circular), Ministry of Regional Development (MMR) (territorial instruments, EU funds), Ministry of Industry & Trade (MPO) (RIS3). On the ground: water authorities/basin administrators for river/floodplain works; nature authorities (AOPK ČR/regional nature units) for protected areas; Regional Sanitary Station and Fire Rescue where public health/safety interfaces exist.

Core consents

- **Water-management permits** for works in/near watercourses, wetlands, outfalls, infiltration, floodplain reconnections (with flood-risk compatibility).
- **Nature-conservation screening/consent** (Natura 2000/protected species; method and timing conditions).
- **EIA screening** (and SEA for plans) where scale/sensitivity triggers apply.
- **Building/works permits** plus **road-manager/utility approvals** for right-of-way SuDS.

Synergies vs. conflicts. Adaptation + Biodiversity + Circular agendas reinforce natural retention, floodplain reconnection, riparian restoration and urban SuDS; RIS3 adds innovation finance. Frictions: conveyance-oriented maintenance vs. morphology-based NBS; legacy zoning/land take vs. space for floodplains; urban standards (kerbs, cross-falls, utility corridors) vs. SuDS geometry/permeability; procurement favouring fixed specs over performance-based, adaptive O&M.

Guidance gaps. Nationally uniform SuDS sizing/acceptance, biodiversity-aware O&M, and integrated KPIs (hydraulic, water quality, ecology, microclimate, social use) are uneven. Submit a concise evidence pack (hydraulic model, soil/infiltration tests, habitat baseline, monitoring plan) and agree it early with MŽP's regional arms and water authorities.

Areas of restriction. Natura 2000 sites/buffers, flood-hazard zones, riparian protection strips, groundwater protection zones, and critical infrastructure **corridors**—they shape method, timing and documentation rather than prohibit NBS.

Regional level (South Bohemia Region / JAIP / interface with City)

The region translates national aims into spatial rules and programmes. The Principles of Spatial Development set corridors/limits (flood-risk areas, ecological networks, green-blue axes). The Development Programme 2021–2027provides funding hooks for resilience, water efficiency and urban quality. The Adaptation Strategy of South Bohemia 2024–2034 prioritises heat mitigation, stormwater retention, flood and drought resilience, encouraging natural water retention measures.

Institutions to involve. South Bohemian Regional Authority (Urban Planning/Building, Environment/Nature, Water, Roads/Transport); JAIP and regional research bodies (Biology Centre CAS, Global Change Research Institute CAS, University of South Bohemia) for baselines/monitoring; Regional Sanitary Station, Fire Brigade, and network operators for early technical alignment.

Consents & sequencing. Typically: nature screening → water permits → building/road consents (SEA/EIA if triggered). For works in regional corridors, secure administrator approvals and construction windows (spawning/nesting; flood season). Cite Principles of Spatial Development and the Regional Adaptation Strategy for plan consistency.

Synergies vs. frictions. Regional adaptation and development programmes support floodplain reconnection, wetlands, urban SuDS, canopy expansion. Frictions: standard road cross-sections vs. permeable/vegetated sections; river maintenance regimes vs. roughness/habitat. Resolve with paired performance metrics (no increase in residual risk + peak-attenuation/storage gains), mosaic/seasonal maintenance, and agreed cross-sections with road/utility owners.

Restrictions. Regional set-backs from watercourses, ecological network safeguards and landscape protection condition materials/profiles/vegetation—early design response typically favours NBS.

Local level (City of České Budějovice)

Delivery is governed by the Zoning Plan (new master plan in preparation), the Local Adaptation Strategy (2022), the Strategic Plan (2018) and "České Budějovice 21 Smart Green City". Together they justify SuDS networks, de-sealing, canopy growth, riparian buffers and park water features as mainstream infrastructure and provide the policy base for funding and approvals.

Institutions to involve. City Urban Planning, Building Authority, Environmental/Nature, Roads/Transport, Greenery/Parks, ČEVAK (water/utility), plus E.GD (gas), electricity DSO and telecoms for corridor agreements; Regional Sanitary Station and Fire Brigade on health/safety.

Consents & typical packages

- Plan conformity: siting within the Zoning Plan (or minor adjustment); reference Local Adaptation & Strategic Plans.

- Water permits: outfalls, infiltration, wetlands, bank/floodplain works (with hydraulic calculations; no adverse flood-risk effects).
- Nature consents: Natura/protected-species screening; timing/method agreements (natural materials, sediment protocols).
- Building/road/utility approvals: cross-sections for permeable pavements, swales, tree-root corridors, overflow routes; right-of-way and utility offsets.
- Health & safety: Sanitary Station opinion for open-water/wetlands (mosquito, bathing/odour); Fire Brigade for access/egress.
- O&M/monitoring: clear responsibilities/frequencies, biodiversity-aware regimes; KPIs (storage m^3, time-to-peak, draw-down hours, TSS/nutrient proxies, canopy/permeability, surface-temperature reduction, habitat indicators).

Where rules pull apart - practical reconciliations

- Street standards vs. SuDS geometry: agree bespoke sections (kerb heights, alternative cross-falls, inlet/outlet details) at concept stage.
- Conveyance maintenance vs. habitat/roughness: codify selective/mosaic mowing and seasonal restrictions in permits and contracts.
- Land take vs. floodplain space: reserve space in the new master plan; treat NBS as risk-reduction infrastructure.
- Procurement rigidity: specify performance targets and adaptive management instead of only fixed outputs.

Guidance gaps. City-level SuDS sizing/acceptance, O&M manuals and multi-benefit KPIs are not fully harmonised; fill with a project-specific acceptance note agreed by Building/Environment and ČEVAK. During the master-plan transition, attach a short policy-consistency memo linking to the Local and Regional Adaptation Strategies.

Areas of restriction. Flood-hazard zones, Natura 2000 buffers, riparian strips, groundwater protection areas, utility corridors—affect siting, methods, seasonality and evidence, but do not preclude NBS.

Operating note. Engage MŽP/MMR/MPO for policy/funding; regionally the South Bohemian Authority and research partners; locally the city's planning/environment/roads/greenery/utilities teams and operators. Sequence approvals (nature → water → building/road), ground applications in plan consistency, and attach a compact evidence pack plus O&M/monitoring with agreed KPIs. Where regulations conflict (conveyance vs. retention; street norms vs. SuDS), secure written departures tied to performance targets. This enables České Budějovice to lawfully and efficiently deliver NBS that reduce flood/heat risks, improve water quality and biodiversity, and enhance urban liveability.

6. Summary

Nature-based solutions (NBS) have moved from pilot ideas to a central pillar of European climate, water, and biodiversity policy. This report assembled the European legal architecture and examined five regional/national contexts (Poland, Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic) to show how NBS can lawfully deliver flood and drought resilience, water-quality gains, biodiversity recovery, urban cooling, and social co-benefits. The overarching message is straightforward: NBS are now a mainstream expectation, but turning that expectation into buildable, permittable and maintainable projects requires clear understanding of legal acts and their interrelationships, early coordination across institutions, and practical guidance that treats living systems with the same operational seriousness as grey infrastructure. Further work—both at EU committee level (to standardise definitions, methods and monitoring) and at national level (to align sectoral statutes, permits and standards)—is essential to sustain momentum. In Poland in particular, there is no statutory definition of NBS, which complicates acceptance and procurement.

The report therefore stresses, it is vital not to confuse "green and blue infrastructure" (BGI) with NBS. BGI refers to networks and elements (parks, swales, permeable streets); NBS is broader term — it is action using living systems as the primary mechanism to address societal challenges and must deliver measurable biodiversity benefits alongside other outcomes. Many BGI elements can be NBS, but only when designed, permitted and maintained for hydrologic, ecological and social performance—not merely for amenity.

What the legal architecture enables—and how it fits together

At EU level, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Floods Directive establish the basin-scale planning cycles and risk logic where catchment NBS (floodplain reconnection, side-channel revival, natural retention, riparian buffers) are the default measures. The Habitats and Birds Directives (Natura 2000) set hard biodiversity safeguards that distinguish credible NBS from purely "green" aesthetics. NBS must pass appropriate assessment and, done well, help achieve site conservation objectives. The Nature Restoration Regulation turns ambition into binding, time-bound restoration targets across rivers, wetlands/peatlands, forests, agro-ecosystems and cities, making NBS a compliance pathway rather than a nice-to-have. The Adaptation Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Soil Strategy 2030 and Zero Pollutionframework give strategic cover and metrics, while sectoral acts (e.g., Urban Wastewater recast) promote blue-green source control and energy-neutral water services in cities. Macro-regional strategies (e.g., EUSBSR in the Baltic) knit cross-border funding and priorities—useful for the Polish coastal and lagoon contexts highlighted in the report.

Across Member States and the five model regions, the institutional map is consistent: basin authorities and water administrations license works affecting rivers and floodplains; environmental/nature bodies screen/assess Natura 2000 and protected areas; regional parks or cultural-landscape guardians issue landscape permissions; municipalities and road/utilities owners gatekeep street-level SuDS; and public-health or sanitary services weigh in where open water intersects amenity. Where teams approached these actors early with a shared evidence pack (hydraulic modelling, soil/infiltration tests, habitat baselines, KPIs, O&M regime), approvals accelerated and late redesigns were avoided.

Key cross-cutting findings from the five regions

Synergies are strong. Flood/drought risk planning dovetails with WFD hydromorphology and biodiversity goals. Agricultural eco-schemes and soil policy support riparian strips, hedgerows, wetlands and rewetting. Urban adaptation strategies legitimise de-sealing and SuDS networks. **Bottlenecks are recurring**. Legacy "clear-and-convey" maintenance can strip habitat and roughness that NBS need. Street standards and utility corridors can make SuDS geometry hard to approve. Procurement and liability regimes are tuned to fixed outputs, not adaptive living systems. **Guidance gaps** remain on standard SuDS sizing/acceptance, biodiversity-aware O&M, and integrated KPIs that track hydraulic, water-quality, biodiversity, heat-mitigation and social use. The report documents practical reconciliations—selective/mosaic maintenance, special planning overlays that reserve floodplain space, agreed street cross-sections, and performance-based contracts.

The Polish context—definitions and distinctions

Poland's strategic spine (PEP2030, SPA2020, drought and basin plans) enables NBS, and institutions such as Wody Polskie (water-law permits) and GDOŚ/RDOŚ (Natura 2000) are decisive gatekeepers. Yet Polish law lacks a formal NBS definition, leaving practice to import EC/UNEA/IUCN language. This is workable, but it increases interpretive risk in permits and procurement. Operational experience from municipal utilities such as Gdańskie Wody highlights three essentials for city-scale success: (i) a retention-first, network approach (distributed SuDS connected to receiving waters with overflow routes); (ii) maintenance designed in from day one (seasonal, mosaic regimes; ownership and budget clarity); and (iii) public communication and co-creation (rain-garden programmes, parcel-scale retention incentives, and clear guidance for property owners). These practices turn strategy into day-to-day routines and are directly transferable to other cities in the report's model regions. (See Gdańskie Wody's publicly available materials and programmes as reference for governance, standards and engagement approaches.)

What needs to happen next (EU committees and national levels)

At EU committee level, a concise operational standard for NBS—aligned with the IUCN Global Standard—should codify design criteria (e.g., design storms, draw-down times), biodiversity and water-quality KPIs, monitoring protocols, and biodiversity-aware O&M (mosaic/seasonal maintenance), with annexed street cross-sections and acceptance templates for SuDS and wetlands. Implementing guidance under the wastewater recast and NECPs should count energy co-benefits (cooling-load reduction; avoided pumping/treatment energy; embodied carbon) to unlock additional funding lines without diluting biodiversity requirements.

At national level, authorities should:

- adopt or reference an NBS definition (Poland urgently), clarifying that BGI ≠ NBS unless living systems and biodiversity benefits are central;
- update street/utility standards to recognise permeable geometries, root corridors and vegetated conveyance;

- align maintenance codes so hydraulic safety and habitat are reconciled (selective, seasonal regimes);
- publish model procurement clauses for performance-based, adaptive contracts; and
- mandate compact evidence packs for NBS (hydraulic, ecological, water-quality, microclimate and social KPIs, plus O&M and monitoring).

Closing thought

NBS are not a fashion—they are the most scalable, multi-benefit route to meet Europe's legal duties on water status, flood risk, biodiversity, soil health and urban resilience. The law already provides many of the tools; the task now is to operationalise them consistently: define clearly (especially in Poland), plan at basin and city-network scales, coordinate consents early, and resource long-term maintenance and monitoring. Done this way, NBS will not only satisfy compliance—they will leave more resilient, biodiverse and liveable places for the next decades.

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If you would like to learn more, please contact the project partners:

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ANNEX NO 1:

CONE PARTNERS DESK RESEARCH - RELEVANT EU AND CROSS-BORDER STRATEGIES & FRAMEWORKS RECOMMENDED BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AS A LEGAL BASIS OF REFERENCE TO NBS AREA

The annex was prepared based on an analysis carried out by consortium members from February 2024 to July 2025 as a part of a report on local policy frameworks on NBS and development of 5 ‘model regions’ - “Replication blueprints” for NBS implementation in CE and involvement of citizens and decision makers in joint actions on NBS in CE;

AIM:

- Develop a practical tool for planning and supporting the processes of organizing living laboratories based on external circumstances & external expertise, enabling effective use of existing resources and opportunities;
- Individual analysis of known legal and strategic acts at the general and national levels (in 5 EU countries) as a part of the implementation of planned projects, pilots, and deepening of thematic knowledge on the application of NBS;
- Building understanding of the NBS general legal framework and local conditions for its implementation;

Mentioned analysis required identification by partners of policy frameworks on NBS, divided into two main levels:

- Worldwide level
- Pan-European level,

PURPOSE:

- Ensure better identification of areas of restrictions and possible legal frameworks within which NBS operations will be implemented in Central Europe partner organizations,
- Deepen the knowledge on additional conditions occurring in individual areas of the consortium that must be taken into account
- Show the most common mistakes related to recording activities carried out within the legal and strategic framework of NBS

ANALYSIS TIMLINE:

- 25.10.2024 - Prepared task framework and template of gathering material by task leader
- December 2024 – submission of guidelines by the coordinating partner to consortium members
- February 2025 – May 2025 - Completion of internal analysis and desk research by national partners (all partners)
- End of May 2025 - July 2025 Summary and final conclusions by consortia members

The following annex focuses on the analysis of legal and strategic frameworks with an international/ European scope.

A part of the research conducted under Measure 3.1 of the CONE project partners, provided a significant number of recognisable documents having a direct or indirect connection to the area of Nature Based Solutions (NBS).
Among them are 28 legal and strategic frameworks that should be taken into account at the stage of planning investments or activities related to the implementation of the NBS.

The following framework/legal acts and strategies has impact and relation to NBS:
1. European Green Deal;
2. European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;
3. European Union Strategy for the Danube Region;
4. European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region;
5. European Union Strategy for Alpine Region;
6. European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD);
7. EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change,
8. National Energy and Climate Plans;
9. National Water and Environmental Programme (NWEP);
10. River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs);
11. Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC;
12. Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) - Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament;
13. EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030;
14. Habitats Directive - EU measures to conserve Europe's wild flora and fauna;
15. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027;
16. European Union Urban Agenda – Partnership on Sustainable Land Use and Nature-Based Solutions;
17. Natura 2000 - a European network of protected nature areas;
18. Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
Introduced in March 2015;
19. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
20. 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP);
21. Green infrastructure strategy;
22. UN Convention on Biological Diversity;
23. 2030 Agenda for sustainable development - Sustainable Development Goals;
24. European Union forest strategy for 2030;
25. LULUCF Regulation;
26. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol);
27. UN Paris Agreement;
28. New European Bauhaus (NEB);
29. Other related EU Directives.

Wider description of mentioned acts provided by project partners based on desk research and interviews with local stakeholders:

1. **Name of the act: European Green Deal**

approved in 2020, is a set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the overarching aim of making the European Union (EU) climate neutral in 2050.
Indicated by partners from: 5 CONE project model regions (PL, SI, ITA, HUN, CZE)
Related to: All EU members
The project contributes to tackling climate and environmental related challenges, to protect the health

and well-being of citizens from environment related risks and impacts, an urgent global case that knows no borders.

Short description: The overarching aim of the European Green Deal is for the European Union to become the world's first "climate-neutral bloc" by 2050. It has goals extending to many different sectors, including construction, biodiversity, energy, transport and food.

The plan includes potential carbon tariffs for countries that don't curtail their greenhouse gas pollution at the same rate.[18] The mechanism to achieve this is called the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). It also includes:

- a circular economy action plan,[20] The European Commission has released a number of publications on circular economy, including one that requires Member States to carry out activities related to changing their economies into circular economies. The CE has indeed become a key component of the European Green Deal and the Coronavirus Recovery Plan of the Von der Leyen Commission (2019–present), and it was a key component of the Juncker Commission's ambition to create a sustainable, low-carbon, resource-efficient, and competitive economy.
- a review and possible revision (where needed) of the all relevant climate-related policy instruments, including the Emissions Trading System,
- a Farm to Fork strategy along with a focus shift from compliance to performance (which will reward farmers for managing and storing carbon in the soil, improved nutrient management, reducing emissions, ...),
- a revision of the Energy Taxation Directive which is looking closely at fossil fuel subsidies and tax exemptions (aviation, shipping),
- a sustainable and smart mobility strategy and an EU forest strategy. The latter will have as its key objectives effective afforestation, and forest preservation and restoration in Europe.

