



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Dear reader, welcome to the first issue of our newsletter!

We're thrilled you decided to accompany us on our journey to promote investments in nature-based solutions (NBS)!

The Invest4Nature project is now a few months old, all partners got to know each other at the Kick Off Meeting in Graz and started their work in the first out of four project phases: the study and conceptual phase. We are currently comparing existing works, while collecting data for the development of our own framework and tools for valuing NBS benefits and costs. Phase 2 will be about truly understanding the needs of stakeholders and inviting them to co-create solutions in our five NBS Living Labs across Europe. In phase 3, we aim to empower our stakeholders by establishing a broad NBS investment community. Moreover, we will very busy with developing datasets, toolboxes, business and financing models, policy frameworks, as well as coaching and training programmes. The fourth and last phase of Invest4Nature will be about catalysing the impact of our developed solutions by sharing them widely with our network.

Brew yourself a fresh cup of coffee or tea and scroll down for insights from our project, interesting news and reflections from other NBS actors of our network and much more!

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**Andreas Türk**

Joanneum Research

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**Ingrid Kaltenegger**

Joanneum Research



## 2. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS





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## To a good start!

### Kick Off Meeting in Graz

In mid-October 2022, the Invest4Nature partners met for the project's Kick Off Meeting in the city of Graz in Austria – home to Invest4Nature's coordinating organisation Joanneum Research. Over the course of two busy days, the consortium used the meeting to connect the dots between the different planned activities in the project and discuss the details of the implementation. One thing that became clear very quickly was the excellent links and connections all project partners had to the most relevant NBS projects, networks and initiatives. Invest4Nature will therefore be able to make the most of its funding and use numerous synergies with other actors from the NBS sector. The hosts Joanneum Research made sure not to miss out the opportunity of proving the benefits of their very own NBS example: after long hours of presentations and discussions, the consortium partners took a relaxing walk through Joanneum's beautiful rooftop garden that provides both fresh, cool air and delicious snacks for the lunch break.

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## Making our message heard

### News from the Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication team

Invest4Nature's project partner Steinbeis Europa Zentrum has been busy with setting up all the communication channels to inform you about our project activities: the project website [www.invest4nature.eu](https://www.invest4nature.eu), a Twitter account (@Invest4N: <https://twitter.com/Invest4N>) and LinkedIn channel (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/invest4nature>) and the newsletter you're reading right now. Make sure to follow us on these channels to not miss any update!



[www.invest4nature.eu](https://www.invest4nature.eu)



[@Invest4N](https://twitter.com/Invest4N)



[company/invest4nature](https://www.linkedin.com/company/invest4nature)



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### Regine Wehner

Steinbeis Europa Zentrum



WORK PACKAGE 2

# DEVELOPMENT OF A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR VALUING NBS





Within WP2, a framework and methodologies to assess NBS benefits and costs for different types of landscapes will be derived. During the last few months, intense work has been done on analysing of relevant cost and benefit categories as well as on qualitative and quantitative approaches. As a result, a comprehensive literature review, but also the identification of advantages and shortcomings of available methods was achieved. On this basis, and in cooperation with the living labs, relevant benefit and cost categories were identified, focusing on coastal, urban, rural and mountainous landscapes.

The inventory of existing methods showed that the field of NBS evaluations is a very extensive and rapidly growing research topic. In particular, the often context-specific multifunctional nature of NBS poses a major challenge to socio-economic evaluation and thus to investment and financing decisions. Among other factors, considering use / non-use values as well as avoided costs is essential. An overall economic value framework, building on a broad set of different methods, has to be applied. Based on the identified shortcomings and gaps of existing methods, WP2 tries to further develop the prevalent economic value framework, thereby also taking into consideration benefits in the field of climate change adaption and disaster risk reduction.

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**Michael Kernitzkyi**  
Joanneum Research





WORK PACKAGE 3

# EVIDENCE OF NBS ECONOMICS AND FINANCING





WP3 has a threefold scope. Firstly, it aims to evaluate the existing evidence related to the financial and economic performance of Nature-based Solutions (NBS). Secondly, this work package seeks to synthesize knowledge and insights on the financing mechanisms of NbS and the markets for Nature Based Enterprises (NBEs). Finally, the results and conclusions derived from WP3 provide important inputs to inform the development and parameterization of a decision support toolbox in WP4.

