INTERLACE

RESTORING URBAN ECOSYSTEMS
RECUPERANDO ECOSISTEMAS URBANOS

Summary report on Ethics, Gender and Diversity Monitoring in INTERLACE

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Executive Summary

This report examines how ethics, gender, and diversity were integrated into project activities, providing valuable insights for future nature-based solutions (NbS) initiatives and research. Through a justice-oriented lens, the report leverages conceptual and practical tools to explore these critical dimensions.

Monitoring ethics, gender, and inclusion in Nature-based Solutions (NbS) research is crucial for ensuring equitable outcomes of NbS and assessing their broader impacts. Comprehensive monitoring of these dimensions can reveal disparities in participation and benefit distribution among different social groups, enhancing equality in NbS design and implementation. Yet, their intangible nature, their dependence on local contexts, and data limitations pose challenges to a comprehensive monitoring. Taking these complexities into account, this report introduces a conceptual framework to assess justice aspects as part of NbS research and urban planning. This framework defines justice through three dimensions: distributional justice (ensuring fair resource allocation), procedural justice (guaranteeing equitable decision-making), and recognitional justice (honouring cultural identities). By embedding these principles into monitoring processes, the framework aligns social and environmental objectives, fostering more inclusive and resilient urban spaces.

A structural element of this report an internal survey for project / city partners designed totrack progress across the three justice dimensions, complemented by targeted interviews with the INTERLACE city partners. The survey examined how vulnerable groups—such as women, children, migrants, and people with disabilities—were included in the planning and implementation of project activities.

Survey findings reveal that INTERLACE cities made significant progress in integrating social ethics, gender, and diversity considerations into project activities.

Cities reported successes in inclusive co-design of community-driven initiatives, with events and activities tailored to include and address diverse stakeholders and their needs. However, challenges remain in engaging certain groups effectively, as city administrations often lack the capacity or expertise to work with marginalized populations.

Typically, only one or two staff members were involved in the activity design, further limiting outreach efforts. Despite these challenges, INTERLACE's project resources and workshops (e.g. the CitiesTalkNature webinar series) likely raised awareness of inclusive NbS design within and beyond the project's partner cities

Another noteworthy aspect of this report is the development of a series of stories highlighting justice in action in INTERLACE partner cities, capturing local perspectives: "justice in action stories" from INTERLACE partner cities that captures local perspectives, lived experiences, and traditions, serving as an innovative exercise to further understand justice and NbS in practice. These stories foster emotional connections to NbS interventions and catalyse continued efforts toward inclusive, culturally sensitive approaches to urban resilience.

The report aims to inspire adaptive and inclusive monitoring practices that capture the complexities and dynamic nature of urban contexts. These practices help cities refine strategies based on ongoing learning. By prioritizing justice throughout the monitoring process, this report supports cities and researchers in designing and implementing NbS interventions that equitably benefit all urban residents.

Introduction

The INTERLACE project adopts a holistic approach to urban ecosystem restoration, integrating social and environmental considerations to create more sustainable and inclusive urban spaces. At the core of its methodology is the interconnected relationship between public spaces, nature, and city users—referred to as the Nature-Places-People framework. The project aims to understand how diverse groups perceive and interact with nature, acknowledging that these perceptions are shaped by factors such as social class, geographical location, and cultural background.

While INTERLACE does not specifically focus on environmental justice challenges, it recognizes that implementing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) within a city's socio-environmental framework requires equitable and inclusive decision-making. Thus, it advocates for the need of NbS and ecosystem restoration initiatives that prioritize the common good by addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Achieving this involves fostering trust, sharing information, empowering local actors, and enhancing their capabilities. At the same time, it demands a nuanced understanding of the complex, multidimensional challenges faced by communities engaged in urban restoration efforts.

This approach aligns with calls to place justice at the core of NbS research and practice. It underscores the importance of reorienting NbS efforts to address the root causes of socio-spatial inequality and environmental degradation while fostering inclusive, cohesive, and socially sustainable communities (Cousins, 2021). This perspective provides an opportunity to transform traditional approaches by leveraging the power of nature and people to create equitable and resilient spaces.

In this context, this deliverable presents the efforts made to monitor ethics, gender, and inclusion considerations in the INTERLACE project. Monitoring how these aspects unfold within research projects presents significant challenges, particularly in capturing changes and their impacts on real-life processes. These impacts are often less tangible and harder to measure compared to outcomes in NbS design and implementation processes (Kato-Huerta and Geneletti, 2022). To address these issues, the deliverable proposes a justice approach as a strategy. Applying a justice lens enables researchers to identify and focus on complex yet critical dimensions, such as structural power imbalances, dynamic pressures, and specific local conditions that hinder the possibility of just outcomes. This approach provides an opportunity to capture transformative impacts that extend beyond standard metrics.

In response to these challenges, the justice approach is introduced as a practical and meaningful tool to guide research monitoring efforts, offering insights into the diverse ways ethical, gender, and inclusion considerations evolved during the implementation of the INTERLACE project. This report examines both the theoretical and practical dimensions of advancing justice in NbS research and synthesizes key insights from the INTERLACE experience through an approach grounded in four main pillars. (see Figure 1).

Conceptual Framework

Justice-based framework for monitoring diversity, ethics and gender in INTERLACE (Section 2)

Monitoring justice aspects
INTERLACE project insights (section 3)

The power of storytelling
INTERLACE cities justice in action stories (section 4)

Key take away *messages*
Listening and sharing (section 5)

Figure 1. Structure of the report

Section 2 presents the conceptual framework employed in the INTERLACE project to assess diversity, ethics, and gender through a justice-focused perspective. It defines justice and explores its application within the project, particularly in relation to NbS research and urban decision-making processes. The chapter outlines key considerations regarding justice various dimensions: distributional, procedural and recognitional justice.

Section 3, drawing from INTERLACE's experiences, presents the survey design as a key tool for monitoring cities' progress and challenges through a justice lens. The survey captures perceptions related to diverse aspects of justice, as identified in the conceptual framework, and offers valuable insights into stakeholder engagement, co-creation processes, and inclusivity metrics. The results are further enriched by targeted interviews, shedding light on how justice-oriented approaches have been perceived and implemented during the project.

Section 4 emphasizes the transformative power of storytelling by showcasing "justice stories" from INTERLACE partner cities, which bring to light lived experiences, cultural narratives, and local traditions. These stories provide innovative and inclusive insights into NbS practices and are viewed as a crucial resource for supporting the project's lasting impact. The aim is to inspire both communities and public officials, encouraging ongoing awareness and action toward justice-centered NbS practices. In addition to this report, the project team has created a separate document focused on these stories, featuring engaging illustrations. This document is available as a supplementary resource accompanying the main report.

Section 5 synthesizes the key takeaways and lessons learned. This section distils actionable messages derived from the conceptual framework, survey analysis, and storytelling exercise, offering practical guidance for future NbS research and practice. By consolidating these lessons, this section provides a forward-looking perspective on how justice-oriented approaches can drive more inclusive, impactful, and sustainable outcomes in urban ecosystem restoration initiatives.

A justice-based framework for monitoring diversity, ethics, and gender in INTERLACE

This section outlines the conceptual framework applied to monitor diversity, ethics, and gender considerations in the INTERLACE project. It defines justice and explains how it was integrated into the project, particularly in relation to NbS research and urban decision-making. The chapter emphasizes the importance of justice as a guiding principle for monitoring NbS, exploring its various dimensions—distributional (fair allocation of resources), procedural (fair decision-making processes), and recognitional (respect for diverse cultural identities).

Defining justice in the context of NbS research projects

This section examines the concept of justice, emphasizing its relevance to NbS research and its integration into project monitoring. It provides an overview of key concepts that form the foundation for understanding justice in NbS initiatives.

The concepts discussed in this chapter build on the work presented in the INTERLACE Guidance on Inclusive Participatory Processes for Urban Ecosystem Restoration: **Guidance on Gender, Cultural, and Ethics-Related Considerations (D1.6)**. This guidance established the basis for addressing inclusion, ethics, gender, and culture in urban planning projects involving NbS. It also informed interactions with city partners and guided the development of the monitoring approach of the project.

A summary of the conceptual framework on environmental justice is presented to illustrate how it has guided the monitoring approach outlined in this document.

The value of justice as a framing concept

In the context of urban NbS, justice refers to ensuring equitable access to and distribution of the benefits provided by these solutions as well as the inclusivity of relevant decision-making processes. As NbS are increasingly recognized in both Europe and Latin America for their ability to address challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and urban heat islands, it is crucial to frame their implementation through a justice lens. This ensures that the benefits of NbS are accessible to all urban residents, particularly marginalized and vulnerable communities who are usually more exposed to the negative effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, and urban heat islands.

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Justice also plays a critical role in the participatory processes involved in NbS planning, design, and implementation. It ensures that all stakeholders, especially those from marginalized or underrepresented communities, are heard, valued, and integrated at each stage. A justice-driven approach is essential so that NbS benefits and impacts can be equitably distributed across all social groups. Ethically, justice requires that no group is unfairly disadvantaged or excluded in the decision-making process. While NbS are often considered contributing to social inclusion and cohesion, this outcome is not automatically guaranteed (Waitt & Knobel, 2018; Andersson et al., 2019). The pre-existing uneven distribution of benefits presents a significant challenge in addressing the diverse needs of various stakeholder groups (Haase et al., 2017; Andersson et al., 2019).

By applying a justice lens, urban decision-makers can identify and address potential inequalities, ensuring that marginalized or vulnerable groups—such as low-income communities, people with disabilities, or ethnic minorities—are not overlooked or harmed by NbS implementation.

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Furthermore, the justice perspective acknowledges and respects cultural and diversity considerations, recognizing that different communities value nature and green spaces in distinct ways. What is considered a "benefit" or "improvement" in urban green spaces can vary significantly, depending on cultural norms, social needs, and individual experiences. For example, women may have different views compared to men, and different age groups or people with lower income and education may perceive green spaces differently from those with higher income and education. Cultural background also plays a key role in how nature is valued, while individuals with disabilities often experience green spaces in unique ways, with specific preferences that must be considered.

To avoid reproducing social exclusions or exacerbating inequalities, it is crucial to integrate these varying views and valuations into the design, planning, and implementation of NbS (Haase et al., 2017; Kabisch & Haase, 2014). Therefore, a justice-driven approach ensures that diverse voices are included in NbS design and planning, promoting culturally appropriate and socially inclusive solutions. This not only promotes fairness but also enriches NbS by integrating various perspectives, ultimately leading to more sustainable and contextually relevant outcomes.

Justice dimensions in NbS

Addressing the different dimensions of justice—distributional, procedural, and recognitional—helps create fairer, more inclusive urban environments. Each dimension focuses on different aspects of justice, from the fair allocation of resources to inclusive decision-making processes and the recognition of diverse community identities and needs. Understanding these justice dimensions is essential for developing NbS that truly serve all members of society, especially those who have been historically marginalized (see Box 1).

Box 1. Justice definitions and key considerations

General definition of justice	
Justice refers to the fair and equitable treatment of individuals and groups within a society. It involves ensuring that people receive what they are due, whether that is in terms of rights, opportunities, or resources. Justice seeks to address imbalances and inequalities, ensuring that all individuals—regardless of their background, identity, or status—are treated with dignity, fairness, and respect. It also involves safeguarding the principle of accountability, where actions, decisions, and policies are evaluated based on their alignment with ethical principles and their impact on individuals and communities (Rawls, 1999).Distributional justice, procedural justice and recognitional justice are considered as key dimensions of justice.	**Photo: © YES Innovation**
Distributional justice	**Key considerations**
Distributional justice refers to the equitable allocation of resources and benefits among different groups within a community (Fainstein, 2010). In the context of urban contexts and NbS, this involves ensuring that the benefits of urban development—such as green spaces, clean air, and improved infrastructure—are distributed fairly, particularly among marginalized populations who have historically been excluded from these advantages. It also addresses the unequal distribution of environmental harms (e.g., exposure to toxins and air pollution) and benefits (e.g., access to recreational areas and clean water).	• NbS projects often disproportionately favour wealthier neighbourhoods, deepening existing inequalities. For example, green spaces tend to be developed in affluent areas, while green spaces in lower-income neighbourhoods are neglected. • Unintended consequences like gentrification can arise when low-income areas are upgraded with green infrastructure, pushing vulnerable communities out of their neighborhoods. • It is essential to assess who benefits from NbS projects and who bears the burden, ensuring that vulnerable communities are prioritized in the decision-making process to avoid perpetuating inequalities

Procedural justice	Key considerations
Procedural justice emphasizes the inclusiveness of decision-making processes (Arnstein, 1969). It advocates for the inclusion of all stakeholders in the planning process, ensuring that diverse voices are heard and considered. This is particularly important in urban decision-making processes, where decisions can significantly impact various communities. To foster procedural justice, planners must create inclusive platforms that allow for meaningful participation from all community members, particularly those historically marginalized.	• Marginalised communities typically face barriers to participation, such as lack of access to information, language difficulties, and limited opportunities for engagement. This can result in their concerns being overlooked or ignored in decision-making. • In many urban areas, neoliberal urbanization processes prioritize economic growth over social equity. This can lead to phenomena like gentrification, where green spaces become commodified without including the voices of local communities in these processes. • Even in regions with robust welfare systems, access to green spaces is uneven, with minority and migrant communities often being disproportionately affected.
Recognitional justice	**Key considerations**
Recognitional justice involves acknowledging and respecting the diverse identities, experiences, and histories of different groups (Fraser, 1998). In urban decision-making, this means recognizing the unique needs and contributions of various communities, especially those that have been historically marginalized or misrepresented. Therefore, considering factors such as gender, race, age, ethnicity, and cultural identity, all of which shape how different groups interact with nature.	• Stereotypes and biases that inform planning decisions can hinder progress toward recognitional justice. For instance, green spaces might be planned without understanding how different groups value nature, leading to outcomes that fail to meet their needs. • Decision-makers need to gain understanding of the cultural, social, and historical contexts of the communities they serve. In the NbS context, this means being able to understand how nature can be valued by the different stakeholders. Failure to do so can lead to planning outcomes that are not only unjust but also ineffective in addressing the real needs and expectations of the community. • Indigenous groups especially in Latin America, view nature through a spiritual lens, which may not align with the conventional, utilitarian approach to green spaces. If their perspectives are not considered, green spaces might replace areas traditionally valued for activities like urban agriculture or social gatherings.

Key considerations for integrating justice into interdisciplinary NbS research

Integrating justice into NbS research involves addressing a complex array of challenges that intersect with social, cultural, and environmental factors. As NbS initiatives become increasingly prevalent in urban decision-making, including in Latin America and Europe, the need for equity, participation, and cultural sensitivity becomes crucial. Justice in NbS research is not a one-size-fits-all concept; it requires a nuanced understanding of the specific socio-political, economic, and environmental contexts that shape urban landscapes. The three main dimensions of justice—distributional, procedural, and recognitional—serve as conceptual foundations for addressing these challenges. However, their application in urban NbS settings and projects requires careful attention to the specific dynamics and needs of different communities, particularly marginalized groups.

PRINCIPLES OF EQUITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE

INITIATION
DISTRIBUTIONAL JUSTICE
• Access to green amenities
• Cost and benefits

DESIGN
PROCEDURAL JUSTICE
• Consultation, participation, inclusion

IMPLEMENTATION
RECOGNITIONAL JUSTICE
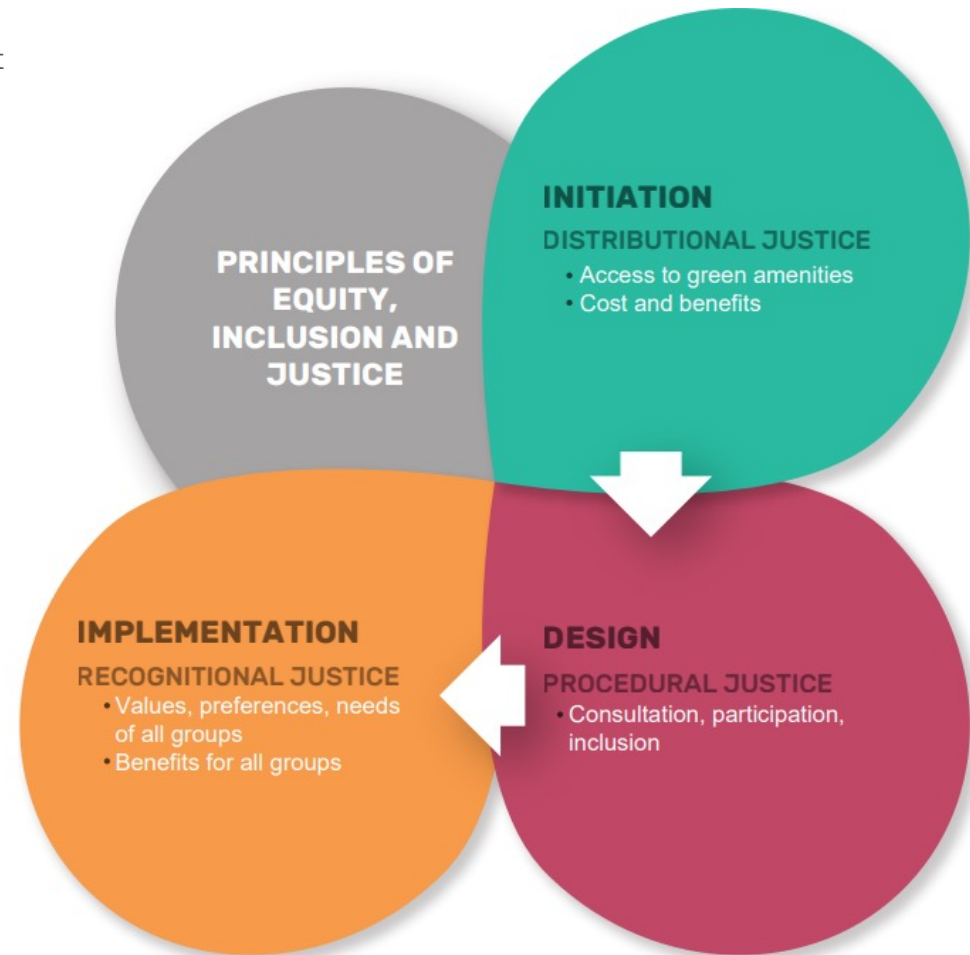• Values, preferences, needs of all groups
• Benefits for all groups

Figure 2. Principles of equity, inclusion and justice for NbS research projects (Øian et al., 2021)

This subchapter highlights several key considerations proposed by the project team as foundational principles for integrating justice into NbS research. These principles (see figure 2) are further elaborated in the **Guidance on Inclusive Participatory Processes for Urban Ecosystem Restoration: Guidance on Gender, Cultural, and Ethics-Related Considerations (D1.6)**. This figure emphasizes the principles of equity, inclusion, and justice within NbS research projects and serves as a guide for integrating justice into NbS projects effectively. It highlights key foundational aspects such as recognizing power dynamics, addressing intersectionality, fostering participatory research, and ensuring cultural sensitivity, all seamlessly integrated into a sequential process for urban NbS design and implementation. The considerations include a focus on understanding social hierarchies, power dynamics, intersectionality, participatory research, monitoring, and ethical concerns. Each of these factors plays a critical role in ensuring that NbS initiatives are inclusive, equitable, and culturally sensitive, ultimately fostering the development of a more just and sustainable urban environment for all stakeholders involved.

● **Social hierarchies and power relations**

One of the most significant considerations in integrating justice into NbS research is understanding cultural and social differences in how nature is perceived and valued. In Latin America, the historical and cultural significance of nature is deeply intertwined with the identities of its diverse populations. Indigenous communities, for example, often view ecosystems as sacred entities, integral to their spiritual and cultural heritage. This perspective contrasts with urban residents' views, which may prioritize recreational or aesthetic values. Such differences necessitate a participatory approach to NbS research that respects and integrates these diverse perspectives. In Europe, cultural differences are equally pertinent. Migrant communities, for instance, may bring unique relationships with nature shaped by their countries of origin, which can influence how they engage with urban

● **Intersectionality**

The concept of intersectionality further complicates the integration of justice into NbS research. Intersectionality highlights how overlapping social identities, such as gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, shape individuals' experiences of inequality. In the context of Latin American cities, women from indigenous or Afro-descendant communities often face compounded discrimination that limits their access to urban green spaces. These women may prioritize safety and accessibility in green infrastructure, reflecting their lived realities of navigating public spaces. In European cities, intersectionality manifests in different ways. Migrant women, for example, may encounter unique barriers to participating in and benefitting from NbS initiatives, stemming from language barriers, cultural norms, or systemic discrimination. Addressing these intersectional challenges requires a holistic approach that considers the multiple dimensions of identity and their impact on justice in NbS.

● Challenges of participatory research

Participatory research is a cornerstone of integrating justice into NbS, offering a framework for inclusive decision-making that empowers marginalized communities. In Latin America, participatory approaches must navigate complex socio-political landscapes marked by historical inequities and power imbalances. For example, engaging indigenous communities in NbS research requires a deep understanding of their cultural traditions and governance structures. Although the three Latin American cities in INTERLACE are only home to small indigenous populations, their share of the population is larger in many other cities in the region, emphasizing the importance of taking indigenous culture into account when designing urban nature. Building trust is essential, as these communities may be wary of external interventions that could disrupt their way of life. Similarly, in European cities, participatory research must address the diverse needs of multicultural populations. This involves creating platforms for dialogue that enable all stakeholders to contribute their perspectives and expertise. Effective participatory research is characterized by transparency, mutual respect, and a commitment to shared decision-making.

The challenges of participatory research in NbS are compounded by the risks of tokenism and exclusion. In both Latin America and Europe, there is a risk that participatory processes may inadvertently reinforce existing power imbalances. For example, more vocal or affluent stakeholders may dominate discussions, sidelining marginalized voices. Vulnerable groups need protection from potential harm during participation (Morgan, Cuskelly, & Moni, 2014), and there are political risks in exposing them to unfamiliar roles (Cousins, 2021). To mitigate these risks, researchers must ensure that participatory processes are genuinely inclusive and representative. This involves proactive efforts to engage underrepresented groups, such as conducting outreach in marginalized communities and providing resources to facilitate their participation. Additionally, researchers must be vigilant against the unintended consequences of participatory processes, such as exacerbating conflicts between stakeholder groups or creating unrealistic expectations among participants.

● Need for monitoring

Another critical consideration in integrating justice into NbS research is the need for robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. These frameworks should include indicators that assess the extent to which NbS initiatives address justice-related objectives, such as equitable access to green spaces, stakeholder satisfaction, and the reduction of social inequalities. Regular monitoring enables researchers to identify and address potential shortcomings in NbS initiatives, ensuring that they remain aligned with their justice-related goals. For example, in Latin American cities, monitoring frameworks could assess the impact of NbS in informal settlements (cf. examples in CBIMA), measuring improvements in access to green infrastructure and reductions in environmental risks. In European cities, these frameworks could evaluate the inclusivity of participatory processes and the extent to which they reflect the diverse needs of multicultural populations.

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● Ethics

Cultural and ethical considerations are also critical to integrating justice into NbS research. Ethical considerations include ensuring that NbS initiatives do not inadvertently harm marginalized communities or exacerbate existing inequalities (Brabeck et al., 2015). For example, green gentrification, where urban renewal projects displace low-income residents, is a significant ethical concern in both Latin American and European cities. Researchers must be vigilant against such unintended consequences, ensuring that NbS initiatives are designed and implemented in ways that prioritize social equity. Cultural considerations, meanwhile, involve respecting the diverse values, traditions, and identities that shape how different communities interact with nature. This requires a deep understanding of the cultural contexts in which NbS initiatives are implemented and a commitment to cultural sensitivity.

The importance of stakeholder engagement

INTERLACE has adopted and implemented an agile workflow to shift from traditional, linear project planning to an iterative approach focused on user validation of the products generated. This methodology, which is quite innovative for a research project of this nature, has been applied in a flexible and open manner to provide both project researchers and participating cities the opportunity to learn throughout the process. The key challenge was to find a balance between the organizational principles of agile methodology and project's planning requirements or the operational processes of the cities' public administrations. To address this, a **guide** was developed, outlining an adapted version of the agile approach and highlighting the essential principles tailored to the specific context of INTERLACE.

In this context the agile methodology could support environmental and social justice principles by prioritizing stakeholder engagement and iterative collaboration. This flexible application of Agile, focused on the research products generated by the project, provided a framework to adapt quickly to the diverse needs and perspectives of stakeholders, ensuring that both environmental and social considerations are continuously integrated into the process.

The agile workflow in INTERLACE emphasized the importance of regular feedback loops and collaborative decision-making, which aligned with environmental justice principles by enabling the active involvement of marginalized communities in the design and implementation of NbS. Rather than rushing toward predefined outcomes or products, the iterative agile approach can allow stakeholders to shape the project throughout its stages, ensuring that solutions reflect their needs and contextual realities. This aligns with the principle of inclusivity, ensuring that environmental interventions are not only effective but also equitable.

From a social justice perspective, the flexible application of Agile helps to foster a more inclusive process, where the focus is not solely on the tangible products, but also on the relational processes that emerge through ongoing knowledge exchange. In INTERLACE, researchers placed significant value on the dialogue and learning that occurred during project development. Agile, used as a tool for continuous engagement, allowed for the co-production of knowledge and supported in strengthening the relationships between researchers, local communities, and policymakers.

Insights from the INTERLACE project

In INTERLACE, both qualitative and quantitative indicators have been utilized to track project progress. The monitoring framework focused on key project areas, including project impacts such as the consideration of ethical, gender, and cultural aspects in project activities. Specifically, one of the seven INTERLACE impacts (Impact No. 7) aimed at an "Improved consideration of social equity, gender and cultural issues in restorative NbS planning for increased political participation and inclusion".

The impact assessment for each impact is structured along impact pathways that visualize how the projects activities, outputs and products lead to outcomes, which in turn are expected to contribute to achieving the respective long-term impacts (see Figure 3). For each of the impacts, specific indicators have been developed and assessed at different stages of the project. The indicators for Impact No.7 were developed considering the comprehensive guidance for setting justice-oriented monitoring frameworks described in the INTERLACE Guidance Document (Øian et al., 2021). The main indicator that has been assessed with regards to Impact No.7 is the aggregated indicator "Inclusion of different stakeholder views in co-production processes". To operationalize it, specific assessment questions were developed, drawing on the conceptual framework presented in section 2. The questions, which were asked to relevant project partners in a survey, are presented in the next section.

The development of the question was made by following the INTERLACE guidance that provides essential criteria for monitoring the inclusiveness of participatory processes in urban ecosystem restoration projects, with a focus on ensuring that social equity, gender, and cultural considerations are integrated into NbS.

Some of the considerations include:

- Cultural perception of nature: This includes how different cultural groups value and perceive nature, as well as the purposes and experiences of engaging with green spaces. It also explores how specific group engagement methods influence the benefits derived from nature.

- Social description of the group: Considers the socio-economic status, identity labels, and how these elements impact nature perception, engagement, and access to green spaces. It examines preferences and needs related to green spaces, as well as unmet needs that should be addressed.

- Interrelationships and inequalities: Highlights the importance of understanding intersectionality, addressing gendered inequalities, recognizing challenges faced by disabled individuals, and tackling discrimination and exclusion from decision-making. It also emphasizes the organizational capacity and participation of various groups.

The guidance also provides actionable advice for fostering inclusion in urban projects. It stresses the importance of understanding group dynamics, ensuring broad participation, and prioritizing areas where green spaces are lacking. It advocates for incorporating diverse perspectives, including gender, age, ethnicity, social class, disability, and more.

For a more detailed list of the key concepts and criteria drawn for the guidance to shape the monitoring process, please refer to the Annex 1. INTERLACE's criteria for justice monitoring.

Long-term impacts | **Impact 7: Improved consideration of social equity, gender and cultural issues in restorative NbS planning for increased political participation and inclusion.**

Activities	Identify social and cultural barriers to the participation of various groups (including also margianalised ones or inhabitants of informal settlements in peri-urban areas) in the project as well as opportunities to overcome these	Foster the involvement of margianalised groups in co-production processes	Develop protocol for assessing and monitoring cultural, gender and ethical issues within the project	Monitor ethical, gender and cultural issues throughout the implementation of the project as well as oversee aspects relating to intellectual property rights and data protection
	Engage a diversity of stakeholders to foster larger societal shifts and generate support for restorative NbS			

Outputs/ products	Protocol on cultural, gender and ethics-related considerations (WP1), monitoring of implementing this protocol (WP6)	Community arts programme, outdoor activity games (citizens science and learning tours), digital gaming programme (WP5)	Protocol on cultural, gender and ethics-related considerations (WP1), monitoring of implementing this protocol (WP6)	Monitoring and implementing the protocol on cultural, gender and ethic- related considerations (WP6)
		INTERLACE stakeholder engagement strategy (WP1)		Report on implemented engagement programmes and accompanying material (WP5)
		Engagement programmes in 6 INTERLACE cities		
		Cookbook on virtual and physical interactive exchange formats for cities (WP4)		
		Summary note of CNA engagement with the Barometer (in English and Spanish, WP4)		

Further activities	Disseminate, validate and refine the protocol to an extensive audience via the local, regional (EU and CELAC) and global City Networks Accelerators (WP2&4)			

Outcomes	Increased capacity of local governments to ensure inclusive and integrated and ecologocially coherent urban planning and governance approaches responding to their needs and challenges	Fostered participatory engagement to co-produce and promote ownership of guidelines, decision support systems and tools for the design, construction and monitoring of cost-effective restorative NbS	Established exchange and learning between research partners in INTERLACE and beyond about cultural, ethics and social issues	Enhanced awareness of and reflection on cultural, gender and ethics-related considerations in all aspects of INTERLACE's design, implementation and outreach
	Enhanced co-production of governance instruments and tools in the INTERLACE cities and beyond			

Impact Pathway

Figure 3. INTERLACE Impact Pathway on Consideration of Ethics, Gender and Cultural Aspects

Survey design and structure

To be able to assess whether INTERLACE activities conducted in the cities considered the integration of different stakeholder views and voices, especially those of vulnerable groups, a survey among the six INTERLACE cities was conducted (see complete survey in Annex 2. Template for Crafting 'Justice in Action' Stories in INTERLACE).

The survey is based on the conceptual considerations described in section two, namely considering the distinction between distributive, procedural and recognitional justice. In addition, the guidance developed by Øian et al., 2021 was considered. For all three justice dimensions, specific questions were defined. The survey was filled in by the respective city representatives of the six 5 INTERLACE cities with support by the individual knowledge brokers (research partners that have been working together closely with the city representatives). Through a combination of multiple-choice, Likert scale, and open-ended questions, the survey gathers insights on how well the project's objectives were met. The survey questions can be found in the appendix.

This section examines the extent to which cities have adopted inclusive practices, particularly when engaging vulnerable groups such as women, children, older people, migrants, refugees, and sexually or gender diverse people. Cities were asked to reflect on how they integrated these groups into co-production processes, ensuring that diverse perspectives were considered during planning and decision-making.

The survey also delves into the challenges and successes experienced in involving marginalized groups. Cities were encouraged to share any obstacles they encountered in engaging vulnerable populations and highlight success stories or best practices that have helped ensure inclusivity. This open-ended approach allowed for a deeper exploration of what worked and what didn't in fostering an ethical, culturally aware, and gender-sensitive NbS approach.

In addition, the survey assessed how demographic factors, such as gender, age, ethnicity, social class, and disability, were considered when planning events and designing project actions. This focus on demographic inclusivity reflects a broader commitment to ethical decision-making, ensuring that the needs of diverse groups are factored into NbS activities. Cities are also asked about the tools developed by INTERLACE to support inclusion and ethical considerations, such as the co-creation protocol and the guidance on gender, ethics, and culture. These resources are crucial in shaping how cities implement NbS in a way that promotes justice and equity.

Finally, the survey looks at whether municipal administrations conducted spatial screening assessments to ensure that urban green spaces are designed with vulnerable populations in mind. This is part of a broader effort to promote spatial justice, ensuring that all citizens have equitable access to the benefits of NbS.

By focusing on ethics, culture, and gender, the survey captured how well cities have incorporated inclusivity into their NbS projects, providing valuable insights into the successes and challenges of fostering socially just and ethical urban transformations.

Overview of the survey results

The following section provides insights based on the survey results into the consideration of different social groups in the project implementation. It also describes the application of tools and products developed in the project to enhance the consideration of these groups in the cities. The section is organized according to the conceptual framework presented in Section 2 and that supportedthe survey questionnaire development.

Inclusion of different stakeholder groups in co-production processes (procedural justice)

An indicator used to assess the procedural justice dimension was the inclusivity of project events measured as the consideration of group demographics in selecting and/or inviting potential participants.

Across the INTERLACE cities, a mixed picture emerged (Table 1). While Portoviejo indicated that they have considered all characteristics that were assessed in the survey, Granollers indicated that they only considered the sexual minority aspect. It is worth emphasizing that as an association of municipalities, the Kraków Metropolis in general does not interact directly with residents and did not invite them to join the group of stakeholders. The residents of each municipality are represented by the respective representatives of the municipalities within the association.

To what extent have you been able to integrate the stakeholder views of the following groups in co-production processes?
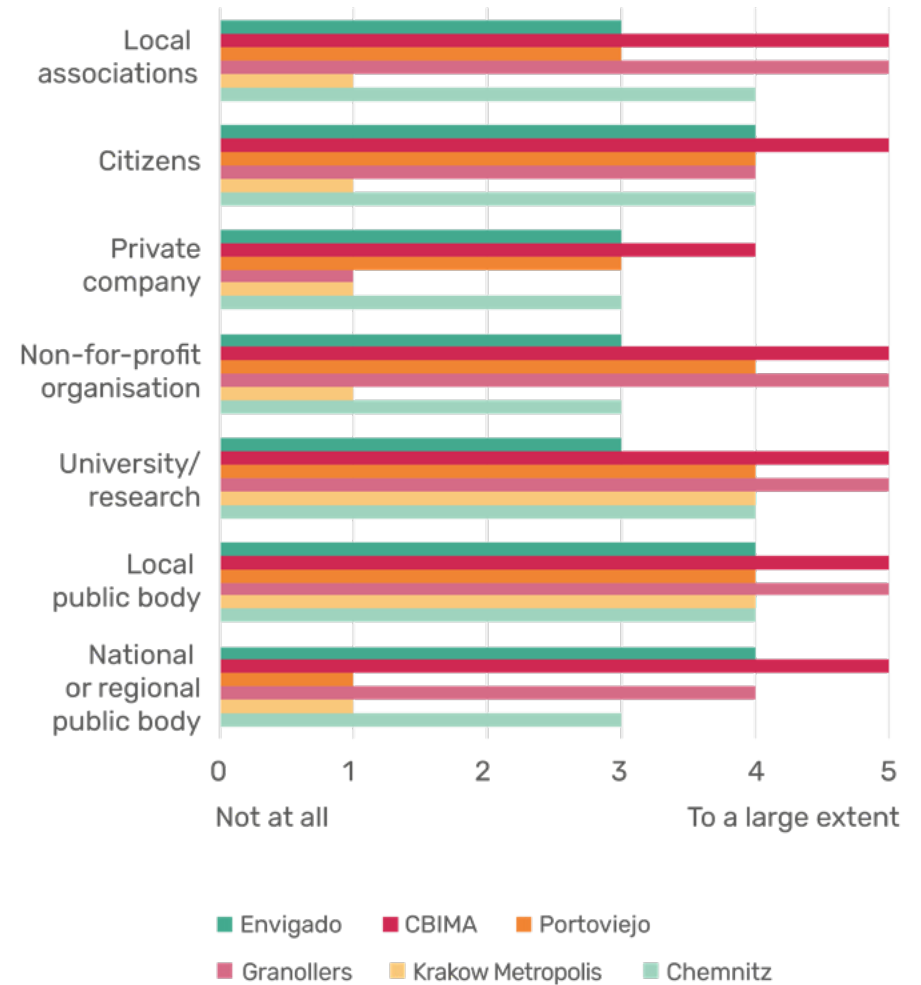
Figure 4: Integration of stakeholder views in co-production processes

Table 1: Consideration of group demographics when inviting and/or selecting participants for an event per city

Group characteristics	Chemnitz	Kraków Metropolis	Granollers	Portoviejo	CBIMA	Envigado
Gender	●			●	●	
Age	●			●	●	
Ethnicity	●	●		●	●	●
Social Class	●	●		●	●	●
Migrant Status	●	●		●	●	●
Sexual Minority	●	●	●	●	●	●
Occupation				●		●
Education		●		●	●	
Disability	●	●	●	●		●
Neighbourhood	●			●		●

A similar picture emerges for the consideration of group demographics when planning or designing a project action (Table 2). Portoviejo and Envigado indicated that they have taken into account (almost) all characteristics, while Chemnitz and Kraków Metropolis considered almost all and Granollers only sexual minority status and disability.

Table 2: Consideration of group demographics in planning or designing a project action per city

Group characteristics	Chemnitz	Kraków Metropolis	Granollers	Portoviejo	CBIMA	Envigado
Gender	●			●		●
Age	●			●		
Ethnicity		●		●	●	●
Social Class		●		●	●	●
Migrant Status	●	●		●	●	●
Sexual Minority	●	●	●	●	●	●
Occupation	●			●	●	●
Education		●		●	●	
Disability	●	●	●	●		●
Neighbourhood	●			●		●

Integration of views of vulnerable groups in co-production processes (recognitional justice)

The integration of different world-views and perceptions on NbS in co-production processes (recognitional justice) was measured by the integration of views of vulnerable groups in co-production processes. The integration of vulnerable groups in co-production processes conducted in the project differs across the cities but also across groups (see Figure 3). Generally, women and girls were the group considered the most across cities, with all cities responding that they involved them substantially. Children and adolescents were also considered widely except for Kraków Metropolis that did not put a specific focus on their inclusion. A more mixed picture emerges for the elderly, members of the LGBTI community, as well as migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and people with disabilities. Portoviejo, for example, indicated that they involved the elderly and people with disabilities substantially while Granollers put less emphasis on disabled persons and instead a greater focus on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. These results must be interpreted in the respective city contexts. Granollers, for example, has a considerable migrant community, which may be a reason for their stronger consideration in co-production processes.

Interactive Minecraft Session © Metropolia Krakowska

Co-creation in action © Envigado Municipality

Community activity © CBIMA

To what extent have you been able to integrate the stakeholder views of the following groups in co-production processes?

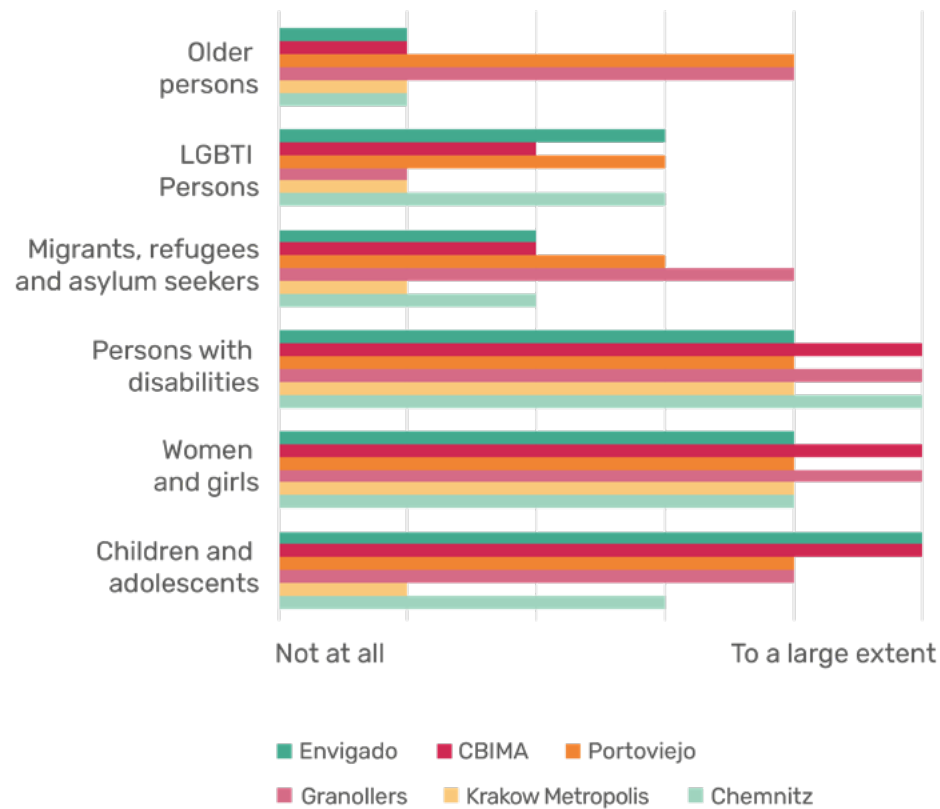Legend: Envigado, CBIMA, Portoviejo, Granollers, Krakow Metropolis, Chemnitz

Figure 5: Integration of stakeholder views in co-production processes

Throughout the lifespan of INTERLACE, several tools and products were developed to enhance the consideration of inclusion, justice and ethical considerations in all project activities. The most-used tools across the cities included the **Stakeholder Engagement Strategy**, the **INTERLACE Outreach events** and the spatial screening and the co-creation process of governance instruments

Snapshot from the INTERLACE Impact Survey

Challenges in involving marginalized/vulnerable groups

When asked, *"What challenges did you encounter when trying to involve marginalized/vulnerable groups?"*, cities highlighted a range of obstacles. Granollers noted that vulnerable groups often have less familiarity or capacity to participate and relied on NGOs and local organizations, like the Red Cross, to facilitate engagement. **Chemnitz** faced difficulties in initial contact with these groups, particularly in finding the right communication methods. **Envigado** emphasized the lack of effective tools for identifying and including vulnerable populations in projects. **Portoviejo** experienced bureaucratic challenges when engaging with educational institutions, while **Kraków Metropolitan Area (MK)** did not directly work with residents, relying on municipalities to represent their populations.

Success stories in involving marginalized/vulnerable groups

The survey also asked, *"What success stories or good practice examples can you share on how to involve marginalized/vulnerable groups?"*

Granollers successfully involved vulnerable individuals in projects such as La Mimosa, which engaged them in ecological product distribution and awareness activities. Schools with high immigrant populations also participated in Minecraft workshops, also in **Chemnitz. Envigado** shared the biodiversity festival Viva la BIO fest, which promoted ecological awareness and included LGBTI and deaf participants. **Portoviejo** focused on co-design processes for parks, involving various social groups, while **CBIMA** developed a biological monitoring brigade with older adults.

Table 3: Use of project tools produced to support inclusion, justice and ethical considerations

Group characteristics	Chemnitz	Kraków Metropolis	Granollers	Portoviejo	CBIMA	Envigado
Gender	●		●	●	●	
Age	●	●	●		●	●
Ethnicity	●		●	●	●	●
Social Class	●		●	●	●	●
Migrant Status	●		●	●	●	●

Spatial screenings that considered vulnerable groups and their access to green spaces have been conducted in all cities but Envigado that did not design new urban green areas as part of the project (see Table 4).

Table 4: Spatial screenings conducted in INTERLACE considering vulnerable groups and their access to green spaces

Chemnitz	Kraków Metropolis	Granollers	Portoviejo	CBIMA	Envigado
●	●	●	●	●	●

Inclusivity in urban green area design (distributive justice)

The survey also aimed at assessing to what extent the participating cities have enhanced the consideration of vulnerable groups and their access to green spaces in the design of green spaces.

The question, *"Before INTERLACE, when deciding on the location and design of urban green areas, did you consider inclusivity as a decision-making criterion?",* yielded mixed responses. Granollers occasionally considered inclusivity, particularly through neighbourhood consultations, while MK promoted inclusivity but did not directly decide on green areas. Portoviejo highlighted its Corredor del Río parks, designed with inclusivity in mind. Chemnitz noted that considering inclusivity in planning is an established practice in Germany, and CBIMA identified vulnerable areas for NbS interventions.

While not all cities indicated the use of the spatial screening module developed in the project, spatial screenings that considered vulnerable groups and their access to green spaces have been conducted in all cities but Envigado that did not design new urban green areas as a result of the project (see Table 4).

Conversations with cities: reflections on justice

The key topics identified in the survey were further explored during a dedicated session on cities at the final INTERLACE meeting in October 2024 in Barcelona (Spain). This session provided an opportunity for reflective and collaborative dialogue, with targeted voluntary in-person interviews to deepen the understanding of cities' perspectives on justice

Snapshot from the INTERLACE Impact Survey

Spatial screenings conducted in INTERLACE considering vulnerable groups and their access to green spaces

When asked, "Did you implement a spatial screening assessment considering vulnerable populations and their access to green in the framework of INTERLACE?", cities highlighted several interventions. Granollers conducted a study on social perceptions of river recovery projects, including questions on accessibility to adjacent green areas. Portoviejo highlighted that green spaces such as Parque Las Vegas, Parque Mamey and Parque Rotonda are public recreational spaces that are easily accessible to all social groups due to their location and multi-functional design. Chemnitz performed a spatial screening based on distance to green spaces for housing blocks, and CBIMA identified vulnerable sites where NbS could be developed to benefit marginalized communities. In the Kraków Metropolis, the access of vulnerable groups to green areas was included as an indicator for the vulnerability mapping of the Kraków Metropolitan Area.

The discussions offered valuable insights and practical reflections on various aspects of justice in urban contexts. This section highlights some of the conversations with INTERLACE cities, showcasing their reflections and unique approaches to fostering more equitable NbS decision-making processes.

Box 2. A conversation on community engagement and diversity with CBIMA

CBIMA's work highlights the power of community-driven initiatives in addressing justice through NbS. By fostering inclusive engagement and prioritizing diverse voices, CBIMA creates transformative impacts in local communities.

Barcelona meeting © Natalia Burgos

Engaging the community CBIMA prioritizes community involvement through their "brigadistas" (biological monitoring brigades). These brigades are organized via WhatsApp groups, with spots for events first offered to members, followed by outreach on social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook. There is a specific brigade to include older adults.

"We prioritize volunteers in our WhatsApp groups. We call them 'brigadistas.' There are always new people joining."

Addressing diversity CBIMA embraces diversity by integrating volunteers of different genders, ages, ethnicities, and nationalities without segregation. However, challenges arise when addressing extreme poverty due to limited support for rehabilitation beyond basic needs. A potential solution is incorporating vulnerable individuals into waste management initiatives, providing training to improve their livelihoods.

"One challenge is integrating populations living in informality, as the system doesn't incorporate them well."

Technical tools to support inclusive engagement CBIMA uses vulnerability maps and input from brigades to identify priority intervention sites, focusing on creating mini corridors that connect forest patches with public parks.

"An example is La Sabanita, where we've been working for four years. We've seen the natural environment return to spaces that were previously barren."

Gender and Decision-making Women play a leading role in CBIMA's initiatives, driven by their commitment to creating inclusive public spaces.

"Women tend to be more invested in transforming public spaces because they think about the well-being of their families."

The transformation power of inclusive NbS CBIMA's efforts have transformed lives. For instance, a woman in a wheelchair, previously unable to visit the local park, now enjoys accessible green spaces.

"She's lived there for 30 years but had never been able to go to the park. After our intervention, she can now go on her own and enjoy nature."

Kraków's experience in the INTERLACE project underscores the potential of inclusive metropolitan collaboration to address systemic disparities in urban decision-making

Cities session © Natalia Burgos

Governance tools The INTERLACE project in Kraków provides a compelling example of how metropolitan-level collaboration can drive inclusive urban planning. At its core, the project relies on a Collaborative Network Initiative group comprising representatives from municipalities in the region. These representatives are not chosen by the project team but are instead selected by the municipalities themselves, ensuring local ownership of the process and CBIMA legacy.

"We didn't select them; the municipalities decided who would represent them. We meet regularly—about once every three months—to discuss ongoing topics related to the INTERLACE project."

Justice and equity in the selection process Justice and equity were key considerations when determining how to implement project activities across different municipalities, as these activities could take place in all member cities. For inclusion-focused activities, such as the development of rain gardens, the metropolitan government team deliberately prioritized smaller municipalities with more vulnerable populations, limited resources, and less experience with NbS implementation. Larger cities, already familiar with NbS policies, played a supportive role, while the focus remained on empowering the smaller, less experienced municipalities. This approach ensured that communities with fewer resources could still benefit from the project.

"We wanted to include smaller municipalities that might not have had the resources or experience with NbS interventions, like rain gardens."

Streamlining Decision-Making Across Municipalities Coordinating across municipalities with varying capacities posed challenges. To maintain efficiency and avoid potential conflicts, a smaller group of experts, including a green architect and representatives from local foundations, worked collaboratively to make key decisions. This approach allowed for diverse perspectives while ensuring that the decision-making process remained manageable.

"It can be challenging to make sure everyone communicates effectively, especially when municipalities have different capacities and resources. A smaller group, including me and a couple of other experts, worked together to make decisions."

Box 4. A conversation on building trust between government
and citizens with Portoviejo

Portoviejo's citizen participation strategy focuses on engaging vulnerable groups, with an emphasis on intergenerational, gender, and youth inclusion. Trust-building is facilitated through transparent systems and strong political will, encouraging active community involvement. This approach offers a model for other cities, showcasing the importance of local engagement and leadership commitment.

Cities session © Natalia Burgos

Prioritizing vulnerable groups: The municipality actively focuses on including vulnerable populations in urban planning processes, emphasizing gender equality, youth involvement, and intergenerational participation. Programs like Invictus aim to strengthen youth engagement. However, challenges remain in reaching marginalized groups, such as the LGBTI community, who initially felt excluded but became active participants once invited. As noted by the municipality representative:

"This highlighted how important it is to incorporate gender-sensitive design in these spaces and develop strategies that we might not be familiar with due to a lack of expertise."

Leveraging local structures for inclusion Neighbourhood councils, such as the Consejo de Valor a San Eduardo, play a vital role in connecting the municipality with the broader community. These councils ensure that local needs are represented in urban planning decisions

"These councils serve as intermediaries between neighborhoods and the municipality, providing a crucial link to local needs"

Addressing trust and scheduling challenges: Scepticism towards public sector projects has often hampered participation. To address this, the municipality adapts its event schedules based on community feedback. Trust is fostered through systems which track citizen requests and ensures follow-up.

""We've adjusted the schedule of events based on citizen feedback. For example, youth groups prefer certain times, and the community in Parque Mamey has different preferences," shared the representative."

Box 5. A conversation on co-creation and project
implementation with Granollers

**Focused on enhancing the well-being of vulnerable groups,
Granollers fosters participation and social cohesion while
addressing challenges such as funding and community engagement.
Projects like MIMOSA and local food systems exemplify Granollers'
commitment to resilience and urban regeneration.**

Granollers © Natalia Burgos

Art and Nature Connection the City Engagement Program
connected art with nature, involving diverse artists to engage the
community in Granollers' natural spaces

*"We tried to link local art with Granollers' nature, engaging a different
group of people than those attending other events."*

Access to Nature through Agroecology **Granollers** is working to
connect agroecology with local food production, enhancing access
to nature while supporting sustainable urban and rural development.

*"We're linking agroecology with the local Palou brand to preserve
nature and provide healthy, local food."*

Collaborative Storytelling : As a strategy for inclusive
participation Granolles prioritizes a focus on telling the human side
of these stories, especially how the beneficiaries relate to food,
nature, and social integration.

*"We can tell the story from the perspective of the families and community,
with your help in gathering the necessary information."*

Justice in action:
Stories from INTERLACE Cities

The theoretical framework and survey tools implemented offered valuable insights with regard to the insights into the project's overall monitoring process from a justice perspective and perspective on important topics, potential gaps and key considerations. However, recognizing that justice unfolds differently across contexts, the project team recognized the need for a more nuanced approach to capture these variations and to learn from the experience of INTERLACE city partners.

In this context, this section explores how INTERLACE cities have tackled critical justice issues in practice. Storytelling was identified as a method to explore the softer, practical learnings that could inform other cities practice can be a source of inspiration as evidence of transformative potential of NbS. By delving into creating stories that reflect the different ways justice is experienced and addressed, the team aimed to uncover the subtleties and intricacies that may otherwise go unnoticed. These narratives offer powerful insights into how justice themes—such as gender, ethics, and diversity—are integrated into local actions, particularly within the framework of NbS research projects.

Storytelling plays a vital role in bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and practical application. Research on complex topics like justice, ethics, and inclusion can often seem abstract or disconnected from everyday life. Storytelling transforms these theoretical concepts into relatable, accessible forms, making them actionable and grounded in lived experience. By sharing personal stories, we can better contextualize the scientific and policy implications of NbS, offering a more human-centered perspective. This approach improves communication and fosters greater engagement among scientists, practitioners, and communities, ultimately leading to more informed decision-making and stronger collaborative efforts.

Approach to capturing the stories

The stories presented here were crafted by INTERLACE's city partners as part of an effort to improve the communication of scientific knowledge. The INTERLACE team provided a storytelling template that serves as a guide for cities to craft reflective and engaging narratives that highlight justice issues as they unfold in various INTERLACE cities. It encourages cities to focus on personal, engaging stories with people or nature as central characters. The template draws from the Storytelling Manual: How to Build a Climate Story (developed by the Horizon Europe project REACHOUT) and is tailored to the specific context of urban areas which also becomes a positive aspect of cross-learning across horizon projects (See Annex 2. Template for Crafting 'Justice in Action' Stories in INTERLACE).

Additionally, a buddy system was established to encourage peer learning and ensure that each story includes references to supplementary case study information and contact details for follow-up inquiries. These stories aim to reflect the real discussions, reflections, and challenges faced during the project, particularly around the design and implementation of NbS. They highlight how justice-related issues have unfolded in different cities.

The process for creating these stories follows the guidance provided in Report 6.6: Summary Report on Monitoring Ethics, Gender, and Diversity Issues in INTERLACE. This framework was designed to help cities develop reflective, insightful narratives that showcase justice in action within the project. The final stories will serve as a public resource, allowing cities to share their experiences and lessons learned, while also fostering peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange.

These initiatives ensure that each story effectively communicates justice issues while engaging and inspiring the audience. Additionally, the buddy system was designed to provide tailored mentoring, supporting cities in learning how to communicate their reflections in a different, more engaging way.

INTERLACE Stories of justice in action

"Step into the heart of communities where nature and people are deeply intertwined".

This collection, inspired by the experiences of INTERLACE project city partners, highlights the profound emotional and cultural ties that local communities share with their natural surroundings—whether it's the Congost River, Mamey Park, the Park of Green Dreams, or the Yurá River. These landscapes aren't just places; they are central to the community's identity and well-being. The narratives begin with environmental degradation—pollution, neglect, or infrastructural disruption—and follow the inspiring journey of collective action to restore or improve these vital spaces.

At the heart of each story is the active involvement of community members. Children, families, and local leaders have all played pivotal roles in the restoration process, proving that when people come together, change is possible. These stories highlight the importance of engaging multiple generations, with a special focus on empowering young people as the future stewards of their environment.

NbS such as reforestation, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity preservation are at the core of these efforts, showing how ecological solutions can also address social challenges. In many of these narratives, nature is personified—like the Yurá River, which symbolizes hope, renewal, and resilience—creating an emotional connection that sparks action.

The stories also touch on the crucial theme of environmental justice. They highlight how neglected or inaccessible spaces can be transformed into inclusive, vibrant environments that everyone in the community can enjoy. By giving voice to marginalized groups—like Marco, who has cerebral palsy, or children from underserved neighbourhoods—these stories emphasize the importance of empowering local communities to shape their environments. Through the restoration of rivers and parks, NbS not only brings back critical ecosystem services, such as flood mitigation and biodiversity, but also improves opportunities for recreation, benefiting the entire community.

These stories honour the local history, traditions, and ecological knowledge that enrich the restoration process, ensuring that cultural heritage is preserved alongside environmental healing. They also underscore the need for localized solutions that build resilience to climate impacts like droughts and flooding, demonstrating that a justice approach is key to making these solutions truly effective for all, especially the most vulnerable.

Dive into the stories and their illustrations **HERE**

The voice of the Yurah

Written by: Johana Tabares in Envigado, Colombia

I woke up, as I do every day, to the soft murmur of drops falling on the moss that covers my source on the Cerro de los Astilleros. It is a delicate sound, almost a whisper, announcing the beginning of my journey. I opened my eyes slowly, bathed in the golden light of the morning, while the colours and smells of the forest greeted me. I felt the freshness of the air, the perfume of the wildflowers, and the echoes of life blooming around me.

But today something different caught my attention: voices. Little voices, giggling, floating up from the valley floor. I heard my name repeated over and over again. "Yurah, Yurah, Yurah, Yurah," the children said, and each time they uttered it, something inside me lit up. My heart, made of crystal clear water, was filled with an unknown joy.

I decided to follow those voices as I descended the mountain, jumping between rocks, embracing centennial trees, and caressing the fertile land. I passed through the ecotourism park El Salado, where the birds sang my arrival in the urban area, and the carriquís, with their colorful plumage, accompanied me like celestial guardians. On my tour, I felt the presence of the puma watching from the shadows, the woolly ocelot gliding through the bushes, and the sloth bear observing me from the top of a tree, moving to the slow rhythm of nature.

When I arrived near a school, I heard the children say beautiful things about me: "She is an ecosystem," "She is guarded by protected areas," "She is home to birds," "She has a puma that walks next to her!" My heart was filled with hope. I thought no one remembered me anymore, that my 12 kilometers were invisible to new generations who didn't know who I was. But these children were there, talking about me, dreaming of me.

That night I could not sleep. The children's voices kept echoing in my riverbed, telling me that soon they would come to visit me, play with me, get to know me. They told me that soon they would come to visit me, to play with me, to know me. Was it possible? Would the laughter and the little feet splashing in my waters come back? I went back up the mountain, carrying the message to every corner. I told the carriquís: "The children are coming back." They excitedly flew through the forest announcing my joy.

And the day arrived. The same carriquíes that accompany my journey, were the first to warn me: "Yurah, the children are here." I hurried down, meandering with joy, and saw them. Little bare feet sank in my cool waters, tiny hands picked up stones, and laughter filled the air. I heard from afar that they were calling the "Guardians of the Yurah." They came to meet me, to understand that I am more than water; I am life, history, and memory.

I showed them all that I am: my unique biodiversity, my more than 300 birds, the trees that embrace my riverbed, and the stories I have kept since time immemorial, the washerwomen, fertility, the muleteers that run my paths. They promised me to take my message to their homes, to their schools, and to anyone who would listen: "The Yurah is alive and needs us".

But one day, a storm came, I only thought of the Guardians, I would not want them to be worried and afraid. Torrential rains fell on me, and my body grew, overflowed. I climbed the streets, dragged buildings, flooded walls that blocked my natural course. I felt sadness as I watched nature and concrete clash in an unequal battle. "Why do they surround me, why don't they understand that I need space to navigate?" I thought as I tried to flow. My essence is to grow and change with the seasons, but humans would not let me be.

Despite everything, my hope was not extinguished, I thought the children would never come back that they would be afraid of me but the children, my guardians, came back. Their feet wet my waters again, and they reminded me that I am not alone. That day I whispered to them, "My voice is yours. "My life depends on you." They understood. They filled their hearts with my message and promised to take care of me, to speak for me, and to teach others that the importance of water in Envigado flows with me, with the Yura.

So I continue my journey, from the Astilleros Hill to the Aburrá River, amazed by the life that surrounds me and full of hope thanks to the "Guardians of the Yurá" who are now part of me.

My name lives on their lips and in their hearts. I am the Yurah, and my voice will never cease to flow.

The Mamey Park and the Portoviejo river

Written by: Ligia Vera in Portoviejo, Ecuador

Once upon a time, there was a small city called Portoviejo, where a river meandered gracefully through its heart, bringing life to everything it touched. This river, with its crystal-clear waters, flowed through both bustling neighborhoods and lush natural landscapes. On one of its banks stood the Mamey Park, a magical place filled with vegetation, towering trees, vibrant colors, and animals singing in harmony, creating a perfect sanctuary in this corner of the world. The river was also a vital transportation route, where merchant rafts carried goods, food, and above all, joy and smiles to Mamey Park.

Antonio, a proactive young man who lived nearby, was a nature lover. He nostalgically remembered the afternoons of his childhood spent exploring the park, watching families come to enjoy its beauty. The mango trees were his favourite refuge, and the animals his beloved companions.

However, one day, everything began to change. While Antonio was strolling through the park, he noticed that the river's water was no longer as clear as it once was. He saw rubbish and debris piling up among the trees and observed how the animals began to leave their homes. The rafts, which once glided happily along the river, now collided with logs and floating waste and gradually stopped coming to the park.

Sadness overwhelmed Antonio, but it also filled him with determination. "I have to do something to save the park and the river!" he thought.

With the support of the local government, Antonio gathered his friends: María, who knew a lot about the park's history; Teresa, who shared his passion for nature; and Gabriel, a community leader. All of them cherished wonderful memories of the park, and together, they began to reminisce:

"I remember the walks along the river!" said María.

"I remember when the rafts brought goods to the park!" added Teresa.

"I miss when we used to fish and wash clothes in the river!" exclaimed Gabriel.

Determined to restore the park, they gathered in the iconic chapel of Mamey Park, surrounded by tall trees, and started brainstorming a plan.

"We can clean the river and the park," proposed María.

"We must preserve the existing structures," suggested Teresa.

"And create strategies to encourage interaction between people and nature," Gabriel added enthusiastically.

Antonio smiled. "We'll do all of that together! With the support of the municipality and everyone who wants to join our mission."

Thus, the community came together to achieve their goal. Children collected cans and bottles, others navigated the river to remove branches and debris, while some planted new trees. They put up signs that read: "The Portoviejo River and Mamey Park are our home. Let's take care of them!" Slowly but surely, the community stopped polluting the river.

Over time, Mamey Park regained its splendor. The trees grew stronger, the birds sang again, and squirrels leapt from branch to branch. The river regained its clarity, and each time its waters swelled, it no longer caused floods.

One day, Antonio watched with joy as visitors arrived at the park: children, parents, grandparents, and even rafts once again navigating the river. Mamey Park had transformed into a place full of life and happiness.

"Do you see, Antonio? When people work together and care for nature, they can achieve wonderful things," María said with a smile.

From then on, Mamey Park and the Portoviejo River became symbols of love and care for nature. They told the story of a place restored for the enjoyment of the entire community, transforming into a magical corner where nature always shines, protected by its very own inhabitants.

Marco And The Park Of Green Dreams

Written by: Erika Calderon and Marcela Gutierres. CBIMA, Costa Rica

Once upon a time, in a modest and hardworking neighborhood with almost no green spaces, there lived a young boy named Marco. Marco was cheerful and full of dreams, even though he was born with cerebral palsy. He loved being outdoors, but in his community, there wasn't a park where he could enjoy nature. The only nearby space was covered in rubbish and debris, making it inaccessible and offering no benefits.

Marco's mother felt sad because she rarely had the chance to take her son outside. She looked at her surroundings with sorrow, wishing that one day it would become a beautiful place. The community's green space was in terrible condition—it was littered with garbage, muddy, and filled with unpleasant odors. There were no flowers, trees, plants, or birds to admire.

One day, a group of people gathered in the community. They were from various organizations dedicated to protecting nature and helping communities create green spaces. When they saw the area, they had a brilliant idea: to transform the dump into a park filled with trees, flowers, and life for everyone to enjoy!

With a lot of hard work, the group got started. First, they cleared out all the rubbish and cleaned the land. Then they brought in fertile soil, seeds, and plants. They decided to plant a roble de sabana (savannah oak), a large and sturdy tree that would provide shade and freshness to the park. Marco watched with excitement as the dull, gray site began to fill with greenery and life. He couldn't wait for the park to be completed. After many months, the park was nearly finished. It looked like a dream come true!

There were permeable paths, colourful flowers, and the magnificent roble de sabana standing proudly in the centre. Marco was one of the first to visit.

He arrived with his mother, approached the oak, and sat beneath its shade. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath, feeling the soft breeze caress his face. He listened to the birds singing and the wind rustling through the branches, and he smiled. Marco swayed his head to the rhythm of the birds and felt pure joy.

The park became not just Marco's favourite place but a beloved spot for the entire community. Families came for picnics, children ran and played, and older people sat quietly, enjoying the peace. From then on, Marco and his neighbours lovingly cared for the park: they made sure no rubbish was left behind, watered the plants, and tended to the trees to ensure they grew strong.

The Park of Green Dreams, as they called it, became a symbol of hope and unity for the community. Thanks to everyone's efforts and Marco's love for nature, the dump was transformed into a place where dreams could grow as tall as the savannah oak.

And so, the story comes to an end, but the love for nature is just beginning.

Reviving Water Memories In Granollers

Written by Xavi Romero in Granollers, Spain

I have lived in Granollers my entire life. When I was a child, the Congost River was like another member of the family, a constant presence that infused life into our daily routines. Back then, we knew the water intimately. The river wasn't just a place—it was life itself. Farmers came from neighboring regions, drawn by the abundance of our springs and wells, and children like me spent summers splashing in its clear waters or fishing along its banks. It was a water paradise—or at least, that's how I remember it.

But those days now seem so distant. As the city grew, the river began to change. First, they built walls and channels to control it. Then, the springs we once relied on were forgotten, hidden under concrete and asphalt. The Congost, once brimming with life and stories, became something distant, almost invisible. They called it progress. But to me, it felt like losing something precious.

We didn't just lose the river; we lost our knowledge of water. We used to know where the springs were, the underground paths the water traveled, and how the river would rise and fall with the seasons. That wisdom was passed down through generations, but over time, it began to fade.

Then came the droughts. They've become more frequent: 1990, 1999, 2005, and now this one, which has lasted three years. It's hard to describe the helplessness of watching your city dry up, knowing that water is somewhere beneath your feet but feeling powerless to reach it. And when it rains, it feels like a cruel joke—storms so intense they flood the streets, sweeping everything away. It's as if the water is trying to remind us of its power, its rightful place.

That's why I joined the HIDROsfera Granollers project. At first, I wasn't sure what a group of artists, scientists, and ordinary people like me could achieve.

But when they said they wanted to recover the water memory of our city, something stirred inside me. I remembered stories, like how grandmothers acted as healers, taking children to throw stones into the stream at La Mineta to cure sadness and lethargy; or the legend of the Pedra de l'Encant (The Enchanted Stone), a famous rock in the city square that was said to have been brought by a flood and would be taken away by another; or the popular excursions to enjoy and picnic by the Font del Ràdium (Radium Spring), whose water was once believed to have healthful radioactive properties. I knew I had to share what I remembered—especially my memories of the river, which, fortunately, had been restored in recent decades. The Congost had been severely degraded, and honestly, I never imagined fish would return to it. But now, I'm delighted to see it full of life. Many leaders made mistakes with the natural environment of our city, but for bringing back the river, I forgive them everything.

In HIDROsfera Granollers, we started with guided walks along the Congost, following its course and trying to imagine how it must have been before the walls and channels. I met a young artist who sketched every detail we pointed out: the old bridge now covered in vegetation, the places where we used to swim, the spots where the river flowed freely and formed pools where frogs lived. Together, we pieced fragments of the past back together.

One day, during one of our workshops, a hydrologist explained something that left me in awe. Beneath Granollers, there are still aquifers—hidden water reservoirs we've completely forgotten. It's possible they could still help us during these years of drought. I couldn't believe it. Could the paradise of my childhood still exist, waiting to be rediscovered?

The cultural richness connected to water also resurfaced. Legends, sayings, and even old songs came back to life.

Someone mentioned El Rec Gran, a long-covered spring, and another shared a story about the Fada de la Torre de les Aigües (Water Tower Fairy). It felt like we were weaving a tapestry of memory, each thread reconnecting us to the river, the aquifers, and the water that sustains us.

By the end of the project, we had created something extraordinary: the Water Maps, seven artistic maps that captured everything we had learned. They depicted the three spheres of water—the river, the watershed, and the aquifer—and reminded us that the history of Granollers is written in water. Looking at those maps, I felt something I hadn't felt in years: hope.

Now, when I see the Congost, I see a river that is increasingly green and alive. I remember what it once was and feel joy that the river's natural beauty is returning. I see a future where the wisdom of the past helps us face the challenges of droughts and floods. As I told the young people working on the project, "Granollers was once a water paradise. And if we're smart, it can be one again."

The river continues to flow, and so do the stories. And as long as we remember, as long as we care, the waters of Granollers will never fall silent.
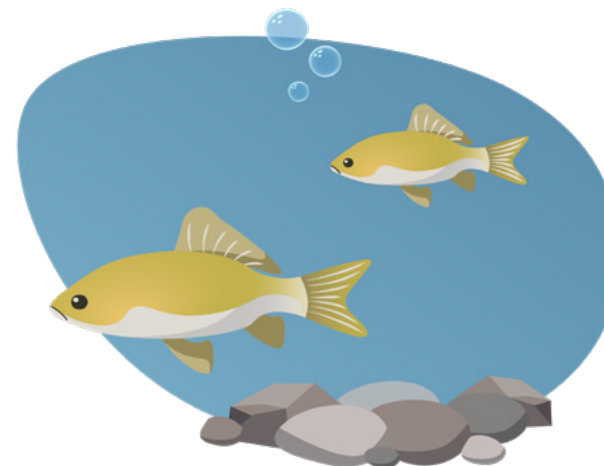
Key take aways

Anchoring NbS in Justice Frameworks

Anchoring Nature-based Solutions (NbS) within justice frameworks is crucial for aligning ecological and social objectives. Placing equity at the heart of NbS design requires prioritizing marginalized communities—such as low-income populations, children, and the elderly—and addressing systemic barriers like financial constraints and limited access to decision-making processes. The INTERLACE experience underscored the importance of customizing NbS interventions to meet local challenges and cultural contexts, ensuring that solutions such as green spaces or flood mitigation are both inclusive and accessible. Empowering communities through education and capacity-building, with a focus on engaging younger generations, fosters long-term ownership and leadership. Justice-based approaches ensure that NbS projects are not just environmentally effective but socially transformative as well.

Incorporating justice into NbS research requires an understanding of social hierarchies and power dynamics, which influence who participates in decision-making and whose needs are prioritized. Both in Latin America and Europe, recognizing cultural differences and adopting inclusive, participatory approaches is essential. Intersectionality adds complexity to this integration, as overlapping identities—such as gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status—can exacerbate inequalities. Addressing these challenges demands careful attention to local contexts and the active empowerment of marginalized groups through participatory research. It is essential, however, that these processes avoid tokenism and ensure that the voices of vulnerable communities are genuinely heard and valued.

The need for inclusive and Adaptive Monitoring Practices

An effective monitoring system should track both immediate and long-term impacts to ensure that NbS initiatives remain responsive and equitable. Achieving this goal in the context of a research project can be challenging due to factors such as the lack of systematic data collection and centralized repositories. In addition, information availability and data collection processes as well as respective capacities differ among local governments. Moreover, fostering exchange and collaboration differs from monitoring implementation, which requires a creative and adaptable approach tailored to each city's specific context. Flexibility becomes crucial in addressing context-specific needs and fostering a learn-by-doing approach, allowing cities to adjust their strategies as they gain insights throughout the process.

The INTERLACE experience highlighted that tools such as a conceptual framework for designing indicators, along with surveys, interviews, and storytelling exercises, provide a flexible and effective means of capturing information that is otherwise hard to obtain. Despite ongoing challenges, particularly the need for context-specific monitoring, the project demonstrated that inclusive monitoring is achievable by involving local communities in data collection and analysis. This approach ensures that the lived experiences and cultural contexts of communities' shape decision-making. Long-term monitoring should focus on equity outcomes, such as enhancing social cohesion and ensuring fair access to NbS benefits. Adaptive monitoring systems, as demonstrated by INTERLACE, enable cities to adjust dynamically to evolving social and environmental conditions, ensuring that interventions remain relevant, inclusive, and resilient over time.

CHALLENGES for meaningful participation

While the project made significant strides in integrating social equity, gender, and cultural considerations into NbS planning, several challenges persist. Engaging specific stakeholder groups within cities remains difficult, requiring dedicated attention and specialized personnel within city administrations. Typically, only one or two staff members per city are involved, and they often lack the expertise necessary to engage vulnerable groups effectively. This highlights the need for targeted capacity building and specialized training to ensure meaningful participation from marginalized communities in NbS initiatives.

Despite these challenges, the products developed, and the specialized workshops held as part of the Cities Talk Nature webinar series have likely raised awareness of the importance of inclusive NbS design and planning. These efforts have the potential to influence participating cities and others, fostering more equitable and culturally sensitive approaches to urban resilience.

Addressing these challenges requires a long-term commitment to building capacity within city administrations, promoting inclusive governance structures, and ensuring that vulnerable groups are actively involved in the planning and implementation of NbS. By prioritizing these elements, cities can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of NbS, contributing to more resilient and equitable urban environments.

Leveraging Storytelling to Inspire and Engage

Storytelling emerged as a powerful tool in INTERLACE to build connections, preserve cultural heritage, and promote equitable NbS practices. Justice-centered stories captured lived experiences and local traditions, transforming abstract concepts such as equity and inclusion into tangible, relatable narratives. These stories provided a platform for marginalized voices, fostering more profound community engagement and creating emotional connections to NbS interventions. By incorporating storytelling into its communication efforts, INTERLACE established a framework that sustained momentum and inspired collective action, ensuring the legacy of its justice-driven approaches continues to influence future projects and future activities in the INTERLACE cities.

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List of figures

Appendix

Annex 1.
INTERLACE's criteria for justice monitoring

The following criteria outlines INTERLACE's conceptualization of justice monitoring and the criteria to assess the inclusiveness of participatory processes within urban NbS projects.

Key Criteria for Assessing Inclusiveness:

Cultural Perception of Nature:

- How nature is valued and perceived

- Cultural beliefs and values with respect to the perception of nature

- Purposes and experiences of activities in green spaces (e.g., idling or task-oriented recreation)

- Group-specific modes of engaging with and connecting to nature influence benefits and needs

Social Description of the Group

- Socio-economic status (class)

- Symbolic identifications of social status, identity labels

- Effects of identities/social statuses on:

- Nature's value and perception

- Engagement with and connection to nature

- Access to high-quality green spaces

- Purposes of visits to green spaces

- Preferences and needs related to green spaces

- Benefits from visiting green spaces

- Unmet needs

Interrelationships in the Group / Inequalities

- Intersectionality (the advantageous and disadvantageous effects of group-specific identities in the context of other identities)

- Differences in the quality of neighbourhoods/districts

- Access to high-quality green spaces

- Gendered inequalities

- Challenges for various groups of disabled people

- Discrimination/stigmatization (e.g., ethnic groups, migrants, sexual minorities)

- Organizational capacity (e.g., neighbourhood associations, interest organizations, social movements)

- Influence on or participation in public or local decision-making processes

- Marginalization or exclusion from public decision-making processes, educational institutions, and markets

Practical Guidance for Inclusive Project/ Event Implementation:

Understanding the Process for an Inclusive Project/Event

- Prioritize areas where green is lacking through inclusive spatial planning

- Criteria for the invitation list: Who should be invited and why?

- Understanding relationships within the group: Who are the participants? Do they know each other? Are there structural inequalities or potential conflicts between them?

- Organizing the discussion and sharing voice: Ensure equal representation and participation

- Taking into account the criteria, needs, and expectations of all groups

- Advancing up the participatory ladder: Moving beyond tokenism

Exploring Diversity

- Gender

- Age

- Ethnicity

- Social class

- Migrant status

- Sexual minority

- Occupation / Education

- Disability

- Neighbourhood origin

Socio-environmental Analysis of Implementation Sites

- Socio-economic status of residents

- Quality of infrastructures (e.g., housing, drainage, water supply)

- Degree/quality of urban planning

- Risks related to unplanned car traffic, pollution, and climate change

- Quality of nature/green spaces in residential areas/ neighbourhoods/districts

- Distance to quality green spaces from residential areas

- Affordable and adequate transportation to quality green spaces

- Accessibility considering risks related to infrastructure (e.g., traffic)

**Short List of Key Concepts and Criteria
for Monitoring Inclusiveness :**

- Socio-cultural influence on how nature is valued and perceived

- Group-specific modes of engaging with and connecting to nature

- Shared understanding of the aim, implementation, and desired outcome of NbS

- Best interests of participants: Ensuring all groups benefit according to their preferences and needs

- Preferences and needs related to nature and green spaces

- Benefits from activities in nature

- Purposes for visiting green spaces

- Distance to green spaces from residential areas

- Degree of access to high-quality green spaces

- Qualities of neighborhoods and living areas

- Risks related to pollution and climate change

- Socio-economic inequalities

- Gender inequalities

- Challenges faced by disabled people

- Status of ethnic minorities and immigrants

- Social effects of identities/intersectionality

- Discrimination and stigmatization

- Organizational capacity of different groups

- This list is intended to guide the evaluation of both the principles implemented in NbS research projects and the inclusiveness and fairness of the actions carried out by municipal partners in their territories.

Annex 2.

Template for crafting 'Justice in Action' stories in INTERLACE

Purpose

This template was developed for Deliverable 6.6: Summary Report on Monitoring Ethics, Gender, and Diversity Issues in INTERLACE. It serves as a guidance document to help INTERLACE cities craft insightful, reflective narratives that showcase justice-in-action within the project. These stories will be included in the final deliverable and aim to be a public resource, enabling cities to share their experiences and lessons learned through their involvement in INTERLACE.

Objective

The aim is to provide a step-by-step guide for generating a story that:

- Reflects justice issues as they unfold in different INTERLACE cities.

- Focuses on personal, engaging narratives, with people or nature as central characters.

- Presents real discussions, reflections, and situations encountered during the project, particularly around Nature-based Solutions, their design, and implementation related activities during INTERLACE project.

- The stories should be short and to the point. Max 2 pages.

Reference Material

The template is heavily based on the Storytelling Manual: How to Build a Climate Story, developed by the Horizon Europe project REACHOUT, tailored for city contexts.

The Main Message

This part of the process serves as an intention-setting and planning exercise, to establish the framework for developing the story.

Define the target audience

Your answer...

Find the core message

Your answer...

Find interesting details

- Identify unique details: Gather key ingredients such as iconic locations, character ideas, memorable events, personal anecdotes, and elements that resonate locally.

- Build an emotional connection: Include experiences, like past floods or heatwaves, that resonate with the audience's collective memory for deeper engagement

Your answer...

Story Narrative

Setting the Scene

Define the "where" and "when," introduce main characters outline a specific, relatable setting. Consider possible story beginnings and endings.

Your answer...

Trigger

Capture attention with an intriguing event or change that drives curiosity

Your answer...

Helpers and Threats

Identify obstacles and supportive elements the main character encounters to keep the story engaging.

Your answer...

Take-away Message

Decide on the ending and transformation and clarify the lesson or call to action for the audience.

Your answer...

Visuals

Identify visuals

images, photos, drawings and any visual images that you would like to add to the story.

Your answer...

Quotes

When possible, talk to people and identify quotes that you would like to include in the story

Your answer...

Annex 3. Impact Survey

The INTERLACE Impact Survey

Question Answer categories	Answer categories	Related indicator
Impact indicator questions to be answered from the perspective of the individual city **Aim:** To find out to what extent we achieved the INTERLACE impacts.		
How many INTERLACE tools or instruments have been developed or integrated in your city's NbS planning process?	[Drop-down] • None • 1-2 • 3-5 • More than 5	Number of co-produced /integrated instruments and tools in the INTERLACE cities
Did you consult, use (or apply) the following products? • Urban NbS Governance Atlas • City Tailored Assessment Framework • Protocol on cultural, gender and ethics-related considerations • Minecraft implementation in the city	yes/no If the answer is 'no', the product does not appear in the following 2 questions.	
Did it create added value for you? For example: did it allow you to facilitate your work or do your job in a better way? • Urban NbS Governance Atlas • City Tailored Assessment Framework • Protocol on cultural, gender and ethics-related considerations • Minecraft implementation in the city	Score from 1 to 5 for each product (1 meaning 'not at all' to 5 'a lot')	

Are you satisfied with the quality of the product? • Urban NbS Governance Atlas • City Tailored Assessment Framework • Protocol on cultural, gender and ethics-related considerations • Minecraft implementation in the city	Score from 1 to 5 for each product 1 = Very dissatisfied 2 = Dissatisfied 3 = Neutral 4 = Satisfied 5 = Very Satisfied	Number of co-produced /integrated instruments and tools in the INTERLACE cities
Any other comments concerning the use and added value of the products?	Open field	
How would you rate your understanding of the costs and benefits of NbS for urban ecosystem restoration before INTERLACE?	[Drop-down, Likert Scale, 1–5] Very low - Very high	Increased understanding of the costs and benefits of NbS for urban ecosystem restoration and ability to act based on relevance, usefulness and salience criteria
To what extent has your understanding of costs and benefits of NbS for urban restoration increased through INTERLACE?	[Drop-down, Likert Scale, 1–5] Not at all - Very much	
Has your municipality incorporated policy instruments specifically targeting businesses in NbS planning as a result of INTERLACE?	Drop-down] • Yes • No • Don't know	Municipalities including policy instruments for business in municipal NbS planning
If yes, please briefly describe the nature of these policy instruments:	[Open ended]	

Has a good practice that you have learned about through INTERLACE been fully or partly replicated in your city? If so, please describe:	[Open ended question]	Replication of good practices by cities
Do you believe that the INTERLACE products, such as the NbS Assessment Framework contribute to a robust evidence base for assessment and monitoring?	Drop-down, Likert Scale, 1-5] • Strongly agree • Agree • Neutral • Disagree • Strongly disagree	Results recognised as supporting a robust and integrated evidence base for restorative NBS assessment and monitoring (WP5&6)
How would you rate the level of ownership and exploitation of final INTERLACE products by end-users in your city?	[Drop-down, Likert Scale, 1-5] Very low - Very high	Ownership and exploitation of final products by end-users
Do you believe there has been an increase in technical and procedural capacity among decision-makers in your city regarding NbS?	[Drop-down, Likert Scale, 1-5] Not at all - Very much	Increased technical and procedural capacity in cities amongst decision-makers
Do you believe INTERLACE has contributed to an improvement of previous practices of NbS design and monitoring in your city?	[Drop-down, Likert Scale, 1-5] Not at all - Very much	Improvement of previous practices of NBS design and monitoring
Please provide an estimate on the number of people regularly involved in co-production processes in your city (the "core group" of stakeholders that were involved throughout the project).	[Open ended]	Number of participants in co-production process per city (WP2&3)

Do you believe that INTERLACE helped to promote multi-level governance (i.e. involving different governance levels)?	[Drop-down, Likert Scale, 1-5] Not at all - Very much	Promotion of multi-scale / -level governance
Do you believe that INTERLACE helped to promote horizontal governance (i.e. involving different sectors, groups and/or administrative departments)?	[Drop-down, Likert Scale, 1-5] Not at all - Very much	Promotion of horizontal governance / coordination
Ethics, gender, culture indicators **Aim:** To identify achievements and lessons learned on being inclusive and culturally as well as gender-sensitive		
To what extent have you been able to integrate the stakeholder views of the following groups in co-production processes?	Likert scale; Very little extent - Great extent (1-5)] • National or regional public body • Local public body • University / research • Non-for-profit organization • Private company • Citizens • Local association • Other	Inclusivity of different stakeholder views in co-production processes
To what extent have you been able to integrate the views of the following vulnerable groups in co-production processes?	[Likert scale; Very little extent - Great extent (1-5)] • **Children and adolescents** • **Women and girls** • **Persons with disabilities** • **Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers** • **LGBTI persons** • **Older persons**	
What challenges did you encounter when trying to involve marginalized/ vulnerable groups?	[Open ended]	
What success stories or good practice examples can you share on how to involve marginalized/ vulnerable groups?	[Open ended]	

When inviting and/or selecting participants for an event, which of the following group demographics did you consider?	[Multiple choice] • Gender • Age • Ethnicity • Social class • Migrant status • Sexual minority • Occupation • Education • Disability • Neighbourhood origin	Degree of considering social, gender and ethical characteristics of the participants when designing and implementing a project event / action
When planning or designing a project action (e.g. citizen campaigns, competitions), which of the following group demographics did you consider?		
Out of the tools produced by the project to support inclusion, justice and ethical considerations, which did you use during the project duration?	[Multiple choice] • Co-creation protocol • Guidance on gender, ethics and culture • Stakeholder engagement strategy • Dissemination events as part of INTERLACE • Spatial screening • Other (open field)	Number of actions implemented in the project to promote inclusion, justice and ethics
Before INTERLACE, when deciding on the location and design of urban green areas did you consider inclusivity as a decision-making criteria?	[Drop down] • Yes, please explain: • Partially, please: explain • No, please explain:	Number of urban interventions in INTERLACE with improved integration of spatial justice and vulnerability considerations
How would you rate the level of ownership and exploitation of final INTERLACE products by end-users in your city?	[Drop down] • Yes, please explain: • Partially, please: explain • No, please explain:	

Questions on Lessons learned from EU-CELAC exchange When answering these questions, please focus on the exchange between the EU and CELAC regions: if you are from a European city, please think about your experience learning from and exchanging with partners in Latin America. If you are from a Latin American city, please think about your experience exchanging with European cities and other partners in Europe. Please consider the exchange and learning not only between city partners but also interactions with other partners in the project (scientific partners, city networks, communication partners – OPPLA and WFF)	
What were your city's initial expectations from the exchange process with European/Latin American partners?	[Open ended]
To what extent were these expectations met?	[Likert Scale, 1–5] 1 – Not met at all, 5 – Fully met [Field for comment]
How valuable do you consider the exchange process between Europe and Latin America for your city and your activities around NbS?	[Likert Scale, 1–5] 1 – Not met at all, 5 – Fully met [Field for comment]
What specific knowledge or skills did your city gain from the exchange with European/Latin American partners in the project? Do you have concrete examples where these new skills or knowledge have been applied? Think about technical, social, cultural and governance lessons.	[Open ended]
Were there any innovative practices or approaches from your partner cities that your city adopted? If yes, please describe them.	[Open ended]
Did your city face any challenges in communicating and coordinating with European/Latin American partners?	[Drop down] • Yes, please explain: • No
If you answered yes to the previous question: what was done, or could have been done to overcome these challenges?	[Open ended]

Did cultural differences impact the exchange process? If so, how? What strategies were effective or could have been effective in managing these cultural differences?	[Open ended]
Which activities were most effective in facilitating a successful exchange between European and Latin American partners?	Multiple choice] • City Pairing Process • City Focal Point calls • In-person meetings (Annual Assemblies) • Organising joint activities (e.g. photography competition) • Cities Talk Nature Webinars • Cooperation with scientific partners (e.g. developing the Assessment Framework, Business Insight sessions with David) • Self-organised direct conversations • Other (open field)
What aspects of the exchange process could be improved to enhance future collaborations?	[Open ended]
What are the three most important lessons your city learned from the exchange process with European/Latin American partners?	[Open ended]
Based on your experience, what recommendations would you give to other cities, organisations or projects aiming to facilitate cross-continental exchanges?	[Open ended]
Do you have any additional comments or insights that you would like to share regarding the exchange process between Europe and Latin America?	[Open ended]

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CHEMNITZ STADT DER MODERNE

PORTOVIEJO ALCALDÍA crecemos juntos

Alcaldía de Envigado

Ajuntament Granollers

UCLG United Cities and Local Governments

CLIMATE ALLIANCE

UNGL

FLACMA Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales

YES innovacion + Arquitectura + Construccion

UAB Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona ICTA Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals – UAB

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