NBS and project relation: Nature-based solutions are encouraged for climate change adaptation. The European Green Deal steps up efforts on climate-proofing, resilience building, prevention and preparedness. Public and private investments, including in nature-based solutions, are a key component of the transformational change needed to adapt to climate change and help ongoing efforts to limit it. CONE can contribute to the EU Green Deal's objective to improve the well-being and health of citizens and future generations by providing fresh air, clean water, healthy soil and biodiversity.

2. **Name of the act: <u>European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR),</u>**

adopted in 2009 by COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Indicated by partners from: Poland

Relating to: Polish consortia members and case study places: GUT, APC ERB, Municipalities of Wejherowo, and Tolkmicko

Short description: The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) was launched in 2009 and is the first of the four Macro-regional Strategies in Europe. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) fosters international cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. The Strategy is divided into three main objectives: Saving the Sea, Connecting the Region and Increasing Prosperity. The Strategy is divided into three main objectives: saving the sea, connecting the region and increasing prosperity.

NBS and project relation: These records are scattered and can be found in several areas:

- Sub-objective "Climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management". It stresses that climate change (CC) increases precipitation and run-off, increasing nutrient inputs to the sea. Project acts for reuse of rainwater, thus preventing run-off and making the water supply more climate resilient.
- PA Bioeconomy, Action 2 "Improving agricultural practices for sustainability and adaptation (e.g., to CC) in a sustainable and resilient growing bioeconomy'' aims e.g. to limit the nutrients released from wastewater. To foster circular bioeconomy on wastewater, and for better adaptation to the different aspects of CC. Project employs "knowledge exchange, especially peer-to-peer learning, as it has proven to be the most efficient method in adopting new tools or methods" as suggested in Action 2.
- PA Hazards, Action 1 "Prevent pollution and reduce the use of hazardous substances" aims to "develop and implement (non)-regulatory measures and BSR-wide policies to reduce the use and prevent emissions of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea environment. The policy area supports the development of suitable measures, practical solutions, and policy recommendations for reduction of hazardous substances, from both diffuse and point sources on land". Project reuse strategies directly contribute to reducing outflows of hazardous substances to the environment.
- The project contributes to PA Nutri- Action 2: Reduce nutrient emissions from urban areas and other point sources Objective: Action 2 aims to reduce nutrient emissions from urban areas and other point sources. Several measures are envisaged: support to cross-sectoral activities and measures that reduce discharges to the Sea from point sources, taking CC into account. Develop innovative and NSB to urban nature and water management and scattered sources to reduce nutrient discharges. Improve monitoring and the knowledge base of nutrient flows and loads. Raise awareness and influence consumer behaviour.

3. **Name of the act: <u>European Union Strategy for the Danube Region for the Danube Region (EUSDR),</u>**

as adopted by the European Commission on December 8, 2010, and endorsed by the European Council in 2011. The strategy was jointly developed by the Commission and the Danube region countries and was officially launched in its implementation phase in 2011

Indicated by partners from: Hungary
Relating to: Hungary and Czech Republic case study places
Short description: The EU strategy for the Danube region consists of the four pillars "Connecting the Danube Region", "Environmental Protection in the Danube Region", "Building Prosperity in the Danube Region" and "Strengthening the Danube Region". These four pillars are further subdivided into eleven priority areas. The thematic priorities include, among others. promoting the use of sustainable energies, promoting culture and tourism, improving institutional capacity and cooperation.
NBS and project relation: CONE contributes to the achievement of management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) like the reduction of nutrient levels in the DR to

allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions prior to the 1960s; CONE's strategy can contribute to the Delta management Plan, currently under implementation, that includes "to secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species".

- PA5 "Environmental Risks" is managed by HU and RO. The focus of the work is to address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts in line with the DRBMP. In the past few years, PA5 contributed to the elaboration of the ICPDR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2018), supported project elaboration and implementation in the field of drought management and climate change-related spatial planning, disseminated scientific results to anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research. Flood risk management is also a significant target of this PA. To achieve a reduction of flood risk events PA5 provides and enhances continuous support to the implementation of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan. In case these prevention measures are not effective enough, then disasters occur, therefore PA5 supports the assessment of disaster risks in the DR, encouraging actions to promote disaster resilience, preparedness, and response activities. CONE's strategy can provide a contribution to these actions. CONE can contribute to PA6 "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils". PA6 has also many targets, but the most project relevance is to improve the management of Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas through transnational cooperation and capacity building and to decrease air pollution in the Danube Region.

4. **Name of the act: <u>European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR),</u>**

adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council on September 29, 2014. The strategy was jointly developed by the participating countries and stakeholders in the region.
Indicated by partners from: Italy
Relating to: Slovenia and Italian case study places
Short description: Its main goal is to promote a prosperous, inclusive, connected, and green region by improving attractiveness, competitiveness, and connectivity while preserving the environment and ensuring the sustainable use of marine and coastal areas. The strategy involves ten states and works through cooperation on its five main thematic pillars: blue growth, green quality, cultural and historic tourism, connectivity, and governance.
NBS and project relation: EUSAIR contributes to the goal of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services and restore them in so far as feasible, by addressing threats to terrestrial biodiversity. CONE has the potential to create synergies with the EUSAIR Flagships 2021-2027 "Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems" (Pillar 3- Environmental quality). The project, in fact, aims to protect and expand natural habitats and terrestrial ecosystems through the establishment of green corridors.
The Adriatic and Ionian Region is vulnerable to disasters and to the impact of climate change and comprehensive actions to adapt to those circumstances are needed. Enhancing cooperation in this area, through different actions such as conducting adequate comprehensive risk assessment, implementing a disaster risk management policy, as well as developing a regional strategy on adaptation to climate change, will make the Region more resilient to such changes.

5. **Name of the act: European Union Strategy for Alpine Region (EUSALP),**

on July 28, 2015, with the European Council giving its official endorsement on June 28, 2016. The strategy was officially launched in January 2016
Indicated by partners from: Italy
Relating to: Italian case study places
Short description: The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) is a macro-regional strategy that aims to enhance cooperation among seven countries and 48 regions to address shared challenges in the Alps. It focuses on three main priorities: economic growth and innovation, mobility and connectivity, and environment and energy. A key goal is to create a sustainable and cohesive Alpine region by coordinating actions and strengthening cooperation across both EU and non-EU borders
NBS and project relation: The project contributes to the O3– Ensuring sustainability in the Alps: preserving the Alpine heritage and promoting a sustainable use of natural and cultural resources. One of the main features of the Alpine Region is its outstanding natural and cultural heritage. Natural resources (in particular, clean and abundant water, minerals, a variety of landscapes, and great biodiversity), and strong and diverse cultural life are major assets of this region, however, threatened by climate change. Therefore, joint regional responses are necessary to establish efficient management systems.
Synergies could be established with Action Group 6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources; and Action Group 8: to improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention.

6. **Name of the act: The European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD),**

Adopted by Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy
Indicated by partners from: 5 CONE project model regions (PL, SI, ITA, HUN, CZE)
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the primary legislation. It is supported by two so-called daughter directives on the quality and quantity of groundwater and on the quality of surface water. The WFD contains provisions regarding the deadlines for meeting the objectives of the Directive, as well as provisions on exemptions. The annexes to the WFD specify details as regards, for example, monitoring requirements, the criteria for assessing water body status, and the contents of the RBMPs. The key objectives of the WFD are set out in Article 4 of the Directive. It requires Member States to use their River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and Programmes of Measures (PoMs) to protect and, where necessary, restore water bodies in order to reach good status, and to prevent deterioration. Good status means both good chemical and good ecological status.
Establishes a framework for protecting and improving water quality across Europe. It promotes sustainable water use and integrates nature-based solutions in managing river basins, floods, and droughts.
Establishes a framework for protecting and improving water quality across Europe. It promotes sustainable water use and integrates nature-based solutions in managing river basins, floods, and droughts.
Citizens, nature and industry all need healthy rivers and lakes, groundwater and bathing waters. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) focuses on ensuring good qualitative and quantitative health, i.e. on reducing and removing pollution and on ensuring that there is enough water to support wildlife at the same time as human needs.

Since 2000, the WFD has been the main law for water protection in Europe. It applies to inland, transitional and coastal surface waters as well as groundwaters. It ensures an integrated approach to water management, respecting the integrity of whole ecosystems, including by regulating individual pollutants and setting corresponding regulatory standards. It is based on a river basin district approach to make sure that neighbouring countries cooperate to manage the rivers and other bodies of water they share.
Objectives: The key objectives of the WFD are set out in Article 4 of the Directive. It requires Member States to use their River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and Programmes of Measures (PoMs) to protect and, where necessary, restore water bodies in order to reach good status, and to prevent deterioration. Good status means both good chemical and good ecological status.

7. **Name of the act: EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change**

On 24 February 2021, the European Commission adopted the Communication 'Forging a climate-resilient Europe – the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change'. The Strategy outlines a long-term vision for the EU to become a climate-resilient society, fully adapted to the unavoidable impacts of climate change by 2050.
Indicated by partners from: Italy, Slovenia and Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: Aims to make Europe more resilient to climate impacts by enhancing water and disaster risk management, prioritizing nature-based solutions, and promoting cross-border collaboration for climate adaptation.
It emphasizes the development of climate change adaptation policies at all levels and sectors. The strategy's three cross-cutting priorities are mainstreaming adjustment into macro-fiscal policy; NBS for customization; and local adaptation measures. The implementation of NBS on a larger scale is recognized as important for increasing resilience to climate change, in contributing to many of the goals of the Green Deal, and at the same time as essential for maintaining healthy water, oceans and soils. The European Commission is therefore committed to encouraging more investments in NBS.I
It's focused on reinforcing the adaptive capacity of the EU and the world and minimising vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, in line with the Paris Agreement and the European Climate Law which writes into law the goal set out in the European Green Deal. The law recognises adaptation as a key component of the long-term global response to climate change and requires Member States and the Union to enhance their adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. It also introduces a requirement for the implementation of national strategies.
The Strategy aims to build a climate resilient society by improving knowledge of climate impacts and adaptation solutions; by stepping up adaptation planning and climate risk assessments; by accelerating adaptation action; and by helping to strengthen climate resilience globally. It pursues three objectives and proposes a range of actions in order to meet them:
Smarter adaptation: Improving knowledge and manage uncertainty; including:

- Pushing the frontiers of adaptation knowledge;
- More and better climate loss data; and
- Enhancing and expanding Climate-ADAPT as the European platform for adaptation knowledge.
- More systemic adaptation: Supporting policy development at all levels and all relevant policy fields; including three cross-cutting priorities to integrate adaptation

Relation to the project: CONE project's output will be a strategy that will provide long-term goal-orientation support for municipalities. Starting from piloted Living Lab methods, a replicability protocol will accompany CE municipalities in their journey to prepare and implement Urban Greening Plans.

8. **Name of the act: National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs),**

prepared under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action
Indicated by partners from: Poland and Czech Republic
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: The 10-years national energy and climate plans (NECPs) outline how EU countries intend to meet the EU energy and climate targets for 2030.
They were introduced by the Regulation on the governance of the energy union and climate action (EU)2018/1999, agreed as part of the Clean energy for all Europeans package, adopted in 2019. The national plans outline how the EU countries intend to address:energy efficiency; renewables; greenhouse gas emissions reductions; interconnections; research and innovation
This approach requires coordination across all government departments. It also provides a level of planning that will ease public and private investment.
By 30 June 2023, Member States were due to submit their draft updated NECPs in line with article 14 of the Governance Regulation.
On 24 October 2023, the Commission published its technical assessment of the NECP progress reports towards meeting the EU's energy and climate objectives.
On 18 December 2023, the Commission published its EU-wide assessment of the draft updated NECPs, together with individual assessments and country-specific recommendations for the 21 Member States that submitted their draft plans in time.
NBS Relation: Indicated directly and EU energy transition, climate neutrality goals, and national contributions to the European Green Deal

9. **Name of the act: National Water and Environmental Programme (NWEP)**

NWEP was first drafted back in 2008 and approved in 2010 in line with the Water Law
Indicated by partners from: Poland and Czech Republic
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: The National Water and Environmental Programme defines basic and supplementary measures aiming at improving or maintaining good status of waters, while its summary is a key element of the River Basin Management Plans.
NWEP was first drafted back in 2008 and approved in 2010 in line with the Water Law in force at the time. This document is available here. Pursuant to article 113b section 9 of the Water Law and article 11 section 8 of the Framework Water Directive, NWEP is subject to review every 6 years. Documents drafted under the planning cycle (2010-2016) are in force until the next version is drafted. They were adopted on 18 October 2018.
NBS Relation: Promotes nature-based water management approaches such as river restoration, wetland protection, and green infrastructure for flood control and water quality improvement. It applies to the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), Environmental Protection Law, and sustainable water resource management

10. Name of the act: River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)

approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers on 22 July 2011
Indicated by partners from: Poland and Czech Republic
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: These are the key tools for implementing the WFD. They are drawn up after extensive public consultation and are valid for a six-year period. A Basin Management Plans (BMP) is an action-oriented framework document that describes how water and related land resources should be developed and managed in a specifically defined catchment area. This Tool outlines what are BMP, describes what are the key components, design principles, and steps required to develop concrete management plan at river basin or lake basin level. Water flows according to natural characteristics and does not respect administrative boundaries – therefore, from a water resources point of view, it makes most sense to plan and manage water according to basin boundaries. A Basin Management Plan (BMP) lays out key objectives as well as the programmes and measures needed to achieve these goals. BMPs take into account how different actors across the basin take decision that impact the quality and quantity of available water resources in the given catchment (e.g., enterprises, community-based organisations, government authorities, farmers). Basin organisations can be seen as custodians of the BMPs, though the development and design of the plan should steam from multi-stakeholder consultation processes (Tool B3.05). BMPs thus need to be regularly updated with the ever-changing socio-hydrological environment. The processes after the BMP are then guided through the plan as everything that needs to be implemented and how is listed within it. Here are a list of important principles that should be kept in mind while designing a BMP (INBO and GWP, 2009: 76):
- Integrate groundwater and surface water planning (river basins or sub-basins, aquifers, lake basins; national or transboundary);
- Address water quality and quantity concerns; incorporate most of the water uses within an ecosystem;
- Mobilise all primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders, including national agencies and local governments, civil society organisations and the rest of the private sector.
- Layout solutions and measures at various levels and sectors, e.g., infrastructure, policy, and education;
- Build clearly defined operational mechanisms, including those for conflict resolution, monitoring and evaluation, and property as well as abstraction rights.
- Encourage water efficiency measures for curbing water demand, enhancing water supply and recycle and reuse (Tools C3) though policies (Tools A1), economic instruments and incentives (Tools C4) and mechanisms for promoting social change around water usage (Tools C5).
NBS Relation: Promotes the integration of nature-based solutions in water management, including river restoration, wetland conservation, and natural floodplain management to improve water quality and ecosystem health

11. Name of the act: Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC)

Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007
Indicated by partners from: Poland, Italy, Hungary and Czech Republic
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: Under the Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and manage-

ment of flood risks), all EU countries are required to
- assess all areas where significant floods could take place
- map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas
- take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk

The rights of the public to access this information and to have a say in the planning process are also important elements of the Directive.

EU countries are required to create and update Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps. Flood Hazard Maps should cover the geographical areas which could be flooded and Flood Risk Maps show the potential adverse consequences associated with these flood scenarios. These maps form the basis for the drafting of flood risk management plans.

Flood risk management is an integral part of integrated river basin management. The Floods Directive is therefore closely coordinated with the Water Framework Directive. In particular, coordinating flood risk management plans, river basin management plans, and public participation procedures. The Floods Directive foresees 6-yearly cycles aiming to reduce the risk of flood damage in the EU. The first cycle of implementation was 2010- 2015. The second cycle of implementation covered the period 2016-2021. The Commission assessed the second cycle's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments as prepared by the Member States.

Requires EU Member States to assess flood risks, map flood-prone areas, and implement management plans, emphasizing preventive measures like restoring wetlands and floodplains as nature-based solutions.

This Directive sets out measures to reduce the risk of adverse effects associated with floods, with a view to protecting human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activities in general. It establishes a framework concerning the management and assessment of such flood risks. According to these provisions, all Member States must (i) undertake a preliminary flood risk assessment for each river basin district and for coastal areas; (ii) prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps; and (iii) elaborate flood risk management plans. These provisions must be implemented by Member States in coordination with the application of Directive 2000/60/EC, particularly as regards the objectives specified in article 4.

NBS Relation: Encourages the use of nature-based solutions for flood risk management, such as restoring natural floodplains, reforestation, wetland creation, and sustainable land-use planning to mitigate flood impacts.

