

Holistic framework for successful development of Nature-based solutions

25–26 September 2025 in Aarhus City Hall (Rådhuspladsen 2, 8000 Aarhus C)

PROGRAM

25 September 2025

8:00 **Registration**



8:00 -9:00



1 hour

9:00 **Welcome and opening speech**



9:00 – 9:30



30 min

- Opening speech / by Aarhus Municipality
- How to work with NBS in Denmark and how to collaborate globally / by Nikolai Friberg from C-NBS, Aarhus Universitet

9:30 **Guest speaker session**



9:30 – 10:30

9:30 - 9:50

Dr. Benjamin Kupilas from Ecologic Institute, Berlin
Restoring nature, restoring our future: from global goals to local gains

9:50 – 10:10

Jóna Ólavsdóttir from C-NBS, Aarhus University
Co-creating Nature-based solutions

10:10 - 10:30

Divya Sharma from Nirma University, Institute of Architecture and Planning
Evaluating Urban Green Spaces as Nature-Based Solutions for Biodiversity Conservation and Habitat-loss reduction

10:30 – 10:45

Break



10:30 - 10:45



15 min

10:45 -11:00

Peter Søgaard and **Lone Telling** from Aarhus Municipality

Planning of Nature- and water parks for groundwater protection in Aarhus
(Floor Map)

Thematic lectures



11:00-12:30



1 hour 30 min

11:00- 11:20

Dr. Nikolaj Kruse Christensen from Aarhus Municipality
Principles for Holistic Water Management in Aarhus

11:20 -11:50

Anna Vilhula from City of Tampere, City Blues
City Blues project and the NBS model

11:50 – 12:10

Lone Telling from Aarhus Municipality, Invest4Nature
Financial results generated by the nature-based solutions in Invest4Nature project

12:10 -12:30

Lars Eg Hoppe from Aarhus Municipality
Urban biodiversity in action: How cities can build resilient, nature-inclusive communities that will increase biodiversity (Biodiverse Cities)

12:30

Lunch



12:30 -13:30

13:30

Excursions



13:30 – 17:30



4 hours

3 options (3 busses according to participants) Description of excursions: se below

19:00

Dinner in Town Hall



19:00 – 22:00



3 hours

26 September 2025

8:00 -9:00

Poster session with coffee and tea



8:00-9:00



1 hour

9:00

Guest speaker session



9:00-10:30



1,5 hour

9:00 – 9:20

Marianne Zandersen from Aarhus University

Welfare economic and social impacts of nature restoration – the case of Aarhus River Water & Nature Park

9:20 – 9:40

Ivar Annus from TalTech, City Blues

Insight to when and why NBS fail

9:40 – 10:00

Leonard Sandin from NINA

Biodiversity at the Core of NBS: Ensuring Impact Through Ecological Follow-Up

10:00 – 10:20

Gaurav Singhvi from INTACH

Cultural practices to protect biodiversity through cultural heritage: preserving nature, preserving culture, preserving future



10:20 -10:30



10 min

Parallel thematic sessions and lectures



10:30-12:10



14:00-15:30

Session 1:

Holistic Planning and multifunctional solutions for climate adaptation approach

session lead by Ivar Annus (City Blues)

10:30 – 10:50

Rasmus Nielsen from Aarhus Municipality

Århus River catchment analyses and challenges

10:50 – 11:10 **Nikolaj Thomassen / Peter Bassø Duus** from WSP
Modelling water balance and Ecological Quality Ratio in Urban Waters

11:10-11:30 **Mathias Pristed** from Aarhus Municipality
Climate adaptation strategy and planning

11:30- 11: 50 **Salla Leppänen** from City of Tampere
Catchment based planning in Tampere

11:50 – 12:10 **Anna Vilhula** from City of Tampere, City Blues
Holistic planning in Tampere – lessons learned from case Varsanpuisto

12:10 Walk and Talk

13:00 -14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:20 **Sten Fransen** from Kolding Municipality
Climate adaptation process and Kolding River project

14: 20 – 14:40 **TBC**

14: 40 – 15:00 **TBC**

Session 2: Ecological and biological impacts - exploring various strategies and solutions for enhancing biodiversity

session lead by Nikolai Friberg from C-NBS

10:30 – 10:50 **Sanna Särkinen** from Wild Zone, City Blues
Using local species to support biodiversity - why does it matter?

10:50 – 11:10 **Anita Jain** from Dep. of Botany, Vidya Bhawan Rural Institute
Using local species to support biodiversity - why does it matter to make the right knowledgeable decisions.

