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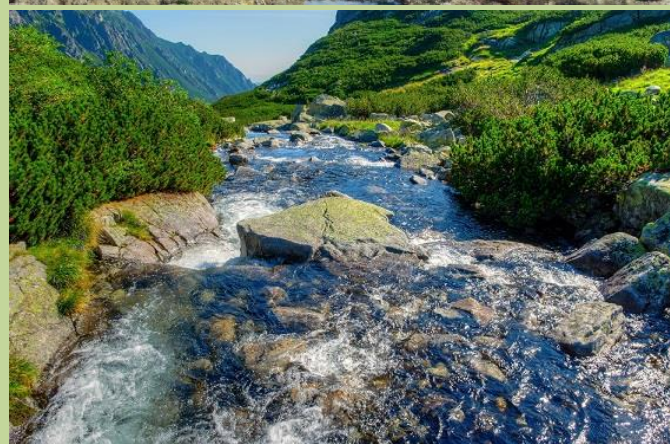
The Health and Social Benefits of Nature and Biodiversity Protection

Annexes 2, 3 and 4

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Annex 2 Stakeholder Overview

This annex includes an overview of the initiatives and projects identified through the research. The focus of the descriptions is on governance and stakeholder engagement, and the examples have been presented according to their level of implementation and in alphabetical order.

International initiatives

Health & Ecosystems: analysis of linkages (HEAL)

HEAL measures the health effects of changes in ecosystems worldwide. They focus on four different areas: nutrition, infectious disease, non-communicable diseases, mental health and physical activity. An example of a project they are currently conducting is a study on the relationship between green space and happiness and stress. They are working together with Facebook on this project to collect data. Another project, which focuses on non-communicable diseases, is being carried out in Indonesia and calculates the health burden from forest fires burning particulate matter. They work together with different stakeholders such as public health professionals, physicians, ecologists, ministries, local NGOs, local people, and policy makers. They mainly receive private foundation grants and research funding. Success factors regarding stakeholder governance are the presence of a key person or champion, for example the Ministry of Health and the framing of the project, before its commencement, that defines the issues at stake. The main barrier that HEAL is sometimes faced with is cross-international language. It is important to communicate clearly with stakeholders in order to make the project successful.

Source: Interview 28/07/2015. www.wcs-heal.org

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)

UNEP is carrying out an international project called TEEB that conducts evaluation studies in five different countries (in Africa, Asia, and Latin-America) which evaluate land use changes and policy priorities linked to these changes. Stakeholders involved in these studies are environment ministries, national research institutions, and other ministries and agencies.. Communication mechanisms between stakeholders depend largely on the country, for some there is a formal approach, for others a more informal approach.

Source: Interview 03/08/2015.

International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)

ISCA is an umbrella organisation that brings together sports institutes and promotes physical activity. ISCA advocates for more green outdoor spaces where people can undertake sports and other activities since a majority of people prefer outdoor over indoor activities.

It has been shown that around 70% of people who are involved in physical activity prefer outdoor recreational activity and sports. This fact, and the related costs of inactive lifestyles, are used as a case by ISCA to gain attention from governmental bodies and other stakeholders to create more opportunities for recreational activities and sports. ISCA sees it

as a moral obligation for civil society to promote active lifestyles. The social link to physical activity has always existed, however, the involvement of the health sector has lagged in the past, even though they are now starting to see inactivity as a threat to health.

Civil society, recreational sport and physical activity NGOs, and local authorities are important stakeholders. To reach local people, ISCA helps NGOs to communicate with the public. They also help NGOs to create agendas by sharing research findings and knowledge (e.g. amount of healthcare costs related to inactivity). They also stimulate dialogue between the stakeholders, which is seen as an important factor to make cooperation successful.

The main barrier for cooperation in stimulating outdoor physical activity and sports is the conflict between using nature and protecting it. ISCA has experienced a situation where nature protection organisations are against inviting people to protected areas as they see it as a threat to sustainability of the area. However, the majority of people still support the idea of allowing access to nature areas, including protected areas, because access to nature also helps to raise people's awareness about nature. This conflict between the use of nature and nature conservation highlights the need for better policies and the connections between physical activity and sports and nature. Having dialogue is very important for overcoming this conflict. There is a need for more cooperation between the different sectors. Stimulation of such cooperation can be achieved by defining a common agenda and a common vision.

Source: interview 06/08/2015.

Shinji Shumeikai

The greatest expression of Shumei's deep concern for the health of our Earth is its commitment to the practice of the Natural Agriculture method of growing food; a method that emphasises the integrity of nature and the purity of soil, water, and air. Through events, the philosophy is shared with farmers and consumers, encouraging them to grow vegetables and plants in their farms, allotments, balconies or even in a pot.

Natural Agriculture is envisioned as not only a means of cultivating pure and wholesome food, but as an art and spiritual practice. Its purpose is to foster the health and wellbeing of all these elements. Many people experienced improvement in their health, both physically and mentally. For a few years ago, the Japanese headquarters conducted biodiversity research in some of the Shumei Natural Agriculture fields throughout Japan and the results revealed that every field is recovering biodiversity, including some endangered species.

The key success factor is reminding people that the project is their own and motivating them. Each area or region has its own tradition and natural environment; Shinji Shumeikai tries to support regenerating it.

Source: http://www.shumei-international.org/environment/environment_00.html

Health and Environment Alliance

As a member of the WHO European Environment and Health Task Force, the Health and Environment Alliance monitors implementation of the Parma Commitment, which includes a goal on access to green spaces. Furthermore, they advocate for pesticide-free parks, schoolyards and other public green spaces to improve health, and disseminate information on the benefits of green spaces for health. The focus of their work is on green spaces in urban areas.

The Health and Environment Alliance works together with environmental and health ministries of the 53 countries of the WHO European region who come together under the

European Environment & Health Process.

Although the Health and Environment Alliance combines the health and environment sectors, there is certainly not enough cooperation between the different sectors yet. There is no institutionalised forum or regular dialogue at EU level, which could contribute to more cross-sectoral cooperation.

Green4Cities

Green4Cities works on urban green infrastructure by providing consultation, research and development, networks and events, teaching, and training. They consult specific building projects (e.g. green walls, green roofs, and permeable pavements like green concrete), and also offer a microclimatic assessment tool that allows for integrated, optimised planning process in terms of high quality greening on and in buildings. The aim of consultation with public and private investors is to raise the average knowledge about greening in cities.

Urban Green Infrastructure involves, for example, green roofs, green walls, indoor planting, rain gardens, biodiverse parks or green spaces, and permeable green pavements (green concrete).

Partners with whom the organisations works with differs per project. For example, sometimes there is only the government involved in a project, sometimes companies and scientists develop a new approach and test it, and at other times private people, architects and planners are involved for public-private-partnership projects. At other times, it is just investors and specialists. It can vary , but the tendency is for an integrated and inclusive approach.

Success factors for good cross-sectoral governance are: making benefits visible and being able to calculate them, finding a common language, doing processes together, and integrating solutions with communication. There is a need for broader spreading of research results on positive aspects of greening on human life, such as happiness, health, productivity rate, and reduction of crime rate. This could be done with large demonstration projects, and communication is important, too.

Sustain Institute of Social-Environmental Responsibility (Instituto Sustentar de Responsabilidade Socioambiental, ISRS), Brazil

The ISRS set up a program called “Bichos do Pantanal” (Animals of Pantanal) which educates children in Caceres county, Mato Grosso (Brazil) and reconnects them to nature. For example, they take kids outdoors with binoculars to learn about species. There are over 250 bird species in the city of Caceres, with well-preserved forests and wetlands all around.

The programme is based on the over 600 published studies showing the benefits of nature for mental and physical health and began out of concern for biodiversity protection. It consists of three parts: research, environmental education, and social-economic development. A network of stakeholders has been set up for this programme and remains strong. Funding is the major problem for large projects of this type. ISRS was able to get the project funded by grants given by Petrobras, via their programme Petrobras Socio Ambiental. Press coverage helps to get more funding and increase the size of the programme. So far, over 40,000 children have been reached.

WHO Collaborating Centre

The WHO Collaborating Centre supports planning and health linkages in the WHO Healthy City Network. They focus on all urban areas and work together with municipal planners and city developers. Thinking in silos is the largest barrier for cross-collaboration. WHO Collaborating Centre therefore recommends to work together on the co-benefits of projects.

European initiatives

European Network of Outdoor Sports (ENOS)

ENOS is an EU-level network for organisations that work in the field of promoting, developing and managing outdoor sports. The aim of ENOS is to increase the visibility of outdoor sports in Europe. Green areas that ENOS is promoting for the use of outdoor activities include mountains, coastlines, rural and peri-urban areas. Stakeholders that ENOS works together with are universities, national agencies for sport, regional organisations, national and international federations, educational institutions, and conservation bodies. Different communication mechanisms are used to collaborate, for example conferences, steering group meetings, Skype calls and emails. There is a need, however, to have more physical meetings, because they stimulate more discussion. Some stakeholders have also left the network in the early stage. The reasons for leaving were that they had a different focus or they did not have enough funding and time resources available to take an active part. ENOS has tried to persuade the partners with a different focus. However, the majority of the partners did not want to change the focus as it became too broad. Nevertheless, ENOS stays in contact with these organisations and exchanges information. The different languages used by different partners causes a communication barrier; however, some partners are able to translate information for others. There is also a certain risk in investing time and energy in developing projects that are eventually unsuccessful. A lack of funding similarly can inhibit, for example, in conducting research, and often results in silo-thinking. Overall, ENOS acknowledges that outdoor physical activity is a cross-sectoral topic and it is important to build networks and to get funding. Success factors for good governance are: getting agreement on the focus of the project from the very beginning; having one or two organisations appointed as leaders; and giving enough responsibilities to partners to actively involve them. Another factor that could make collaboration easier is to balance the number of stakeholders involved.

Source: Interview 06/08/2015

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)

CPME is a European policy organisation composed of national medical associations across Europe. CPME's action on environmental health addresses the health impact of factors such as air, noise or water pollution and works towards containment and roll-back of damage to the environment. They also contribute to the debate on climate change, in particular on global warming and the loss of biodiversity to highlight the implications for health (for example due to extreme climate conditions, the proliferation of vector-borne diseases or the scarcity of drinkable water). Furthermore, CPME underlines the co-benefits to health resulting from action in other policy areas, such as transport or energy policy.

They have adopted several policies related to environmental health, such as CPME's Statement on Consultation on the EU environment policy priorities for 2020¹, Global warming and health², atmospheric pollution, waste³, Noise pollution and environmental action plan⁴, and Recommendations of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CP) to national medical associations on health and the environment⁵.

Furthermore, the CPME considers that access to green spaces is a social determinant of health and should be part of a concept of health equalities.

Usually CPME works with its members which are national medical associations from over 34 countries as well as other partners and NGOs in the environmental sector, for example

Health Care Without Harm and the Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL). CPME considers it important to have a "health in all policies" approach and therefore continues to be in political dialogue with all relevant sectors.

¹ http://doc.cpme.eu:591/adopted/2012/CPME_AD_EC_01062012_107_Final_EN.pdf

² http://doc.cpme.eu:591/Adopted/2009/CPME_AD_EC_220409_021_final_EN.pdf

³ http://doc.cpme.eu:591/adopted/CPME_AD_Brd_290303_6_EN_fr.pdf

⁴ http://doc.cpme.eu:591/adopted/CPME_AD_Brd_290303_6_EN_fr.pdf

⁵ http://doc.cpme.eu:591/adopted/cp%201994_88.pdf

2 Degrees Investing Initiative (2DII), Paris & European Partners for the Environment (EPE), Brussels

2DII focuses on the public interest in relation to "sustainability issues" and on the interface between science, policy and society. The focus is on initiatives linking the major environmental issues with finance. The membership of 2 Degrees Investing Initiative illustrates the approach taken to risk assessment. Analytical work regarding the environment by the IMF is also an example of risk assessment of nature.

Since their establishment in 2012, The 2 Degrees Investing Initiative has brought together relevant actors from science, government and finance. They work with European Partners for the Environment and the IUCN EU-office.

Health Lungs For Life, European Lung Foundation

The "Healthy Lungs for Life" project by the European Lung Foundation aims to encourage people to protect their lung health by changing their behaviour. One theme of the project is clean air: indoors, outdoors, in the occupational environment and in relation to smoking. When it comes to outdoor clean air, the project focuses on green areas, by encouraging people to make use of green spaces around them, as these areas are associated with less air pollution than other areas.

The project involves a broad range of stakeholders, such as scientists, clinicians, policy, patients, and the public. Awareness is mainly generated by advertising via posters in public spaces, social media and public meetings and events.

The project tries to communicate the idea that prevention is better than cure. Cross-collaboration is promoted by linking health issues with other topics such as clean air. Medical professionals are, for example, offered tools, patient information and knowledge regarding environmental issues linked to health. Furthermore, the project has engaged people by making it not only interesting but also fun and practical, for example by letting stakeholders do a lung test during meetings.

Barriers for the European Lung Foundation are language barriers and healthcare professionals that are not interested and focussed on science only.

Trinomics – Natura 2000

Trinomics is an economics-based research and consultancy for the public sector. Environmental issues, including biodiversity and GI, are one of the three topic pillars of the consultancy (next to energy and climate). They address these topics primarily via socio-economic analysis and focus on public sector consulting.

The most relevant current projects that contain health and social aspects related to biodiversity and green infrastructure are the following: A service contract for the European

Commission - DG ENV on supporting the implementation of the EU Green Infrastructure Strategy; A project for the European Environment Agency assessing the socio-economic benefits of GI for flood protection. Both projects are ongoing and do not have publicly available information on a website yet.

Trinomics studies both protected areas, such as Natura 2000 sites, as well as specific GI such as parks, green roofs, etc. This varies depending on the project.

During the projects, they often carry out stakeholder consultations and bring together people from various different backgrounds in joint workshops. Online platforms are another successful method for cooperation.

European Federation of Green Roofs and Walls Association (EFB)

The delivery of green roofs and walls in cities helps health and social objectives in a multi-functional way. Vegetation on buildings helps to reduce the negative effects of the Urban Heat Island, reduce air pollution and provide visual and physical amenity to citizens. Roof gardens that are accessible for relaxation and play can reduce stress within cities. Moreover, many roof gardens on hospitals across the EU help with recovery rates.

Most stakeholders of the association are suppliers and installers; however, a few are cities and regional authorities. Involvement of architects and landscape architects, ecologists, and engineers in the design results in positive collaboration. The lack of policy is a barrier for installing vegetation on buildings. To solve this, benefits for health and wellbeing could be shown as examples to get cities across the EU to make policies to ensure that new developments should include vegetation on buildings. Another way to stimulate vegetation in urban areas is to get all stakeholders and professionals around the table. This discussion should include not only architects and engineers, but also environmental experts for example.

National initiatives

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)1

The SLU works for example on the Green Surge project where they have set up learning labs in five European countries. The project aims to study the connections between green infrastructure, ecosystems and governance. These studies often take into account health and social benefits such as children's development, birth weight, asthma, and social cohesion. The researchers work together with local stakeholders, municipalities and interest groups. They make a toolbox available for stakeholders who work on projects related to GI and climate change. For example, together with ICLEI, they have set up Learning Alliances where researchers, local and other stakeholders in countries come together to break down barriers between science, policy and practice, and they look for joint issues and share locally adapted solutions to learn from each other. Moreover, media and events are communication channels that are used to invite people to get involved in a project.

SLU notices changes in the participation level of stakeholders over the course of projects; for example, power relations change where the initiator of a project moves to the background as the projects develops. This occurs especially in cases where there is no formal structure and no 'champion' is appointed. Other barriers to stakeholder governance are pressures on time and resources, individuals who are moving to other positions or organisations that leave the project, and difficulties in cooperation between sectors because they all have their own traditions. The health sector is particularly difficult to involve, although a small shift is taking place.

To overcome these barriers, SLU believes that it is important to show success stories of previous studies where cooperation between different sectors was a key factor. Hard evidence from research can play a large role here. Moreover, appointing a champion and showing the benefits for all different stakeholders are two ways to attract and keep stakeholders involved in a project. Other success factors are a clear aim to the project and a clear governance structure, where the role of each stakeholder is explained and each is given a responsibility. Resources should be shared among the actors, and a common language should be used. Building long-term relationships between stakeholders helps the process as well and saves time for future projects.

Source: Interview 30/07/2015

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)2

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences has a rehabilitation garden which is a living lab at the campus of Alnarp: Alnarp Rehabilitation Garden (ARG). The mission is to develop evidence-based treatment or rehabilitation for people with the support of activities in the garden and/or nature. Examples include, treatment of individuals with prolonged sick leave due to depression, fatigue or anxiety; people affected by a recent stroke; people aged 65 years and younger who have been recently diagnosed with dementia; and refugees from Syria who are affected by war neuroses. When nature-based interventions have been proven to be better, or as good as, usual treatment, they are introduced into general practice at appropriate "real" locations, such as in the countryside (farms, forests, gardens etc.) and in cities (urban gardens, green roofs etc.).

A broad range of stakeholders are involved and differ per project. For example, other universities, county councils, municipalities, private companies, the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the Swedish Migration Agency

and other authorities have been involved so far. To successfully engage different people in a project, it is important to connect with the right key people and it is fundamental to establish a long lasting relationship with these. Patience is a key aspect as well since all projects take time. Funding from the European Social Fund and from research foundations encourages the work.

Barriers to the project are that the organisations have different practices concerning decisions, budget processes etc., and different ways of describing reality. To overcome this, the key is finding the right people and having many meetings until all partners understand each other. It is important to have scientific evidence that nature-based interventions do work. Furthermore, it is important to create certification models, so that the phenomena or conditions that have been shown to function in scientific studies, are described in great detail so that they can be part of a certification.

