

Strengthening Connections for Nature-Based Solutions: Insights from the NetworkNature Task Forces Meeting

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On September 24th in Brussels, key stakeholders gathered for the NetworkNature Task Forces Cluster Meeting to push forward the discussion on Nature-Based Solutions (NBSNBS). This meeting was a melting pot of ideas, strategies, and insights aimed at advancing sustainable practices to tackle climate change, urban resilience, and biodiversity loss.

A Collaborative Atmosphere

The atmosphere in the room was undeniably collaborative, with experts from diverse fields converging to exchange best practices, tools, and approaches. From policymakers to business leaders, all were unified by the belief that NBS play a pivotal role in addressing global environmental challenges. Importantly, the conversations centered around how we can foster more practical and scalable solutions through knowledge sharing and innovation.

Panel Discussions and Task Forces

The morning featured two insightful panel discussions, with members representing six task forces (TFs) linked to NBS hubs. These task forces focused on:

- Data and Knowledge Sharing
- Integrated Assessment Frameworks
- Finance & Business Models
- Toolkits for Communication
- Education
- Co-Creation and Governance

At ENABLS, we are particularly active in TF5 (Education) and TF4 (Communication), aligning our objectives with NetworkNature's mission. During the event, we learned about the importance of local NBS hubs that foster collaboration among researchers, policymakers, businesses, and the public sector. These hubs aim to create lasting partnerships that accelerate NBS uptake.

Afternoon Brainstorming and Proposals

The afternoon was dedicated to proposal development, offering participants the opportunity to pitch ideas for a €5000 grant aimed at enhancing existing projects. Five innovative ideas were pitched, and several were merged into three solid proposals. While we are not certain if the proposals were ultimately submitted, the brainstorming session proved to be an excellent opportunity for collective problem-solving.

New Opportunities for ENABLS

Throughout the day, various discussions highlighted new potential collaborations for ENABLS. One particular connection stood out—BioAgora, an initiative designed to bridge the gap between

biodiversity knowledge and decision-making. This initiative, along with the NBS hubs, presents a fantastic opportunity for ENABLS to expand its impact by forging new relationships and engaging in knowledge exchange.

Looking Forward

The meeting emphasised the growing momentum of NBS and the importance of intersectoral collaboration in solving pressing environmental issues. For ENABLS, the key takeaway is the need to explore connections with NBS hubs and BioAgora, both of which could provide valuable resources and partnerships to further our mission.

As we continue to develop and refine our approaches, events like this highlight the importance of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the constant pursuit of innovative solutions for a more sustainable future.