



Call for Workshop Participants

[ICLEI European Secretariat](#) in cooperation with the [EKLIPSE project](#) are inviting up to **40 participants** to join their two-day capacity-building workshop on ***Financing Greener Cities - Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and practitioners for making informed decisions on financing nature-based solutions*** in Athens, Greece on October 8 and 9, 2019.

Webpage: <http://bit.ly/financinggreenercities>

Decision- and policy-makers from local and regional governments, practitioners and researchers are invited to apply for a seat in this workshop. This call provides information about the planned event, the requirements for participants and the selection procedure. Applications must be submitted before **June 23, 2019** (see below).

What is the workshop about?

This interactive two-day workshop, accompanied by a preparatory webinar, will:

- Increase participants' capacity to **develop feasible financing arrangements** for local biodiversity, ecosystem services and [nature-based solutions](#) in response to local urban challenges.
- **Help local governments and non-governmental stakeholders** to better understand (1) the financing landscape in Europe, (2) financing options, (3) 'investment' cases and (4) innovative financial arrangements.
- Actively involve **20-40 participants from across European Union** representing local authorities, researchers and civil society.

What will you gain from participating in this event?

1. Receive targeted support for addressing financing challenges related to local biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions.
2. Learn, get inspired from and interact with high-level European experts and organisations.
3. Become part of new networks and relationships with representatives from approximately 20 European cities and leading EU research projects on biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions.
4. Promote your city/ region and professional work through EU-wide visibility, including an after-event at the European Committee of the Regions.
5. You might be one of (up to 20) participants which will get their travel and accommodation expenses reimbursed by the organiser with **up to EUR 350**.

What are the eligibility criteria?

Applicants should fall in one of the following categories:

1. representative of a **local or regional authority / municipality / government** (decision-maker, policy-maker or technical expert at implementation level)
2. **academic expert / researcher**; or
3. **non-academic expert / practitioner**; or
4. **expert representing not-for-profit organisations, civil society organisations** or the like;

Moreover, applicants:

5. must have a high interest in biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions in relation to urban transformation and/ or finance.
6. be committed to participate in the entire capacity-building event, which includes a preparatory webinar, the two consecutive days of the workshop and a short follow-up survey.
7. be able to understand the English language and to contribute to the event in this language.

What are the selection criteria?

1. **Relevance of the current professional work** for the event's focus.
 - 1.1. Direct involvement in **projects** and initiatives related to local biodiversity, ecosystem services, nature-based solutions;
 - 1.2. Level of **priority** allocated to local biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions in your organisation;
2. **Professional experience** related to local biodiversity, ecosystem services, nature-based solutions, urban planning, local economic development, environment and/or urban health.
3. For this particular call applications from **Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia** will be prioritised as the focus lies on South- East Europe.

Overall, the selection process will aim to select participants from diverse countries and professional expertise, in order to increase the value of the event.

Is there any financial support?

The organiser can fund up to 20 participants with a max. of € 350,- per person to cover transport and accommodation costs (based on a strict reimbursement procedure). Applications will be assessed based on their quality and proven expertise. We seek to achieve a balance between fields of expertise and participating countries. If you want to be considered for funding, and have not applied for or received any other type of funding for this event, please indicate that in the online application form.

What is the application procedure?

Applications must be submitted via this [dedicated Online Application Form before](#) the date and time indicated below (See section: What are the important dates?). Applications submitted in a different way will not be considered.

What is the assessment procedure?

Each proposal will be examined according to the selection criteria presented above by the organisers based on a system of points. The maximum score is 100 and the minimum 0. ICLEI will select the most suitable applications based on the presented selection criteria and decide together with EKLIPSE whether proposals can proceed as submitted. The applicants will be notified about the results of the selection process by email.



What are the important dates?

Applications must be submitted by **June 23, 2019, 23:59 CET**. Be aware that applications are reviewed continuously upon arrival; therefore application as soon as possible is advisable. Questions about this call should be addressed to Ms Intza Balenciaga intza.balenciaga@iclei.org (ICLEI) or Ms Bettina Wilk bettina.wilk@iclei.org ideally before **June 10, 2019, 23:59 CET**. We will not be able to guarantee a quick answer for the questions addressed after this date. Thank you for your understanding! The selection results will be announced before July 1, 2019.

Where and when will the workshop take place?

The preparatory (online) webinar **is scheduled to take place on July 23, 2019** and the workshop on **October 8 and 9, 2019** in **Athens (Greece)**.



What is ICLEI?

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is the world's leading network of over 1,500 cities, towns, and regions committed to achieving tangible improvements in global sustainability and environmental conditions through cumulative local actions. Next to actively encouraging and supporting peer-to-peer exchanges between local governments in and beyond Europe, ICLEI acts as a facilitator and knowledge broker between local governments, science, societal actors and the private sector and disseminates project and policy information across Europe and its 17 offices. More about ICLEI: <http://iclei-europe.org/>

What is EKLIPSE?

EKLIPSE is an EU-funded project that started in February 2016. The project aims to establish a robust and flexible long-term mechanism to provide knowledge for policy support on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It aims to communicate and engage with a wide set of knowledge holders in its work to ensure tailor-made results to knowledge requesters and society more broadly. EKLIPSE coordinates innovative and transparent approaches for science, policy and societal actors to jointly provide the best available evidence leading to better informed decision-making. EKLIPSE also aims to identify capacity gaps relating to the Science-Policy-Society interface, regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to support entities with the necessary expertise to develop and provide capacity building with EU relevance. More about EKLIPSE: www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/

What is NATURVATION?

NATURE-based URban innovATIOn is a 4-year project involving 14 institutions across Europe in the fields of urban development, geography, innovation studies and economics. We are creating a step-change in how we understand and use nature-based solutions for sustainable urbanisation. More about NATURVATION: <https://naturvation.eu/>

Disclaimer:



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