Forest Research, UK

Forest Research (FR) is the research agency of the Forestry Commission in the United Kingdom. Two projects that have been initiated by the Forestry Commission are a GP referral scheme where GPs encourage patients to be more physically active and patients can choose whether to do this indoors or in forests; the other project was aimed at local schools to do physical activities and education in woodlands. FR has conducted research on the health benefits of trees, woodlands, and green spaces. They have also been involved in several projects, such as Active England, which is a project in five woodlands that aims to encourage specific target groups to be physically active. For this project, FR studied the impact of peri-urban woodlands on self-reported health and wellbeing. Moreover, health benefits of volunteering, green infrastructure in healthcare settings, and the influence of trees on mental wellbeing, have been studied.

FR works on behalf of the Forestry Commission and hence cooperates with them a lot. They also work together with partnerships such as health bodies, NGOs (e.g. National Trust), local authorities like municipalities, community groups and schools. Stakeholder participation has changed over the years, for example, the health sector has reorganised in the UK and also focuses now largely on prevention which makes them keener to get involved in projects related to nature. Furthermore, local public health authorities are gaining more and more responsibilities over the years and thus search for new ways to do things.

Success factors for good collaboration between stakeholders from different fields are to involve them right at the beginning of a project and give each stakeholder ownership; ensure that benefits for all different sectors and stakeholders are shown; and have a leader, for example a project officer, that is approachable by everyone. Factors that inhibit the process are the change within organisations where individuals come and go, a lack of funding for sustainability initiatives, and absence of sponsorship for long-term research

Source: Interview 30/07/2015

Õuesõpe, Estonia

Õuesõpe set up a pilot project called “Heritage Keepers” which aims to raise awareness of schoolchildren and youngsters aged 7-19 of the heritage sites in their vicinities. This project is based on a project in Norway that has the same aim and has existed for more than 15 years. The project actively involves children in their local heritage by cleaning and taking care of small-scale landmarks in forests, fields, parks and other rural areas. Heritage and environmental specialists show teachers their sites and give them information about the

area and also about the rules that apply there.

The stakeholders involved in the project are 15 schools from different parts of Estonia, private land owners, the state (owner of part of the land that is included in the project), the Estonian heritage Board and the Estonian Environmental Board (which are both part of the national government). The project was initiated by Õuesõpe and co-funded by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Science. Success factors of the project are that the Boards realise that education about heritage is important and regular contact with them keeps them involved. Giving personal responsibility to schools to take care of heritage sites also stimulates cooperation from their side. It was also important to show the aim of the project to the stakeholders and to present them with the successful example of Norway. Sharing information and providing tools and experts to schools also increases collaboration. A barrier that Õuesõpe has faced was the availability of persons in some organisations, which was sometimes restricted due to a lack of time, as they often did the work for Õuesõpe next to their official job.

Source: Interview 06/08/2015

Belgian Biodiversity Platform

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform (BBP) is a long-term project that is funded by the federal government and provides services to the biodiversity segment of the Belgian scientific community. The BBP builds up networks and helps the Belgian government to be more involved in biodiversity activities at the international level. Furthermore, they share data regarding biodiversity to the policy and scientific sectors.

Biodiversity and Health is one of the themes that the BBP is involved with. The BBP works together with scientific experts, policy experts, practice experts, lay people, NGO experts and citizens. To successfully involve individual stakeholders, the BBP seeks to understand their perspectives and present practical links to their work. For example, to retain stakeholder interest, BBP has made a recent change in their approach to communication with stakeholders, following up general readings with topical readings to keep stakeholders interested in the project and to tailor the information to their fields of expertise.

Having a good idea of what is needed for the next steps helps to keep the stakeholders involved during the process. Moreover, funding is an important aspect of the continuity of a project.

However, specialists find it difficult to step out of their own fields and to build linkages between science, policy and practical fields. It is very important for BBP to build bridges between different sectors since biodiversity is a very broad topic with links to all kinds of sectors. It is challenging and complex work to build these relationships; however, with community networks it is definitely improving.

Source: Interview 06/08/2015

The National Forest Company, UK

The National Forest Company is leading the creation of The National Forest, a new, wooded landscape for the nation across 200 square miles of central England. The National Forest Company was established by the Government in April 1995. It is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). A wide spectrum of activities enhances the health and wellbeing of visitors and residents:

- Around 8.5 million trees have been planted since 1995;
- Forest cover has increased from an initial 6% to 20%. The aim is for around 33% coverage

at the completion of planting, so they are more than halfway to that aim;

- 7,059ha of new forest creation have been secured since 1991;
- In 2014/2015, 128ha were added to the total area of the forest.

An example of a project is Get Active in The Forest (GAIF) which is an outdoor activity programme that aims to increase community participation in sport and physical activity. GAIF delivers a wide ranging programme of different physical activities at Rosliston Forestry Centre and around South Derbyshire. Most of the activities take place outdoors and make the most of the National Forest. GAIF is a partnership including South Derbyshire District Council, the National Forest Company, the NHS and the Forestry Commission.

Barriers for cross-sectional cooperation include geographical boundaries, contrasting funding arrangements, and that measured outcomes for land-based projects tend to be focused around physical features on the ground (e.g. new woodland, habitats managed), and it is rare for health and social data to be correlated with land-based data.

Greater evidence of the health and social benefits of the effects of greenspace and woodland would inspire more partnerships. Joint research programmes could contribute to the evidence available.

SOS Children's Village, Bulgaria

The SOS Children's Village deals with challenges related to children's education to develop them physically, psychologically, and culturally. An environmentally friendly way of life, nature conservation and preventing the disappearance of valuable plant and animal species is central to the process. To face the challenges SOS has, for example, built the eco trail on the "Zmeeva dupka" site that has become a favourite destination for tourists from the region and from the country.

Another project financed by the OMV petrol stations, created a cycling club and training modules that are attended by local children. 25 bicycles were bought and they provide the opportunity for children with lesser financial means to enjoy cycling in nature. In the summer months, SOS organises cycling expeditions to historical and natural monuments.

SOS cleans the "Zmeeva dupka" area each year and plant trees in the town and in the Children's Village. They signed an agreement this year with the management of State Forestry Platchkovtsy to adopt a forest, involving planting, cultivating and keeping parcel.

The stakeholders involved are the school, NGOs, the municipality, and public organisations. The high level of awareness brings benefits and contacts, of which one is WWF. Joint interests, concerns and good ideas enable the realisation process.

Success factors are the simple approaches, such as direct dialogue, eliminating administrative obstacles and projects, related to too much paperwork and excessive control.

PE "Prisons Production", Bulgaria Natura 2000

PE is focused on the socialisation and qualification of prisoners by involving them in different projects, many of which are related to renewable energies and biodiversity and environmental issues. Apart from the work in nature parks (nature park "Vitosha") that receive modest funding from the state, PE also work on the improvement of the natural environment in prisons in order to enable better social and individual appreciation of the quality of the personal environment.

In the un-protected countryside, PE plants rare plants and cultivates the lands they have at their disposal, while teaching the prisoners how to farm the land.

The environmental activities soothe the tension in the social group PE works with and offer

a good opportunity for bettering the well-being of prisoners: both mentally and physically. Setting realistic goals and focusing on the benefits from this mutual cooperation is a way for everyone to be satisfied with the achievements and a way to motivate people. Barriers are the lack of funding and the lack of people that are qualified to work in the programmes. In order to overcome funding issues, PE meets with people from different organisations to seek funding for joint projects, to get involved in new projects initiated by them, and to involve them in their own projects.

Disabled Ramblers, UK

Disabled Ramblers is a National Charity run entirely by volunteers, many of whom are disabled, that is entirely financially self-supporting. They aim to improve the mental and physical health of mobility-challenged people. This is done in two ways: by working with stakeholders to improve access to the countryside for all people who are less able (e.g. people who have difficulty in climbing stiles or other man-made obstacles perhaps because of impaired mobility or people who are pushing a baby-buggy); and by running about 40 rambles every year, each of 5 to 8 miles, across England and Wales. Many of the members live alone and have difficulty in getting out and socialising. During a ramble, talking to each other is as important as the scenery.

The rambles are mainly in open countryside, often in National Parks, Forests, AONBs, and National Trust properties; however, they also make use of privately owned land. To encourage the opening up of the countryside to disabled people, Disabled Ramblers work with a variety of governing bodies such as Natural England, Highways Authorities, Country Land & Business Association, and the National Trust.

Through a variety of committees and forums, one-to-one meetings, phone calls and emails, the stakeholders can meet and stay in touch.

Success comes about due to good planning, risk assessment, clear communication, patience, persistence, involvement and feedback with all stakeholders. This requires great commitment, dedication and training from all of the volunteers.

One of the main barriers is the general perception that disabled people can do very little. This means that people feel it is alright to erect barriers across footpaths because 'disabled people couldn't go along this path anyway'. If Disabled Ramblers have a problem with a ramble route, they seek out the land owner/land manager. Once they understand their needs and abilities, they are usually only too willing to help.

Another challenge recently was when they needed some hedges cut back in Oxfordshire to make the path wide enough. Disabled Ramblers approached the council concerned; however, they did not have the manpower available to do this work at the time. Nevertheless, they gave the Disabled Ramblers permission to do the work themselves. After emailing some local people about their problem, they went out and did the work.

OPAL Imperial College, UK

Funded by the UK's Big Lottery Fund, OPAL has developed free, accessible-to-all and easy-to-use environmental surveys and other resources that allow citizens to monitor nature in their local areas.

OPAL has involved a very wide range of stakeholders including government and its agencies, non-government organisations, environmental charities, academia, schools and local communities.

These groups are included in working groups and advisory boards to design and oversee the

development of the surveys.

Success factors for collaboration between the different stakeholders are: a common cause, each valuing the topic and being passionate , about it, that the activity is fun and engaging and that the language is understandable to everyone. Also, it is vital that the funder/policy lead becomes a champion of the activity.

A general lack of funding and competition between stakeholders for the same funds are barriers for cross-collaboration. Also, a silo-mentality amongst funders and in policy leads to a lack of funding (responsibility for biodiversity, health and society often sit in very different places in government and other organisations). Resistance from scientists to engage with the public and a lack confidence and knowledge to get involved are other barriers for successful cooperation. Since funds are limited, organisations must work together and gather their strengths. In addition, such an approach provides value for money to funders.

Korosok Volgye Akciocsoport Nonprofit Kft (KVAN), Hungary – Natura 2000

KVAN works in nature conversation areas, Körös– Maros National Park, public parks, groves, arboretums, Natura 2000 sites, and Körös rivers with backwaters

The primary aim of KVAN is to develop the area's tourism. However, environmental protection and strengthening the local society is also seen as important. KVAN has developed a study on renewable and bioenergy facilities, the local area's ecological state and agricultural land use. Unfortunately, the findings of the study have not yet been applied in practice, because these investments /projects are costly. Moreover, in collaboration with the Naturpark Association, KVAN developed another study about local sustainable agriculture, tourism, and environmental development. Some parts of the study have already been carried out, mainly in the aqua tourism area.

KVAN has also supported the realisation of training , conferences, and workshops, where the main goals were sharing knowledge and technical information about sustainable environments. Some programmes have involved talking to children and negotiating with local decision makers.

Support has also been given to building sports facilities (e.g. football grounds, docks and riverside beaches).

The biggest challenge for developing communities through the local environment is that the time, energy and money invested is repaid slowly. Since there are no spectacular results in the short term, certain stakeholders, especially mayors, do not want to waste their time and money with these projects. Nevertheless, it is believed that one good idea or a small scale initiative could attract supporting partners. The most important thing is that the local stakeholders remain in contact with each other continuously.

Woodland Trust, UK

The Woodland Trust has different nature-related initiatives like “Visit Woods” which aimed to get people out and into their local woods. Partnerships have included organisations like Dementia Adventure, to identify how contact with woodlands helped people to manage their mental health. There are many current initiatives. “ObersvaTREE” uses citizen science to create better understanding of the current state of play for tree disease. “The Ancient Tree Hunt” has engaged over 140,000 people to find and document ancient trees across the UK and create a collective database to preserve the trees’ cultural stories and protect them from future threats. “Natures Calendar” actively motivates families to get out and about

through free downloadable guides and games. Furthermore, “Tree for All” has enabled 5 million children to plant trees and its spin-off, “Tree Packs”, provides tree management guidance to communities with the fewest tree landscapes in the UK.

Where shared interests are obvious, the Trust fundraises to bring stakeholders together. The majority of the work is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund where partnership work and engagement of people are key. When areas that people value come under threat, there is a stronger bond for coming together to try and defend them.

To create more awareness of the important role of woods and trees, it is necessary to normalise their role within society. In this way, decisions around government funding and policies can become mainstream in tackling social and health issues, rather than the situation at present where green space can be seen as something for the privileged or educated to worry about with NGOs.

Campaign for National Parks, UK

The Mosaic project aims to engage people with National Parks in England and Wales who have not used them before.. The programme is about information and experience so that people continue to use green space on their own terms and it focuses on black and minority ethnic communities and 16-25 year olds.

The inspirational landscapes have a special impact on people in terms of relaxation ('getting away from it all'), a are special places to return to with friends. It has been found that by getting to know these inspirational landscapes, visits to local and more accessible green space also rises.

Climalia, Italy

Climalia is the first Italian company to provide specialised services on climate adaptation and resilience. They consider nature and green spaces, such as urban parks, private gardens, green roofs, rivers and coastlines, for adaptation and resilience to climate change. They also look at the co-benefits of green areas when they support cities to develop their resilience strategies.

Shared Assets, UK

Shared Assets supports the development of new models of management and the governance of land and natural resources such as parks, green spaces, woodlands and coastal areas. Shared Assets has supported practitioners and landowners to work together to develop new, social enterprise models for land management. These often include the active consideration of health and social outcomes. These land-based social enterprises work together to create environmental, economic and social benefits.

Shared Assets is currently working directly with local authorities who run parks and open countryside, supporting woodland social enterprises as well as running a wide ranging policy programme.

Open Society Institute (OSI) Sofia, Bulgaria – Natura 2000

The Open Society Institute works with diverse organisations on a large number of projects related to development of the urban landscape, protection of natural habitats, preservation of biodiversity etc. Most of these activities happen via the programme for support of NGOs.

OSI distributes grants to diverse organisations for the realisation of projects of the above-mentioned types.

An example of a project on biodiversity is “Balkans”. The project includes a survey on how climbing routes impact specific parts of the countryside that are habitat zones of rare bird species. After the survey was executed, some of the routes were considered for removal or relocation. One of the routes passed along a nest of an extremely rare species of black storks and the interaction was not possible. This identified the need to remove the climbing route. OSI also works on projects that include the education of different social groups, renewable energies and the protection of biodiversity.

Their work involves all types of green spaces varying from urban environment, forestry in the Rhodopi mountains, protected and unprotected areas.

Success factors for good governance include: constant work; trying to be as transparent as possible; and providing information and answers as quickly as possible. Knowing which category to refer to when applying for a grant is a great help when securing finance for projects. Furthermore, the people who have written their ideas clearly and realistically in the project phase usually win the grants and manage their projects well.

A barrier is the overall capacity during the implementation of projects. It can be useful to estimate how much one can invest in terms of resources such as energy and intensity. This will also facilitate cooperation as it provides a clear description of the project that motivates all parties involved. Another barrier is the lack of capacity for project management in terms of people involved. OSI strives to lead the projects to successful ends without leaving any uncompleted. What OSI has realised is that when a bigger number of smaller organisations work together, it gets a lot easier, because they manage to increase their capacity and to fill in the gaps themselves.

Improvement in cross-sectoral cooperation could happen if the Ministry of Environment and Water ameliorated some of its ordinances so that OSI could execute their environmental projects more effectively. The status of protection is also a major factor that could increase chances of cooperation and it is hoped that public institutions will cooperate more with OSI in the future.

Swedish Forest Agency

The forest is a renewable resource. It is to be used for the sustainable production of a diverse range of valuable commodities and resources that are of benefit for society at large. In this context, the term “benefits” refers to the forest’s production of raw materials and habitats, and also to its use as a place of recreation for the mind and body. It is the task of the Swedish Forest Agency to ensure that the nation’s forests are managed in such a way as to yield an abundant, versatile and sustainable harvest, while at the same time exercising due consideration for the environment and other valuable features (such as health and social benefits).

Humble dialogue is a key factor for success. Scientific conceit and pride, on the other hand, are barriers that can make cooperation difficult. <http://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/en/>

Natural Resources Institute Finland (NRIF)

The NRIF has developed several research projects in green care, which are activities that combine, for instance, agriculture or horticulture and social work, and also include other nature-based wellbeing services, such as social-pedagogical equestrian activities. Clients for these services are usually in a vulnerable position, in need of care or rehabilitation.

The projects involved different green areas such as private and public gardens, private and public farms, forests, lakes and rivers, and wilderness.

The stakeholders involved included rural developers, rural extension services, rural researchers, rural education organisations, rural entrepreneurs, NGOs, and public health organisations. Many networks and good partnerships have been created during the project, for example the Green Care Finland Association.

The open mindedness of all stakeholders, personal commitment and funding are all factors which help to ensure the success of projects. Barriers include different languages, different mind-sets, and the fact that stakeholders were not always naturally connected together. Improving cross-sectoral governance could be done with regional and national support for actions.

Social Forest, Spain

Social Forest is an organisation based in Barcelona that offers forestry training services to youngsters at risk of social exclusion. It promotes sustainable forest management and the use of renewable energy, in particular, local forest biomass. Through sustainable forest management, the Social Forest intends to tackle youth unemployment and exclusion and also to raise awareness of the health benefits of nature. They are based in the Collserola Park (which is a Natura 2000 site), and work with the whole province of Barcelona.

They have worked with the Barcelona municipality and other municipalities in the Barcelona province, public and private forest owners, owners' associations, forest training centres (including the Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia), and Collserola's Park Consortium. Social Forest is also a member of the Catalan Landship Network (XCT).

