



# Deliverable 4.3

**Ecosystem of guidelines and decision-support tools to stimulate NbS co-creation**



**CONEXUS**

Urban nature connects us  
Conectados por la naturaleza urbana  
Conectados pela natureza urbana

[conexusnbs.com](https://conexusnbs.com)

# 1. Introduction

## CONEXUS project overview

The CONEXUS project aims to address common urban challenges across Latin America and Europe by leveraging both regions' shared experiences and expertise. Recognizing that cities worldwide encounter similar urban environmental challenges, the project underscores the transformative potential of nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration for addressing these challenges and building resilience.

To foster informed decisions and investments in these solutions, the CONEXUS project mainly focused on providing relevant evidence to different urban landscapes. The project succeeded in assembling knowledge on how best to restore natural ecosystems and demonstrated participatory approaches to manage their implementation and assess the impacts of such interventions. These learnings touch on planning and governance aspects and the on-the-ground implementation of nature-based solutions.

CONEXUS partners synthesized project learnings, experiences, and key messages from the project's Life-Labs and studies to promote increased uptake of nature-based solutions in other cities. In line with the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program objectives, CONEXUS partners developed a multi-format platform, the Ecosystem of Guidelines, to share and disseminate these lessons with various practitioners, researchers, and other stakeholders.

## Ecosystem of Guidelines

The CONEXUS project has meticulously curated this Ecosystem of Guidelines to effectively disseminate the rich insights and practical knowledge gained through the comprehensive and action-oriented work on nature-based solutions across Latin America and Europe. This collection of guiding resources is designed to serve a wide range of stakeholders, from urban planners and policymakers, to researchers and community leaders, and to help facilitate the effective adoption and implementation of nature-based solutions in diverse urban contexts.

These guidelines are tailored to meet different urban contexts' specific needs and empower stakeholders to make informed decisions that align with their local environmental, social, and economic objectives. They ensure that the valuable lessons learned and evidence gathered are shared widely to promote the replication and scaling of successful nature-based solutions across various geographies.

At the core of the Ecosystem of Guidelines is the CONEXUS website, which forms a knowledge hub and brings the different dissemination and learning resources



together. The dissemination channels include different social media channels to share our learnings with a broad audience, while resources such as audiovisuals, policy briefs, and factsheets provide insights for more specific target groups, from basic concepts to in-depth analysis and step-by-step guidance on implementing nature-based solutions and organizing supporting processes of nature-based solutions.

### Purpose of the guide

The main purpose of this Ecosystem of Guidelines is to serve as a map for helping users in assessing the different dissemination and learning resources generated through the CONEXUS project.

