



## UrbanByNature special offer: Learning Co-Production of Nature- based Solutions with DRIFT

"Co-Producing Nature-based Solutions: Tips, tricks and tools for local governments and active citizens" : A peer-to-peer course to design co-production processes for resilient and regenerative cities and communities

In times of rapid urbanisation, increasing population, resource depletion, degradation of ecosystems, growing pressures on urban land and a climate crisis, nature-based solutions (NBS) provide multiple opportunities for both society and nature. The UrbanByNature programme supports cities and practitioners in planning for and applying NBS that are cost-effective and mutually beneficial. Cities play a key role in fostering this transformative change towards more liveable, resilient and regenerative futures. Some cities have become pioneers in leading climate action and in implementing NBS in a participatory way. In this special edition course by UrbanByNature, the team of DRIFT - long-standing experts on collaborative planning - a course on co-producing NBS in cities.

- Are you involved in **implementing NBSs in cities** (e.g. by setting up or running community gardens, by working at a local authority, by facilitating multi-stakeholder collaborations, by running a local association, NGO or business operating at city level, by conducting action research in your city, etc.)?
- Are you interested in **learning more on how to design a co-production process** to implement NBS in your city?
- Do you want to learn from **peers experienced in designing co-production processes** and from **pioneers in implementing NBS in cities**?

If so, join us for this hands-on, intensive peer-learning course for elected officials, civil servants, civil society and nature-based enterprises motivated to foster co-production processes towards resilient and regenerative livelihoods. **The limited course will run between December 2021 and February 2022!**

**[Apply by filling in this application form by the 30th of November 2021!](#)**





## What are Nature-Based-Solutions?

Nature-Based Solutions are defined by the European Commission as solutions to societal change that are “inspired and supported by nature, and provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience” . These solutions bring diverse natural features and processes into urban and rural landscapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. NBS must benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services.

## Why co-produce nature-based solutions?

Co-production is a governance and planning method which can be used by cities and other stakeholders when developing NBS in cities. Co-production processes foster collaboration, partnership and learning among different societal actors (e.g. civil servants, citizens, urban planners, entrepreneurs, architects, scientists, etc.). In a co-production model, all these actors contribute to the design, implementation and management of NBS.

NBS address complex urban problems which have no quick fix. This is why we need a diverse set of actors to collaboratively design nature-based solutions responding to specific local needs.

## Course information

The "*Co-Producing Nature-based Solutions: Tips, tricks and tools for local governments and active citizens*" course will be organised online between December 2021 and February 2022 with the aim of supporting participants to connect, learn and share experiences on how to design co-production processes for implementing NBS in (their) cities. DRIFT and fellow partners will bring in the knowledge and experience gathered as part of the EU-funded [Connecting Nature project](#) on how to design and facilitate co-production processes towards regenerative and resilient cities.

During this course, participants will be encouraged to organise an intervention related to the design of a co-production process towards implementing NBS in their working or living environment. For instance, co-organising a webinar with colleagues or partners from the civil society, or applying CONNECTING Nature tools in shared events.

## Learning objectives

The "*Co-Producing Nature-based Solutions: Tips, tricks and tools for local governments and active citizens*" course aims to support you to:





- Gain new knowledge about co-production, NBS and system thinking for regenerative and resilient working and living contexts;
- Get inspired and learn about innovative co-production and governance processes that have already been implemented by cities as part of the Connecting Nature project;
- Establish new connections at a personal level with other stakeholders leading sustainability transitions in different places all over the world, especially in Latin-America, North-America, Europe and Africa;
- Experience an innovative learning environment encouraging experiential and peer-to-peer learning; and
- Apply newly acquired knowledge and tools in your context.

### What should you contribute?

In order to participate, you should:

- Demonstrate motivation & curiosity to be part of an innovative intensive online learning format;
- Share your experience, knowledge and network;
- Commit to participate in the online activities; and
- Bring back and share the lessons learnt from the course in your organisation or initiative.

### What does the course offer?

We will provide:

- Theoretical framing and content and a fertile ground to spark continued interactions and knowledge exchange;
- Access to people engaged in the ConnectingNature project as well as of DRIFT and ICLEI networks.

