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NBS4MED

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Nature Based Solutions for climate-resilient Mediterranean cities

NBS4MED will support Mediterranean cities in adopting and implementing Nature Based Solutions (NBS) that respond to their specific urban and climate challenges, while strengthening the capacity of public authorities and private sector organisations to design, implement, and finance NBS; contributing to the improvement of urban climate adaptation policies in the participating regions.





NBS, tiny urban park concept



What are NBS?

Nature Based Solutions, NBS, are innovative and sustainable approaches that help cities address environmental and societal challenges, while strengthening urban resilience. By integrating natural processes into urban planning, they deliver cost-effective environmental, social and economic benefits. From improving air and water quality to enhancing biodiversity and supporting climate adaptation, they play a key role in reducing the impacts of floods, heatwaves and droughts.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The central focus of NBS4MED is the implementation of pilot actions in different Mediterranean countries. These interventions will test a set of NBS, in real conditions. The results will be assessed and used to develop guidance for their replication in other areas.


NBS, green roof concept

The actions will be implemented across five Mediterranean countries, Spain, Türkiye, Greece, Tunisia, and Egypt. Each action will address specific local climate challenges through the following:

- The creation of a tiny urban forest, in Cerdanyola del Vallès/Spain.
- The development of two green roofs, in Izmir/Türkiye.
- The transformation of an urban area into a smart eco-park, in Kiato (Sikionies)/Greece.
- The installation of a nature-based rainwater retention basin, in Tunis/Tunisia.
- And the establishment of a green corridor, in Cairo/Egypt.


NBS, rainwater retention basin cocnept

The pilot interventions are currently in the study and procurement phase, whereas the actual implementation will commence during August/September 2026.

BENEFITS

The pilots will strengthen the capacities of public authorities and private organisations to design and implement NBS, while improving urban climate adaptation policies and supporting a wide range of beneficiaries; local communities, students, families, public authorities, researchers, visitors, local businesses, environmental organisations, and vulnerable urban populations. The pilot actions are expected to directly and indirectly benefit over 200.000 people through improved thermal comfort, reduced flood and heat risks, enhanced biodiversity, environmental awareness activities, and more sustainable public spaces. NBS4MED will also generate a set of tools and materials that will act as a reference guide, for the public services and organisations involved in the design and implementation of NBS.


NBS, green corridor concept

The **NBS Repository** will be providing key information, benefits, costs, and adaptation guidelines for NBS. The study visits in Spain and Türkiye (described in the following section) will enrich the Repository with real-world examples and insights from implemented NBS. The **Decision-Making Framework** is a guidance and self-evaluation tool supporting the adoption and integration of NBS. The **Policy Toolkit** will be supporting public authorities in developing targeted policies and measures for the adoption and replication of NBS in other Mediterranean regions.

NBS4MED LAUNCH

The NBS4MED project officially launched its activities with a highly productive kick-off meeting held on the 27th and 28th of January, 2026, at the Sikyon Municipal Library in Kiato, Greece. The discussions covered the project structure and work plan, the planning of the five pilot actions, and the first year activities. For more information regarding the kick-off meeting and the additional activities that took place, please visit here.



Kick-off meeting, Kiato, Greece

STUDY VISIT IN IZMIR, TÜRKİYE

On the 15th – 17th of April 2026, NBS4MED partners gathered in Izmir for a study visit showcasing how NBS are being integrated into urban environments, while aiming to enhance resilience and life quality.


Buca District, Izmir, Türkiye

During the first day, a visit took place in the Izmir Agricultural Development Centre (İZTAM), promoting sustainable agriculture and water-sensitive practices. Partners also explored the Peynircioğlu Stream Ecological Corridor, a restored waterway supporting biodiversity, reducing urban heat, and offering new recreational areas.

Through this event, the partners exchanged knowledge and strengthened their collaboration on scaling up NBS across the Mediterranean. For more information regarding the study visit in Izmir, please visit here.

During the second day, a visit to the Bahçekapı Park in Buca District and Atatürk Neighbourhood Sponge Park took place, where nature-based designs help manage rainwater, while improving public space and securing them from floods.

The visit concluded at the Mustafa Necati Culture Centre, where the future pilot action will occur, transforming unused rooftops into green roofs. This intervention will help reduce heat stress, improve rainwater management, and raise community awareness of climate adaptation. The pilot action will directly benefit approximately 6.000 people per year, with an additional 75.000 indirect beneficiaries. More information regarding the pilot action will be, progressively, available soon.


Mustafa Necati Culture Centre, Izmir, Türkiye

STUDY VISIT IN BARCELONA, SPAIN

Exploring NBS in Barcelona, Spain

On the 21st–22nd of May 2026, the NBS4MED partners met in the metropolitan area of Barcelona to explore urban spaces transformed through NBS. The visit included Parc del Turonet, the site of the tiny urban forest pilot action, demonstrating how dense green spaces can cool cities, store carbon, and improve air quality.


Parc de les Glòries, Barcelona, Spain

In the city centre, the participants visited Parc de les Glòries, a former traffic hub transformed into a vibrant green public space, as well as the Poblenou Superblock, where streets have been redesigned to prioritise people, community life, and nature.

The partners also explored the restored Llobregat River corridor, now a thriving ecosystem supporting biodiversity and connecting natural areas to the coast.


Llobregat River, Catalonia, Spain

UPCOMING EVENTS


Cerdanyola del Vallès, NBS4MED Pilot Site, Spain

Pilot action in Spain, Cerdanyola del Vallès:

A tiny urban forest based on the Miyawaki method will be established in Cerdanyola del Vallès to reduce heat stress, improve rainwater management, and enhance urban biodiversity in a densely populated area.

Pilot action in Türkiye, Izmir:

A multi-purpose green roof will be developed at the Mustafa Necati Culture Centre in Izmir, incorporating permaculture principles, rainwater harvesting, and greywater reuse systems to mitigate urban heat stress and support climate awareness activities.



Mustafa Necati Culture Centre, NBS4MED Pilot Site, Izmir, Türkiye

Pilot action in Greece, Sikionies:

An urban park and adjacent car park in Sikionies will be transformed into a smart eco-park featuring smart irrigation systems, rainwater collection, and permeable pavements to improve climate resilience and public comfort.



Rainwater retention basin, NBS4MED Pilot Site, CITET, Tunisia

Pilot Action in Tunisia, Tunis:

A rainwater retention basin will be established at the Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies, CITET, premises in Tunis to address flood risks through innovative Nature Based Solutions and digital water monitoring technologies.

Pilot action in Egypt, Cairo:

A green corridor with native vegetation will be created at Heliopolis University, in Cairo, to reduce urban heat island effects, improve pedestrian comfort, and promote sustainable climate adaptation solutions in arid environments.



Heliopolis University, NBS4MED Pilot Site, Cairo, Egypt

PARTNERSHIP

Hellenic Republic
Region of Peloponnese

PROMEA

İZMİR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

AMB Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona

SEKEM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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VISIBILITY

For more NBS4MED information, news, and results, please visit our website and social media:

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