



Panel 2. Governance of urban nature-based solutions: challenges and opportunities in policy, planning and practice

chaired by *Attila Katona*, Central European University, Hungary

Nature-based solutions (NBS) are seen to hold significant promise in responding to urban sustainability challenges and increasing resilience. Local governments realize that urban nature and green-blue infrastructure delivers a wide range of goods and services, such as managing flooding, reducing heat stress, absorbing air pollution, enhancing biodiversity, generating jobs, improving mental and physical health, as well as creating accessible urban space for recreation. By focusing on societal factors such as human well-being, socio-economic development, and governance principles, NBS also helps mainstreaming biodiversity-related action into policies and practices at the local and sub-national government level.

Yet there is a substantial gap between the promise of nature-based solutions and their uptake, especially in Eastern Europe, likely due to a lack of strategic coherence, public confidence and agreed perspective on where to focus investment, how to address policy challenges, how to connect across domains, and how to mainstream good practices. This panel session will focus on the learning that has taken place on the purposeful deployment of urban nature (from conceptualization to implementation, maintenance, and monitoring), including trends, strategies, successful and not-so-successful examples, as well as discussion on transfer and take-up potential in Eastern European countries. Thus, the panel fosters an exchange of research, ideas, experiences and an opportunity for horizontal knowledge transfer and cooperation to bringing nature-based solutions into the mainstream of urbanization both in West and East.

The panel aims to understand:

- 1) what factors influence the deployment of urban nature-based solutions in different contexts (patterns of governance, financial models, forms of stakeholder involvement, etc.)?
- 2) what processes, mechanisms and tools contribute to the successful deployment and systemic integration of NBS? What are the key lessons learned and not learned?
- 3) how to mainstream (replicate and scale-up) nature-based solutions for a more sustainable, resilient and biologically diverse urban fabric?