12. **Name of the act: <u>Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) - Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament</u>**

Adopted in 16 December 2008 by European Parliament

Indicated by the partners from: Poland and Czech Republic

Relating to: All EU members

Short description: Consolidated text: Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC, 86/280/EEC and amending Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council This Directive lays down environmental quality standards (EQS) for priority substances and certain other pollutants as provided for in Article 16 of Directive 2000/60/EC. The aim is to achieve good surface wa-

ter chemical, in accordance with the objectives specified in article 4 of the Directive above-mentioned.
NBS Relation: Supports the implementation of nature-based solutions by improving and maintaining water quality through natural purification processes, wetland restoration, riparian buffer zones, and sustainable land-use practices that reduce pollutant loads entering aquatic ecosystems

13. Name of the act: EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

was adopted in two phases: the European Commission presented it in May 2020, and the Council adopted its conclusions on the strategy in October 2020
Indicated by the partners from: Slovenia and Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: It emphasizes the value and importance of NBS in the fight against biodiversity loss, climate change and other pressing challenges. It promises to finance investments in NBS. It highlights the following key measures: the restoration of degraded ecosystems, the establishment of protected areas, the release of funding and a leading position in solving the biodiversity crisis. For urban areas, as NBS, it highlights the planting of trees and the establishment of green infrastructure, which should be systematically integrated into urban planning, including public spaces, infrastructure and design of buildings and their surroundings.
The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.
It is the proposal for the EU's contribution to the upcoming international negotiations on the global post-2020 biodiversity framework. A core part of the European Green Deal, it will also support a green recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.
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It is the proposal for the EU's contribution to the upcoming international negotiations on the global post-2020 biodiversity framework. A core part of the European Green Deal, it will also support a green recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic.
NBS Relation: The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 identifies Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as a cornerstone for achieving its goals, integrating them into climate adaptation, urban planning, and ecosystem restoration efforts. NbS are a key way the strategy aims to secure healthy ecosystems, increase biodiversity, and build resilience against climate change, with concrete actions including the restoration of forests, rivers, and wetlands.

14. Name of the act: Habitats Directive - EU measures to conserve Europe's wild flora and fauna

Adopted on **21 May 1992**. It officially entered into force in June 1994, two years after its adoption
Indicated by the partners from: Italy
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: Focuses on conserving natural habitats and species of European interest. It supports the implementation of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions for ecosystem restoration and flood management.

NBS Relation: The Habitats Directive and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) have a complementary relationship, where NBS can be a tool to help achieve the Habitats Directive's goal of maintaining or restoring species and habitats to a "favourable conservation status". The directive provides the legal framework and the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, while NBS offer practical, nature-based actions that can deliver co-benefits for biodiversity, such as increasing favorable conditions for species protected under the directive

15. **Name of the act: Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027**

Launched in 1962, reformed in 2021 the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) is a partnership between agriculture and society, and between Europe and its farmers.
Indicated by the partners from: Italy and Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: CUP supports farmers and improves agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food. Safeguards European Union farmers to make a reasonable living. Helps tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources. Maintains rural areas and landscapes across the EU. Keeps the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors. The CAP is a common policy for all EU countries. It is managed and funded at European level from the resources of the EU's budget. The CAP 2023-27 entered into force on 1 January 2023, to consolidate the role of European agriculture for the future, the CAP has evolved over the years to meet changing economic circumstances and citizens' requirements and needs.
Support for farmers and rural stakeholders across the 27 EU countries is based on the CAP 2023-27 legal framework and the choices detailed in the CAP Strategic Plans, approved by the Commission. The approved Plans are designed to make a significant contribution to the ambitions of the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.
Includes eco-schemes encouraging sustainable farming practices, water management, and nature-based solutions to reduce the impact of climate change on agriculture.
NBS Relation: The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027 is related to nature-based solutions (NBS) through its increased focus on environmental and climate goals, which are supported by measures like eco-schemes and national CAP Strategic Plans. The CAP aims to provide funding and flexibility for EU member states to implement strategies that contribute to biodiversity preservation and climate action, as well as a sustainable rural development that incorporates solutions inspired by nature

16. **Name of the act: EU Urban Agenda – Partnership on Sustainable Land Use and Nature-Based Solutions**

Introduced in 2016
Indicated by the partners from: Italy and Slovenia
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: Supports cities in implementing nature-based solutions for managing urban floods, droughts, and water resources sustainably.
The Urban Agenda recognized NBS as one of the priority themes of urban development and established a thematic partnership working on activities to encourage cities to adopt NBS through measures: better regulation to promote NBS at European, national and local level, better financing of NBS, awareness in

the areas NBS and sustainable land use, agreement on common goals and indicators for NBS, urban green infrastructure, biodiversity and ecosystem services in cities.
The **NBS Relation:** EU Urban Agenda's Sustainable Land Use and Nature-Based Solutions (SUL-NBS) Partnership directly relates to Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) by promoting and strengthening their implementation in urban areas to address challenges like urban sprawl, biodiversity loss, and climate change. The partnership's work aims to mainstream NBS by proposing legislative changes, developing methodologies, and providing recommendations to help cities better integrate nature into urban planning and land use. Its goal is to make cities more sustainable, resilient, and liveable by using nature-based solutions alongside sustainable land use practices.

17. **Name of the act: Natura 2000 - a European network of protected nature areas**

Introduced in 1992
Indicated by the partners from: Italy
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: A network of protected areas under the Birds and Habitats Directives. It ensures the preservation of ecosystems that can provide natural solutions to mitigate climate change impacts like drought and flooding.
NBS Relation: Natura 2000 is a network of protected areas that can work with NbS by providing a framework for conservation, restoration, and management. EU policies strongly support integrating NbS within or in conjunction with Natura 2000 sites, but implementation can be hindered when ecosystems are not explicitly covered by the existing directives. Natura 2000 provides the protected sites, while NbS offers a broader, multifunctional approach to addressing societal challenges, and their combination can be highly effective if implemented with careful consideration of local ecosystems and governance

18. **Name of the act: Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

Introduced in March 2015
Indicated by the partners from: Italy and Slovenia
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: An international framework endorsed by EU Member States. Promotes disaster risk reduction through sustainable practices, including restoring natural ecosystems to mitigate floods and droughts. The paper presents ways in which risks can be reduced by working with nature, not against it, while ensuring benefits for humans, biodiversity and the climate. The term NTR is not specifically mentioned, but with this concept it is possible to reduce the risk of natural disasters or increase the resilience of the built environment.
NBS Relation: The relationship between the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is synergistic, as integrating NbS into DRR strategies helps achieve the framework's goals of reducing disaster risk and building resilience. The Sendai Framework outlines four priorities for action—understanding risk, strengthening governance, investing in DRR, and enhancing preparedness—which can be supported by NbS through actions like restoring ecosystems for hazard mitigation and enhancing biodiversity to improve overall resilience. NbS can provide cost-effective, multi-benefit solutions that complement traditional DRR measures.

19. Name of the act: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Introduced in 1971
Indicated by the partners from: Italy and Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: An international treaty ratified by the EU to protect wetlands of international importance, promoting their use as natural flood buffers and drought mitigators. The Convention entered into force in December 1975, upon receipt by UNESCO, which had agreed to act as the Convention's depositary.
NBS Relation: The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands supports the use of nature-based solutions (NBS) by promoting the conservation and restoration of wetlands as a way to address climate change and biodiversity loss. Wetlands themselves are powerful NBS, as they help with climate adaptation (e.g., flood control), mitigation (e.g., carbon storage), and provide other benefits like water security. The Convention has officially recognized the role of NBS in its resolutions and works with other bodies to implement them and secure funding.

20. Name of the act: 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP)

Introduced on 2 May 2022
Indicated by the partners from: Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: The action programme reiterates the EU's long-term vision to 2050 of living well and within planetary boundaries. It sets out priority objectives for 2030 and the conditions needed to achieve these. Building on the European Green Deal, the action programme aims to speed up the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy, recognising that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on healthy ecosystems. The 8th EAP calls for active engagement of all stakeholders at all levels of governance, to ensure that EU climate and environment laws are effectively implemented. It forms the EU's basis for achieving the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.
NBS Relation: The 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP) is a guiding framework for EU environmental policy until 2030 that includes the protection and restoration of biodiversity as a key priority objective, which is directly related to Nature-based Solutions (NBS). The EAP aims to accelerate the green transition and ensure EU laws are effectively implemented by promoting a regenerative, climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy within planetary boundaries. While it doesn't explicitly define NBS, its objectives, particularly the priority on biodiversity and climate change adaptation, are supported by the implementation of Nature-based Solutions.
8th EAP priorities related to NBS

- Protecting and restoring biodiversity: The 8th EAP identifies halting and reversing biodiversity loss as a specific thematic priority objective. This objective is directly supported by Nature-based Solutions, which use natural processes to protect and restore ecosystems.
- Adaptation to climate change: The programme includes climate change adaptation as a priority objective, which is another area where Nature-based Solutions play a crucial role.
- Systemic change: The EAP calls for a systemic change to achieve a sustainable and regenerative economy, which aligns with the holistic approach of Nature-based Solutions in addressing environmental challenge.

21. Name of the act: Green infrastructure strategy

Introduced in 2013
Indicated by the partners from: Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: The EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013) promotes the protection, restoration, creation and enhancement of green infrastructure. The strategy shows how green infrastructure (GI) and natural solutions can provide ecological, economic and social benefits in various EU policy areas. This includes EU climate change and adaptation policy, among many others such as the Common Agricultural Policy, EU maritime affairs and fisheries policy, disaster risk management, EU urban, water, health, energy or transport policy. Whenever green infrastructure offers an alternative to grey measures, the green solution should be endorsed or established as a complement.
The GI Strategy sets out four priority work streams:
-promoting green infrastructure in the main policy areas;
-improving information, strengthening the knowledge base and promoting innovation;
-improving access to finance;
-contributing to the development of GI projects at EU level.
NBS Relation: A green infrastructure (GI) strategy is a tool for planning and managing green spaces, while nature-based solutions (NbS) are a broader framework of actions that use nature to address societal challenges. Think of it this way: GI is a key component of NbS, with GI strategies providing the specific planning and design of green elements, such as parks, green roofs, and rain gardens, that deliver the benefits outlined by a broader NbS approach

22. Name of the act: UN Convention on Biological Diversity

adopted by all United Nations Member States in 1993.
Indicated by the partners from: Hungary
Relating to: Global plan of action adopted by 193 countries,
Short description: The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the international legal instrument for “the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources” that has been ratified by 196 nations. Its overall objective is to encourage actions, which will lead to a sustainable future. The conservation of biodiversity is a common concern of humankind. The Convention on Biological Diversity covers biodiversity at all levels: ecosystems, species and genetic resources. It also covers biotechnology, including through the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In fact, it covers all possible domains that are directly or indirectly related to biodiversity and its role in development, ranging from science, politics and education to agriculture, business, culture and much more.
The CBD’s governing body is the Conference of the Parties (COP). This ultimate authority of all governments (or Parties) that have ratified the treaty meets every two years to review progress, set priorities and commit to work plans.
NBS Relation: The CBD and NBS are closely related, with the CBD’s framework including NbS as a key tool for achieving its goals, while also navigating the relationship between NbS and the CBD’s existing ecosystem approach. The CBD, particularly through its post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), now uses NbS to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and other societal challenges. NbS

are seen as an effective way to achieve the CBD's objectives of conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing, and are referenced in the GBF targets for 2030

23. **Name of the act: 2030 Agenda for sustainable development - Sustainable Development Goals**

adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.
Indicated by the partners from: Hungary
Relating to: Global plan of action adopted by 193 countries,
Short description: The Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seek to end poverty and hunger, realise the human rights of all, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.
The goals are interlinked and cover a wide range of social, economic, and environmental issues, including health, education, gender equality, clean water, energy, and sustainable consumption and production. Achieving them requires the participation of all countries, international organizations, civil society, and individuals
NBS relation: Nature-based solutions (NBS) are a key strategy for achieving these goals, as they use ecosystems to provide environmental, social, and economic benefits, directly contributing to goals related to climate action (SDG 13), clean water (SDG 6), and resilient cities (SDG 11). However, the effective integration of NBS with the SDGs requires careful planning to avoid potential trade-offs, such as gentrification caused by green spaces in cities

24. **Name of the act: EU forest strategy for 2030**

Introduced in 2013, The European Commission adopted the EU Forest Strategy for 2030 in July 2021 as part of the European Green Deal.
Indicated by the partners from: Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: This European Union forest strategy lays down the framework for forest-related actions that support sustainable forest management and are based on cooperative, beneficial links between European Union and Member State policies and initiatives. The main goals of these strategic documents are: (i) to ensure that the multifunctional potential of EU forests is managed in a sustainable and balanced way, enabling our forests' vital ecosystem services to function correctly; (ii) to satisfy the growing demand for raw material for existing and new products and for renewable energy; (iii) to protect forests and biodiversity from the significant effects of storms and fires, increasingly scarce water resources, and pests.
The strategy aims at making forestry more productive and sustainable. It identifies the key principles needed to strengthen sustainable forest management and improve competitiveness and job creation, in particular in rural areas, while ensuring forest protection and delivery of ecosystem services. The document relies upon the following guiding principles: (a) sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests, delivering multiple goods and services in a balanced way and ensuring forest protection; (b) resource efficiency, optimizing the contribution of forests and the forest sector to rural development, growth and job creation; (c) global forest responsibility, promoting sustainable

production and consumption of forest products.
Reducing rural poverty is among the objectives of the strategy. The document stipulates that a sustainable, trained and safe workforce is one of the pillars of a more competitive forest sector: well-managed forests with qualified forest managers, workers and entrepreneurs pave the way for a sustainable and competitive forest sector that plays an important role in rural development and in the whole economy while providing societal benefits.
The strategy also aims at enabling more inclusive and efficient agricultural and forest systems. Strategic orientations and interventions are foreseen for fostering the competitiveness and sustainability of the EU's forest-based industries, bioenergy and the wider green economy, and improving the knowledge base
NBS relation: The EU forest strategy promotes a closer-to-nature forestry approach that uses nature-based solutions (NBS) to achieve sustainable forest management and increase climate resilience. This strategy integrates NBS into forest policies to adapt to climate change, enhance biodiversity, and support a range of ecosystem services, aligning with the goals of the EU Green Deal. The relationship is one where the forest strategy serves as a key pillar within the broader EU policy framework for NBS

25. Name of the act: LULUCF Regulation

Introduced in 2013
Indicated by the partners from: Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: In 2013, the EU approved a decision relating to the harmonisation of accounting rules for emissions from land use, land use change and forestry. The objective is to include agriculture and forestry into European climate mitigation efforts. This decision is a direct response to the UNFCCC decision in 2011 to revise the accounting rules for GHG emissions and removals from forests and soils. It meets international standards by maintaining the voluntary nature of accounting for draining and rewetting of wetlands, but goes beyond the UNFCCC decision by making accounting for cropland and grassland management mandatory for member states. The rules are intended to better recognise the efforts of farmers and forest owners to maintain carbon stored in soils and forests and to facilitate a more climate-friendly architecture (funds are available through the Common Agricultural Policy's Rural Development pillar), protecting water resources and biodiversity. It also contains reporting requirements for Member States on their initiatives to decrease emissions from forestry and agriculture-related activities as well as increase the carbon sink.
On 30 May 2018, the regulation was amended by Regulation 2018/841, which requires member states to ensure that emissions from the sector do not exceed removals for the periods for 2021-25 and 2026-2030. The regulation also contains additional provisions regarding greenhouse gas accounting rules for the sector.
On 19 April 2023, Regulation (EU) 2018/841 was amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/839 to:
simplify reporting and compliance rules; and alter the expectations for setting 2030 emission removal targets to align with the EU's updated 55% reduction target.
NBS relation: The EU's LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) Regulation is a key piece of climate legislation that
integrates nature-based solutions (NbS) to meet climate targets by increasing carbon removals in the land sector. The regulation specifically aims to incentivize member states to reduce greenhouse gas

(GHG) emissions and increase carbon sequestration through activities like forest management, reforestation, and sustainable land use. In essence, the LULUCF Regulation provides the legal framework and targets that drive the implementation of NbS within the land sector to achieve climate goals

26. Name of the act: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol)

Introduced in 1997
Indicated by the partners from: Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: The Kyoto Protocol is a 1997 international treaty under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that commits developed countries to legally binding greenhouse gas reduction targets. It established a 5% average reduction from 1990 levels for industrialized nations during the 2008-2012 period and introduced flexible mechanisms like emissions trading. Adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997, it entered into force on February 16, 2005. The protocol was later superseded by the Paris Agreement in 2015
NBS relation: Kyoto Protocol's has indirect connection through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM): The Kyoto Protocol established flexible market-based mechanisms to help countries meet their emission reduction targets cost-effectively. The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the UNFCCC, committing industrialized countries to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. While it doesn't explicitly mention "Nature-based Solutions" (NbS), the Kyoto Protocol's mechanisms, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), could have indirectly included projects that restore natural systems like forests for carbon sequestration, which are now considered a key form of NbS. The UNFCCC has since recognized the importance of NbS more broadly, particularly in the Paris Agreement era.

27. Name of the act: UN Paris Agreement

Introduced in 2015
Indicated by the partners from: Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its overarching goal is to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels." However, in recent years, world leaders have stressed the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century. That's because the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that crossing the 1.5°C threshold risks unleashing far more severe climate change impacts, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall. To limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030. The Paris Agreement is a landmark in the multilateral climate change process because, for the first time, a binding agreement brings all nations together to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.