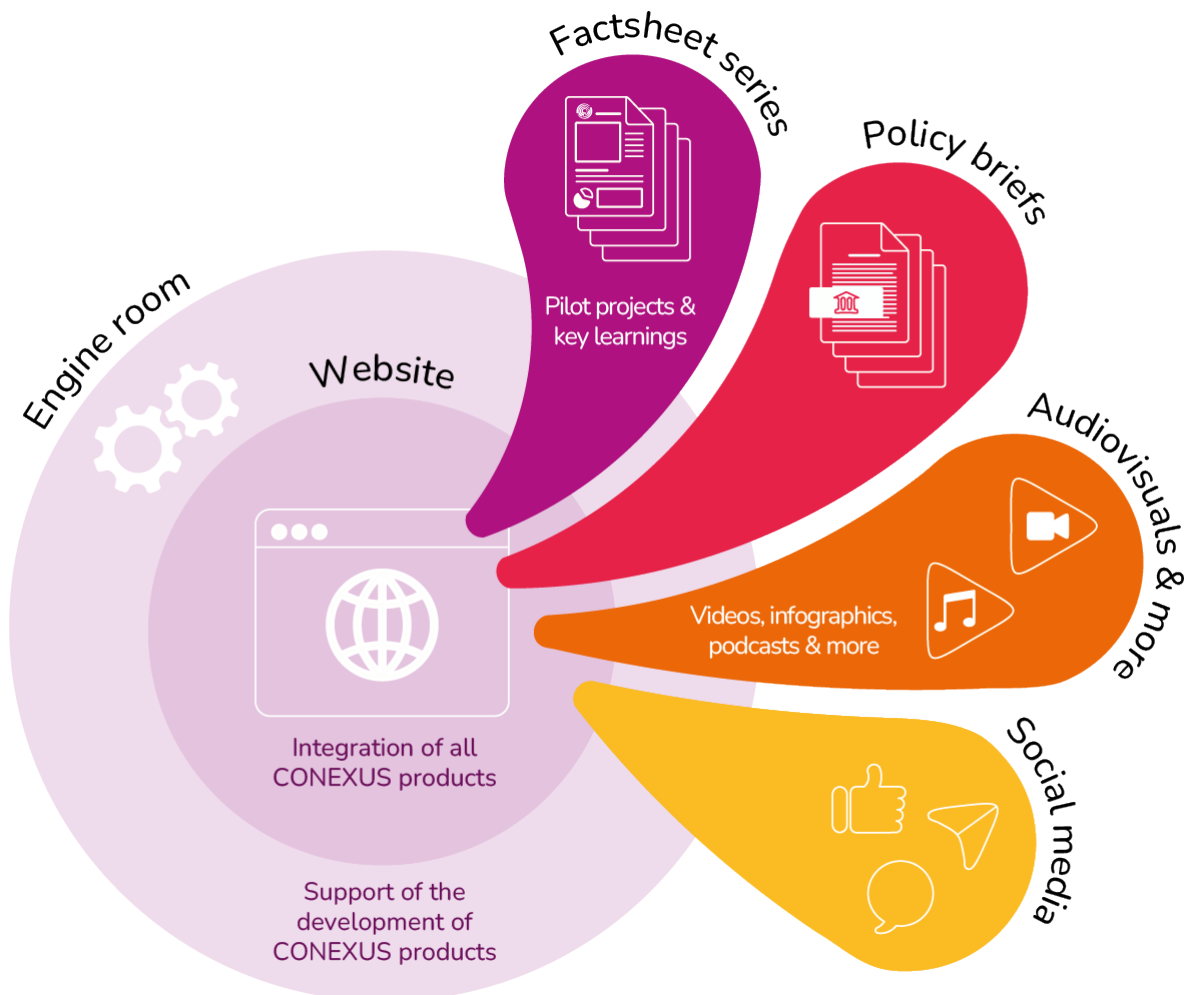


Figure 1. Conceptualization of the Ecosystem of Guidelines.

## 2. Overview of the Ecosystem

The learning materials generated in the CONEXUS project and detailed in this Ecosystem of Guidelines range from policy briefs, research articles, a knowledge innovation hub website, and factsheets.

### Website (knowledge hub)

**Description:** The CONEXUS knowledge hub is an online platform that is the central repository for all project outputs. It provides an interactive and continuously updated portal where visitors can access various learning materials, including publications, multimedia content, and timely updates about the project's progress and results. Visits to the website also allow users to stay informed about new insights, resources, and networking opportunities with the CONEXUS project consortium and partners.

**Target audience:** The website targets a diverse audience, including urban planners, city officials, environmental practitioners, researchers, students, policymakers, and community leaders. It serves as a vital resource for those involved in urban development and provides access to numerous learning materials and information, such as research findings, case studies, policy briefs, and practical guides.

**Intended impact:** The knowledge hub facilitates ongoing learning and collaboration among project stakeholders. It is a dynamic resource for disseminating project outcomes and fostering community engagement.

