**The CLEARING HOUSE project is pleased to announce its second call for the project’s knowledge exchange mechanism.**

**The global objective of the knowledge exchange mechanism is to promote capacity development and exchange of knowledge and practices on urban forests as nature-based solutions (UF-NBS), based on peer-to-peer exchanges and scientific support regarding UF-NBS challenges.**

**The knowledge exchange mechanism is composed of the two paths described below, the City Tandem and the CLEARING HOUSE Task Force.**

**In 2022,** [**Bogotá, Mexico City and Belo Horizonte were selected**](https://clearinghouseproject.eu/2022/09/26/what-do-belo-horizonte-bogota-and-mexico-city-have-in-common-apart-from-being-vibrant-metropolises-to-live-in/) **within the framework of the 1st call for the knowledge exchange mechanism.**

**About CLEARING HOUSE**

Trees and forests are proven Nature-Based Solutions contributing to address major urban challenges while providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. However, their potential for delivering ecosystem services and ensuring cities resilience, urban forests are often underestimated and underused as nature-based solutions. Active planning, management, and inclusion on the climate agenda of the urban forest can improve society resilience to climate change and help cities and communities better adapt.

CLEARING HOUSE is a H2020 funded project that brings together 26 partners in Europe and China across sectors, and will provide evidence and tools that facilitate the mobilization of the full potential of Urban Forests as Nature-Based Solutions (UF-NBS) for rehabilitating, reconnecting and restoring urban ecosystems.

More information on CLEARING HOUSE is available through [http://www.clearinghouseproject.eu](http://www.clearinghouseproject.eu/)

**Call for City Tandem**

Deadline for submission of interest: 01/03/2023

**About the City Tandem**

The global objective of the CityTandem isto promote capacity development and exchange of knowledge and practices on **urban forests as nature-based solutions** (UF-NBS), based on peer-to-peer exchanges[[1]](#footnote-0). Local authorities (cities, metropolises or regions) wishing to exchange with another local administration facing similar challenges on planning and managing **urban forests** are encouraged to apply to take part in a CLEARING HOUSE-supported **City Tandem**.

An ad-hoc Selection Committee, formed by partners in the CLEARING HOUSE project will select two local authorities proposals (one from Europe, another from East Asia) to form the City Tandem. This City Tandem will facilitate knowledge exchange on one or more topics, supported by CLEARING HOUSE experts.

The City Tandem aims to foster international links at the local level, enabling local leaders to gain new perspectives on UF-NBS.

**The two selected local authorities will commit to jointly redact a short and concise report on the results of the exchange and list a series of recommendations addressed to any local authorities interested in implementing projects related to the thematic of the exchange.**

**Activities are expected to start around May 2023**

**Why participate**

Participating in the City Tandem is an opportunity for local authorities to foster capacity development and exchange of knowledge and practices on concrete **urban forests as nature-based solutions** while receiving support from experts of the CLEARING HOUSE project.

They will:

1) Explore solutions and innovation provided by UF-NBS peer cities, and learn how to adopt them.

2) Get support from recognized international experts and academics.

3) Showcase your own local governments experiences, policies and good practices internationally.

4) Be featured in the CLEARING HOUSE action’s events, publications and outreach.

5) Get sponsored to participate in the CLEARING HOUSE City Tandem activities

The selected local authorities will receive travels grants that will award:

* Return airplane fares (economy) to the partner city (1 or 2 persons per delegation, depending of airplane fares)
* A fixed stipend that will cover accommodation, meals, local travel for each delegate member.

*Any item not mentioned above (such as visas, salaries…) will not be covered by the travel grants.*

**Who can participate**

1) Any local or metropolitan authorities located in Europe or East Asia.

2) With a population of 250.000+ inhabitants.

3) Committed to the implementation of UF-NBS projects.

**How to participate**

For any local authorities wishing to participate in the call for interest, official representatives of this authority must send the following required documents to Mr. Guillaume Berret gberret@metropolis.org (subject: CLEARING HOUSE CITY TANDEM) and before 01/03/2023:

* Application form
* Letter of participation stamped and signed by an official representative of the local authority wishing to participate
* Any documents (or link to webpage) supporting the commitment of the local authority to the implementation of UF-NBS projects in its territory (Action Plan, Projects, Budgets…)

Chosen local authorities are expected to commit to cooperating with their City Tandem partner for a period of 9 months from the acknowledgment of their selection, developing a joint comprehensive report of the challenges faced by their administration on UF-NBS and potential recommendations to tackle them. In addition, selected local authorities are also expected to communicate through their channels, actions regarding their City Tandem activities.

For any additional information, please contact to Mr. Guillaume Berret gberret@metropolis.org

**Themes**

This call will tackle one or several of the following themes, as a focus of the project:

* inner-city afforestation
* air quality improvement
* green infrastructure

**Process of selection**

The Selection Committee will select two local authorities to form the City Tandem. Representatives of the selected local authorities will receive a travel grant to visit their city partner and get to know their UF-NBS project(s) on the ground.