To successfully collaborate between sectors, indicators should be used that connect the environmental, social, and health areas and show results for each sector individually. The overlap and potential benefits between the sectors should be highlighted.

One of the barriers they face is accessibility to nature which causes disconnection and lowers the priority of nature. One way to stimulate cross-sectoral governance is to have common projects between hospitals, social organisations and green companies with a common goal: the therapeutic factors of nature, and treatment contributing to the positive transformation of patients.

Bright—Futures, Belgium

Bright Futures is a project (in an initial phase) where nature and culture come together. The project has a bottom-up-approach which started from an initiative by some citizens

They encourage citizens to explore culture and green spaces in the region, and also encourage enterprises to be involved and come up with initiatives that could stimulate their own businesses.

The plan is to buy a semi-protected 7ha space that is normally used by a family to keep horses, and make it physically accessible as a working- and meeting-with-nature-space for over 100 people.

It is located in the 'Merode-region' in Belgium. One of the success factors of this project is that it has a few key leaders, who were also the initiators of the project and so they are completely involved. However, there are difficulties with the administration for funding and translating the vision into official and business terms. Moreover, it is difficult to find authorisation for unemployed people to develop a project.

Forestry Development Centre (FDC) TAPIO, Finland

FDC Tapio is funded by the Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture in Finland and develops guidelines and products to enhance forest ecosystem services for private forest owners. The idea is to develop and spread best practices to gain benefits from the different ecosystem services in forests. Traditionally, forest owners sold only timber, but forests have plenty of other products which could give economic value for the forest owners, for example a beautiful view could be valuable for tourism, and forests have benefits for health.

FDC Tapio collect and publish recommendations for best practices in forest management in Finland, and they have been part of the process to write the National Forest Strategy 2025 for Finland. This strategy aims to protect biodiversity and to maintain ecological, social and economic sustainability. In the METSO programme, FDC Tapio developed wellbeing paths/walks for forest owners who wanted to build paths in their forests and pastures. With “Everyman's right” (which lays down the right for everyone to make use of natural areas in Finland, including some rules on their use), these paths are free for everybody who wants to walk/relax in the forests. Moreover, together with the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, FDC Tapio has written guidelines to increase deadwood for gardens, since deadwood is important for the development of biodiversity. They have also published guidelines regarding hunting and forest management. Hunting is a very important form of recreation in Finland and has demonstrable health benefits as well.

Barriers that FDC Tapio has faced are the attitudes of stakeholders, for example private forest owners are not always part of the whole process and they often do not understand the value of the new products that FDC Tapio develops. To overcome these barriers, there is a need for new ways to collaborate between sectors. However, it takes time for these to develop and to create good cooperation.

Deltares, Netherlands

Deltares is an applied research institute that works together with other research and knowledge institutes to develop design principles for multifunctional green infrastructure in urban areas. For some ecosystem services there are no, or limited, technical alternatives; many municipalities have the ambition to improve green infrastructure to harness multiple benefits. The information and design tools are now being applied and evaluated in the city of Utrecht. The green infrastructures includes lawns, street trees, private gardens, and green roofs that may contribute to air quality, temperature regulation, storm water runoff mitigation, noise reduction, mental health and extreme wind reduction.

Researchers from three research institutes collaborate with civil servants from the municipality of Utrecht (landscape architects, specialists/policy makers from the disciplines, urban green, water, soil, air quality, noise, public health, traffic, urban planning). A bottom-up interest in the link between nature, health and social cohesion, in combination with a top-down mandate to work on integral solutions, makes collaboration between sectors successful. Furthermore, listening to each other's information, needs, and interests stimulates cooperation. It is important not to limit the scope of, for example, workshops on the interests of a research project, if stakeholders want to have other topics on the agenda. A barrier is the limited time professionals can spend on issues that are not their main task.

Green Care Finland Ry/Luke

Green Care Finland Ry is a coordinating association which aims to develop the use of nature-assisted methods in health care and social services.

The activities mostly use the local environment that is situated in the neighbourhood. Green Care highlights that every piece of nature is important and may provide important experiences, not only the protected areas that may be biologically more important. The interaction between nature and humans, for instance, gardening and animal husbandry, are just as important.

Green Care acknowledges the potential of nature-assisted methods for several groups of people with special needs. For example, the MAIE project that stimulates social farming aims to improve social inclusion and integration. Care services utilise nature and community-based methods for target groups from the social, health and education sector. Green Care offers services such as training, rehabilitation, care and education in these nature settings. The settings are mainly farms, thus close cooperation with farmers is necessary. Farmers see this as an opportunity to create multifunctional farm businesses.

Success factors of the MAIE project and others are the motivation, curiosity and courage to test new kinds of solutions to fulfil the objectives of health care and social services, and sharing the experiences and the results of innovative actors both nationally and internationally. Barriers, however, are the maintenance of current procedures and the inability to see and test alternative ways of doing things. Other challenges include social and cultural infrastructures that restrict social change, the centralised models of administration, and the lack of opportunities for local stakeholders to find models that are most suitable in the current circumstances. To overcome these barriers, pilot projects that develop their own activities should be encouraged and promoted and there should be an emphasis on working with these issues instead of only planning and discussing. Finally, networking between stakeholders in order to share the information and empower their activities also promotes cross-sectional cooperation.

Romania Green Building Council

The Green Homes & Green Mortgage programme creates strong incentives for residential project developers to go beyond minimum legislation, in order to protect the natural environment, reduce car transportation by encouraging development in “walkable communities”, encourage the use of “brownfield” land to avoid utilising scarce virgin land. The Council has also created demonstration projects that promote “the Living Building Challenge” and other green approaches that encourage restorative building practices for construction and operation of buildings that are more environmentally, promote the use of nature in building projects, and ensure the or inclusion of more green space within each project site. These demonstration projects include training that consists of 10 courses, and a multidisciplinary “Green Building Professional” education platform to educate stakeholders on how to build green buildings. This includes courses on “Sustainable Site Selection and Management”, “Green Design Principles” (which promotes bioclimatic design), “Sustainable Materials and Resources” (promoting healthy, non- ecologically destructive materials), and “Legal Requirements and Green Building Certifications” (which ensures that project participants understand legislation and voluntary certifications which protect the planet and requires, or at least encourage, green space maximisation, biodiversity protection, the use of healthy materials, good indoor air quality, etc.

The organisation attempts to involve a diverse range of stakeholders as they maintain that

the lack of success with green building is a systemic problem requiring a systemic solution. The projects involve architects, engineers, project managers, suppliers of materials, products and services , lawyers, real estate agents, academics, policymakers, other NGOs etc. The education platform “Green Building Professional” is a multi-disciplinary programme designed to teach participants how to understand and collaborate successfully across disciplines to ensure optimal green building project outcomes. Participants are taught about the other participants’ roles, responsibilities, and the importance of cross-collaboration. The mapping and promotion of projects that have successfully addressed biodiversity, health and social issues, and which have achieved commercial success, help to convince investors and policymakers that cross-collaboration is a benefit and not a burden.

Healthy Parks, Healthy People Finland – Natura 2000

Parks and Wildlife Finland is a national agency that manages all Finnish national parks and other state-owned protected areas. They have integrated the Healthy Parks Health People programme in their strategy, which initially started in Melbourne, Australia. It aims to improve public health by motivating people to get out into natural settings to enjoy positive and genuine experiences and to improve their physical health through a wide range of outdoor activities. To see whether the programme was indeed promoting health, surveys were given to visitors of parks and the results show that most visitors report improved social, psychological and physical wellbeing.

Stakeholders involved in this national programme include the Ministries of Education, Health, Forestry, and Environment, as well as land owners, municipalities, health professionals, schools, immigrant groups and NGOs. Most stakeholders have been positive and cooperative from the beginning.

When bringing different stakeholders together, it is important to involve them from the very beginning and to make sure that there is something appealing about the project for every stakeholder. In the long term, it is good to have a coordinator that is responsible for taking the lead after a project has ended in order to make it sustainable.

Humanity and Biodiversity, France

Humanity and Biodiversity is an association which lobbies for protection of nature in public policies. They work on the theme "health and biodiversity" to explain the links between health and nature and to convince other stakeholders that “protection of biodiversity means protection of our health”.

They joined the international "One Health" initiative and have organised an event to bring this theme to the public sector. They work on all facets of the theme, like zoonosis, therapeutic gardens, access to green space, and the impact of pesticides. Moreover, they co-edited a book ("Our health and biodiversity") with an association of doctors called Association Health Environment France (ASEF) which presented all these aspects. They also work together with the Veterinary School of Lyon and the Rhône-Alpes region, , and with the government to work on a third action plan for Environmental Health. Awareness of the link between health and biodiversity can be triggered, for example, by talking about biodiversity and explaining how the health of a person is related to it. Nevertheless, it is difficult for Humanity and Biodiversity to work with the Health Ministry which has other priorities, as they focus more on care than prevention. In order to create good synergies between sectors, it is necessary to have the same culture, same vocabulary and same objectives.

Kemeri National Park Foundation*, Latvia – Natura 2000

Kemeri National Park Foundation is an NGO that manages natural meadows, repurchases land for nature conservation, attracts project financing for various topics concerning national park problems, and provides information about the Kemeri National Park.

They work together on projects with the Environmental Protection and Regional Development Ministry, and the Nature Conservation Agency. The Foundation also acknowledges that it is important to work with society as a whole to maintain the national park.

The cooperation's success is due to the presence of the Foundation's financial tools for protected areas. This funding also helps to receive support from state institutions.

*<http://www.kemerunacionalaisparks.lv/>

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz), Germany – Natura 2000

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation is the German government's scientific authority that reports to the Ministry of Environment. Moreover, they are responsible for national and international nature conservation. They are working on several research projects, such as:

- "Nature conservation and Health protection: identification of joint areas of action". It has been found that it is especially important to create synergies for the promotion of nature conservation in urban areas;
- "Green, natural, healthy: The potentials of multifunctional urban spaces". A team of environmental health scientists and landscape planners looked for synergies and challenges between nature conservation and health promotion in urban areas. Based on the results of this project, more projects were initiated. The idea was to demonstrate the benefits of nature conservation for human wellbeing and by doing so, increase appreciation of nature conservation amongst society as a whole. (More information:<http://bfm.de/fileadmin/MDM/documents/service/Skript371.pdf>);
- A project with the overall goal of supporting blind and visually impaired people to experience nature.
- A project with the aim of introducing forest ecosystems to socially disadvantaged children;
- A project that works with juvenile delinquents in order to implement nature conservation measures.

Furthermore, the Agency develops an online information system on health and nature conservation, tests and develops projects, conducts projects in cooperation with nature conservation, conducts projects in the Federal Program for Nature Conservation, and holds conferences.

The various stakeholders with whom the Agency works on projects are, for example: health scientists, clinics, administrators of protected areas, environmental psychologists, teachers, social workers, educational researchers, social scientists, environmentalists, and urban planners. For example, in the research project on nature conservation and public health in urban areas, several cities participated as project partners. Workshops were organised bringing together the municipal administrations for nature conservation and health, often for the first time.

From past experience, it is evident that synergies between conservation and the health

sector and having a strong personality driving the process are important to the success of a project.

Barriers for successful cooperation include communication problems between different stakeholders and clearly defined responsibilities of the different sectors.

Dementia Adventure, UK

Dementia Adventure provides nature-based, positive, risk-taking adventures which enable people living with dementia to benefit physically, social and emotionally. All kinds of nature areas are used for their activities which include such as woodland adventures, sailing , white water rafting, park walks, and coastal and farm-based activities.

Before the projects started, people living with dementia and their families were consulted by going to local parks and asking them what they would prefer as an outdoor activity.

Dementia Adventure has brought together the care and conservation sectors and provided training and resources to stakeholders to set up outdoor activities. Three things are mentioned that are important for successful cooperation: a shared vision, understanding the added value for each stakeholder, and trusting each other. Determining who will pay for the work and funding in general is a challenge.

Finally, Dementia Adventure mentioned that there is a need for more international collaboration between specialist providers across Europe who are actively engaging people with dementia in the outdoors with international organisations set up to promote access to green spaces.

Sport North Ireland – Natura 2000

Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) aims to increase participation in sport and recreation and recognises the value of the natural environment in the provision of opportunities for being "active outdoors". They have created a forum which brings together key stakeholders from both the outdoor sports sector and the environmental sector to look at significant issues for the development and sustainable management of outdoor recreation throughout Northern Ireland. At a local level, this is replicated by bringing together clubs, local community groups etc.

The sustainable and responsible use of the outdoors is encouraged by providing information in partnership with environmental bodies. SNI also provides funding to promote participation in outdoor activities and supports community-based forums within the landscapes to bring stakeholders together who wish to also develop opportunities for outdoor recreation. Furthermore, SNI works with organisations to open up parks and semi-urban green spaces for sport and recreation, recognising that these sites are easily accessible, especially for disadvantaged communities. Finally, SNI has been the lead organisation in the development of the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for NI* which articulates the vision of "a culture of dynamic sustainable outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland".

According to SNI, it is important to recognise that it takes time and effort to build relationships that are mutually beneficial, and partners have to recognise that each have their own priorities and agendas. Having case study projects that have demonstrated the value of engaging people with the location also stimulates stakeholder engagement. For example, the management body of Strangford Lough saw a gap in engaging local people with the marine environment and used coastal rowing as a mechanism to do that.

Factors that hinder stakeholder engagement are competing priorities and silo thinking. For

example, the public health sector could prioritise issues such as obesity and mental health, and change their focus from cure to prevention. From the environmental sector, the viewpoint of "over-protection" of sites could be changed.

Thus, there needs to be a clear interdisciplinary approach between outdoor enthusiasts, environmental agencies and the public health sector. The importance of networks that bring together disparate agencies and organisations is essential at a local, national and international level. The SNI is committed to helping promote cross-agency working and knowledge sharing. There are good opportunities to develop better joint working through conferences such as the Nature and Sports Euro'meet.

* <http://www.sportni.net/sportni/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Our-Great-Outdoors.pdf>

Agency Forest and Nature Flanders, Belgium – Natura 2000

The Nature and Forest Agency in Flanders constructs and maintains green infrastructure of forests and nature reserves, including Natura 2000 sites. They also give grants to access private land and foster investments in green areas such as parks and green walls in urban areas. Furthermore, they disseminate information regarding the environment. Their main aim is to enhance biodiversity and provide access to green spaces and promote greenery in urban areas. They are starting a project that draws an inventory of green spaces that are accessible to people in wheelchairs and other less mobile people. They also acknowledge the social and wellbeing value of green space and nature; however, there does not yet exist a formal structure to work together with different sectors such as the social and health sectors.

Stakeholders with whom the Agency work vary depending on the project, such as farmers, land owners, forest management, local inhabitants, local businesses (e.g. tourism, recreation, sports), local users (e.g. cyclists, horse-riders, bird watchers). The Agency also has a long tradition of working together with the youth sector, and more recently, with the tourism sector. Good stakeholder analysis is seen as an important step to a successful collaboration. Current cooperation with health stakeholders is not structured; however, there have been meetings with this sector for certain projects and discussions. Being open to questions and demands from different stakeholders encourages engagement. Current policies do not yet have an integrated approach and sectors work mainly within their own fields. Nevertheless, individuals from different sectors acknowledge the potential of collaboration with other sectors, but it takes time to develop good relations and each others' values must be recognised. Political engagement that encourages collaboration should also be established to help interaction between sectors. Administrative services for subsidies should also be prepared for sector collaboration to make the process more efficient.

The Nature and Forest Agency sees the advantages of working together with other sectors; however, time is needed to establish networks.

Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation – Natura 2000

The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation is strongly engaged in projects and approaches for health and social benefits from nature, but more indirectly through protecting biodiversity in general with a focus on protected areas, Natura 2000 sites, natural monuments (heritage) and the protection of endangered species and habitats. It has set up nature conservation guidelines for plans and projects that protect nature as their goal.

Some examples that the Institute has implemented via different projects are: the restoration of a hiking path and tower at Lovrenška jezera, the setting up of educational trails and the creation of new touristic green infrastructure (paths and educational boards) in a nature reserve. Moreover, the Institute has set up promotional activities to protect date mussels, which are a protected species. Tourism in protected areas can be a problem. Therefore they also promote, support and find solutions to minimise the negative impact of tourism and recreational activities on protected areas.

The Institute works together with a range of stakeholders such as municipalities, ministries, professional organisations, local stakeholders and residents, different interest organisations like associations for mountaineers, hunters, foresters, and farmers. A bottom-up approach and the active involvement of stakeholders in the planning phase of projects and throughout the process, is an important way to keep everyone engaged.

An example of a large project was the draft of the Natura 2000 management plan of Slovenia for the period 2014-2020, where the Institute cooperated with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. They organised a public consultation where around one hundred experts from Slovenia came together to prepare a draft document. Key stakeholders also participated in 25 workshops and six public presentations. After the adoption of the management plan, at least five workshops were held for beneficiaries and other target audiences.

Success factors for collaboration between sectors are common overall objectives and goals, active communication and exchanging experience by working on joint projects. The added value of cross-sectoral cooperation is cost reduction. It results in fewer resources being used (e.g. money, human resources) and thus it contributes positively to the various sectors.

Amalipe, Bulgaria

Amalipe is a social organisation that promotes the integration of the Roma community in Bulgaria, and more specifically in the Veliko Tarnovo region. They also work with national and international partners to achieve better social cohesion in Eastern Europe as a whole.

Amalipe initiated and is working on a project to decrease the school dropout rate among Roma children which is supported by the America for Bulgaria Foundation. The project started in 2010 and so far 170 schools from the whole country have been involved. The primary task is to motivate a bigger number of Roma children to continue their education and to show them and their parents that school can offer the children theoretical, but also practical activities that can help them later in life. Also, they aim to help children create an enjoyable atmosphere for themselves in schools. Therefore, Amalipe organises campaigns for collecting litter from schoolyards and for the improvement of the environment by planting flowers and trees once every few months. Once a year, they organise extracurricular activities for the children which are similar to the schoolyard initiative, but which take place in the village or town.

