





Training the Urban Foresters of Tomorrow: connecting Europe, America and Africa experiences

UFOREST

An Erasmus+projects fostering innovation in education and entrepreneurship









a ETIFOR Valuing Nature b Ente Regionale per i Servizi a ll'Agricoltura e alle Foreste (ERSAF)



WHYTHIS PROJECT?

CHALLENGE 1

Many cities across the globe are setting challenging urban reforestation targets, but they are struggling with:

- high related costs
- the need for long-term citizen engagement
- capacity of existing institutions to implement Urban Forestry (UF) solutions.

CHALLENGE 2

Today, the demand for UF practitioners able to innovate urban areas is increasing, but there is a lack of interdisciplinary training and support for innovative public-private UF initiatives.









The UFOREST project

Uforest is a Knowledge Alliance project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

AIM at creating learning opportunities and supporting students and practitioners in gaining multidisciplinary knowledge and approaches towards the planning and implementation of innovative Urban Forestry projects







12 partners

universities,

businesses,

institutions, of

collaborating

and public

often non

among



HOW?

Promoted by ERSAF and Etifor





In partnership with 4 universities









6 research and networking organisations and companies



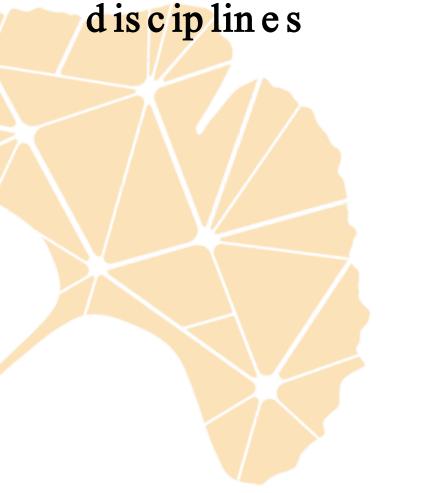














HOW?



3-STEP APPROACH:

JOIN • LEARN • GREEN YOUR CITY



Step 1. JOIN the UFOREST Alliance





230 members around the globe





Step 2. LEARN





uforest.eu/learn





FACTSHEETS

uforest.eu/case-studies





E-LEARNING COURSES

https://www.pok.polimi.it









Step 3. GREEN your city

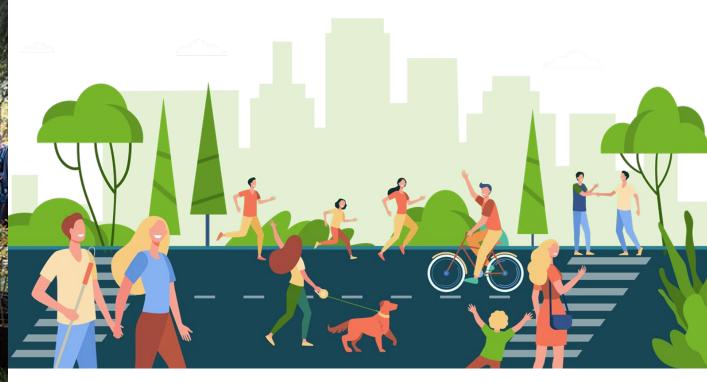
Urban Forestry
INNOVATION
PROGRAMME

Urban Forestry WORKSHOPS

Urban Forestry
PLANTING
CAMPAIGNS











Step 3. GREEN YOUR CITY! Urban Forests planting campaign

- European PLANTING CAMPAIGN in 4 different Milan, Brasov, Barcelona and Dublin this Fall
- Involving citizens, companies and students!
- Each campaign will implement an innovative Urban Forestry solution tailored to the needs of that specific urban context, in Milan and Barcelona final projects integrate students' results!







Uforest has been promoted by



























Co-funded by the

Erasmus+ Programme

of the European Union

















The Uforest training program mes



Presented by

Sofia PAOU, Maria Chiara PASTORE

Politecnico di Milano - Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani (Polimi DAStU)







How do the Uforest learning path work?

online

1. NATURE IN THE
CITY: TURNING
KNOWLEDGE INTO +
URBAN FORESTRY
PRACTICE

FREE AND ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

online

2. GREENING YOUR
CITY: DEVELOP
YOUR URBAN
FORESTRY PROJECT

SPECIALIZED COURSE FOR PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

the 20 best performing participants will be invited to In-person
INNOVATION
PROGRAMME

INTENSIVE 14-DAYS TRAINING (1 WEEK IN MILAN, 1 WEEK IN BARCELONA)

2

Credits: 6 ECTS



Credits: 8 ECTS





1.THE MOOC

online

1. NATURE IN THE CITY: TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO URBAN FORESTRY PRACTICE EDEE AND ACCESSIBLE

FREE AND ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE



From November 2022 to April 2023



6 modules, streamed lessons



Total workload: 50 hours

Participants will learn how to effectively apply the transdisciplinary principles of **Urban Forestry**, spanning from **urban design** to **forest ecology**, from **socioeconomics** to **information and communication technologies**. No specific background is required.









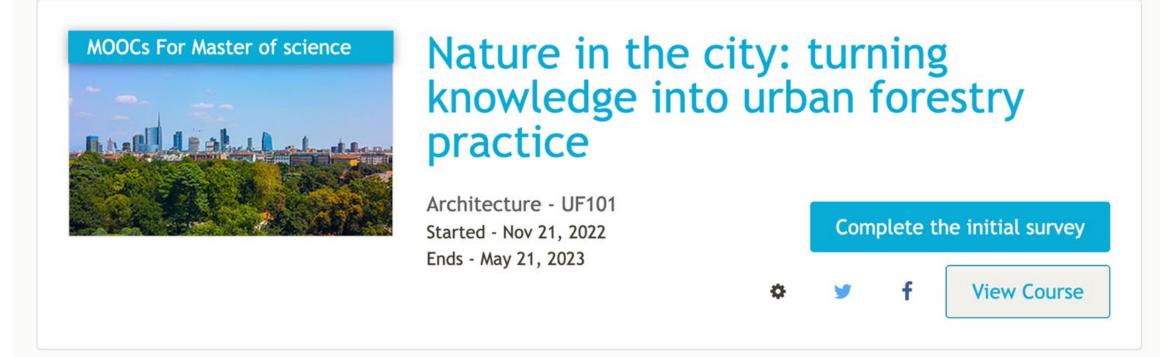


1.THE MOOC

The MOOC "Nature in the city: turning knowledge into urban forestry practice" is structured in 7 interdisciplinary weeks:

Introduction to the course

- 1- History of urban forestry
- 2 Urban Forestry planning and design
- 3 Urban forest ecology
- 4 Socioeconomics Governance and community engagement
- 5 Entrepreneurship and innovation
- 6 Finalassessment
- 7 Live events Urban Forest Case Studies



Experts teaching: Cecil Konijnendijk, Maria Chiara Pastore, Sofia Paoli, Rik De Vreese, Ilaria Doimo, Sergiu Florea, Jorge Olivar, Lluis Pesquer, Joan Pino, Nadina Galle, Nita Mihai, Abrudan Ioan, Jordi Martinez-Villalta, Erica Alghisi, Lara Giamporcaro, Riccardo Da Re, Arianna Ruberto, Francesca di Pietro, Mary-Lee Rhodes, Colm O'Driscoll, Alex Pra.



