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A SHORT INTRODUCTION

by coordinator, **Dr. Rik De Vreese (EFI Bonn)**

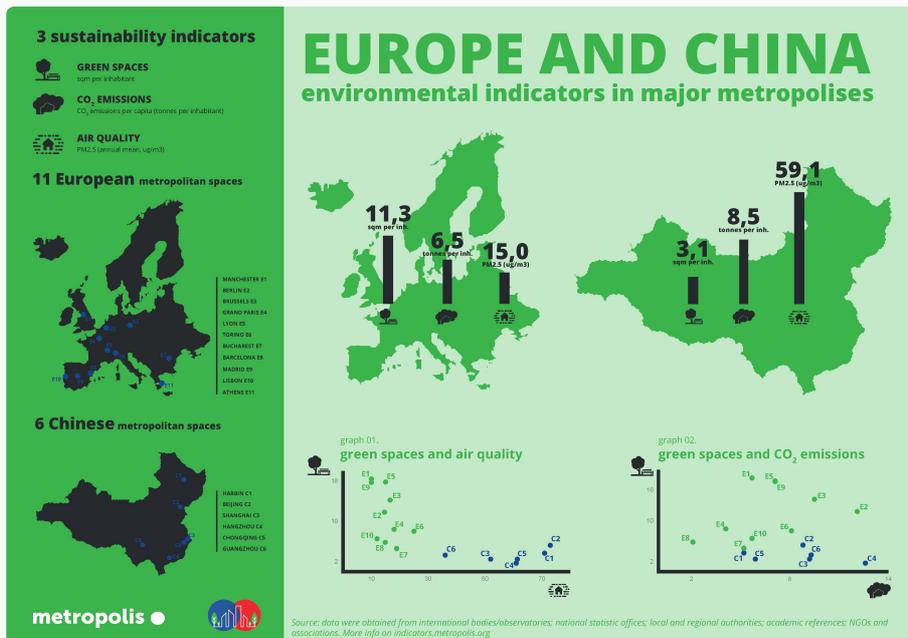
The CLEARING HOUSE project is over a year old. This means more than a year of working towards promoting the benefits urban trees and urban forests provide to urban societies. We have had to adapt and innovate in the way we work. Our partners have accompanied cities to transition from physical to online co-design workshops in order to provide a back-up plan in the current sanitary situation. Such transition was possible by leveraging upon online collaboration tools that allow participants to simultaneously collaborate, share ideas, create post-its and brainstorm together.

With this newsletter, we will update you every 3 to 6 months on the latest developments regarding urban forestry, sustainable urbanisation and nature-based solutions provided by trees and forests, both in Europe and China. Please [register for this newsletter](#), and [follow our social media accounts](#) to be updated on the outcomes, results and events delivered by CLEARING HOUSE up to 2023.

Do not hesitate to contact us for any questions or feedback you have. And for now, please stay safe and stay healthy.

The project so far

Project highlights, updates and latest news



In the framework of the CLEARING HOUSE project, data on environmental sustainability from Europe and China were extracted to highlight their position towards 3 main indicators:

- Green spaces, measuring the green surface available in the metropolitan area per inhabitant
- CO2 emissions, reporting the tonnes of CO2 per inhabitant in the area
- Air quality, indicating the annual mean of PM2.5 particles concentration per m3 in the metropolitan area

The metropolitan indicators presented in this infographic are part of the Metropolis Observatory, a project funded by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB) which offers reference frameworks to include the metropolitan perspective in urban governance. The development of the metropolitan indicators was commissioned to LSE Cities at the London School of Economics and Political Science, after a public tender procedure carried out in the end of 2017.

[Read more.](#)



We held our first co-design workshop

The main aim of the workshop was to identify and assess challenges and impacts of urban forests as nature-based solutions around six locally relevant topics: climate change, recreation, public health, environmental education, ecosystem services and sustainable (urban forest) management. The workshop gathered almost 50 committed actors from local administration, research, civil society (associations, schools and kindergartens) and private-public institutions.

[Missed it? Catch up on the event](#)

Press play: REGREEN video

"Technology alone cannot save the planet from climate change..." that is why we need #naturebasedsolutions! Check out this video by our sister project.

[Watch the video here](#)



Call for contributions

This call for contributions invites you to contribute to our project blog. This can be an opinion piece, an emblematic picture and its description, a short story, or the (preliminary) results of research you are conducting, e.g. results of a survey, expert interviews, media analysis...

Please contact us in case you want to contribute and share your thoughts with Nicola da Schio via email (ndaschio@vub.be).

The educational package

An interactive educational package on urban forests for pupils

The project will develop an interactive educational package on urban forests for pupils aged 10 to 14 years old. We are actually looking for inputs and feedback from teachers working with this age group. The more answers we receive on this survey, the better the educational material. If you are/know a teacher teaching to this group, please fill in and share!



More information:
Tine de Kezel (BOS+): tine.dekezel@bosplus.be

[Link to the survey](#)

The blog

Recent posts have focused on urban forest and COVID-19



1. [Cities as "natural" problem solvers?](#)
2. [Madrid's metropolitan forest: a forest belt to reconnect the city's population with nature](#)
3. [Bonn's urban forest: rediscovering interest in an old friend](#)



Related NBS events

- [Urban Transitions 2020 | 10-12 November 2020, Sitges, Barcelona, Spain](#)
- [IUCN World Conservation Congress | 7-15 January 2021, Marseille, France](#)
- [Trees, People and the Built Environment 4 | 3-4 February 2021 - Online](#)
- [Third Asia-Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting \(Bangkok, Thailand\) | February 2021 - TBD](#)

Due to protective measures against COVID-19, some events have been reprogrammed to take place online.



Additional partners are likely to join the consortium in the coming months.

[Get to know our project partners](#)



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The CLEARING HOUSE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 821242.

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