

UGPplus

Enhanced Urban Greening Plans for Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Society

Deliverable D4.1

UGPplus evaluation framework

Version No.: V1.0

Due date: 31/03/2024

Actual submission date: 27/03/2024

Dissemination level: PU (Public)

Prepared under the Grant Agreement No. 101135386

Start date of the Project: 01/01/2024

Duration: 36 Months

Call: HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01
11

Topic: HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01-

Type of action: HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions

Granting authority: European Research Executive Agency (REA)

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KEYWORDS

Evaluation Framework, Reflexive Monitoring, Outcomes, Impacts, Urban Greening Plan

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Issue Date	Stage	Content and Changes
#0.1	3 rd February 2024	Draft	Document Structure defined by Task Leader UEL and agreed upon with all the Partners
#0.2	15 th February 2024	Draft	First full Draft, with missing information by other Partners
#0.3	11 th March 2024	Draft	Second full Draft, with all the comments and amendments by other Partners
#0.4	15 th March 2024	Draft	Third full Draft with an introduction to the deliverable, based on DoA
#0.5	20 th March 2024	Draft	Full document with layout
#1.0	27 th March 2024	Final	Submitted to the F&T Portal



Description of deliverable

Deliverable 4.1 comprises an evaluation framework for the UGPplus project. The evaluation framework is based on agreed evaluation approaches for monitoring project activities, their impacts, and the implications of their findings. The purpose of the framework is to act as a reference guide for Deliverable leaders throughout the duration of the project. It acts as a resource to support them in recognising that the Tasks they are carrying out are being planned and executed in alignment with the overall intended project outcomes and impacts, and these are mapped in the evaluation framework to clarify the connections and contributions of Project activities. Rather than being a mechanism used to enforce how Tasks and Deliverables are implemented across the project, the evaluation framework should remind, prompt and enable Task and Deliverable leaders across the project to be mindful of the outcomes and impacts that the Deliverables are intended to influence, so that activities can be shaped to maximise synergies and to yield maximum outcomes and impacts. The Framework also acts to identify areas of project activity where Reflexive Monitoring in Greening cities will play a role in evaluating the intended outcomes / impacts of deliverables. When Reflexive Monitoring (RM) appears in the “How to evaluate impacts / outcomes of activities” column of the evaluation framework tables, the deliverable which sits to the left in the column “contributing Deliverables”, is a specific subject identified as a target for Reflexive Monitoring activities. For example, many deliverables in the project involve academics conducting reviews of best practice or developing capacity building tools or programmes for the cities to use. Reflexive monitoring with the Greening Cities will be used as a mechanism to evaluate and sense-check the utility of these activities and their associated deliverables for the cities they are designed to support.

In collaboration with relevant Deliverable leaders, a process has been developed to integrate Reflexive Monitoring with other interlinking knowledge transfer elements of the project. The elements which have been brought together into a coherent process are Reflexive Monitoring, Reflection Labs, Academic Review, Knowledge Labs and Urban Greening Exchanges.

1. **Reflection labs** – Sitting within the process of Reflexive Monitoring, cities discuss their Reflexive Monitoring learning with academic mentors, reflecting on where they have the greatest challenges and where they require the most support. This information is captured and transferred to the next step.
2. **Academic review** - Knowledge is transferred from the city experiences through the reflection labs to the WP activities, informing, supporting, and iteratively strengthening the WP Task science, knowledge and practice reviews (WPs 2-5).
3. **Knowledge labs** - Academics discuss with Cities best practices and scientific knowledge from WP Task science, knowledge and practice reviews (WPs 2-5)
4. **Peer-to-peer learning between cities** – Cities share or receive information from other cities. This will focus on topics where cities identify a support need and where cities can offer their experiences and expertise from a UGP step.

This process will be iterative and allow for continuous learning and reflection by both the Cities and the academic partners. Cities will be reflecting on their main challenges and on the utility of material provided by the academics. This feedback from the cities to the academic partners via the Reflexive



Monitoring process will allow partners to reflect and understand how best to proceed to support the cities effectively.

