



INTERLACE

RESTORING URBAN ECOSYSTEMS
RECUPERANDO ECOSISTEMAS URBANOS

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Nature-based solutions for Chemnitz (Germany)

Results of the INTERLACE project



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Cities are currently facing various challenges: The effects of climate change, the health and well-being of residents, securing economic development and prosperity, protecting the environment and biodiversity. One possible approach to meeting these challenges are so-called nature-based solutions (NbS). These are solutions that use nature or natural processes and are inspired and supported by nature.

Resilient and future-proof Chemnitz through NbS

Nature-based solutions should be increasingly considered and implemented in plans and projects because they are cost-effective, offer ecological, social and economic benefits, and help to build resilience to climate change. NbS bring more and diverse ecosystems and natural processes to cities and landscapes through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions. They contribute to biodiversity and the provision of a range of ecosystem services such as climate regulation, water retention and habitat for animal species.

NbS in practice: Renaturation of Kappelbach and revitalization of Bürgerpark Gablenz in Chemnitz

One example of NbS in Chemnitz is the renaturation of the Kappelbach and Pleißenbach streams. The watercourses were completely or partially freed from their artificial, straightened riverbeds. The banks were naturally shaped and retention areas and meanders were created. In addition, access to the watercourse was facilitated for the local population.



Renaturalised Pleißenbach (© Stadt Chemnitz, Jasmin Schubert)

When revitalizing the Bürgerpark Gablenz, attention was also paid to ensure that people in the area benefit from recreation while nature is protected at the same time. “Bürgerpark” refers to a park particularly for citizens. The creation of social elements, the renaturation of meadows and trees and the creation of water features have turned the park into a real natural oasis in Chemnitz.



Bürgerpark Gablenz (© Stadt Chemnitz, Pressestelle)

INTERLACE project: Chemnitz benefits from international exchange on NbS

The City of Chemnitz is a partner in the EU-funded INTERLACE project. The aim of the project is to promote the use of NbS for the renaturation of ecosystems in European and Latin American cities. INTERLACE offers an opportunity for city administrations, residents, organizations, and businesses to work together in new and creative ways – for a better future for all. Representatives of the City of Chemnitz have the opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues from other cities facing similar challenges, e.g. Granollers (Spain) or Niepołomice (Poland).



INTERLACE consortium (© INTERLACE)

During the INTERLACE project period (2021-2024), various products and instruments were developed in different activation fields to promote and support the implementation of NbS in the cities - three of them specifically for Chemnitz:

- The instrument for **climate adaptation in development plans**, enables the city to directly control the development of NbS in a targeted manner by planning the development of new buildings with NbS on the one hand and providing recommendations for action for investors and developers on the other.
- The **"MACH'S GRÜNER" campaign** has been creating public awareness of the topic in Chemnitz since 2023 and raising awareness of urban nature and NbS.
- The **city plan for heat days** provides low-threshold information about climate adaptation measures in Chemnitz and where they can be found in the city.

The INTERLACE project has led to further positive effects for the city of Chemnitz:

- Over the entire duration of the project, an additional position in the city planning office was fully funded by the project.
- The project acted as a catalyst for current and future fields of action.
- New project knowledge was acquired and transferred to the city administration and city events.
- Access to and expansion of new city and knowledge networks were promoted.
- A positive image of the city of Chemnitz was strengthened both nationally and internationally through exchanges, project meetings and the organization of an international conference.
- Participation in the project increased the attractiveness of the city administration for skilled workers.

Help with planning and implementation of NbS in the city

INTERLACE promotes NbS by providing various information products. The most important INTERLACE products for politics and city administration are:

- Recommendations for action/determinations for climate adaptation in development plans (German): Climate adaptation measures in development plans for investors and developers
- City plan for heat days: Online map to locate refreshing places on heat days
- Team Stadtnatur (German): Cross-departmental working group on the topic of urban nature (scientific/public/internal)

- Assessment framework for NbS (English): Tool for decision support for the implementation of NbS in the city
- Minecraft (German) : environmental education offer for the playful development of NbS for pupils in the city
- Climate Rally (German) : app-based tour for pupils, young adults and families to provide information on the topic of sustainable urban planning
- Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) (English): free online course for administrative staff on the topic of NbS
- Overview of policy instruments with practical examples, that enable restorative nature-based solutions (English)
- Participatory processes for restoring urban ecosystems ecosystems (English)
- Urban Governance Atlas (English): collection of more than 250 good policy governance options for NbS

For access to all products of the project, additional information and links to the products, please visit this page: https://www.chemnitz.de/interlace_produkte (German)

Contact persons in Chemnitz

If you have any questions about the implementation of nature-based solutions in Chemnitz, you can contact:

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Interlace-project.eu



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