NBS relation: The Paris Agreement considers Nature-based Solutions (NbS) essential for meeting climate goals by providing both climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits. NbS, such as pro-

tecting and restoring ecosystems, help achieve the agreement's goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, capturing carbon, and building resilience to climate impacts like floods and droughts. NbS are being integrated into countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the national climate plans submitted under the agreement

28. Name of the act: New European Bauhaus (NEB)

Introduced in 2021
Indicated by the partners from: Hungary
Relating to: All EU members
Short description: The New European Bauhaus is a creative and transdisciplinary movement in the making. It is a bridge between the world of science and technology, art and culture. It is about leveraging our green and digital challenges to transform our lives for the better. It is an invitation to address complex societal problems together through co-creation. By creating bridges between different backgrounds, cutting across disciplines and building on participation at all levels, the New European Bauhaus inspires a movement to facilitate and steer the transformation of our societies along three inseparable values:
- sustainability, from climate goals to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity
- aesthetics, quality of experience and style beyond functionality
- inclusion, from valuing diversity to securing accessibility and affordability

The New European Bauhaus brings citizens, experts, businesses, and institutions together to reimagine sustainable living in Europe and beyond. In addition to creating a platform for experimentation and connection, the initiative supports positive change also by providing access to EU funding for beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive projects
NBS relation: NEB and Nature-based Solutions (NBS) are closely related, with the NEB integrating NBS as a core component to achieve its goals of sustainability, beauty, and inclusivity. The NEB provides a framework for applying NBS in urban planning and architecture to create beautiful and resilient environments, while NBS provide the specific methods to meet the NEB's aesthetic and functional aspirations. Essentially, the NEB is the overarching policy, and NBS are the practical tools and methods used to fulfill its objectives

29. Other related EU Directives

Introduced between 1987 and 2008, Council Directives, European Parliament
Indicated by the partners from: Poland and Czech Republic
Relating to: All EU members

1. Council Directive 87/217/EEC of 19 March 1987 on the reduction and prevention of environmental pollution by asbestos (OJ EC L 85, 28.03.1987, p. 40, as amended; OJ EU Polish special edition, Chapter 13, vol. 8, p. 269);
2. Council Directive 91/692/EEC of 23 December 1991 standardising and rationalising reports on the implementation of certain Directives relating to the environment (Official Journal of the European Communities L 377 of 31.12.1991, p. 48, as amended; Official Journal of the EU Polish special edition, Chapter 5, Volume 2, p. 10);
3. Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Official Journal of the European Communities L 206 of 22.07.1992, p. 7; as amended; Official Journal of the EU Polish special edition, Chapter 15, Volume 2, p. 102);

4. Council Directive 96/59/EC of 16 September 1996 on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT) (OJ EC L 243, 24.09.1996, p. 31, as amended; OJ EC L 243, 24.09.1996, p. 31, as amended; OJ EC Official Journal No. 6, p. 1, as amended);
5. Council Directive 96/82/EC of 9 December 1996 on the control of major-accident hazards relating to dangerous substances (Official Journal of the European Communities L 10 of 14.01.1997, p. 13, as amended; Official Journal of the EU Polish special edition, Chapter 5, Volume 2, p. 410);
6. Directive 1999/94/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 1999 relating to the availability of consumer information on fuel economy and CO 2 emissions in respect of the marketing of new passenger cars (Official Journal of the European Communities L 12 of 18 January 2000, p. 16, as amended; Official Journal of the European Union Polish special edition; Special Edition, Chapter 15, vol. 5, p. 3);
7. Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (Official Journal of the European Communities L 189 of 18.07.2002, p. 12, as amended; Official Journal of the EU Polish special edition, Chapter 15, Volume 7, p. 101);
8. Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air (Official Journal of the EU L 23 of 26.01.2005, p. 3, as amended);
9. Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (OJ L 152, 11.6.2008, p. 1);
10. Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) (OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19);
11. Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3);
12. Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (Official Journal of the EU L 20 of 26.01.2010, p. 7, as amended);
13. Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17).

ANNEX NO 2:

RELEVANT POLISH STRATEGIC ACTS AND FRAMEWORKS ON THREE LEVELS RECOMMENDED AND INDICATED BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AS A BASIS FOR REFERENCE TO NBS TOPIC.

GDAŃSK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
Gdańsk University of Technology

Euroregion Bałtyk
Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic

WEJHEROWO jakość miasta
Wejherowo Municipality

Introduction

The annex was prepared based on an analysis carried out by consortium members from February 2024 to July 2025 as a part of a report on local policy frameworks on NBS and development of 5 ‘model regions’ - “Replication blueprints” for NBS implementation in CE and involvement of citizens and decision makers in joint actions on NBS in CE;

AIM:

- Develop a practical tool for planning and supporting the processes of organizing living laboratories based on external circumstances & external expertise, enabling effective use of existing resources and opportunities;
- Individual analysis of known legal and strategic acts at the general and national levels (in 5 EU countries) as a part of the implementation of planned projects, pilots, and deepening of thematic knowledge on the application of NBS;
- Building understanding of the NBS general legal framework and local conditions for its implementation;

Mentioned analysis required identification by partners of policy frameworks on NBS, divided into three levels:

- National/state level,
- Regional level.
- Local level,especially with regard to pilotage locations

PURPOSE:

- Ensure better identification of areas of restrictions and possible legal frameworks within which NBS operations will be implemented in Central Europe partner organizations,
- Deepen the knowledge on additional conditions occurring in individual areas of the consortium that must be taken into account
- Show the most common mistakes related to recording activities carried out within the legal and strategic framework of NBS

ANALYSIS TIMLINE:

- 25.10.2024 - Prepared task framework and template of gathering material by task leader
- December 2024 – submission of guidelines by the coordinating partner to consortium members
- February 2025 – May 2025 - Completion of internal analysis and desk research by national partners (all partners)
- End of May 2025 - July 2025 Summary and final conclusions by consortia members

The following annex focuses on the analysis of legal and strategic frameworks with a Polish national, regional and local scope.

As a referring point, the partners indicated: **European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR),** adopted in 2009 by COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Short description: The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) was launched in 2009 and is the first of the four Macro-regional Strategies in Europe. The EU Strategy for the Bal-

tic Sea Region (EUSBSR) fosters international cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. The Strategy is divided into three main objectives: Saving the Sea, Connecting the Region and Increasing Prosperity. The Strategy is divided into three main objectives: saving the sea, connecting the region and increasing prosperity.

NBS and project relation: These records are scattered and can be found in several areas:

- Sub-objective "Climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management". It stresses that climate change (CC) increases precipitation and run-off, increasing nutrient inputs to the sea. Project acts for reuse of rainwater, thus preventing run-off and making the water supply more climate resilient.
- PA Bioeconomy, Action 2 "Improving agricultural practices for sustainability and adaptation (e.g., to CC) in a sustainable and resilient growing bioeconomy'' aims e.g. to limit the nutrients released from wastewater. To foster circular bioeconomy on wastewater, and for better adaptation to the different aspects of CC. Project employs "knowledge exchange, especially peer-to-peer learning, as it has proven to be the most efficient method in adopting new tools or methods" as suggested in Action 2.
- PA Hazards, Action 1 "Prevent pollution and reduce the use of hazardous substances" aims to "develop and implement (non)-regulatory measures and BSR-wide policies to reduce the use and prevent emissions of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea environment. The policy area supports the development of suitable measures, practical solutions, and policy recommendations for reduction of hazardous substances, from both diffuse and point sources on land". Project reuse strategies directly contribute to reducing outflows of hazardous substances to the environment.
- The project contributes to PA Nutri- Action 2: Reduce nutrient emissions from urban areas and other point sources Objective: Action 2 aims to reduce nutrient emissions from urban areas and other point sources. Several measures are envisaged: support to cross-sectoral activities and measures that reduce discharges to the Sea from point sources, taking CC into account. Develop innovative and NSB to urban nature and water management and scattered sources to reduce nutrient discharges. Improve monitoring and the knowledge base of nutrient flows and loads. Raise awareness and influence consumer behaviour.

Among the acts highlighted by the Polish partners, the following can be distinguished on three levels: National,regional, local one.

A. NATIONAL/STATE LEVEL ACTS AND STRATEGIES

1. National Environmental Policy 2030 - development strategy in the field of environment and water management

Introduction of the instrument: Warsaw16 July 2029, Ministry of Environment

Short description: On 16 July, the Council of Ministers adopted the 'National Environmental Policy 2030 - a development strategy in the area of environment and water management' - PEP2030. PEP2030 becomes the most important strategic document in this area.

PEP2030 is a strategy in accordance with the Act on the Principles of Development Policy. The role of PEP2030 is to ensure Poland's environmental security and a high quality of life for all inhabitants. In the

system of strategic documents, it clarifies and operationalises the ‘Strategy for Responsible Development until 2020 (with an outlook until 2030)’.
PEP2030 will form the basis for the investment of European funds from the 2021-2027 financial perspective. The Strategy also supports the implementation of Poland’s goals and commitments at the international level, including at the EU and UN levels, particularly in the context of the EU’s climate and energy policy goals until 2030 and the sustainable development goals included in Agenda 2030.

2. ACT of 11 July 2014 amending the Act - Environmental Protection Law and certain other acts

Introduction of the instrument: In the Act of 27 April 2001. - Environmental Protection Law (Journal of Laws 2013, item 1232, as amended.
Short description: The immediate reason for the drafting of the draft amendment to the Act is the need to determine the maximum expenditure limits for the next 10 years of the legislation, set out in:
1) the Act of 13 April 2012 amending the Act - Environmental Protection Law and certain other acts (Journal of Laws, item 460),
2) the Act of 11 July 2014 on amending the Act - Environmental Protection Law and certain other acts (Journal of Laws, item 1101),
which implement the requirements set out in the provisions of European Union law, respectively:
1) Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (hereinafter referred to as ‘Directive 2008/50/EC’) within the framework of the Act referred to in item 1,
2) Directive 2004/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC and Directive 2010/75/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions into the Polish legal order within the framework of the Act referred to in point 2. In addition, it is necessary to change the definition of zones in which air quality is assessed in view of recent data from the Central Statistical Office, which shows that the city of Legnica, which until now had a population of more than 100,000, and thus according to Article 87 (2) (2) of the Act - Environmental Protection Law constituted a zone in which air quality is assessed, has lost the status of a city of more than 100,000 inhabitants.
The draft Act also removes provisions referring to the provisions repealed in the Act of 13 June 2019 amending the Act - Environmental Protection Law and the Act on crisis management (Journal of Laws, item 1211).
The draft act also changes the deadline for provincial boards to provide the minister responsible for climate matters with information on the adoption, by resolution of the provincial assembly, of air protection programmes and short-term action plans.
In addition, it is proposed to add, in Article 211 of the Act - Environmental Protection Law, an optional authorisation for the minister in charge of climate and environment matters to issue an ordinance regulating detailed requirements relevant to the application of the Commission’s implementing decisions establishing the BAT Conclusions.

3. National Programme for Reducing Air Pollution

Introduction of the instrument: Resolution No. 34 of the Council of Ministers of 29 April 2019.

Short description: Poland, like the rest of the European Union, must fulfil its obligations under Directive 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC (NEC Directive).
The NEC Directive established obligations for Member States to reduce emissions of the anthropogenic atmospheric pollutants sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOX), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMLZOs), ammonia (NH3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5), and includes, inter alia, the requirement to draw up, adopt and implement national air pollution reduction programmes. Poland's emission reduction commitments relate to two periods, which cover the years from 2020 to 2029 and from 2030 onwards. The reduction obligations are set by reference to emissions in the reference year 2005. These obligations are set for the two periods indicated above respectively for SO2 by 59% and 70%, for NOx by 30% and 39%, for NMLZO by 25% and 26%, for NH3 by 1% and 17% and for PM2.5 by 16% and 58%.

4. Strategic Adaptation Plan for Climate Vulnerable Sectors and Areas to 2020 with an Outlook to 2030

Introduction of the instrument: 29 October 2013, the Council of Ministers
Short description: On 29.10.2013. The Council of Ministers adopted the Strategic Adaptation Plan for Sectors and Areas Vulnerable to Climate Change up to 2020 with an Outlook to 2030, the so-called SPA2020. This is the first strategic document that directly addresses the issue of adaptation to ongoing climate change. The main objective of SPA2020 is to ensure sustainable development and effective functioning of the economy and society under changing climate conditions. The document identifies priority directions for adaptation actions to be taken by 2020 in the most climate-sensitive areas, such as water management, agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, health, energy, construction and land use, urbanised areas, transport, mountain areas and coastal zones. These actions, undertaken by both public and private actors, will be done through the implementation of policies, investments in infrastructure and the development of technology. They range from technical undertakings, such as the construction of the necessary flood and coastal protection infrastructure, to changes in legal regulations, e.g. in the spatial planning system limiting the development of flood-prone areas.

5. Poland's National Energy and Climate Plan 2019

Introduction of the instrument: Submitted to the European Commission on December 30, 2019
Short description: Poland, like the rest of the European Union, must fulfil its obligations under Directive 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC (NEC Directive).
The NEC Directive established obligations for Member States to reduce emissions of the anthropogenic atmospheric pollutants sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOX), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMLZOs), ammonia (NH3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5), and includes, inter alia, the requirement to draw up, adopt and implement national air pollution reduction programmes. Poland's emission reduction commitments relate to two periods, which cover the years from 2020 to 2029 and from 2030 onwards. The reduction obligations are set by reference to emissions in the reference

year 2005. These obligations are set for the two periods indicated above respectively for SO2 by 59% and 70%, for NOx by 30% and 39%, for NMLZO by 25% and 26%, for NH3 by 1% and 17% and for PM2.5 by 16% and 58%. In order to achieve the emission reductions indicated above, the National Air Pollution Reduction Programme was adopted by Resolution No. 34 of the Council of Ministers of 29 April 2019.

6. "Development of climate change adaptation plans in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants"

Introduction of the instrument: Project start date: 12 January 2017, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Project funded by the European Union from the Cohesion Fund and the state budget. Project value: PLN 29,950,000)
Short description: A project coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment on adaptation and projected changes in climate conditions. A total of 44 Polish cities are taking part in the initiative, making it the largest undertaking of its kind in Europe. They will receive comprehensive documents identifying the risks and developed, tailor-made adaptation solutions a flexible methodology, ensures structural consistency across all 44 climate (MPA) and takes into account MPAs are developed in cooperation with environmental science centres: Institute for Environmental Protection Research Institute, the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas and an engineering company. It expects the Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan to be a strategic plan to be updated. Moreover, it will order and prioritise the actions to be undertaken over the next several years in order to best adapt to and mitigate the negative effects of climate change and mitigate the negative effects of these changes. With the team set up at the City Hall to develop the experts from the Institute for Environmental Protection Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan

7. Regulation of the Minister of Infrastructure of 15 July 2021 on the adoption of the Drought Plan

Introduction of the instrument: 15 July 2021, PL Ministry of Infrastructure of republic of Poland
Short description: It contains an analysis of the possibilities of increasing the available water resources, proposals for the construction or reconstruction of water facilities to increase the amount of water resources. The document also includes proposals for measures that change the extent of water resource use and changes to natural and artificial retention that increase the capacity to retain water in times of drought.

8. River Basin Management Plan in the Vistula basin

Introduction of the instrument: work in progress
Short description: Currently, works aiming at drafting the 2nd update of the River Basin Management Plans (II aRBMPs, 3rd planning cycle, 2016-2021) are under way. Pursuant to article 13 of the WFD, Member States should ensure drafting of River Basin Management Plans for each river basin that is entirely located on their territory. Due to the new division of river basins introduced by the new Water Law, during the 3rd planning cycle, the following river basins will be subject to drafting management plans:
a) Vistula river basin covering, in addition to Vistula river basin located on the territory of the Republic of Poland also river basins of Słupia, Łupawa, Łeba, Reda and the remaining rivers that flow directly to

the Baltic Sea, east to Słupia river mouth, as well as those that flow to the Vistula Lagoon;
b) Odra river basin covering, in addition to Odra river basin located on the territory of the Republic of Poland, also river basins of Rega, Parsęta, Wieprza, Ücker and other rivers that flow directly to the Baltic Sea, west to Słupia river mouth, as well as those that flow to the Szczecin Lagoon; The drafted documents shall become the basis for taking decisions that influence the status of water resources, moreover, they will also define the rules of managing waters during the 6-year long planning cycle. The very plans not only have an impact on shaping the water management but also other sectors, including: industry, municipal or urban engineering, agricultural, forestry, transportation, fishery and tourism.

9. Adaptation Manual for Cities.

Introduction of the instrument: Guidelines for preparing a Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Updated 2023.
Short description: The manual was developed by the Ministry of the Environment on the basis of an expert opinion prepared by the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas in Katowice within the framework of the project entitled 'Guidelines for the preparation of an urban adaptation strategy', carried out on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment in 2014 with funds from the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management)

Due to the entry into force of the amendment to the Act - Environmental Protection Law , there has been a change in the way the national environmental policy is implemented. It is now carried out on the basis of development strategies, programmes and programme documents and by means of voivodeship, poviat and commune environmental protection programmes. The Environmental Protection Programme is prepared by the executive body of the voivodeship, poviat and commune respectively 4 , and adopted by the voivodeship assembly, the poviat council or the commune council 5 . The draft of the voivodeship Environmental Protection Programme is reviewed by the Minister of the Environment, the draft of the poviat Environmental Protection Programme by the voivodeship board and the draft of the communal Environmental Protection Programme by the poviat board 6 . The primary objective of preparing and adopting the OSP is the implementation by the local government units of the environmental protection policy convergent with the assumptions of the most important strategic and programme documents. The OSP should constitute the basis for the functioning of the environmental management system binding all the activities and documents on environmental and nature protection at the level of the given territorial self-government unit.

