

# NATure-Based Solutions and URban Water GOVERNance

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*Shaping the Future of Urban Water Governance with Nature-Based Solutions*

Project Consortium

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*How can cities better embed Nature based Solutions (NbS) considerations in strategic planning? What governance criteria, institutional capacities, and participatory processes enable inclusive, cost-effective, and resilient water strategies?*

## Challenge addressed

NATURGO responds to the pressing need to rethink urban water governance toward integrated, multifunctional approaches to help cities meet escalating water challenges and embed NbS as a core strategy. Current reliance on grey infrastructure often neglects broader benefits such as social inclusion, ecological value, and long-term resilience.

## Expected results

- Practical insights to help cities mainstream and scale NbS, enabling more Regenerative, equitable, and resilient urban water systems.
- Innovative governance tools and methods to support co-creation throughout the municipal planning cycle.
- Strengthened municipal capacity to deliver NbS, including new models for financing and insurance.
- Inclusive, evidence-based scenario development that ensures benefits across all social groups.
- Policy and planning recommendations, culminating in a comprehensive Handbook on nature-based water governance for resilient cities.

## Project objective

NATURGO aims to strengthen how cities govern NbS to address urban water challenges. By developing inclusive knowledge, practical tools, and effective processes for planning, implementation, and maintenance, the project supports a shift from fragmented, reactive measures to integrated, future-oriented strategies. Working across five partner cities, NATURGO will:

- Foster inclusive, cross-scale knowledge co-production
- Conduct systemic governance diagnostics using multilevel and polycentric frameworks
- Facilitate Transition Arena processes for collaborative scenario development
- Apply real-time simulation tools (Urban Nature Explorer & InflowGo) to evaluate NbS performance, costs, and co-benefits

These efforts will help cities embed credible, socially inclusive NbS pathways into long-term urban planning.

