



An ALTER-Net conference in collaboration with the European Commission
under the auspices of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Nature and Urban Wellbeing

Nature-Based Solutions to Societal Challenges

May 18-20 2015, Ghent, Belgium

Please join us for an international conference on Nature-Based Solutions. Relevant to research in many disciplines and communities, to EU policies and to practitioners, this event offers rich possibilities to share, learn and connect.

Why Nature-Based Solutions?

Nature-Based Solutions is a rapidly emerging concept covering a range of approaches which use natural processes and species to address societal challenges. Of particular interest are solutions to problems of ecological quality, human health and wellbeing in urban environments - and their rural hinterlands - as well as to reducing their global footprints.

Some solutions have existed for a long time and are implemented through green infrastructure, ecological disaster risk reduction and ecosystem-based adaptation. There is a growing need for innovative Nature-Based Solutions and for development in deploying and upscaling existing efforts. Such solutions are key to more sustainable and prosperous societies, and are attracting the interest of researchers, developers, governments, businesses and citizens.

Conference aims

Many questions arise in connection with Nature-Based Solutions: Which are feasible and justified – and why? How can they be evaluated? What roles do research, knowledge and innovation play? How are solutions framed and taken up by communities?

The event will take an inter-disciplinary bridge-building approach to address such scientific and applied questions, to provide new perspectives, discuss information needs, and develop partnerships and community building.

Objectives of the Conference:

1. Provide a forum for dialogue across fields of research, policy and practice engaged in nature and urban wellbeing
2. Evaluate conditions and options for upscaling Nature-Based Solutions.
3. Build on previous work, knowledge and experience to develop innovations in Nature-Based Solutions.

Programme outline and themes

The conference will be arranged around plenary and parallel sessions and panel discussions. The developing programme is available on the conference website. Themes include:

- Concepts of nature-based solutions (short training course)
- Research & innovation in nature-based solutions (NBS)
- Learning from urban NBS case studies
- Nature, urban health, wellbeing & social inclusion
- Waterscapes and blue infrastructure
- Re-naturing citizens
- Biodiversity & business
- NBS for risk management
- Sustainable Development Goals and NBS
- Access to nature
- Delivering ecosystem services through urban biodiversity
- Green space and green growth potential
- Urban planning, urban design NBS
- Trans-disciplinary approaches to NBS.

Who should attend?

- Researchers from all disciplines
- Policymakers and authorities at all levels of governance
- Businesses and solution providers
- Planners and designers
- Health professionals
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Educationalists.

www.alter-net.info/outputs/conf-2015

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Key dates

Register by 10.05.2015 at conference website

Fee: €100 (€50 for staff/students of ALTER-Net member institutes)

Venue: See <http://www.thagaste.be/>

Accommodation: See conference website for options