B. REGIONAL LEVEL (Pomerania and Warmia-Mazury Provinces)
Corresponding to: Wejherowo and Tolkmicko case study places

1. WARMIŃSKO-MAZURSKIE 2030. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Introduction of the instrument: APC ERB, Tolkmicko - Olsztyn, 18 lutego 2020 r, Regional W-M Government
Short description: The Warminsko-Mazurskie 2030 Strategy belongs to the fourth generation of strategic documents prepared at voivodeship level in Poland. The Warminsko-Mazurskie 2030 Strategy, being a development and certain modification of the hitherto approach to development processes, is a re-

sponse to the changing environment of the voivodeship. Finds in the strategic objective : Outstanding natural environment. Maintaining the quality of the natural environment is also one of the fundamental issues in the context of the idea of sustainable development. Comprehensive care for clean air, water, land and low noise levels requires not only further improvements, but also an increasingly factual treatment of the environment-economy relationship.
Action lines for the operational objective exceptional natural environment:
A. Ensure protection and rational use of natural resources:

a. raising the ecological awareness of the society;
b. preserving the landscape values of the voivodeship;
c. supporting the development of green infrastructure (e.g. city parks, eco-parks, biodiversity conservation centres);
d. verifying forms of nature protection;
e. ensuring the natural integrity of the voivodeship;
f. protection and restoration of elements of native nature, including carrying out inventory, valorisation and monitoring of biodiversity.

B. Improving environmental quality and environmental safety:

a. Measures to prevent excessive anthropopressure, especially in areas with intensified tourist traffic (collection of sewage waste from yachts; construction of so-called 'washer-sailors', sewage systems, treatment plants, sealed septic tanks at campsites; selective waste collection at binnacles; information and education activities on basic principles of environmental protection);
b. transition to a closed loop economy (waste management, eco-innovation, resource-efficient economy, green entrepreneurship, cleaner production, extending the life of products on the market, etc.);
c. thermo-modernisation and improvement of energy efficiency of public facilities and residential buildings;
d. reduction of air pollutant emissions, in particular from low-emission sources and through the use of heating and the development of environmentally friendly transport (e.g. electromobility, bicycle transport);
e. prevention and rational management of waste, including selective waste collection, recycling, recovery;
f. construction and modernisation of waste management facilities;
g. protection against the effects of climate change (floods, droughts, violent weather events, fires);
h. restoration of degraded areas, removal of substances posing a particular threat to the environment;

2. Development Strategy Pomorskie Voivodeship 2030

Introduction of the instrument: Regional Strategic Programme in terms of environmental and energy security environmental and energy security, APC ERB, Wejherowo, GUT, Gdańsk 2012, Regional Pomeranian Government
Short description: The Pomorskie Voivodeship Development Strategy 2030 is a document which sets the main trends for regional development until 2030. The main emphasis in the Strategy was placed on

environmental, energy, health and digital security.
The Strategy focuses on: education, social sensitivity, mobility, the labour market, social capital, tourism and integration with the global transport system. Pomorskie will also support the activities for: mitigation of the negative effects of the climate crisis, water pollution, and air quality deficits, ensuring access to good-quality drinking water and transforming waste management towards a circular economy. The use of heritage (with particular emphasis on cultural heritage) and the traditions of Pomorskie will boost social development, civic activity, environmental and climate protection, promotion of healthy lifestyle, rational communication behaviour, digitization and entrepreneurship. The aim of Pomorskie is to provide children and young people with a comprehensive, high-quality education. It is also planned to increase the offer and accessibility of social services for all residents, especially people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, especially seniors, children and adolescents, people with disabilities, women and immigrants. The region has great potential for the development of leisure services, including those related to tourism, as well as sports and cultural offers. Its use, however, is associated with providing a diverse and comprehensive offer, attracting both people from outside the region and residents.

3. WARMIA-MAZURY REGIONAL SPECIALIZATION

Introduction of the instrument: Olsztyn, 18 lutego 2020 r, Regional W-M Government
Short description: A scout troop is an excellent place for children and young people to be active. In the teams, children and young people prepare themselves for an active, adult life. Many well-known and respected people have passed through the scout school and today hold important positions in social, economic and political life. The scout school of life and the scout system of upbringing leaves a lasting, positive mark on young people and pays off throughout their adult lives.
This includes:
- Natural environment and its protection, including construction of environmental protection facilities (hydroelectric power plants: generation, transmission, distribution and trade, sewage collection and treatment, lake reclamation, water and sewage infrastructure, water collection, treatment and supply, recycling, waste disposal);
- Accommodation and wellness (hotels, SPA and wellness facilities, water parks and aquaspheres, health resorts, graduation towers);
- Agri-food industry (farming of fish and other aquatic organisms, fish processing and preservation, production of juices, beer and other beverages, fishing);
- Science and IOB (universities (education and research), thematic schools, institutes and laboratories, agencies, organizations, associations, clusters

4. Pomerania: The Regional Strategic Program for environmental and energy safety

Introduction of the instrument: APC ERB, Wejherowo, GUT, adopted by the Pomeranian Regional Assembly on 12 April 2021
Short description: The Regional Strategic Program for Environmental and Energy Safety (one of 5 programs in operation in the Pomorskie Region) is one of the essential tools for the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy 2030 adopted by the Pomorskie Region. This Program is focused on the environment and climate security. Within preparing the Regional Strategic Program, the Pomorskie team used SWOT analysis to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats related to en-

vironmental and energy safety.

The main Strengths are:

- Significant resources of surface and underground waters as well as large forest cover,
- Very good conditions for the development of energy, including renewable, distributed energy - very good wind, large biomass resources and good sun conditions,
- A dynamically growing share of photovoltaics,
- High localization potential of large energy sources.

Among Weaknesses, there were named:

- Ineffective systems of selective collection of municipal waste,
- The high share of an unsorted mixed fraction of waste in the municipal waste stream,
- Low level of recovery and recycling of municipal waste,
- Unsatisfactory air quality is mainly caused by the low emissions and transport,
- Slack improvement in energy efficiency,
- The condition of power grids (also the low level of "smart grid" implementations) is an obstacle to the development of distributed energy.
- The Pomorskie Region has a great window of Opportunities such as:
- Adaptation to climate change by increasing natural water retention, developing blue-green infrastructure, and protecting sea shores,
- Transformation of the current energy mix into a more diversified, stable, and with lower environmental impact through the development of various forms of energy, especially renewable ones,
- Increasing the amount of energy produced in renewable sources in the total energy balance of the region,
- Improvement of energy efficiency (generation, transmission, distribution, energy use),
- Improvement of grid reliability and development of smart grids and energy clusters,
- Possibility of waste management for energy purposes,
- Development of circular economy.
- There are the following Threats recognized:
- Climate crisis including a high risk of extreme natural phenomena and other mass crises,
- Low public awareness and entrepreneurs in the field of environmental protection and energy conservation problems,
- Contrasting with the existing energy poverty, the increase in the prices of energy from modernized, clean sources, results in the further use of heat sources polluting the environment,
- Lack of long-term policy and support for renewable energy and cogeneration,
- Fiscal, legal, systemic, and social barriers to the development of energy, including the inhibition of network and point infrastructure investments important in the country, as well as smart grids and distributed energy (in particular wind energy),
- Slow development of clean energy sources due to the lack of coherent energy and climate policy and incentive system.

5. Environmental protection programme for Pomorskie voivodeship 2030

Introduction of the instrument: APC ERB, Wejherowo, GUT, November 2022, Sejmik of the Pomerani-

an Voivodeship
Short description: The document is the basis for the functioning of the environmental management system linking all activities and documents on environmental and nature protection at the regional level, referring to a large extent to the environmental protection strategies adopted in the documents of the superior level. It is necessary for it to be updated periodically and to respond to current environmental needs. In accordance with the Act of 27 April 2001. Environmental Protection Law (consolidated text Dz. U. of 2021, item 1973, as amended), the environmental protection policy is a set of actions aimed at creating the conditions necessary for the implementation of environmental protection in accordance with the principle of sustainable development. The environmental protection policy is carried out on the basis of development strategies, programmes and programme documents referred to in the Act of 6 December 2006 on the principles of development policy (consolidated text Dz. U. of 2021, item 1057 as amended). Environmental protection policy is pursued, inter alia, through provincial environmental protection programmes. The legal basis for the development of the Pomorskie Voivodeship Environmental Protection Programme is Article 17(1) of the Environmental Protection Act, which obliges the Voivodeship Board to draw up a Voivodeship Environmental Protection Programme to implement the environmental protection policy. The OPŚ is adopted by the Sejmik of the Voivodeship

6. Regional anti-smog resolution for towns and cities

Introduction of the instrument: APC ERB, Wejherowo, GUT, Resolution No.: 309/XXIV/20 of the Sejmik of Pomorskie Voivodeship of: 2020-09-28
Short description: Provincial resolution on the introduction in the area of towns in Pomorskie voivodeship, with the exclusion of the Municipality of Sopot, of restrictions and bans on the operation of installations in which fuels are burned. In order to prevent negative impacts on human health and the environment, restrictions and prohibitions shall be imposed on the operation of installations in which fuel is combuste

7. Regional Air Protection Programme

Introduction of the instrument:APC ERB, Wejherowo, GUT, Resolution No.: 603/XLVIII/22 of the Sejmik of Pomorskie Voivodeship of: 2022-11-28
Short description: Resolution of the Sejmik of Pomorskie Voivodeship on the air protection programme for the Pomeranian zone in which the permissible level of particulate matter PM10 and the target level of benzo(a)pyrene were exceeded. The air protection programmes have been developed on the basis of the air quality diagnosis for 2018 (emission and meteorological data from 2018) with a particular focus on the shares of individual source types in areas with breached air quality standards. The implementation of the corrective measures proposed in the programmes is foreseen by 30.09.2026, so that this deadline is in line with the provisions of the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of 14 June 2019 on air protection programmes and short-term action plans (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1159).

8. The Programme for Environmental Protection of the Warminsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship until 2030

Introduction of the instrument: APC ERB, Wejherowo, GUT, Resolution No. XXIV/382/21 of the Sejmik

of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship of 16 February 2021 on adopting the Environmental Protection Programme of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship until 2030
Short description: The main objective of creating the Programme is to strive to improve the state of the environment in the voivodship, to reduce the negative impact of pollution on the environment, to protect and develop the values of the environment, and to manage its resources rationally. The Programme also serves the implementation of objectives at the regional level, which have been adopted in strategic documents at the national level, with particular emphasis on the adopted National Ecological Policy 2030.The objectives set out for implementation also result from also result from legal requirements in terms of meeting environmental quality standards in individual areas of intervention, as well as identified problems and needs.

C. LOCAL LEVEL

on the example of Wejherowo Municipality

1. Development Strategy of the Town of Wejherowo for 2023-2033

Introduction of the instrument:RESOLUTION No. VIIIk/XLVI/615/2023 of the CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEJHEROWO of 16 June 2023 on adopting the Development Strategy of the City of Wejherowo for the years 2023-2033
Short description: On the basis of the diagnosis of the economic, social and spatial-environmental situation in Wejherowo with simultaneous consideration of internal and external conditions, the vision and 3 main development priorities of the town were identified:
- Priority I - social dimension
- Involving inhabitants in the town's community by improving the quality of life.
- Priority II - economic and tourism dimension - supporting entrepreneurship - creating conditions for the development of local companies and incentives for locating new business.
- Priority III - spatial-environmental dimension- cohesion of the urban fabric with effective linkages.

Especially in Priority III - Spatial-environmental dimension, which includes, inter alia, enriching public spaces with urban greenery and small architecture or reducing negative impacts resulting from storm rain, floods, droughts and urban heat islands.

2. The environmental protection programme for the town of Wejherowo for the years 2020-2023 with an outlook for the years 2024-2027

Introduction of the instrument:15 June 2021, Wjeherowo City Council resolution, in process - There will be a new programme update and a new resolution by the end of the 2024 year
Short description: The Environmental Protection Program for the town of Wejherowo for the years 2020-2023 with an outlook for the years 2024-2027 is an update of the Environmental Protection Program for the town of Wejherowo for the years 2016-2019 with an outlook for the years 2020-2023. It was developed in accordance with the 'Guidelines for the development of provincial, county and municipal environmental protection programs' and taking into account the 'Updated Annexes to the Guidelines for the development of provincial, county and municipal environmental protection programs' On the basis of the collected information on the state of the environment of the town of Wejherowo the follow-

ing were verified the existing environmental protection objectives for the town as well as the directions of intervention and tasks in eight areas of intervention of intervention:

(1) CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY
(2) NOISE POLLUTION
(3) ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS
(4) WATER MANAGEMENT
(5) WATER AND WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT
(6) WASTE MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION
(7) NATURAL RESOURCES
(8) MAJOR-ACCIDENT HAZARDS.

3. Climate change adaptation strategy for the city of Wejherowo until 2025 with an outlook until 2030

Introduction of the instrument:work in progress, at the development and consultation stage
Short description: As part of the investment task entitled 'Programme for redevelopment of the rain-water and snowmelt management and treatment system with elements of small retention in Wejherowo' (Resolution No. VIIIk/XV/181/2019 of the Wejherowo Town Council of 17 December 2019);

4. Communal Revitalisation Programme of the City of Wejherowo for 2024-2033

Introduction of the instrument:9 February 2023 by the Wejherowo Town Council of the Resolution No. VIIIk/XLII/558/2023 on accession to the preparation of the Communal Revitalisation Programme of the Town of Wejherowo for the years 2024-2033.
Short description: The document provides a basis for carrying out activities aimed at comprehensive renewal of the revitalisation area, leading it out of a crisis state, which has been confirmed in relation to social, economic, spatial-functional, technical and environmental aspects. Within the revitalisation intervention interrelated revitalisation undertakings will be undertaken with the aim of reducing negative phenomena in the revitalisation area and improving the quality of living and conducting activity in this area.
A large area in the document is devoted to green infrastructure measures.

5. The Study of Conditions and Directions of Spatial Development of the Town of Wejherowo together with the prognosis of the impact on the environment

Introduction of the instrument: Resolution No. VIIIk/XXXV/480/2022 of the Wejherowo Town Council of 28 June 2022
Short description: The spatial development conditions and directions study, hereinafter referred to as the 'Study', is a a planning document which defines the municipality's spatial policy, including the principles of spatial development, in accordance with the Act of 27 March 2003 on spatial planning and development (i.e. Dz. U. 2020 item 293, as amended).

6. RESOLUTION No. VIIIk/L/652/2023 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEJHEROWA of November 14, 2023 on the Rules and Regulations for Maintaining Cleanliness and Order in the

Municipality of Wejherowo

Introduction of the instrument:14 November 2023, Wjeherowo City Council resolution)
Short description: The Rules and Regulations for Maintaining Cleanliness and Order in the Municipality of Wejherowo, hereinafter referred to as the 'Rules and Regulations', define detailed rules for maintaining cleanliness and order in the Municipality of Wejherowo, hereinafter referred to as the 'Municipality', concerning:

1) requirements for selective collection and collection of municipal waste;
2) requirements concerning selective municipal waste collection carried out by municipal waste selective collection points;
3) requirements for the removal of mud, snow, ice and other pollutants from parts of the property used for public use;
4) requirements for washing and repairing motor vehicles outside car washes and repair shops;
5) the type and minimum capacity of containers or bags, intended for the collection of municipal waste on the property, including in areas intended for public use and on public roads, the conditions for the placement of these containers and bags and the maintenance of the containers in a proper sanitary, orderly and technical condition;
6) maintenance of waste collection sites in a proper sanitary and orderly condition;
7) frequency and method of disposal of municipal waste and liquid waste from the area of real estate and areas intended for public use;
8) other requirements resulting from the provincial waste management plan;
9) the obligations of persons keeping domestic animals to protect them from danger or nuisance to humans and from contamination of areas intended for common use;
10) the requirements for keeping livestock in areas excluded from agricultural production, including the prohibition of their keeping in specific areas or on specific properties;
11) the designation of areas subject to compulsory deratisation and the deadlines for carrying it out.

7. RESOLUTION No. VIIIk/L/653/2023 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEJHEROWA of November 14, 2023 on the detailed manner and scope of providing services in the field of municipal waste collection

Introduction of the instrument:14 November 2023, Wjeherowo City Council resolution
Short description: The detailed manner and scope of rendering services in the field of municipal waste collection and management from the owners of real properties on which residents reside and the owners of real properties which in part constitute real properties on which residents reside and in part are real properties on which no residents reside, hereinafter referred to as 'mixed', from the territory of the Municipality of Wejherowo, hereinafter referred to as the 'Municipality', in return for the fee paid for municipal waste management, hereinafter referred to as the 'fee'.

ANNEX NO 3:

RELEVANT HUNGARIAN STRATEGIC ACTS AND FRAMEWORKS ON THREE LEVELS RECOMMENDED AND INDICATED BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AS A BASIS FOR REFERENCE TO NBS TOPIC.

Municipality of Jászberény

BURST Non-profit ltd.

