

Urban Relief

Urban Innovation Rally: The Green & Just Transition Quest

Who are we?



Gerid Hager
IIASA



Dilek Fraisl
IIASA



Carina Veeckman
VUB



Müller Oliveira
ICLEI



Mel Woods
UoD

...and today we are here to invite you for a quest.

What is urban heat stress?

- Urban heat stress refers to the **elevated temperatures experienced in urban areas** compared to their surrounding rural areas, **primarily due to human activities and the built environment.**
- This phenomenon is exacerbated by factors such as the concentration of **buildings, roads,** and other infrastructure that absorb and retain heat, as well as the **lack of vegetation and green spaces for cooling.**



Credit: Marc Bruxelle

What is urban heat stress?

Consequences for cities:

- **Health impacts**, particularly among vulnerable populations.
- Higher **energy demands** for air conditioning and cooling systems.
- Urban planning **challenges**.



A heat map taken during a heatwave in Prague shows water and green spaces can cool cities (Credit: European Space Agency)

Innovating together for just and green urban transitions



Increasing environmental stresses in urban areas.

Accentuated inequalities in access to greenspace, ecosystem services
and health-related benefits.

Important data gaps to support policy for just and sustainable cities.

Public participation developing slowly and variably.

15

Partners

6

Pilot cities

10

Accelerator cities

4

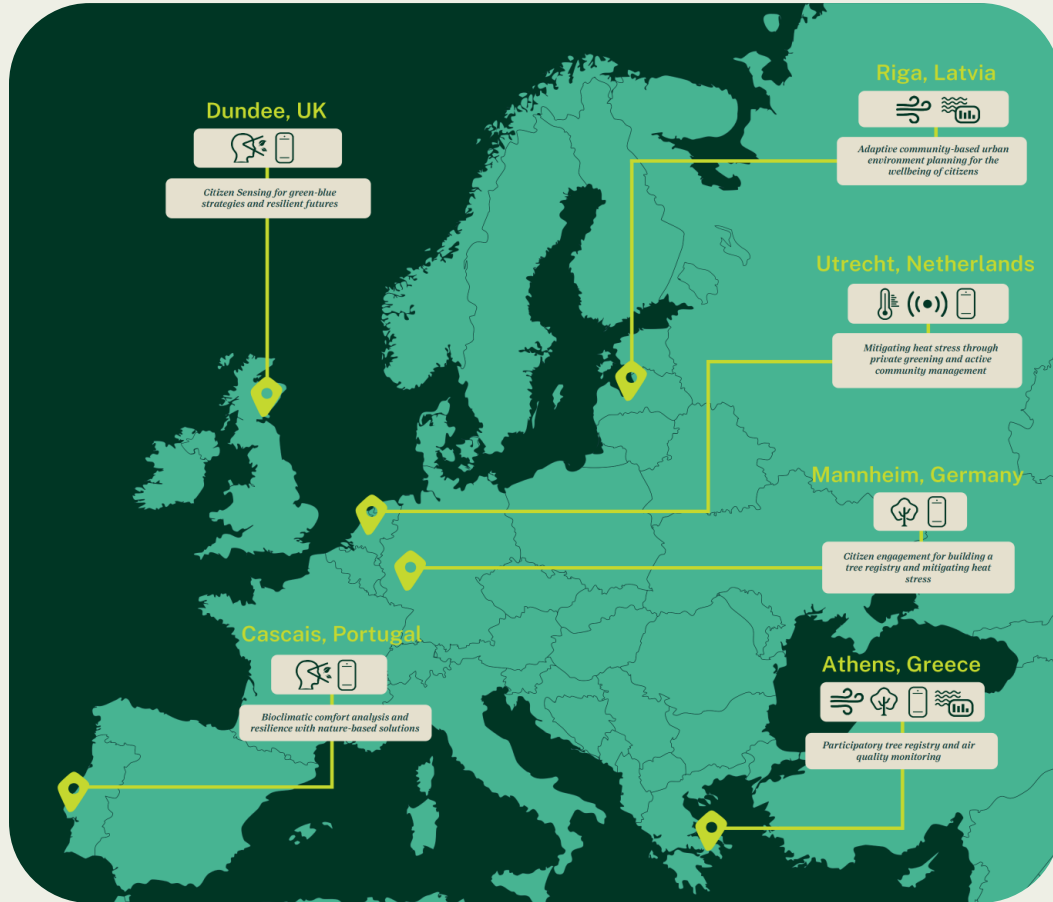
Years

€5.2m

Budget

9

Countries



A central portrait of Liv Torc, a woman with long brown hair and bangs, smiling slightly. The background of the portrait is a blurred outdoor scene.