### How can you participate?

**Please fill in this [Application Form](#) by the 30th of November.** We only have a limited number of seats available to ensure an interactive and meaningful exchange amongst all participants. You will be notified, whether you can participate, in the first week of December.

Participation in "Co-Producing Nature-based Solutions: Tips, tricks and tools for local governments and active citizens" is free of charge, but there are some conditions to participate: The participants need to be available to actively engage in the course and participate in *all* online interactive sessions (see timeline of the course). The course will be conducted in English. The maximum number of participants is 35. We will select participants in order to create productive diversity within the group.



## Course Timeline

The course will include the following online activities:

Date	Time	Activity
Wednesday 15th of December 2021	15:00-17:30 CET / 9:00 -11:30 GMT-4	Introductory webinar & getting to know one another
Wednesday 19th of January 2022	14:30-18:00 CET / 8:30-12:00 GMT-4	Interactive online workshop#1 - Contextualising Co-production in your city/working context
Wednesday 2nd of February 2022	14:30-18:00 CET / 8:30-12:00 GMT-4	Interactive online workshop#2 - Planning co-production activities for a chosen NBS
Wednesday 2nd of March 2022	14:30-18:00 CET / 8:30-12:00 GMT-4	Interactive online workshop#3 - Sharing main insights and next steps

## Who are the organisers?

The course is delivered by [DRIFT](#) as part of the UrbanByNature programme, which is run by [ICLEI Europe](#) as part of the Connecting Nature project. If you haven't registered to UrbanByNature yet, [register here](#) and receive the capacity-building programme's monthly digests.

[UrbanByNature](#) is a facilitated expertise-sharing and capacity-building programme to empower local governments all around the world to harness the boundless potential of nature for sustainable urban development. It aims to give local governments, civil society and businesses the opportunity to co-create a sustainable and resilient urban future using nature's innovative potential. Together UrbanByNature wants to lift the barriers to urban nature and set our cities and towns on a new green and blue course. The programme is built on a solid foundation taking into consideration relevant methodologies such as the [Green Climate City programme](#) and the [Green City Action plan methodology for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development \(EBRD\)](#), both developed by ICLEI, as well as the [CitiesWithNature Initiative](#), designed by ICLEI, IUCN, and the Nature Conservancy. Furthermore, the International standard [ISO 37101 "Sustainable development in communities"](#) was also





consulted to determine a holistic approach for the UrbanByNature programme. The integrated management cyclical approach has been set up in consultation with the mentioned relevant approaches to avoid duplication or reinvention of the wheel. Furthermore, UrbanByNature's concept also builds on the building blocks of the "[Connecting Nature Framework](#)" (Technical design, Indicators, Financing and Business Models, Entrepreneurship, Governance, Co-production and Reflexive Monitoring). UrbanByNature's integrated planning process, which has been used by local governments that are part of the ICLEI network and beyond, accounts for the complex combination of departments, sectors and organisations involved in sustainable urban planning. The programme is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the questions and expertise participants and contributors bring to the table from their diverse backgrounds and regions.

[Connecting Nature](#) is a consortium of 30 partners within 16 European countries, and hubs in Brazil, China, Korea & The Caucasus (Georgia and Armenia). The project is co-working with local authorities, communities, industry partners, NGOs and academics who are investing in large scale implementation of nature-based projects in diverse urban settings.

[DRIFT](#) is a leading research institute on and for sustainability transitions. DRIFT sees the opportunities and the need for fundamental change towards a sustainable and just society. DRIFT develops and shares transition knowledge, applies innovative governance approaches in practice and offers academic and professional training. In this way, DRIFT aims to help people, cities, sectors and organizations to proactively contribute to sustainability transition.

ICLEI is a global network of more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, ICLEI influences sustainability policy and drives local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. [ICLEI Europe](#) provides its members in Europe, the Middle East and West Asia with a voice on the European and international stage, a platform to connect with peers and tools to drive positive environmental, economic and social change. ICLEI Europe works closely with an extended network of local and regional governments and partners on a broad range of topics.

## Contact

For further information, do not hesitate to get in touch with Giorgia Silvestri, Co-Production Course coordinator ([silvestri@drift.eur.nl](mailto:silvestri@drift.eur.nl)), or with UrbanByNature ([urbanbynature@iclei.org](mailto:urbanbynature@iclei.org)).

