



INTERLACE

RESTORING URBAN ECOSYSTEMS
RECUPERANDO ECOSISTEMAS URBANOS

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New tool for local authorities: search engine for financial support for nature-based solutions



**Metropolia
Krakowska**



FUNDACJA
SENDZIMIRA



1. Introduction

Implementing nature-based solutions (NbS) is crucial in addressing concrete environmental and climate challenges in Krakow Metropolis (KM), such as urban flooding, urban heat island effect, and biodiversity loss. Green infrastructure interventions, such as green roofs, pocket parks, and permeable pavements, can help mitigate these challenges. Krakow Metropolis Association has set ambitious goals to combat climate change in its [Krakow Metropolis 2030 Strategy](#) and [Climate Strategy of Krakow Metropolis](#). It has been developing governance instruments to support the implementation of NbS.

The European Commission defines nature-based solutions as:

Solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions.

Among the most significant barriers to implementing NbS in KM are financial obstacles. This includes the scarcity of dedicated funding for nature-based projects, limited knowledge about available resources, and limited experience with mechanisms to involve private sector funds in NbS initiatives.

A proposed solution to these challenges is **the financial support search engine**, a tool initiated by the INTERLACE Local City Network Accelerator Group, which operates at the Krakow Metropolis Association. This tool is designed to significantly enhance the availability of information about funds to support local authorities in implementing nature-based projects, thereby directly addressing the financial barriers.



Rain gardens on Błonia Niepołomice retain water in the ground and are a natural habitat for many native species of plants, insects, amphibians and birds.

2. Search engine functions

The search engine for offers for financial support for nature-based solutions has been created to increase the opportunities for blue-green infrastructure projects. The tool, available on the Krakow Metropolis Association website (<https://metropoliakrakowska.pl/>), offers an interactive interface that enables an efficient search for information on current calls for proposals.

The search engine database contains detailed information on:

- type of beneficiary (who can apply for funding in a given call for proposals),
- scope of investment (eligible costs),
- type of support (e.g. infrastructure investment, technical support, human resources),
- financing tools (e.g. financial instruments, grants, non-financial),
- the duration of the project,
- amount of available support.

All the elements have been thematically tagged, making navigating and finding relevant information among the available options easy.

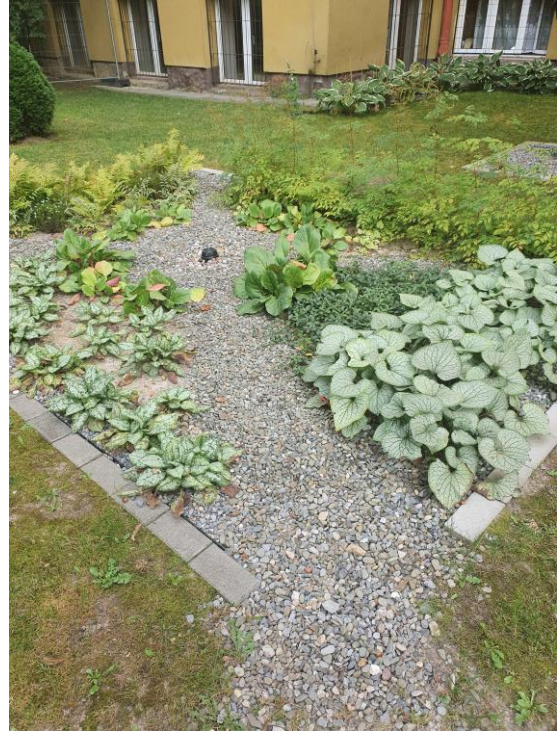
3. Objectives and benefits

The aim of providing a search engine is to increase the implementation of NbS in Krakow Metropolis by increasing the availability of funds for this type of investment. The benefits will include:

- reducing flood risk by enhancing retention and delaying surface runoff,
- improving local biodiversity,
- increasing attractiveness of the region through investment in blue-green infrastructure,
- improving the local environment: increasing humidity, local air purification and reducing thermal nuisance, which will positively impact residents' psychological and physical well-being.

In KM, there is a growing interest in implementing NbS to address environmental challenges and enhance the well-being of local communities. These initiatives align with the goals of the *Krakow Metropolis 2030 Strategy*, which emphasises sustainable urban development.