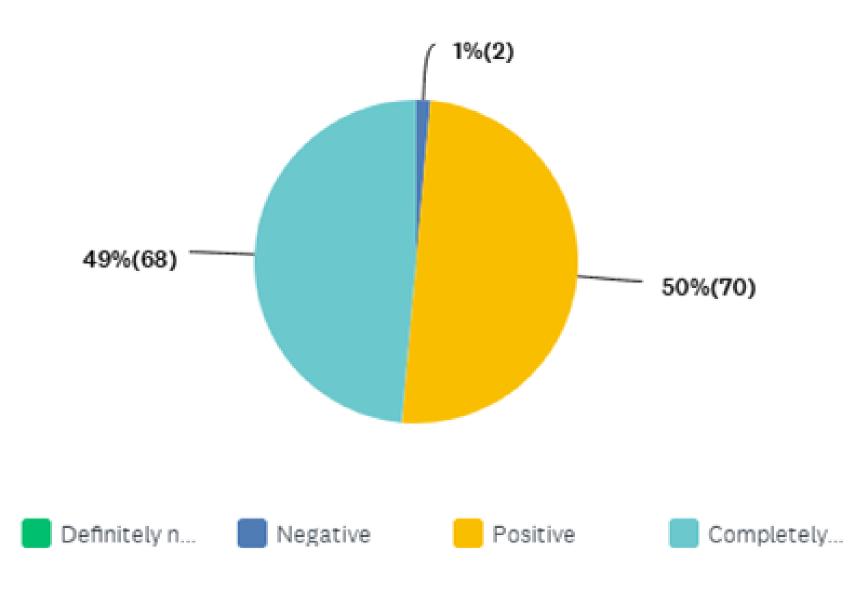


Q10 In general, how do you rate this course experience?

Number of learners enrolled: 1024

Initia 1 surve ys fille d: 1020

Fin a 1 surve y fille d: 147





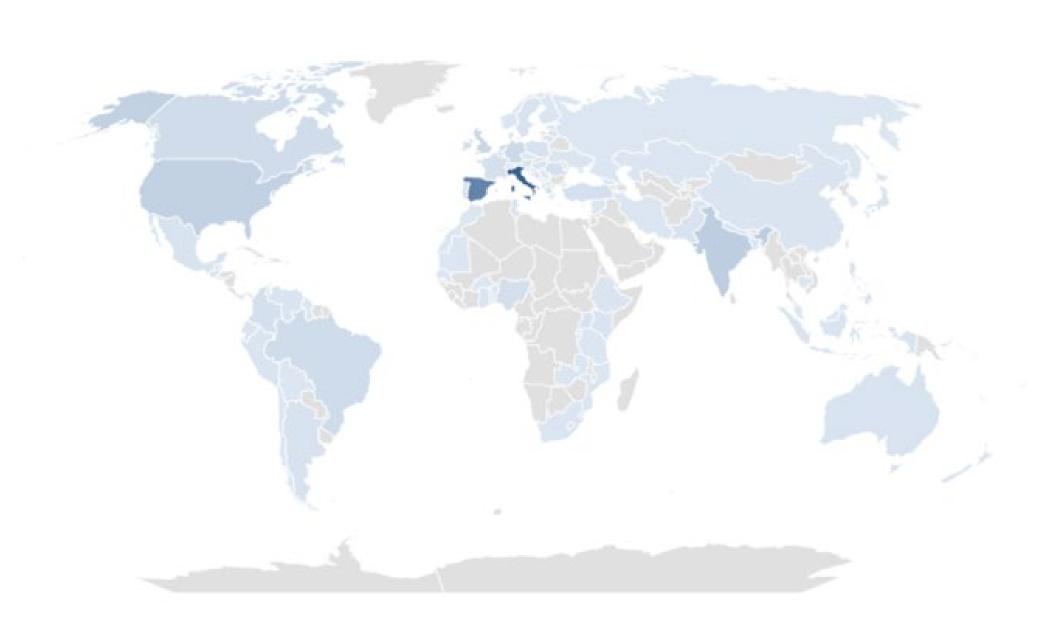
Users origin

10 2 4En rolle d

Partic ip ants

226
Earned Certificates

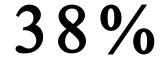
22% Completion rate



Learners enrolled

265





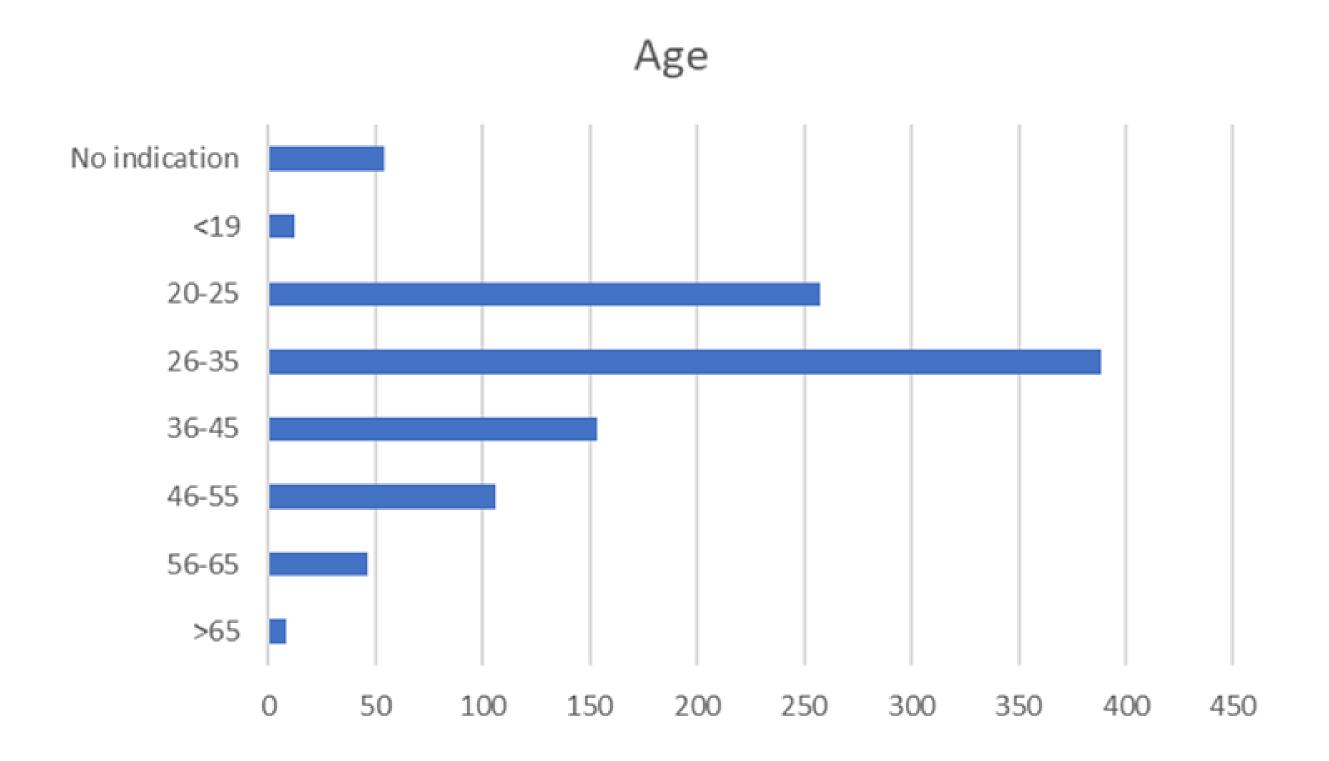
Of users are between 26 and 35 years old

