



eNABLS

Education and NBS –
bending the curve for biodiversity

DELIVERABLE D5.3

Report on the collaboration with relevant initiatives – P1

Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA)

June 2025



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Project overview

ENABLS will set the basis of networking and collaboration to promote, embed and unfold Nature-based Solutions (NBS) concepts and approaches within universities and vocational schools, the professional sphere and society at large through transdisciplinary dialogue. **ENABLS** envisions the creation of 7 Living Labs (DE, NL, FI, AT, LT, EL, CZ), incorporating all 'voices' and leaving no one behind. The goal is to enable society to bend the curve for biodiversity by mainstreaming both NBS and biodiversity in higher education and Technical and Vocational Education & Training (TVET). The ultimate objective is for **ENABLS** to contribute more generally to i) the advancement of a Nature Positive society through the necessary transformative change of communities, business models and lifestyles, and, specifically, ii) put biodiversity and climate on the path to recovery responding to the objectives of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 and the EU climate adaptation strategy.

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Consortium



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Table of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
D	Deliverable
LG	Leadership Group
LL(s)	Living Lab(s)
NBS	Nature-Based Solutions
TF	Task Force
WP	Work Package

1 Introduction

During the first reporting period (P1, M1 – M18), the *ENABLIS* project successfully established active liaison and collaboration with a range of complementary initiatives at regional, national, and European levels. Under **Task 5.2**, the project identified synergies and complementarities with over 10 relevant projects and initiatives, including NetworkNature, NBS EduWORLD, and Oppla, among others. Through these interactions, *ENABLIS* facilitated cross-fertilisation of ideas, promoted mutual learning, co-developed policy recommendations, and explored opportunities for joint events and knowledge exchange. The outcomes of these efforts are documented in **Deliverable D5.3 (P1)**, which summarises the collaboration and joint activities undertaken. Additionally, the project strengthened its outreach by engaging with 19 external entities that had provided Letters of Support, contributing to an extended societal impact. Preparations are now underway for the second reporting period (P2, M19 – M36), where **Task 7.2** will continue to expand this network, aiming to liaise with an additional 10 initiatives to achieve the target of at least 20 engaged projects and initiatives by M36.

1.1 Purpose of the document

This deliverable outlines the liaison and cooperation activities undertaken with projects and initiatives whose objectives align with the thematic focus of *ENABLIS*. It presents a mapping of relevant initiatives, highlighting those with which *ENABLIS* has already established connections, as well as identifying potential partners for future collaboration in the next reporting period (P2).

The deliverable presents an overview of *ENABLIS* project liaison activities together with cooperation efforts and stakeholder engagement results. It tracks the expanding network of actors who enhance both the project's thematic direction and its goals.

Specifically, the document covers:

- **Advisers to the consortium**, who, through their active involvement, contribute valuable insights, strategic guidance, and critical feedback to help steer the project and monitor its progress towards key milestones.
- **Related projects and initiatives at regional, national, European levels**, which enable knowledge sharing and potential *ENABLIS* activity alignment to achieve increased overall impact.
- **Mapping of relevant stakeholders**, collaborators and promoters of *ENABLIS* and shared goals.

The current state of collaboration is reflected in this connection mapping which also reveals potential future engagement possibilities for the upcoming reporting period (P2).

1.2 Intended audience

This deliverable serves as a reference document for the *ENABLIS* consortium to support and guide future cooperation efforts with European projects and organisations aligned with the thematic focus of *ENABLIS*. Additionally, as a public and open-access report, it is intended to inform and engage external stakeholders who may be interested in establishing collaborations or participating in liaison activities with the *ENABLIS* consortium.

2 Liaison methodology

2.1 Approach to identify relevant initiatives

Extended outreach of the project is to create a multiplying effect – aiming to maximise collaboration, mutual learning, and knowledge exchange. Activities will facilitate the discussion of challenges and opportunities, promote cross-fertilization, share lessons learned that could benefit society, enable the joint drafting of policy recommendations, and investigate the co-organization of events, thus maximising the impact of project activities.

Task T5.2/7.2 focuses on continuously identifying potential synergies and exploring complementarities with similar projects and initiatives at regional, national, and European levels (indicatively [NetworkNature](#), [NBS EduWORLD](#), [Oppla](#), [Invest4Nature](#), [CNEP](#), [NICE](#), etc.).

To support these efforts, a liaison plan has been developed, covering both the first reporting period (P1, M1 – 18) and the second reporting period (P2, M19 – 36).

To maximise the project's impact and foster cross-sector collaboration, *ENABLIS* engages with complementary projects and initiatives across three main **liaison levels**:

Regional Level

At the regional level, liaison activities focus on building connections with local and sub-national initiatives, programmes, and networks. These often include:

- Regional development agencies
- City-level or municipal innovation projects
- Local clusters, Living Labs (LLs), and demonstration sites
- Regional authorities and policymakers

Engagement at this level ensures that *ENABLIS* outcomes are grounded in local contexts and benefit from practical insights and experiences from on-the-ground initiatives.

National Level

At the national level, *ENABLIS* liaises with:

- National research programmes and projects
- Public agencies and ministries (e.g., environment, innovation, infrastructure)
- National-level networks, platforms, and industry associations
- Standardisation bodies and national working groups

Such cooperations helps align project activities with national priorities, fosters policy dialogue, and promotes knowledge exchange within individual Member States.

European Level

At the European level, *ENABLIS* actively engages with:

- EU-funded projects and initiatives (Horizon Europe, LIFE, Interreg, etc.)
- European partnerships and platforms (such as *NetworkNature*, *NBS EduWORLD*, *Oppla*)
- European institutions and policy bodies
- Pan-European networks and professional associations

These engagements amplify *ENABLIS* visibility across Europe, contribute to shaping EU-level policies, and support coordination with other EU-funded activities to avoid duplication and foster synergies.