11:10-11:30 **Lars Hoppe** from Biodiverse Cities
ReWilding in Aarhus

11:30 – 11:50 **Jürgen Karvak** from Tartu University
River restoration in Estonia by using cost-effective NBS solutions to increase biodiversity

11:50-12:10 **Margit Kõiv-Vainik/Gen Mandre** from Tartu University
Maintenance of NBS rainwater systems

12:10 Walk and Talk

13:00 -14:00 Lunch

14:00 -14:20 **Peder Bøcher** from Scalgo
New possibilities for mapping and modelling the benefits of nature-based solutions

14:20 – 14:40 **Andreas Kvist Fredberg** from Rambøll A/S
NBS -value tool – calculation of added value in climate adaption projects

14:40 – 15:00 **Aarhus Water**
Maintenance of NBS - experiences and challenges

15:00 – 15:20 **TBC**

Session 3: Socio-Economic and political dimensions of NBS (investments, governance, co-benefits, stakeholder involvement)

session lead by Mette Holm (Invest4Nature)

10:30 – 10:50 **Ari Tarigan** from University of Stavanger, City Blues
Co-Creation Workshop Design for NBS Stakeholder Engagement

10:50 – 11:10 **Line Johanne Barkved** from NIVA
Co-Creating Resilience: Planning and Stakeholder Engagement for Nature-Based Solutions, experiences from Norway

11:10 - 11:30 **Hans Martin Olsen** from COWI
Large scale river restoration in river Gudenå – multiple interests increase project complexity

11:30 – 11:50 **Kerta Kõiv** from TalTech, City Blues
Reflections of the impact analysis of the benefits and cost-effectiveness of nature-based solutions based on pilot projects

11:50-12:10 **How to develop bigger and wilder nature areas in respect of natural and cultural heritage**

12:10 Walk and Talk

13:00 -14:00 Lunch

14:00 -14:20

Ada Vestergaard Karkov Holst from Biodiverse Cities
Stakeholder involvement – 300 ha new nature in Aarhus

14:20 – 14:40

Dalgas
Contribution for nature projects – partnering with nature

14:40 – 15:00

TBC

15:00 – 15:20

TBC



11:00 -11:15



15 min

12:00

**Walk and Talk excursion in city center - climate adaption on Vesterborg
Torv -execution, Århus River reopening and new urban spaces in old city
center – “time and space for water”**



12:10 -13:00



1 hour

13:00

Lunch



13:00 -14:00

Thematic sessions continue



14:00-15:30



1 hour 30 min

15:30

Closing remarks and thank you



15:30 – 16:00



30 min

Excursion options on Thursday 25th of September 2025

Option 1: Climate adaptation with more value in existing residential areas

✓ Climate adaption in existing urban areas – Klokkeparken in Åbyhøj

The rainwater basins in Klokkeparken are part of a larger climate adaptation effort in Åbyhøj, Aarhus, where rainwater and wastewater are now separated. The project is part of a blue-green wedge that extends from Klokkeparken to Åby wastewater treatment plant, and which is intended to improve the handling of rainwater and reduce the risk of flooding. The two basins are designed to handle rainfall events up to 10-year events, which means that overflows are only expected on average every 10 years. In addition to climate adaptation, the park has become an attractive area with, among other things, a playground, a football field, paths and places to stay.

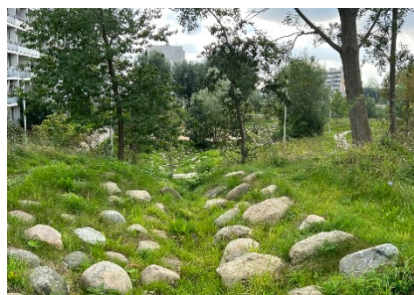
It has increased the focus on biodiversity with, among other things, new plants and flowers that attract insects and other animals.

The project has been created in collaboration with residents and Aarhus Municipality, with an emphasis on creating added value for the area in the form of recreational areas and increased biodiversity. Klokkeparken is also part of Aarhus Vand's Climate Living Lab, where new solutions within climate adaptation are tested and developed.



✓ Climate adaptation with more value in existing residential areas and city center - Gellerup

Old ghetto and neglected residential area have been transformed into attractive district that is integrated with rest of Aarhus. This involves a combination of renovation of existing buildings, establishing new modern ones, improvement of infrastructure, climate adaptation and creation of diverse urban life.



Option 2: NBS solutions to develop a climate adapted city from water management and process to solutions and execution

✓ Climate adaption – Risvang Alle

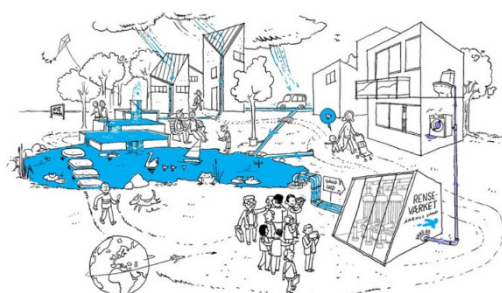
In residential area in Aarhus has Aarhus Vand (local water utility) carried out one of the major climate adaptation projects with rainwater being handled on the surface. In Risvangen, rainwater is handled in a combination of surface handling and pipes. This approach, developed in response to climate change, aims to mitigate flooding risks by managing rainwater both on the surface and through pipes, adapting to local conditions. Rainwater is managed on the surface using green infrastructure and open spaces to delay, evaporate, or drain water at a controlled pace. In areas where surface handling isn't sufficient or practical, rainwater is directed through pipes. This combined approach is a direct response to climate change, which is increasing the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall events. Risvangen is an example of a residential area where this approach is being implemented, with a focus on reducing CO2 emissions, water pollution, and ensuring dry basements.