50%

Of users have a Master or PhD

59%

Are workers



(Data from 5th June 2023)



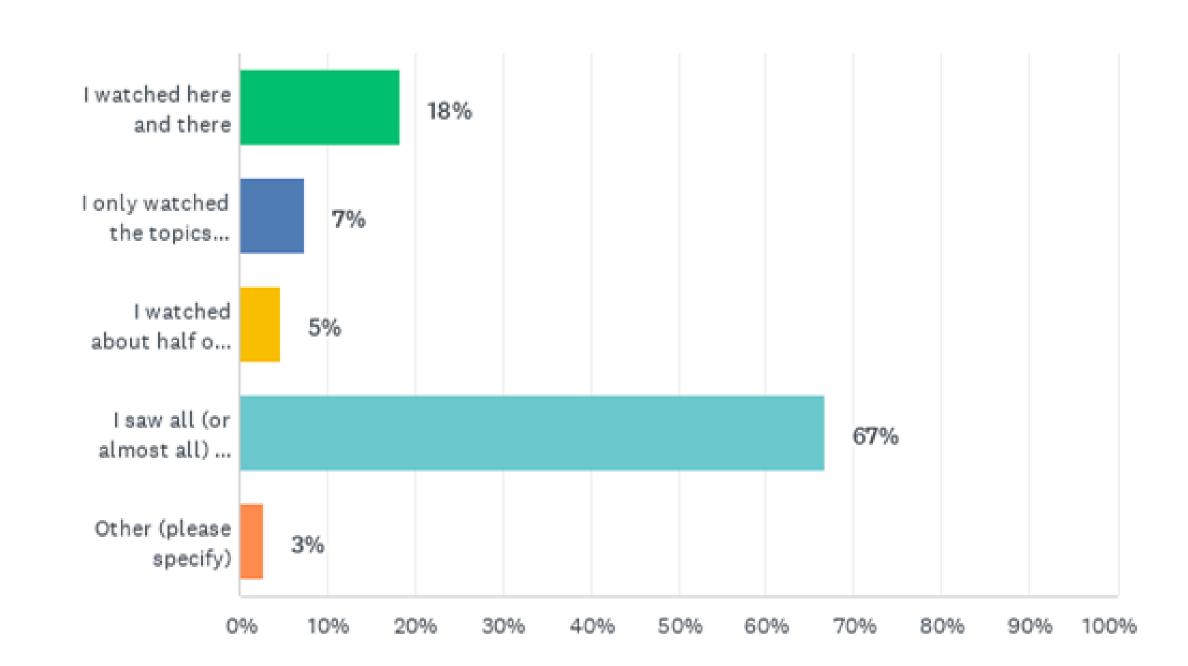
Q2 How did you use the materials of the course?

67%

of users watch all material

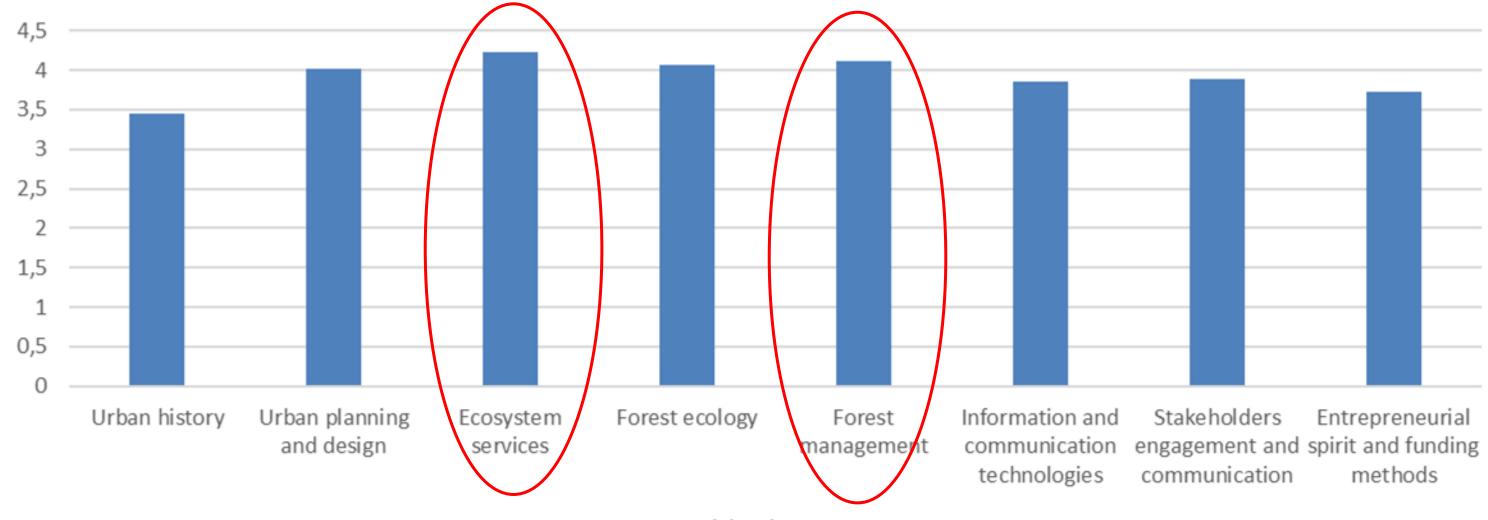
8 1%

would like to conclude the MOOC but hadn't enough time





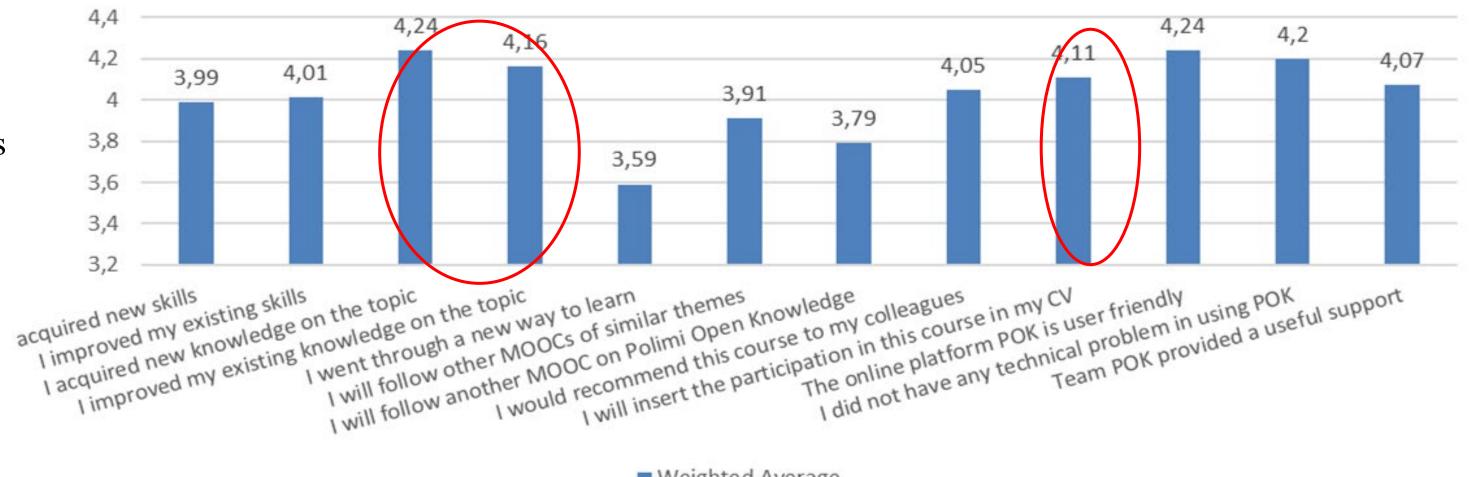
The MOOC explores different disciplines of Urban forestry. How effective can be the following topics to enhance the context where you work / live or the projects you are working on?