Over the past 6 months, we have been working closely with WP2 to set up a typology and diagnostic framework that defines various categories of benefits and costs related to diverse types of NBS actions addressing various societal challenges. The framework is designed to provide a structure for the compilation of financial and economic evidence across different sectors, landscapes, and thematic areas in Europe. We are still refining this framework, and part of that process involves having bilateral dialogs with Invest4Nature living labs to discuss and validate the typology. These discussions are ongoing, and we are gathering information to produce living documents describing the unique characteristics of each I4N living lab. Meanwhile, within WP3, we are having internal discussions to map out strategies for gathering evidence on the market and financing aspects of NBS, the establishment of I4N database, as well as engaging in the development of the decision support toolbox from an early stage.

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**Doan Nainggolan**  
Aarhus University



WORK PACKAGE 4

# UNDERSTANDING STAKEHOLDER NEEDS AND ENABLING NBS READINESS





The overall objective of Work Package 4 is to co-create project outputs with stakeholders to ensure the created tools and resources meet their needs and generate impact. The specific tasks of WP4 are to identify and analyse critical success factors, test the Decision Support Toolbox and supporting services, and engage stakeholders in co-creating innovative finance and business models for different NBS typologies.

During the first six months of I4N, we have established the core team and assigned key roles and responsibilities, conducted an initial stakeholder mapping exercise, made preparations for launching the I4N online workspace and workshop program, and collaborated with WP3 in making preparations for the I4N case study database.

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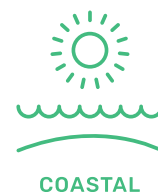
**Paul Mahony**  
Oppla

### 3. UPDATE FROM THE LIVING LABS

## PORTUGAL

Portugal's Living Lab is located in Cascais, a municipality very close to Lisbon on the Portuguese Riviera and home to coastal, urban and fluvial areas. The Cascais Living Lab focuses on two NBS subcases:

- The restoration and rehabilitation of the Guincho-Cresmina coastal dune system, which will serve as a first line of defence against flooding and erosion.
- The naturalisation of the banks and riverbeds of the Vinhas stream into green corridors which will increase the biodiversity in the ecosystem and reduce the risk of flooding.





## What are your expectations and hopes regarding Invest4Nature?

We expect our living lab in the Invest4Nature project to help us to access and account for all the benefits two pilot areas can bring to our local environmental policy serving as replicable examples.

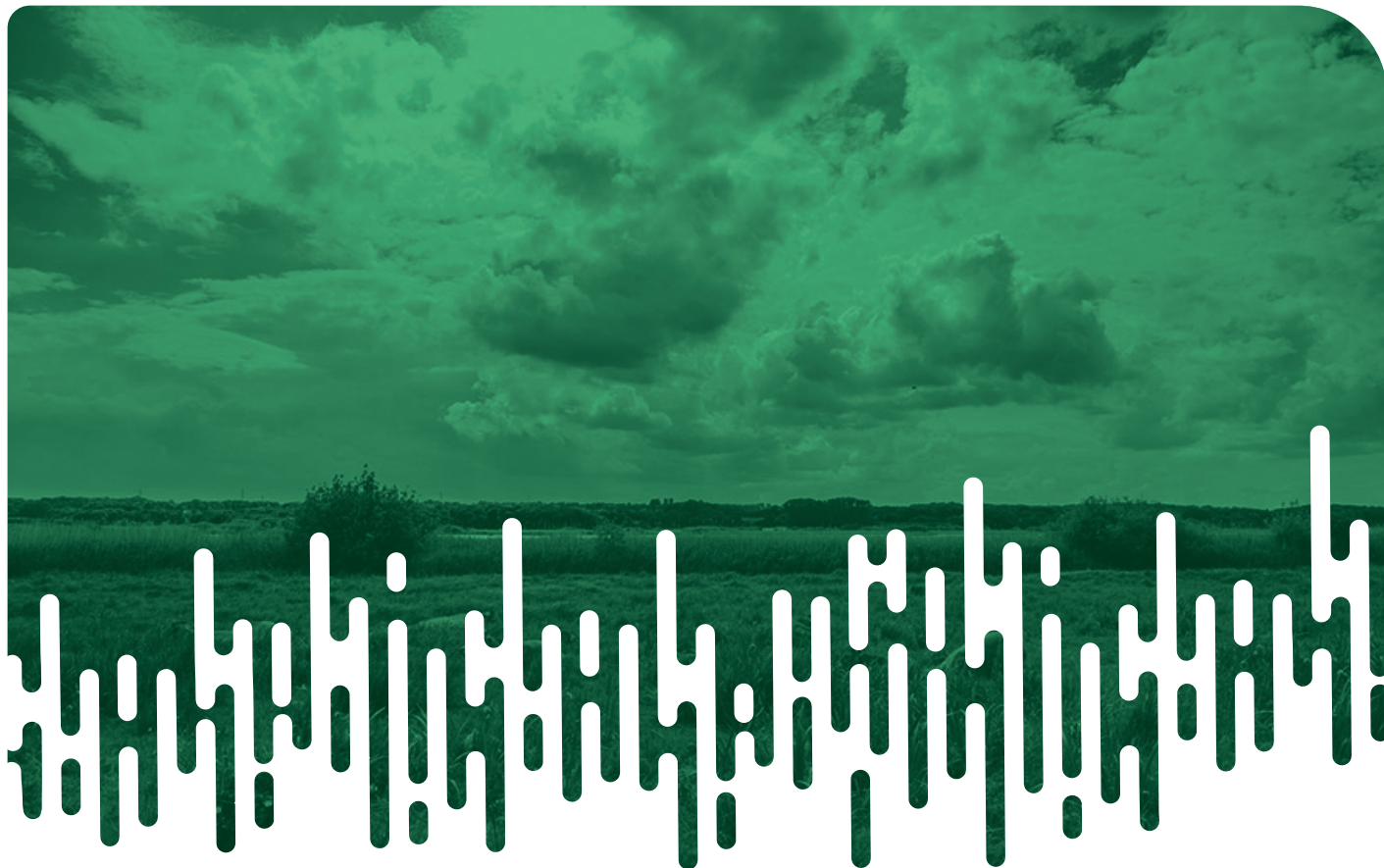
This means the living labs area will contribute to assess their relevance for the local (green) economy, the input for climate resilient and general benefits for the local population. It will heavily support the knowledge about accounting for the gains of these solutions in a highly replicable model which could further the implementation of nature-based solutions in Cascais, as well as in Portugal.