Regional and national liaison activities are largely implemented through the engagement of the 7 Living Labs (LLs), which actively involve regional and national stakeholders in their activities. In addition, the project has already secured **19 Letters of Support** from local and regional authorities, with whom ongoing information exchange and stakeholder engagement campaigns have been established. It is also anticipated that during the second reporting period (P2), a significant number of regional and national stakeholders will further engage by joining the national networks coordinated by the *ENABLIS* consortium across the 7 partner countries.

The proposal preparation phase revealed several European projects and initiatives, but additional work has been done to enhance and expand this mapping. The *ENABLIS* project has identified additional projects and initiatives through systematic desk research, consortium partner consultations and European network and event participation. The project maintains an updated understanding of the European context through its dynamic and ongoing process which allows it to pursue new opportunities for collaboration and synergy.

2.2 Process for establishing liaisons and partnerships

This section outlines the approach adopted by the *ENABLIS* consortium to identify, prioritise, and engage with relevant projects, initiatives, and stakeholder groups at regional, national, and European levels. It describes the systematic steps taken to initiate and build meaningful collaborations, from initial mapping to formalising relationships and planning joint activities. This work includes desk research and partner consultations, as well as outreach campaigns and thematic platform participation we used.

The consortium implements a structured approach to deliver targeted liaison activities which support project objectives and create value for *ENABLIS* and its partners (Table 1).

Table 1. Strategic approach to liaison and partnership building

Steps	Description
Step 1	<p>Identification of relevant initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of initiatives identified in the proposal and initial project planning Ongoing desk research to map additional projects, networks, platforms and policy initiatives at regional, national and European levels. Use of databases such as CORDIS, LIFE, Interreg, etc. Consultation with consortium partners to leverage their networks and local knowledge
Step 2	<p>Prioritisation of initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of thematic alignment with <i>ENABLIS</i> objectives and key focus areas Evaluation of the potential for mutual benefit and collaboration Prioritisation of initiatives that can contribute to knowledge exchange, joint events, policy dialogues, and impact amplification.
Step 3	<p>Initial contact and outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of tailored communication materials (introductory emails, presentation slides, etc.) Direct outreach to project coordinators, network managers, and key contact points Participation in external events (workshops, conferences, EU platforms meetings) to establish personal connections.

Step 4	Formalisation of liaison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements on the type of engagement (e.g. joint event, data or knowledge sharing, involvement in Living Lab activities, policy co-creation). • Inclusion of liaison in internal tracking and monitoring tools
Step 5	Implementation of joint activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-organisation of events (webinars, etc.) • Contributions to respective newsletters or other dissemination channels • Regular follow-up and relationship maintenance through planned communication and interactions.
Step 6	Monitoring and continuous improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic review of the liaison network to assess progress and identify gaps • Adjustment of liaison strategies and identification of new opportunities in response to the evolving European policy landscape and project needs.

The *eNABLs* consortium uses a systematic and repetitive approach to create partnerships and establish connections. The process includes selecting appropriate initiatives, targeted outreach efforts, relationship formalization and joint activities like knowledge exchange and co-organized events. The project objectives guide continuous monitoring to achieve better alignment and enhance overall impact through strategic partnerships at European and national and regional levels.

3 Overview of the Liaison Plan

3.1 Liaison KPIs and targets (P1 and P2)

The *ENABLIS* liaison plan establishes clear targets for building partnerships and engaging with other projects and initiatives throughout the project's duration. The plan is structured across two reporting periods, with the following key performance indicators (KPIs, Table 2):

Table 2. ENABLIS liaison KPIs

Period	Targets
P 1 (M1 – M18)	No of projects liaised with > 10
P2 (M19 – M36)	No of project liaised with > 20

- **Period 1 (M1 – M18):** Liaison with more than 10 relevant projects and initiatives.
- **Period 2 (M19 – M36):** Expansion of engagement to more than 20 projects and initiatives in total.

The *ENABLIS* consortium will build a strong network of collaborations through this progressive approach to enhance knowledge exchange, create synergies and maximize the project's overall impact.

3.2 Timeline of activities

The *ENABLIS* liaison plan implements a phased structure, which spans from M1 to M36 to develop and enhance relationships with relevant initiatives at European, national and regional levels (Fig. 1).

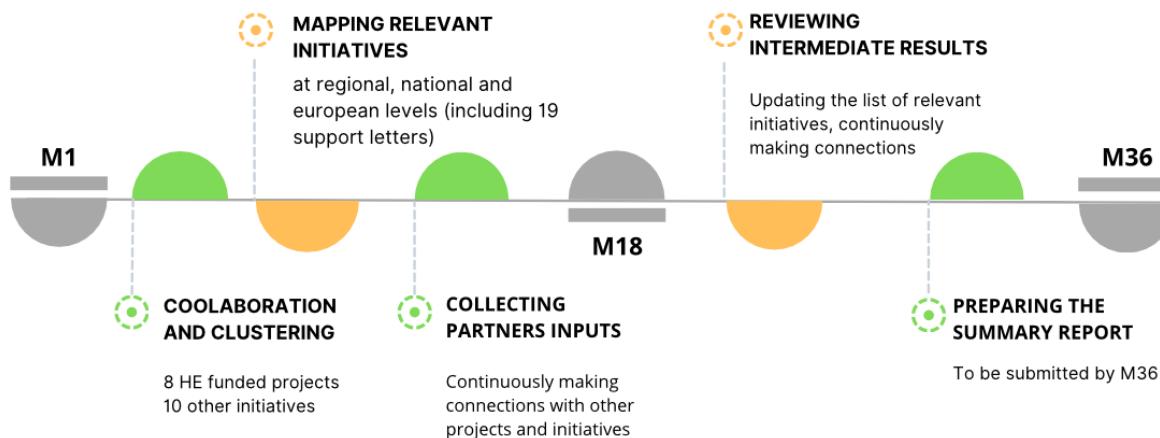


Fig. 1. ENABLIS Liaison Plan

Phase 1 (M1 – M18):

- The consortium starts by creating a list of essential projects and initiatives related to *ENABLIS* through their existing relationships which include 19 letters of support.
- The project establishes partnerships with at least 8 Horizon Europe (HE)-funded projects and 10 other relevant initiatives to create clusters of cooperation.

- The partners maintain continuous information sharing and contact collection throughout this phase to expand the network while keeping active relationships with additional projects.

Phase 2 (M19 – M36):

- The consortium assesses intermediate results to update their list of relevant initiatives while adapting the liaison plan to seize new opportunities and sustain active connections.
- The consortium will complete and submit a summary report during M36 which will document all liaison activities and their resulting collaborations and outcomes.

The liaison work requires ongoing effort to establish meaningful partnerships, which will boost project impact through knowledge sharing, and joint activities, and wider societal outreach.

4 Mapping of relevant initiatives

4.1 Overview of initiatives at regional, national and European level

The *ENABLS* consortium has mapped a wide range of relevant national and European projects and initiatives. The mapping includes various types of collaborations, ranging from formal partnerships and stakeholder engagement to informal tracking of related activities. The initiatives cover multiple programmes, including *Horizon Europe*, *Horizon 2020*, *LIFE*, *Erasmus+*, and national or international funding schemes. Partners continue to update and develop cooperations with identified relevant projects and initiatives during the P2.

By month 18 (M18), partners had compiled the following list of sister and relevant projects (Table 3).

Table 3. List of projects collected by partners and our engagement/role in these projects.

Project/ Initiative	Partners engagement
1. Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe projects	
<u>UPSURGE</u> , <u>REWET</u> , <u>ECO2ADAPT</u> , <u>BioGoV.Net</u>	Partners or Coordinators
<u>NBS EduWorld</u> , <u>BioAgora</u> , <u>Transpath</u> , <u>BioTRACES</u> , <u>Biofin-EU</u>	Supportive Stakeholders
<u>ProCleanLakes</u> , <u>COEVOLVERS</u> , <u>NATURESCAPES</u> , <u>NATURANCE</u> , <u>JUSTNature</u> , <u>CONEXUS</u> , <u>NICE</u> , <u>Invest4nature</u> , <u>CNEP</u>	Projects Monitored
2. LIFE Projects	
<u>NATURALIT</u> , <u>ForestHabitatLT</u>	Partners
3. Erasmus+ Projects	
<u>DiBluCA</u> , <u>GREENOVET</u> , <u>SEgoesGreen</u>	Partners
<u>NBS Academy</u>	Project monitored
4. National & International Initiatives and Networks	
<u>Wageningen Nature-Based Futures</u> , <u>Biodiversity Challenge for ICA Organisations</u>	Organisers
<u>MUST (Academy of Finland)</u>	Stakeholders Network
<u>BIOSS (Austrian Academy of Sciences)</u> , <u>EcoServ</u>	Partners
5. Interreg Project	
<u>NaTour4CChange</u>	Project monitored
6. Relevant European and Global Networks & Platforms	
<u>Nature-based Solutions Initiative (NBSI)</u> , <u>UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership</u> , <u>Oppla</u> , <u>NetworkNature</u> , <u>ENoLL (European Network of Living Labs)</u> , <u>NBS Project Board</u> , <u>NBS Task Force 3</u> , <u>NBS Task Force 5</u> , <u>ICLEI Soil Biodiversity Group</u> , <u>LG Biodiversity and Climate</u> , <u>Nature Positive Universities</u> , <u>Green Campus Network</u> , <u>Cities4Forest</u> , <u>The Nature of Cities</u>	Ongoing engagement

The network of collaborations continues to evolve which creates multiple opportunities for *ENABLS* to exchange knowledge and conduct joint activities and potentially shape policy decisions. The consortium actively seeks new opportunities to build synergies while maintaining active engagement with the broader community of Nature-Based Solution (NBS) and biodiversity-related actors.

4.2 Summary of 19 Letters of Support

The *ENABLIS* consortium engaged with stakeholders during project preparation to obtain early backing and establish future partnerships with various regional and national stakeholders. The project's diverse stakeholder outreach produced *19 Letters of Support* from organisations spanning forestry, agriculture, environmental protection, education, regional development, industry, and research sectors. The supporting organisations operate throughout multiple partner countries and Europe because they share the project's goals and thematic focus. The following Table 4 shows the organisations that want to work with *ENABLIS* through joint activities, information exchange, and regional/national networks.

Table 4. List of ENABLIS supporting organisations

No.	Organisation	Partner Country
1.	Lithuanian Society of Forester	Lithuania
2.	EkoAgros	Lithuania
3.	Lithuanian AKIS cluster	Lithuania
4.	Sūduvos Hunter Association	Lithuania
5.	The Regional Chamber of Commerce of the Moravian-Silesian region	Czechia
6.	Stuttgart State Museum of natural history	Germany
7.	Academy of Nature Conservation and Environmental protection Baden-Wurtemberg	Germany
8.	BOVA	Europe
9.	Nature's friends International	Austria
10.	Nature College Foundation	The Netherlands
11.	Innovatie en Duurzaamheid BV	The Netherlands
12.	Dutch Academy for Sustainable Education	The Netherlands
13.	Association of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers of Northern Greece	Greece
14.	ANATOLIK SA – Organization for local Development	Greece
15.	University of Thessaly	Greece
16.	University of Thessaly, Department of Environmental Sciences	Greece
17.	Democritus University of Thrace, School of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences	Greece
18.	University of West Attica, School of Engineering, Industrial Design and Production Engineering Department	Greece
19.	Arcadis, Nature & Biodiversity Advisory Group	The Netherlands

The diverse group of regional and national stakeholders who strongly support the *ENABLIS* project, demonstrates its importance to various practitioners, researchers and policy actors. The early partnerships established a solid base for future liaison activities in both LLs and national networks. It will be further developed and expanded during the second reporting period (P2) to enhance cross-sector collaboration and increase societal impact.

5 Achievements in P1 (M1 – M18)

5.1 List of initiatives actively liaised with

Through its various liaison activities (Table 5) with relevant projects and initiatives, *ENABLIS* has begun generating both direct and indirect outcomes. Direct outcomes include concrete collaborations such as joint events, knowledge exchange, and contributions to policy development. In parallel, indirect outcomes – such as expanded networks, increased visibility for the project, and alignment with emerging European NBS agendas – also contribute significantly to the project's broader impact. Together, these outcomes strengthen *ENABLIS*' ability to deliver on its objectives and maximise its contribution to the European NBS community.

Table 5. List of initiatives liaised by M18

No.	Title of the project, initiative	Proposed Innovative solutions of the project or initiative, organisation that is relevant for <i>ENABLIS</i>	Liaison level (Regional, National, European)	Type of the activity ¹	Outcomes (Type of action taken to foster collaboration)	Partners involved
1.	<u>Network Nature</u>	NBS policy roadmap 2024 – 2030; Needs and gap analysis; Tailored capacity-building for local and regional authorities, decision-makers in governments, businesses and investors, and NBS hubs; Pre-standards and advisory services that continue to support the growing NBS community of innovators, practitioners and developers	European	Collaboration with EU-funded project	Regular exchange between projects liaison officers, and during the NBS projects board meetings. Supporting each other on media communication. Participating in <i>NetworkNature</i> event “Choose Nature” in Brussels September 16 th 2025	ICA, UHOH, FOCUS
2.	<u>NBS EduWorld</u>	The state of play of NBS education in Europe and evaluation of the initiatives already in place: Determined guidance and (policy) recommendations; Analysed NBS demonstrators across Europe (NBS EduSystems).	European	Collaboration with EU-funded project	Regular exchange between projects liaison officers, and during the NBS projects board meetings. Supporting each other on media communication. NBS EduWorld summit were organised in collaboration with <i>ENABLIS</i>	ICA, UHOH, FOCUS

¹ Clustering activity; Collaboration with EU-funded project; Other collaboration.

3.	<u>Oppla</u>	Provision of a technical infrastructure for the <i>eNABLs</i> platform, enabling the project to disseminate knowledge, tools, and results through a dedicated micro-site hosted on the Oppla platform.	European	Collaboration with EU-funded project	Oppla provided technical support, microsite development services and hosting infrastructure for implementing and promoting <i>eNABLs</i> platform. www.oppla.eu\enabl	UHOH, CERTH, FOCUS
4.	<u>Naturance</u>	Established “network of existing networks” by connecting existing major knowledge networks on NBS; Initiated 15 innovation finance and policy labs; Analysed policy and governance conditions that are conducive to or hamper adoption of sustainable and equitable innovative green insurance and investment solutions for NBS; Analyses models, methods, scenarios and metrics used for assessing risk-reduction performance of NBS, as well as their wider societal benefits.	European	Collaboration with EU-funded project	Regular exchange between projects liaison officers, and during the NBS projects board meetings. Supporting each other on media communication.	ICA, UHOH, FOCUS
5.	<u>REWET</u>	Operates Open Labs to assess wetland restoration activities.	European	Collaboration with EU-funded project	Shared interest to learn more about the experiences on development of LLs/ Open Labs and, especially stakeholders' engagement strategies. Supporting each other on media communication. REWET interview with UEF (expert opinion)	ICA, UHOH, FOCUS, UEF
6.	<u>ENOLL</u>	Consulting and building capacities for LLs and innovation brokers.	European	Other collaboration	Shared interest in learning more about <i>eNABLs</i> LLs, especially the	ICA, UHOH

					stakeholder engagement strategies. Agreed on follow up meeting involving representatives from <i>eNABLs</i> LLs.	
7.	<u>The Nature of Cities</u>	NBS Comics	European	Collaboration with EU-funded project	Identified opportunities for <i>eNABLs</i> to propose topics for future comics potentially using these materials as educational resources within Living Labs (LLs). Agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting to further explore synergies. Agreed to support each other on communication initiatives	ICA, UHOH
8.	<u>NBS Academy</u>	Established an international Community of Practice for NBS; Developed a comprehensive “Train the Trainer” (TTT) programme for guiding teacher trainers to design and deliver effective NBS teacher training programmes. Tested NBS Academy’s teacher training courses and mobility schemes; Developed and promoted evidence-based policy recommendations for supporting EU and national policy makers to foster the integration of NBS in teacher education.	European	Collaboration with EU-funded project	Regular exchange between projects liaison officers, and during the NBS projects board meetings. Supporting each other on media communication. Agreed on follow up meeting.	ICA, UHOH, FOCUS
9.	<u>UPSURGE</u>	Built the EU Regenerative Urban Lighthouse	European	Collaboration with EU-funded project	Physical knowledge exchange meeting during <i>eNABLs</i> consortium meeting. Agreed on follow up meeting.	BOKU

10.	<u>Biodiversity challenge</u>	Engaging format for raising awareness and stimulating community involvement in biodiversity monitoring.	European	Other collaboration	Regular promotion of <i>eNABLs</i> concept and initiative via the meetings of “Biodiversity Challenge” participants.	ICA, UHOH
11.	<u>EC Leadership Group on Biodiversity and Climate</u>	Access to cutting-edge knowledge and policy discussions.	European	Other collaboration	Active participation in this Leadership Group would therefore support both the strategic and operational goals of <i>eNABLs</i> . Increase <i>eNABLs</i> visibility and recognition at EU level. Follow up participation and discussions are planned.	ICA
12.	NBS project Board	Opportunity to collaborate with other NBS projects; Shared resources; Joint advocacy for policy change; joint events and initiative	European	Clustering activity, Collaboration with EU-funded project	Regular exchange between NBS projects, contribution to the discussion session on policy recommendations, events organisation, liaison with other projects	ICA, UHOH
13.	<u>Task Force 5: NBS Education</u>	Opportunity to collaborate with other NBS projects; Shared resources; Joint advocacy for policy change	European	Clustering activity	Regular exchange between NBS-education projects, discussion on interactive sessions; contributions to discussion papers and events <i>eNABLs</i> assumed leadership of Task Force 5 in June 2025 Contributed to the policy briefs	UHOH, ICA
14.	<u>Task Force 3: NBS Finance and Business Models (for NBS) in a Nature-Positive Economy</u>	Opportunity to collaborate with other NBS projects; Shared resources; Joint advocacy for policy change	European	Clustering activity	Regular exchange between NBS projects, contribution to the discussion session on policy recommendations	ICA, UHOH, FOCUS

In the first period of the project we made the first mapping and initial contacts with other NBS projects, within the next period partners could use these contacts for their LLs activities and educational material and curriculum development.

NetworkNature (Table 4, No. 1)

NetworkNature is a resource for the Nature-based Solutions (NBS) community, creating opportunities for local, regional and international cooperation to maximise the impact and spread of NBS.

The results of *NetworkNature* are highly relevant to *ENABLIS*, offering valuable resources such as the NBS Policy Roadmap 2024 – 2030, needs and gap analysis, and capacity-building materials that can inform the project's policy recommendations, stakeholder training, and LLs activities. Additionally, *NetworkNature*'s work on pre-standards and advisory services supports best practices for NBS implementation, while its active community of innovators provides *ENABLIS* with opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and broader impact across the European NBS landscape.

ENABLIS and Network Nature regularly exchange during the **NBS projects board meetings** and mostly **supporting each other on communication activities**. One of the most **concrete potential collaborations are aligned policy recommendations on NBS**, which both projects are intended to prepare. In addition, a representative from the *ENABLIS* liaison officer (ICA) participated in the *NetworkNature* general event and conference on September 2024, in Brussel, Belgium.

NBS EduWorld (Table 4, No. 2)

The overall objective of NBS EduWORLD is to nurture an NBS literate society, supporting a just transition to a sustainable future. For this, NBS EduWORLD will create an NBS community that facilitates synergies between NBS professionals and education providers and ensures free and easy access to NBS knowledge as well as resources for all.

NBS EduWORLD will summarise the state of play of NBS education in Europe and evaluate the initiatives already in place, determine how to expand and replicate them and establish a basis and framework for the project itself and future initiatives. This will result in guidance and (policy) recommendations. In parallel, the project will analyse NBS demonstrators, with an educational dimension (Tier-1), across Europe (NBS EduSystems) to support the testing and improvement of approaches and resources with NBS demonstrators with no or a limited educational dimension (Tier-2) and create the means and opportunities for all NBS practitioners to engage with educators, *inter alia* via Tier-3 NBS EduSystems. This will be done whilst supporting the overarching goal of promoting NBS as a viable career prospect for European citizens of all ages.

The next liaison meeting between *ENABLIS* and NBS EduWorld will be extended inviting other *ENABLIS* consortium partners, so that other task leaders can exchange on their approaches – especially those who are preparing educational materials.

Potential collaboration could be aligned policy recommendations on NBS, also NBS EduWorld can help to test the resources, materials and approaches on NBS in education which is under preparation by the *ENABLIS* consortium.

Oppla (Table 4, No. 3)

Oppla provided the technical infrastructure for the *ENABLIS* online platform. Through this collaboration, an agreement was reached to host a dedicated **micro-site for *ENABLIS* on the Oppla platform**, which now functions as the project's main online presence.

This ensures greater visibility for *ENABLIS* within the wider European NBS community and facilitates access to project results, resources, and updates for external stakeholders.

NATURANCE (Table 4, No. 4)

The project will create a “network of existing networks” by connecting major knowledge networks to encourage cross-domain knowledge sharing and collaboration. It will establish a collaborative marketplace for innovative nature-based insurance and investment solutions.

The project will also launch and coordinate innovation finance and policy labs to assess current practices and explore new opportunities for insurance and investment solutions, as well as revenue models that support NBS.

It will analyse policy and governance conditions that help or hinder the adoption of sustainable and equitable green insurance and investment solutions for NbS, and highlight inspiring examples of practices and policy reforms that unlock business potential and scale up deployment.

Additionally, the project will study models, methods, scenarios, and metrics for assessing the risk-reduction performance of NbS and their broader societal benefits, contributing to better integration of ecosystem and economic risk modelling.

Finally, it will build awareness and strengthen capabilities for green financial innovations, creating conditions for inclusive and transformative change in regions committed to climate adaptation and societal transformation.

The *ENABLIS* project has established initial liaison with the NATURANCE project. First contacts and exchanges have taken place, laying the groundwork for future collaboration.

Both projects **agreed to organise a follow-up meeting once the *ENABLIS* Living Labs (LLs) are further developed**, to explore potential synergies and opportunities for cooperation at the implementation level. In addition, the two consortia **exchanged information on their respective communication and dissemination (C&D) strategies, identifying areas where joint outreach activities and mutual promotion could enhance visibility and impact** within the broader European NBS community.