- Iacquired new knowledge on the topic
- I im proved my existing knowledge on the topic
- I will insert the participation in this course in my CV

Now that the course has ended, how much do you agree with the following statements?



■ Weighted Average



Generally, comments are very positive. Here below a selection of the ones with suggestions/desiderata:

Would like more courses about horticulture/agriculture/even eatable landscaping

A topic that I have missed, probably because this situation occurs in my town, is how politicians approach urban forestry and what can be done to implement policies/laws that force local governments to implement green infrastructures.

The only thing I think was missing was a section related to botany. it would have been nice to have at least a lecture on tree structure and basic information on general classifications of tree (at least) forestry structures and on ecological

I really missed a job pool to connect interested individuals to projects working for the same goal of greening cities.

Please put more examples from Asian country or developing country on how they are practicing urban forestry with a challenging situation. Thank you very much for this nice platform and wonderful course.



1.THE MOOC: next editions

The MOOC Nature in the city:
turning knowledge into urban
forestry practice will be always
free and available on Polim i Open
Knowledge platform at the
following link:

https://www.pok.polimi.it/courses?search_query=UF101



SCAN THE QR CODE AND ACCESS THE MOOC







online

2. GREENING YOUR CITY: DEVELOP YOUR URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT SPECIALIZED COURSE FOR STUDENTS OF PARTNER UNIVERSITIES



From February 2023 to June 2023



4 modules, streamed lessons



This course is limited to **150 participants** to provide **specialised training in Urban Forestry** and is designed with a **project-based approach**, meaning that participants will have the opportunity to develop **their own project idea**.















The Capstone course "Greening your City: develop your Urban Forestry project" is structured in 4 parallel modules:



Module 1: Polite cnico di Milano

Design an URBAN FOREST



Module 2: Universitat Autònom a de Barcelona

Assessing Urban Forest Ecosystem Services (UFES) through Earth Observation and local data



Module 3: Transilvania University of Brasov

Mapping and monitoring the dynamics of the urban tree/forest ecosystem



Module 4: Trinity College Dublin

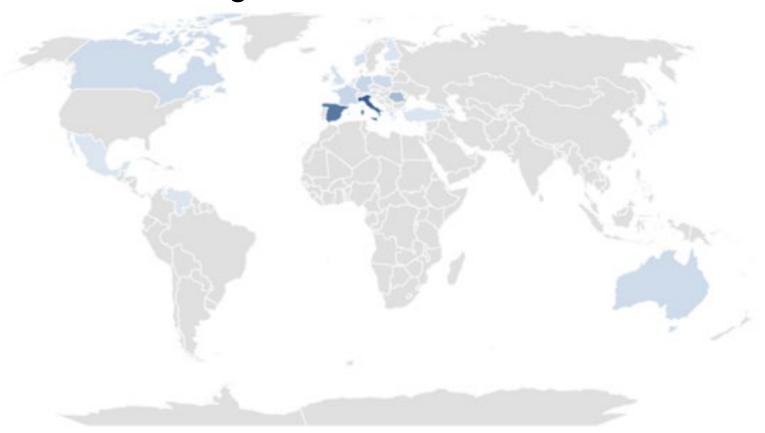
Strategic Leadership of the Nature-based Enterprise





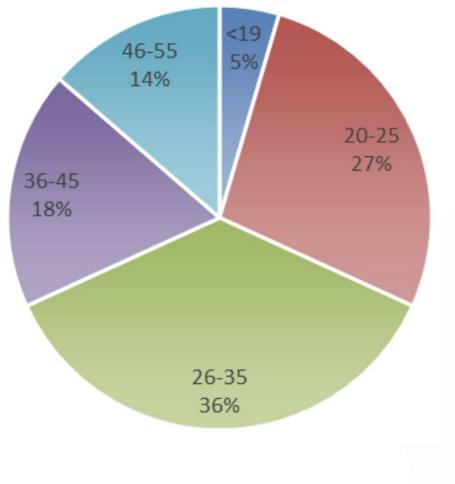
Greening your city: develop your urban forestry project: tot. 95 students enrolled

Students origin:



Students com ing from: Italy, Ireland, Romania, Australia, France, Spain, Canada, Poland, Ukraine, Finland, Norway, Israel, Germany, Belgium, UK, Bahrain, Mexico, India and more!

Students age:







Politecnico di Milano: tot. 60 students enrolle d



Students were working in groups to produce an Urban Forestry plan for the area selected for the Uforest planting campaign in Milan!





Peer Learning: case studies on Urban Forestry



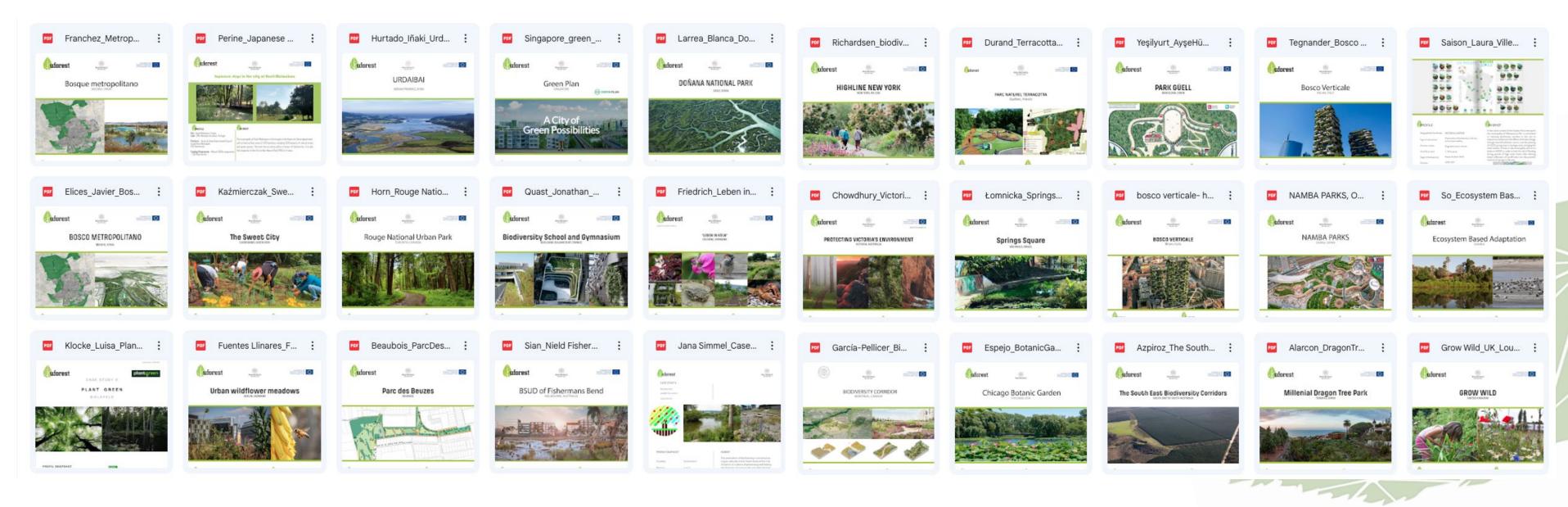






Peer Learning: case studies on Urban Forestry

- Almost <u>500</u> case studies presented by the students
- Topics: UF Equity, Food Forests, Biodiversity, Phytoremediation, Urban and Regional UF Plans, Green Corridors, and more