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**João Dinis**

*Empresa Municipal de Ambiente de Cascais*



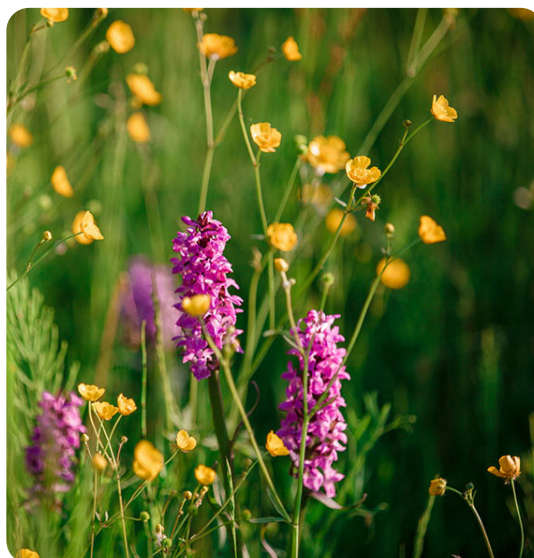


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## DENMARK

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Denmark's Living Lab is located in the Aarhus municipality at the Danish east coast. Its interventions are primarily implemented in rural and suburban areas. Aarhus focuses on the NBS case of creating forests (afforestation) to enhance biodiversity, secure drinking water, retain rainwater, enhance recreational value and create a new carbon sink.



COASTAL



URBAN



RURAL



MOUNTAINOUS



FLUVIAL



## What are your expectations and hopes regarding Invest4Nature?

In Aarhus Municipality, we are working with many types of nature-based solutions (NBS) — afforestation, new reefs, climate adaption measures, etc. — all actions taken to handle man-made challenges, such as the quality of drinking water, the biodiversity crisis, both at sea and on land, increased water levels, extreme weather, rising CO2-levels, and so on. With Invest4Nature we expect to raise the awareness of NBS, also in the investor community, as the project highlights and makes the benefits of NBS more tangible, both in economic terms and in understanding the 'softer' benefits of NBS: quality of life, health and recreational value. Furthermore, it is our expectation that the decision-making tool will make it easier to make firm decisions on which solutions to choose and where to implement them wisely.

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**Lone Telling**

*Aarhus Municipality*





## POLAND

Poland's Living Lab is located in Poznan — a city in western Poland with the intention to become climate-resilient through open green spaces. The Living Lab covers urban and rural landscapes. By increasing the number of green spaces (especially green natural playgrounds) in Poznan, urban heat stress can be lowered, biodiversity can be enhanced, more water can be retained and the well-being of Poznan's citizens can be improved.



