



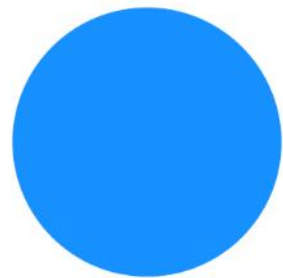
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Nature-Based Solutions – from innovation to common use

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Ministry of the Environment / Deputy Director General

EU2017.EE



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Estonian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

NBS2017

A flagship conference organized with Tallinn University targeting innovation actions involving all societal actors, i.e. science, business, society and politicians.

24. – 26. October 2017

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NBS2017



Three days
> 400 participants
> 50 presenters
39 countries

Main topics

- Blue-green infrastructure in smart cities;
- Integrated water management through natural systems;
- ICT as a supporting tool for nature-based solutions and ecosystems;
- Ecological restoration through eco-innovation;
- Nature-based solutions in circular economy;

Speakers



Siim Kiisler



Kęstutis Navickas



Patrick Child



Joanna Drake



Hans Bruyninckx



Shardul Agrawala



Stewart Maginnis



Marjolein Helder



Cor Lamers



Lena Ek



Cities and local governance



- Currently, 73% of Europe's population lives in cities;
- Properly implemented NBS can:
- increase **health and well-being**,
 - reduce **energy consumption**,
 - limit **temperature increase**
 - help with **water management**;

What do citizens want?



83% of Europeans were in favor of the EU promoting NBS;

6 out of 10 citizens favor NBS over technological solutions;

>50% want to be involved directly if a NBS was implemented in their area;

Eurobarometer poll presented by Patrick Child

Moving forward

- The local level is central as it allows for faster change;
- Tools such as **green public procurement** need to be further implemented;
- Knowledge and cooperation of the community is key – **bottom up initiatives** and **co-creation** between citizens and scientists;
- Environmental monitoring systems can give real-time **information on the impact** of NBS;

Linking NBS to SDGs

- NBS have the ability to support the implementation of several sustainable development goals (SDGs);
- Cross-cutting tool for implementing SDGs contributing to the alleviation of several problems at once;
- There is a need for indicators and analysis - how much different NBS contribute to which SDG;

Future of NBS

- NBS require long-term investments and involvement from all actors;
- They carry interesting investing opportunities but need to be treated like any other technology – their limits need to be recognized;
- Entrepreneurs are interested in NBS, but don't see money in nature;
- We have failed to value natural capital – we need refocus and revalue it;

Better communication

People are losing their **connection with nature** - this needs to be changed;

They are **interested** in NBS but are **unaware of the concept**;

The citizens want to be involved and can **drive the process at local level**;





„If we want strong nature-based solutions, we need strong nature“

Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency

Conclusions

Europe has the ability to become one of the **leaders** in the field of nature-based solutions;

Our focus must be on **communication, collaboration** and the exchange of **best practices**;

Concrete business models that are based on sound science and viable case studies need to be developed;

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This project has received funding from the European Union's [Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme](#) under grant agreement [No 769003](#).

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