

Nature Based Solutions, Greening, Water Management

Tourism & Culture

Education, Jobs & Skills, Innovation Centres, Business Clusters

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

General Socio-economic Profile

The Nuovo Circondario Imolese (NCI) is a union of 10 municipalities and towns located in the metropolitan city of Bologna, including Borgo Tossignano, Casalfiumanese, Castel del Rio, Dozza, Fontanelice, Imola, Mordano, Castel Guelfo di Bologna, Castel San Pietro Terme and Medicina.

The NCI is an area characterized by important industries and a thriving agricultural sector with leading and innovative farming techniques. It has a rich history, artistic heritage, and tourist attraction routes. The area is also renowned worldwide for its Formula 1 racing circuit. The Natural Park of the Vena del Gesso, located in this area, is applying to become a UNESCO Natural Heritage site. An important seat of the University of Bologna is located here with activities related to agriculture, ornamental greenery, and herbal techniques. NCI works with important and leading local companies in the industrial sector, plant engineering and automation, and ceramics. NCI is also home to international academic foundations and a renowned piano academy. Research and innovation are essential elements for the development of the area. For this reason, NCI constantly promotes investments in the university and higher education sector.

Nuovo Circondario Imolese



133,562



787.3 km²



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Good Practices

NIC wishes to share its experiences and knowledge of reforesting industrial areas, eco-parks and urban renewal with Chinese partners. It has planted 6 hectares of woods around its racing circuit, and 47,000 square metres of greenery along the Venice cycle path. Projects to improve public space and facilities, such as kindergartens and primary schools, have been developed through public participation.

During the previous IUC programme, NCI presented the “World Heritage Garden” at the Yangzhou International Horticultural Exposition.

NCI’s governments, research institutions, and enterprises are actively engaged in international cooperation.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- The experiences that NCI can share with Chinese partners are primarily oriented to nature-based solutions, innovative green solutions, life cycle assessment, eco-design of gardens, urban solutions, connection between rural and urban areas, social inclusion and microfinance for start-ups.
- NCI also wishes to enhance collaboration with Chinese partners in the field of tourism and cultural heritage.
- Smart and sustainable cities empowered by technology and culture will be the future.
- NCI looks forward to discussing with Chinese partners the cooperation opportunities of setting up a joint research centre for green design.