COASTAL



URBAN



RURAL



MOUNTAINOUS



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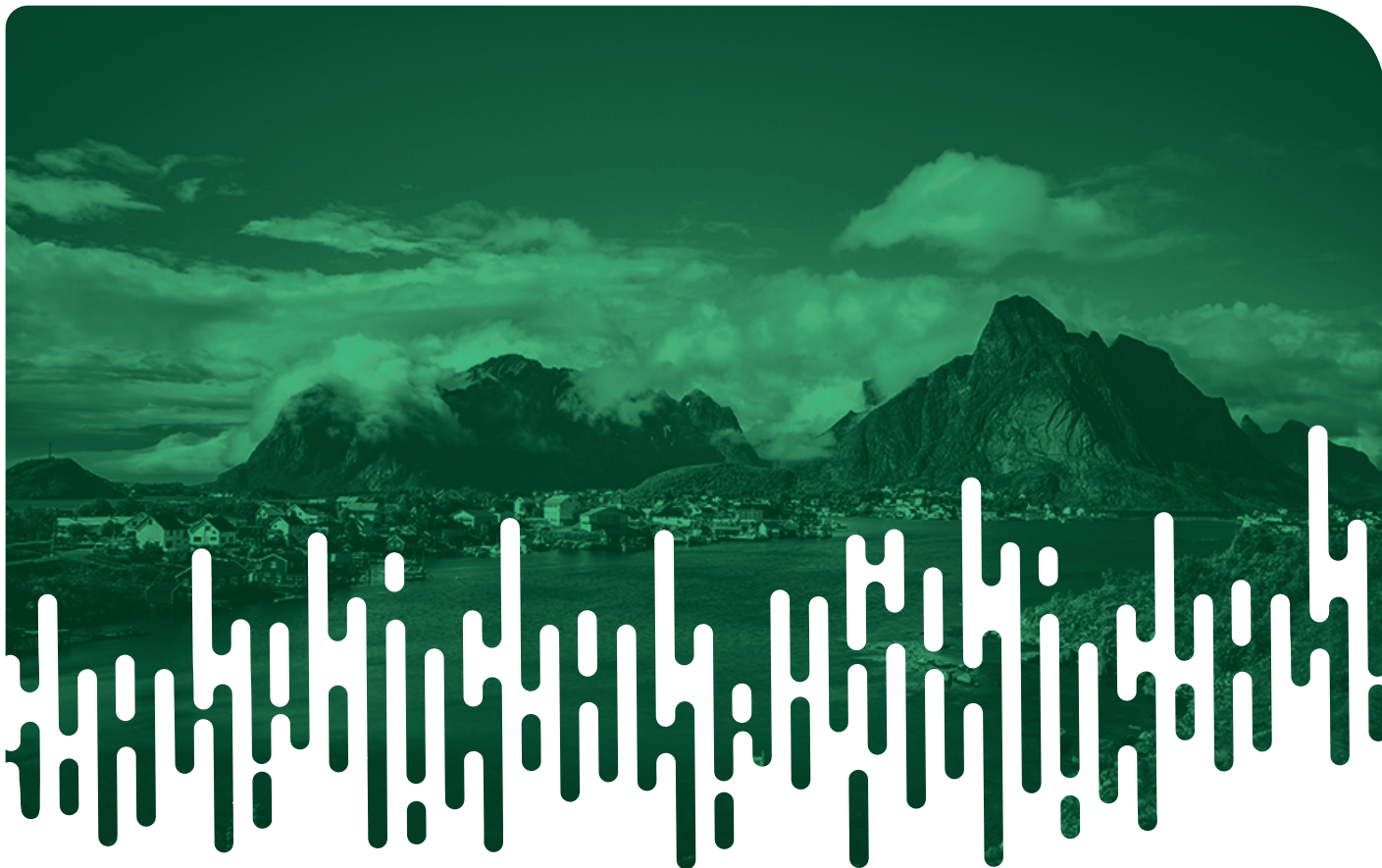


## What are your expectations and hopes regarding Invest4Nature?

Through the Poznań Living Lab we expect to explore benefits coming from implementation of Nature-based Solutions, starting by the example of the natural playgrounds, as a specific urban greenspace. We require a deeper analysis of it, especially in the field of valuation of connected eco-services. We would like to focus also on promoting economic potential of NBS among public and private investors and elaborating models and mechanisms of cooperation.

**Agnieszka Osipiuk**  
*Poznan*



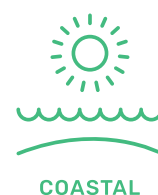


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## NORWAY

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Norway's Living Lab is located both at the northern coastline and at the Oslofjord. It focuses coastal areas, particularly on the restoration of blue forests which include kelp and rockweed forests, as well as sea grass meadows. Healthy blue forest habitats improve the coastal ecosystem and provide a broad range of benefits, amongst others carbon storage and sequestration or the reduction of coastal erosion.