The low representation of Roma parents in the school structures and school life is also addressed by involving the parents, as well as their children, in the nature activities. This way, they each develop a greater sense of care for nature and the children get motivated to work for the bettering of the environment by seeing their parents do the same. So far, children are very enthusiastic and find it entertaining and motivating to see that they can make a difference to their direct environment.

Amalipe has already has an informal network of professionals that was established in 2002 and that works on the issues of social integration and equal education rights. The decision

to develop children's environmental awareness was a natural part when choosing the activities.

Motivation and funding to make the best use of all resources, are both factors that can help to make projects a success. Amalipe is encouraging schools to apply for grants for eco-projects that are distributed by the state and by the Ministry of Environment and Water.

Bulgarian Training Firms Net

The Bulgarian Training Firms Net (BTFN) was created in 2004 by representatives of the business and the education sectors. They have a joint goal of providing possibilities for the development of an entrepreneurial mind-set and the employment of young and older people in Bulgaria. It offers training courses to high school students by organising simulations of business projects.

BTFN indirectly works towards improving young people's awareness of the importance of the environment and the important role it plays for business and society. In their educational methods, they have been applying the principles of socially responsible business, and in particular environment preservation, for a long time. The Bulgarian Youth Forum of Business Leaders had the idea of implementing this topic of socially responsible business linked to the environment in training courses at schools.

Being proactive and involved in a project and understanding the needs of others are important factors that stimulate cooperation between different stakeholders. Also, regular meetings where new ideas and information are shared are important. The stigmatisation of other organisations is a barrier that inhibits good cooperation. The difference between state and company interests can also be a barrier which can be solved by learning how to speak with each other.

Source: Interview 06/08/2015

The Spindle Pig (Het Spilvarken), Belgium

The Spindle Pig was the idea of a few citizens who wanted to raise awareness about the food chain and food waste. The project created a place for three pigs in the city of Ghent. Neighbours are involved in feeding and **looking after** the pigs. The ambition is to expand by keeping more pigs and chickens in several neighbourhoods in Ghent (in places such as urban parks and private gardens), with the aim of processing more than **five** tons of food waste.

The social and ecological impacts of the project are being researched **by** academic partners and universities. Furthermore, the project involves local restaurants, supermarkets, local partners in food production (e.g. a brewery, a cheesemaker, and a bakery), schools, social and cultural organisations.

To improve cross-sectoral collaboration and facilitate cost-effective projects, it is believed that new governance models, procedures and roles are needed.

Regional initiatives

Scottish Natural Heritage – Natura 2000

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) manages cultural and natural heritage and is cognizant of the potential health benefits of nature. The link between green space and health has evolved over the years and they have made a strong link between natural heritage and the Scottish Government's Health agenda. They helped the Scottish government with drafting of the physical activity agenda and promoting being active in the outdoors. There was originally only an interest in nature, species, habitats and environmental change, but now the focus is also on encouraging people to go into nature and make use of it, by doing physical activity for example. Besides rural areas, the focus is more on local green spaces that can be used in daily life..

SNH is part of the Green Exercise Partnership that raises awareness of the links between health and environment which also includes the National Health Service (NHS) and the Forestry Commission. Green Exercise Partnership has had projects on, for example, the increased and better use of green spaces around healthcare facilities, and the promotion of being active outdoors. Factors that have contributed to the success of the strong links and cooperation between the environment and health in Scotland include the mainstreaming of this connection in the policy of the NHS, a process which has been slow but essential. Success also depends largely on funding from governmental bodies which can be accessed by demonstrating the good practices and aims of the projects. To raise awareness among the public, campaigns are set up that encourage participation of specific groups.

When it comes to managing green spaces around health care facilities, it was a challenge to convince the managers of this land that these green spaces can be a useful asset to improve health. To overcome this challenge, SNH organised face-to-face meetings and shared good practices. A main barrier for stakeholder involvement and continuity of a project is the lack of resources.

Source: interview 31/07/2015

Campaign To Protect Rural England (CPRE) London

CPRE London is the London regional branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, but it is an autonomous charity. It focuses on two campaigning and practical support missions:

(a) protecting and extending green spaces across their region through education, planning interventions, and support for local groups;

(b) Working with community groups and professionals to build healthier features in urban neighbourhoods, such as in the "Campaign for a Liveable London", "The London Green Belt", London's protected "Metropolitan Open Land", public parks and smaller "pocket parks" across London. These sites are of interest due to their biodiversity.

The work of CPRE mainly consists of campaigning literature, with some of this derived from their officers' research work; and they respond to members' requests for information, advice and support.

At national level, CPRE has worked closely with the National Trust and the Association of Local Councils, in lobbying politicians and informing citizens. In London, they have formed alliances with regional charities and community organisers such as Civic Voice (the London Forum), the London Tenants Federation, and Just Space. CPRE has 2,500 individual members and some of these introduce them to local campaign groups with whom they work on local issues and projects.

According to CPRE, success factors for good governance between sectors include: spending enough time to understand each other's goals, strategies and ways of working; identifying practical and sustainable projects for joint work; and delegating officers or volunteers to take responsibility for aspects of joint projects.

Further improvements for better cross-sectoral work can be achieved by having policy-oriented leadership undertaken by people who are both well-placed organisationally and respected personally. There is now a process of building alliances in London, some broad (The Place Alliance) and others much more focused ("Sowing the Seeds") which, with enough work and goodwill, should achieve these synergies.

Snowdonia North-Wales – Natura 2000

Snowdonia is a social enterprise in North Wales that promotes and develops the outdoor sector. They have a project called the Environmental Outdoor Charter which offers outdoor activity providers training on the environment they operate in and gives them information they can pass on to clients to encourage them to take steps to mitigate their impact on the environment. Snowdonia is a platform that involves environmental training organisations, outdoor activity providers, ecologists, conservationists, and land owners. They share problems they face and best practices among each other. The aim is to have more educated outdoor activity providers and promote the sustainable use of nature. The areas they work with are mostly protected areas and many are Natura 2000 sites.

Regular open meetings are organised to discuss the sustainable development of the outdoor sector. The bottom-up approach of Snowdonia is seen as the main success factor. Moreover, the opportunity to meet, gain understanding from each other, and see the potential benefits, are other factors that contribute to the success of the platform. To keep partners engaged, regular updates and information sharing takes place and the potential benefits of collaboration are highlighted.

Barriers that are encountered in the platform are that there are still feelings of secrecy where partners do not want to share all information because many are bidding on the same things. Furthermore, time and financial support to go to meetings are factors that sometimes inhibit collaboration.

CEEweb for Biodiversity, Central and East Europe – Natura 2000

CEEweb is a network of NGOs in central and Eastern Europe focusing on protected areas (specifically Natura 2000), urban greenery and a wider green infrastructure network that could spatially connect the Natura 2000 sites. CEEweb organises workshops and conferences to bring stakeholders together.

One of the main themes that they work on is green infrastructure, and a key factor that they acknowledge is the involvement of different stakeholders. In a wetlands project, which is related to green infrastructure, they have done an assessment of ecosystem services where they look at the socio-economic benefits of nature conservation. This involves scientific experts and policy makers. With this assessment, they try to reconcile different sectors and their different priorities. The results of the pilot projects will be published in October 2015. Examples of indicators used in these projects are surface water parameters, birds, GDP and local ecotourism.

The stakeholders involved in projects are researchers, environmental NGOs, water management authorities, local people, and governmental bodies. A difficulty that CEEweb faces is convincing strict environmentalist managers. These managers mainly have nature

conservation as a focus and do not see the value in a connection with other fields such as the social sector or economic evaluation of nature areas. Even though CEEweb presented arguments and examples of socio-economic evaluations and their relevance, these managers remained sceptical.

A partner of CEEweb also experienced a negative situation where it had presented an environmentally-friendly plan for water management, yet the water management authority did not agree and implemented its own environmentally-unfriendly plan. There was a serious miscommunication and the relationship was ruined. CEEweb, however, maintains a good relationship with both parties and is trying to reconnect them by organising conferences and meetings.

Since cooperation between different sectors is not common in Eastern Europe, and stakeholders are pessimistic about this cooperation, it could be useful to offer them, for example, subsidies and financial incentives to get involved in a project. Showing them the benefits of the project and specifically the benefits for each particular sector, can help to stimulate cooperation between sectors.

Source: Interview 05/08/2015

IHOBE, Public Environmental Management (Sociedad pública de gestión ambiental), Spain – Natura 2000

Environmental projects are mainly developed by municipalities together with the Environmental Department in the Basque country. However, due to the larger involvement of the health department in the Local Agenda 21 network, a health dimension is added in most of these projects. Furthermore, the Regional Government has launched a project in order to measure the ecosystem services of the Basque Country. Areas that are part of the environmental projects include rivers, coastlines, and Natura 2000 sites. Stakeholders involved in projects vary, such as municipalities who develop the projects, universities who measure the benefits, and the regional government that launches the project and tries to involve other authorities.

In the Basque Country, there already exists a very strong network of different stakeholders who have worked together for more than 10 years. Thus, the relationships built on the usefulness of the former projects and the confidence developed between stakeholders, has greatly helped to involve them in cross-sectoral projects.

Nevertheless, a lack of money (due to the crisis) and the low priority that nature-related projects receive from policy makers, sometimes make it difficult to get a project up and running. The lack of good examples that would inspire others to carry out new projects is also barrier.

There is a need for criteria and a methodology that can be easily (and cheaply) applied by others. Moreover, the benefits of cross-sectoral projects are not measured nor explained to policy makers and society.

To overcome these problems, studies that effectively measure the benefits of those synergies are needed, as examples with hard data, money and facts are more easily used by policy makers.

Source: <http://www.udalsarea21.net/>

Tuscan region (Regione Toscana), Italy

Since 2008, the regional Government of Tuscany has promoted and incentivized the initiative "l'Estate nei Parchi" (Summer in the Parks): a week long summer break in contact

with nature and in natural protected areas for children and teenagers. The health department initiated the project with young people and the environmental department valorised the biodiversity aspects. They joined forces to involve parks and natural areas in the project. Specific projects are elaborated by parks and provinces. The project is established by the regional environmental and energy plan (PAER), which sponsors environmental education events. The initiative has become part of the integrated regional strategy "Tuscany of the Kids", approved with regional resolution n.496/2014, which enables collaboration between the environmental department and the health department. One of the factors that enhance collaboration between sectors is to have debates between stakeholders.

Factors that enhance collaboration between sectors are to find common objectives in connection with wellbeing and healthy behaviours and to have debates between stakeholders.

Lake Constance Foundation, (Bodensee-Stiftung)

The aim of the Lake Constance Foundation is the protection of biodiversity. They promote, for example, biodiversity-friendly designed premises, industrial parks, and public green spaces. This nature-oriented real estate* contributes to creating potential for biodiversity and a beneficial working atmosphere. Social and health benefits are acknowledged as further positive impacts of green infrastructure.

Furthermore, together with Global Nature Fund, they carry out the European Business and Biodiversity Campaign. Currently the focus is mainly on biodiversity criteria in standards and labels. For the project 'Biodiversity friendly premises', the Foundation works together with public and private companies, business associations, local authorities (planning), gardeners, and NGOs.

Involving a wide range of stakeholders is easier when there is already a concrete project on biodiversity protection. Therefore, biodiversity-friendly premises are a good starting point for dialogue. As a second step, the Foundation discusses the more difficult aspects with the companies, such as biodiversity in the supply chain. Furthermore it is important to divide biodiversity in the different aspects and start with those aspects which are easier to influence and to monitor (e.g. restoration of biotopes and ecosystems), thus finding easy and pragmatic indicators is useful.

The organisation faces different barriers, such as the fact that restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity needs time and thus projects have to be focused on the long-term and require continuity. Another barrier is that the production of a product - that involves the destruction of biodiversity - has a higher economic benefit than acting in a responsible manner, thus biodiversity is not prioritised. Furthermore, restoration of ecosystems and green infrastructure is costly and financial resources from administrations are not sufficient. Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) should be implemented as an alternative source of funding.

Stakeholders would be more interested in collaborating if there were incentives, tax reductions, access to special financial facilities and so on.

* <http://www.business-biodiversity.eu/default.asp?Menu=215>

North Devon UNESCO Biosphere reserve (NDUBR), UK – Natura 2000

NDUBR acknowledges the connection between a good environment and quality of life. It aims to improve catchment and land use to reduce water borne pollution and improve

green spaces for biodiversity in and near towns. Examples of projects are: local nature reserve designation and management in and close to urban areas, beach cleans with community volunteers and special needs groups, and biodiversity audits and surveying with community groups.

Their work involves UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Natura 2000K, long distance cycle routes, country parks, urban parks, roadside verges, estuaries, and open coast.

Stakeholders with whom NDUBR works together include local schools, colleges, small community groups, parish councils, and park departments.

Factors to stimulate good governance between sectors include having someone engaging to work with the communities, a dedicated resource, a good communication strategy using various tools, and being responsive to the community and their needs.

Urban development is a factor that inhibits the work of NDUBR as it can threaten social green spaces in towns. To overcome this problem, NDUBR works with people and the local authorities in developing a Local Plan and building ecosystem service concepts into the plan.

Thus, being able to share information/data, bridging communication gaps, and developing a common dialogue, are ways to improve cross-sectoral cooperation.

CIPRA International – Natura 2000

CIPRA ensures sustainable development in the Alps and aims to make people in the Alps recognize that biological diversity is an indispensable basis for their lives (economy and well-being) and that they need to protect it. Recent projects have focused on a) restoring ecological networks in the Alps and b) balancing renewable energy production and nature in the Alps. The main focus is on nature protection; however, in both these activities, the benefits to the health and wellbeing of people, and the economy, have been highlighted.

CIPRA's activities focus on all types of green spaces as it is believed that for a functioning ecological network, all habitats need to be tackled and for renewable energy production, different kinds of green spaces are under consideration (e.g. rivers, forests, open landscapes, urban areas).

Using the terminology of ecosystem services can help to make people understand that biodiversity is essential for human well-being and stimulate cross-sectoral engagement. When working with stakeholders, participatory approaches have a great importance and have to be considered as early as possible. A way to raise awareness and inform stakeholders from different sectors is to adapt information for each stakeholder individually. For example, within their awareness-raising work on alpine ecological networks, CIPRA disseminated a series of 10 fact sheets, each one directed at a different stakeholder group.*

* <http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org/information-services/fact-sheets-1>

West Pannon, Hungary – Natura 2000

West Pannon Regional and Economic Development Public Nonprofit Ltd is a Local Action Group that works on different projects related to sustainable development. One example is the Iron Curtain Trail that improved cycling accessibility in the South East European region. This project was executed in partnership with a number of other organizations from the South East part of Europe.

The project's tasks included different analyses before positioning a bicycle trail on the Iron Curtain Trail, such as mapping borders and marketing activities. Green spaces vary from mountains to flat land and in most cases belong to the unprotected countryside. Some of

the bicycle routes pass through the Danube area (50 km of the Danube).

The main objective of the Iron Curtain Trail Project is to promote the improvement of cycling accessibility of the South East European region. This objective is in line with the objectives of linking cycling and public transport and promoting cycling as a sustainable mode of transport. These mirror the EU's objectives of regional bicycle networks which consists of 15 partner organisations, such as the Government Office for Burgenland (Austria), Ekopolis Foundation (Slovakia), Hungarian Cyclists' Federation (Hungary), Bulgarian Cycling Union (Bulgaria), and several other agencies in South-East Europe. West Pannon Nonprofit Kft was the lead partner in the project.

It is important to involve all stakeholders from the very beginning, from the first step of the first meeting. At local and regional level, it is important to find the relevant partners, including local authorities. Also, the realisation of the project and people's motivation was greatly helped by the interesting and motivating ideas which were generated.

A problem during the Iron Curtain Trail project was a lack of cooperation by the local stakeholders because some were not interested enough to participate. Another problem was that, at some point, some partners had to be changed which meant West Pannon needed to review part of the planning.

Local initiatives

Municipality of Nijmegen, NL

The municipality of Nijmegen has a vision of “Green is Healthy”. Their policy is to always try to connect nature, social, and health aspects. They have a Green Policy Plan (Groenbeleidsplan) which was implemented in 2007 and puts emphasis on this nature-social-health nexus.

There are a variety of projects present in the municipality of Nijmegen. One project involved the creation of a ‘walking bridge’ which serves as a gangway to connect the city with the rural area around it. The bridge resulted in easier access to a natural area and more people seem to enjoy this aspect and go for a walk in nature. It was not only the municipality that contributed to this financially,, Staatsbosbeheer (Forest Service) is also part of the project. Residents were invited for information meetings before and during the construction of the gangway.

Besides this fairly large project, there are many different projects going on in the city that have been initiated by the residents themselves. The municipality stimulates cooperation with its residents. For this reason, many groups of residents submit ideas to improve their neighbourhoods by implementing more greening, like little parks or gardens. The municipality supports these projects financially; however, the residents are the ones responsible for maintaining the green areas.

Contracts are signed to make sure that this happens. When residents are not able to maintain it anymore, the municipality will either change the green area so it is easier for the residents to maintain, or maintains the original green area itself. A potential benefit of the residents’ projects is the increase in social cohesion, since residents work together to maintain the green area. Moreover, they organise street parties and barbecues to bring people together.

Success factors of the projects are that when a project concerning the creation of green or nature areas is initiated, the advantages for other sectors or domains are emphasised as well. In this way, a project is seen as something positive by many different stakeholders. This requires having discussions and meetings with others to know what they want or prefer and to see a way to combine all interests. The municipality always invites residents to meetings to discuss future projects and current projects.