REWET (Table 4, No. 5)

The *ENABLIS* team has started initial contact with the REWET project (Restoration of Wetlands to Minimise Emissions and Maximise Carbon Uptake) which operates Open Labs to assess wetland restoration activities.

The two projects found common ground in their **shared interest for collaborative and participatory innovation methods where REWET's Open Labs could serve as examples for *ENABLIS*' LLs**. The initial **communication between the projects** concentrated on methods for stakeholder involvement and Living Lab principles.

The two projects scheduled a future meeting to discuss collaboration possibilities when *ENABLIS* LLs advance in their development and arranged for an **interview with the representative from the *ENABLIS* project partner – UEF** to explore deeper collaboration opportunities.

ENoLL (Table 4, No. 6)

The *ENABLIS* project has started to work with ENoLL (European Network of LLs) which is a main European platform for long-term climate mitigation through innovation and collaborative action.

ENoLL offers valuable opportunities for *ENABLIS*, especially in **consulting and capacity-building for the project's Living Labs (LLs)** and innovation brokers. Through this collaboration, *ENABLIS* LLs can relate to other similar LLs across Europe, enabling knowledge exchange, peer learning, and joint activities. **ENoLL also provides access to targeted training and consultation services, especially in areas such as stakeholder engagement and participatory approaches.** Initial contacts and exchanges have been made, and both sides agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting once the *ENABLIS* LLs are fully operational.

The Nature of Cities (Table 4, No. 7)

The *ENABLIS* project has initiated liaison with The Nature of Cities initiative, which focuses on combining art, science, and practice to create innovative, public-facing engagements that support knowledge-driven, imaginative, and just green city-making. One of their key outputs — NBS Comics — offers creative, visual tools that can help communicate complex NBS concepts to diverse audiences.

The use of comics and visual storytelling could significantly enhance stakeholder engagement in *ENABLIS*, making NBS more accessible to policymakers, educators, communities, and young audiences.

Initial exchanges **identified opportunities for ENABLIS to propose topics for future comics, potentially using these materials as educational resources within Living Labs (LLs).** Both sides agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting to further explore synergies.

NBS Academy (Table 4, No. 8)

The NBS Academy establishes an international Community of Practice for NBS education through participatory methods which promote creativity and collaboration among teachers and teacher training providers. The organization works to create and evaluate new NBS education programs which are both accessible and transferable. The organization has achieved three main results by developing a complete Train the Trainer (TTT) program for educators and testing teacher training courses and mobility schemes and creating evidence-based policy recommendations to support EU and national efforts to integrate NBS into teacher education.

This initiative is highly relevant to *ENABLIS*, as **both projects share objectives around capacity building, education, and stakeholder engagement on NBS.** NBS Academy's tools and methodologies can support *ENABLIS* LLs by offering ready-to-use educational resources, training formats, and examples of good practice in participatory education. These can **enhance the educational and outreach components of ENABLIS**, particularly in its interactions with schools, educators, and local communities.

An initial meeting between the project officers of *ENABLIS* and NBS Academy has already taken place, with **both projects continuing to exchange updates and coordinate informally through the NBS Project Board meetings.** These ongoing exchanges help to align efforts and explore further opportunities for collaboration.

UPSURGE (Table 4, No. 9)

The UPSURGE project aims to develop the *EU Regenerative Urban Lighthouse*, a comprehensive reference framework designed to guide cities in the strategic implementation of tested and verified NBS. The Lighthouse draws on real-world experiences and practices from innovative European cities, research institutions, and companies, offering practical knowledge and tools to address complex urban challenges through regenerative development.

The insights from UPSURGE's urban cases can enhance the design, implementation, and impact assessment of *eNABLs* activities, particularly in urban and peri-urban contexts.

***eNABLs* benefits from this collaboration by gaining access to a rich source of tested NBS approaches and practical examples that can inform its LLs and national networks.**

An initial physical knowledge exchange took place during an *eNABLs* consortium meeting in May, with both projects agreeing to organise a follow-up meeting to explore further synergies and potential areas for collaboration.

Biodiversity challenge (Table 4, No. 10)

The Biodiversity Challenge provides an engaging format for raising awareness and stimulating community involvement in biodiversity monitoring. Through activities like the Bioblitz – a fun, competitive event to identify as many wild species as possible in each area – the challenge promotes hands-on learning, citizen science, and public participation in nature observation.

The “Biodiversity challenge” is organized in a collaboration of two *eNABLs* partners: WUR and ICA, and as participants involves other organisations from ICA network and beyond. The ‘Biodiversity challenge’ was organized in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

For *eNABLs*, this represents a valuable tool to strengthen the outreach and engagement activities of its LLs. Integrating similar **participatory approaches** into LL activities could help increase local stakeholder involvement and awareness of NBS, **generate biodiversity data** that could complement scientific monitoring and foster stronger community ties to project goals. In addition, it can help in **supporting education and informal learning**, particularly among younger audiences and local communities. This kind of interactive event **aligns perfectly with *eNABLs*’ focus on participatory innovation and would be easy to adapt to different regional contexts within the project.**

EC Leadership Group on Biodiversity and Climate (Table 4, No. 11)

The EC Leadership Group on Biodiversity and Climate aims to keep up the discussions on the circular economy, biodiversity and climate. The group focuses on:

- Engaging with the international dimension of the circular economy;
- Utilizing online tools to track the implementation of biodiversity strategies and advance towards set targets;
- Enhancing collaboration with other leadership groups to look further into examples, case studies and good practices to better illustrate solutions that embrace the circular economy-biodiversity-climate nexus;
- Engaging with stakeholders from the environmental and biodiversity domain more strongly in circular economy discussions;
- Introducing measures to facilitate transformative change in biodiversity governance.