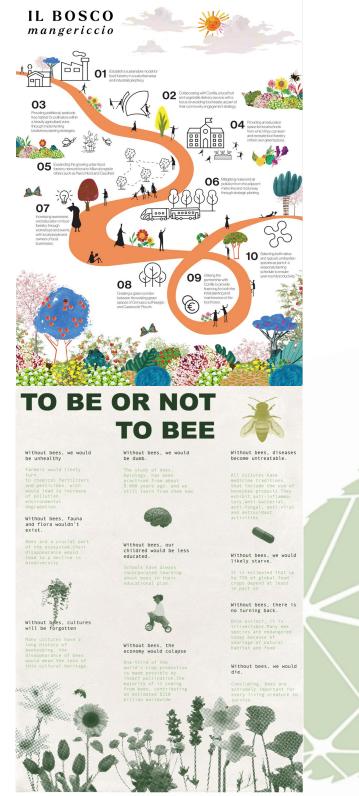


























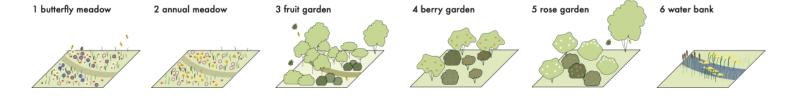


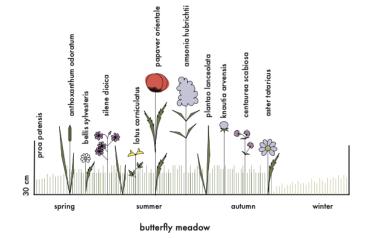


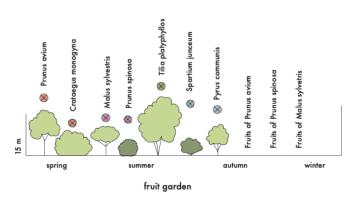
1. working with nature - garden



1 butterfly meadow; 2 annual meadow; 3 fruit garden; 4 berry garden; 5 rose garden; 6 water bank; 7 grass field; 8 beehieves; 9 compost; 10 shed; 11 watering station; 12 patic



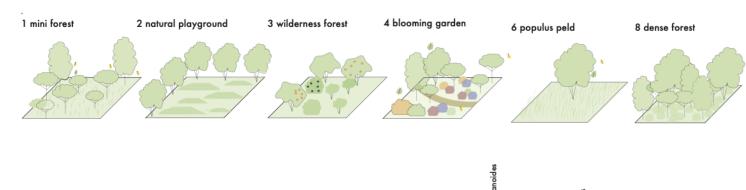


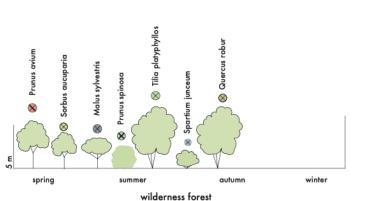


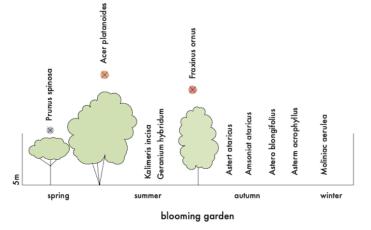
3. being in nature - forest



1 mini forest; 2 natural playground; 3 wildernes forest; 4 blooming garden; 5 pond; 6 populus peld; 7 oasis; 8 dense forest











