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## A SHORT INTRODUCTION

CLEARING HOUSE has been very busy. In March 2021, our coordinator wrote the [Editorial](#) for the first [NetworkNature](#) newsletter, launching the NetworkNature Semester on "Nature-based solutions in the light of the pandemic". Also we had 750 attendees to our [Urban Forestry Days 2021](#) (presentations now available).

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.

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

## Urban Forestry Days 23 - 24 March 2021

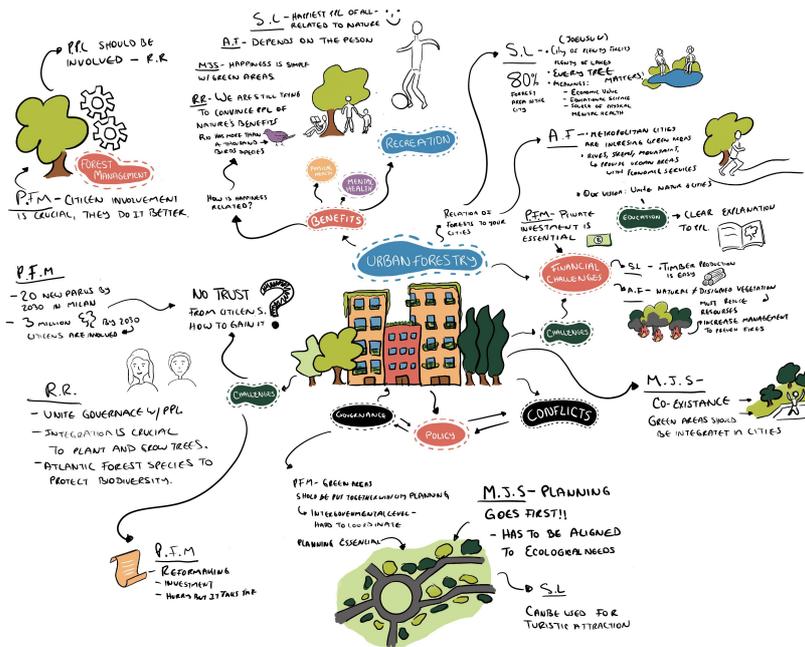
Two days of diverse and exciting integrated urban forestry activities brought together researchers, practitioners and policymakers from around Europe and beyond to explore the [role of urban forests for a transition towards sustainable cities](#) and to discuss linkages between [urban green, health and well-being](#).

The two-day collaborative event of integrated urban forestry activities was hosted by the [European Forest Institute](#) (EFI), the [European Forum on Urban Forestry](#) (EFUF) and the Horizon 2020 [CLEARING HOUSE](#) project. 750 unique participants from over 68 different countries joined the conference online to explore the latest developments in urban forestry. Dive into the topics discussed and conference presentations [here](#).

The conversations throughout the 5 sessions and several virtual forest field trips were inspiring! CLEARING HOUSE featured prominently throughout the 2-day event as a Urban Forestry Days 2021 core partner, with a focused day on 24 March 2021.

## The project so far

*Project highlights, updates and latest news*

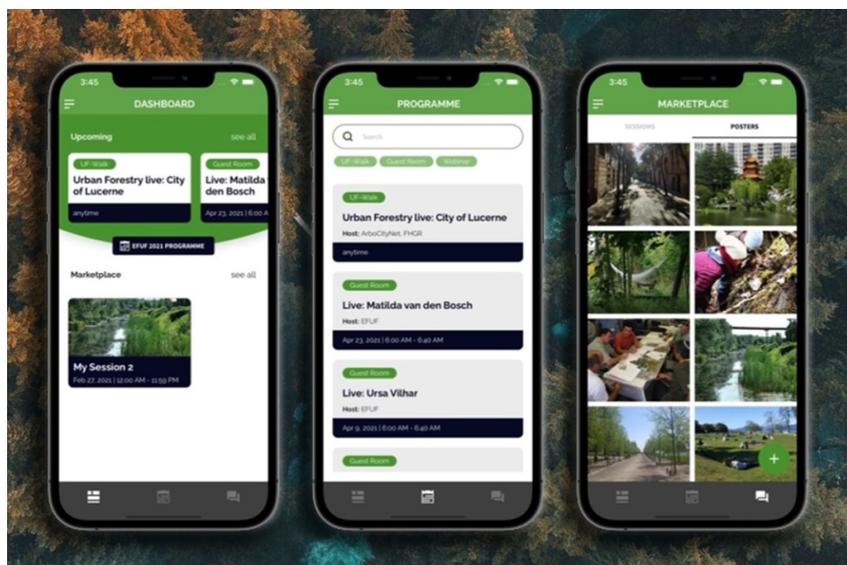


## Urban Forests as a valuable tool for building metropolitan green areas

Recent trends show that more and more cities and metropolitan territories [are turning to Nature-Based Solutions \(NBS\)](#) to help develop more sustainable, resilient and healthy urban spaces. Urban Forests (UF) are a subset of Nature-Based Solutions that build on tree-based urban ecosystems to address societal challenges, simultaneously providing ecosystem services for human well-being and biodiversity benefits. On 23 March, Metropolis held a session on the importance of urban forests for sustainable cities as part of the 2021 Urban Forestry Days. The event was co-organised with the [European Forest Institute \(EFI\)](#), the [European Forum on Urban Forestry \(EFUF\)](#) and the Horizon 2020 CLEARING HOUSE project.

