# From Planning to Action:

A Summer School on Urban NbS for Professionals and Academics



OF ARCHITECTURE

AND URBAN STUDIES













The Summer School goal is to equip municipal managers and urban planners with tools to integrate NbS into ecosystem services assessment, economic development strategies and boost the Italian NBS Hub's visibility among decision-makers and policymakers. Our Target audience are Practitioners, decision-makers, municipal managers, impact investors, designers, experts, early academics and local communities.



What: Urban NbS training workshop on urban regeneration

Who: professionals - Research & Administration

How: Hands-on learning and networking and synergies with ITA Hub

Why: Learning how to structure financially viable NbS projects

NBS tour in Metropolitan area of Milan in synergy with NBS 9 July 2025 Italy HUB

#### 10 July 2025

14:00

Lunch Break

#### Program

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9:00	9:30	Welcome coffee and networking between par	ticipants	
9:30	10:00	Introduction to NBS and Summer School: From Planning to Action: A SummerSchool on Urban NbS for Professionals	Israa Mahmoud/LABSIMURB Gregorio Sgrigna Aude Zingraf-Hamed Monica Altamirano	DAStU, Politecnico di Milano CNR IRET CNRS/ENGEES ALTAMIRA& NetworkNature
10:15	10:45	'Ecosystem services assessment for adaptive urban spatial planning. Insight from cases in Lombardy.	Andrea Arcidiacono/LABPPTE Andrea Benedini/LABPPTE	DAStU, Politecnico di Milano
10:45	11:00	Harnessing NBS in urban nature plans	Chiara Cortinovis/PLANES	DICAM, qe qui li
11:00	11:15	Graphic storytelling for NBS	Bettina Wilk	DICAM, University of Trento  The Nature of Cities  Audini Py Jarden
11:15	11:30	11:30 Coffee break and networking between participants		
11:30	12:00	NBS and use of the DSS platform (Decision Support System)	Sean Bradley	Groundwork, London
12:00	12:30	Co-creative assessments of ES in NbS planning	Francesco Sica/EVALPRO	DiaP, La Sapienza, Roma
12:30	13:00	Q&A with all participants	All Speakers and discussants	

### NbS Summer School

The summer school has the following objectives:

Empower municipal decision-makers, Integrate NbS in local urban planning, Enhance governance and funding access, Foster new professional networks

The workshop promotes urban sustainability by integrating NbS into planning and design, boosting public-private collaboration, and easing access to funding early in the investment cycle. The event fosters co-designed knowledge from policymakers, academia, and business to create shared understanding and innovative strategies for NbS, enabling diverse perspectives and collaboration.

#### NBS and Project development phases

10 July 2025	Financing a Regeneration Strategy: Phase 1: The Strategic and Economic Business Case			
14:00 14:30	Introduction to the Financing Framework for Water Security method for project preparation	Monica Altamirano de Jong	ALTAMIRA & NetworkNature	
14:30 15:30	Developing the Theory of Change (Group Model Building Exercise)			
15:30 16:00	Selection of project clusters and classification of	of measures		
16:00 17:00	Agreeing on a hierarchy of functions and levels Groups formation and topics selection	s of service		
	Aperitivo or self-paid dinner	•	1999-9988-999-9	
11 July 2025	Financing a Regeneration Strategy. Phase 2: The Financial, Commercial and Ma	nagement Business Cases	Register now!	
9:30 10:30	Designing a funding strategy identification of alternative revenue streams	Monica Altamirano de Jong	ALTAMIRA & NetworkNature	
10:30 10:45	Technical Challenges in NBS implementation	Francesca Framba	Città Metropolitana di Milano	
	Engaging with wider public and policy-makers Phase 3: Collaborative governance and citizens			
11:00 12:00	Choice of collaborative governance models using the DSS and co-creation with citizens in multiple contexts: examples from London, Milan and Rome.	Israa Mahmoud/LABSIMURB Sean Bradley Francesco Sica/EVALPRO Aude Aude Zingraf-Hamed	DAStU, Politecnico di Milano Groundwork, London DiaP, La Sapienza, Roma CNRS/ ENGEES	
12:00 13:00	Group work	All Participants		
13:00 14:00	Lunch Break			
14:00 15:30	Group work revisions	Israa Mahmoud/LABSIMURB Gregorio Sgrigna Aude Zingraf-Hamed Monica Altamirano de Jong	DAStU, Politecnico di Milano CNR IRET CNRS/ENGEES ALTAMIRA& NetworkNature	
15:30 16:00	Group presentations	All Participants		
16:00 17:00	Round table discussion and final feedback on groups work and projects	Eugenio Morello/ LABSIMURB	DAStU, Politecnico di Milano	

