


IDENTIFIED CALL		
<b>TOPIC</b>	Strengthening international cooperation on sustainable urbanisation: nature-based solutions for restoration and rehabilitation of urban ecosystems (Collaboration with China)	
<b>Type of Action</b>	RIA Research and Innovation action	
<b>Hyperlink CALL</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>	
<b>Open call</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	
<b>Deadline CALL 1<sup>st</sup> stage</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	
<b>Challenge</b>	<p>Unsustainable, non-resilient urbanisation patterns, the expansion or neglect of urban areas have caused the fragmentation, depletion and destruction of habitats, biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems and their services. Increasing connectivity between existing, modified and new ecosystems and restoring and rehabilitating them within cities and at the urban-rural interface through nature-based solutions, is necessary to enhance ecosystem resilience and adaptive capacity to cope with the effects of climate and global changes and to enable ecosystems to deliver their services for more liveable, healthier and resilient cities.</p>	
<b>Scope</b>	<p>Actions should develop models, tools, decision support systems, methodologies, strategies, guidelines, standards and approaches for the design, construction, deployment and monitoring of nature-based solutions and restoration, prevention of further degradation, rehabilitation and maintenance measures for urban and peri-urban ecosystems and the ecological coherence and integrity of cities. Actions should review and capitalise upon existing experiences and good practices in Europe and (for option a) China or (for option b) CELAC. The strategies and tools should be part of an integrated and ecologically coherent urban planning and city-making process that would secure a fair and equitable distribution of benefits from the restored urban ecology and limit its exposure to environmental stresses. Methodologies, schemes and indicators should be developed to allow for the assessment of the cost-effectiveness of the restoration measures, also accounting for their possible negative effects. They should account for the totality of the benefits delivered by the restored ecosystems in terms of, for example, enhancing cities' climate-proofing and resilience, enhancing mitigation options, improving human health and well-being, reducing inequalities and reducing cities' environmental footprint. Actions should also dedicate efforts to awareness raising, outreach activities and education of citizens, including school children about the benefits of nature for their social, economic and cultural well-being.</p>	
<b>Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restored and functioning urban ecosystems with an enhanced capacity to deliver their services;</li> <li>• making a business and investment case for nature-based solutions on the basis of increased evidence about the benefits from restored urban ecosystems with regards to urban liveability, climate change resilience, social inclusion, urban regeneration, public health and well-being;</li> <li>• guidelines for cost effective urban ecosystem restoration and ecological rehabilitation measures and new planning approaches and methods</li> </ul>	
<b>Budget call (and for project)</b>	EUR 5 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately.	