COASTAL



URBAN



RURAL

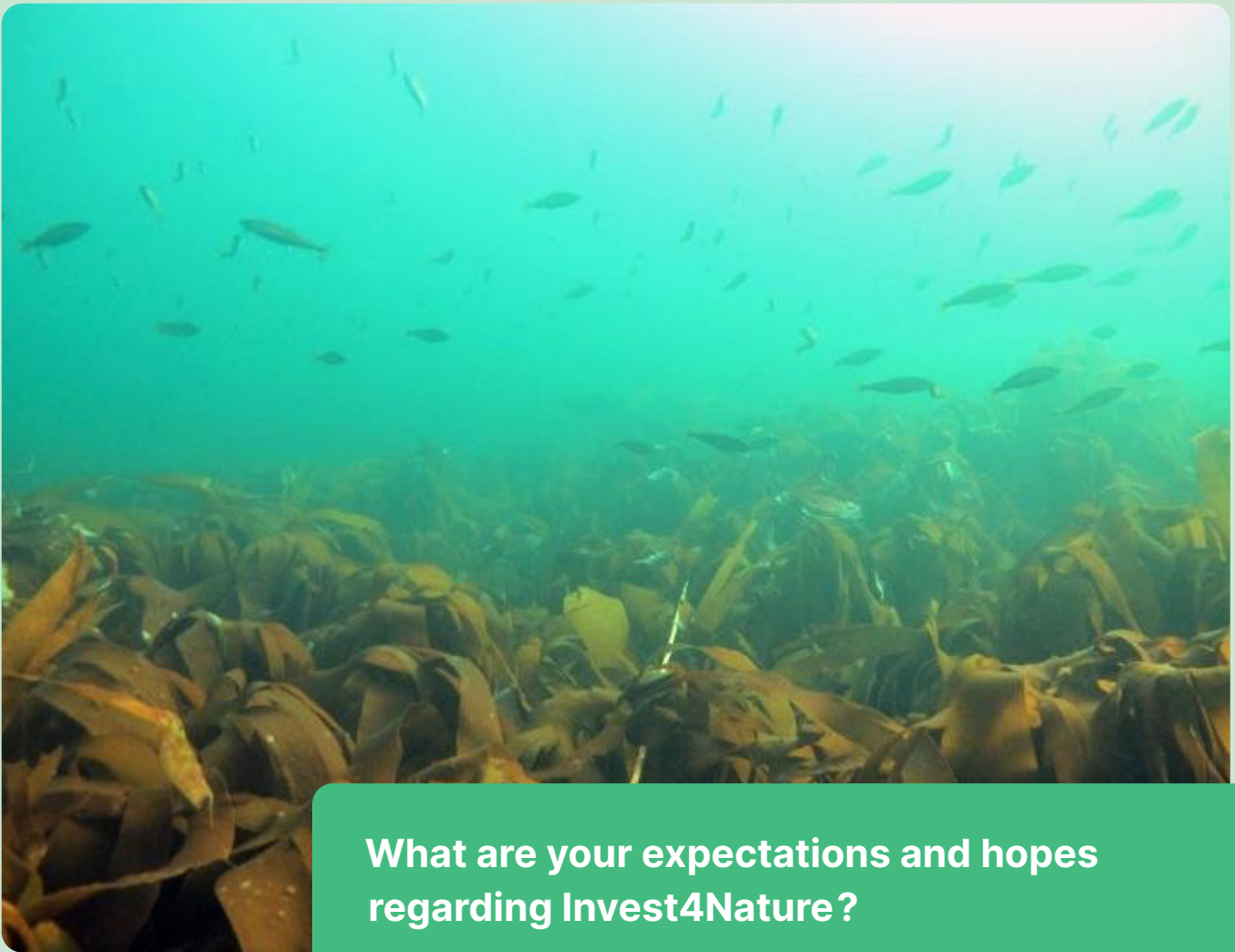


MOUNTAINOUS



FLUVIAL



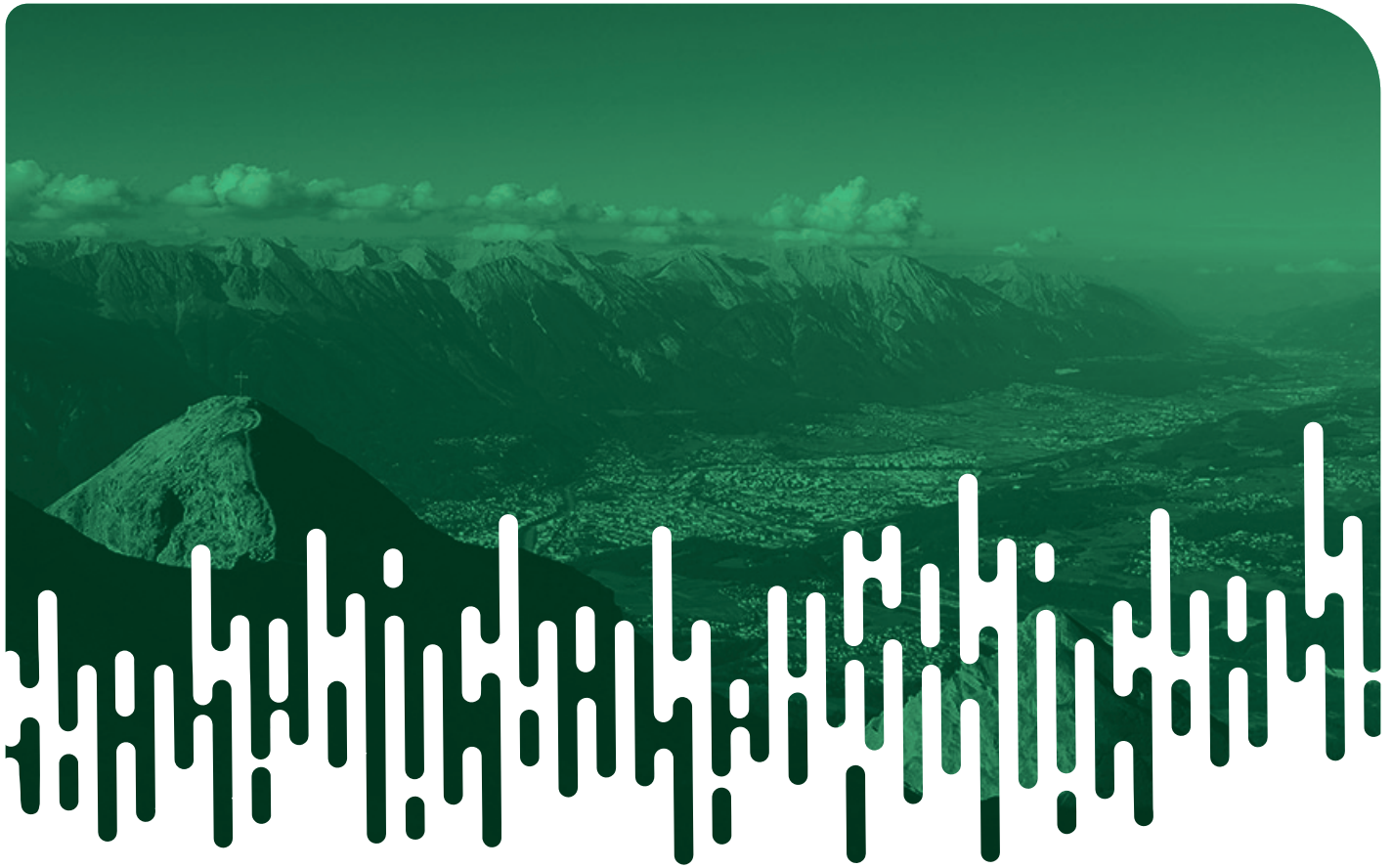


## **What are your expectations and hopes regarding Invest4Nature?**

We have been working on the coastal ecosystem restoration especially blue forest restoration in the Northern Norway and habitat bewildering along the new developed coastlines in the densely populated areas such as the Oslofjord and Bergen. We are supporting national, regional and municipality authorities and local real estate owners to carry out the restoration activities, to co- design the new coastal line structure, to provide scientific knowledge for the restoration. We hope Invest4Nature will provide show cases on the social benefits and costs analysis for coastal ecosystem restoration, mapping the feasible financing and business models, and provide hands-on tools to support future investment decision making related to nature-based solutions.

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**Wenting Chen**  
NIVA



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# AUSTRIA

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Austria's Living Lab is located in the region of Tyrol and includes both urban and mountainous areas. It focuses on natural capital in the built environment to improve biodiversity and resilience in municipalities, providing support to forest owners to improve the health and resilience of forests, and the improvement of wetland ecosystems to enhance resilience to high-precipitation events and flooding.



