



Nature-Based Solutions to societal challenges: a new EU R&I policy agenda

Nature and Urban Wellbeing Conference
Ghent, 19-20 May

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The past: a focus on urban challenges

ex.: floods, soil contamination, air pollution



The future: focus on solutions to challenges

Changed context and goals for EU R&I

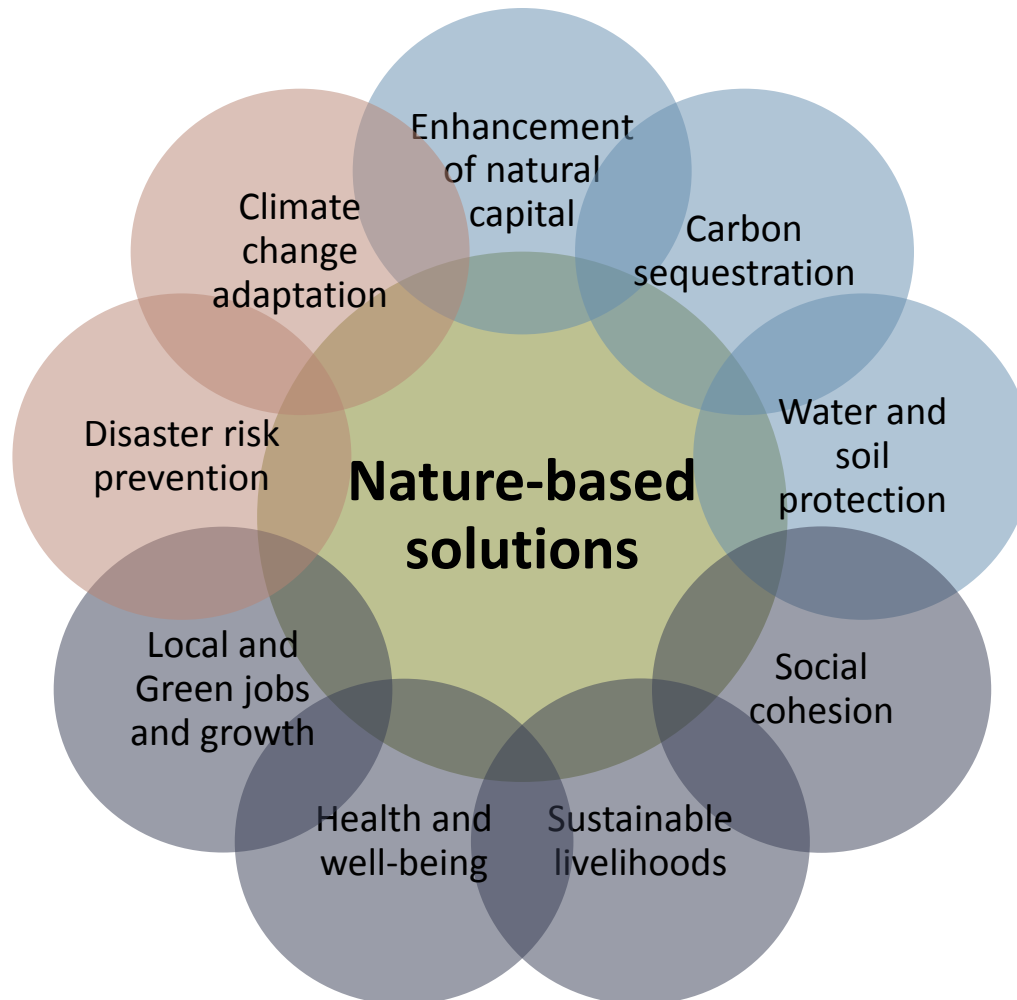
- *new European Commission priorities, notably 'A new boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment' 'A resilient Energy Union with a forward looking climate change policy' – 'EU as a global actor'*
- *Horizon 2020, EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme 2014-2020*
- *New orientation of EU R&I policy to promote the development and the markets for nature-based solutions to societal challenges*
- *solutions inspired or supported by nature that simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits - "Innovating with Nature"/"Re-naturing cities".*

Nature-based solutions – What are they?

