



Social benefits and participatory planning

Concept

All three of the districts where the demonstration projects were located (West Gorton, in Manchester, Olbin in Wroclaw and Benicalap in Valencia) displayed urban characteristics which provide a valuable context within which to evaluate the social benefits resulting from NBS interventions. All three areas are characterised by varying forms of urban deprivation and can be characterised as socio-economically vulnerable.

The EKLIPSE challenge areas selected included:

- Challenge 7: Participatory Planning and Governance;
- Challenge 8: Social Justice and Social Cohesion
- Challenge 9: Health and Wellbeing.

Key data

Each of the challenge areas highlighted above contain a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which are clustered under thematic research areas. In total, there were 17 research sub-themes explored and over 50 KPIs.

Participatory planning and governance | Three main areas have been identified as central to improved forms of participatory planning and governance. These include: socio-ecological learning, institutional capacity and civic empowerment.

Social Justice and Social Cohesion | The main research sub-challenges associated with the **social justice and social cohesion** area included bodily integrity; senses, imagination and thought, structural aspects and cognitive aspects.

Health and Wellbeing | Data was collected using Method for Observing pHysical Activity and Wellbeing (MOHAWk): an observation tool to assess physical activity and other wellbeing behaviours in urban spaces.

Lessons learned

Institutions involved in the GrowGreen project in Manchester have enhanced their knowledge and understanding of NBS and improved their institutional capacity. **This was reflected in a shift from an overall NBS capacity rating of 1.6 at the start of the project to one of 3.5 at the end of the project.**

The research findings show that the NBS interventions have had a positive impact on communities within the Demonstration Projects over time. NBS can enhance the senses, imagination and thought: Community members were found to have increased the extent to which they were taking notice of the environment in both the West Gorton (6.3% pre-greening and 65.9% and 50.6% in two post-greening surveys) and Benicalap Demonstration projects (5.3% pre-greening to 14.2% post-greening).

NBS can promote structural aspects of social cohesion: Significant structural impact improvements were found for two main indicators. Levels of community interaction improved in both West Gorton (27.6% pre-greening and 49.1% and 42.3% post-greening) and in Benicalap (31.2% pre-greening and 45.9% post-greening). Levels of community integration were also found to increase following NBS deployment in West Gorton (44.6% pre-greening and 54.7% post-greening) and in Olbin (21% pre-greening and 45% post-greening).

NBS can promote increased physical activity: In West Gorton, substantial increases between pre and post-greening were found for indicators relating to measures of vigorous physical activity, moderate physical activity, and physical activity by gender, age and ethnicity.