The discussions, which were moderated by Oscar Chamat, Research and Policy Officer at the Metropolis Secretariat General, revolved around the benefits of urban and peri-urban forests. The debates also pointed to some challenging issues related to their development, the strong link between urban forests and the perceived attractiveness of a metropolitan area, and the importance of people’s engagement in building metropolitan green spaces.

[Read more.](#)



### myEFUF app

We are excited to announce that the brand-new myEFUF app is now available for download. COVID-19 challenges did not stop us from creating an

extraordinary experience for this year's European Forum on Urban Forestry. myEFUF comes in five language to help you connect and keep on networking with other urban forestry enthusiasts: English, German, French, Italian and Spanish.

You can download myEFUF from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) and start browsing through a range of exciting events now: From virtual networking lunch breaks to [local walks around your favourite urban green spaces](#) or [Friday morning Live Guest Rooms](#) – explore the activities, set up your own virtual marketplace to discuss the latest urban forestry developments or upload a poster about a specific urban forestry topic of your interest. The events will be organised from March until May2021. What's on the menu? [Read more here.](#)

myEFUF has been developed by [Arbocitynet](#) and the [University of Applied Sciences Graubünden](#) with the support of the [Swiss Federal Office for the Environment \(FOEN\)](#).



### 'Reimagining Future Cities: The Green Way' - A Recap

This international conference on greening our cities, and the role of urban forestry and other approaches, was held on March 21st/22nd, 2021. The full recording of the 'Reimagining Future Cities: The Green Way' is now available on our website.

The event was hosted by [Trella Urban Forestry Technology LLC](#) and the [Nature Based Solutions Institute](#), in collaboration with [The University of British Columbia - Faculty of Forestry](#), [California-China Climate Institute](#) and our project, CLEARING HOUSE.

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



## Second CLEARING HOUSE General Assembly - a recap

We held our second General Assembly on 25-26 March 2021. It was very engaging, full of peer-to-peer exchange and even some artistic skills. We gathered around 50 people from 11 countries around the world to discuss our project process and next steps. We also had the occasion to draw our collaborative urban forests during a #workshop on MURAL. You can find our consortium masterpiece [on Twitter](#).

We're looking forward to the next consortium meeting (hopefully in person).

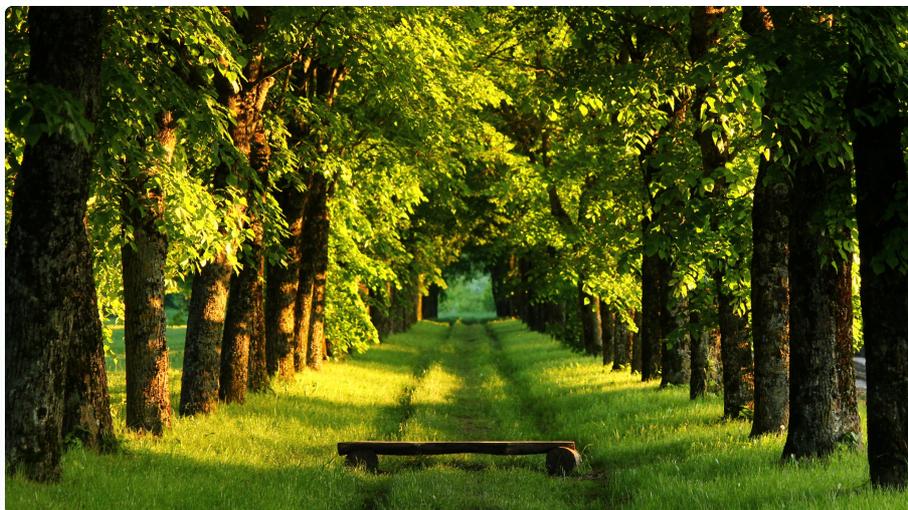


## The 2nd International Forest City Conference

The topic of this event was how to use urban forest and trees to support the green urbanization across China and Europe. There were 18 speakers that introduced our newest research on Urban trees and the benefits they provided, such as reducing the pollutants, cooling heat waves, save water, soil restoration and provide recreation space for citizens. CLEARING HOUSE session took place on 6th April. [More information on the blog](#).

## The blog

*Recent posts have focused on urban forest and COVID-19*



**1.**

[Forests and urban green spaces in pandemic times](#)

**2.**

[School greening: right or privilege? The case of Barcelona](#)

**3.**

[Urban Forests: a valuable tool for building metropolitan green areas](#)



### Related NBS events

- [3rd ESP Europe 2021 \(7-10th June 2021\)](#)
- [1st Africa Forum on Urban Forests \(5-9th July 2021\)](#)
- [The 3rd World Conference of the Society for Urban Ecology \(7-9th July 21\)](#)

*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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