

Project idea form

Project idea name\*

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| NATURE CONNEC-CITY |

Thematic interest\*

**Axis 1: Research and innovation**

Objective 1.2: Improving innovation delivery policies

Objective 1.1: Improving innovation infrastructure policies

**Axis 2: SME competitiveness**

Objective 2.1: Improving SMEs competitiveness policies

**Axis 3: Low-carbon economy**

Objective 3.1: Improving low-carbon economy policies

**Axis 4: Environment and resource efficiency**

Objective 4.1: Improving natural and cultural heritage policies

Objective 4.2: Improving resource efficient economy policies

Summarise your idea in 200 characters\*

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| **Improvement of urban public policies by developing European regional action plans on nature in cities, linked to ecological connectivity and socio-economic solidarity with peri-urban natural areas.** |

Description/Issue addressed\* (maximum 2 000 characters)

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| 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 center is a socio-economic and ecological challenge enabling organization of city-based resilience facing climate change and their attractivity. 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’ centers 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 valorize 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.).
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Partners involved\* (maximum 2 000 characters)

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| Partnership in progressIn France, PACA Region and Marseille Provence Metropole (interested, participation to be confirmed) |

Main policy instruments addressed\* (maximum 2 000 characters)

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| In PACA Region:* Regional ERDF, Thematic Objective 6 (“Preserve and protect the environment and encourage efficient use of resources”),Investment Priority 6.d (“Protect and restore biodiversity and soils and promote ecosystem services, including by means of Natura 2000 policy and green and blue infrastructures”). (almost 12M€ of EU fonds left in PACA).
* NATURE 4 CITY LIFE: this project will start in September 2017. It’s a Climate adaptation governance project that will promote development of nature in PACA metropolis by means of decision makers training, improving citizens consultation on urban project and developing public information and territories’ attractivity rely on existing and new urban hicking trails.

In partners’ territories:To be defined |

Type of partner looking for (maximum 2 000 characters)

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| * Authorities in charge of managing relevant axis of intervention within the ERDF Regional Operational Program;
* Cities (as partners or at least within the stakeholder groups in the selected territories);
* Environmental agencies;
* Other relevant institutions in charge of promoting nature and biodiversity in cities.

The Lead partner intends to bring together partners from 5 to 6 countries, ideally scattered in the different parts of Europe (North, South, West and East). |

Planned activities and approach to policy-learning\* (maximum 2 500 characters)

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| **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).
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If you would like to ask more specific questions to the Joint secretariat, please list them here. (maximum 2 000 characters)

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Enter keywords related to your project (please separate them with a comma)

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| Nature in city plan, ecological connectivity, peri-urban nature areas solidarity, socio-economic approaches, climate resilience. |

Project idea owner\*

Jean-Paul Mariani / Quentin Dilasser

Organisation\*

REGION PROVENCE-ALPES-COTE D’AZUR

Email\* jpmariani@regionapca.fr

Country\*

FRANCE

Region\*

PROVENCE-ALPES-COTE D’AZUR

Telephone

+33 4 91 57 58 58 / +33 6 76 93 70 23

***Insight on next steps****Complete the form below and you have the possibility to publish your idea in the InterregEurope project idea database to find partners. You can also request individual feedback from the Joint Secretariat when you publish your idea, or at any time via your dashboard. We recommend you to request the individual feedback only once the project idea is at an advanced stage (i.e. partners, policy instruments and main activities are known). This is to allow us to give you a detailed and sound feedback to your idea.*