Access to up-to-date information on funds is crucial for implementing NbS in MK. By providing local authorities with this information, they can effectively plan and execute projects that benefit the environment and contribute to residents' well-being. Securing appropriate funding is essential to bridge the gap between interest in and implementation of NbS.



Rain gardens in Skawina prevent water from flowing into the sewage system and support local biodiversity.

4. A free and publicly accessible tool

The search engine provided is an intuitive tool that decision-makers can use to find inspiration and apply for funding for future projects. Thanks to its publication on the web, the search engine is free of charge and open to all, primarily local and regional authorities. This allows for a wide use of resources and an increase in the number of nature-based projects implemented.

The search engine is available at the following web address (temporarily; it's a test version):

<https://metropoliakrakowska.pl/wyszukiwarka-srodkow-finansowych-na-realizacje-projektow-w-zakresie-blekitno-zielonej-infrastruktury>

5. User manual

Visit the website: <https://metropoliakrakowska.pl/wyszukiwarka-srodkow-finansowych-na-realizacje-projektow-w-zakresie-blekitno-zielonej-infrastruktury>

You will see the following view describing the search engine for external funding for blue-green infrastructure projects.



The screenshot shows the website's search engine interface. At the top, there is a banner image of a park with a path and trees, with the text "Wyszukiwarka środków zewnętrznych" overlaid. Below the banner, the title "Wyszukiwarka środków finansowych na realizację projektów w zakresie błękitno-zielonej infrastruktury" is displayed. The main content area contains a large green banner with the text "WYSZUKIWARKA ŚRODKÓW NA REALIZACJĘ PROJEKTÓW W ZAKRESIE BŁĘKITNO-ZIELENEJ INFRASTRUKTURY". The banner also features the logos of INTERLACE and Metropolia Krakowska. To the right of the banner is a vertical sidebar with navigation icons and a search bar. The sidebar includes icons for home, search, and a list of items, along with text labels like "Strona główna", "Co u nas", "Wydzerzenia", "Nasze cele", and "Kontakt". At the bottom of the sidebar, there are flags for "PL" and "bip".

Below, you will see the actual search engine and a bar where you can select the filters you are interested in.

If you do not make a selection, you will see a list of all financing opportunities available in the search engine, as presented below.

Szukaj po słowie

Narzędzie finansowania


Dla kogo?

Rodzaj wsparcia

Status projektu

Czas realizacji


Sortowanie



OTWARTY

Wsparcie eksperckie


Poznaj projekt →



OTWARTY

Edukacja ekologiczna


Poznaj projekt →



OTWARTY

Ochrona przyrody i rozwój zielonej infrastruktury

Poznaj projekt →



NADCHODZĄCY


Inwestycje na rzecz kompleksowej zielonej transformacji miast, Krajowy Plan Odbudowy

Poznaj projekt →

You can also search for calls by keyword or tag.

If you are interested in a particular programme, click "Dowiedz się więcej" to learn more about a specific call. On the right, you will see the filters you have selected.

Inwestycje na rzecz kompleksowej zielonej transformacji miast, Krajowy Plan Odbudowy



Wybrane parametry

Narzędzia finansowania

Dla kogo

Rodzaj wsparcia

Status projektu

Czas realizacji

Wszystkie

Tagi:

ZIELEN

ELEKTRO-ZIEŁONA INFRASTRUKTURA

TRANSPORT

ENERGETYKA

CEL PROJEKTU

DLA KOGO
Stowarzyszenia, Metropolie.

RODZAJ WSPARCIA
Inwestycje cyfrowe.

NARZĘDZIE FINANSOWANIA
Dotacja, Dopłata do kredytu.

CZAS REALIZACJI
2 miesiące

WYMAGANIA
Pożyczki wspierające zieloną transformację, m.in. na „zazielenienie” terenów miejskich, przyczyniających się do redukcji negatywnego oddziaływania ludzi na środowisko przyrodnicze oraz prowadzących do neutralności klimatycznej.

STATUS NABORU
Nadchodzący

TERMINY NABORU
Od 2024-06-03 do 2026-08-08

OGŁOSZENIE WYNIKÓW

WWW
[BGK](#)

If documents relating to the detailed application rules are available, they will be included below in the "Pliki do pobrania" section.

Pliki do pobrania

Regulamin naboru.pdf

At the end of the site, in the „Wybrane dla Ciebie” section, similar calls (regarding filtered criteria) for external funding will be offered for review.

