

Call for City Tandem

Deadline for submission of interest: 11/04/2022

About CLEARING HOUSE

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

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

More information on CLEARING HOUSE is available through <http://www.clearinghouseproject.eu>

About the City Tandem

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

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

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

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

Activities are expected to start around June 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 821242. Several Chinese CLEARING HOUSE partners, NFGA, MOST and CAF have also contributed to the funding. 该项目获得欧洲 H2020 研究与创新计划的资助 (拨款协议号码: 821242)。部分中国合作伙伴 也为此提供了资金。



Why participate

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

They will:

- 1) Explore solutions and innovation provided by UF-NBS peer cities, and learn how to adopt them.
- 2) Get support from recognized international experts and academics.
- 3) Showcase your own local governments experiences, policies and good practices internationally.
- 4) Be featured in the CLEARING HOUSE action's events, publications and outreach.
- 5) Get sponsored to participate in the CLEARING HOUSE City Tandem activities

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

- Return airplane fares (economy) to the partner city (2 persons per delegation)
- A fixed stipend that will cover accommodation for 4 nights, meals, local travel for each delegate member.

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

Who can participate

- 1) Any local or metropolitan authorities located in Europe, Latin America or Northern Africa.
- 2) With a population of 250.000+ inhabitants.
- 3) Committed to the implementation of UF-NBS projects.

How to participate

For any local authorities wishing to participate in the call for interest, official representatives of this authority must send the following required documents to Mr. Guillaume Berret

gberret@metropolis.org (subject: CLEARING HOUSE CITY TANDEM) and before 11/04/2022:

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

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

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

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Themes

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

- inner-city afforestation
- air quality improvement
- heat-wave mitigation
- outdoor recreation
- restoring former mining sites
- urban regeneration
- socio-cultural integration
- green infrastructure

Process of selection

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

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

- Level of commitment – proved by documents on the implementation of UF-NBS projects in the local authority represented (Action Plan, Budget...)
- Topic submitted matches to the one of a potential city partner
- Involvement of the local authority in another H2020/EU project tackling UF-NBS or other nature-based solutions.
- Contribution of submitted UF-NBS project/s to the accomplishment of goals established by the global agendas (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Aichi targets...)
- Strength of compliance of the UF-NBS to the Global Standard for NBS

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