



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference

“Nature for Sustainable Cities: Planning Cost-Effective and Just Solutions for Urban Issues



26–27 February 2026
Department of Architecture
University of Naples Federico II
Palazzo Gravina, Via Monteoliveto 3, Naples (Italy)

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Scientific Committee, we are pleased to announce the **International Conference “Nature for Sustainable Cities: Planning Cost-Effective and Just Solutions for Urban Issues (NATSOLIS)”**, which will be held on **26–27 February 2026** at the **Department of Architecture of the University of Naples Federico II (Italy)**.

The conference will explore the **complex relationship between Nature-based Solutions (NBS) and urban and regional planning**, addressing both their transformative potential and the challenges that arise when they are implemented in different territorial and socio-economic contexts. Building on recent international debates, the conference will examine **how NBS contribute to urban regeneration, climate adaptation, risk mitigation, biodiversity enhancement, and improved environmental quality**. At the same time, it will critically assess emerging concerns related to spatial justice, unequal access to NBS, green gentrification, and potential enhancement of existing socio-spatial inequalities.

A key focus will be placed on the **assessment of positive and negative impacts of NBS**, including the need for robust, spatially sensitive, and context-specific methodologies for evaluating ecological, social, and economic outcomes. Contributions addressing innovative approaches for **mapping, modelling, and analyzing the spatial distribution of NBS benefits** – as well as identifying **trade-offs, externalities, and unintended consequences** – are strongly encouraged.

The conference also aims to explore **governance models, participatory processes, and co-creation practices** that can support equitable and effective NBS-oriented planning. By integrating theoretical insights, methodological advancements, and practical applications, NATSOLIS intends to foster a **deeper understanding of how NBS can be designed, evaluated, and implemented to support inclusive and resilient urban regeneration**. Trans-disciplinary contributions highlighting successful (and/or unsuccessful) cases are particularly welcome, helping to advance **NBS as tools for context-aware, evidence-based, and problem-solving approaches**.





The event constitutes the final conference of the **PRIN 2022 Project “Nature for sustainable cities: planning cost-effective and just solutions for urban issues (NATSOLIS)”**, funded by the Italian Ministry of Research, and is jointly organized by Universities of Catania, Naples “Federico II”, and Salerno.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

The Scientific Committee warmly welcomes contributions addressing the relationship between NBS, planning and design, urban regeneration, and sustainability. Topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **NBS for urban regeneration**
Strategies, frameworks, and projects aimed at improving environmental quality, mitigating risks, and enhancing urban livability through nature-based approaches.
- **Spatial justice, equity, and inclusion in NBS planning**
Inter- and intragenerational equity, social vulnerability, just access to urban services and green spaces, gender-sensitive and inclusive perspectives, and the risks of inequitable effects of NBS.
- **Impact assessment of NBS in regeneration processes**
Multidimensional evaluation of ecological, social, and economic impacts; cost-benefit analyses; indicators and metrics; identification of trade-offs and unintended consequences.
- **Successful and unsuccessful NBS implementations**
Case studies highlighting effective or ineffective NBS projects and policies; context-specific barriers, governance failures, conflicts, and lessons learned.
- **Spatial analysis and mapping of NBS benefits**
GIS-based approaches, spatial indicators, analytical models, and other tools for understanding and quantifying NBS performances and effects.
- **Governance, policy innovation, and stakeholder engagement**
Participatory processes, co-design and co-creation practices, collaborative governance structures, and community involvement in NBS-oriented planning.
- **Climate adaptation and ecological resilience**
NBS addressing heatwaves, flooding and stormwater management, biodiversity loss, and other environmental risks in urban contexts.
- **Economic sustainability and cost-effectiveness of NBS**
Financial evaluation, maintenance strategies, long-term sustainability, and investment models for nature-based interventions.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Authors are invited to submit an abstract (no more than 200 words) by 15 January 2026 to the following address: natsolis2026@gmail.com

PUBLICATIONS

After the conference, authors will be invited to submit a full paper for publication in a Springer edited volume indexed in Scopus. Additional Special Issues in peer-reviewed ISI/Scopus journals may be announced.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Further information, updates, and deadlines are available at:

<https://www.natsolis.unict.it/content/natsolis-conference>

We look forward to welcoming you to Naples next February!

NATSOLIS Organizing Committee