

URBES

Urban Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

FP7 supported project

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URBES will address significant scientific knowledge gaps on the role of urban biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being and be of importance for building capacity of European cities to adapt to climate change and reduce ecological footprints. URBES will have a focus on functional diversity, urban ecosystem services, institutions, economics and resilience science and strive to translate interdisciplinary research insights into principles, landscape designs and applications. In addition, URBES will pioneer the development of the TEEB-approach in an urban context and be innovative in integrating monetary and non-monetary valuation techniques, explore their governance implications and develop guidelines for implementation in urban landscapes. URBES will develop a tool box intended to promote sustainable management of urban biodiversity and ecosystem service generation and in doing this involving and communicate the results to important stakeholders. Four case study cities: Berlin, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Salzburg will function as sites for the empirical studies. To achieve the ambitious goals of URBES, the research is organized in four different clusters addressing the most pressing research questions in the field in an interdisciplinary way.

Cluster I: Urban Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Land Use

Cluster II. Valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Cluster III. Governance and management of urban biodiversity and ecosystem services

Cluster IV Communication and training

URBES will develop a professional communication and training program together with ICLEI and IUCN and will actively link to important policy mechanisms and contribute to global partnerships with e.g. CBD, TEEB, IPBES, as well as with EU on the post-2010 EU Biodiversity Strategy, and the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment, and with nations through input to national biodiversity strategies and environmental objectives (e.g. in Sweden). URBES consists of nine top research institutes in Europe, being well placed to take on the challenging interdisciplinary tasks of URBES.

The main focus of the Austrian subproject lies in the non-monetary valuation of urban biodiversity and ecosystem services. Therefore a non-monetary valuation methodology will be developed by combining quantitative and "soft" qualitative indicators and criteria as well as indicators for ecological, environmental and social services. Moreover, the research means to bridge the gap between ecological and social indicators as well as the gap between theory and practice. A number of existing approaches to evaluation will be tested in the case studies (Salzburg, Berlin, Stockholm and Rotterdam).

Website:

http://www.biodiversa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=298&Itemid=149

