

*April 2023*



Nature's integration in cities'  
hydrologies, ecologies and societies

## Welcome to NICHES' first newsletter!

We are happy to share the first edition of the NICHES' newsletter which we will distribute bi-annually.

If you still haven't subscribed to our newsletter but you love our news, subscribe via the button below!

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## A look back on NICHES' first year



During its initial year, the NICHES project established the groundwork for integrating nature-based solutions (NBS) to urban water management systems in its five case study cities, which set the tone for the project's future research trajectory.

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## NICHES Kick-off meeting

NICHES' kick-off meeting, held in April 2022, was hosted by the Ecologic Institute. The kick-off meeting welcomed 11 experts from the project's seven

partner institutions. These partners also represented the cities that the NICHES research will focus on, including Barcelona (Spain), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Boston (USA), Berlin (Germany) and Sheffield (UK).

NICHES held its kick-off meeting a year ago and since then, the project has evolved and deepened its comprehension of NBS and in what ways they can help alleviate urban water management challenges. By embracing co-creation within its case study cities, the project has successfully fostered collaborative partnerships between diverse stakeholders, which have led to fruitful discussions on the potential of NBS in urban areas.



[Read more](#)

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## NICHES Annual consortium meeting

Almost a year after its kick-off meeting, NICHES partners gathered once again in Barcelona, Spain for the project's Annual Consortium Meeting. The project's consortium had expanded with three new members, who are early career researchers. The meeting aimed at establishing synergies between the different tasks and paving the way towards successful co-creation between the NICHES cities and within them with local stakeholders. NICHES' ACM was an opportunity to create a detailed timeline of tasks and expectations for the project's second year.





## NICHES International Symposium on Nature-based Solutions in Urban Water Systems

NICHES' first *International Symposium on Nature-based Solutions in Urban Water Systems* was held in Barcelona on 6 March 2023. The event was divided in two parts with Part 1 held in English focusing on NICHES and its five case study cities and Part 2 - a more interactive stakeholder workshop conducted in Catalan and Spanish.

Part 1 outlined the challenges and vulnerabilities the NICHES cities are facing, the current policy frameworks on urban water management in place, and how NBS can offer viable solutions to sewage overflow events.

Part 2 entailed a stakeholder workshop, which focused on local issues to the area of Barcelona and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB) and was designed to foster discussions on the current state and desired future for the area's water management system.

You can find a recording of Part 1 of the NICHES Symposium on our YouTube channel!





[Read more about the event](#)

[Follow NICHES on YouTube](#)

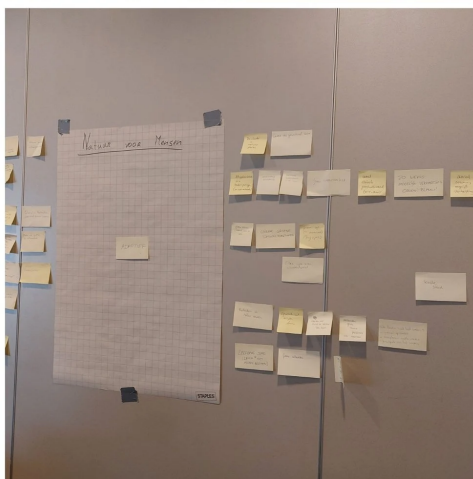
[Watch the recording of Part 1](#)

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## NICHES Stakeholder workshop in Rotterdam

On March 13 2023, NICHES partners from the Netherlands Institute of Ecology ([NIOO-KNAW](#)) organised a stakeholder workshop in Rotterdam with an agency part of the [Water Alliance](#) Rotterdam.

The Water Alliance group focusing on 'water systems' was looking for new ways to think about the urban watershed of Rotterdam and how they can manage the land and water for both water storage, floods and water quality. This coincided with the underlying premise of NICHES, researching nature-based solutions (NBS) and their application to sewage overflows.



## NICHES at events

Throughout the past year, NICHES partners attended various events. Some of them are listed below. For more information on the themes and participants, visit the [NICHES website](#).

### June 2022

#### 11th World Urban Forum: Nature-based solutions for sustainable urban development

Read about NICHES' attendance [here](#).





