

Systemic Integration of Transformative Technical and Nature-based Solutions to Improve Climate Neutrality of European Cities and Regions and tackle Climate Change: the URBreath Approach

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URBREATH Project Celebrates Major Milestones in Its First Year

The URBREATH Horizon Project is proud to announce significant accomplishments in its first year, laying a strong foundation for implementing Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) across European cities. By leveraging community participation, Local Digital Twins, and AI technologies, URBREATH integrates transformative technical and Nature-Based Solutions to improve urban sustainability, foster citizen engagement, and seamlessly incorporate nature into city planning.

Key First-Year Achievements

1. Pilot City Experiences with NBS

The URBREATH project collaborated with nine pilot cities to apply Nature-Based Solutions using co-creation and digital technologies. Cities assessed pilot sites, identified needs, and established visions, creating a baseline for future urban development and NBS integration.

2. Use Case Scenarios for NBS

Building on pilot city needs and challenges, use case scenarios were identified to demonstrate NBS applications in diverse urban contexts, highlighting their benefits and showcasing the URBREATH Toolbox's capabilities.

3. NBS-Specific Models and Data Collection

The project has advanced models to address NBS-related physical phenomena, using data from front-runner cities to support urban planning and deepen understanding of built and natural environments.

4. Linking NBS to Socioeconomic and Well-being Impacts

URBREATH explores the link between NBS, socioeconomic factors, and citizen well-being, aiming to show how NBS can enhance urban quality of life through insights on land use, urban planning, and the natural environment.

5. Local Digital Twins for European Cities

The creation of Local Digital Twins (LDTs) for European cities has been a key focus of the project. These 3D models, using advanced software and data integration processes, will enable the pilot cities to visualize NBS implementation and monitor progress. A key performance indicator catalog has also been identified to track the effectiveness of NBS over time.

6. eParticipation Toolset for Stakeholder Co-Creation

The eParticipation toolset empowers citizens and stakeholders to actively engage in decision-making, facilitating co-creation and ensuring NBS solutions align with local community needs and preferences.

7. Robust Dissemination and Communication Strategy

The project has implemented a targeted dissemination and communication strategy to promote URBREATH's goals, ensuring key information reaches relevant audiences and raising awareness of the importance of NBS.

8. Market Analysis and Commercialisation Activities

The URBREATH team completed an initial market analysis and is advancing IPR management and commercialization efforts, crucial for sustaining project outcomes and identifying stakeholders and growth opportunities.

9. Project Management and Data Ethics

The project has advanced its governance framework, including research ethics and data management plans, ensuring adherence to the highest standards of ethical conduct, data security, and governance throughout implementation.

Looking Ahead

Building on these achievements, URBREATH will continue to drive innovation in urban sustainability. By integrating NBS, advancing digital tools, and fostering active citizen participation, the project is shaping smarter, greener, and more resilient cities across Europe.

The URBREATH team is eager to collaborate further with local governments, stakeholders, and citizens to create urban spaces that are environmentally sustainable, healthier, and more connected.

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