

# ACTION N° 9 – AGREEING ON COMMON TARGETS AND INDICATORS FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, URBAN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN CITIES



## 1.1. Conclusion and recommendations - Draft

AIM:

Relevant, easily adaptable and easy-to- implement sets of targets and indicators for cities (indicators and targets which the citizens, the politicians and the administrations will recognize and find meaningful)

## 1.2 Conclusions

- Stocktaking:  
Can't see the end of it: New results are constantly coming in: Many Horizon 2020 pilot projects are closing in on the results and have developed many good proposals for targets and indicators. New proposals coming up following new projects.
- Meeting with Horizon2020 Task force 2 November 2019  
Make it convincing that very many relevant indicators are developed under the different Horizon 2020 projects, and that the possibilities for developing adaptable clusters of indicators to the main targets for sustainability versus climate, biodiversity and public health are good, providing "someone" could work further on coordination
- Running of interactive workshop-  
carried out through the work of the planning group (for the EWRC workshop) with Joachim Maes (JRC, Ispra) as lead and with main contributions from Grazia Zulian (JRC), Julie Delcroix (DG RTD), Holger Robrecht (ICLEI) and Torgeir Esig Soerensen (Stavanger).
- Workshop t EWRC with cities and technical experts from other initiatives. Arranged under EWRC in October. Many good contributions, and underlining that there is a lot of work to do before we will reach a relevant, easily adaptable and easy-to- implement sets of targets and indicators for cities, indicators and targets which the citizens, the politicians and the administrations will recognize and find meaningful and which may serve as a benchmarking system.
- The action 9 should be followed up by a standing task force with sufficient resources to prepare an agreed system of targets and indicators adaptable in the cities' governance systems.

## 1.2 Main recommendations:

### **Establish a Task Force on Indicators under EU Urban Agenda Initiatives.**

- We recommend that there be established a new task force under the European Urban Initiatives?
- Task: Structuring and unifying all the different proposals for targets and indicators on UGS, ESS, BD and NBS, choosing the most relevant among them and making them practical applicable into city governance systems. (A comprehensive job needed).
- One should draw from EKLIPSE, Task Force 2 Horizon2020, Think Nature, EWRC workshop, UnaLab, GRETA, CITYkeys, UN Sustainability Development Goals, Green Surge, WHO Environment Europe and many, many more.

- We recommend that a new Task Force on Indicators is formed on the base of the Task Force 2 Horizon 2020 NBS-projects and the group behind EKLIPSE Report, and more.
- We recommend that the contracting partner should be DG Regio, Supported by DG Regio, DG Environment and DG R&I.
- We recommend that a panel consisting of
  - 15-20 different cities (Variations in Size and geographical situation is established to secure the adaption to urban governance.
  - Organisations for cities like ICLEI and Eurocities
  - NGOs like IUCN and World Urban Parks
- We recommend that there be established pan European host for a benchmarking system where cities can report their achievements on an annual basis. We recommend that EEA be asked if they can take on this role.

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### **Area of impact: Better Knowledge**

**Bottlenecks addressed (ref. ANNEX B):** 6 – 17 – 20

#### **What is the specific problem?**

Several sets of targets and performance indicators for city sustainability have been developed in the European Union (see e.g. EKLIPSE, Think Nature, EnRoute, UnaLab and many national and local sets.). They often differ across scales and geography, and often are not easily adaptable into the planning, governance and management systems of the average city. There is lack of universal and consistent data in this regard, as well as a lack of agreed common, easily adaptable targets and performance indicators for NBS, Urban Green Infrastructures, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that cover planning, management, governance and performance. A system that allows for mutual benchmarking and inspiration between cities, which is easily understandable by citizens, politicians, administration, business and developers is desired. Such a system would also give Member States and the Commission the means to overview city level performance in this area.

Despite numerous proposals regarding targets and indicators in NBS, cities in Europe need to agree on a common set of targets and indicators, to support benchmarking between cities and to improve the communication platform towards national and EU level.

#### **How do existing EU policies/legislations/instruments contribute?**

The action will ultimately have several cross-cutting issues towards existing policies, legislation and instruments. However, those matters are addressed through action n. 6 (BETTER REGULATION TO BOOST NBS AT EUROPEAN, NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS).

#### **What action is needed?**

**This action will, through a collaboration with already working initiatives/projects on targets and indicators for Nature Based Solutions, Urban Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, contribute to establishing a relevant, easily adaptable and easy-to-implement set of targets and indicators for cities.**

in this context it is of crucial importance that we find indicators and targets that the citizens, the politicians and the administrations recognise and find meaningful.

- Example 1: Following “The History of the Bees”, there is a keen interest amongst citizens about the threat of dying pollinating insects. Measuring the number of bees over the years will make an understandable and relevant way of making citizens aware of the threat towards biodiversity.
- Example II: There is scientific evidence of the public health gains associated with urban green infrastructure, so this highlights the rationale behind the WHO’s recommendation for citizens to have access to public green space within 300m maximum distance. Such evidence might support this target being adopted as a common goal across cities.

The Partnership has undergone thorough stocktaking and found that there are several processes going on within the same thematic area.

The action will bring together several parties already working on the same topics and offer the cities a chance to contribute as a partner to contribute in making the targets and indicators relevant to and easily adaptable for implementation in the cities.