There are always advantages and disadvantages to every project. It is important to not let one person’s gain be another one’s loss. There should be open dialogue and arguments have to be weighed against each other. The final decision in such difficult situations is always made by majority votes. There is a need for more cooperation between the different stakeholders, especially with the construction industry and sometimes even the government. These sectors mainly think about the short-term and focus on building houses; however, they ignore the creation of green areas in neighbourhoods. Source: Interview 27/07/2015

City Council of Barcelona

The City Council of Barcelona has developed the Biodiversity Plan 2020 which sets out goals to preserve and enhance natural heritage in the city and to enable everyone to benefit from it. The plan aims to increase green space and the connection between citizens and nature. Moreover, Barcelona wants to move from using green space as decoration to more structured green spaces that enhance the environmental aspects and increase habitats.

For the implementation of this plan, the City Council of Barcelona is working together with stakeholders related to biodiversity such as ICO, Galanthis, World Nature (NGOs); CREAM, CREAL, and ICTA (research centres); ICLEI, UICN, and Medivercities (international organisations); and signatories of the Barcelona Citizens Commitment towards Sustainability 2012-22. However, specific projects involve different stakeholders.

The City Council initiates and funds the projects related to the Biodiversity Plan. The drafting of the plan involved two kinds of groups. First, experts in birds, fauna and flora (among others) were invited. Second, more general groups such as neighbourhood associations and academia were invited. Focus groups are used during the implementation of projects. A priority for implementing such a Biodiversity Plan is to make it attractive for everyone, mainly focusing on the visual aspect of it. Other success factors of governance are inviting experts per theme, being transparent with sharing information, and no hierarchical. More cooperation between stakeholders would definitely increase potential synergies between sectors.

Source: Interview 30/07/2015

Cascais Ambiente, Portugal – Natura 2000

In 2007, the Cascais municipality started a project to transform their national park, which covers a third of the city. 90% of the national park is private land and the municipality works together with the land owners. The national park, which was first an abandoned area, has been transformed into farm land, where farming is used to help manage the landscape. It is an open area where people can walk, cycle, and horse-ride and a large farm is situated in the park where activities are organised for the public. The main objectives of the national park are to identify opportunities for ecological restoration, restore those areas and allow people to visit them in an organised way.

A monitoring study is currently being carried out that involves interviews with users of the park. Health benefits are expected to include more physical activity due to activities such as walks and yoga classes. Social benefits are expected to include more awareness, interaction and contact with nature and increased feeling of safety when people are in the park. When it comes to biodiversity benefits, there has been an increase in domestic species such as donkeys, sheep, rabbits, and birds, mainly due to the prohibition of hunting in the park.

Another project that Cascais Ambiente set up is a volunteering programme where residents and companies can adopt a tree and take care of it. Companies are mainly interested in this programme to become more involved in the social sector to promote their business to the outside world.

Stakeholders involved in this project are local communities, the Cascais municipality, national park authorities, experts, companies, schools, scout groups, and residents. To involve stakeholders, there is a website which shows the activities in the park, and Facebook and a newsletter are used to reach people.

Success factors for governance in this project are: inviting people to the park to raise awareness and teach people the importance of nature conservation; presenting the objectives of the project to stakeholders; teamwork with a good understanding of the role of each stakeholder; good partnerships with all stakeholders and with the land owners particularly; sharing knowledge; and empower stakeholders by giving them responsibilities.

Barriers that the project came across are that many people did not have any concern for nature conservation; politicians in particular have not been found to see nature-related projects as opportunities. A particular problem involved the fire department, who were

opposed to planting trees. After many meetings and sharing of knowledge with the department, Cascais Ambiente was able to show them that forests can also be a prevention strategy for fires (with the planting of particular trees).

Source: Interview 04/08/2015

Council of Linz (Magistrat Linz), Austria – Natura 2000

The "Naturkundliche Station der Stadt Linz" is an institute of the City Council of Linz, which has been working for almost 40 years in aspects of urban ecology and nature conservation. Its objectives are to survey basic ecological data and information on nature in the city, nature conservation practices and public interaction with nature in the municipal area, by publishing a quarterly magazine called "ÖKO.L".

Important examples of projects are: biotope mapping, an atlas of breeding birds, a programme for breeding birds on buildings, and a programme for city farmers to preserve typical rural landscape and agro-biotopes for population and nature conservation management in the Natura 2000 area of alluvial forests of the rivers Traun and Danube.

Many different green infrastructures are involved in the various projects such as parks, woodlands, and the rural surroundings of the inner city.

There is cooperation with many different stakeholders, for example NGOs in nature conservation, city farmers, planning administration, the city council, and infrastructure companies.

Success factors of the projects are the many benefits for both sides and the appreciation of green space in cities as an important factor for health and social well-being. For example, as a result of preservation, there is a beautiful landscape in the rural surroundings of the inner city with many different biotopes and species, and a large amount of the city population can find places for recreation near their homes. Moreover, the declaration of 100% of the rural woodland on the river Traun and Danube as Nature 2000 area had many positive aspects for the local residents for recreation and identification.

Large problems are found in the segregation of political and management levels and problems in public budgets. Nature Conservation and biodiversity does not have political and public priority.

Padova (Commune di Padova, Italy)

Some years ago, the city of Padova started to diversify their green area management through the participation of citizens, sponsors, and associations.

Several projects have been set up in recent years to promote nature in Padova:

- Since 2012, the Municipality has approved the adoption of green areas by citizens "Adotta un'area verde", including private enterprises.
- In 2013-2014, an important Italian food retail chain adopted several small areas and gardens, furnishing them with benches and baskets and maintaining meadows.
- In the last five years, the Municipality has implemented horticultural gardens for citizens, granting up to 633 lots, to promote healthy eating and knowledge of the basic principles of sustainable agriculture.
- For almost 20 years, a summer event has been organised involving a lot of small associations, called "Vivi il Parco" (Live the Park), with films and theatre festivals, recreational activities etc. to encourage outdoor socialising.
- Since 2008, they have used the Agenda 21 to plan new green areas, such as Basso

Isonzo, Milcovich Park extension, Willows Park.

- In 2013,, the Municipality of Padova started a programme of urban forestation with the realisation of small wood areas in the city districts.

The various forms of collaboration which have been developed have involved recreational, environmental and sporting associations, cooperation with social bodies, and voluntary groups.

A success factor has been the participation with the local Agenda 21 on issues of future development of parks and their management. Cross-sectional cooperation can be realised by improving teamwork among the various components inside the Municipality, establishing work conferences with the different social parts, and developing concrete projects of partnership.

Municipality Bucharest, Romania

The General Direction for Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest, is the main public organisation in Bucharest that works with social groups at risk and with social groups in unfavourable conditions.

The municipality has worked on different multinational projects with partners from European, as well as non-European countries.

One of their projects is on biodiversity, "Gradini Urbane Comunitare". A local action group has turned open spaces into urban gardens where different vegetable and plant species are grown. These open places include roofs and terraces of buildings that are now turned into urban gardens.

The will or motivation for participation in a project is an important contributing factor for good collaboration between stakeholders.. Better stakeholder cooperation is achieved by bringing problematic issues to the fore, because this is one way to bring social groups that face the same problems together.

City of Freiburg, Environmental Protection Agency – Natura 2000

The City of Freiburg is working on many different fields to enhance and promote the cultural ecosystem services of nature and green spaces. The overall objective is to increase social cohesion and stewardship of nature, to strengthen the links between nature and citizens' well-being, and to raise awareness of the value of green spaces and natural sites. Activities of the City of Freiburg in this field include: urban gardening; environmental education; nature trails and wildlife observation spots; jogging trails; a city zoo; a citizen stewardship programme for urban green spaces; climate change adaption measures; provisioning of lookout points and trekking trails; forest kindergarten; nature and river stewardship programmes; maintenance of local recreation zones; and sports facilities in green zones.

All sorts of green spaces are involved in the different activities of the City of Freiburg in this field. In total, around 50% of the district areas of the city are protected areas of different IUCN categories. In the Natura 2000 sites, and the other strictly protected areas, activities are only allowed if they do not threaten the main protection goals. In less strictly protected areas or in the un-protected countryside, more intensive activities are possible. Urban parks and private gardens play a main role in the provisioning of urban gardening, recreation and sports' activities.

Many different stakeholders are involved: citizens' associations, nature conservation groups/NGOs (BUND, NABU etc.), trekking and sport associations, local agenda 21 groups, university and research institutions, schools and environmental education organisations,

hospitals, and business developers.

It is important to delimit the topic and the common goal for successful cooperation. Moreover, there should be a common understanding of crucial terms and definitions. Certain interests of each stakeholder should be clearly communicated in the process of a cooperative work and should not be hidden within the discussions. Moderated round table discussions, joint field excursions, and meetings in nature could enhance the learning process between stakeholders.

Challenges to the project include a loss of 'power'. Organisations often fear a loss of power if they open up their field of interest/power and integrate other stakeholders into discussions and decision processes. Moreover, a common language of different phenomena is missing between actors of the different sectors.

There should be more and regular cross-sectoral conferences and conventions that integrate the different topics and stakeholders.

The City of Kuopio, Environmental Services, Finland – Natura 2000

Recreation in nature has always been an essential part of the Finnish lifestyle. In the City of Kuopio, there have not been so many programmes or projects, but promotion of the recreational use of nature has been a practical, everyday work. For decades, the city has constructed and maintained an extensive network of tracks for skiing and walking. There are some areas reserved for recreation in the master plan . On the island, there are some cottages, tracks and mooring places free for everybody.

Recreational use of nature is an important part of the management of the forests owned by the City of Kuopio. At the moment, a plan of the green areas is under preparation.

The environmental services body take care of nature trails and organise different kinds of excursions into nature. Citizens have been encouraged to work together in improving nature in their surroundings, for example by preventing invasive alien species.

The recreational use of nature includes both protected areas and un-protected countryside. The most intensively used recreational areas near the city centre are included in the Natura 2000 programme. In Kuopio, lakes and islands are also very important. During recent years, nature in urban areas and in the suburbs has become more important.

Cooperation exists between nature conservation organisations, residents' associations, Metsähallitus, and some enterprises. So far, the welfare effects of nature haven't been on the agendas of the health and social sectors. If this would change, cross-sectoral cooperation would improve.

City of Utrecht, Netherlands

The City of Utrecht invests in green spaces for biological, recreational and social (including health) benefits through its Green Structure Plan 2007-2030. The city plan consists of developing green-blue infrastructure. In the present city programme for the period 2014-2018, health is a special focus.

The City of Utrecht also invests in district green planning (10 districts) in which inhabitants are given the possibility of creating more greenery together with neighbours and other participating groups. This is a very participative process and between 2011 and 2015 it resulted in about 250 initiatives.

The city consists of a variety of green spaces, such as large and pocket parks, historic estates, green roofs and walls, and other green zones around the city.

The district green plans were a great success in involving all kinds of people in developing

green spaces. A large communication programme was followed to achieve this result. More cities in the Netherlands are now following this course. For large green projects in the city, there is regular consultation and a participating process in which well-organised nature and environmental groups are involved.

Successful cooperation between different stakeholders can be reached by not only making plans, but bringing them to fruition. In the programme, funding is known from the start and it is financially solid. In this way, expectations can be met. Also the rate of success depends on participation and trust in each other. Thus, a solid structure (by means of expert knowledge from civil servants) and solid financial base are necessary conditions.

Cross-sectoral cooperation can be improved by cities that support participation between civil servants, inhabitants and universities. Room should be made for such platforms and each actor should be given real goals to achieve.

Madrid City Council

The Environmental Awareness Department in Madrid has developed a net of Urban Green Centres located in the main green areas of the city, such as urban forest and urban wildlife conservation centres. These green centres promote initiatives regarding nature protection and biodiversity. Most of the projects and initiatives aim to use the natural environment to reduce pollution through, for example, physical activities (urban farming project), guided tours through urban green areas, and biodiversity projects. They involve different NGOs, such as sea and birdlife, and local stakeholders.

Political support, finding the most effective way to communicate activities and reaching target groups are success factors for the different initiatives in the city.

Leeds City Council

Through the Parks & Countryside Service, Leeds City Council provides a programme of free public events, like guided walks and volunteering in nature reserves. Some projects, such as the West Leeds Green Gateways and Country Park and the North West Leeds Green Gateways and Country Park, seek to link up green spaces and improve them for people and wildlife.

Some sites of special scientific interest and designated Local Wildlife Sites are included in the projects, but for the most part, informal greenspace owned by Leeds City Council and some formal parks are included.

A barrier to good cooperation between sectors is a "silo" mentality. This is normal as these sectors all have their own priorities that do not include wider strategic long-term thinking. Although English Nature developed the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt), which provide very good science-based guidance, no single body has taken this forward to implement or imbed it in local planning policy. A way to overcome the lack of policy support for cross-sectoral collaboration is to set up a separate government-funded body that is required to specifically engage health and society sectors in biodiversity projects.

Aberdeen City Council, Scotland

Results from Aberdeen City Open Space Audit 2010 showed that poor quality open spaces are located in the more deprived areas and that people are not satisfied with the quality of open spaces in their neighbourhoods. Thus, there is a need to improve the quality of open spaces in the city, particularly in the deprived areas.

Aberdeen City Council is currently working on a project with their partners from the

National Health Service (NHS) in Grampian. The project will identify opportunities to address health inequalities of all age groups and genders, to reduce the social and health burden imposed by mental illness, and to improve mental wellbeing by targeting high risk areas of deprivation as a priority. It will help the NHS and other agencies to allocate resources where they are needed the most. Moreover, it will help contribute towards highlighting areas with problems of drug and alcohol use in the city, and in turn provide opportunities to target these areas, particularly where it is felt that inequalities are widening. The overall aim of the project is to identify multiple benefit opportunities which address health, social and environmental inequalities together. Under this project, a GIS based map will be developed that shows open spaces within neighbourhoods to maximise the use of these spaces for physical and outdoor activities. It will outline opportunities to improve mental and physical health by encouraging people to spend more time outdoors and to engage communities and neighbourhoods in more green activities, and learn more about nature and the environment.

The project includes all types of open/green spaces identified by the Scottish Planning Policy under the Planning Advice Note PAN65 Typology (such as public parks, natural and semi-natural green spaces, woodlands, golf courses, amenity opens spaces, wildlife corridors, green access routes, and playing fields).

A number of stakeholders are involved in tackling health and environmental problems, particularly where there is an overlap. A health and wellbeing group was set up under the Single Outcome Agreement which includes partners from the National Health Service, local authorities, education, fire and rescue, business, the voluntary sector, police and communities. Different thematic groups are set up to work with communities to meet future challenges and deliver better outcomes by working collaboratively to target resources and activities in ways which reduce health, social and environmental inequalities.

The major success factor is pooling resources and bringing the right expertise to deliver shared objectives. For example, if one authority has the technical expertise, the other authority could provide the financial resources to work together. It benefits everyone to share data on health, biodiversity and social issues and develop common tools and instruments. This is also advantageous for decision making as it provides a strategic approach by looking at more than one sector to achieve common objectives.

The major challenges are to tackle individual priorities and reach common objectives. For example, by providing access to environmentally sensitive and protected areas, recreation may conflict with the overall objectives of conservation of biodiversity through disturbance to protected species and habitats. There are also political and legislative barriers with conflicting priorities. In turn, the current financial situation, cuts in public sector budget, and drive towards economic growth, mean the council is under huge pressure to deliver more with less.

Cross-sectoral cooperation can be improved by strengthening the science of health and social nature moving the focus on to wellness rather than illness. Land-use planning and development plays a crucial role in terms of future management and allocation of resources.

Vassall and Coldharbour Forum (VACF)

VACF is a group of parents who live in an impoverished, poor quality built environment that were isolated and felt the need to improve the quality of green space for the benefit of all. The VACF supported 17 local groups to grow food in estates, schools, youth clubs and by the

side of roads. This has been the foundation for a new network called Vassall and Coldharbour Forum which aims that by 2025 all children will have access to nature on their doorstep, and that everyone will have access to healthy, affordable food on their doorstep. Currently, VACF works in Myatt's Fields Park, a very important local space for access to the natural environment, to ensure access to high quality open space and additional activities such as communal food growing and cooking, and events and activities for all ages in the park.

They have brought together many communities. The “Food Heroes” programme, in which people were paid to teach others about their food, engaged people from 50 different nationalities. The “Cook Like A Caribbean” project has engaged local Caribbean people in mapping the history of Caribbean food.

Success factors for the different food projects include respecting the knowledge, skills and the shared love for nature and food in diverse communities, and building on and celebrating diverse communities and all they have to offer.

Barriers to success have included: reduction in jobs and budgetary cuts the lack of real collaboration between the voluntary sector, public health and the local authority; and a lack of a shared language for rating the value of all contributions.

To improve the cross-sectoral approach, a project between the voluntary sector and the public health sector, that helps both sides to learn about the other's work and its value, would help to improve access to nature,. Although VACF is working in health promotion, the public health sector cannot engage with their work because it is not sufficiently evidence-based. There is a need to find a new way to evaluate the experimental and innovative community approach.

North Devon Council

North Devon Council is required to deliver sustainable development which includes environmental improvement, meeting the needs of the local community, and promoting health and wellbeing. Therefore, the Council safeguards existing green infrastructure, provides new green infrastructure, and improves the network of green infrastructure.

The Local Plan has been prepared in consultation with a range of stakeholders including Natural England, Devon Wildlife Trust, and Biosphere Reserve Partnership.

The Council stimulates cross-sectoral cooperation with the duty to cooperate. Barrier for such cooperation are a lack of money or lack of capacity to deliver.

Municipality of Frederikssund, Denmark – Natura 2000

The municipality of Frederikssund organises activities outdoors where citizens are invited to participate. These activities vary between cycling, walking and fishing in different natural areas, also including the Natura 2000 Fjordstien. The municipality takes a holistic approach, taking into account climate, recreation and nature.