## Core organizing team



Israa H. Mahmoud, Ph.D, is a polyglot Architect and Urban Planner. She is Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the Laboratorio di Simulazione Urbana Fausto Curti, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Politecnico di Milano, working at the National Biodiversity Future

Center (NBFC) as a researcher on co-creation and co-governance themes related to urban biodiversity in living labs.



Gregorio Sgrigna | Technologist at CNR-I-RET. He has been actively involved in national and international projects on Nature-based Solutions and ecosystem services, including Horizon, COST-Action, and PRIN. His work focuses on NbS, especially urban forests for

air quality. He studies particulate matter (PM) on leaves using electron microscopy. As a member of the NbS Italy Hub coordination group, he supports national networking and integration of NbS.



Aude Zingraf-Hamed is an environmental geographer whose work bridges landscape planning, spatial governance, and climate resilience. Her research explores the transformative governance of nature-based solutions (NBS), with a particular focus on how rivers,

wetlands, and forests contribute to urban and territorial resilience in the face of climate change and socio-ecological transitions.



Mónica A. Altamirano de Jong, PhD | Systems Thinker and global expert in Public-Private Partnerships and Climate Finance. Monica is passionate about making a just transition to a regenerative economy financially feasible and partners with public

and private sector pioneers in driving a paradigm shift towards a mission-driven approach in infrastructure investment planning.

# Invited speakers



Andrea Arcidiacono | Full Professor in Urban Planning, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Politecnico of Milano. Coordinator of the BSc programme in Urban Planning, AUIC School. Member of the PhD Board in Urban Planning, Design and

Policy UPDP. Director of the LabPPTE (Landscape Plans Territories Ecosystems Lab). He has been vice-president of the National Institute of Urban Planning, INU.



Andrea Benedini | PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Policy and Design at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Politecnico di Milano. His research is dedicated to improving urban resilience through nature-based solutions, green-blue

infrastructure and ecosystem services, with a focus on adaptation to the impacts of extreme precipitation.



Chiara Cortinovis | Currently Rita Levi Montalcini Assistant Professor of ecological planning at the University of Trento. Chiara's research focuses on the interface between urban planning and urban ecology. Previously Alexander von Humboldt fellow at the

Humboldt University in Berlin (DE) and postdoc at Lund University (SE).



Sean Bradley | A sustainable Urban Designer for Groundwork London focused on social process and neighbourhood design in the context of urban living labs. He is a co-creation and co-governance specialist applying NbS and socially dimensioned urban spaces

to help create healthy, resilient and sustainable neighbourhoods.



Francesco Sica. He serves as Assistant Professor in economic valuation and project assessment at the Department of Architecture and Design, Sapienza University, Rome. In his study, he looks into nature-based investment economics, multi-criteria/objectives

decision-making systems, and econometric models building for public-private sustainable urban design.



Eugenio Morello, architect and associate professor at Politecnico di Milano (DAStU), coordinates the PhD programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy. He leads the "Fausto Curti Urban Simulation Lab" and the "Climate Change, Risk and Resilience Lab,"

contributing to EU and national projects. His research focuses on urban design, environmental quality, and climate-energy transitions for sustainable cities.



Bettina Wilk is a sustainable urban development practitioner with expertise in nature-based solutions, urban resilience, and environmental governance. Bettina has worked with local authorities on policy integration, nature-inclusive

urban planning and governance with ICLEI Europe. She now leads projects and services development on urban nature at The Nature of Cities Europe, fostering strategic partnerships to advance sustainable urban futures.



Francesca Framba is an Administrative officer of the Metropolitan City of Milan, works within the Environment Area on research and innovation projects to territorialize climate change

adaptation policies and actions, particularly in the area of sustainable water management