

DRAFT OF ACTION PLAN NCI

1. NCI the cities and the territory

NCI is a **public body** that represents the **10 municipalities** of the eastern area of the metropolitan area of **Bologna** with **133,562** inhabitants (Bologna Metro: 1 mil.).

- NCI is **characterized** by important industries and a thriving agricultural sector. There is a very rich historical, artistic and monumental heritage. There are **universities** and research centers.
- **Sustainability** is a priority for the development of this territory. There are parks, natural areas and tourist attraction routes, which are particularly important for the development of sustainable tourism.
- **Areas of interest for international cooperation:**
 - Nature Based Solutions ecological transition & green deal (+ tourism/culture)
 - Smart & sustainable city with technology & culture aspects acting as pillars of the cities of the future
 - Green Design and Research Center

2. An ACTION PLAN in Entrepreneurial Discovery Process EDP perspective

The EDP is an inclusive and interactive bottom-up process in which participants from different environments (policy, business, academia, etc) are discovering and producing information about potential new activities, identifying potential opportunities that emerge through this interaction, while policymakers assess outcomes and ways to facilitate the realisation of this potential.

The EDP pursues the integration of entrepreneurial knowledge fragmented and distributed over many sites and organisations, companies, universities, clients and users, specialised suppliers (some of these entities being located outside of the region) through the building of connections and partnerships.

The EDP consists of the exploration and opening up of a new domain of opportunities (technological and market), potentially rich in numerous innovations that emerge as feasible and attractive.



Figure 1.1 The Cycle of EDP
Source: Kyriakou and Periaez-Forte (2016), based on Lasswell (1956)

3. A framework for cooperation: nature based solution and design with nature

Main area of activities of NCI on this topics:

To bring the life into the city. The network of urban parks

'Imola Verde' is the map that tells the richness and diversity of the city's green spaces, from large historical parks to small gardens, from the riverside park to the peri-urban woods, and then again the sports areas, vegetable gardens, social centers and cycle paths, highlighting how this whole ecosystem is available on foot or by bike.

The map contains 46 spaces that have been identified and included as they are green areas owned by the municipality, always usable and to be experienced at any time. This network of green oases will help make the city more livable and mitigate the heat in the central areas and in the historic center.

Eco industrial parks. Reforestation of industrial area

- The aim of the project is to promote environmental quality even in industrial areas by transforming the industrial areas into eco industrial parks.
- The inclusion of greenery and the design of spaces with high urban quality serve to improve the quality of life and the use of these important parts of the city, making them lively and pleasant areas.
- In perspective, it will be possible to experiment projects of industrial symbiosis and circular economy within production and service chains.

Urban reforestation projects in NCI

- A forest at the Imola racetrack realized through the participation in the public notice of the Ministry of the Environment.
- Six hectares of trees for a more livable city. Green infrastructure in the municipality of Medicina thanks to the planting of new trees along the route of the Venetian cycle path for a total of 47,000 square meters of greenery and reforestation of a former parking lot with 517 trees.

Urban Regeneration projects in NCI and social inclusion

Regeneration project of the external spaces of the elementary and middle schools of Fontanelice and regeneration of the external spaces of the nursery school. Participatory planning, Outdoor education.

Roots for the future. Project of the Emilia-Romagna Region for the planting of 4.5 million trees from 2021 to 2025. Reforestation of an uncultivated area in Mordano with the planting of 2000 plants among trees and shrubs. Public-private collaboration. *Revitalization of neglected areas.* Districts, peripheral zones.

Vena del Gesso Park (Unesco Cultural Heritage Candidate) EU Project Life for Oaks

- Conservation management tools for increasing structural and compositional biodiversity in Natura2000 oak forests.
- The biodiversity of oak forests is declining as a result of intensive human use. With the nature conservation interventions of the LIFE4OAK FORESTS project, our goal is to reverse this process. The project aims to promote the regeneration of the forests and to restore the diversity of forest structure, native tree species composition and micro habitats. As a results, the protected forest mammals, birds, insects, plants and fungi will be preserved and their populations will increase. The project is co-financed by the European Union's LIFE program.

4. Joint action to develop

First action

Joint pilot project:

NATURE-CULTURE

Imola & Melaka design with nature, design with culture

A team of green designer, experts, public officers, enterprises, citizens will work together to prepare the concept of an innovative garden. The garden will be realized in Imola and Melaka with elements and features created taking into account the environment of the two cities and the cultural heritage of the cities of NCI and Melaka. At the end of the work will be opened a public exhibition at Imola in the Osservanza Park and in Melaka. During the opening ceremony will be organized an International Joint conference with the cooperation of IURC EU, Malaysia Authority, Emilia Romagna Region, Metropolitan City of Bologna, NCI.

Second action

Development of Joint Policies for the NBS Nature based solutions

Identification and development of issues, indicators, core activities, soft policies and behavioral incentives for innovative regulations in one or more of this sectors:

- Green communication and network of urban parks
- Eco industrial parks
- Urban reforestation
- Urban agriculture and local markets
- Green projects, education, social inclusion

Third action

The Osservanza NBS research center for the cultural heritage IMOLA Melaka Malaysia – A joint research center – EU Horizon Funding

NCI Side – Osservanza NBS Center

The complex began in 1890 as a provincial psychiatric hospital. It consisted of large pavilions for the hospitalization of the sick and for general kitchen, laundry and workshop services as well as clinics and staff quarters. It soon became one of the most important asylums in Italy, covering an area of about 140,000 square meters including the part of the land dedicated to an agricultural colony and the beautiful park with large tree-lined avenues. Having completed its hospital function, the area is now involved in one of the most important redevelopment projects for the city.

Our proposal is to identify one or more pavilions for the Joint Green Design Research Center Imola-Melaka.

Objective: to prepare 2-3 joint HEurope project to fund and implement the NBS Center in Imola and Melaka

5. Stakeholders and key actors involved

NCI Nuovo Circondario Imolese

Metropolitan City of Bologna

Emilia Romagna Region

University of Bologna

Municipalities

Association of enterprises

Cultural association and Foundations

Bank Foundation

Public utilities companies

Green Arco Spin off Unibo