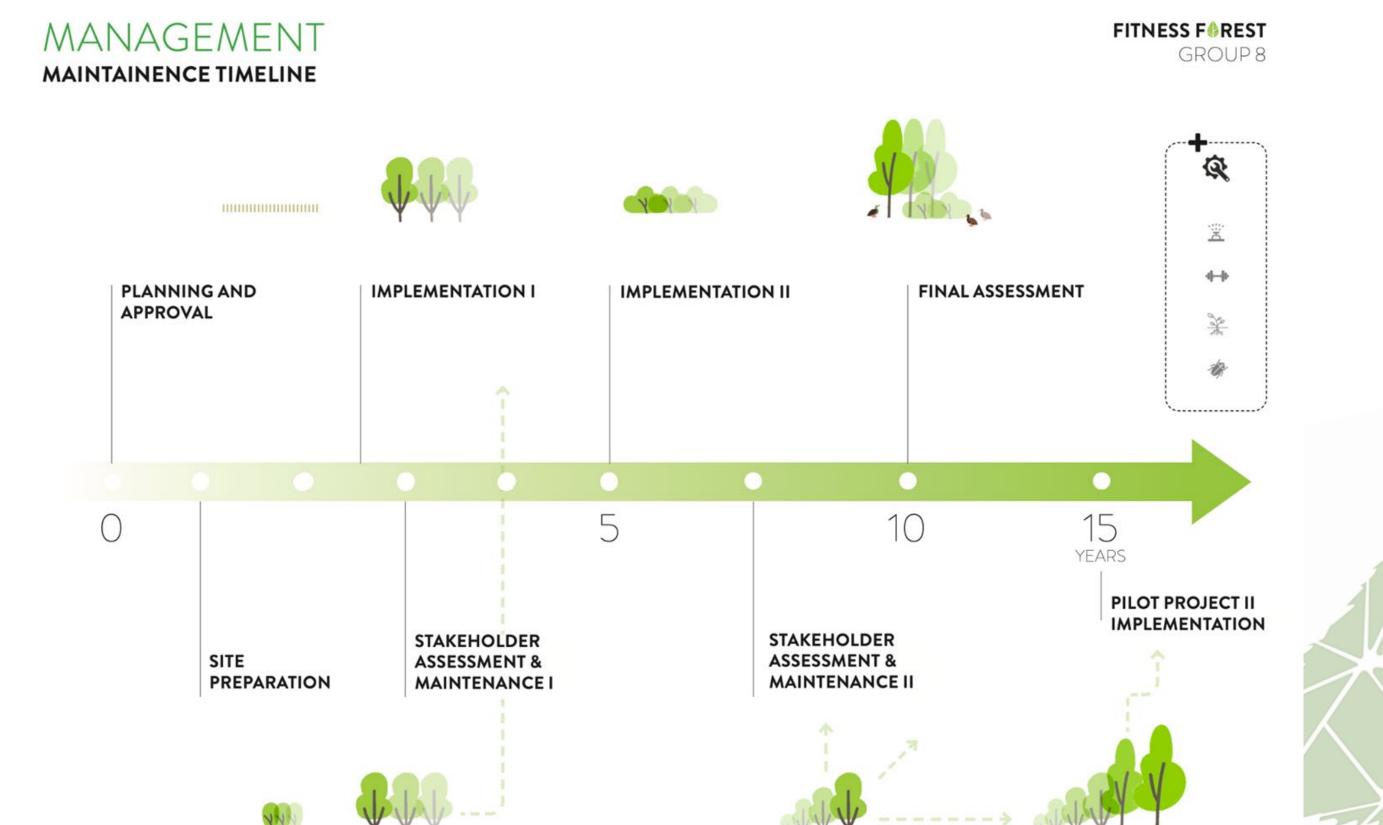


SPORT ZONE CULTURAL/SOCIAL ZONE LEISURE ZONE





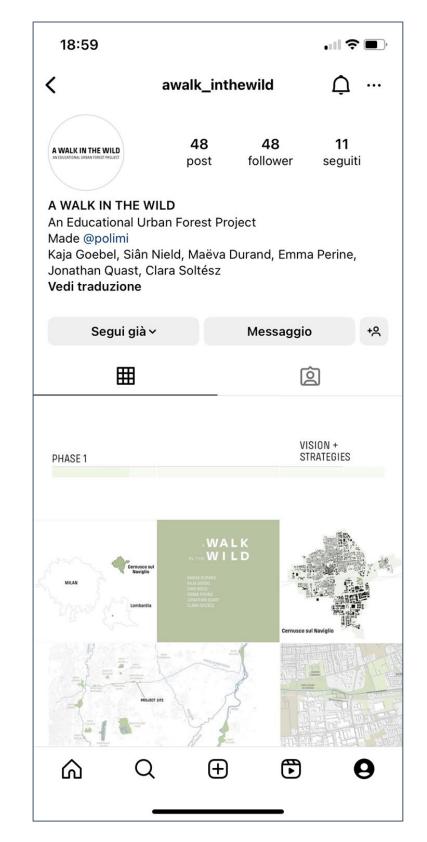
2.THE CAPSTONE COURSE: the students projects

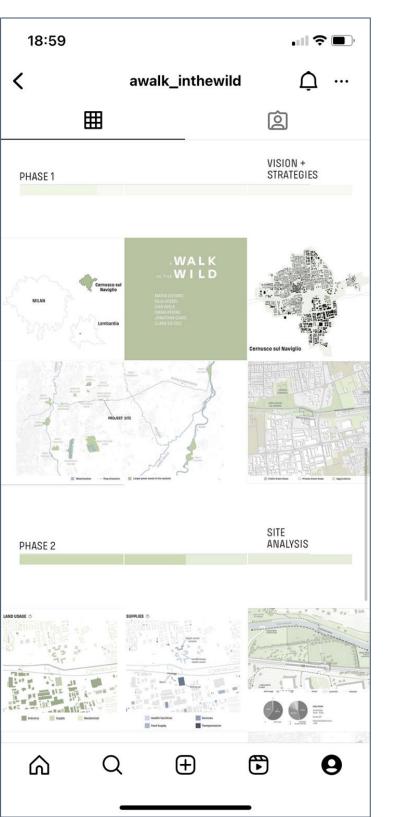




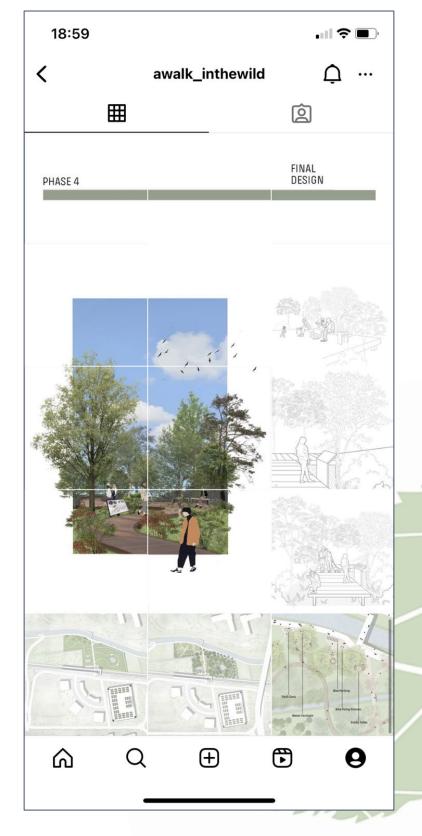


2.THE CAPSTONE COURSE: the students projects















September 2023



2 weeks, in person (1 week in Milan, 1 week in Barcelona)



Total workload: 180 hours



The **20 best performing participants** of the e-learning course will be given the opportunity to participate in the Innovation Programme, an **intensive 14-days training delivered in person** (1 week in Milan, 1 week in Barcelona). Grants and financial aid are provided.





The Innovation Program me is a Specialization School in Urban Forestry

- The programme lasted 2 weeks (14 days):
 - 12-17 September 2023 in Barcelona
 - 18-24 September 2023 in Milan
- Open to 20 selected students, coming from the four Uforest universities;
- It is an intensive training based on presentations, group work, workshops, seminars, field visits;
- Students worked in interdisciplinary groups to develop a project of an Urban Forest in the UAB Campus.



BARCELONA WEEK AGENDA

13 lectures:

- Lesson 1 Joan Pino (UAB) Urban forests in the Mediterranean: ecology, functions, and services
- Lesson 2 Vicent Guallart The city and the forest: opportunities and challenges
- Lesson 3_ Jorge Olivar and Jose Luis Tomé (Agresta) Forest restoration and planting for CO2 compensation: challenges and opportunities
- Lesson 4_ Joan Pino (UAB) Introduction to the Uforest Challenge: Creating a climate refugia in the UAB campus through urban reforestation
- Lesson 5 Cristina Domingo (CREAF & UAB) ECOPOTENTIAL EU project: remote assessment of ecosystem services
- Lesson 6_ Rafael Poyatos and Jordi Martínez-Vilalta (CREAF-UAB) Measuring tree water use: from understanding mechanisms to monitoring forest function at regional scales
- Lesson 7_ Antoni Farrero and Laura Cid (AMB- Barcelona Metropolitan Council) Metropolitan Forests and Green Infrastructure Planning
- Lesson 8 Coloma Rull and Joan Bernat (Barcelona City Council) The Nature Plan of Barcelona
- Lesson 9 Pablo Navascués Forests management
- Lesson 10_Corina Basnou (CREAF) NBS in urban and metropolitan forests: the example of CIEARING HOUSE
- Lesson 11_ Joan Marull The Metropolitan Laboratory of Ecology and Territory of Barcelona (LET): opportunities for co-creation and entrepreneurship on metropolitan green infrastructure
- Lesson 12 Carles Ibáñez (EURECAT-CRC) The development of Living Labs for innovation in forest and landscape sustainability in the Mediterranean: the example of the Ebro Basin
- Lesson 13 Eudald Vicens Urban nature imaginaries in NBS implementation in Europe and Latin America



BARCELONA WEEK AGENDA

3 site visits:

Site Visit 1 Walk from Collserola Natural Park to Barcelona The ecology and conservation of Mediterranean urban forests.

