



## Innovation in Governance for Urban Nature-Based Solutions

This capacity building programme at Lund University is multidisciplinary and will focus on governance and leadership innovation in the area of Nature-based solutions (NBS) for improved urban environments. The programme will be conducted from the end of October 2020 to May 2021, mostly online. The application period reaches from 1 July - 1 October 2020. The programme is given by Lund University and is funded by the Swedish Institute within the framework of the *Public Sector Innovation Programme*. It is free of charge for participants.

### BACKGROUND AND PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme lies in the sphere of the physical environment in cities (urban environments). A rationale for working with the quality of urban environment is provided by the promise of Nature-based solutions (NBS). NBS use the properties of nature to address urban challenges. Global megatrends such as accelerating urbanisation, escalating carbonemission constraints, extreme weather events induced by global heating underline the increasing importance that the urban built environment will have to sustainable futures. Moreover, as governments pursue development goals, social issues such as securing improved health outcomes for different groups of society are also in focus. NBS provide an alternative to conventional methods of urban planning and development that rely on so-called 'grey infrastructure' – as NBS can provide multi-faceted interventions capable of creating ecological, economic, social and urban planning benefits. As environmental examples, NBS have been seen to be able to address the risks of climate change, including adaptation to increasing heat stress in cities, enhancing the quality and quantity of water available under drought conditions, mitigating the impacts of flooding, and increasing biodiversity. In the social sphere, it has been observed that NBS can contribute to benefits including improvements to physical and mental health, access to green space creating space for play and recreation, fostering greater inclusion, and addressing environmental justice needs.

However, while various technical innovations for NBS have been established and deployed for decades, they are not yet mainstream within urban development, planning or governance processes. Governance forms that embrace new ways of doing things (e.g. NBS) require increased capacity for individuals and organisations to innovate for change – and change requires new forms of collaboration/cooperation, and the exchange of experiences between administrations and between academia and practice.



Transformational leadership from public administrations will be required if NBS is to deliver its promise. Within this programme, NBS innovation is the focus example for an area where administrations and their personnel must transform and innovate in order to meet future challenges – e.g. embodied by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thus capacity building in the areas of transformational leadership and innovation in management is at the core of this programme. The purpose of the programme is to strengthen capacity for innovation and sustainable governance among public administrations that govern larger towns and cities.

The programme will mainly focus on the following SDGs: 6 Clean water and sanitation; 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 11 Sustainable cities and societies; 12 Responsible consumption; 13 Climate action; and 17 Partnerships for the goals.

## **PROGRAMME STRUCTURE**

STAGE 1: Preparation and Programme Setup (end of October - December 2020)

This stage includes course preparatory tasks online (end of October - November 2020). The participants will learn of the scope of the programme and prepare a brief status summary. Educational material will be available online and virtual meetings and mentoring sessions will be conducted with the lecturing staff. A 3-day needs assessment workshop will also be conducted 23-25 November (completely online due to Covid-19).

STAGE 2: Distance Education (January - March 2021)

Stage 2 includes online modules on NBS and Innovation in Leadership. This work will be performed individually (asynchronously), but also in collaboration with learner-peers, and in interaction with course instructors. It will prepare learners with both theoretical learnings and with their own 'from the field' inputs for the next programme activities.

STAGE 3: Lund Intensive (April 2021, exact dates to be decided)

The module onsite in Lund, Sweden, is a 7-day programme. It will involve creative interaction among learners, topical seminars, lectures, or presentations, workshops and site visits.

STAGE 4: Finalisation, Programme Reporting and Planning (May 2021)

In the final stage, the participants return to their home jurisdiction to complete the course project. Work is to be performed by each participant but must be deeply-integrated with the home administration. The participants will also deliver a final report.



## TARGET GROUP

Targeted applicants are persons involved in the governance of built infrastructure and systems that relate to natural resources. The main target group is mid-to-upper-level managers in larger city administrations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine, but persons working in civil society, academia and multilateral organisations in these countries are also welcome to apply. It is of central importance that participants work closely with management and/or governance activities or issues that are directly relevant to urban and peri-urban natural resources. It is thus anticipated that backgrounds will span engineering, environmental science and management; and also span accountabilities for both the Built Environment (eg. Buildings, transport infrastructure, water and waste infrastructure, etc.) or the Natural Environment (e.g. urban forests, parks and gardens, waterways, and urban biodiversity, etc.). Applicants should be mid-career (typically 35-50 years of age), and need to have a good command of the English language. Women are encouraged to apply to the programme since we strive to obtain an equal gender distribution.

## TEACHING AND COORDINATING STAFF AT LUND UNIVERSITY

The programme is a collaboration between [Lund University's International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics](#) (IIIEE) and [Lund University's School of Economics and Management](#) (LUSEM). Responsible for the programme at the university are Senior Lecturer Ola Mattisson, LUSEM, and Associate Professor Philip Peck at IIIEE. The programme is to be delivered with the support of [Lund University Commissioned Education](#) (LUCE), the department focusing on professional development and capacity building programmes.

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Total period of the programme:** October 2020 - May 2021

**Dates, preparatory online module:** End of October - 22 November 2020

**Dates, Needs Assessment Online Workshop:** 23-25 November 2020 (due to Covid-19, it will be online)

**Dates in Lund, Sweden:** 7-day workshop in April 2021 (exact dates to be decided)

**Number of participants:** 20-25

**Costs:** Participation in this programme is free of charge. It includes travel to and from Sweden and meals and accommodation during the module in Sweden. The participant's organisation is responsible for the costs for visas.

**Language of instruction:** English

### APPLICATION

**Application period:** 24 July - 1 October 2020

**APPLY** [HERE](#)

### YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY IF YOU

- are involved in the governance of built infrastructure and systems that relate to natural resource
- are a mid-to-upper-level manager in a larger city administration or working in civil society, academia or a multilateral organisation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia or Ukraine
- work closely with management and/or governance activities or issues that are directly relevant to urban and peri-urban natural resources
- are between 35-50 years of age
- have a good command of English

### CONTACT

**Questions about the program and the application process:** [NBSinnovation@education.lu.se](mailto:NBSinnovation@education.lu.se)