



CONE



REPORT

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
Fondazione Università di Padova

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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

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.](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.



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