The evaluation framework Deliverable (4.1) is based on two Tables (see next page): “Table 1. Outcomes” and “Table 2. Impacts”. These Tables draw upon the intended Impacts and outcomes of the project, defines how UGPplus contributes to the outcomes/impacts, and aligns them with the associated KPIs from Tables 2.1 & 2.3 in the Description of Actions from the project Grant Agreement. The Deliverable 4.1 evaluation framework then introduces:

- The contributing activities (Deliverables) of UGPplus which will contribute to the project reaching each stated outcome or impact
- How the outcomes/impacts of Deliverables will be evaluated
- The implications of the evaluation of the outcomes/impacts of Deliverables (i.e. what will the evaluation information be used for).

The framework has been co-produced with UGPplus Deliverable leaders to ensure that all project Deliverables have been mapped to their corresponding intended outcomes/impacts of UGPplus

Legend: key to the terminology of the evaluation approaches being implemented in UGPplus

Evaluation options	Key
Deliverables	D
Milestones	MS
Reflexive Monitoring in Greening Cities	D4.5 - (RM)
Participatory governance indicators	D4.4 - Participatory planning and governance impacts
Capacity building evaluation	D5.5 - Report of capacity building activities
Framework replication assessment	D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential
Knowledge & Reflection Labs	MS12 - Establishment of the Knowledge and Reflection Labs

Table 1. Outcomes

Outcome		How UGPplus contributes	KPI	Contributing deliverables (activities)	How to evaluate <u>impacts</u> / outcomes of activities	<u>Implications</u> of evaluation insights
ID	Description					
A	Better implementation and delivery of the EU proposal for a nature restoration law and the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, particularly through new resources and knowledge to support the deployment across EU urban (and peri-urban) greening plans.	The project aims to co-creatively design, test, and assess the replication potential of the UGPplus framework, which aims to constitute an improved and more advanced version of the UGP concept and tools, more in line with the ambitious targets of the new and upcoming EU legislation.	KPI: 1 assessed UGPplus framework by M36	D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential (M36)	D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential (is an evaluation deliverable) D2.4 – Scientific article on lessons learnt D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM) MS12 - Establishment of the Knowledge and Reflection Labs	D3.5 & D6.2 – 6.5 - Will revise the five recommendations to avoid the UGP implementation gaps mentioned in a 2021 joint publication
				D1.5 - Draft UGPplus Framework (M18) D1.3 - Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks (M34) D1.4 – Pathways for Just Urban Greening	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM) D2.4 – Scientific article on lessons learnt D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential (is an evaluation deliverable) D4.4 - Participatory planning and governance impacts	RM feedback to Knowledge and Reflection Lab (MS12) to improve D1.3 D1.5 – Draft UGPplus Framework D3.3 – Guideline on transformational pathways
B	Increased capacity and skills in cities to work ‘at the right scale’ of the challenge and across policies, measures, strategies, including spatial planning capacity, so as to help deliver and assess the urban greening plans, green infrastructure strategies and more widely transformative change towards more sustainable and resilient cities to implement the EU climate adaptation strategy.	A clear focus of the project’s work plan is set on capacity building, peer to peer and reflexive learning activities involving civil servants and policy makers from the five Cities involved - but more generally local and regional stakeholders, according to a ‘whole of society’ approach.	KPI: 100 trained public sector staff by the project’s capacity building programme by M36	D5.1 – Report on EU-Wide surveys	D5.1 is an evaluation activity	Shapes D5.2 – Portfolio of capacity building tools and programmes
				D5.2 - Portfolio of tools and programmes	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes	D4.5 - Further guidance on reflexive monitoring and the capacities needed to do it successfully Iterative feedback through the Reflective and Knowledge Labs to improve the Capacity Building Programmes
				D5.3 - UGPplus capacity building programme D5.4 - UGPplus capacity building materials D1.1 – State of play report D1.2 – Case studies with inputs from lighthouse cities	4.5 - Key learning outcomes RM Surveys D5.5 - Report of capacity building activities	Improvements to D5.3, future urban greening activities and Urban Greening Platform Expansion of capacity building offer on Network Nature and OPPLA. Future greening activities Iterative feedback through the Reflective and Knowledge Labs to improve the Capacity Building Programmes