Both ICLEI, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD), Directorate-General Environment (DG ENV) and Joint Research Centre, Land Resources Unit (JRC D3) through MAES- URBAN - EnRoute have offered their assistance in organising this action. ICLEI has offered to facilitate with setting up a cooperation between the Partnership and The Task Force on Impact Assessment connected to the EU Nature Base Solution projects’ (mostly Horizon 2020).

The Joint Research Centre, Land Resources Unit (JRC D3) has offered to:

- Share the results of the project - EnRoute in a joint effort to make their findings attractive and adaptable to cities.
- Host the workshop for the partnership in the JRC in Ispra, Italy.

### How to implement the action?

The first part of the action is to establish and develop cooperation with relevant stakeholders:

1. ICLEI will facilitate contact with NBS projects –the Horizon2020 Task Force 2 NBS Indicators;

2. DG JRC will facilitate contact with MAES URBAN EnRoute Taskforce on impact evaluation framework and also contact to the cities connected to EnRoute.

3. The Partnership will invite frontrunner cities within NBS, Urban Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and/or Ecosystem services to cooperate with the action to secure the quality of the results. The Partnership has taken stock of the work that has already been done by the Horizon 2020 Nature Based Solutions for sustainable cities project Taskforce 2. The Taskforce composed of the Nature Based Solutions urban demonstration projects and the Research and Innovation Project working on business, governance models and Impact Assessment, are indeed working together on setting common indicators to measure the impact of NBS.

Considering the inputs from ICLEI, and after the participation of one member to the Partnership to the H2020 Taskforce, the action has been designed so as to complement the on-going work to make it useful and relevant for all cities across Europe. A workshop assembling the cities of the EU Urban Agenda, ICLEI, frontrunner cities, representatives of the H2020 projects Taskforce on indicators, as well as key stakeholders of sustainable urban development at EU level, will be organised in order to:

1. Give the end user perspective on the indicators developed;

2. Facilitate the operationalisation and uptake of such a framework of indicators;

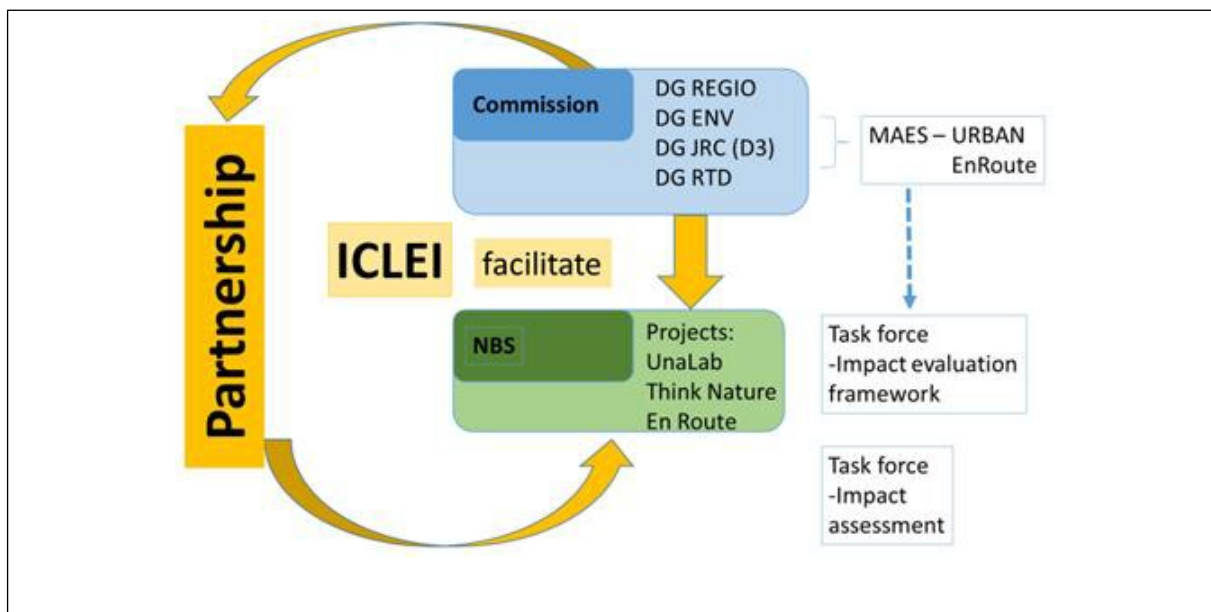
3. Liaise with other ongoing initiatives on sustainable urban development indicators. If the participating actors express interest in continuing such a workshop on a regular basis, arrangements would be made to do so at this workshop. DG RTD will facilitate the link between the Partnership and the Taskforce, as well as with other relevant DGs.

At the second stage, the Partnership supported by cities, ICLEI, JRC, and DG RTD will prepare a basic plan (a “wishlist”) as a platform for the common workshop January/February 2019, that would be followed by a workshop planned later in 2019. The final product should be elaboration of agreed set of targets and indicators, recommended by all involved partners.

### Which partners will be involved?

**Action leader:** City of Stavanger

**Other partners:** ICLEI, JRC, DG RTD



## What timeline applies?

### November - December 2018:

Setting up the cooperation, identifying and inviting frontrunner cities

**January – February 2019:** Developing the cities “wish list”- a smaller workshop might be needed.

**January – February 2019** Planning for the 1. joint workshop (January February)

**March 2019** :1. Joint workshop incl. agreement on who does what to prepare the concluding workshop.

### March - May 2019:

Preparations and planning for the Joint Concluding Workshop

### June 2019:

Joint Concluding Workshop

**September 2019:** Preparation of agreed set of targets and indicators proposal

## Related SDGs:

