



# NBS in A CORUÑA

## Urban Gardens Network

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Bringing  
cities to life,  
Bringing life  
into cities.



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Concello da Coruña



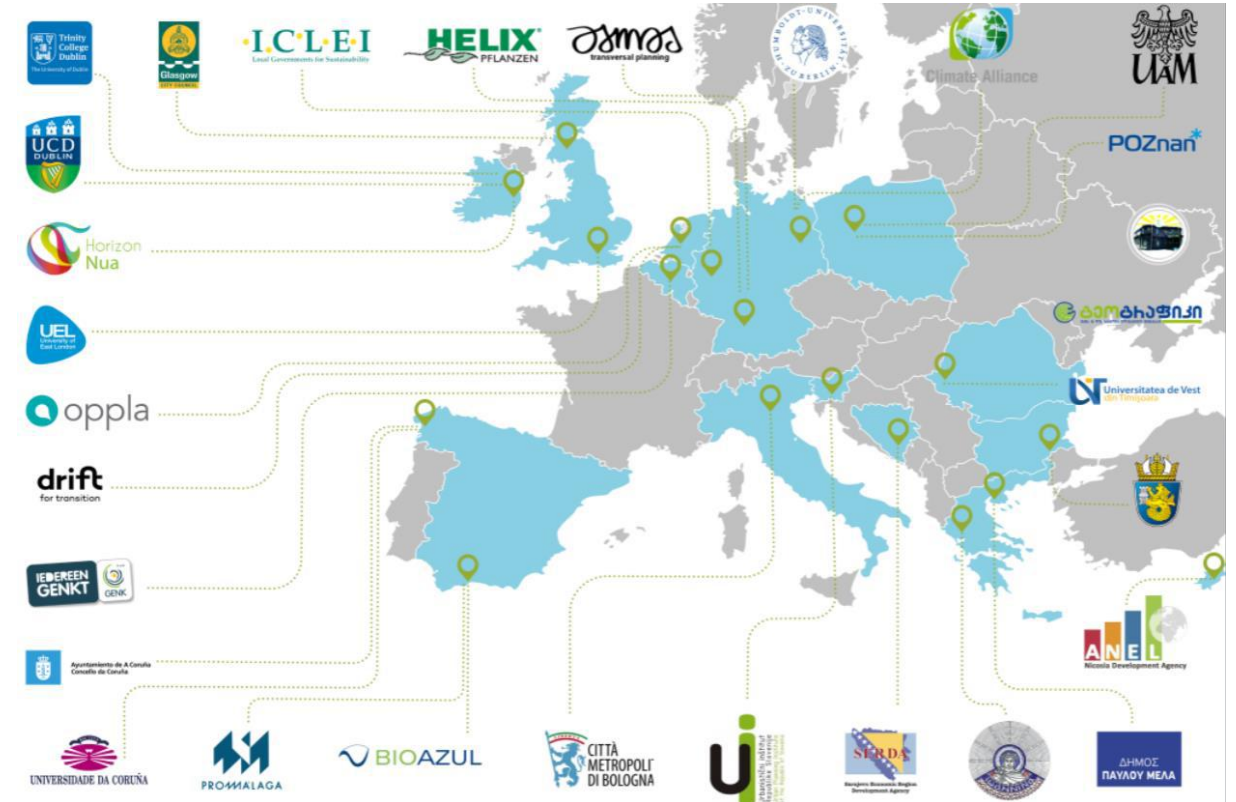
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730222



- **Horizon 2020** (2017-2022)
- **11,4M €**
- **30 project partners** from industry, local authorities, local communities, NGO's and research in **16 countries**, and hubs in Brazil, China, Korea & The Caucasus

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## Connecting Nature Project



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## Nature-based solutions

The European Commission defines **nature-based solutions** as

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

Nature-based solutions must therefore benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services.

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# Connecting Nature Framework



- TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS
- GOVERNANCE
- FINANCING AND BUSINESS MODELS
- NATURE-BASED ENTERPRISES

- CO-PRODUCTION
- REFLEXIVE MONITORING
- IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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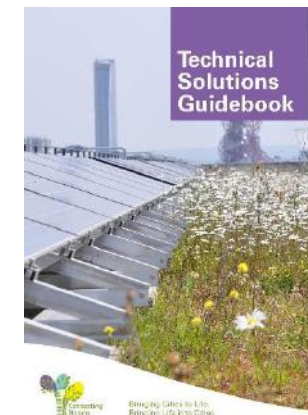
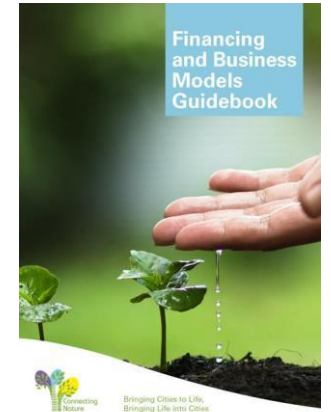


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# Connecting Nature Framework



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<https://connectingnature.eu/innovations/connecting-nature-framework>



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## Workshop on Business Model Canvas in A Coruña

To better understand how to finance our exemplar, not only relying on municipal funds (Nov. 2019)

## Annual General Meeting in Malaga

1<sup>st</sup> presentational meeting for our new CN team. It was really important to learn and put in practice new concepts, such as the CN Framework and the Reflexive Monitoring (Oct. 2019)

## Selection of exemplar: urban gardens

Urban gardens network had a great potential as a first step for the green infrastructure strategy (Sept. 2019)

## Connection with Employment department and URBACT RU:RBAN project

The Employment dpt. was involved in another EU project on urban gardens, working already with a group of stakeholders developing school gardens (Dec. 2019)

## High level meeting with the City Councillors for Environment, Education, Employment and Tourism and Markets

This helped us secure political support to develop our exemplar and collaborate with the different departments (March 2020)

## CN Exemplar awarded as National Best Practice

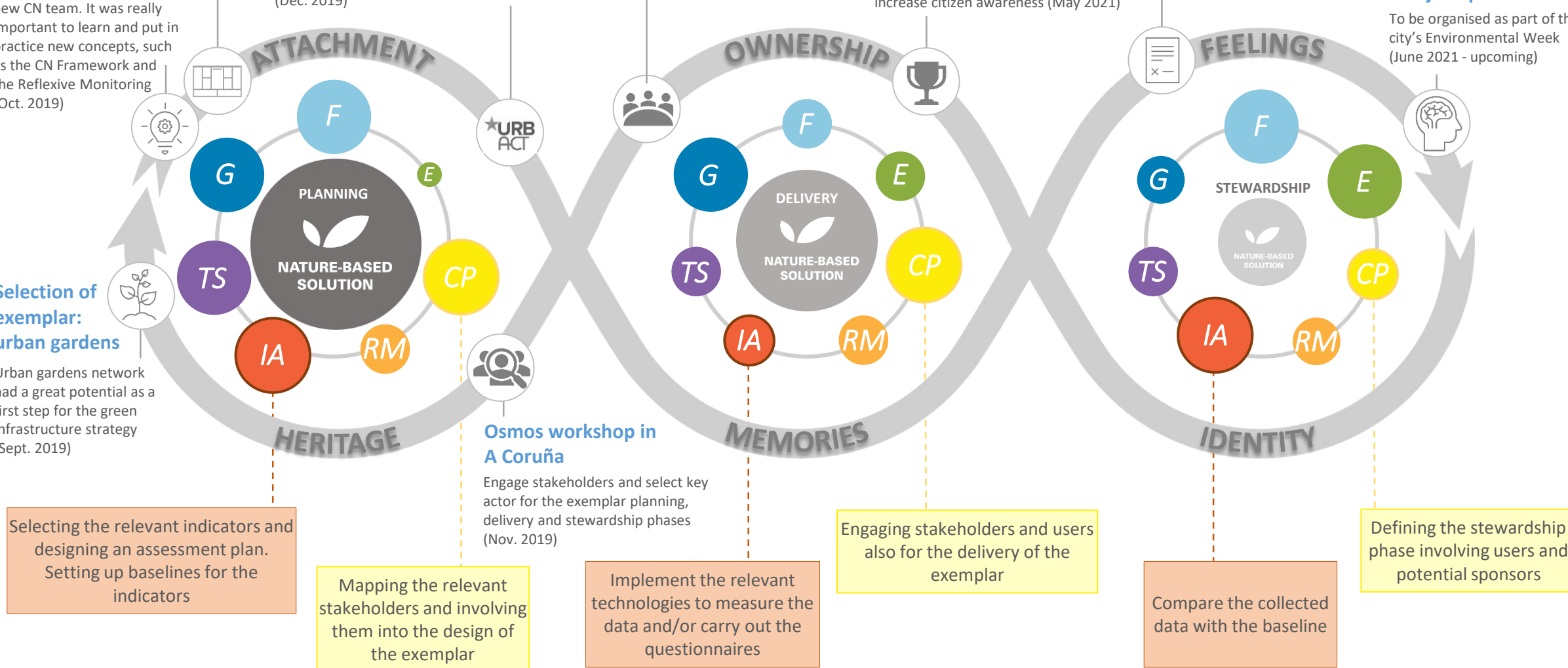
1<sup>st</sup> prize in the category of NBS, helpful to further secure political support and increase citizen awareness (May 2021)

## New maintenance tender for the city's green areas including UG

With our inputs embedded for the green areas of the city, which will have a separated lot for the maintenance of urban gardens, aimed at social integration enterprises (May-April 2021)

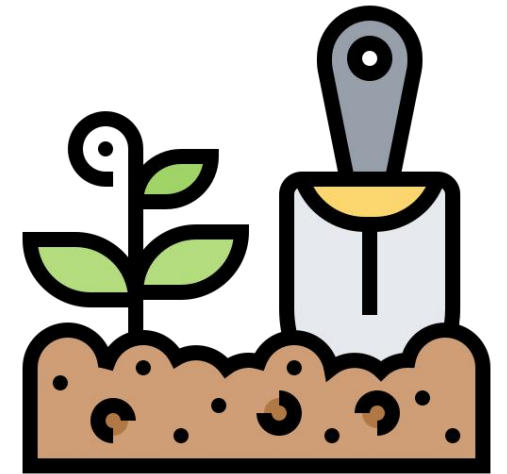
## Sarajevo process

To be organised as part of the city's Environmental Week (June 2021 - upcoming)



## Why Urban Gardens?

- **Small-scale projects** that can be then **up-scaled** to a city-wide level
- **Cost-efficient way** to address many of the city's strategic goals
- **Alignment** with UN Sustainable Development Goals, EU Urban agenda, Spanish Urban Agenda



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## NBS exemplar: Urban Gardens

### BENEFITS (multifunctional approach)

Increase **biodiversity** and boost ecology

Improve **resilience** against climate change challenges

Provide a sustainable public space offering **healthy recreational opportunities**

Protect and reinforce **ethnographic and cultural values** of environment

Increase **social cohesion** and **community engagement**

Provide a space for **environmental education**

Promote **new sustainable economic activities / entrepreneurship opportunities**



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3 Urban Gardens for citizens

3 Community Gardens for NGOs and associations

5 School Gardens in Primary Schools

218 families in Municipal Gardens

2 NGOs / Associations

2,500 children



4 Urban Gardens for citizens

4 Community Gardens for NGOs and associations

11 School Gardens in Primary Schools

305 families in Municipal Gardens

4 NGOs / Associations

4,400 children



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## NBS exemplar: Urban Gardens

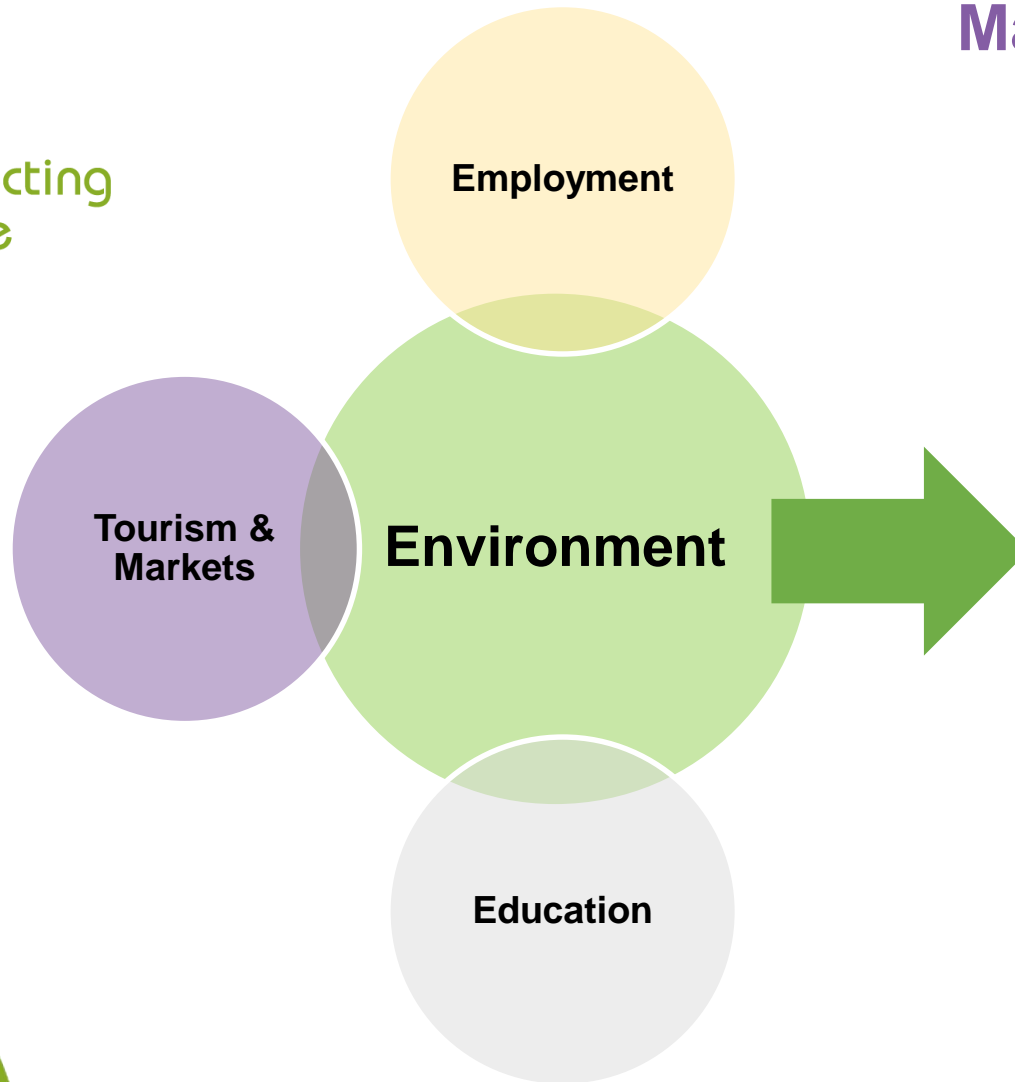


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## Main challenges: breaking the silos



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# Involving of local communities

## LOCAL GROUP ON URBAN AGRICULTURE

### Presence of relevant groups:

NGOs, urban gardeners associations, neighbourhood associations, teachers and school community, professional gardeners and SMEs, university...

### Regular meetings:

Co-designing the urban gardens network and designing the next steps to take



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# Involving of local communities



**Workshops with children in school gardens**



**Courses on organic agriculture and permaculture**



**Cooking courses**

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## Involving of local communities



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**SARAJEVO PROCESS**  
Coproduction tool:  
Reflecting about nature and contact with nature through arts



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# Contribution to local economic development

## New jobs and employments

Training course for unemployed people on organic agriculture, development and management of urban gardens

## SMEs created

HortaEcoruña. UMAL Permacultura, Cooperativa Leirantas, CartonTerra

## Innovations

Sarajevo Process, UrbanByNature

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# THANK YOU!

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