



WORLD GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK
vegetation makes it possible!



Norwegian Association
for Green Infrastructure

EU Policies related to Green Infrastructure and WGIN's involvement

*European Union
Jure Šumi*

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (1991)

- Under the current Directive, Member States have to ensure that all urban wastewater, ***except stormwater***, is treated before being discharged.
 - EU has realised that ***stormwater*** is one of the key polutor of waterways when stormwater floods the wastewater treatment plants.
 - Majority of large European cities have old water infrastructure systems that **can't deal separately** with storm water and wastewater
 - **When it rains heavily, massive amounts of storm water enter common wastewater systems, requiring the storm water to be treated in the same way as waste water**
 - Substantial investment to provide excess treatment capacity for occasional use needed
 - Increased energy consumption.
- Including Green Infrastructure into the current legislative framework will tackle storm water problems in cities which can not be solved by the current legislation

EU Flood Directive (2007)

- Member states are obliged to carry out a preliminary assessment of flood risk, to establish and publish flood hazard and risk maps and to develop and implement Flood Risk Management Plans
 - Storm water overflows generate pressure and impact on Health and Environment in most of the European countries
- Green Infrastructure helps to achieve flood risk mitigation

EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)

- Promoting Green Infrastructure in main EU policy areas
- Supporting EU-level GI projects
- Improving access to finance for GI projects, information and promoting innovation

EU Biodiversity Strategy (until 2020)

- Halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU
- Enhance efforts to protect species and habitats
- Anchor biodiversity goals in the most relevant EU policy areas
- Step up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.
 - Ongoing evaluation by the end 2019

→ Currently there is no general EU legislation on biodiversity including GIs. Future legislation must take into account the positive impact of GIs to preserve biodiversity.

EU Pollinators Initiative

- The framework for an integrated approach to the problem of pollinator decline and a more effective use of existing tools and policies by:
- Improving knowledge of pollinator decline, its causes and consequences
- Tackling the causes of pollinator decline
- Raising awareness, engaging society-at-large and promoting collaboration

→ GI has a positive impact to tackle pollinator decline in cities

■ Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008)

- Merging of most of existing legislation into a single directive with no change to existing air quality objectives.
- New air quality objectives for **PM2.5** including the limit value and exposure related objectives.

■ Clean Air Policy Package (2013)

- **Clean Air Programme for Europe:** reduce air pollution to a level that prevents it from having unacceptable effects

→ GI is one of key elements to achieve clean air and to fulfil the requirements laid down by current legislation. It is confirmed as one of the elements that is effectively lowering the amount of CO₂ in the air as well as amount of dangerous particles.