Wybrane dla Ciebie

The image shows four project cards arranged in a row. Each card has a header image, a status label, a title, and a 'Poznaj projekt' button with a right arrow.

- Card 1:** Header image with Euro banknotes and stars. Status: **NADCHODZĄCY**. Title: **Inwestycje na rzecz kompleksowej zielonej transformacji miast, Krajowy Plan Odbudowy**. Button: **Poznaj projekt**.
- Card 2:** Header image with Polish flag and stars. Status: **OTWARTY**. Title: **Ochrona przyrody i rozwój zielonej infrastruktury**. Button: **Poznaj projekt**.
- Card 3:** Header image with Euro banknotes and stars. Status: **OTWARTY**. Title: **Edukacja ekologiczna**. Button: **Poznaj projekt**.
- Card 4:** Header image with blue geometric shapes and 'POLSKA' text. Status: **OTWARTY**. Title: **Wsparcie eksperckie**. Button: **Poznaj projekt**.

You can sort the view on the homepage by the latest or oldest entries.

The image shows a filter and sorting interface. It includes a search bar and several dropdown menus for filtering, followed by a sorting dropdown menu.

Search: Szukaj po słowie

Filters:

- Narzędzie finansowania: **Wszystko**
- Dla kogo?: **Wszystko**
- Rodzaj wsparcia: **Wszystko**
- Status projektu: **Wszystko**
- Czas realizacji: **Wszystko**

Sortowanie:

- Domyślnie** (selected)
- Domyślnie
- od najnowszych
- od najstarszych

We encourage you to visit our website often. Information will be updated regularly so that you can find further opportunities for external funding every day.

6. Help

Do you have comments? Do you need help? Please write to us!

✉ biuro@metropoliakrakowska.pl

7. Information on the INTERLACE project

INTERLACE is an international collaboration to restore and reconnect urban ecosystems. The full name of the Horizon 2020-funded project is INTERnational cooperation to restore and connect urban environments in Latin America and Europe.

The initiative aims to support cities in Europe and Latin America in effectively protecting and revitalising ecosystems, especially those located in suburbs and other vulnerable areas. The project envisages the implementation of many forms of experience sharing and active cooperation, both locally, regionally, and globally.

The INTERLACE project supports the implementation of a variety of nature-based solutions that:

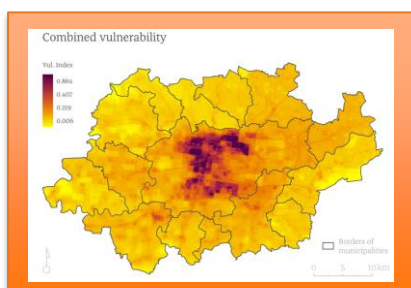
- allow **NATURE** and biodiversity to flourish through the creation of new green spaces and the restoration of degraded ecosystems;
- nurture shared **PLACES** of dialogue and exchange between urban, peri-urban and rural communities;
- contribute to strengthening the links between **PEOPLE** in the urban environment with each other and the natural environment.

Find out more at: <https://metropoliakrakovska.pl/projekty/interlace> and <https://www.interlace-project.eu/>.

8. Check other INTERLACE tools

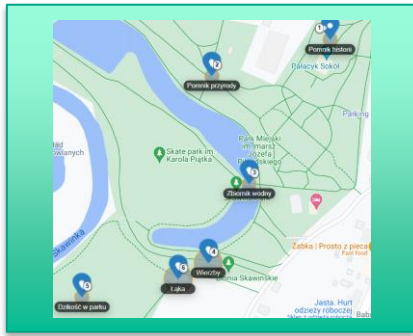
8.1. INTERLACE tools tailored to the Krakow Metropolis

Do you know how climate change affects the environment and the quality of life in your neighbourhood? Do you know which effects of the changes taking place are most vulnerable in the area where you live? Or do you want to find out what nature-based solutions are or how you can support mitigation and adaptation to climate change? Take a look at the INTERLACE tools dedicated to the Krakow Metropolis!



