

**NATURE CONNEC-CITY**

**Questionnaire to be filled in by applicant partners**

**Name of the applicant organization: ………………………..**

**The purpose of this document is to assess the relevance of organizations applying to join the NATURE CONNEC-CITY partnership. It will be used to select the partners of the project, but also to prepare the application form at a later stage. The content must be sincere, self-explanatory and concise.**

**This document must be submitted to REGION PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D’AZUR by April 20th 2017 at the latest.**

# ****Reminder of the project idea****

**Project name: NATURE CONNEC-CITY**

**Lead partner: REGION PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D’AZUR (FR)**

**Priority axis : 4 - Specific** Objective 4.1: Improving natural and cultural heritage policies.

**Context/Issues:**

The rise in urban population is a global phenomenon. To address this phenomenon, urban processes tend to densified and sprawled cities which lower, at the same time, city-dwellers life quality as well as urban attractivity, and increase pollutions, vulnerability to climate change, habitats destruction and transformation, habitat fragmentation and biodiversity erosion.

As an example, within the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur (PACA) region, these issues, linked to an increasing Mediterranean vulnerability to climate change, are crystallized in large metropolitan areas located along the coastline (Aix-Marseille, Nice, Toulon, Avignon) but also in towns inland.

Urban matrix is impermeable to species and diffusing nature within city centre is a socio-economic and ecological challenge enabling organization of city-based resilience facing climate change and their attractivity.

**Actions to carry out:**

**The project will:**

- Organize city-based resilience facing climate change: enabling urban matrix to become permeable to species through a strengthened ecological network between cities and peri-urban protected areas (PUPAs). This ecological network could also benefit PUPAs so that mutual connectivity is strengthened.

- Improve ecological connectivity between cities and PUPAs relying on ecosystem services; This will also improve socio-economic solidarity between cities’ centres and peri-urban natural areas.

- Capitalize on methodologies developed through several PAs management plan and ecological connectivity strategies in Europe as well as spatial planning. Capitalize and valorise scientific research about nature in cities. Capitalize on the different European programs (Green and blue infrastructure, ERDF, etc.) and existing networks (Mayor’s Adapt, etc.).

**Main expected outputs and results:**

**Phase 1:**

* Exchange of experience between the partners: study visits, workshops, seminars, staff exchange where relevant.
* SWOT analysis on each territory of the partnership regarding the development of nature in cities and the connection with PUPAs. Identification of good practice of high potential for other partners
* On this basis, development of a set of common policy recommendations to improve the place of nature in cities in Europe relying on ecological connectivity and socio-economic solidarity with PUPAs.
* Development of one action plans within each partner territory based on an integrated governance approach (dialogue with the members of the stakeholder group) to be implemented in phase 2.

Regional stakeholders groups would be ideally made up of PUPAs managers (NATURA 2000 sites, Regional parks, National parks, regional and national reserves, etc.) and regional and metropolitan institutions.

**Phase 2:**

* Monitoring the implementation of “Nature in City” regional plans (co-financed by INTERREG Europe).
* Implementation of concrete actions with field partners of each partners’ territory. Pilot cities in Europe (preferably among those being full partners or as members of the stakeholder groups) could become laboratories of this action plan. (Not co-financed by INTERREG Europe).

# Information about the applicant

Name of institution (original language):

Name of institution (English):

Legal status (Public authority, non-profit association, etc.):

Managing authority of Structural Funds (ERDF or ESF): **YES / NO**

Address:

Postal code:

Town:

Country:

Website:

Contact person:

Phone (office):

Phone (mobile, if any):

Fax:

Email:

* 1. **ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE ON THE ISSUE OF THE PROJECT**

1. Previous experience in interregional cooperation projects (if any):
2. Experience in the implementation of ecological connectivity strategies / strengthened ecological networks between cities and peri-urban protected areas (if any):
3. Knowledge of nature in cities (research and working documents) (if any):
4. Any other skills or experiences that you would like to mention:
   1. **ABOUT YOUR POTENTIAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT**
5. What do you intend to achieve in your region by joining the NATURE CONNEC-CITY project?
6. Would you be interested in being the leader of a work package of the project (for example Web communication, analysis of regional policies…)
7. For Managing Authorities of Structural Funds: Which EU funds do you manage?

# Public policies targeted by the applicant

1. Are there any local or regional policies in your region (or equivalent NUTS 2 territory) aiming at strengthening nature in cities and more specifically ecological networks between cities and peri-urban protected areas?
2. Please describe in details the relevant ERDF policies of your region (or equivalent NUTS 2 territory) dedicated to this topic, if any :

* Priority or axis of intervention concerned
* Related specific objective,
* Main features

1. What is the role of your organization regarding these policies? Does your organization play a direct role in the evaluation and/or improvement process of these ERDF policies?
2. Considering what you mentioned above, is there any specific public policy that you intend to improve by joining the NATURE CONNEC-CITY project?
3. Is this policy instrument directly or indirectly related to the national or regional ERDF/ESF operational programme ()?
4. Is your organisation responsible for this policy instrument? YES/NO

If not, who exactly in in charge of it?

- Organization:

- Department:

- Name and position of the person in charge:

1. How do you envisage the improvement of this policy instrument ?

* through new projects supported,
* through improved governance,
* through structural change

1. What is the state of play of the issue addressed by this policy instrument in the territory? What needs to be improved in the territorial situation?

In case of need, please don’t hesitate to contact:

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