- Solutions inspired or supported by nature that simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help building resilience
- Solutions that bring more nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions
- A cost-effective response to today's major societal challenges, including climate change

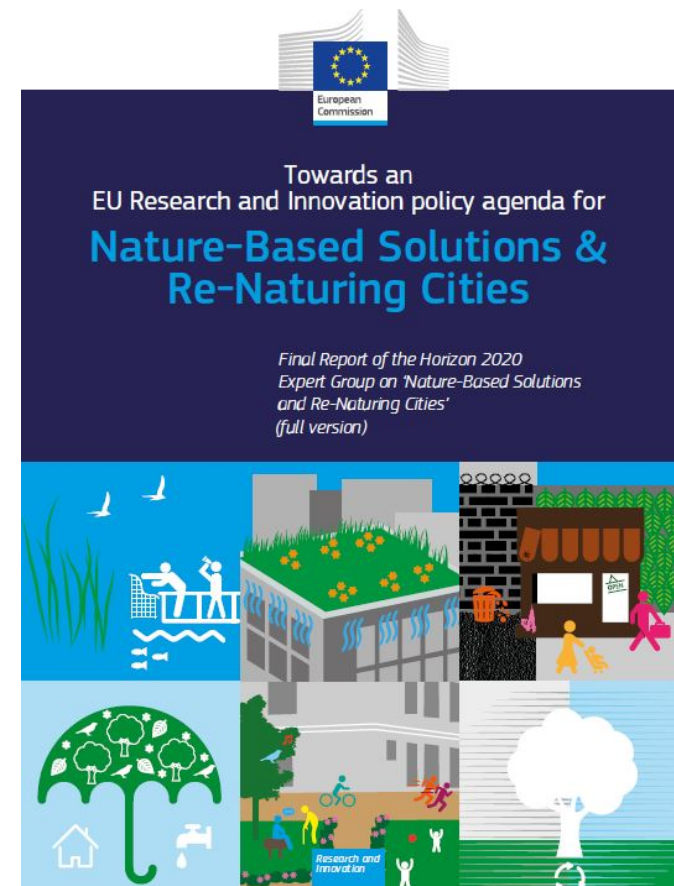


Diverse & multiple co-benefits



A long development & engagement process

- **Stakeholder consultation through various means**
 - Workshops & Conferences
 - E-consultation
 - Surveys of EU-funded projects
- **Working group of high-level experts from different fields** (academia, research, innovation, business, end-users)
- **Development of an agenda for nature-based solutions**



Our main objectives...invest in solutions



- Widening the solutions portfolio beyond technological innovation → foster social innovation
- Providing systemic, scalable, integrated nature-based solutions at landscape & city level
- Fostering the co-design, co-development, co-implementation of solutions
- Leveraging of investment from public & private sector
- Supporting replicable solutions towards the market (performance, governance, incentives)