Introduction

The annex was prepared based on an analysis carried out by consortium members from February 2024 to July 2025 as a part of a report on local policy frameworks on NBS and development of 5 ‘model regions’ - “Replication blueprints” for NBS implementation in CE and involvement of citizens and decision makers in joint actions on NBS in CE;

AIM:

- Develop a practical tool for planning and supporting the processes of organizing living laboratories based on external circumstances & external expertise, enabling effective use of existing resources and opportunities;
- Individual analysis of known legal and strategic acts at the general and national levels (in 5 EU countries) as a part of the implementation of planned projects, pilots, and deepening of thematic knowledge on the application of NBS;
- Building understanding of the NBS general legal framework and local conditions for its implementation;

Mentioned analysis required identification by partners of policy frameworks on NBS, divided into three levels:

- National/state level,
- Regional level.
- Local level,especially with regard to pilotage locations

PURPOSE:

- Ensure better identification of areas of restrictions and possible legal frameworks within which NBS operations will be implemented in Central Europe partner organizations,
- Deepen the knowledge on additional conditions occurring in individual areas of the consortium that must be taken into account
- Show the most common mistakes related to recording activities carried out within the legal and strategic framework of NBS

ANALYSIS TIMELINE:

- 25.10.2024 - Prepared task framework and template of gathering material by task leader
- December 2024 – submission of guidelines by the coordinating partner to consortium members
- February 2025 – May 2025 - Completion of internal analysis and desk research by national partners (all partners)
- End of May 2025 - July 2025 Summary and final conclusions by consortia members

This report serve as a ‘replication plan’ for implementing NbS in Central Europe and raising awareness and knowledge among citizens and decision-makers aim to facilitate the understanding and application of concepts and guidelines, including legal ones, relating to the implementation of NBS in Europe, with particular regard to the conditions in Central Europe. It was developed on the basis of in-depth and detailed analyses of guidelines and strategic and legal frameworks for conducting activities and implementing investments using NBS, carried out by consortium members under the leadership of the Association of Municipalities of the Baltic Euroregion.

The following annex focuses on the analysis of legal and strategic frameworks with a Hungarian national, regional and local scope.

Among the acts highlighted by the Hungarian partners, the following can be distinguished:

As a referring point, the partners indicated:
European Union Strategy for the Danube Region for the Danube Region (EUSDR),
adopted by the European Commission on December 8, 2010, and endorsed by the European Council in 2011. The strategy was jointly developed by the Commission and the Danube region countries and was officially launched in its implementation phase in 2011
Short description: The EU strategy for the Danube region consists of the four pillars "Connecting the Danube Region", "Environmental Protection in the Danube Region", "Building Prosperity in the Danube Region" and "Strengthening the Danube Region". These four pillars are further subdivided into eleven priority areas. The thematic priorities include, among others. promoting the use of sustainable energies, promoting culture and tourism, improving institutional capacity and cooperation.
NBS and project relation: CONE contributes to the achievement of management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) like the reduction of nutrient levels in the DR to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions prior to the 1960s; CONE's strategy can contribute to the Delta management Plan, currently under implementation, that includes "to secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species".

- PA5 "Environmental Risks" is managed by HU and RO. The focus of the work is to address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts in line with the DRBMP. In the past few years, PA5 contributed to the elaboration of the ICPDR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2018), supported project elaboration and implementation in the field of drought management and climate change-related spatial planning, disseminated scientific results to anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research. Flood risk management is also a significant target of this PA. To achieve a reduction of flood risk events PA5 provides and enhances continuous support to the implementation of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan. In case these prevention measures are not effective enough, then disasters occur, therefore PA5 supports the assessment of disaster risks in the DR, encouraging actions to promote disaster resilience, preparedness, and response activities. CONE's strategy can provide a contribution to these actions. CONE can contribute to PA6 "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils". PA6 has also many targets, but the most project relevance is to improve the management of Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas through transnational cooperation and capacity building and to decrease air pollution in the Danube Region.

Among the individual levels, the following legal frameworks deserve to be mentioned according to Hungarian partners and stakeholders:

A. NATIONAL/STATE LEVEL ACTS AND STRATEGIES

1. National Environmental Programme (NKP 5)

Introduction of the instrument: 2022.11.12. The Hungarian Parliament introduced the 5th National

Environment Programme (NKP-5) in 2022. It is Hungary's comprehensive environmental policy framework for 2026 and beyond, outlining strategic objectives and measures to improve the country's environmental status and ensure sustainable development
Short description: The 5th National Environmental Protection Program (NEP) aims to improve the environmental condition of our country, protect the health and quality of life of Hungarian families and communities, preserve natural values and resources, and green the economy and strengthen its circular operation. All of these contribute to Hungary becoming one of the best countries in Europe to live, reside and work in a safe and clean environment by 2030.

2. 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy (2023)

Introduction of the instrument: 2023.08.08. The Hungarian 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy (2023) was introduced by the Government of Hungary. It was published on August 8, 2023, and is a comprehensive plan to preserve the country's natural resources and species diversity. The strategy was developed to align with and support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Short description: The strategy focuses on topics such as the network of protected areas, the reduction of invasive alien species that damage natural and semi-natural ecosystems, and sustainable agriculture, forestry, game and fish management. The currently adopted plan also highlights the need to halt the decline of pollinators, improve the resilience of ecosystems to climate change, develop elements of the green infrastructure network, and reduce pollution that threatens biodiversity.

3. National Landscape Strategy 2017-2026

Introduction of the instrument: 2020.07.23.
Short description: The National Landscape Strategy takes stock of the domestic situation in terms of compliance with international expectations. It presents the most significant landscape change processes, the driving forces of the processes and the state of the domestic landscape. The measures assigned to the objectives primarily focus on ensuring that the landscape-level approach is properly applied when making decisions related to various developments and the design of regulatory instruments. A key goal in the creation and implementation of the National Landscape Strategy is to make the protection, management and planning of the landscape a socially accepted public matter.

4. National Climate Change Strategy 2 (NÉS)

Introduction of the instrument: 2015.06.02.
Short description: The Strategy includes an assessment of the expected impacts of climate change in Hungary, its natural and socio-economic consequences, and the climate vulnerability of ecosystems and sectors, the National Decarbonization Roadmap containing targets, priorities and action lines for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and the National Adaptation Strategy. The main objective of the latter is to prevent risks related to climate change and climate security, mitigate damage, and present a set of objectives for awareness-raising activities aimed at preventing, preparing for and adapting to climate change, and to define sectoral action lines in the fields of human health, agriculture and rural development, water management, forestry, nature conservation, energy infrastructure, tourism, settlement affairs, and disaster management.

5. National Clear Development Strategy 2020-2050

Introduction of the instrument: 2021.09.03.
Short description: The strategy aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. In addition, the strategy refers to the Paris Agreement and the European Council's decision of December 2020 to increase the climate protection target to at least 55% net emissions by 2030. The strategy develops three scenarios ("Hands on", "Early Action" and "Deferred Action") for the country's development path until 2050 and describes their impacts on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the use of renewable energy sources and different sectors of the economy.

6. National Sustainable Development Framework Strategy

Introduction of the instrument: 2018.10.31.
Short description: The strategy functions as a long-term concept in the public policy decision-making system. It provides a framework, outlines goals and priorities for the preparation of other decisions, so that in policy strategies or plans, a target-instrument-deadline-financial resource system can be created that, together with other policy strategies or plans, and in accordance with them, can meaningfully serve the sustainability transition. The aim of the Framework Strategy is also to contribute to the formation of a national consensus on sustainability. Sustainability is not only a political and governance issue; individual individuals, families, businesses and civil society organisations must also pursue goals and values, make their everyday decisions in such a way and engage in initiatives that can ensure the achievement of a sustainable society.

7. 2023. évi CII. law about Spatial Development

Introduction of the instrument: 2024.01.01.
Short description: In the past 12 years, all socio-economic indicators have improved in almost all regions of the country, the pattern of regional differences has remained essentially unchanged for 30 years, and regional policy focusing only on growth poles and underdeveloped areas has not achieved a breakthrough in reducing development differences. The large growth poles have not been able to pull underdeveloped areas with them, and regional development organized along administrative borders has repeatedly encountered obstacles in handling matters that cross settlement and county borders. The renewed regional policy therefore considers as its starting point how people use space in everyday life, where they travel, where they use services, and based on this which areas should be targeted with interventions. This idea leads to the concept of jointly managed regions, which, based on the principle of organic systems, does not adjust developments to the borders, but adjusts regional borders to the territorial extent of intervention needs.
In addition, with the drastic decrease in the importance of agriculture and the need for live labor, the countryside in the 21st century can only be interpreted in relation to centers, and the countryside can only be elevated from the settlements operating as central and sub-centers. Therefore, regional policy is built around centers and their catchment areas, promoting job creation in the centers and its conditions (accessibility, qualified workforce, appropriate regional/settlement services, livable living environment). The aim of the new regional development regulation is to lay the professional, institutional and finan-

cial foundations of a renewed regional policy along the above principles. To this end, it introduces new spatial categories (large regions, regions to be managed together) to address problems across administrative borders and associates them with planning documents. The renewed regulation, through the Regional Development Service, brings the government closer to the rural population and the regional actors representing them, and strengthens regional development capacities in counties and rural areas.

8. Water basin Management Plan (VGT3)

Introduction of the instrument: 2022.04.22
Short description: The WFD aims to achieve "good status"2 of surface and groundwater and of protected areas related to them. It also sets the following general objectives: prevent, protect and improve the condition of aquatic and wetland habitats,

- promote sustainable water use by protecting usable water resources in the long term,
- improve water quality by reducing the discharge of pollutants and phasing out hazardous substances,
- gradually reduce the pollution of groundwater and prevent its further pollution,
- reduce the adverse effects of floods and droughts.

The aim, namely to achieve good ecological status or potential of watercourses and standing waters, and good chemical and quantitative status of groundwater, is a complex and long process. The measures required to achieve these objectives are summarised in the river basin management plan, which is the result of a careful and extensive planning process, using the strategic planning method and schedule specified by the WFD, and which must be reviewed every 6 years. The Government published Hungary's first river basin management plan (VGT1) with Government Resolution 1042/2012. (II. 23.), which included the programme of measures for the period 2010–2015. In 2015, the revision of VGT1 (VGT2), the six-year action programme for 2016–2021, was completed and published by the Government with Government Resolution 1155/2016. (III. 31.). In accordance with the WFD's VGT revision obligation, this document contains a summary of Hungary's second revised third river basin management plan (VGT3) for the period 2022–2027; the full plan is available on the website www.vizeink.hu.

9. Flood Risk Mapping and Strategic Risk Plan (ÁKK)

Introduction of the instrument: 2016.03.26.
Short description: In order to fulfil the Member State obligation set out in Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks, the Government has adopted the National Flood Risk Management Plan of Hungary and, pursuant to Section 10 (3) of Government Decree 178/2010. (V. 13.) on the definition of areas affected by the risk arising from excess water, the preparation and content of hazard and risk maps and risk management plans, orders its publication in the Official Gazette.

10. National Countryside Development Strategy

Introduction of the instrument: 2015.08.10.
Short description: Improving the population-sustaining and population-retention capacity of our rural

areas: by implementing a program that, by building on the values of people and the community, nurturing traditions, preserving the values of the landscape and built environment, managing natural resources sustainably, and developing agriculture and rural enterprises engaged in non-agricultural activities, provides an opportunity to restore the respectability and attractiveness of rural life, to comprehensively improve the quality of life of those living in the countryside, to promote the development of the countryside and, through it, the country, to create a countryside where living and working is not inherently disadvantageous, but rather attractive, healthy and modern living conditions and value.
Strategic objectives:
Preserving the natural values and resources of our landscapes: preserving soil fertility, the purity of water resources, maintaining the diversity of landscapes and wildlife, protecting forests and other important ecosystems, ecological balance, increasing environmental safety, which is also a condition for ensuring healthy and high-quality agricultural products and food.
Diverse and viable agricultural production: increasing the viability of the agricultural and food economy, improving its market positions, restoring the balance between crop production and animal husbandry; promoting the spread of farming that ensures landscape conservation and resource conservation, relying on domestic and local biological foundations - especially organic farming; increasing the employment role of the sector; protecting national land ownership, implementing a land and property policy that ensures viable farming; encouraging grassroots cooperation.
Food and food security: food production that strives for good quality and diversity of food, relies on domestic and local raw materials, is sustainable, takes environmental aspects into account, produces good quality and sufficient food – also serving our exports; increasing the presence in the domestic and foreign markets, improving the prestige of Hungarian food, and recognizing the "Hungarian product" brand as a synonym for good quality.

Ensuring the livelihood of the rural economy, increasing rural employment: strengthening and reorganizing the economic livelihood of rural areas and settlements
– especially villages and farms
–, putting the rural economy on more legs, thereby ensuring livelihoods, preserving jobs and increasing employment.

Strengthening rural communities, improving the quality of life of the rural population: stopping emigration from the countryside, creating conditions for young people to stay and return home, helping educated, worldly-minded young people to move to the countryside, restoring demographic balance by supporting farming and having children combined with rural life.
Horizontal aspects Sustainability: equal opportunities and solidarity with regard to present and future generations; sustainable, wise use of resources to protect our natural heritage and ensure fair "well-being", preserving their quality; balanced development from an environmental, economic and social perspective.
Territorial and social cohesion: socio-economic catching-up of disadvantaged, lagging rural areas, building on local characteristics and specificities, while preserving environmental values; cooperation, common goals while preserving local identity; equalizing life chances in rural areas.
Urban-rural relations: raising awareness of the interdependence of the city and its countryside, restoring a harmonious relationship based on equality and reciprocity, regional cooperation.

11. National Countryside Development Strategy

Introduction of the instrument: 2015.08.10
Short description: Overall objective: Improving the population-sustaining and population-retention capacity of our rural areas: by implementing a program that, by building on the values of people and the community, nurturing traditions, preserving the values of the landscape and built environment, managing natural resources sustainably, and developing agriculture and rural enterprises engaged in non-agricultural activities, provides an opportunity to restore the respectability and attractiveness of rural life, to comprehensively improve the quality of life of those living in the countryside, to promote the development of the countryside and, through it, the country, to create a countryside where living and working is not inherently disadvantageous, but rather attractive, healthy and modern living conditions and value. Strategic objectives: Preserving the natural values and resources of our landscapes: preserving soil fertility, the purity of water resources, maintaining the diversity of landscapes and wildlife, protecting forests and other important ecosystems, ecological balance, increasing environmental safety, which is also a condition for ensuring healthy and high-quality agricultural products and food. Diverse and viable agricultural production: increasing the viability of the agricultural and food economy, improving its market positions, restoring the balance between crop production and animal husbandry; promoting the spread of farming that ensures landscape conservation and resource conservation, relying on domestic and local biological foundations - especially organic farming; increasing the employment role of the sector; protecting national land ownership, implementing a land and property policy that ensures viable farming; encouraging grassroots cooperation. Food and food security: food production that strives for good quality and diversity of food, relies on domestic and local raw materials, is sustainable, takes environmental aspects into account, produces good quality and sufficient food – also serving our exports; increasing the presence in the domestic and foreign markets, improving the prestige of Hungarian food, and recognizing the “Hungarian product” brand as a synonym for good quality. Ensuring the livelihood of the rural economy, increasing rural employment: strengthening and reorganizing the economic livelihood of rural areas and settlements – especially villages and farms –, putting the rural economy on more legs, thereby ensuring livelihoods, preserving jobs and increasing employment.

Strengthening rural communities, improving the quality of life of the rural population: stopping emigration from the countryside, creating conditions for young people to stay and return home, helping educated, worldly-minded young people to move to the countryside, restoring demographic balance by supporting farming and having children combined with rural life. Horizontal aspects
Sustainability: equal opportunities and solidarity with regard to present and future generations; sustainable, wise use of resources to protect our natural heritage and ensure fair “well-being”, preserving their quality; balanced development from an environmental, economic and social perspective. Territorial and social cohesion: socio-economic catching-up of disadvantaged, lagging rural areas, building on local characteristics and specificities, while preserving environmental values; cooperation, common goals while preserving local identity; equalizing life chances in rural areas.

Urban-rural relations: raising awareness of the interdependence of the city and its countryside, restoring a harmonious relationship based on equality and reciprocity, regional cooperation.

12. National Forest Strategy 2016-2030

Introduction of the instrument:
Short description: The strategy was based on the National Forest Program (NEP), which defined the professional policies affecting forests for the period 2006-2015 as a medium-term program. Following its expiration, the Ministry of Agriculture took into account the international trends that have developed since then, as well as new professional challenges, when developing the National Forest Strategy (NES). The guidelines formulated in connection with the management of climate change and its preparation – as one of the most current challenges – aim to protect and, where possible, increase the country's areas covered by trees. Based on the NEP, the NES defined ten development goals. The organizations responsible for and guiding the sub-area, representations, the responsible government departments and experts from external strategic partners (OEE, MEGOSZ, FAGOSZ, PSH) were involved in their development. The material prepared during the consultations is the result of broad social and professional cooperation, as is also evident from its high level of support.

The NES also aims to coordinate management and forest ecosystem processes and to deliver forest ecosystem services. The NES received broad support in societal and inter-ministerial consultations and entered into force on 13 October 2016.

13. Soil Protection Action Plan

Introduction of the instrument:
Short description: The mission of the Soil Protection Action Plan (hereinafter: TCST) is primarily to share the responsibility and tasks for ensuring effective practical soil protection between land users and the state. It focuses on agricultural practices and the Farmers' Soil Protection Program, which encompasses soil protection activities. A secondary aim is to renew the state's role and modernize the soil protection conditions system.

14. Government Decree 280/2024 (IX. 30.) on the basic regulations of settlement plannning and construction requirements - TÉKA

Introduction of the instrument: Government Decree 280/2024 (IX. 30.) on the Basic Regulations for Settlement Planning and Construction Requirements (TÉKA) came into force on January 1, 2025, but its application will be introduced gradually. The mandatory date of application of this legislation is July 1, 2025.
Short description: New Decree on the basic regulations of town planning and construction requirements. The Basic Regulations on Settlement Planning and Construction Requirements define many concepts related to green infrastructure and provide more detailed regulations and stronger protection for green spaces than before.
It stipulates that local building regulations in larger or priority areas must also include provisions on the maintenance of green spaces.