Outcome		How UGPplus contributes	KPI	Contributing deliverables (activities)	How to evaluate impacts / outcomes of activities	Implications of evaluation insights
ID	Description					
C	Better understanding on how and under which conditions spatial planning can help optimise the ecosystem services of the solutions, strategies and actions, such as ecosystem restoration/creation and connectivity, Nature-based Solutions (NBS), blue and green infrastructure while addressing social equity and spatial justice aspects; operating this new knowledge into new pathways and methodologies.	Spatial planning is an integral part of the proposed UGPplus framework, which also considers the interconnectedness of green spaces to the broader ecosystem, as well as the existing and potential future ownership and governance models of space in and around cities and the relevance of social equity and spatial justice aspects.	KPI: 1 final publication on “just urban greening pathways” by M36	D1.4 - Pathways for Just Urban Greening D1.2 – Case studies with input from Lighthouse cities D3.1 - Spatial planning scheme for NBS integration D6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 – Policy briefs	D4.4 - Participatory planning and governance impacts D4.5 - Key learning outcomes	Public document published at the end of project
				D2.2 - Review article on barriers and systemic gaps that hinder fair distribution of benefits and striving towards spatial and environmental justice through UGP	D2.2 - Review article on barriers and systemic gaps that hinder fair distribution of benefits and striving towards spatial and environmental justice through UGP is an evaluation deliverable	Transformational and just pathways approaches will feed D1.3 D5.4 content shaping Feed into international efforts around NBS
				D3.1 - Spatial planning scheme for NBS integration D3.2 - Scenarios and trade-offs of interconnected green spaces	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM) MS13 - Internal mock-up of the spatial planning scheme	D1.3 - Greening Cities UGPplus Framework amendments D1.5 - Draft UGPplus framework RM feedback to Knowledge and Reflection Lab (MS12)
				D3.2 - Scenarios and trade-offs of interconnected green spaces	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM)	D1.3 - Greening Cities UGPplus Framework amendments D1.5 - Draft UGPplus framework
				D3.3 - Guideline on Transformational Pathways towards implementing UGPplus	D4.5 RM	D1.3 - Greening Cities UGPplus Framework amendments D1.5 - Draft UGPplus framework RM feedback to Knowledge and Reflection Lab (MS12)



Outcome		How UGPplus contributes	KPI	Contributing deliverables (activities)	How to evaluate impacts / outcomes of activities	Implications of evaluation insights
ID	Description					
D	New tools and solutions for better integration of nature-based objectives in investments in infrastructure and other urban systems as well as better investment cases for renaturing the urban and peri-urban areas and maintaining NBS in the long-term thanks to new and innovative governance and finance models.	Focus is set on innovative financing, public private partnerships, collaborative business models and NBS enterprising in both UGPplus framework design and within its implementation through capacity building and policy improvement.	KPI: 1 assessment of replication potential of the UGPplus framework by M36	D1.2 – Case studies from Lighthouse Cities	D4.5 RM D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential	
				D3.2 – New tool for trade-offs and improving connectivity	D4.5 RM D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential	
				D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential	D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential (is an evaluation deliverable)	
				D2.1 - Publication on state-of-the art NBS financing, business models and job creation opportunities	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM) Survey D2.2 – Review article on justice D2.3 – Review article on barriers / opportunities	D1.3 – Future Greening Cities UGPplus Framework amendments D1.5 - Draft UGPplus framework D3.4 - Guidance on financing and measuring impacts of NBS RM feedback to Knowledge and Reflection Lab (MS12)
				D3.4 - Guidance on financing and measuring impacts of NBS	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM) Survey	D1.3 - Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks amendments D1.5 - Draft UGPplus framework D5.4 - UGPplus capacity building materials RM feedback to Knowledge and Reflection Lab (MS12)
				D1.3 - Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM)	
				D5.3 - UGPplus capacity building programme	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM) Attendee surveys D5.5 - Report of capacity building activities	Improvements to D5.3 (UGPplus capacity building programme) or future work through clustering / task force activities such as through Network Nature