 Resilience Frontiers

HOT POETS
international

Exploring the UNFCCC's Resilience
Frontiers 8 Pathways to a better future.

Liv Torc
'Super Sleuths of the Streets'
Inspired by Urban ReLeaf
ATHENS, CASCAIS, DUNDEE
MANNHEIM, RIGA & UTRECHT

 **THE THIRD PATHWAY**
Giving the world access to Big Data & information

The Urban ReLeaf CoP in a nutshell

Why?

Create greener, more just, and resilient cities for all

What?

A collaborative forum with three thematic Working Groups (WG) for knowledge-sharing, partnership building, and amplifying impact.

How?

Link citizen-powered science and public authority innovation, Earth Observation, and urban design foresight.

Key outputs foreseen, defined by each WG



Final Terms of Reference



Knowledge products *



Action commitments

* #, formats, and target channels based on a joint knowledge sharing & dissemination plan

The Urban ReLeaf CoP in a nutshell

When?

Activities from
Spring 2024 – end of 2026

Where?

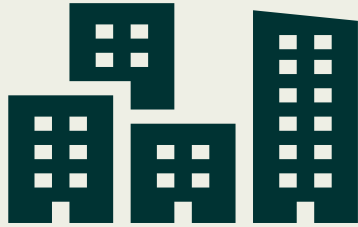
Online regularly (once every
3 months) with opportunities to
connect in-person at two+ forums

Who?

Practitioners and experts from a wide range of
disciplines, such as but not exclusively:

- Municipalities
- Citizen associations
- Civil Society Organizations
- Citizen scientists
- Businesses
- Authoritative data agencies
- Urban planners
- Architects

CoP overarching purpose



Engage a broader group of stakeholders within the Urban ReLeaf pilot cities (Dundee, Riga, Mannheim, Athens, Utrecht, and Cascais), vertically and horizontally



Connect passionate individuals and institutions beyond the Urban ReLeaf pilots



Facilitate sense-making of shared challenges, sharing knowledge, and committing to future actions

One Community: Three Working Groups

All of the CoP's three topical Working Groups (WGs) share a consistent central concept, formats and meeting structures, and communication channels.

Members maintain co-ownership over their respective specific objectives, content, and ways of working.



1

Triggering innovation in
public authorities with
citizen-powered science



2

Coupling citizen science
and EO for the European
Green Deal & SDG
11 monitoring



3

Urban design foresight
for NBS and green
infrastructure
scenario planning


6
Pilot cities

This “quest” is based on the challenges faced by the pilot cities that are part of the Urban ReLeaf project.

What about the quest?



What about the quest?

Understanding the rules:

1. There are three questions in the room, **choose the one that interests you the most** and go to the corresponding table.
2. At your table, **you'll receive a card** representing a **character**. Each character has unique interests and concerns, offering diverse perspectives. You will have **3 minutes to decide if you want to keep your card or change it with someone else in the same group.**



What about the quest?

Understanding the rules:

3. You have **45 minutes** to introduce your character, from that perspective discuss within the group to write a response to the question on the paper. Consider the interests of each character during the discussion.
4. Following the discussion, select **one member to present the findings** within a **4-minute** timeframe. Subsequently, other group **participants can have 3 minutes to contribute** or add other points.



Working Groups Key Participants and Beneficiaries

- WG1: Triggering innovation in public authorities with citizen-powered science
- WG2: Coupling citizen science and Earth Observation for the European Green Deal and SDG 11 monitoring
- WG3: Urban design foresight for nature-based solutions and green and blue infrastructure scenario planning

Who should join WG1?

Key participant group:

- ★ Local government representatives ★

Others who may benefit:

- Citizen's Associations
- Civil Society Organizations
- Business community members

Who should join WG2?

Key participant group(s):

- ★ Local/Regional Authorities ★
- ★ People involved in citizen science ★

Others who may benefit:

- Official data agencies
- UN Organizations
- Academia
- EO data providers

Who should join WG3?

Key participant group(s):

- ★ Municipalities, City Council, Urban Planners, Architects, Environmental Protection Agencies, Community Engagement Officers, NbS Specialists

Others who may benefit:

- Academics (Geography, Art and Design, Social Sciences, Climate science, Urban Ecology)
- Community Representatives
- Futures experts



Are you feeling intrigued about joining our Community of Practice (CoP)?

Urban ReLeaf provides an opportunity to capture citizen-driven data on urban greening and build city resilience

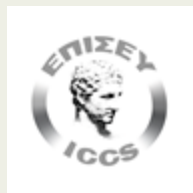
Fill in our Expression of Interest to stay in touch and learn more:



forms.office.com/e/UuxrhksPZz

@releafcities
<https://urbanreleaf.eu>





CASCAIS

MANNHEIM ²