15. Government Decree No. 282/2024 (IX. 30.) on municipal green infrastructure, green area certificate and green labe

Introduction of the instrument: 2024.09.30
Short description: Infrastructure, Green Space Certificate and Green Trademark Based on the authorization of Act C of 2023 on Hungarian Architecture, detailed rules on municipal green infrastructure, protection of municipal green spaces, green space certificate and green trademark are being created.

B. REGIONAL LEVEL (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County)
Corresponding to: Jászberény case study place

1. Climate Strategy for Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County
   http://klima.jnszm.hu/klima-strategia/
   Climate mitigation and adaptation strategy for the county.

2. Megyei Területfejlesztési Koncepció és Program Development Concept and Programme for Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County
   http://tfi.jnszm.hu/megyei-teruletfejlesztesi-program-2021-2027/
   Territorial Development Programme for the county.

C. LOCAL LEVEL
on the example of Municipality of Jászberény

1. Településfejlesztési koncepció (TFK)
   10 / 06 / 2015
   Urban development concept - concept for long term

2. Integrált településfejlesztési stratégia (ITS)
   23 / 03 / 2022
   Integrated settlement development strategy - strategy for medium term

3. Helyi építési szabályzat (HÉSZ)
   20 / 02 / 2017
   Local building regulations - municipal decree

4. Integrált települési vízgazdálkodási terv (ITVT)
   December, 2022
   Integrated municipal water management plan - discusses and evaluates the different water management elements of the settlement and points out settlement development ideas

5. Települési vízkárelhárítási és vízminőség védelmi terv
   2020
   Urban water damage prevention and water quality protection plan. The municipal wa-

ter damage prevention plan documentation discusses the information, instructions, available resources, capacities and development opportunities needed to protect the inhabited interior.

6. Települési Környezetvédelmi Program (TKP)
   2022
   Urban Environmental Protection Program. It is the basis of environmental protection planning at the settlement level.

ANNEX NO 4:

RELEVANT ITALIAN STRATEGIC ACTS AND FRAMEWORKS ON THREE LEVELS RECOMMENDED AND INDICATED BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AS A BASIS FOR REFERENCE TO NBS TOPIC.

Comune di Padova
Padua municipality

UniSMART - Foundation of Padua University

Introduction

The annex was prepared based on an analysis carried out by consortium members from February 2024 to July 2025 as a part of a report on local policy frameworks on NBS and development of 5 'model regions' - "Replication blueprints" for NBS implementation in CE and involvement of citizens and decision makers in joint actions on NBS in CE;

AIM:

- Develop a practical tool for planning and supporting the processes of organizing living laboratories based on external circumstances & external expertise, enabling effective use of existing resources and opportunities;
- Individual analysis of known legal and strategic acts at the general and national levels (in 5 EU countries) as a part of the implementation of planned projects, pilots, and deepening of thematic knowledge on the application of NBS;
- Building understanding of the NBS general legal framework and local conditions for its implementation;

Mentioned analysis required identification by partners of policy frameworks on NBS, divided into three levels:

- National/state level,
- Regional level.
- Local level,especially with regard to pilotage locations

PURPOSE:

- Ensure better identification of areas of restrictions and possible legal frameworks within which NBS operations will be implemented in Central Europe partner organizations,
- Deepen the knowledge on additional conditions occurring in individual areas of the consortium that must be taken into account
- Show the most common mistakes related to recording activities carried out within the legal and strategic framework of NBS

ANALYSIS TIMLINE:

- 25.10.2024 - Prepared task framework and template of gathering material by task leader
- December 2024 – submission of guidelines by the coordinating partner to consortium members
- February 2025 – May 2025 - Completion of internal analysis and desk research by national partners (all partners)
- End of May 2025 - July 2025 Summary and final conclusions by consortia members

As a referring point, the partners indicated two Regional strategies:

1. **European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR),**

adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council on September 29, 2014. The strategy was jointly developed by the participating countries and stakeholders in the region.
Short description: Its main goal is to promote a prosperous, inclusive, connected, and green region by improving attractiveness, competitiveness, and connectivity while preserving the environment and

ensuring the sustainable use of marine and coastal areas. The strategy involves ten states and works through cooperation on its five main thematic pillars: blue growth, green quality, cultural and historic tourism, connectivity, and governance.

NBS and project relation: EUSAIR contributes to the goal of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services and restore them in so far as feasible, by addressing threats to terrestrial biodiversity. CONE has the potential to create synergies with the EUSAIR Flagships 2021-2027 "Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems" (Pillar 3- Environmental quality). The project, in fact, aims to protect and expand natural habitats and terrestrial ecosystems through the establishment of green corridors.

The Adriatic and Ionian Region is vulnerable to disasters and to the impact of climate change and comprehensive actions to adapt to those circumstances are needed. Enhancing cooperation in this area, through different actions such as conducting adequate comprehensive risk assessment, implementing a disaster risk management policy, as well as developing a regional strategy on adaptation to climate change, will make the Region more resilient to such changes.

2. **European Union Strategy for Alpine Region (EUSALP),**

on July 28, 2015, with the European Council giving its official endorsement on June 28, 2016.

The strategy was officially launched in January 2016

Short description: The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) is a macro-regional strategy that aims to enhance cooperation among seven countries and 48 regions to address shared challenges in the Alps. It focuses on three main priorities: economic growth and innovation, mobility and connectivity, and environment and energy. A key goal is to create a sustainable and cohesive Alpine region by coordinating actions and strengthening cooperation across both EU and non-EU borders

NBS and project relation: The project contributes to the O3– Ensuring sustainability in the Alps: preserving the Alpine heritage and promoting a sustainable use of natural and cultural resources. One of the main features of the Alpine Region is its outstanding natural and cultural heritage. Natural resources (in particular, clean and abundant water, minerals, a variety of landscapes, and great biodiversity), and strong and diverse cultural life are major assets of this region, however, threatened by climate change. Therefore, joint regional responses are necessary to establish efficient management systems.

Synergies could be established with Action Group 6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources; and Action Group 8: to improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention.

Among the acts highlighted by the Italian partners, the following can be distinguished on three levels: National,regional, local one.

A. NATIONAL/STATE LEVEL ACTS AND STRATEGIES

1. National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (Piano Nazionale di Adattamento ai Cambiamenti Climatici - PNACC)

Introduction of the instrument: Draft published in 2017; ongoing updates, with approval expected in 2023/ decreto direttoriale n. 86 del 16 giugno 2015 dal Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare)

Link: https://va.mite.gov.it/it-IT/Oggetti/Documentazione/7726/11206
Short description: Provides a framework for climate adaptation across various sectors, including water management. It emphasizes nature-based solutions like wetland restoration and sustainable urban drainage systems to combat drought and floods.

2. National Strategy for Sustainable Development (Strategia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile - SNSvS)

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: 2017, action plan that integrates the principles of Agenda 2030 into the Italian context. Its aim is to address challenges such as climate change, social inequalities and the promotion of a circular economy. SNSvS aims for sustainable development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising the opportunities of future generations. Main objectives: To integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) into Italian policy and the economy.
Link: https://www.mase.gov.it/pagina/la-snsvs
Delibera CIPE n. 108 / Delibera CITE n. 1 del 18 settembre 2023
Short description: Aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting sustainable land and water resource management. It integrates nature-based solutions to address climate resilience and water scarcity.

3. National Climate Law (Legge sul Clima)

Introduction of the instrument: (Proposal stage (expected adoption in 2024-2025);
Italy does not have a single, dedicated "National Climate Law" but rather a framework of laws, plans, and decrees, largely driven by EU directives
. Key documents include the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (INECP) and the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNACC), which can be viewed on the European Parliament's website and other government sites
Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R1119
Short description: Aims to establish legally binding targets for greenhouse gas reduction and climate adaptation. Includes provisions for implementing nature-based solutions for flood prevention and drought resilience.

4. Piano Nazionale Invasi (National Reservoirs Plan) 2019

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: 2018
Link: https://mit.gov.it/sites/default/files/media/notizia/2019-06/DPCM%20Invasi.pdf
Short description: Focuses on enhancing water storage capacity and improving the management of water resources, including projects that integrate natural and green infrastructure to address drought and flood risks.

5. River Contracts (Contratti di Fiume)

Introduction of the instrument: Date of introduction: 2007 (recognized by Italian law in 2015) called

'River Contracts' are voluntary, participatory planning agreements between public and private entities for the redevelopment and sustainable management of a river basin, promoting the environmental and economic resilience of the territory.
They are based on a collaborative process to address critical issues such as degradation, excessive urbanisation and hydrogeological risk, in line with the objectives of European directives.
Link: https://contrattidifiume.mase.gov.it/cosa-sono
Short description: Voluntary agreements between stakeholders to manage river basins sustainably. These contracts often include the restoration of natural floodplains and wetlands as nature-based solutions.

6. National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza - PNRR)

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: 2021, The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)
is the instrument through which Italy accesses Next Generation EU funds to revive the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to make the country more sustainable, inclusive and resilient through investments and reforms in key areas such as green transition, digitalisation, infrastructure, education and health.
Main features
European funding: The PNRR is part of the European Next Generation EU package, which allocates funds (grants and loans) to member countries.
Objectives: To improve the efficiency of public administration, modernise infrastructure, promote sustainability, strengthen the healthcare system and create a more dynamic and inclusive labour market.
Link: https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-National-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-NRRP/
Short description: Funded by the EU NextGenerationEU program, it allocates significant resources to sustainable water management, flood protection, and nature-based solutions as part of Italy's post-COVID recovery.

7. National Strategy for Green Infrastructure (Strategia Nazionale del Verde Urbano)

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: 2013 (guidelines published)
Link: https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/comitato%20verde%20pubblico/strategia_verde_urbano.pdf
Short description: Promotes the integration of green infrastructure in urban and rural areas to address climate adaptation, water management, and biodiversity conservation.
Strategia Nazionale del Verde Urbano is an Italian policy document that aims to change the perception of green spaces in cities – from a mainly decorative function to a multifunctional infrastructure capable of providing key ecosystem services.
The main objectives and assumptions of the strategy include:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being of citizens through the development of high-quality urban greenery.
- Mitigating the effects of climate change, including reducing the urban heat island effect, mitigating the effects of flooding through better rainwater absorption, and improving air and water quality.

- Protecting and increasing biodiversity in the urban environment.
- Shifting from surface area (square metres) to functional area (hectares), reducing asphalt surfaces and using the concept of urban forests as a structural model for greenery.
- Promoting sustainable urban planning by integrating green infrastructure (GI) and nature-based solutions (NbS) into spatial and transport planning.

8. National Forest Strategy (Strategia Forestale Nazionale)

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: 2022 / art. 6, comma 1, del decreto legislativo 3 aprile 2018 n. 34 – TUFF
Link: https://www.reterurale.it/foreste/StrategiaForestaleNazionale
Short description: Aims to increase forest cover and enhance ecosystem services like water regulation and flood mitigation through nature-based solutions.
The Forest Strategy is an Italian development plan aimed at improving the resilience of state forests, increasing their biodiversity and combating climate change. In addition, the strategy aims to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits to local communities in both rural and urban areas.
Main objectives: Increasing the resilience and biodiversity of forests.
Actions:

- Mitigating and adapting to the climate crisis.
- Providing environmental, social and economic benefits.

9. Piano Operativo Nazionale - Città Metropolitane (PON Metro)

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: 2014-2020 programming period; extended to 2021-2027
Link: https://www.pnmetroplus.it/home-2/pon-metro-plus-21-27/pn-metro-21-27-2/
Short description: Includes initiatives for sustainable urban development, such as the use of green roofs, permeable pavements, and urban wetlands for stormwater management.
The National Operational Plan - Metropolitan Cities (PON Metro) is an urban development programme dedicated to major Italian cities, financed by the European Structural Funds. The aim is to promote smart, inclusive and sustainable growth by improving the quality of services and regenerating degraded urban areas.
Main Features
Programming Periods: The programme has been developed in two main cycles:

- PON Metro 2014-2020: Approved in 2015 with a budget of approximately €873 million.
- PN Metro Plus and Medium-Sized Cities in Southern Italy 2021-2027: This is a continuation of the previous programme, with a focus extended to include some medium-sized cities in southern Italy.

Cities involved: The 14 metropolitan cities involved are Turin, Milan, Venice, Genoa, Bologna, Florence, Rome, Naples, Bari, Reggio Calabria, Cagliari, Catania, Messina and Palermo.
Urban Authorities (UA): The provincial capitals act as "Urban Authorities" and take on the role of Intermediate Body for the management of funds and the implementation of interventions.

B. REGIONAL LEVEL (Veneto Region)
Corresponding to Veneto Region

1. Piano di Gestione delle Acque (Water Management Plan)/ Veneto Region

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: 2015 (aligned with the EU Water Framework Directive)
Link: https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/piano-di-tutela-delle-acque
Short description: Regional water management plans developed for each River Basin District in Italy. They promote sustainable water use and integrate nature-based solutions for flood and drought management.

2. Piano di gestione del bacino idrografico del fiume Po

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: Ongoing since the 1990s
Link: https://pianoacque.adbpo.it/
Short description: Regional plans for managing the Po River basin, Italy's largest river. Includes measures for natural floodplain restoration and sustainable water allocation.

3. Piano di Tutela delle Acque del Veneto (Veneto Water Protection Plan)

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: 2018 (latest revision)
Link: https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/piano-di-tutela-delle-acque
Short description: Focuses on the sustainable use of water resources, flood prevention, and the restoration of natural habitats like wetlands. Promotes nature-based solutions to combat drought and water scarcity.

4. Piano di Gestione del Rischio Alluvioni (Flood Risk Management Plan - PGRA)

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: 2016 (aligned with EU Floods Directive)
Link: https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/direttiva-alluvioni
Short description: Applies to Veneto's rivers and water bodies, focusing on natural floodplain restoration and sustainable water storage as preventive measures.

5. Piano di Adattamento ai Cambiamenti Climatici del Veneto (Veneto Climate Adaptation Plan)

Introduction of the instrument: Under development since 2020
Link: https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/clima-e-adattamento-ai-cambiamenti-climatici
Short description: Framework for regional adaptation to climate change, emphasizing water resource management and ecosystem restoration as key components of climate resilience.

C. LOCAL LEVEL
on the example of Padova Municipality

1. Piano di Assetto del Territorio (Territorial Plan - PAT)

Introduction of the instrument: date of introduction: Approved in 2019
Link:https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/ambiente-e-territorio/pat#:~:text=Il%20Piano%20di%20Assetto%20del%20Territorio%20(PAT)%2C%20come%20definito,sulla%20base%20di%20previsioni%20decennali.
Short description: Provides guidelines for land use planning across the Veneto region. Encourages integrating green infrastructure and sustainable water management practices to mitigate flood and drought risks.

2. Piano di Azione per l'Energia Sostenibile e il Clima (PAESC) for Padova

https://www.padovanet.it/sites/default/files/attachment/Sintesi%20PAESC%20di%20Padova.pdf
date of introduction: 2021
A city-level Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, aligned with EU targets. It includes measures for urban greening, sustainable drainage systems, and flood resilience.

3. Progetto Vasche di Laminazione in Padova Province Ongoing

Ongoing date of introduction: since 2010s
Construction of retention basins in flood-prone areas to manage overflow from rivers like the Bacchiglione and Brenta. These projects often integrate natural vegetation for improved water absorption and biodiversity.

4. Padova Resiliente

https://www.padovanet.it/notizia/20160713/padova-resiliente
date of introduction: 2017 (as part of the 100 Resilient Cities initiative)
A comprehensive urban resilience strategy for Padova that focuses on mitigating flood risks through green roofs, urban forestry, and permeable pavement.

5. Piano Provinciale delle Acque (Water Management Plan for Padova Province)

https://www.provincia.pd.it/sites/default/files/paginabase/adeguamento_scarichi_linee_guida_no_all_f_ott_2017.pdf
date of introduction: 2018
Sets guidelines for water resource management across the province, promoting sustainable agriculture and restoration of waterways as key actions.

6. Piano Regolatore Generale del Verde (General Green Plan for Padova)

https://www.padovanet.it/informazione/piano-del-verde-comunale
date of introduction: 2020
A municipal plan that integrates green infrastructure into urban planning, enhancing water retention and reducing flood risks in the city.

ANNEX NO 5:

RELEVANT SLOVENIAN STRATEGIC ACTS AND FRAMEWORKS ON THREE LEVELS RECOMMENDED AND INDICATED BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AS A BASIS FOR REFERENCE TO NBS TOPIC.

OBČINA POLJČANE

Municipality of Poljcane

Introduction

The annex was prepared based on an analysis carried out by consortium members from February 2024 to July 2025 as a part of a report on local policy frameworks on NBS and development of 5 ‘model regions’ - “Replication blueprints” for NBS implementation in CE and involvement of citizens and decision makers in joint actions on NBS in CE;

AIM:

- Develop a practical tool for planning and supporting the processes of organizing living laboratories based on external circumstances & external expertise, enabling effective use of existing resources and opportunities;
- Individual analysis of known legal and strategic acts at the general and national levels (in 5 EU countries) as a part of the implementation of planned projects, pilots, and deepening of thematic knowledge on the application of NBS;
- Building understanding of the NBS general legal framework and local conditions for its implementation;

Mentioned analysis required identification by partners of policy frameworks on NBS, divided into four levels:

- Pan-European level,
- national level, state level,
- Local and regional level.