Outcome		How UGPplus contributes	KPI	Contributing deliverables (activities)	How to evaluate impacts / outcomes of activities	Implications of evaluation insights
ID	Description					
E	Better understanding on how to manage the tension between biodiversity protection, urban development pressure and fair access to nature for the urban citizen, identifying the relevant scale and timeframe while considering the long-term impact of spatial planning strategies.	The project aims to intersect social, environmental and more-than-human justice and resilience perspectives as critical tools for evaluating and discussing planning options and greening interventions.	KPI: 3 Greening Cities Frameworks by M34	D1.1 – State of play report	D1.1 Is an evaluation task	D1.3 – Framework amendments
				D1.2 – Case studies	D1.2 Is an evaluation task	D1.3 – Framework amendments
				D1.3 - Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks	D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM)	Future work D6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 – Policy briefs
				D1.4 - Pathways for Just Urban Greening	D4.4 - Participatory planning and governance impacts D4.5 - Key learning outcomes	Public document from D4.4 and 4.5
				D2.2 - Review article on barriers and systemic gaps that hinder fair distribution of benefits and striving towards spatial and environmental justice through UGP	D2.2 is an evaluation deliverable	D1.3 – Amendments to Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks D6.2 – Policy briefs
				D3.1 - Spatial planning scheme for NBS integration	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes RM	D1.3 - Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks
				D3.2 - Scenarios and tradeoffs of interconnected green spaces	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes RM	D1.3 - Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks
F	New approaches, tools and good practices for decision-making processes supporting municipal planning structures in co-creation of policies and plans for NBS through the lens of social equity and environmental fairness.	Reflexive monitoring is introduced and implemented in a dedicated work package to promote awareness and understanding of the transformative potential of project tools and methods for UGP enhancement.	KPI: 5 Knowledge and Reflection Labs by M36	MS12 - Establishment of the Knowledge and Reflection Labs	MS12 Self reflection	Feedback to D4.5
				D4.2 - Establishing a Greening Cities baseline D4.5 - Key learning outcomes D5.2 – Portfolio of tools and Programmes D1.4 – Pathways for just urban greening D4.4 – Participatory planning and governance impacts	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM) self-reflection D4.5 – Key learning outcomes (RM)	RM feedback to Knowledge and Reflection Lab (MS12) D3.2 – Scenarios and trade-offs of interconnected green spaces D4.4 - Participatory planning and governance impacts D5.2 & 5.3 – Tools and capacity building programme



Outcome		How UGPplus contributes	KPI	Contributing deliverables (activities)	How to evaluate impacts / outcomes of activities	Implications of evaluation insights
ID	Description					
				D4.3 – Assessment of emerging tools potential		