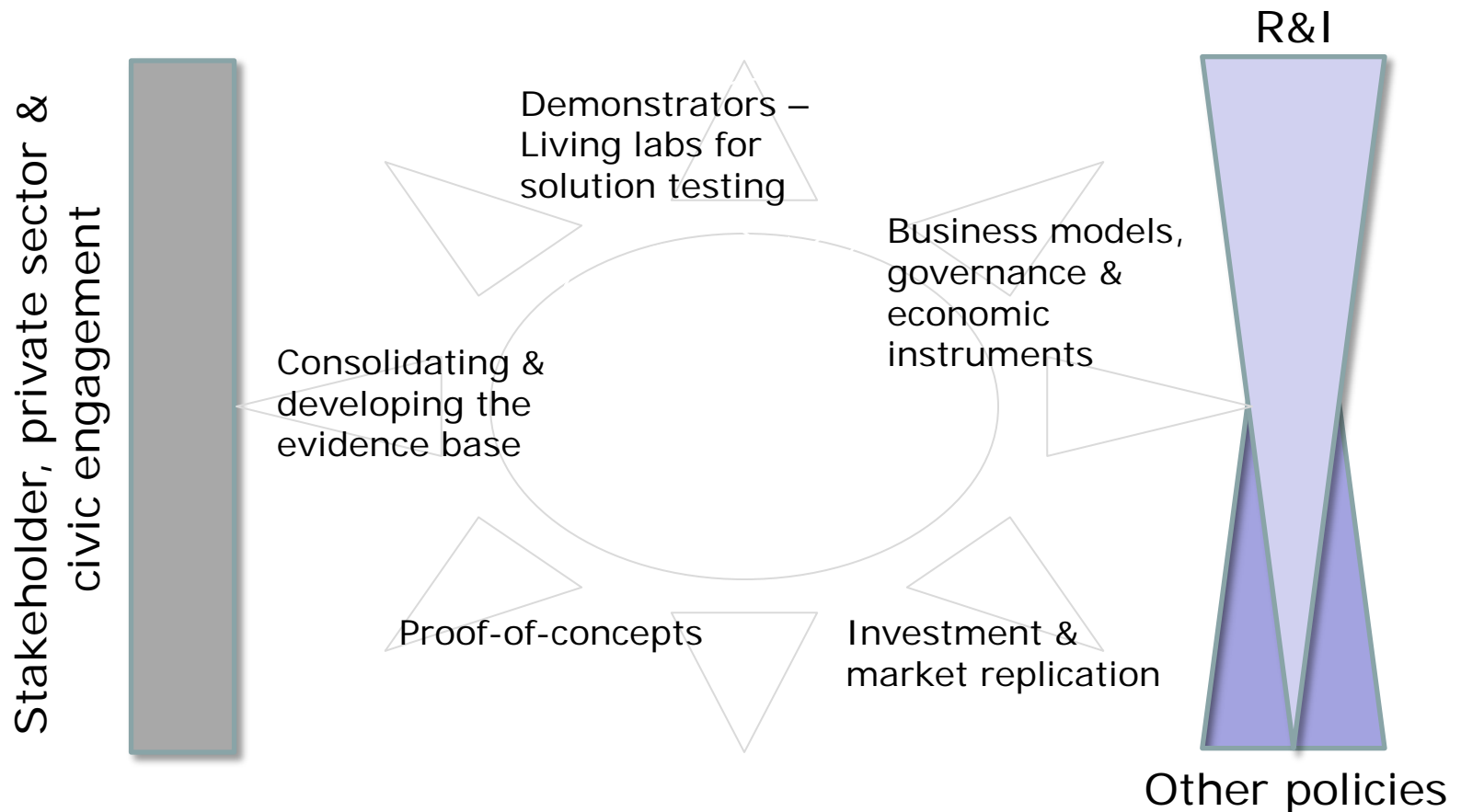


... and our means of implementing them

- Establishment of dialogue platforms for diverse stakeholders
- Mapping and networking of existing initiatives on Nature-Based Solutions in Europe and beyond
- Set-up of large scale demonstration projects on the effectiveness, applicability and replicability of Nature-Based Solutions
- Launch and testing of new means of collaboration, financing and governance (public private partnerships, innovative financing, business and organisational models, innovative public procurement, social innovation)
- Collaboration within Europe and internationally

Systemic approach

- more than 'a traditional & linear' path



Large-scale demonstrators in Cities

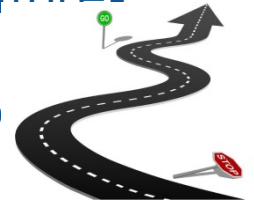
- **Climate and water-resilience in cities**
 - Improvement of urban resilience to climate change & enhancement of sustainable water management
 - Deployment of nature-based solutions or optimal combinations of nature-based solutions with other technologies/interventions
 - Front-runners – followers' approach to enable replication & uptake
 - Trans-disciplinarity and community-based approaches
 - Co-design, co-development and co-implementation



Citizen Engagement in EU R&I policy-making on Nature-Based Solutions: A Qualitative Study and a Special Eurobarometer

Road Map on "Innovating with Nature"

- Develop the European Research and Innovation Area for nature-based solutions
- Provide the evidence for investment effectiveness of nature-based solutions
- Promote the development, uptake and upscale of market nature-based solutions
- Promote international cooperation and orient the international R&I agenda towards nature-based solutions



Horizon 2020 – 2016-17 Work programme and calls

- Renaturing cities (climate and water resilience; urban regeneration)
- Territorial resilience (hydro-meteorological risk reduction)





- **Nature conference - EU Biodiversity strategy implementation**
26-27 May, 2015, Riga, Latvia

- **Green Week 2015 Nature – our health, our wealth**
3-5 June, 2015, Brussels, Belgium
 - **events with contribution from DG R&I /FP projects:**
 - Session 1.3 - Nature Protects
 - Session 4.3 - Linking Cultural and Natural Capital
 - Session 5.2 - Innovating Cities with Nature
 - 'Exhibition: 'Innovating with Nature' - FP7 in Green Week
 - Side event 'Nature-Based Solutions: bridging the gap between research and innovation on biodiversity and ecosystem services', May 2, 2015, Brussels,

- **BiodivERsA's impact on Policy: the added value of developing common policy briefs**
23 June, 2015, Brussels, Belgium

Find out more...

- **HORIZON 2020**
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>
- **EU R&I on Nature-Based Solutions**
http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm?pg=nature-based-solutions
- **Functional mailbox:**
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