**Link:** <http://www.conexusnbs.com>

### Social media channels

**Description:** Social media provides other channels besides the CONEXUS website to disseminate CONEXUS products. Especially for Latin American partners and stakeholders, social media is a crucial gateway for accessing the website to learn and keep up with CONEXUS. Social media channels (e.g., Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn) can circulate audiovisual materials on nature-based solutions. In the project, the OPPLA partners supported respective partners, leading different aspects of the project in various cities to develop appealing social media posts.

**Target audience:** The target audience for the social media channels can range from urban planners, city officials, environmental practitioners, researchers, students, policymakers, and community leaders to the general public. Social media channels may offer these different audiences innovative urban development solutions or raise awareness about nature-based solutions. The channels are expected to engage these diverse users and make the CONEXUS project's outputs more accessible to them.



**Intended impact:** The intended impact of the social media channels is to increase the visibility and reach of the CONEXUS project's outputs. Different platforms are used to foster greater engagement and interaction among various audiences, as well as to disseminate key information and learnings on nature-based solutions applications from CONEXUS. Social media is instrumental in raising awareness, promoting educational content, and encouraging active stakeholder participation and collaboration. Ultimately, the regular updates and interactive content help keep the page visitors informed and connected to the project's progress and findings.

**Links: X (formerly Twitter):** <https://x.com/conexusnbs>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/conexusnbs/>

### Audio visuals

**Description:** The audiovisuals contain different audio and/or visual digital formats, such as short videos, infographics, and posters. These materials are designed to visually and audibly convey the CONEXUS project's key messages and findings to different audiences. Specifically, they include educational videos explaining the concept of nature-based solutions, infographics that break down complex information into easy-to-understand visuals, and posters that summarize project highlights and key outcomes. Audiovisual contents are crafted to be engaging, informative, and shareable, so they are effective for education and outreach.

**Target audience:** The adaptability of audiovisuals allows for their development for a broad range of audiences, including students, educators, urban planners, city officials, community leaders, environmental practitioners, and the general public. In CONEXUS, the formats used varied depending on the specific target audience and topic to ensure that the material is appreciable, understandable, and relevant to those it aims to reach.

**Intended impact:** Audio visual material can be particularly suitable as educational resources or capacity-building material in which the project's key messages on nature-based solutions were explained to enhance awareness of the concept, inspire action, and facilitate learning. They also support capacity-building efforts with clear, visual communication of the project's messages. Due to how engaging and accessible audiovisual learning materials are, they reach a wide audience.

**Links: CONEXUS Youtube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI31P663yBiiOm8uyW2W0RQ>

**Infographic on the definition of nature-based solutions:** <https://www.conexusnbs.com/nbs-definition-infographics>



## Policy Briefs

**Description:** Policy briefs are concise, authoritative documents. They are designed to synthesize and communicate the key findings and strategic recommendations from various aspects of the CONEXUS project with policy- and decision-makers. Specifically, the focus of these briefs is to provide clear, actionable insights based on the practical experiences from the project, empowering the audience with the tools they need for effective policy development. Policy briefs are used as tools for advocacy and policy development. They serve as essential references for policymakers to guide strategic urban and environmental planning, helping to integrate nature-based solutions into broader policy frameworks and urban development plans.

**Target audience:** The primary audience for these briefs includes government officials, urban planners, and policy advisors, as these stakeholders are in a position to influence and enact policies related to urban development and environmental management.

**Intended impact:** The intended effect of the policy briefs is to inform and influence policy and decision-making processes in cities. By providing decision-makers with evidence-based insights, these briefs aim to facilitate informed policy development that incorporates nature-based solutions and sustainable practices for building resilience, including the proven effective ways for advancing nature-based solutions as observed in CONEXUS.

## Factsheets

**Description:** Factsheets are visually appealing, easily digestible, and concise documents. They provide overviews of specific nature-based solutions implementations or thematic areas within the CONEXUS project. Designed to be accessible and jargon-free, these factsheets include step-by-step explanations and are supported by rich infographics to aid understanding and engagement. The different factsheets produced in CONEXUS are organized according to themes: pilot projects and key learnings.

