

## IUC-NA Urban Cooperation Action Plan (U-CAP) Summary

*November 2020*

<b>City:</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	<b>PADUA</b>
<b>Province, State, Department...:</b>	Jefferson County	Comune Veneto
<b>Country:</b>	USA	Italy
<b>Population:</b>	210,000	209,000
<b>Period of cooperation</b>	June 2019 - November 2020	

<b>Cooperation Themes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature-based Solution for Sustainable Water and Forest Management</li> </ul>
<b>Related <u>SDGs</u> and <u>Urban Agenda</u> topics:</b>	<p><b>SDGs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3- Good Health and Wellbeing</li> <li>11- Sustainable Cities and Communities</li> <li>13- Climate Action</li> </ul> <p><b>EU Urban Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Use of Land</li> <li>Nature-based solutions</li> <li>Climate adaptation</li> </ul>
<b>Key focus of cooperation themes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Urban Forestry and Sustainable Water Management and enhancing each City's ability to provide additional tree coverage and nature-based solutions for water management throughout each City.</li> <li>Improved capacity for using GIS for story mapping to tackle urban vulnerabilities to climate change.</li> </ul>
<b>Key challenges of cooperation theme:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Birmingham:</b> Develop an Urban Forestry Plan that lays out specific objectives and goals as it relates to maintaining and enhancing the city's urban forest</li> </ul>



<p><b>Main <u>objectives</u> of cooperation as described in the U-CAP:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The overall objective will be the development of an Urban Forestry Plan that would align closely with the IUC's sustainable urban development goals. By completing an inventory the city will have a better idea of what an Urban Forest Plan should include. An inventory will help the city to maintain the tree canopy it currently has and work toward filling in the gaps.</li> <li>- <b>Birmingham:</b> Conduct a city-wide tree inventory</li> <li>- <b>Birmingham:</b> Begin community engagement process with the goal of increasing awareness about the benefits of trees. This process will be concurrent with the creation of the tree inventory and the Urban Forestry Plan. There is a large gap of information related to trees and green spaces and how they improve the built environment and quality life. Creating a program whereby the city can engage with citizens on a regular basis will be key for building excitement, momentum and buy-in for our objectives.</li> <li>- <b>Birmingham and Padua:</b> Identifying key areas of Urban Regeneration needs and looking at specific areas that could be targeted for urban renewal.</li> <li>- <b>Padua:</b> Strengthen and develop municipal capacity in drafting and implementing the new Green Urban Plan and measures for Climate Adaptation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Short description of main <u>activities</u> and key <u>outputs</u> (e.g., pilot projects):</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Virtual Technical Session: GIS Data Share &amp; Mapping (Cool Green)</b> Capacity building and education through a webinar centered around the implementation and rollout of a GIS tool and mapping site (Cool Green) that would educate citizens, as well as policy makers on how planting trees in Birmingham helps alleviate heat island impacts, health and respiratory issues and other environmental impacts. Three overall benefits can be seen when increasing tree coverage throughout the City: reduced urban heat effect, reduced local flooding impacts and improved overall air quality. The process utilizes story mapping which helps to tell the full story on the impacts of increasing tree coverage benefit. This tool was developed to help with securing grant funding opportunities related to Cool Green</li> <li>- <b>Virtual Technical Session: Capacity building and knowledge transfer</b> through expert technical advice and support on the use of GIS tools to perform a vulnerability analysis concerning the Urban Heat Island effect –</li> </ul> <p>The Municipality of Padova hosted a webinar on how to tackle the urban vulnerability to climate change, providing an operational framework for Municipalities . The webinar was focused on the presentation of the main objectives and results of two EU projects, Veneto Adapt (<a href="https://www.venetoadapt.it">https://www.venetoadapt.it</a>) and Master Adapt (<a href="https://masteradapt.eu">https://masteradapt.eu</a>). The webinar was also centered on the use of GIS</p>



	<p>tools to analyse the vulnerability of a territory, with regard to the Urban Heat Islands and the heat waves. This analysis was preliminary to the presentation of few examples of Nature Based Solutions implemented by the Municipality of Padova and other Local Authorities in Veneto Region.</p>
<p><b>Expected <u>results</u> and <u>benefits</u>:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing the tree canopy throughout each city as well as better overall maintenance of the current population of trees throughout each city. Community education and buy-in related to the benefits of trees.</li> <li>- Increased awareness of the long term benefits of tree canopy. Update to policy documents that will increase requirements and regulations as it relates to tree plantings.</li> <li>- Each City has a better understanding of the particular Urban Regeneration needs across Birmingham and Padua. In addition to the aforementioned information and knowledge transfer in regards to Urban Generation at the site level in Birmingham and Padua.</li> </ul>

For further information (including access to the full U-CAP), please **contact**:  
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