September 2022



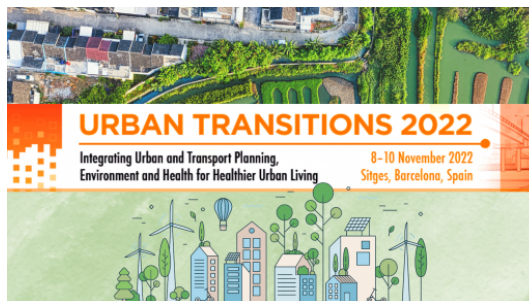
## Network Nature's annual event: Upscaling Nature-based solutions in policy and practice

Read about NICHES' attendance [here](#).

November 2022

## Urban Transitions 2022 conference

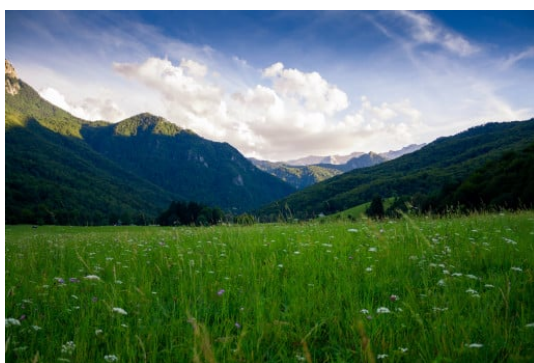
Read about NICHES' attendance [here](#).



February 2023

## BiodivClim Knowledge Hub Launch

Read about NICHES' attendance [here](#).



March 2023

## NICE NbS 2nd Capacity Building Webinar

Read about NICHES' attendance [here](#).



March 2023

## The Scandinavian Green Roof Institute's (SGRI) Digital Blue Green Event

Read about NICHES' attendance [here](#).



For an overview of NICHES' past events and activities visit our project website!

Explore NICHES' news section

# New promotional materials



NICHES' visual identity is present in all outreach activities of the project and boosts the recognisability of the project. NICHES' new promotional materials consist of a one-pager alongside a factsheet about NICHES' case-study city of Barcelona.

Take a closer look

## Our first co-authored publication

NICHES partner Johannes Langemeyer from the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology at the Autonomous University in Barcelona ([ICTA-UAB](#)) has co-authored a publication released in 2022 relevant to NICHES' work and themes.

## Transformative or piecemeal? Changes in green space planning and governance in eleven European cities

Rieke Hansen <sup>a</sup>, Marleen Buizer <sup>b</sup>, Arjen Buijs <sup>c,u</sup>, Stephan Pauleit <sup>d</sup>, Thomas Mattijssen <sup>e</sup>, Hanna Fors <sup>f</sup>, Alexander van der Jagt <sup>g</sup>, Nadja Kabisch <sup>h</sup>, Mandy Cook <sup>i</sup>, Tim Delshammar <sup>j</sup>, Thomas B. Randrup <sup>k</sup>, Sabrina Erlwein <sup>l</sup>, Kati Vierikko <sup>m</sup>, Hanna Nieminen <sup>n</sup>, Johannes Langemeyer <sup>o</sup>, Camille Soson Texereau <sup>p</sup>, Ana Catarina Luz <sup>q</sup>, Mojca Nastran <sup>r</sup>, Anton Stahl Olafsson <sup>s</sup>, Maja Steen Møller <sup>t</sup>, Dagmar Haase <sup>u</sup>, Werner Rolf <sup>v</sup>, Bianca Ambrose-Oji <sup>w</sup>, Cristina Branquinho <sup>x</sup>, Gilles Havik <sup>y</sup>, Jakub Kronenberg <sup>z</sup> and Cecil Konijnendijk <sup>1</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

Green (and blue) spaces receive attention as important components of cities that can help to mitigate the effects of climate change, support biodiversity and improve public health. Green space planning aims to transform cities towards urban sustainability and resilience. In a longitudinal study, representatives from eleven European municipalities that had previously been interviewed in 2014 were re-interviewed in 2020–2021 on changes in urban greening and related practices. The interviewees reported mainly advancements in dealing with


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## Transformative or piecemeal? Changes in green space planning and governance in eleven European cities

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NICHES' library

## Social media update

### NICHES is now on LinkedIn!



## Coming soon...



### **Berlin Factsheet**

We are currently preparing the publication of another factsheet - this time focusing on the case-study city of Berlin in Germany.



### **Second press release**

We will soon publish NICHES' second press release covering the International Symposium on NBS in Urban Water Systems.



### **Future events**

We plan to attend a series of international conferences on urban water management in Europe and abroad. Keep an eye on our website for updates!

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## Don't miss a beat!

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### **NICHES Project**

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