In order to create such events, the municipality works together with other municipalities and land owners. Important factors for collaboration are having a dialogue and perseverance. Private ownership and replacement size are mentioned as barriers. To overcome the difficulties, there is a need for more resources.

City of Copenhagen

The City of Copenhagen has a tradition of cycling, and there was a need for better bicycle lanes in the city. When constructing the new cycle lanes, green infrastructure was used as well for recreation purposes. Moreover, the increased risk of massive rain events forced the city to look into rain water management, which was combined with the construction of the cycle lanes.

The main difficulty in putting biodiversity higher on the agenda is that it is a difficult concept to understand. Therefore, it is still a by-product rather than the main reason for construction.

City of Ljubljana, European Green Capital Award

Ljubljana is situated in a basin surrounded by low hills covered with natural forests. Forest covers 46% of the entire area of Ljubljana and it has four landscaped parks. Ljubljana has devoted special attention to the creation of open and green public areas. It is aware that green areas and pleasant surroundings are very important for health and quality of life in the city, which is something they wish to preserve and enhance.

In the last three years, the City of Ljubljana has planted more than 2,000 trees in the city, mainly along the main roads and parks. The city is also revitalising degraded areas (abandoned barracks, abandoned industrial zones, remediated waste dumps), concentrating construction in the city core and gaps, and rehabilitating degraded parts of the city (shanty settlements, illegal garden allotments, etc.). Moreover, to complement the existing parks in Ljubljana (the oldest being Tivoli Park, built exactly 200 years ago, and largest being The Path of Memories and Comradeship (PMC), started in 1946), the city has five new parks. PMC, the backbone of the green system of Ljubljana, is a continuous green space in Ljubljana, which is extremely popular for sports and leisure activities. It is the longest tree-lined avenue in the city, with 7000 trees. The five new parks were built on degraded land (overgrown riverbanks, abandoned industrial areas etc.), which amounts to an increase of 40 hectares in four years.

Together with non-governmental organisations, Ljubljana is also undertaking many smaller projects associated with the quality of the living environment in neighbourhoods and local communities. Furthermore, the interactive online citizens' initiative service offers citizens the chance to participate in the daily management of the city. In 2010, a collaboration of residents and artists produced the Labyrinth of Art project, in which each person has the opportunity to become the caretaker of one tree.

They are working on project called GORNJI VRT which aims to draw attention to the growing problem of the overheating urban centre and to highlight the significant untapped potential of the roof surfaces. Despite the fact that Ljubljana has a high percentage of green space, the heat accumulates in buildings and pavements. Greened roofs could contribute to reducing the overheating of the city, become new meeting places, offer the possibility of growing vegetables and be used for recreation and other activities. In the pilot project, interested users (residents) of the urban garden or roof parks were asked via a questionnaire for suggestions, wishes and concerns, and this contributed to its successful implementation. The project is led by the Institute for Education and Consulting ŠPELINICE and HIŠERIŠE arhitektura in cooperation with the Municipality of Ljubljana.

The need to protect the natural environment at the center of the urban environment was acknowledged more than thirty years ago, when the City protected the area of Tivoli, Rožnik and Šišenski hrib as a landscape park and areas saved from urbanisation. Numerous species

have been preserved that are important for nature protection and are on the Red List of endangered species. Furthermore, green areas in the city are also a favourite spot for citizens to enjoy recreation.

The environmental projects in Ljubljana “Smart City” have been designed incorporating shared best practices in the field of environmental and nature protection from the widest range of stakeholders. Ljubljana is aware that the ambitious environmental targets cannot be achieved without the cooperation of both locals and organizations. For example, to involve citizens in the development of a new programme of environmental protection for 2014-2020, a website was launched where they could give suggestions and opinions and share experiences with the City of Ljubljana. Their participation was also rewarded.

The biggest problem in cross-collaboration is the conflict of interests, lack of legislation and the distinction of competences in certain areas. There can also be cooperation difficulties with owners as they may have differing interests than the public. A success factor to have good stakeholder engagement is cooperation with the public from the very beginning of the project. For example, through public debates and workshops, contributions can be found that are useful to implementation of the project. When planning a project, it is also important to involve diverse stakeholders such as citizens, NGOs and scientific research institutions. Very positive experiences include projects such as the European Green Capital. Because of it, there has been intensive participation by various public stakeholders. Nature conservation and environmental topics have become recognisable in society. The basis for the success of such project is support of the management of the municipality.

Black Environment Network, UK

The Black Environment Network (BEN) is about enabling ethnic minorities to participate fully in the environmental sector and to represent issues relating to their wellbeing that connected with nature. From the beginning, BEN recognised that most ethnic minorities live in the inner cities of urban areas, so that access to nature is influenced significantly by the availability of nearby green spaces in the first instance, but also organised access to green spaces of all kinds that are further afield. Linking social, cultural and health objectives, therefore, is a natural part of all they do.

BEN works on five topics:

1. Influencing policy and public opinion, representing the position of disadvantaged groups (in particular ethnic minorities), and promoting understanding of the links between physical activity, mental well-being, social cohesion, and nature and green spaces.
2. Producing resources, participating in events, research, and sharing information about the above.
3. Formulating projects and partnerships that address the above.
4. Training environmental and other professionals to understand the above links and to gain the skills to work effectively with ethnic minorities.
5. Training community members to champion activities and understanding related to the above.

As the organisation has a focus on ethnic minorities, they particularly highlight green spaces in the urban arena, but access to spaces further afield by urban populations is just as important. One particular emphasis that they are communicating at present is the extensive amount of green space owned by social landlords. These green spaces are owned by the council and housing associations and not well managed. Transformation of these spaces will benefit well-being and nature itself and promote the use of it by residents and social groups.

BEN is part of the Campaign to make Greater London a National Park City and these areas will be one of the key issues.

BEN constantly pushes the boundaries to keep integration of issues on the agenda. They work in partnership with environmental and other relevant organisations as appropriate. Some of the most effective ways of doing this is to be on committees and working groups, and to take part in seminars, peer reviews, and consultations. Networking is key to sharing information and motivating action. They also join consortiums to access money for significant projects. For example, they just joined the Woodland Trust's Steering Group for Charter for Woods, Trees and People.

In BEN's experience, successful collaboration is dependent on inspiring organisations and citizens to take action and represent issues; influencing policies successfully with the release of money and formulation of actions related to the issues; influencing funders to release money; increasing health and well-being awareness via documented good practice examples; increasing action to improve access to green spaces; and increasing action to manage and enhance green spaces by communities working with local or national government.

Barriers to success include a silo mentality within sectors; a lack of cross-sector funding that integrates cross-sector issues; a lack of understanding of cross-sector issues by all players; a lack of time within organisations to address cross-sector issues; constitutional limits that focus on single issues; and a lack of time to build meaningful partnerships.

Strong synergies need to be built. A way forward could be presenting linkages between issues to different sector players, encouraging research, and promoting examples. Innovative and inspirational leaders need to voice cross-sector issues to all relevant parties, in order to promote understanding and get these issues on the agenda. Furthermore, forward-looking organisations are needed that bring people and organisations together and represent cross-sector issues..

Tartu City Government, Estonia – Natura 2000

Tartu city municipality is focused on improving different types of green areas in the city in order to make them more accessible and attractive to citizens. Their tasks involve guaranteeing the cleanliness of those green spaces, improving and developing these areas, and designing new areas.

For example, they are creating open nature spaces with different sport attractions (outdoor gym equipment, soft running paths, etc.). Social cohesion is improved, for example, on disc golf courses, which brings together people with the same interest.

Green areas in the city include urban parks, riversides, Natura 2000 sites, and protected areas. There are several stakeholders with whom the city works together for the maintenance of these various green areas, such as the Estonian Environmental Board who deals with nature conservation and are mostly involved in projects related to nature conservation areas. There are also companies who maintain the green areas which belong to the city, through litter cleaning, mowing the lawns, and renovating outdoor furniture. Enterprises and different interest groups are involved in specific projects, for example when planning a new outdoor sports area. In addition, Tartu city cooperates with non-governmental organisations, such as boat harbours on the river and river cafes.

Most of the time, cooperation is developed by having meetings, conference tables, analyses (e.g. SWOT), where interests of different groups are mapped. Usually the hindering factors are fundraising issues and conflict between private and public sector interests. For example,

in Tartu, there was an initiative to open hiking trails along the riverbank to the public, but it encountered obstacles due to private land ownership (private owners were not interested in providing passage for public). The cooperation between different parties could be improved by introducing the ideas and different perspectives and trying to make compromises with a suitable outcome for all parties. The primary issue is taking into account everybody's interests.

Moy hill community garden, Ireland

Moy Hill community garden is a community-supported agricultural space that provides vegetables to the community, involves the community in growing food and teach them by doing. The garden organises weekly cooking sessions for anyone who wants to join which use the food grown in the garden. This results in a social evening, often with music. The aim of the organisation is to have a healthy green space where people can socialise and learn how to grow their own food.

There are two gardens: one large garden of one acre where the vegetables are grown and the other garden is half an acre which is where the weekly cooking takes place. Groups taking part in the project vary from parents with young children, to young adults and older people. They feel comfortable and connected to nature again. The key is making it easy for people to get involved.

By linking experts with residents in nature, and giving people a responsibility, nature becomes more valuable to them. The community garden thinks that the media can play a large role in raising awareness about the value of nature and reconnecting people with nature.

Yerevan Municipality, Armenia

Yerevan is situated in a semi-desert area. In the 1990s, due to an energy crisis, Yerevan lost 50% of its green spaces and irrigation system. During the last five years, Yerevan repaired and enlarged most parts of the irrigation system, which helped to create new green spaces and bring them back to their citizens. Moreover, the municipality has been installing sports equipment in green spaces (mainly urban parks). These projects are mostly implemented by the municipality, but sometimes they involve the private sector.

The aim of the municipality is the creation of more recreation zones which are close to people's living place. This is especially important as the city is developing at a fast pace and the transportation system and new constructions have had a negative influence on the biodiversity of the city and the health of the population.

City of Rotterdam, Netherlands – Natura 2000

There are numerous programmes for health and green spaces* in Rotterdam, for example, those aimed at encouraging kids to play outside in green areas and programmes aimed at preventing the urban heat island effect. The city is also involved in urban farming**, including on rooftops. A small part of the city includes a Natura 2000 site where people can walk, but as it is a big city, most of the public spaces are city parks.

The connection between greening and health was a logical step as the city focuses a lot on public health and cooperates a lot with GGD Rotterdam, the joint health organisation of the city. Other stakeholders that the city works together with include housing groups, citizen groups, nature groups, owners of buildings, urban ecologists, other municipalities, political parties, and civil servants. They meet in conferences or work together on projects.

To have successful cooperation between different sectors, it is important that all stakeholders agree that there is a need to do something. It seems to be difficult sometimes to agree that something has to be done about health or biodiversity, and the feeling of responsibility is lacking. After acknowledging that something has to be done, a plan should be made in which everyone has something in it that is useful for their organisation, thus benefiting all parties.

*<http://www.rotterdam.nl/COS/publicaties/MOR/144%20Rotterdam%20gezond%20groen%20gewoon%20doen.pdf>

**<http://www.rotterdam.nl/Clusters/Stadsontwikkeling/Document%202013/Groen/FoodTheCityEngels.pdf>

Duppini Art Group, Bulgaria

The Duppini Art Group is an organisation that works with different social groups to create land art. They organise workshops related to nature, the knowledge of species, and the environment. One of their main activities is to improve the environment we live in with natural materials and in harmony with materials that are already available. By cultivating the environment, they focus on the aesthetics of the area and on the characteristics of the plant and animal species that live there.

Duppini is currently working on a project called “The Spirit of Nature”, in partnership with the Centre for Multi-ethnic Tolerance “Amalipe”, and financed by the programme “Cultural heritage and contemporary art”. The activities include workshops for children of different ethnic and religious backgrounds as well as a residential programme in the village. The workshops are focused on art inspired by nature and art that stays in nature. By participating in the programme, the children get the chance to spend some time in a healthy, natural environment. The main idea is to breathe life into a village that would otherwise be deserted, through focusing on art and the benefits of nature.

Duppini carries out its activities in the village of Gabrovtsi that is situated at the foot of the Stara Planina mountain in the unprotected countryside. They use all accessible green areas that are present such as meadows, gardens, and the coastline of a river and the riverbed.

Groups that are involved in the project include artists from Bulgaria and abroad, children from different ethnic groups and the local people from the village, many of whom have a good knowledge of the local species. There are even some locals who have studied ecology and natural sciences and who participate happily in the project as educators. The plan is to involve further groups in the future.

Success factors for good cooperation between the stakeholders are inner motivation to cooperate with different kinds of people, and openness to others. Society has been positive about Duppini’s idea and so far they have received positive feedback from different organisations and social groups and even from the local municipality of Veliko Tarnovo that has allowed them to use an old school building in the village (that has been empty for years). This facilitates future plans and enables more people to be accommodated when organising an event.

Bristol City Council, European Green Capital 2015 – Natura 2000

Bristol City Council works on different nature-related projects, such as the One Tree Per Child project that aims to have every child in primary school in Bristol plant at least one tree. Another project is a Park Work project that looks at the costs and benefits of involving volunteers and placement workers in the management of parks and public open spaces. This project offers training and skills development for people who need additional support to

secure permanent employment.

The projects of the City range from parks, school grounds, river corridors and green spaces to Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (which are designated Local Wildlife Sites) and nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSIs) and European Wildlife Sites. Bristol has a long tradition of green activities and active community involvement in parks, green spaces and areas recognised and/or designated for their wildlife interest.

Barcelona Provincial Council – Natura 2000

The Provincial Council of Barcelona promotes the progress and welfare of its citizens and its territory. It includes 311 municipalities and its main responsibilities are to provide technical and economic resources and materials, and advice to local services, such as the municipalities and other public services. They are also involved in improving parks and evaluating them. For example, they have a survey for park visitors about physical and mental health; they collaborate with the Health Department to make parks “healthier” by offering activities and special tracks; and they have set up the first therapeutic tracks in mature forests.

The areas that the Provincial Council works with are mainly protected areas such as Natura 2000 sites and natural parks. Stakeholders involved in the projects are public administrators (park managers, health department), NGOs, universities, private land owners and companies (e.g. management of forests and equipment inside and outside natural parks). Different objectives, and sometimes languages, funding and difficulties with private land owners, are obstacles that the Council faces. To overcome these barriers, examples of successful cooperation should be shown. Moreover, common objectives about conservation and sustainable economic activities in protected areas, social awareness, and demand (public use of protected areas related to health) are factors that stimulate cross-sectional collaboration.

City of Reykjavik

Green spaces and the natural environment are extremely important for the citizens of Reykjavík, as throughout its history, access to such areas has been a key factor in its development and well-being. Research has demonstrated that there is a close link between better health and access to green spaces in daily life. Nature-related topics that the City is involved in are, for example, urban forestry, urban agriculture, and biodiversity habitat restoration. The City of Reykjavík has set a goal that over 95% of citizens should live within 300 metres from a green space or natural area. More specifically, the City has made a Biodiversity Strategy which serves as a roadmap of how the city can become greener and nature more sustainable.

Most green spaces in and around the city are used regularly for activities such as cycling, environmental education, cultural festivities, fitness and recreation. Protected areas are vulnerable and are mostly used for educational events but some are accessible for light fitness and recreation (such as cycling and running). Urban parks are key venues for various activities. The larger ones are important for urban forestry and ecological restoration as well as multiple fitness and recreation activities, while the smaller ones are used for cultural events and more intimate fitness activities such as yoga.

The City is surrounded by a vast area of mostly pristine countryside, albeit mostly un-protected, which provides diverse environments for activities like hiking, cycling, bird-

watching, picking berries and mushrooms; and cross-country skiing. The City has great access to healthy rivers that are used for recreational fishing and are important habitats for diverse flora and fauna. Moreover, Reykjavík is a coastal city and most of the coastline is devoted to public areas and are extremely popular for outdoor exercise and recreation, with numerous walking and cycling paths, as well as access to beach areas, one of which has geothermally heated pools. Large areas of the coast are protected and provide excellent opportunities for nature-observation and education.

Cooperation is stimulated between different stakeholders, such as public and private organisations in the fields of health, fitness and recreation, environmental affairs, conservation and forestry, volunteer groups, and schools. When setting up the municipality plan, meetings were organised in neighbourhoods and nature was part of the agenda of these meetings. This way, citizens are more involved in the plans. Also, when the City is planning projects, they seek people's opinions by making the plans available, for example, via internet. For the Biodiversity Strategy, a meeting was organized for NGOs and institutions involved in nature protection.

Crucial elements for stakeholder engagement are knowledge and respect among stakeholders, and a clear expression and communication of the objectives and reasons for developing a project. Barriers are a lack of interest in and knowledge of the topic among many groups involved, and a lack of time and funding. A way to improve collaboration is to take the ecosystem approach and demonstrate the need for health, social and nature synergies.

City of Botkyrka, Sweden – Natura 2000

The City of Botkyrka in Sweden has adapted a new park programme that stimulates the establishment of nature paths. Furthermore, it has a "green values programme" and the working group involves the forestry, leisure, environmental, and health departments. This programme aims to create conditions for richer biodiversity, stimulating outdoor life, good health, and good access to nature. It involves protected and unprotected areas. Another project in the city is the restoration of wetlands which is funded by national funds, and an effort is being made to make this area available for recreation purposes. Stakeholders involved in the latter project are landowners, organisations representing fisherman, the municipality, and nature protection organisations. Setting up a joint project is an important factor for stimulating cross-sectoral stakeholder engagement.