Involvement in the Leadership Group on Biodiversity and Climate offers ENABLIS valuable opportunities to align its activities with leading European and international dialogues on the circular economy, biodiversity, and climate nexus.

Participation in this Leadership Group allows ENABLIS to learn from good practices and case studies shared within the group, which could be directly applied to improve the design and implementation of ENABLIS activities, and, to contribute insights and examples from ENABLIS LLs, positioning them as case studies that illustrate practical, locally adapted NBS-driven approaches to biodiversity and climate challenges.

Involvement in the EU-wide leadership group helps strengthen stakeholder engagement by connecting LL actors with broader European networks, encouraging multi-level governance approaches. In addition, it enhances the visibility and influence of ENABLIS in policy and innovation communities working on circular economy and biodiversity links - amplifying the project's impact beyond its core networks. Active participation in this Leadership Group would therefore support both the strategic and operational goals of ENABLIS, while helping ensure that its results contribute to – and are aligned with – broader European sustainability efforts.

As we created a thorough list of potential liaison partners and get in contact with them directly or in several meetings organised by NetworkNature for NBS projects board members and within the NBS task forces in the first few month of our project, we decided to not hold the initially planned online “cooperation inaugural event” in M6. In the network meetings we had the chance to exchange with all NBS related projects on their objectives, achievements and discussed the plans and further activities of NBS projects.

5.2 Task Forces

Task force 5 – NBS Education (Table 4, No. 13)

Task Force for NBS Education fosters collaboration by providing resources and advocating for policy change. The objectives of the task force are: Community Engagement and Outreach (organise outreach programs, workshops, and events to involve members and the wider community in hands-on experiences that showcase the positive impact of NBS); Integration of NBS in Education (develop comprehensive educational frameworks that seamlessly integrate NBS into existing curricula across various academic disciplines); Promote interdisciplinary learning experiences that highlight the interconnectedness of ecosystems and emphasise the role of nature in addressing global challenges; Creation of Engaging Learning Resources (produce innovative and interactive educational materials, including lesson plans, multimedia content, and hands-on activities, to engage students in the exploration of NBS).

The involvement in Task Force 5 on Education is highly relevant for ENABLIS, as it directly supports the project's goals around education, outreach, and stakeholder engagement.

In addition, by M18 ENABLIS lead by UHOH, is taking over the leadership of Task Force 5.

The leadership position enables ENABLIS to direct the work of Task Force 5 on NBS education integration according to its priorities for capacity building, outreach and stakeholder engagement. Through leadership ENABLIS can direct its LL and national networks' experiences, and tools into the Task Force 5 activities while sharing its results with the broader European education community. Through the leadership ENABLIS gains increased visibility and influence within the NBS community and among policymakers which enhances its ability to impact NBS integration in formal and informal education systems of the future.

Task Force 3 – NBS Finance and Business Models (for NBS) in a Nature-Positive Economy (Table 4, No. 14)

Task Force 3 focuses on NBS finance, investment mechanisms and business models from the perspective of co-creation and co-finance. It comprises of six working clusters that are led by, contributed to, and reviewed by representatives of different projects. Each cluster will agree on its specific focus together with its contributors, define their agenda and timing, and identify output formats for their work. **ENABLIS is involved in the workstream no 3, “Policy and regulation impacting on financing of NBS”.**

The Involvement in Task Force 3 on NBS finance, investment mechanisms, and business models **provides ENABLIS with valuable opportunities to strengthen its work on the economic and policy aspects of NBS**. By contributing to workstream 3 on “*Policy and regulation impacting on financing of NBS*”, **ENABLIS gains access to expert insights, emerging good practices, and collaborative discussions on how policy frameworks** can better support sustainable financing for NBS. This knowledge will **directly benefit ENABLIS by informing its policy recommendations, supporting the development of more effective business models within the LLs**, and enhancing the project’s capacity to advocate for enabling conditions that drive investment in NBS across different European contexts.

5.3 Description of synergies and complementarities identified

Across its growing network of liaisons, *ENABLIS* has identified strong complementarities with numerous European projects, initiatives, and expert groups. These collaborations enrich *ENABLIS* by providing access to policy frameworks (*NetworkNature*, *Leadership Group on Biodiversity and Climate*, *Task Force 3*), innovative education approaches (*NBS EduWorld*, *Task Force 5*, *NBS Academy*), participatory engagement formats (*Biodiversity Challenge*, *The Nature of Cities*, *REWET*), and practical NBS implementation models (*UPSURGE*, *ENoLL*, *NATURANCE*). The complementarities lie in the shared goals around nature-based solutions (NBS), capacity building, and systemic change, with each liaison offering unique strengths: some contribute tested policy tools and educational resources; others provide platforms for showcasing *ENABLIS* LLs as good practices; while several networks foster peer learning and collaborative innovation.

The active involvement of *ENABLIS* in task forces and leadership groups further positions the project to influence emerging European agendas on NBS education, governance, and financing. These interactions also create multiplier effects — increasing *ENABLIS* visibility, expanding its networks, and providing continuous opportunities to integrate external expertise into its own LLs activities. Overall, these synergies and complementarities directly contribute to the project’s goals of fostering innovation, scaling impact, and shaping an enabling environment for NBS across Europe.

5.4 Types of collaboration established

The liaison activities conducted by *eN ENABLIS* by M18 show a diverse range of collaboration types established across the European NBS ecosystem. These collaborations can be grouped into several categories:

1. **Project-level collaborations** with EU-funded initiatives (e.g., *NetworkNature*, *NBS EduWorld*, *NATURANCE*, *REWET*, *UPSURGE*, *NBS Academy*) — through regular exchanges between liaison officers, joint participation in project boards, shared communication efforts, and collaborative contributions to policy recommendations.