Table 2. Impacts

Impact		How UGP+ contributes	KPI	Contributing Deliverables (activities)	How to evaluate <u>impacts</u> / outcomes of activities	<u>Implications</u> of evaluation insights
ID	Description					
A	Direct drivers of biodiversity decline will be understood and addressed – land and sea use change, natural resource use and exploitation, climate change, pollution, invasive alien species – as well as indirect drivers – demographic, socio-economic, technological, etc.	This holistic and driver-based vision lies among the very distinguishing factors of the UGPplus vs UGP process improvement.	KPI: 10 distinct drivers explored.	D1.2 - Case studies with inputs from Lighthouse Cities	D4.5 – RM, about usability of case studies MS20 – Urban Greening Exchanges	Feeds D3.1 (Spatial planning scheme for NBS integration) Feeds D1.3 (Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks) + local comms plans
				D2.2 – Review article on justice D3.2 - Guideline on Transformational Pathways		Feeds D1.3 (Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks)
B	Protected areas and their networks will be planned, managed and expanded and the status of species and habitats will be improved based on up-to-date knowledge and solutions.	Regional integration is pursued in a dedicated WP3 task including peri-urban and protected areas.	KPI: 10 protected areas analysed.	D3.1 - Spatial planning scheme for NBS integration D3.2 - Scenarios and tradeoffs of interconnected green spaces D3.3 - Guideline on Transformational Pathways towards implementing UGPplus D5.4 - UGPplus capacity building materials	D4.5 - Key learning outcomes (RM) D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential	Feedback and improvement to D1.3 (Greening Cities UGPplus Frameworks)
C	Biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital will be mainstreamed in the society and economy: e.g. they will be integrated into public and business decision making; approaches for enabling transformative changes to tackle societal challenges will be built including by deploying nature-based solutions (NBS).	Mainstreaming will be a key focus of the project, including biodiversity, urban greening, ecosystem services, but also gender and intersectionality.	KPI: 3 mainstreaming pathways. KPI: 5 mainstreaming directions.	D1.5 - Draft UGPplus framework D2.2 – Review on justice D2.3 – Review on barriers D3.3 - Guideline on Transformational Pathways D3.4 - Guidance on financing and measuring impacts of NBS D4.3 – Assessment of tools D3.2 – Mainstreaming through planning	D3.5 – Assessment of replication potential D3.4 - Guidance on financing and measuring impacts of NBS D4.4 - Participatory planning and governance impacts D4.5 – RM key learning outcomes	Feedback and improvement to D1.3 – Framework
				D5.4 – Capacity building materials	D4.5 - RM D3.5 - Assessment of replication potential	



Impact		How UGP+ contributes	KPI	Contributing Deliverables (activities)	How to evaluate <u>impacts</u> / outcomes of activities	<u>Implications</u> of evaluation insights
ID	Description					
				D1.3 with contribution from D1.1	D3.5 – Assessment of replication potential D3.4 – Guidance on financing D4.4 – Participatory planning and governance impacts D4.5 - RM	Feedback and improvement to D1.3
				D3.1 - Spatial planning scheme for NBS integration	D4.5 RM D3.4 – Guidance on financing D4.4 – Participatory planning and governance impacts	Feed into D1.5 – Draft framework
D	Practices in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture will be developed and improved to support and make sustainable the use of biodiversity and a wide range of ecosystems services.	Agroecology considerations, including urban agriculture, will be an integral part of the improved urban strategies and plans.	KPI: 3 Greening Cities frameworks.	D1.5 – Draft UGPplus framework	D3.5 – Assessment of replication potential D4.5 RM	Feedback to improvement of 1.3 – Framework
				D1.3 – UGPplus framework	D3.5 – Assessment of replication potential D4.5 RM	Future work beyond UGPplus
				D3.2 - Scenarios and trade-offs of interconnected green spaces	D4.5 RM	Feed into 1.3 and beyond UGP cities
E	Biodiversity research and support policies and processes will be interconnected at EU and global levels, making use of advanced digital technologies and societal engagement where appropriate.	The innovative instrument of knowledge and reflection labs will serve that purpose.	KPI: 5 Knowledge and Reflection Labs.	MS12 - Establishment of the Knowledge and Reflection Labs MS18 – Guidance on biodiversity monitoring D4.3 – Emerging tools potential D5.3 – Capacity building programme	MS12 self-reflection D4.5 RM D5.5 – Report on capacity building programme	Feeds D4.5 RM D6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 – Policy briefs Feeds D2.4 – Scientific article on lessons learnt
F	The biodiversity and health nexus will be understood, in particular at the level of ecosystems. This will be achieved by using the one-health approach, in the context of climate change and globalisation and by addressing contributions and trade-offs.	Health and well being related considerations are part of both WP2 SOTA and WP3/5 framework design and sharing with prospective adopters.	KPI: 1 consolidated UGP process and guidelines.	D2.2 – Review on justice D2.1 – Publication on state-of-the-art	D4.5 RM	Feeds 1.3 - Framework D6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 – Policy briefs
				D3.1 - Spatial planning scheme for NBS integration D3.2 - Scenarios and tradeoffs of interconnected green spaces	4.5 RM	Feeds 1.3 - Framework
				D5.3 – Capacity building programme	D5.5 – Report on capacity building activities Surveys	Improve D5.3