City of Tatabanya, Hungary – Natura 2000

The municipality and County of Tatabanya work together on their environmental programme, and the vision is that the greater the availability of healthy green areas, the healthier the people. The city contains local protected areas such as parks, Natura 2000 sites, and country-level protected areas. The city develops, for example, public parks and provides sport instruments, running tracks, and plants trees. To support large green infrastructures, the city collaborates with national authorities. Moreover, cooperation with NGOs, businesses and service companies takes place when projects require this.

A barrier that the city mentioned is the fact that most decision-makers see things first from an economic perspective. Therefore, it is important that the decision-maker, which is often the one funding the project, respects the knowledge of experts about ecological connections and a holistic view.

ConnectRegen, UK

ConnectRegen is a Community Benefit Society in Cheltenham with a focus on the regeneration of urban neighbourhoods. They are starting a project where they will transform a rundown car park into an attractive public space by planting it with trees and plants. Moreover, they will develop a sustainable urban drain system to water the green space, use solar power, and use the latest recycling facilities.

Stakeholders involved in this project are two community groups, two groups of traders that own shops near the car park, and the local council. Furthermore, ConnectRegen receives advice from legal, green, and engineering professionals. A steering group chaired by two councillors has already been set up, and regular public meetings are planned during the design stage.

Factors that have contributed to good collaboration so far are the political commitment to have formal and democratic accountability, taking into account the different interests of various sectors, and making sure the different stakeholders get to know each other. Presenting previous examples of successful projects also helps to engage stakeholders.

Funding is the main barrier to the project, not only for initiating and conducting the project, but also for maintaining the new car park in the long-term. Moreover, not all traders work well together and this is an obstacle that could cause problems in the future. Finally, the project has experienced some problems with support from the public sector who were initially resistant to new ways of working coming from within the community.

Municipality of Laholm, Sweden – Natura 2000

The municipality of Laholm recognises that living close to nature is nice and good for health. Therefore, it has different projects to develop health and social benefits from nature or green spaces. One of the projects involves the nature reserve of Såghuslund where they prepared a hiking trail with a picnic area. This trail is located near urban areas and was funded by LONA (a central government funding programme). In this project, the municipality works together with the local Disability Council, an umbrella organisation of around twenty disability organisations. Another project funded by LONA is the creation of a suspension bridge and trail at the waterfall at Krokan in Knäred. Knäreds' community association, which is an umbrella organisation for all associations in the district, were involved in the planning of the project and help to manage the area. There is also a 'Health Walk' in the city of Laholm and the municipality invests in the city park in Laholm.

The green areas in Laholm include the Såghuslund nature reserve, a Natura 2000 site, and the area of Krokan, which will become a reserve.

Joint activities are important for stimulating cooperation between stakeholders from biodiversity, health and social sectors. Joint action results in different organisations **taking** responsibility, and **programmes** that complement each other.

The main barriers for cross-sectoral cooperation are different budgets, different boards with various goals, and **a** lack of clarity regarding responsibility.

To set common goals, training and holding conferences with all stakeholders, could help to realise synergies between sectors. Also, the use of the ecosystem services concept, and **increasing** awareness of the importance of nature for health and social security, can stimulate synergies.

Angel Urban Physic Garden, UK

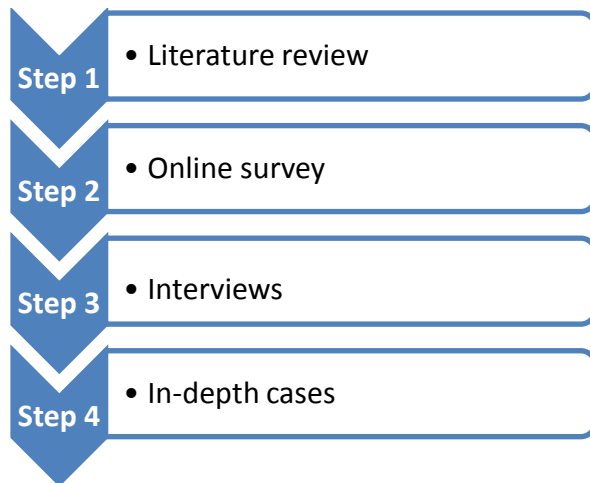
The Angel Urban Physic Garden is an individual project that consists of an eco-physic garden in a communal garden. This communal garden had been neglected and was never used. Neighbours, residents, Lambeth Council, and Agencies are stakeholders that are involved. The idea is to grow the project and to create vineyards and orchards on estates, in other green spaces and in pocket parks.

Barriers for cooperation are the inertia of the Lambeth council, resident opposition to the use of communal space, finance, and problems associated with austerity. Ways to overcome these barriers are meetings with the Council, landlord and residents to clear the air and make transparency obvious.

Annex 3 Surveying Stakeholders

As shown by the following figure, four different data collection methods were used to obtain relevant evidence and information on current stakeholder engagement practices in the fields related to the topic of this project.

DATA COLLECTION



DATA ANALYSIS

First, a review of relevant literature was conducted, which identified publications in the field of stakeholder governance. Particular emphasis was given to reports that addressed stakeholder engagement processes among the health, social and biodiversity fields. The purpose of this exercise was to define a theoretical framework that could be linked to the practical information that was obtained during the next three steps of data gathering.

Secondly, an online survey containing questions about stakeholder engagement and governance was circulated among a wide range of stakeholders operating at EU, national, regional or local (city) level. The third phase involved interviews with some of the identified key survey respondents as well as other stakeholders in the field to obtain more detailed insights into stakeholder involvement within specific projects and the current state-of-play. Finally, the in-depth case studies were analysed that had been identified during the interviews. This provided detailed information on existing stakeholder engagement processes in projects in Europe.

The next sections describe the four data collection methods in further detail.

Literature review

The aim of the literature review was to identify and define a theoretical framework that helped the researchers to better understand how stakeholder engagement works and how it can be improved. Within this report, references to the literature have been integrated to support the practical findings; it forms a bridge between the evidence described in literature

and the qualitative information obtained through the consultation processes with stakeholders.

The literature review considered both scientific articles and grey literature. Key words such as 'stakeholder analysis', 'public participation', 'governance' and 'biodiversity' were used to identify relevant literature. The review focused primarily on literature concerning stakeholder engagement and governance in projects and studies that took place in the European Union.

Secondly, 'snowballing' was used to identify further relevant studies; once a relevant article had been identified, its list of references was analysed for further relevant literature or to find additional details or in depth-knowledge about certain findings or statements made by the authors.

The main topic of the articles and studies we reviewed explored the factors related to stakeholder participation and the importance of governance structures for successful collaboration on projects at the nexus between biodiversity protection, health and social inclusion.

Survey

The next phase concerned the circulation of a survey among key stakeholders operating in the biodiversity, health and social fields. A range of stakeholder groups were identified, including authorities, NGOs, research institutes, the private sector, and voluntary groups. The stakeholders identified are active at EU, national, regional, and local level. In total, more than 300 stakeholders were identified: 177 environmental stakeholders (of which 7 are Natura 2000 managers and 15 are working at European level), 127 health stakeholders (of which 45 are operating at the European level), 52 social stakeholders (of which 13 are active at the European level), 43 national authorities, and 18 cities/local authorities.

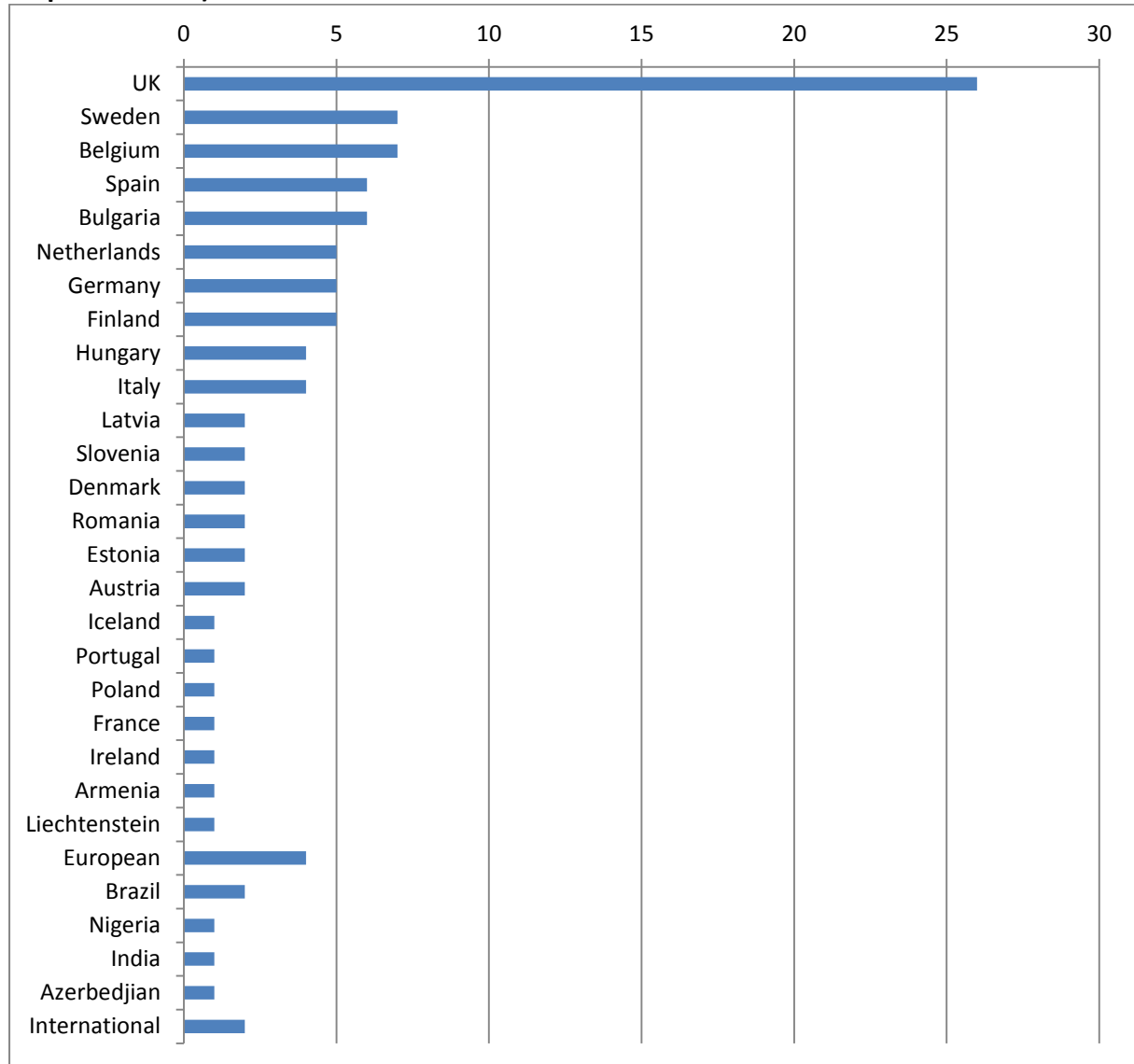
The stakeholders identified were also encouraged to further circulate the survey among their networks and contacts. As a result, some stakeholders put a link to the survey in their newsletter, or forwarded the link to their member organisations. For example, one of the stakeholders circulated the survey among the Ecosystem Services Partnership, which has over 2000 recipients, and ICLEI forwarded the link to its global network. It is therefore difficult to estimate how many people have received the link to the survey in total, but we are confident that this should be more than 500 people at least from across the EU.

The survey was developed in collaboration with IEEP and ICLEI can be found in Annex 4. A total of 105 responses were received; 96% of the respondents were engaged in concrete projects or approaches addressing the health or social benefits from nature or green spaces. Those who were not involved in any ongoing projects or initiatives but responded to the survey, expressed their interest in cross-sectoral collaboration but mentioned, for example, that they did not know how to set this up.

The following graph sets out the geographical spread of the survey respondents. The majority came from the UK, which is probably due to the English language used in the survey. Nevertheless, the survey responses provide a broad representation of 20 Member

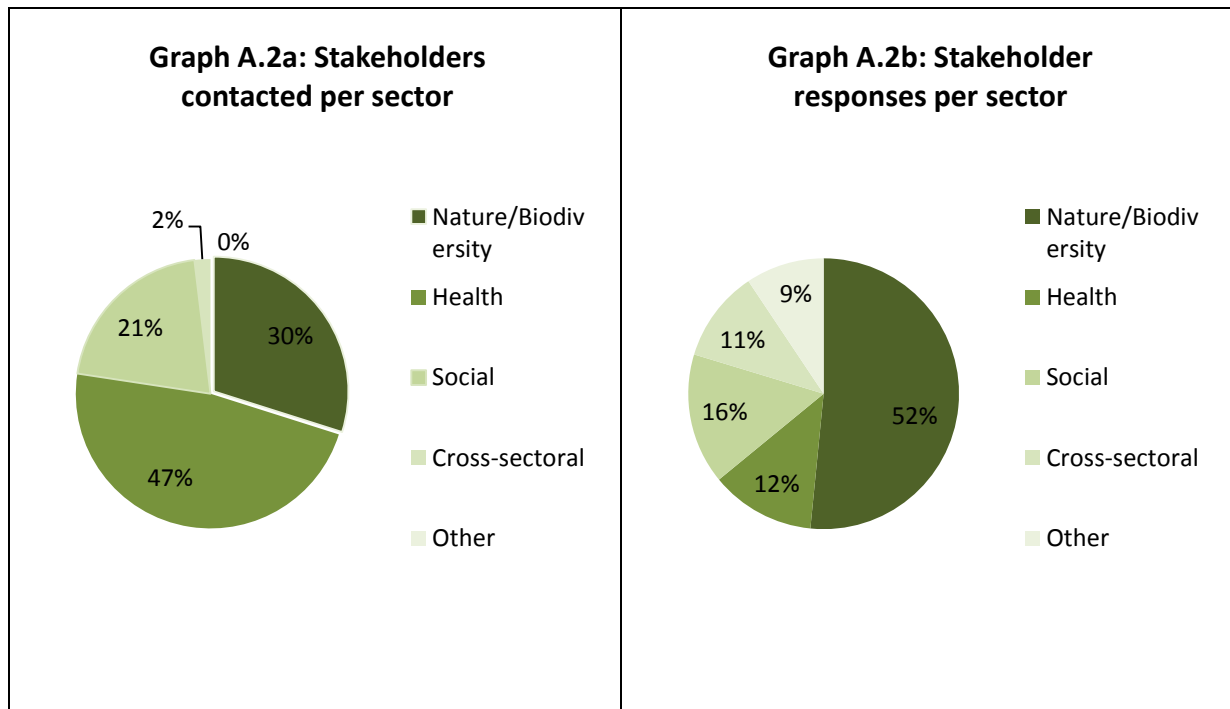
States, as well as two countries in the European Economic Area (EEA). Responses from stakeholders operating at EU or international level were also received. In addition, responses were received from five countries outside the EU and EEA (Brazil, Nigeria, India, Armenia and Azerbaijan): this provides an indication that work at the biodiversity/health/social inclusion nexus can be found in many parts of the world.

Graph A.1: Geographical representativeness of survey respondents (Total number of responses =105)



Looking at the response rate per sector, the following two graphs show that while a significant number of the stakeholders contacted concerned people operating in the health field, the response rate among this group (which includes stakeholders in the fields of recreation and sports) was the lowest. The response rate among stakeholders from the biodiversity/nature field was, on the other hand, high: more than half of the contacted stakeholders completed the survey. The cross-sectoral group concerns stakeholders that are operating across fields and sectors, e.g. networks focusing on social inclusion by organizing activities in nature, or organisations that organise specific activities for certain groups of patients. The relatively high response rate among this group indicates that the topic of

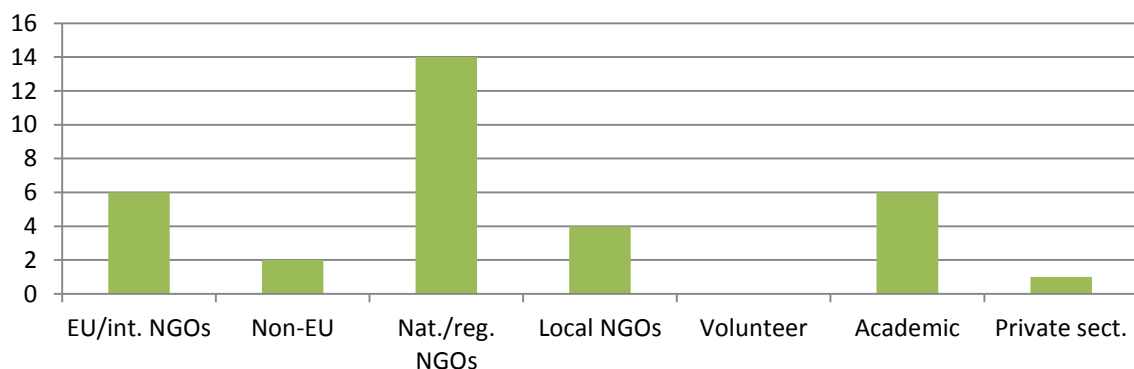
health and social benefits from nature protection and biodiversity is one that is of interest to stakeholders working across fields and that it is current topic for this stakeholder group.



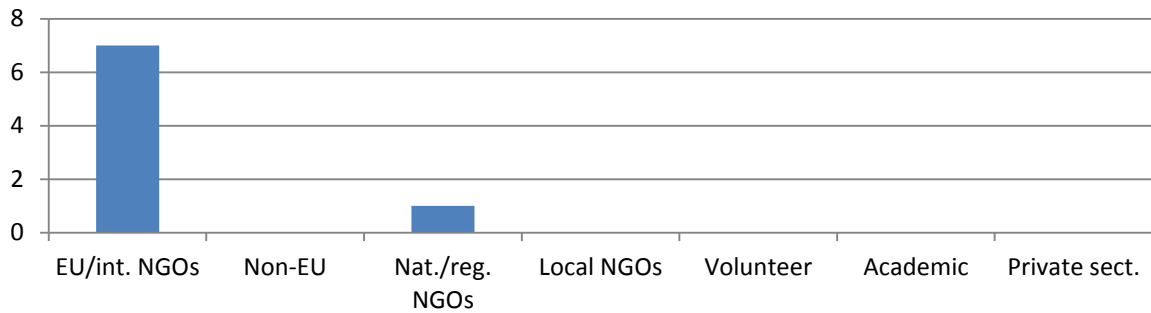
Next, we analysed what types of stakeholders responded to the survey within each sector. Three main groups were identified: NGOs (including volunteer groups), academia and the private sector. The NGOs were further split up according to the level they were operating at (EU/international, national/regional or local/city). The contacted authorities were analysed separately and will be discussed later.