2. **Technical and infrastructure collaborations**, such as the agreement with *Oppla* to host the *ENABLIS* micro-site and serve as the project's online platform.
3. **Clustering and joint advocacy** through involvement in platforms like the *NBS Project Board* and participation in **Task Forces** (Task Force 3 on NBS Finance and Business Models; Task Force 5 on NBS Education), with *ENABLIS* taking a leadership role in Task Force 5.
4. **Capacity-building and peer learning collaborations**, such as exchanges with *EnoLL* (European Network of LLs) and *The Nature of Cities*, offering opportunities to strengthen LLs and stakeholder engagement approaches.
5. **Outreach and citizen engagement collaborations**, illustrated by the *Biodiversity Challenge*, which is co-organised by *ENABLIS* partners and serves as an effective format to foster public awareness and participation.
6. **Policy and strategic dialogue collaborations** through participation in the *EC Leadership Group on Biodiversity and Climate*, which gives *ENABLIS* access to high-level policy discussions and opportunities to position its results in broader EU sustainability efforts.

Overall, the collaborations established reflect a balanced combination of **strategic partnerships**, **knowledge exchange platforms**, **capacity-building alliances**, and **policy-shaping networks**, providing *ENABLIS* with a robust framework to maximise its visibility, influence, and impact across Europe's NBS landscape.

5.5 Challenges and lessons learned

While the liaison activities of *ENABLIS* have produced valuable collaborations and synergies, several challenges were encountered during the first reporting period. One of the biggest challenges was the **difficulty in reaching concrete collaboration agreements early in the project**. At the start of *ENABLIS*, there were still limited results and outputs to share, which made it more difficult to engage other projects and networks in deeper cooperation.

The project faces ongoing difficulties because **different initiatives operate at various developmental stages which prevents proper synchronization of activities and joint output organisation**. The level of resources and priorities between liaison partners creates barriers that restrict the extent of their collaborative work. Handling the time commitment needed for maintaining active participation across multiple networks and task forces while managing other project responsibilities is a persistent challenge. The **process of coordinating communication between different organizations and project cultures needs continuous effort to achieve common understanding and alignment**.

However, several valuable lessons have emerged. The process of **early informal engagement helps build trust, which enables deeper collaboration opportunities** when *ENABLIS* LL and other outputs reach maturity.

The **structured participation in task forces or leadership groups proves most effective for maintaining regular contact and contributing to European policy dialogues**.

The **internal coordination of *ENABLIS* plays an essential role because it enables partners and work packages to share liaison insights and opportunities which maximizes external connections**. The lessons learned will direct and enhance the liaison activity approach for the upcoming second reporting period.

6 Preparation for P2 (M19 – M36)

6.1 Plan for expanding the network

The second reporting period (M19 – M36) will enable *eNABLs* to expand its liaison network through the established foundations of P1 while targeting at least 20 relevant projects and initiatives. The plan includes:

- **The project will enhance its current partnerships through active collaboration** that advances from information sharing to implement joint initiatives including co-hosted events, joint publications, policy recommendations, and cross-project learning activities.
- **The project will find and contact new suitable initiatives**, which include Horizon Europe projects launched recently, national programs, and LIFE and Interreg initiatives, and emerging European platforms dedicated to NBS, circular economy, and biodiversity.
- **The eNABLs LLs will use their increasing maturity and visibility to establish new partnerships** through LLs by attracting regional and national actors who implement NBS in specific locations.
- **The project will enhance its European NBS dialogue presence** by leading Task Force 5 and actively participating in Task Force 3 and the Leadership Group on Biodiversity and Climate, and the NBS Project Board.
- **The consortium will maintain its engagement through various activities** including European conference presentations and policy dialogue participation and joint visibility initiatives.
- **The consortium will maintain internal coordination to update liaison mapping regularly** while sharing contacts to identify strategic collaboration opportunities that support project objectives.

The project seeks to achieve its impact goals through this proactive approach by expanding its partnership network both in size and quality to promote European NBS mainstreaming.

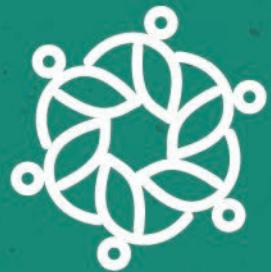
7 Conclusions

During the first reporting period (M1 – M18), *ENABLIS* successfully launched its liaison activities, creating a strong foundation for collaboration with a wide range of complementary initiatives across Europe. The project established active connections with more than 12 European projects and networks, covering strategic areas such as policy, education, finance, implementation, and public engagement related to NBS. These collaborations already produced both direct outcomes — such as joint events, shared communication efforts, contributions to task forces, and participation in project boards — and indirect outcomes, including increased visibility for *ENABLIS*, expanded networks, and alignment with emerging European NBS agendas.

One of the key lessons learned was the importance of early informal engagement to build trust and relationships, especially as concrete outputs from *ENABLIS* were still under development. Challenges included the difficulty of securing formal collaboration agreements early in the project, managing time and resources across multiple networks, and aligning activities with initiatives operating on different cycles.

Despite these challenges, *ENABLIS* is well positioned to expand its network in the second reporting period (M19 – M36). A clear plan is in place to deepen existing partnerships, engage with new initiatives — particularly those emerging from recent Horizon Europe calls — and strengthen the role of *ENABLIS* in European NBS dialogues through leadership in Task Force 5 and active participation in other key platforms. The growing maturity of the *ENABLIS* LLs will serve as a strong driver for attracting new partners and facilitating more practical, implementation-focused collaborations.

Overall, the liaison activities have become a central driver for delivering the project's objectives of innovation, cross-sector collaboration, and impact amplification. The experience gained in P1 will guide a more targeted, proactive approach in P2, with the aim of surpassing the KPI of liaising with at least 20 relevant projects and initiatives and helping to mainstream NBS across European policy and practice.



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