Site Visit 2_Exploration of the UAB campus with focusing on potential areas for tree planting UAB Sustainability Office representatives participate talked to the students about the planning methodology processes and history at the UAB campus

Site Visit 3_ CREAF research plots in the Can Balasc Forest lead by Josep M Espelta and Rafael Poyatos (CREAF-UAB) The monitoring of the status and trends of Mediterranean urban forests.









MILANO WEEK AGENDA

10 lectures:

- Lesson 14 Cecil Konijnendijk (NBSI) Governance, Planning & Stewardship of Urban Forests. How to make it work?
- Lesson 15 Maria Chiara Pastore (POLIMI) The FORESTAMI project
- Lesson 16 Federica Caminoli (FORESTAMI) Forestami funding strategy and communication
- Lesson 17_ Colm O'Driscoll (ETIFOR) EU Public Financing for Urban Forestry
- Lesson 18 Ilaria Doim o (ETIFOR) Urban Forests for wellbeing
- Lesson 19_ Arianna Ruberto (ETIFOR) Communication & marketing in Urban Forestry projects
- Lesson 20 Erica Alghisi (ERSAF) What is ERSAF?
- Lesson 21_ Giovanni Ravanelli (ERSAF) Forest nursery production and suppy chain certification
- Lesson 22_ Sofia Paoli (POLIMI) Vertical Forests: the Bosco Verticale of Milan
- Lesson 23 Lara Giamporcaro (ERSAF) The BAMpark in Milano



MILANO WEEK AGENDA

3 site visits:

Site Visit 4_ Vitis to the Forestam i Potential areas for tree planting in Cernusco sul Naviglio, with Forestam i Experts and the Major of the city.

Site Visit 5_ Visit of Forestam i afforested areas in Parco Nord and WOWnature food forest, with Parco Nord technicians.

Site Visit 6_ Visit to ERSAF Regional Nursery in Curno.

Site Visit 7 Visit to Bicocca Nursery, with a zoologist and a plant physiologist.

Site Visit 8_ Visit to Bosco Verticale and BAM park in Milano.











- 2 weeks
- 20 students
- 2 cities
- 8 site visits
- 23 lectures
- 32 international experts involved
- 1 challenge
- 4 urban forests projects developed





3. THE INNOVATION PROGRAMME: the results











Thank you and JOINUS!



https://www.linkedin.com/company/uforest/

Sofia PAOU | Politecnico di Milano (POUMI)



s o fia .p a o li@p o lim i.it



















Title



Presented by

Sara Barron

University of British Columbia





Title



Presented by

Michela Conigliaro

FAO







Towards an European (and beyond) Learning Alliance on Urban Forests



Presented by

Dr Rik DE VREESE

European Forest Institute (EFI)

European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF)







The UFOREST Alliance

- · Aim of the Alliance
 - -To **build a community** of learners, (prospective) entrepreneurs and practitioners working in the field of urban forestry, or having the ambition of working in the field.
 - -Alliance members are the first focus for Uforest trainings, and development activities
 - -Foster multidisciplinarity



How does the Alliance work?

- We provide urban forestry content and knowledge on several topics in the **News** section
- Members have a platform for sharing knowledge with the community









PROJECT UPDATES

Uforest Innovation Challenge

14 September 2023

In the framework of the Specialization School, the Innovation Challenge will see students developing their own urban forestry project to address a specific challenge.



PROJECT UPDATES

Gaining in-depth urban forestry knowledge with the Uforest Specialization School

11 September 2023

Starting on the 12th of September the Uforest Specialization School is a 14-day in-presence training, with one week in Milan and one week in Barcelona. The Specialization School aims at providing students with the necessary skills and insights to work in the urban forestry sector.



PROJECT UPDATES

Forests and trees for better and healthier cities

24 August 2023

In the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities, our workshop "Forests and trees for better and healthier cities" will discuss recent developments in urban forestry at EU level, the challenges they face and the opportunities they can provide.

Urban forestry updates from our Alliance members



UPDATES FROM ALLIANCE

Borrowed credentials and surrogate professional societies: A critical analysis of the urban forestry profession



UPDATES FROM ALLIANCE

Underlying Mechanisms of Urban Green Areas' Influence on Residents' Health – A Case Study from Belgrade, Serbia



UPDATES FROM ALLIANCE

Grand Opening of EFI's Biocities Facility

14 April 2023

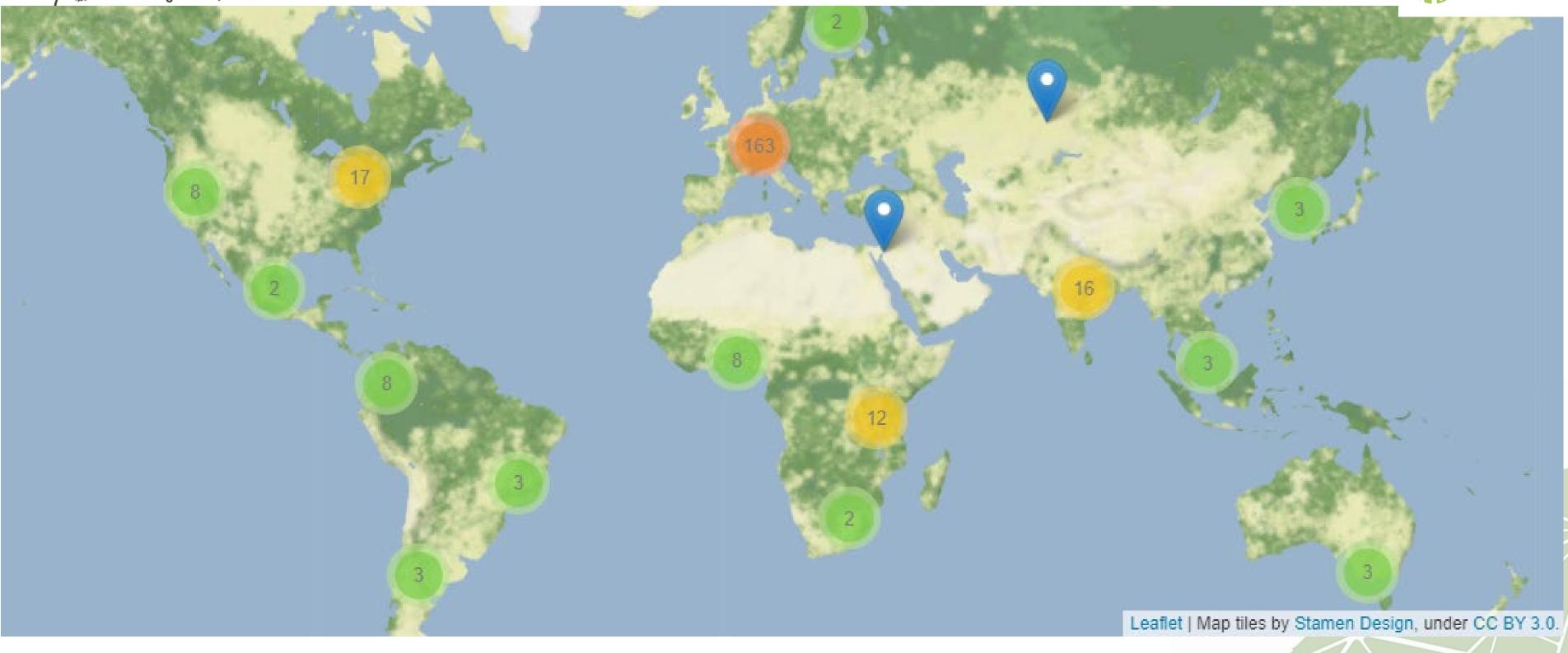
23 May 2023

5 May 2023

2nd World Forum on Urban Forests Washington DC, 2023

The UFOREST Alliance mapped









Future prospects

Challenges:

- How to guarantee its life beyond the project?
- Many existing network, how to differentiate and support synergies?