The following criteria will be considered by the committee during the selection process:

* - Level of commitment, degree of implementation of UF-NBS programmes/projects – proved by any documents relating to the implementation in the local authority represented (Action Plan, Budget…)
* - Topic submitted matches to the one of a potential city partner
* - Involvement of the local authority in another H2020/EU project tackling UF-NBS or other nature-based solutions.
* - Contribution of submitted UF-NBS project/s to the accomplishment of goals established by the global agendas (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Aichi targets…)
* - City administration whose mayor/highest political representative will be in office between March 2023 through December 2023, period of implementation of the City Tandem
* - Accordance to the UF-NBS to the IUCN Global Standard on NBS or willingness to participate in the [IUCN Urban Nature Index program](https://iucnurbanalliance.org/tools_and_resources/resource-1/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=resource-1)
* - Geographical balance in the final selection

**Call for interest in the Task Force**

Deadline for submission of interest: 01/03/2023

**About the Task Force**

The global objective of the Task Force is to offer the opportunity to a selected local authority to receive scientific support regarding UF-NBS challenges from the CLEARING HOUSE experts partners[[2]](#footnote-1). This support will include a review of the challenge stated, research for gaining more in-depth insight in the challenge in the specific territory of the local authority, and an action plan for implementing the suggested solutions.

An ad-hoc Selection Committee, formed by partners in the CLEARING HOUSE project will select a local authority proposal (from Europe or East Asia) to receive guidance from the CLEARING HOUSE task force.

**The selected local authority will commit to participate in the redaction of a short and concise report on the results of the Task Force and to the series of recommendations addressed to any local authorities interested in implementing projects related to the thematic of the exchange.**

**Activities are expected to start around May 2023**

**Why participate**

Participating in the Task Force is an opportunity for local authorities to receive guidance about a UF-NBS thematic of their interest and exchange knowledge and practices on concrete **urban forests as nature-based solutions** with experts of the CLEARING HOUSE project.

They will:

1) Explore solutions and innovation provided by UF-NBS and learn how to adopt them.

2) Get support from recognized international experts and academics.

3) Showcase your own local governments experiences, policies and good practices internationally.

4) Be featured in the CLEARING HOUSE action’s events, publications and outreach.

The selected local authorities will receive guidance from a selected pool of experts from the CLEARING HOUSE project.

**Who can participate**

1) Any local or metropolitan authorities located in Europe or East Asia

2) With a population of 50.000+ inhabitants.

3) Committed to the implementation of UF-NBS projects.

**How to participate**

For any local authorities wishing to participate in the call for interest in the Task Force, official representatives of this authority must send the following required documents to Mr. Guillaume Berret gberret@metropolis.org (subject: CLEARING HOUSE TASK FORCE) and before 01/03/2023:

* Application form
* Letter of participation stamped and signed by an official representative of the local authority wishing to participate
* Any documents (or link to webpage) supporting the commitment of the local authority to the implementation of UF-NBS projects in its territory (Action Plan, Projects, Budgets…)

Chosen local authority commits to cooperating with the CLEARING HOUSE Task Force for a period of 8 months from the acknowledgment of their selection, developing a joint comprehensive report of the challenges faced by their administration on UF-NBS and potential recommendations to tackle them. In addition, the selected local authority is also expected to communicate through its channels, actions regarding its Task Force activities. For any additional information, please contact to Mr. Guillaume Berret gberret@metropolis.org

**Themes**

This call will tackle one or several of the following themes, as a focus of the project:

* inner-city afforestation
* socio-cultural integration
* green infrastructure

**Process of selection**

The Selection Committee will select a local authority to receive guidance from the CLEARING HOUSE Task Force. The following criteria will be considered by the committee during the selection process:

* - Level of commitment, degree of implementation of UF-NBS programmes/projects – proved by any documents relating to the implementation in the local authority represented (Action Plan, Budget…).
* - Involvement of the local authority in another H2020/EU project tackling UF-NBS or other nature-based solutions.
* - Contribution of submitted UF-NBS project/s to the accomplishment of goals established by the global agendas (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Aichi targets…)
* - City administration whose mayor/highest political representative will be in office between March 2023 through December 2023, period of implementation of the City Tandem
* - Accordance to the UF-NBS to the IUCN Global Standard for NBS or willingness to participate in the [IUCN Urban Nature Index program](https://iucnurbanalliance.org/tools_and_resources/resource-1/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=resource-1)
1. For example, as a result of the first call for city tandem published in 2022, **Belo Horizonte (Brazil) and Mexico City** have been partnering to exchange and learn on **inner-city afforestation and green infrastructure management**. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. For example, Bogotá (Colombia) was selected in 2022 to receive support and policy recommendations and technical training. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)