

GreeningCities

Pathways for the Green Future -
Supporting Finnish Municipalities
in Urban Greening Plans



Scientific background

- To help reverse biodiversity loss in urban and peri-urban areas, the European Union (EU) has called cities with at least 20,000 inhabitants to develop greening plans by the end of 2021
 - measures to mainstream nature-based solutions and urban greening initiatives into policy, legislation and governance
 - promote citizen engagement (Target 11 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy)



GreeningCities Goals



Strengthen sustainability transformation in land use planning and green area management in cities



Assist municipalities in implementing greening plans



High-societal impact by helping to improve the quality of urban settings



- Clarify how EU level strategy targets should be streamlined into local level municipal decision-making
- Deepen the knowledge gained in the VASU project of urban greening plans and related other plans or programs
 - Highlight prerequisites, needs and challenges
- Explore urban greening plans of different European/global cities
 - identify enablers, challenges, and obstacles
 - reveal the best practices and co-develop pathways forward together with Finnish municipalities.
- Support municipalities in urban greening by providing interpreted knowledge of the EU biodiversity strategy's urban greening requirements and data



Methods and Implementation

1

Explore local level implementation of urban greening plans

- ✓ Explore the mandate of EU-level strategies & study in-depth how the targets set by the EU strategies correlate with the municipalities' own biodiversity and greening targets
- ✓ Interview experts at the Ministry of the Environment and the Association of the Finnish municipalities
- ✓ Gather more extensive data on the greening plans and corresponding other plans
- ✓ Carry out semi-structured interviews with municipal planners and decision-makers to learn in-depth what stances and issues support or hinder urban greening and making plans for it.



2

Explore exemplary urban greening plans from different cities across Europe

- ✓ Identify 3-5 cities across Europe to collaborate and share different lessons, tools, and methodologies in implementing urban greening initiatives
- ✓ Compile a list of different measures and actions that the cities undertake to protect and enhance nature
- ✓ Identify specific urban goals, challenges, and institutional barriers for incorporating green space policies into their cities' agendas
- ✓ Conduct interviews to explore different perspectives, goals, and challenges among the selected case studies



3

Identify best practices for the transition towards nature-based cities and information sharing among Finnish municipalities.

- ✓ Work closely with the Finnish Network of Nature Municipalities to co-create understanding of the current state-of-the-art in the greening plans development and implementation.
- ✓ Co-design and co-create a pathway towards reaching the target of producing urban greening plans that balance economic growth with sustainable development
- ✓ Present, and review lessons learned during the first tasks from the other European cities highlighting new opportunities and limitations





Let's work together!