COASTAL



URBAN



RURAL

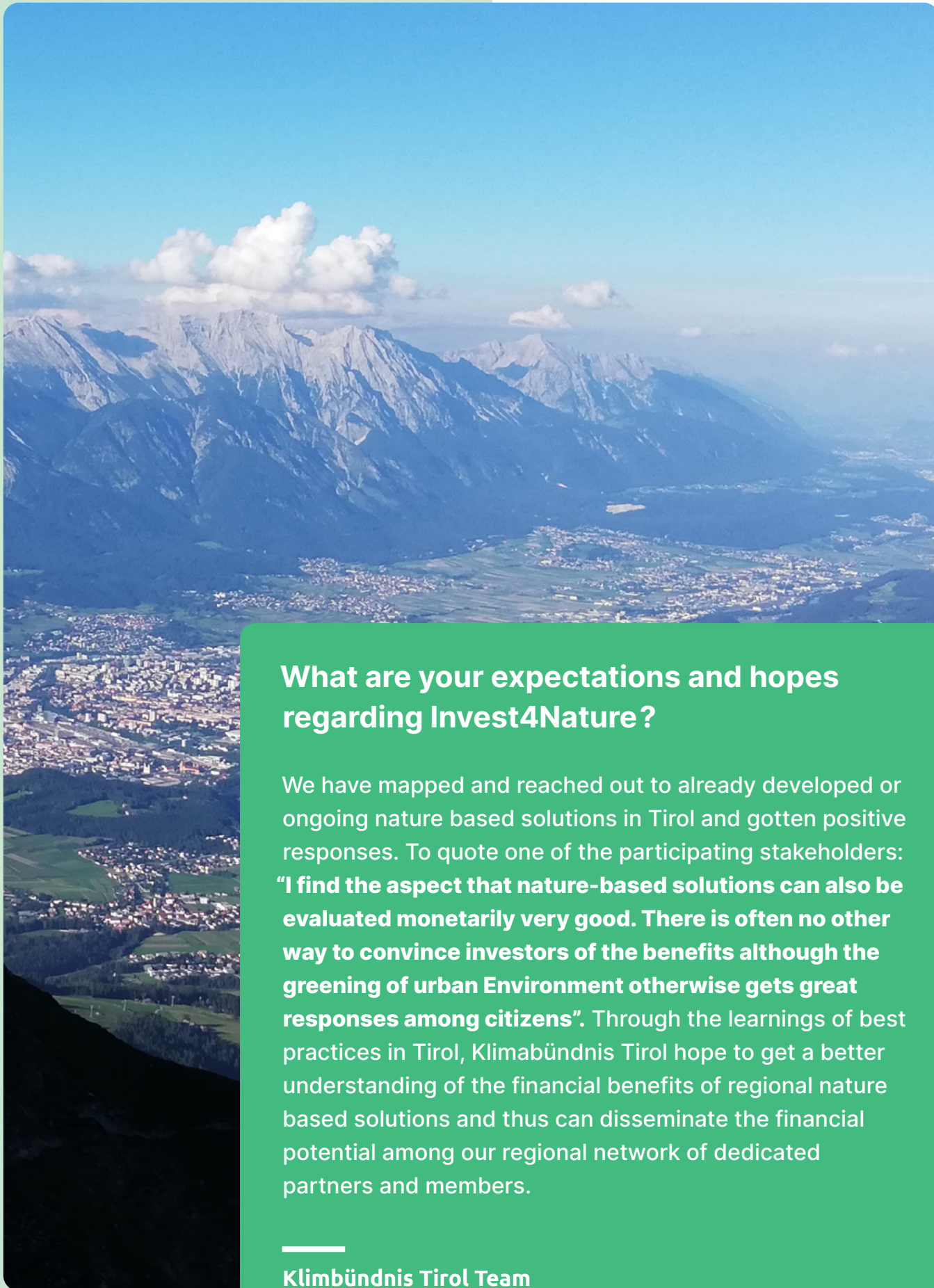


MOUNTAINOUS



FLUVIAL





## What are your expectations and hopes regarding Invest4Nature?

We have mapped and reached out to already developed or ongoing nature based solutions in Tirol and gotten positive responses. To quote one of the participating stakeholders: **“I find the aspect that nature-based solutions can also be evaluated monetarily very good. There is often no other way to convince investors of the benefits although the greening of urban Environment otherwise gets great responses among citizens”**. Through the learnings of best practices in Tirol, Klimabündnis Tirol hope to get a better understanding of the financial benefits of regional nature based solutions and thus can disseminate the financial potential among our regional network of dedicated partners and members.

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Klimabündnis Tirol Team

## 4. EVENTS



- Cities Talk Nature Conference:  
Unlocking the potential of underutilised  
urban areas, Chemnitz, 12–13 May:

[Cities Talk Nature Conference:  
Unlocking the potential of underutilised  
urban areas | Interlace](#)



- 25th European Forum on Urban Forestry  
2023, Krakow, 24–26 May:

[European Forum on Urban Forestry | EFUF](#)



- European Climate Change Adaptation  
Conference, Dublin, 19–21 June:

[European Climate Change Adaptation  
Conference](#)



**Canesia Amarysti**  
*Project Consultant*

**Regine Wehner**  
*Team Manager*

Steinbeis Europa Zentrum

[steinbeis-europa.de/en/home](https://steinbeis-europa.de/en/home)

## 5. 'AT MY DESK'



### Who are you and what is your role in Invest4Nature?

We are Canesia Amarysti and Regine Wehner from Steinbeis Europa Zentrum in Stuttgart, Germany. Our organisation's mission is to enable innovators to grow and this is exactly what we're doing in Invest4Nature. We are responsible for maximising the project's impact. This includes making sure as many people as possible get to know Invest4Nature's solution to our pressing environmental and societal challenges, enabling our partners to get their innovations ready for the market and finding the right audiences for these results. Or explained in EU terms: communication, exploitation and dissemination.