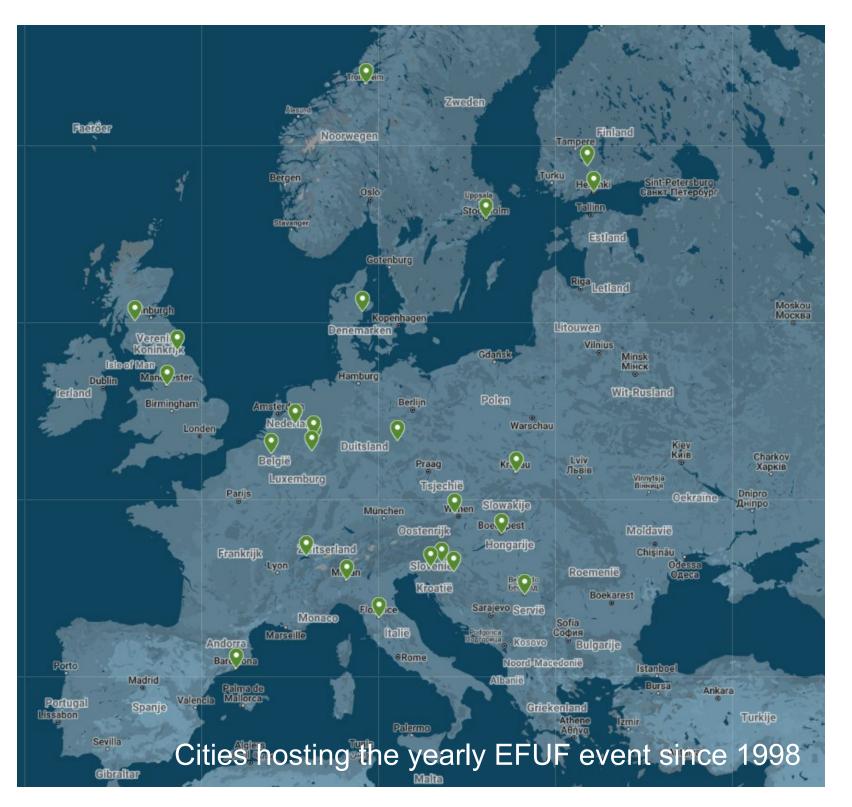
Possible solutions:

- <u>Linking</u> the Uforest Alliance to an existing network
- <u>Characterize</u> it with a focus on education and knowledge sharing





Learning from the European Forum on Urban Forestry



"The European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF) is a unique meeting place for practitioners, policy-makers, managers, educators and scientists who are active in urban forestry, urban greening and green infrastructure."

Since 1998, the EFUF has met annually to discuss new developments, to exchange experiences, and to visit examples of good practices on planning, design and management of urban forests (from woodland to urban parks and street trees).





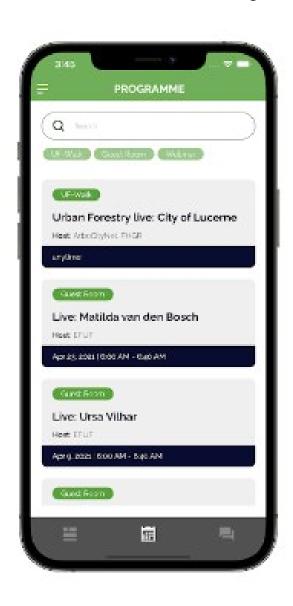


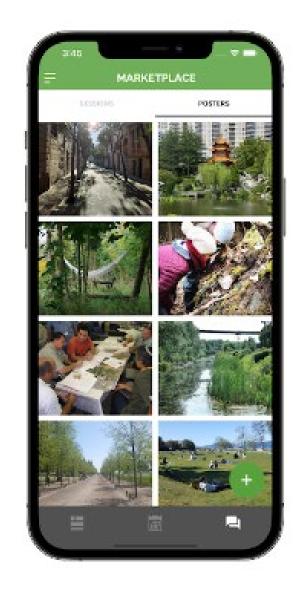
- EFUF is ...
 - A c o m m u n ity/ fa m ily
 - -Organising its yearly conference (in collaboration with a local partner)
 - -Organising webinars
 - Facilitating knowledge exchange through myEFUF app
 - An International not-for-profit Association since April 2023



m y EFUF a p p







DOWNLOAD THE MYEFUF APP

Google Play (Android)







App Store (iOS)







Integrating the Uforest Alliance with EFUF will make it a long-lasting network

- The EFUF network is driven by volunteers since 1998. This lean structure makes it possible to exchange knowledge efficiently
- Through integrating the Uforest Alliance, EFUF will be expanding the scope towards education.
- Education will be a recurring topic during the EFUF activities



Thank you

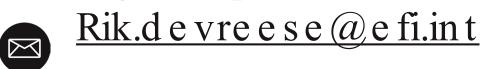




and JOINUS!



Rik DE VREESE | European Forest Institute (EFI)



Rik.de vre e se @e fu f.org



















Join at slido.com # 4122 186



https://wall.sli.do/event/dwXNGARQp3pmVCcs9MNdUB?section=a561e2b6-4d1e-41d6-acdb-226408ebbc5d

















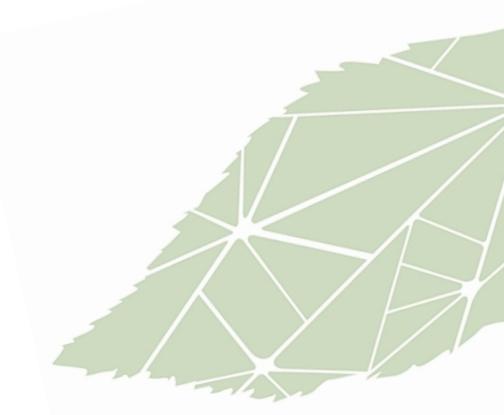


• Q1 – DO YOU THINK SUCH AN ALLIANCE CAN BE USEFUL FOR THE URBAN FORESTERS OF TOMORROW?





Q2 - What would make our alliance really useful? What would you like to find within it?







- Q3 The Alliance should offer to its members:
 - -Webinars
 - -Online courses
 - -Meeting places
 - -In-person lessons
 - -Excursions
 - -News, knowledge sharing (as its doing now)





What do you expect from a Learning Alliance? How should this Alliance look like?

• Q4 – Are there other relevant and interesting alliances and networks on this topic we should take into consideration?





- Q5 Ifeel Imight contribute to the Alliance through
 - -Teaching classes or contributing to webinars
 - -Offering material (manuals, powerpoints, papers,...)
 - -Supporting the management of the Alliance
 - -Fin a n c ia lly
 - -Organising in-person events

— . . .



CEUS

Training the Urban Foresters of tomorrow: connecting Europe, America and Africa



PP-23-3593