Climate change vulnerability maps of Krakow Metropolitan Area

The maps present vulnerability understood as the capacity of societies and ecosystems to feel and respond to climate change. They indicate the degree of vulnerability, the level of risk and the threat towards the occurrence of negative impacts of climate change. The higher the sensitivity, the higher the perception and risk of reduced quality of life for flora, fauna, and the population, as well as the threat to property. [Read more.](#)



Learning tour in Skawina

If you want to find out what nature-based solutions are, what function they perform in the urban environment and how you can apply some of them yourself while having fun in the park, take part in our educational outdoor game on the Skawina meadows!

[Link to the article coming soon](#)

INTERLACE
DIGITAL GAMING PROGRAMME

Projekt Interlace wykorzystuje grę komputerową Minecraft, aby pomóc młodym ludziom odkrywać, poznać, planować i projektować przyrodę w miastach.

Celem warsztatów jest uwolnienie kreatywności i wyobraźni młodych ludzi, a jednocześnie nauczanie ich, jak można wykorzystać przyrodę do rozwiązywania problemów takich jak zmiany klimatyczne w miejscach, w których mieszkają.

Otrzymują Państwo wszelkie wsparcie potrzebne Państwo szkole do przeprowadzenia warsztatów.

Wymagania	Wsparcie
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do udziału w projekcie potrzebne będą: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grupa około 10 – 40 młodych ludzi w wieku 11- lat Minimum 4 godziny wolnego czasu warsztatowego (może to być rozłożone na kilka dni lub tygodni) Dobry łącz internetowy i dostęp do komputerów lub tabletów spełniających podstawowe wymagania gry Minecraft. Szkola podstawowego zaleszczenia w jednej z gran Metropolii Krakowskiej. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Szkola, w której zorganizowane zostaną warsztaty, otrzyma: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licencję Minecraft Scenariusz zajęć ze wskazówkami Stabilność dla nauczycieli i innych pracowników Specjalistyczne wsparcie w trakcie całego procesu

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The MINECRAFT video game as an educational tool?

Yes! MINECRAFT is an effective tool for engaging children and youth in the decision-making and planning processes of blue-green infrastructure. MINECRAFT is a software with particularly high potential in this respect: it is very popular among young users, has a large and active community and is an apt tool for recreating a local space in its surroundings and then simulating different options for participatory development of the best solutions for the area under study.

Read how the '[Minecraft - let's build a green Krakow Metropolis together](#)' workshop went at the primary school in Zabierzów Bocheński.

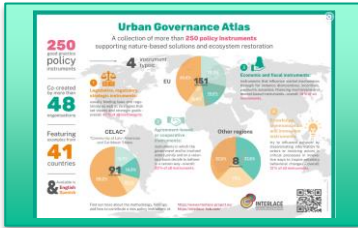
8.2 Other INTERLACE tools.

Several tools have been developed as part of the INTERLACE project to facilitate collaboration with local stakeholders, green space management, and public participation processes. Examples of INTERLACE tools are presented below (available in English and Spanish).



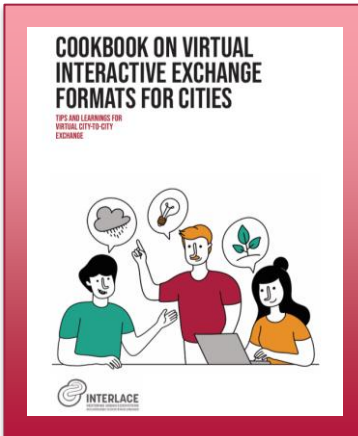
INTERLACE Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Stakeholder engagement is a central element of the INTERLACE project, as it aims to co-create tools, management instruments, and other project outputs with local stakeholders, facilitate knowledge exchange between stakeholders at local, regional, and global levels, and inform and support the restoration and rehabilitation of urban (sub)ecosystems through nature-based solutions.



Urban Governance Atlas

Urban Governance Atlas is an interactive online database of around 250 examples of good practices in policy and management instruments for urban ecosystem restoration and green space planning.



Cookbook on Virtual Interactive Exchange Formats for Cities

The guide is a collection of virtual collaboration methods that were tested and evaluated as part of the INTERLACE project. It has been specifically tailored for cities and public authorities that want to build networks based on nature-based solutions (NBS) and ecosystem restoration. It guides the reader through specific interactive exchange formats, describing when and why they were used in the INTERLACE city exchange process.

More information and tools can be found on the INTERLACE project website:

<https://www.interlace-project.eu/node/156>.

Interlace-project.eu



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INTERLACE