### What motivates you in Invest4Nature?

After the last few years of longer and longer heatwaves, everyone who lives in densely populated urban areas has at least once experienced how hot cities can get these days – and what relief a walk along a street with trees can provide. It is easy to explain some of the benefits that nature-based solutions because everybody can relate.

Explaining what tools and conditions we need to develop to scale-up nature-based solutions and how beneficial investments in NBS are – is more challenging, but so interesting! Invest4Nature is a project on a meta-level that sheds light on a rather invisible but crucial part in NBS implementation: the data that proves its benefits. Highlighting the importance of this missing piece in a puzzle and making sure those who search for that piece find it, is very exciting for us.

### What upcoming activities in Invest4Nature are you most excited about?

We will soon enter the phase of involving local stakeholders in our five Living Labs across Europe. The project partners aim to develop a thorough understanding of the stakeholders' needs and involve them in the creation of our Invest4Nature tools. This will be an interesting phase because in Living Labs we don't know what the exact outcome will be. Furthermore, the Living Lab project partners will have to communicate Invest4Nature to their local audiences. We will see very different approaches to that because our Living Labs in Poland, Denmark, Portugal, Austria and Norway are highly diverse.

## 6. FROM THE SECTOR







## Introduction to related projects: **NATURANCE**

NATURANCE (Nature for insurance, and insurance for nature) is a coordination and supporting action (CSA) funded in the context of Horizon Europe topic CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-06. The project will be implemented over 42 months (01/10/2022 — 31/03/2026). It is coordinated by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC) and involves 9 partners from 6 countries (IIASA — Austria, KIT, ICLEI and WTW — Germany, CMCC — Italy, Stichting VU — the Netherlands, SU — Sweden, and LSE and UCAM — United Kingdom), but with global outreach. The main goal of the project is to examine technical, financial, and operational feasibility and performance of solutions that are built upon and combine disaster risk financing & investments with nature-based solutions — the so-called nature-based insurance & investment (NBIS). As a CSA, the project will stimulate dialogues, knowledge sharing and mutual learning across different areas of policy and practice, including NbS, sustainable finance, cat risk modelling, and produce a comprehensive and collaborative assessment of these instruments from societal and business perspective. Furthermore, the project's ambition is to encourage adoption of jointly elaborated principles, performance metrics and recommended approaches to analysis and design, in accordance with EU framework for sustainable finance.

**Note:** Stichting VU – VU Foundation of Vrije University of Amsterdam; IIASA – Internationales Institut fuer Angewandte Systemanalyse; KIT – Karlsruhe Institute of Technology; ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (SME); SU – Stockholms Universitet; WTW – Willis Towers Watson GMBH; LSE – London School of Economics and Political Science; UCAM – The Chancellor Masters and Scholars of the University of Cambridge.

### Key actions include:

- The establishment of a 'network of existing networks' by connecting existing major knowledge networks and fostering cross-domain knowledge sharing and collaborative marketplace for innovative nature-based insurance & investment solutions;
- The organisation of innovation finance and policy labs seeking to assess existing and explore new areas for insurance and investment solutions and revenue models supporting NbS;
- The analysis of policy and governance conditions that are conducive to or hamper adoption of sustainable and equitable innovative green insurance and investment solutions for NbS, identifying examples of inspirational practice and policy reforms to unlock their business potential and scaling up their deployment,
- The analysis of models, methods, scenarios and metrics used for assessing risk-reduction performance of NbS, as well as their wider societal benefits, and contribute to a better integration of ecosystem and economic risk modelling;
- Building awareness and capabilities for green financial innovations, so to creating conditions for inclusive and transformative change in regions embarked in the Mission on climate adaptation & societal transformation.

[www.naturanceproject.eu](http://www.naturanceproject.eu)



**Have any remarks, questions,  
or suggestions?...**

Are you part of an organization that  
could benefit from Invest4Nations  
results or a stakeholder in the field of  
NBS and you would like to contribute?

**Reach out to us and  
we'll get you involved!**

**Then don't hesitate to contact us at:**

**info@invest4nature.eu**

**Make sure to subscribe to our Newsletter!**

**invest4nature.eu**



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