✓ Holistic water management by using NBS in Nye and sekundavand (harvesting and reuse of rainwater)

The development of Nye is based on principles for sustainable urban planning combining the best aspects from the dense city centers with the open green suburbs. Nye is a good example of how the development is being done on sustainable, holistic water management in an urban development area with a strong focus on creating good conditions for nature, increased biodiversity and high well-being for the residents. Aarhus Municipality is creating a development and stormwater management plan for the catchment area of small stream as Bueris and Ravnbakke streams. These streams as well as a new suburb Nye are part of the Aarhus pilot in City Blues project where baseline scenarios were developed together with stakeholders. The co-creation process has included all relevant city departments and experts, the utility company, stakeholders and consultants. The scenarios stated that the development plan must consider flooding, erosion and water quality, and that the solutions should be implemented in a way that also improves biodiversity and recreational values. During the excursion we are going to see and talk about various NBS solutions that has been used in the area and the ongoing construction work of restoration of Bueris and Ravnbakke stream.

Aarhus water utility have developed a solution where rainwater will be used for toilet flushing and laundry - in collaboration with Tækker, COWI, and Silhorko. The solution could be a vital part in the development of new sustainable districts throughout the world. The rainwater harvested, which is collected in a pond, is cleaned at the specially developed treatment plant. The treated water is sent to houses via a separate pipe system.



Option 3: Nature restoration and restoring the natural hydrology in the forest

✓ 300 ha new nature

In the southern part of Aarhus Municipality 300 ha municipal agricultural land is being transformed to forest and more wild nature. The aim is to create more habitats for several species that lack space and at the same time give citizens new, better nature experiences.

New nature areas will be established on former agricultural land in connection with existing natural areas such as Uller Meadow in Hørret Forest, the recreated watercourse stretches of Kapel Stream and Giber River, and the protected Natura2000 area to the east, where it connects to the large forest areas (Marselisborg and Fløjstrup) along the coast. The project is among the largest in Aarhus Municipality when it comes to work of increasing biodiversity (pilot in Interreg Biodiverse cities). This project involves a successful stakeholder



✓ Reopening of culverted tributary to Giber River

Reopening the culverted tributary to Giber River is one of the solutions to recreate the natural hydrology in our new nature area at Vilhelmsborg (300 ha new nature area). To reduce the risk of flooding at the light rail and Bedervej, has Aarhus Municipality created a new stream – or rather: recreated an old watercourse that existed before the area was drained and used for agricultural activities. On its way to Giber Å, the water will pass through a new lake of 35,000 m², which we expect will be an attractive habitat for birds and animals.



✓ **Restoration of natural hydrology in the forest and restoration of forest streams**

Aarhus Municipality has started a nature restoration project in beech forest close to city center. Moesgård and Fløjstrup forest area is stretching over 500 ha and is a Nature2000 area together with the Giber River. Intensive forestry can negatively affect the natural dynamics and hydrology of the forest by reducing biodiversity. The dredging of forest streams has destroyed the original physical environment. Coarse bottom substrates such as stones and gravel have been removed or excavated, and instead the bottom substrate has become uniform and fine-grained, which negatively affects the ecological conditions.

Restoring natural hydrology is done by closing deep drainage ditches and creating opportunities for the water to flow close to the terrain. Restoring the springs and rich ponds that have been threatened by heavy-handed ditching and drainage, as well as creating light-open grassland and forest-fringe areas, will contribute to implementing the necessary efforts to secure or restore several rare, endangered or characteristic habitat types and species. The project is financed by EU UrbanLIFEcircles.



General information:

The conference is open to anyone interested but is particularly suited to those working with nature-based solutions in the public or private sector, as researchers or as part of civil society.

Registration link: [Holistic Framework for Successful Development of Nature-based Solutions - Interreg Baltic Sea Region](#)

Registration deadline 10. September 2025

The participant fee is DKK 1400 (**186 EUR**) including meals and a festive dinner. Students participate in a reduced cost of DKK 800 (**110 EUR**).

Accommodation and travel expenses are not included in the fee, which means that the cost of staying at the accommodation (like a hotel or lodging) is separate from the main fee you're paying.

The Conference will consist of professional sessions on both days, excursions, workshops and a festive dinner in the evening on September 25, 2025.

Hotel information:

CabInn in Aarhus City Center: [Hotels - CABINN hotels](#)

SOFS Butik Hotel: [Hotel i Aarhus | SOFS Boutique Hotel i Latinerkvarteret i Aarhus](#)

Hotel Oasia: [Hotel i Århus C – Bedst af hoteller i Aarhus centrum | Designhotel Oasia](#)

Hotel Faber: [Om os | Hotel Faber](#)

Scandic Aarhus: [Hoteller i Aarhus](#)

Questions regarding the program, the excursions, payments or anything else? Contact Coordinator Kristiina Mardi e-mail: markris@aarhus.dk