The following graph shows, for each of these three groups, the number of respondents in the nature/biodiversity sector. Within the nature/biodiversity sector, a relatively high number of academic stakeholders were contacted, followed by national/regional and European/International NGOs. Looking at the response rates of these groups, the number of academic stakeholders who responded to the survey was low, while national/regional the number of responses from NGOs were more or less equal to the number contacted, suggesting a high level of awareness and interest on the part of this group.

Graph A.3: Nature/Biodiversity stakeholders responses

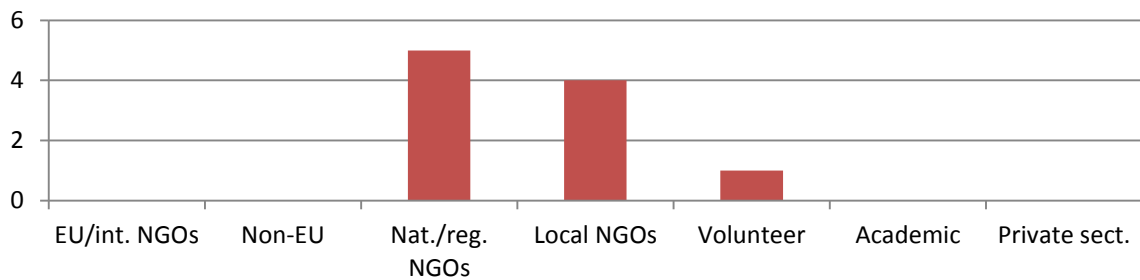


Graph A.4: Health stakeholders responses

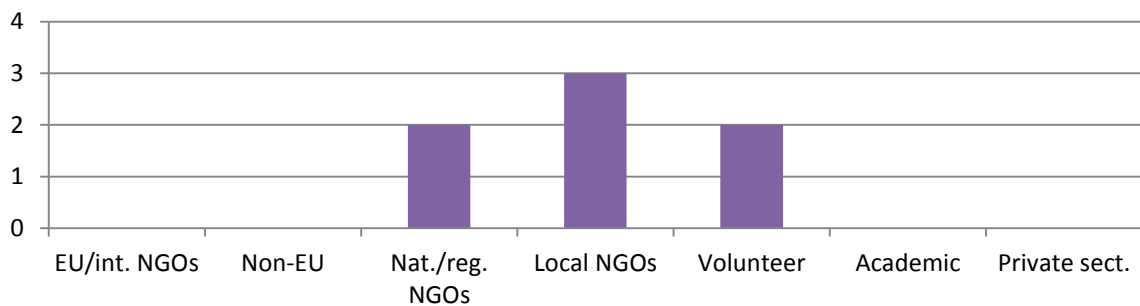


When looking at the number of stakeholder groups contacted in the social sector, we see that most people who were approached are operating in national/regional NGOs and EU/international NGOs (see graph A.5). Response rates were highest from national/regional NGOs, as well as local NGOs. Interestingly, even though no volunteer groups were identified as potential social stakeholders, some responses were received from this stakeholder group.

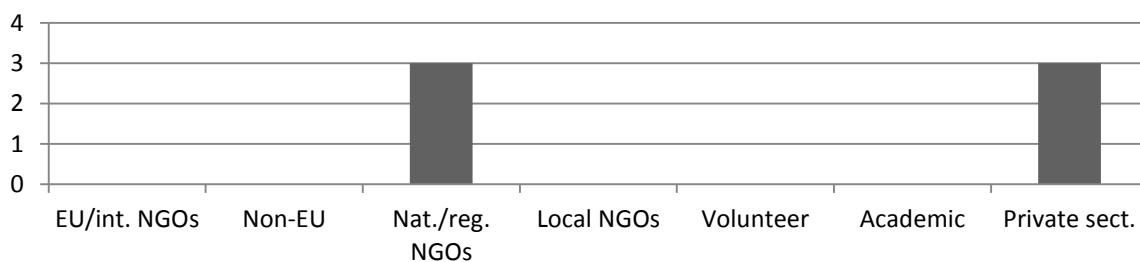
Graph A.5: Social stakeholders responses



Graph A.6: Cross-sectoral stakeholders responses



Graph A.7: Other stakeholders responses

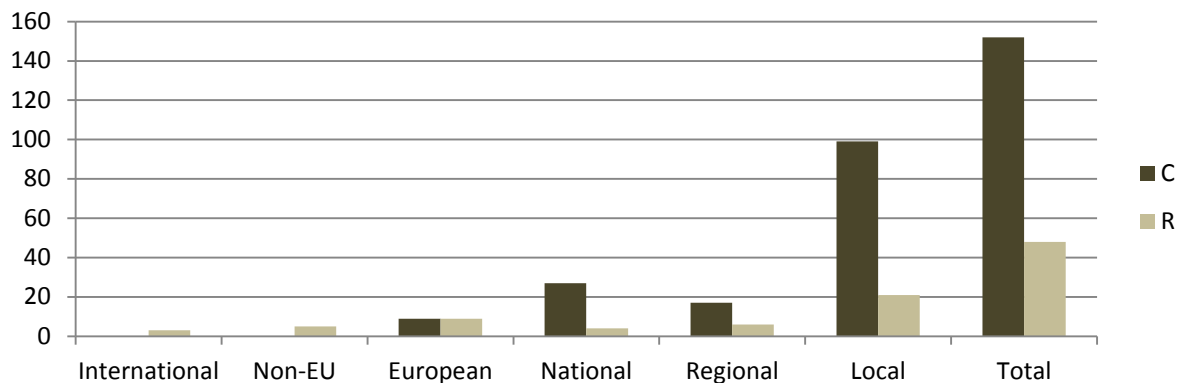


Finally, the number of authorities contacted and their response rates were analysed. The following graph sets out the number of EU/national/regional or local authorities that

received an invitation to respond to the survey, as well as the number of responses received.

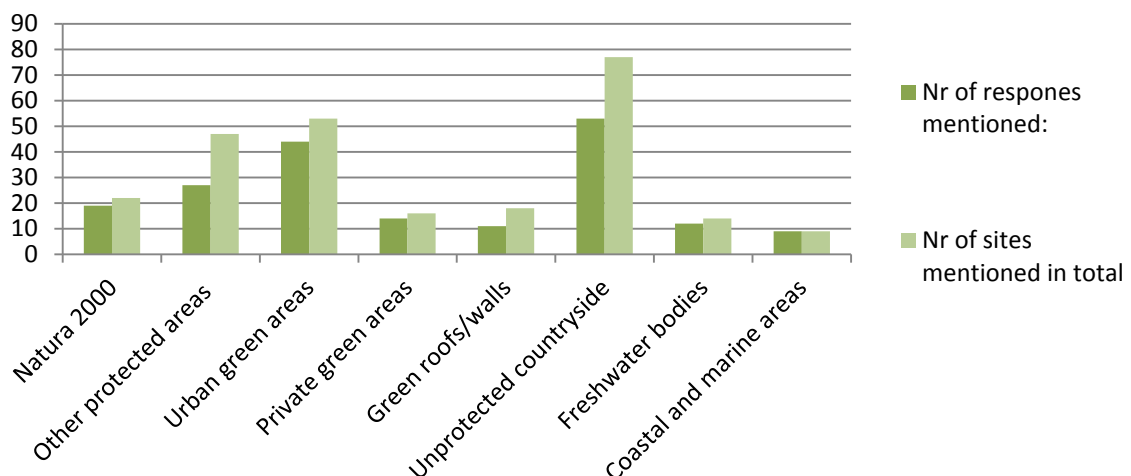
The graph shows that local authorities responded to the survey in particular – the number of respondents was higher than the number of people contacted, indicating that people forwarded our survey to colleagues. This also shows that addressing the health and social benefits of nature protection and biodiversity projects is a topic that is of great interest among local governments and cities.

Graph A.8: Governments/authorities contacted (C) and responses (R)



The survey responses also included data on the type of green spaces that were included in the projects or initiatives (question 5 of the survey). This information was collected to understand what green spaces were addressed most often and what areas might be neglected. It also identified Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas involved in projects. This way it was possible to identify the extent to which protected areas are currently considered as a vehicle for health and social benefits. Graph A.9 shows the number of times survey respondents identified different types of green areas.

Graph A.9: Type of green spaces



Note: the graph presents the total number of times each type of area was indicated in the survey responses to the question on the type of areas addressed. Where a response referred to several types of green areas, each was counted.

Natura 2000 sites were specifically mentioned in about 20% of the responses, while other protected areas were cited in slightly more responses (some of these, such as national parks, may also include Natura 2000 sites). Urban green areas including playgrounds, public parks and green boulevards were also mentioned in about 40% of the responses. Unprotected countryside areas – rural areas for which no protection was indicated – were mentioned most frequently. Types of areas that were mentioned less often include private green areas, green roofs and walls, freshwater bodies and coastal and marine areas.

Interviews

During the next phase of the project, a range of interviews were conducted. These concerned interviews with stakeholders who responded to the online survey, as well as separate interviews by the project manager with EU-level stakeholders (mainly from the EU institutions), which took place throughout the duration of the project.

The interviews with survey respondents aimed to obtain more details and in-depth information regarding their experience and knowledge in relation to governance and stakeholder engagement, particularly in relation to the initiatives and projects they were currently involved in themselves. The following criteria were defined to determine whether a respondent should be contacted for a follow-up interview or not:

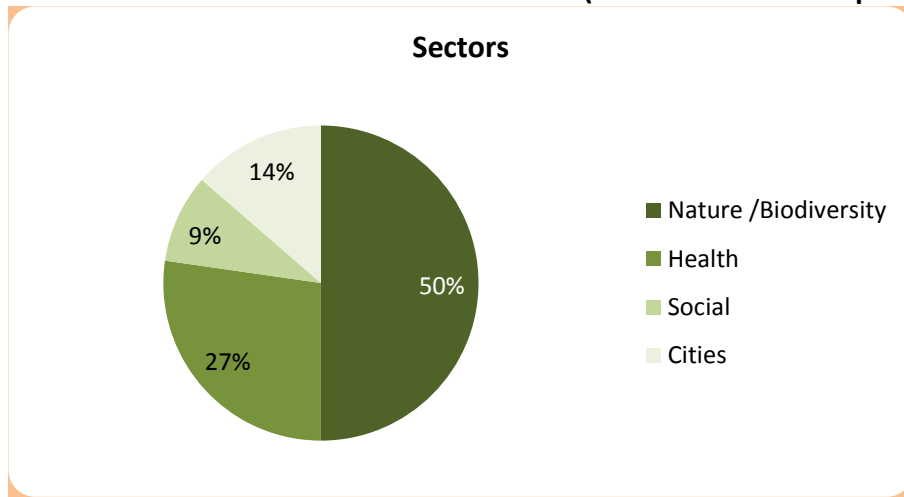
- The respondent is involved in a project addressing the health and social benefits of nature protection or biodiversity;
- A balanced representation between sectors (biodiversity/nature, health and social) as well as level that the stakeholders operate in (EU/international, national/regional and local/city);
- They are willing and available to share more details about their work (this was a question included in the survey); and
- The answers to the survey questions (particularly those related to successes and barriers for good stakeholder governance) were interesting, provided new bits of information that were useful to explore further, or included innovative ways of engaging with stakeholders in different fields.

In total, 22 responses were identified for the follow up, and invitations were sent to the stakeholders to check whether they were indeed interested in providing more details on their work. All contacted stakeholders confirmed their interest and interviews were scheduled during the months of July and August 2015.

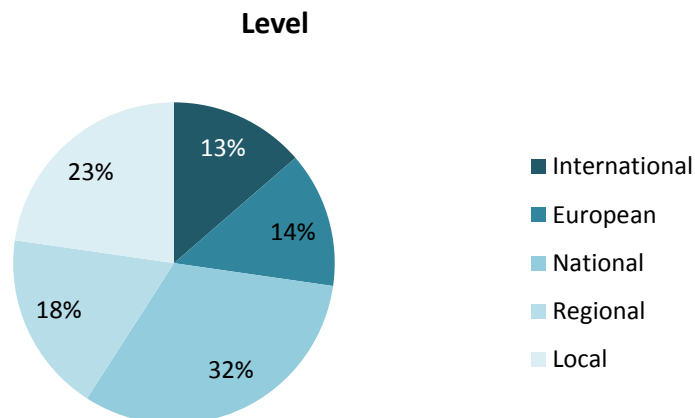
Meanwhile, a questionnaire for the interviews was developed, including questions about the project/initiative that the stakeholder is involved in, as well as follow-up questions focusing on stakeholder governance. This questionnaire served as a guideline during the interview; it provided the interviewer with an overall structure. However, the order of questions often varied per interview as these were adapted to the answers of the interviewees, and additional questions were frequently asked. All interviews were recorded with the agreement of the interviewee. Interviews were held via telephone, skype or face-to-face meetings, depending on the preferences of the stakeholder.

The following graphs show in which sectors the 22 stakeholders that participated in the interviews operate (graph A.10) and the level at which the initiatives take place (graph A.11).

Graph A.10: Sectoral overview of the interviewees (Total number of responses =22)



Graph A.11: Geographical overview of the interviewees (Total number of responses =22)



Secondly, throughout the duration of the project, the team interviewed a range of EU-level stakeholders, including: DG Environment, DG Sante, DG RTD, DG Clima, the EUROPARC Federation, IUCN Brussels and a wide range of others linked to the case studies.

The information obtained during these conversations was analysed and the details related to stakeholder governance were taken out and have been integrated in this overall report.

In-depth cases

Partners obtained detailed information on stakeholder governance based on online publications as well as follow-up interviews with stakeholders involved in the initiatives. The resulting twenty in-depth cases provide further information on current nature and biodiversity protection projects in Europe that address health and social benefits and that involve stakeholders from different sectors. The cases provide further examples of good practice for stakeholder engagement in similar projects, including in areas such as governance structures. Cases that contain relevant information regarding cross-sectoral stakeholder involvement have also been included in the study.

Annex 4 Survey Instrument

Welcome!

This survey is part of a European project, funded by the European Commission, which aims to understand, synthesise and communicate the health and social benefits of biodiversity and nature protection. It looks at a range of health and social benefits from Natura 2000 sites and wider green infrastructures - from the health benefits from the reduction of air pollution, noise mitigation and climate adaptation, to health benefits from living in a less stressful environment, outdoor recreation and exercise, and healthier lifestyles. Social benefits include social inclusion from access to green space as well as opportunities for engagement (i.e. employment, volunteering) and hence a social sense of worth and role.

To ensure that the study builds on a robust evidence base and on the most interesting practice and insights from across Europe, we would appreciate it if you have some time to fill in this short survey. The purpose of this survey is to understand what activities and practices you are involved in, and particularly what kind of collaborations with different sectors and actors were established and required to get where you are today (or where you wish to go in the future). This information will be used to develop a health-social-nature roadmap showing how a successful cross-sectoral initiative can be realised.

Please complete the survey by Monday 17 August; it should not take more than 15 minutes of your time.

Q1: Is your organisation/city/region/country engaged in projects or approaches to develop health and social benefits from nature or green spaces?

[If yes, please complete the rest of the questionnaire. If no, please state the reasons why]

Q2: How does your organisation/city/region/country work with nature or green spaces to meet health and social objectives? Examples include programmes, initiatives or projects that aim to use natural environment to reduce air pollution, increase physical activity, enhance mental well-being or improve social cohesion through nature and green spaces.

[Please provide a short summary of your work in this area, including a few key examples and a description of the overall objective. Use website links to highlight supporting information where necessary]

Q3: What sort of green spaces are linked to these activities: protected areas including Natura 2000 sites and/or specific green infrastructures such as urban parks, private gardens, green roofs, un-protected countryside, rivers or coastlines?

[Please describe the sorts of green spaces your organisation works with and how, if at all, the type of green space affects your work]

Q4: Why did your organisation/city/region/country start working with green spaces or the natural environment to meet social or health objectives?

[Please describe how the activities started and why]

Q5: Which stakeholders are involved and how do they work together?

[Please cite examples of how stakeholders are brought together; ideally examples of successful cooperation approaches that other organisations or countries could learn from]

Q6: What would you describe as success factors for facilitating cooperation between stakeholders from the biodiversity, health and social cohesion sectors?

[Please cite ideas/examples]

Q7: What are the main barriers/hurdles to overcome when working across biodiversity, health and social cohesion topics?

[Please cite /examples, ideally note successful solutions to overcoming these that other may learn from]

Q8: How could cooperation between stakeholders from the biodiversity, health and social sectors (further) improve so as to realise the health-social-nature synergies?

[Please cite ideas/examples]

Thank you for completing this short survey!

Please leave your contact details below:

Name:

Where are you from (country):

What is the name of your organisation:

Is your organisation part of a wider EU/international network focusing on biodiversity/health or social inclusion (e.g. ICLEI, WWF or WHO healthy cities network)?

Title/function:

Email:

Telephone:

Skype:

For what purpose(s) can we use your contact information?

You can contact me in case you wish to receive more details about the information provided in this survey

I would like to be invited to the project workshop that will take place in Brussels in November 2015

I would like to receive the final report of the project