

INVITATION



Thursday 27 May 2021, 09:00 - 18:15 CET

The **European Green Infrastructure Day** is a policy conference dedicated to exploring the state of affairs of urban green infrastructure in the European Union.

Through a series of six online panels, industry leaders, renown experts, political representatives and EU institutions officials will discuss how to tap into the multiple benefits of green infrastructure, focusing on their contribution to green recovery and the path towards Europe's climate neutrality.

The event, organised by the **EU Chapter** of the **World Green Infrastructure Network**, will take place on **Thursday 27 May 2021**.

PROGRAMME



EUROPEAN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE DAY 2021

09.00 - 09.15

Opening remarks

- **Frans Timmermans**, Executive Vice President for the Green Deal, European Commission
- **Manfred Koehler**, President, World Green Infrastructure Network

Panel I:

09:15 – 10.15

Green and blue over grey to increase urban biodiversity

The preservation and restoration of Europe's biodiversity is a key objective of the EU Green Deal as highlighted in the Biodiversity strategy for 2030. By help moving from grey to green, green and blue infrastructure can play a role to increase biodiversity in urban areas to set Europe on the path to ecological recovery. The panel will discuss how to bring biodiversity back in our cities.

With:

- **Cesar Luena**, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)
- **Humberto Delgado Rosa**, Director Natural Capital, DG Environment, European Commission
- **Chantal van Ham**, EU Programme Manager Nature Based Solutions, IUCN Europe
- **Stephan Beerends**, Director, Sempergreen

Moderator: Jure Sumi, President of Slovenian Green Infrastructure Association

Panel II:

10.30 – 11.45

Turning buildings into carbon sink to drive the energy and climate transition

Representing 40% of Europe's energy consumption and 36% of its GHG emissions, buildings need to be highly efficient and decarbonized to reach climate neutrality. Green roofs and walls can improve buildings' energy performance in a cost-effective and aesthetic way. How can EU policies address the decarbonisation of buildings in a holistic approach?

With:

- **Jutta Paulus**, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA Group)
- **Jure Sumi**, President, Slovenian Green Infrastructure Association
- **Aurelie Beauvais**, Deputy CEO and Policy Director, Solar Power Europe
- **Stefan Moser**, Head of Unit for Energy Efficiency - Buildings and Products, DG Energy, European Commission
- **Francisco Mendes Palma**, Energy Councillor, Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU

Moderator: Luigi Petito, Head of Secretariat, EU Chapter - World Green Infrastructure Network

Panel III:
12.00 – 13.00

Financing urban green infrastructure

Delivering the multiple benefits of green infrastructure solutions requires substantial public and private investments. In that respect, European funding is a key enabler for the upscaling of green roofs and walls in cities. This panel will discuss which are the main funding opportunities available for green infrastructure projects and how can they be streamlined to support such solutions across Europe.

With:

- **Stefanie Lindenberg**, Coordinator Natural Capital Finance, European Investment Bank
- **Peter Berkowitz**, Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- **Angelo Salsi**, Head of Unit for LIFE and CIP Eco-Innovation, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), European Commission
- **Filipe Araújo**, Deputy Mayor of Porto & Chair, Environment Forum, Eurocities

Moderator: Paulo Palha, President, Portuguese Association for Green Roofs

Lunch break

Panel IV:
14:00 – 15:30

What's up in Europe? News and views from across the EU

During this session, representatives from green infrastructure associations from 6 different Member States will provide the latest insights and exchange best practices on the deployment of urban green infrastructure at national level.

With:

- **Marta Weber-Siwirska**, President, Polish Green Roof Associations
- **David Brasfield**, Chairperson, Norwegian Association for Green Infrastructure
- **Julian Briz**, President, Spanish Society for the Promotion of Nature in Urban and Rural Areas
- **Gunther Mann**, President, Bundesverband GebäudeGrün e.V. (Germany)
- **Paulo Palha**, President, Associação Nacional de Coberturas Verdes (Portugal)
- **François Lasalle**, President, Association des toitures et façades végétales (France)

Moderator: Vera Enzi, CEO, Grünstattgrau R&D; Vice President, European Federation of Green Roof and Green Wall Associations

Panel V:
15.45 – 16.45

Green infrastructure for climate adaptation: how to improve cities' resilience by restoring the natural water cycle

As recognised by the new EU Climate Adaptation Strategy, green roofs and walls can support the adaptation efforts of European cities and urban areas, making them more resilient to climate change and extreme weather events. How can the EU integrate green infrastructure into current climate adaptation and water policies to boost resilience?

With:

- **Veronica Manfredi**, Director for Quality of Life, DG Environment, European Commission
- **Sirpa Pietikainen**, Member of the European Parliament (EPP Group)
- **Elina Bardram**, Director for International, Mainstreaming & Policy Coordination, DG Climate Action, European Commission
- **Uwe Harzmann**, Managing Director, Optigrüen

Moderator: Steven Peck, President, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities

Panel VI:
17.00 – 18.00

Let's design human-centered, healthy and sustainable cities

Our cities are expanding fast and will be the habitat for most of humanity in the 21st century. We need to ensure that they are comfortable and sustainable from both a health and environment point of view. What role can vegetated surfaces play to make urban areas greener and healthier for all?

With:

- **Xavier Troussard**, Head of the New European Bauhaus Unit of the Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Martin Hojsik**, Member of the European Parliament (Renew Group)
- **Stefano Boeri**, Founding Partner, Studio Boeri Architetti
- **Dr Emma Boyland**, Senior Lecturer Psychology, Institute of Population Health - University of Liverpool

Moderator: David Brasfield, Chairperson, Norwegian Association for Green Infrastructure

18.00 – 18.15

Conclusions

- **Virginijus Sinkevičius**, European Commissioner for Environment
- **Manfred Koehler**, President, World Green Infrastructure Network



About the World Green Infrastructure Network

The World Green Infrastructure Network (WGIN) is the global peak body for the green infrastructure industry, representing 22 nations. WGIN aims to advocate, promote and raise awareness about the multiple benefits of urban vegetation.

In 2019 WGIN established an EU Chapter to advocate for and offer advice on green infrastructure developments, technology innovation and supportive policy to advance the inclusion of more vegetative systems within the European urban fabric.