PURPOSE:

- Ensure better identification of areas of restrictions and possible legal frameworks within which NBS operations will be implemented in Central Europe partner organizations,
- Deepen the knowledge on additional conditions occurring in individual areas of the consortium that must be taken into account
- Show the most common mistakes related to recording activities carried out within the legal and strategic framework of NBS

ANALYSIS TIMELINE:

- 25.10.2024 - Prepared task framework and template of gathering material by task leader
- December 2024 – submission of guidelines by the coordinating partner to consortium members
- February 2025 – May 2025 - Completion of internal analysis and desk research by national partners (all partners)
- End of May 2025 - July 2025 Summary and final conclusions by consortia members

As a referring point, the partners indicated: **European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR),** adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council on September 29, 2014. The strategy was jointly developed by the participating countries and stakeholders in the region.

Short description: Its main goal is to promote a prosperous, inclusive, connected, and green region by improving attractiveness, competitiveness, and connectivity while preserving the environment and ensuring the sustainable use of marine and coastal areas. The strategy involves ten states and works

through cooperation on its five main thematic pillars: blue growth, green quality, cultural and historic tourism, connectivity, and governance.
NBS and project relation: EUSAIR contributes to the goal of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services and restore them in so far as feasible, by addressing threats to terrestrial biodiversity. CONE has the potential to create synergies with the EUSAIR Flagships 2021-2027 "Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems" (Pillar 3- Environmental quality). The project, in fact, aims to protect and expand natural habitats and terrestrial ecosystems through the establishment of green corridors.
The Adriatic and Ionian Region is vulnerable to disasters and to the impact of climate change and comprehensive actions to adapt to those circumstances are needed. Enhancing cooperation in this area, through different actions such as conducting adequate comprehensive risk assessment, implementing a disaster risk management policy, as well as developing a regional strategy on adaptation to climate change, will make the Region more resilient to such changes.

Among the acts highlighted by the Slovenian partners, the following can be distinguished on three levels: National,regional, local one.

A. NATIONAL/STATE LEVEL ACTS AND STRATEGIES

1. Long-Term Climate Strategy until 2050

Introduction of the instrument: Resolution on Long-Term Climate Strategy until 2050 on 13 July 2021
Short description: The Resolution on the Long-term Climate Strategy of Slovenia until 2050 (ReDPS50) defines Slovenia's commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The strategy focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency and promoting the use of renewable energy sources in various sectors. Slovenia aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by introducing cleaner technologies and sustainable practices in industry, transport, agriculture and waste management. The transition to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and hydropower, will reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase energy security. Increasing energy efficiency in buildings, industry and transport is a priority, which includes modernising infrastructure and promoting energy-saving practices. The strategy includes adapting to climate change by increasing the resilience of infrastructure, protecting biodiversity and sustainably managing natural resources. It also promotes sustainable mobility, including public transport and electric vehicles, and implementing a circular economy to reduce waste and promote recycling. Investments in research and innovation are key to the development of technologies for climate change mitigation. The strategy emphasizes the importance of raising awareness and educating the public about climate issues. By 2050, Slovenia aims to achieve a balance between emissions and removals of greenhouse gases, thereby contributing to the global fight against climate change. NBSs are closely linked to climate change adaptation measures and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in our environment.

2. Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan

Introduction of the instrument: On 27 February 2020, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Slovenia (NECP), which was also submitted to the European Commission, in accordance with EU Regulation 2018/1999 on the

Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Slovenia is currently in the final stages of preparation of its review.
Short description: The Comprehensive National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) is an action-strategic document that, in accordance with EU Regulation 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, is required to be adopted by each EU Member State. The NECP for the period up to 2030 (with a view to 2040) sets out objectives, policies and measures in five dimensions of the Energy Union: 1. decarbonisation (GHG and RES emissions), 2. energy efficiency, 3. energy security, 4. internal market and 5. research, innovation and competitiveness.

3. Slovenian Spatial Development Strategy 2050

Introduction of the instrument: Resolution on the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia 2050 (ReSPR50) (June 28, 2023)
Short description: The document supports the NBS concept, stating that "For bridging surface waters, arrangements and solutions are provided that do not increase the risk of flooding. Water management arrangements generally follow sustainable arrangements with natural materials available in the vicinity. Water infrastructure is positioned in accordance with the natural morphology, with materials generally used to minimize negative visual impact. Water infrastructure is positioned in such a way that the area of impact in the event of a potential collapse does not pose a major threat to people or their material assets."

4. GENERAL GUIDELINES IN THE FIELD OF WATER MANAGEMENT for the preparation of municipal spatial plans (OPN) and national spatial plans (DPN)

Introduction of the instrument: Adopted by Slovenian water Directorate in January 2022
Short description: The General Guidelines for Water Management state: "The drainage of rainwater in the management area must be planned in accordance with Article 92 of the ZV-1, in such a way that instantaneous runoff from urban areas is reduced to the greatest possible extent, which means that the retention of rainwater before it flows into surface drains (grassland, grass patches, possible dry retention ponds, etc.) must be planned." The legislative framework therefore supports the planning of NBS, although this concept is not specifically mentioned and defined.

5. Law on spatial planning (ZUREP-3)

Introduction of the instrument: Adopted on: 9.12.2021; Applicable from: 1. 6. 2022
Short description: This Act determines the objectives, principles and rules of spatial planning, the participants operating in this field, the types of spatial acts, their content and mutual relations, the procedures for their preparation and adoption, their implementation and the procedures for the placement, detailed planning and permitting of spatial arrangements of national importance. It also determines spatial measures and other spatial planning acts, instruments and measures of land policy and regulates the monitoring of the state of spatial development, the operation of the spatial information system and the issuance of certificates in the field of spatial planning.

6. Water Act

Introduction of the instrument: Adopted on: 12.7.2002; Applicable from: 10. 8. 2002
Short description: The objective of water and water and coastal land management is to achieve good water status and other water-related ecosystems, to ensure protection against harmful effects of water, to preserve and regulate water quantities and to promote sustainable water use, which enables various types of water use while taking into account the long-term protection of available water resources and their quality. The impacts of climate change are taken into account when defining the objectives of water management and related programmes of measures. It states, among other things, that the use and other interventions in water, water and coastal land and land in protected and endangered areas, as well as agricultural, forest and building land must be programmed, planned and implemented in such a way as not to deteriorate the water status, to enable protection against harmful effects of water, to preserve natural processes, the natural balance of water and riparian ecosystems, and to protect natural values and areas protected under nature conservation regulations.

7. Nature Conservation Guidelines for the purposes of more detailed planning and implementation of interventions on watercourses in the Danube River Basin District (ANNEX to the Water Management Measures Programme (NUV III, October 2023))
   Adopted by government of RS on 23.10.2023

The guidelines are the basis for planning sustainable arrangements and NBS. The guidelines are covering the following areas:
• Riparian overgrowth and aquatic vegetation
• Water structures and riparian protection
• Management of gravel material and debris
• Watercourse continuity
• Time of work implementation

8. The Reconstruction, Development and Provision of Financial Resources Act (ZORZFS)

Introduction of the instrument: Adopted on 13.12.2023, Applicable from: 23.12.2023
Short description: The law was adopted as a reaction to severe floods in Slovenia in 2023. Among other things, it supports NBS with the following provision regarding the rehabilitation of water infrastructure and bodies: when planning and implementing the measures referred to in this article, especially outside populated areas, the possibility of using nature-based solutions shall be examined, in particular regulating water flow taking into account natural processes that ensure reduced runoff or flow of water, reduced presence of pollutants in water, and reduced flooding of populated areas, unless the implementation of these measures does not ensure the same effectiveness in ensuring flood risk reduction.

B. REGIONAL LEVEL (Podravje region)
Corresponding to: Municipality of Poljčane

1. The Regional development programme of Podravje 2021-2027
   June 2022

Short description: The Regional development programme of Podravje 2021-2027does not explicitly mention the NBS, but within Development Objective 2 (Low-carbon and greener region) it emphasizes

the importance of green spaces and biodiversity.

C. LOCAL LEVEL (Municipality of Poljčane)

1. Ordinance on the Municipal Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Poljčane

Introduction of the instrument: Applicable from 09.05.2020
Short description: Municipalities draw up spatial planning documents to determine the goals and starting points for their spatial development, plan spatial arrangements of local significance and determine the conditions for the placement of local spatial arrangements in the spatial planning. In doing so, the guidelines from national spatial planning documents, the development needs of the municipality and protection requirements are taken into account.

ANNEX NO 6:

RELEVANT CZECH REPUBLIC STRATEGIC ACTS AND FRAMEWORKS ON THREE LEVELS RECOMMENDED AND INDICATED BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AS A BASIS FOR REFERENCE TO NBS TOPIC.

jaip
South Bohemian Agency for Support to Innovation

České Budějovice
City of České Budějovice

Introduction

The annex was prepared based on an analysis carried out by consortium members from February 2024 to July 2025 as a part of a report on local policy frameworks on NBS and development of 5 ‘model regions’ - “Replication blueprints” for NBS implementation in CE and involvement of citizens and decision makers in joint actions on NBS in CE;

AIM:

- Develop a practical tool for planning and supporting the processes of organizing living laboratories based on external circumstances & external expertise, enabling effective use of existing resources and opportunities;
- Individual analysis of known legal and strategic acts at the general and national levels (in 5 EU countries) as a part of the implementation of planned projects, pilots, and deepening of thematic knowledge on the application of NBS;
- Building understanding of the NBS general legal framework and local conditions for its implementation;

Mentioned analysis required identification by partners of policy frameworks on NBS, divided into three levels:

- National/state level,
- Regional level.
- Local level,especially with regard to pilotage locations

PURPOSE:

- Ensure better identification of areas of restrictions and possible legal frameworks within which NBS operations will be implemented in Central Europe partner organizations,
- Deepen the knowledge on additional conditions occurring in individual areas of the consortium that must be taken into account
- Show the most common mistakes related to recording activities carried out within the legal and strategic framework of NBS

ANALYSIS TIMELINE:

- 25.10.2024 - Prepared task framework and template of gathering material by task leader
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- End of May 2025 - July 2025 Summary and final conclusions by consortia members

As a referring point, the partners indicated: **European Union Strategy for the Danube Region for the Danube Region (EUSDR),** as adopted by the European Commission on December 8, 2010, and endorsed by the European Council in 2011. The strategy was jointly developed by the Commission and the Danube region countries and was officially launched in its implementation phase in 2011
Indicated by partners from: Hungary
Short description: The EU strategy for the Danube region consists of the four pillars “Connecting the Danube Region”, “Environmental Protection in the Danube Region”, “Building Prosperity in the Danube

Region" and "Strengthening the Danube Region". These four pillars are further subdivided into eleven priority areas. The thematic priorities include, among others. promoting the use of sustainable energies, promoting culture and tourism, improving institutional capacity and cooperation.
NBS and project relation: CONE contributes to the achievement of management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) like the reduction of nutrient levels in the DR to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions prior to the 1960s; CONE's strategy can contribute to the Delta management Plan, currently under implementation, that includes "to secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species".
PA5 "Environmental Risks" is managed by HU and RO. The focus of the work is to address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts in line with the DRBMP. In the past few years, PA5 contributed to the elaboration of the ICPDR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2018), supported project elaboration and implementation in the field of drought management and climate change-related spatial planning, disseminated scientific results to anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research. Flood risk management is also a significant target of this PA. To achieve a reduction of flood risk events PA5 provides and enhances continuous support to the implementation of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan. In case these prevention measures are not effective enough, then disasters occur, therefore PA5 supports the assessment of disaster risks in the DR, encouraging actions to promote disaster resilience, preparedness, and response activities. CONE's strategy can provide a contribution to these actions. CONE can contribute to PA6 "To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils". PA6 has also many targets, but the most project relevance is to improve the management of Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas through transnational cooperation and capacity building and to decrease air pollution in the Danube Region.

The following annex focuses on the analysis of legal and strategic frameworks with a Czech Republic scope.

A. NATIONAL/STATE LEVEL ACTS AND STRATEGIES

1. National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Czech Republic 2021–2027

Referring to: Ministry of Industry of Trade, Regional Authorities, JAIP, City of CB) 2020, Ministry of Industry and Trade
Short description: National RIS3 Strategy ensures that resources, primarily from European, national and local budgets are effectively targeted at supporting oriented and applied research and innovation. The National RIS3 Strategy directs support to selected priority areas that have high potential to create a long-term competitive advantage for the Czech Republic that is based on knowledge exploitation and innovation. Identifying and developing these promising areas, i.e., "smart specialisation", builds on the strengths of the Czech Republic and its various self-governing regions. It seeks to make targeted and "smart" use of the unique combination of opportunities offered by our economic background and research and innovation capacity. The strategy also identifies and addresses weaknesses in the innovation system, which ultimately represent barriers to the development of smart specialisation and the innovation environment as a whole.

2. Climate change adaptation strategy in the Czech Republic

Referring to: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic)
Government Resolution No. 785 of September 13, 2021
Short description: The adaptation strategy is focused on addressing all significant manifestations of climate change in the Czech Republic. Its aim is to "increase the Czech Republic's preparedness for climate change – reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of society and ecosystems to climate change, thereby limiting its negative impacts" through the proposed measures and tasks. The main manifestations of climate change in the Czech Republic:

- Long-term drought
- Floods and flash floods
- Heavy rainfall
- Increasing temperatures
- Extremely high temperatures
- Extreme winds
- Vegetation fires

3. Biodiversity Protection Strategy of the Czech Republic for the period 2016–2025

Referring to: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic)
Government of the Czech Republic by Resolution No. 193 of March 9, 2016
Short description: The main conceptual document defining priorities in the field of protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Czech Republic, which also reflects related international obligations. The role of the Strategy is to create a basic conceptual framework based on existing legislation and existing instruments, which will contribute to improving the overall state of biodiversity in the Czech Republic. In 2020, a mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy's partial objectives was carried out in the middle of its validity period, the conclusions of which were taken into account by the government in April 2021.

4. Strategic Framework of the Circular Economy of the Czech Republic 2040

Referring to: Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic)
Ministry of the Environment, November 2021
Short description: The purpose of the Strategic Framework for the Circular Economy of the Czech Republic 2040 is to formulate assumptions, objectives and measures to ensure that the Czech Republic is resilient to future environmental threats, including climate change, in the long term through a circular economy and to develop an overall sustainable social system. The Czech Republic must be able to respond to future fundamental challenges, including in connection with natural disasters or pandemics, etc.

B. REGIONAL LEVEL (South Bohemia Region)
Corresponding to: JAIP, City of České Budějovice case study place)

1. Principles of spatial development of the South Bohemian Region

Resolution of the South Bohemian No. 81/2001/ZK of 13 September 2011
Short description: The Principles of Territorial Development of the South Bohemian Region were prepared on the basis of the assignment for the elaboration of the Territorial Plan of the large territorial unit of the South Bohemian Region. With the change of the Building Act, the Principles were updated.

2. Development Programme of the South Bohemian Region for the period 2021 – 2027

Resolution of the South Bohemian Region No. 200/2021/ZK-8 of 24 June 2021
Short description: The Development Programme of the South Bohemian Region for the period 2021 - 2027 is an overarching medium-term programme of support for regional development at the level of the region, which defines strategic objectives and individual intervention measures to achieve sustainable and balanced development of the South Bohemian Region.

3. *Adaptation Strategy of the South Bohemian Region to Climate Change 2024-2034*

Resolution of the South Bohemian Region No. 156/ZK/24 of 20 June 2024.
Short description: The Adaptation Strategy aims to mitigate the impacts of climate change by adapting to it, maintaining good living conditions and preserve and, where appropriate, improve the economic potential for future generations.

C. LOCAL LEVEL
on the example of České Budějovice

1. Zoning Plan of the City of České Budějovice
   Resolution of the City Council No. 39/2000 of 23 March 2000
   Short description: A new master plan is being prepared.

2. Local Adaptation Strategy of the City of České Budějovice to Climate Change
   Resolution of the City Council No. KP-ZM/411/2022/M/197 of 5 September 2022
   Short description: The Adaptation Strategy builds on the Strategic Plan of the City of České Budějovice and the Analysis of the Potential of Smart Cities of the City of České Budějovice

3. Strategic Plan of the City of České Budějovice
   City Council Resolution No. KP-ZM/357/2018/M/176 of 18 June 2018
   Short description: The City's Strategic Plan targets the areas of Entrepreneurship, Hu-

man Resources, Education, Research and Innovation, Mobility and City Attractiveness.

4. České Budějovice 21 Smart Green City
   City Council Resolution No. 916/2021of 19 July 2021
   Short description: The conceptual urban study "České Budějovice 21 Smart Green City" was commissioned by Teplárna České Budějovice, a.s. , which owns and operates extensive premises and a distribution network of steam and hot water pipelines for central heat supply in this part of the city with further development potential. In addition to the company, the city is a significant property owner in the area.

RELATED INSTITUTIONS & AUTHORITIES -> WHICH ARE WORTHY OF BEING INVOLVED OR INFORMED IN ACTIONS RELATED TO NBS

Responsible ministries/bodies
Central/Country level:
- Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of regional Development

Regional:
- Relevant departments of the South Bohemian Regional Authority (Urban Planning, Building Authority, Environmental Protection, etc.)
- Research organizations and NGOs: Biology Centre CAS; Global Change Research Institute, CAS; University of South Bohemia

Local:
- Relevant departments of the Municipality of České Budějovice (Urban Planning, Building Authority, Environmental Protection, etc.)
- Authorities concerned: the Regional Sanitary Station, the Fire Brigade, ČEVAK, E.GD, Czech Tele communications, etc.