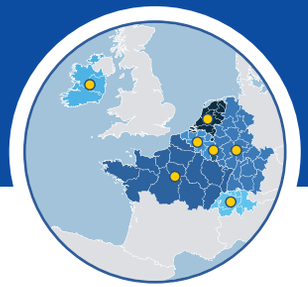
PARTNERS



City of Hilversum

City of Brussels

Natuurpunt Beheer

City of Ettelbruck

City of Genk

City of Rotterdam
The Netherlands

University of Aplied Sciences Western Switzerland

Île-de-France Nature

Limerick City and County Council

University College Dublin

Ruhr University Bochum

UniLaSalle Politechnic Institute

Map: © EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries (NUTS regions)

THE PROJECT

Urban Animal Network empowers urban communities and professionals with biodiversity knowledge, tools and validated solutions to improve connectivity, overcome barriers and expand habitat for urban animals.

Total project budget
€8,4 million

EU funding
€4,75 million

Timeline
2025 - 2029

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Urban Animal Network

urban.nweurope.eu



Interreg North-West Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

Urban



Climate and environment

ENABLING SAFE AND FREE MOVEMENT OF URBAN ANIMALS

CHALLENGE

Biodiversity deteriorates in North-West Europe reducing ecological resilience. Mammals and amphibians are declining sharply, with the common hedgehog now near threatened. As urban areas dominate the region, cities are crucial for recovery, yet multifunctional green spaces create barriers, like roads, light, noise, fragmenting habitat of urban animals. Expanding and connecting urban habitats is essential, but authorities face mixed land ownership, limited data on animal movement, and fragmented expertise. Collaboration with private owners, citizen science, and knowledge sharing are needed to improve safe and free animal movement in urban areas.



OBJECTIVES

Co-develop a joint Urban Animal Network strategy and 7 action plans, jointly pilot and implement solutions to enable free and safe movement in the 4 ecological layers in urban environments - water, shrubs, tree canopy and air; and jointly build



expertise and increasing capacity in 7 urban authorities and local communities and 5 knowledge institutes.

10%
more
hedgehogs, bats,
squirrels and amphibians

20%
improvement
in habitats

100
hectares
of green space connected



EXPECTED RESULTS

The project delivers four key results to improve urban biodiversity across North-West Europe.

1. A jointly developed Urban Animal Network strategy is being adopted by seven urban authorities in five countries (France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland and Luxembourg), with place-based action plans underway and the strategy offered to other cities.
2. 7 replicable solutions are implemented across four ecological layers -water, shrubs, tree canopy and air- supporting amphibians, hedgehogs, squirrels and bats through measures such as wildlife-friendly lighting, crossings, bridges, guiding structures, decision-support tools and incentives for private owners.
3. Tailored training schemes strengthen skills among city staff, residents, citizen scientists and students.
4. 4 partner organisations and knowledge institutes increase capacity through transnational cooperation, enhanced expertise, revised curricula and improved approaches to design, engagement, maintenance and monitoring.