Materials on **pilots** are about practical implementations of nature-based solutions in urban settings that serve as real-world case studies to gather data and insights, such as the restoration of urban wetlands to manage storm water. The **key learning** materials tease out essential lessons gleaned from these implementations and other studies and highlight effective strategies for implementing, governing and assessing nature-based solutions, and how to overcome challenges that are likely to emerge.



**Target audience:** The target audience for the factsheets includes urban planners, municipal officers, non-profit workers, private sector stakeholders, and environmental practitioners who are directly involved in the implementation or are interested in learning about nature-based solutions.

**Intended impact:** The factsheets aim to amplify the practical uptake and scalability of nature-based solutions. They showcase successful examples and provide clear, actionable guidance to enable practitioners to understand and apply nature-based solutions in their their contexts.



## Life-Lab pilot projects

Barcelona Life-Lab - Urban Agriculture Observatory: Social and Ecosystem services

<https://oppla.eu/product/31785>

Barcelona Life-Lab - Monitoring of socio-environmental services of urban green spaces

<https://oppla.eu/product/31784>

Bogota Life-Lab - Nature-based Solutions to restore urban hydro-social systems

<https://oppla.eu/product/31779>

Buenos Aires Life-Lab - Francia Street Rain Gardens: SuDS Implementation

<https://oppla.eu/product/32004>

Buenos Aires Life-Lab - Wetland Lugano, the restoration of an aquatic ecosystem

<https://oppla.eu/product/31782>

Buenos Aires Life-Lab - Green and biodiverse schoolyards through community participation

<https://oppla.eu/product/31781>

Lisbon Life-Lab - Fast Forests for Lisbon: Nature, Community, Connections

<https://oppla.eu/product/31783>

Santiago Life-Lab - Co-producing NbS in the "Remodelación Panamericana Norte"

<https://oppla.eu/product/32005>

Santiago Life-Lab - Towards a green infrastructure system for Santiago de Chile

<https://oppla.eu/product/31780>

São Paulo Life-Lab - Monitoring ecosystem services of urban forests in São Paulo

<https://oppla.eu/product/31958>

Torino Life-Lab - Valdocco Vivibile: a livable district

<https://oppla.eu/product/31786>

## Key learnings factsheets

Task 1.1 - Skills Gaps for Nature-based Solutions uptake in Europe and Latin America

<https://oppla.eu/product/31768>

Task 2.1 - Nature-Based Solutions in Latin American and European countries: Trends and perspectives

<https://oppla.eu/product/31774>

Task 2.2. - Adaptive Governance for Successful Urban Nature-based Solutions

<https://oppla.eu/product/31775>





Task 2.3 - The Nature Future Workshops

<https://oppla.eu/product/31769>

Task 2.3 - Supporting Nature- based Solutions via Nature-Based Thinking

<https://oppla.eu/product/31771>

Task 3.1 - Reflections for establishing Urban Life- Labs for governance of Nature-based Solutions

<https://oppla.eu/product/31776>

Task 4.1 - Monitoring NbS together for greater uptake and upscaling

<https://oppla.eu/product/31773>

Task 4.2 - Implementation of indicators for Nature-based Solutions: How to organize it?

<https://oppla.eu/product/31772>

Task 4.3 - Checklist for Nature-based Solutions Monitoring & Indicators

<https://oppla.eu/product/31777>

Task 4.3 - Formats for transferring NbS knowledge

<https://oppla.eu/product/31957>

Task 5.2 - Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) for valuing NbS in CONEXUS pilot projects

<https://oppla.eu/product/32014>

Task 7.1 - Integrating intersectionality into urban NbS

<https://oppla.eu/product/32006>



## Project Partners



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Deliverable 4.3 Ecosystem of guidelines and  
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<https://oppla.eu/product/32008>

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