



## Presenting ReNature's new and interactive NbS Toolkit

The ReNature's team is very happy to introduce you to the project's brand new interactive online toolkit, which has been specifically designed to provide solutions to societal challenges by enabling decision-makers and practitioners to learn from actualised nature-based solutions (NbS) implemented in a Mediterranean climate.

You can access the toolkit here

The new platform is part of the ReNature Compendium, which currently contains in-depth information on over 95 NbS case studies across the Mediterranean. To maximise the findability and reach of the toolkit and ensure its sustainability, the ReNature project also aims to collaborate with other nature-based solutions knowledge sharing platforms.

ReNature

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ReNature's Interactive Research & Support Tool

Check out this tool to learn from existing nature-based solutions in the Mediterranean!

Welcome to ReNature's interactive research and support tool! Here, you can find recommendations for choosing the right nature-based solution, based on existing NbS projects / what others have done.

By analysing the data from the ReNature compendium, we have identified the NbS types that are best-suited to addressing the current societal challenges in the Mediterranean.

Instructions: Use the list to select the societal challenge(s) that you want to tackle in your city/area. You will be presented with a list of colour-coded NbS options indicating their suitability (green = high suitability, orange = medium suitability, red = low suitability). Click on an NbS option to view the co-benefits that it offers, as well as links to relevant realised projects in the ReNature Compendium.

Please note: Recommendations from the ReNature toolkit may not always present an ideal solution to the challenge(s) that you are trying to solve. The impact of a specific NbS type will differ depending on the local context. For further advice, please contact ReNature's coordinator Mario Balzan at [mario.balzan@ceast.edu.mt](mailto:mario.balzan@ceast.edu.mt).

The NbS classification system used in this tool comes from Dushkova & Heese

What problem are you experiencing in your city/area?

- Low provisioning of ecosystem goods
- Flooding risk
- Low air quality
- Low water quality
- Drought and heat risk
- Biodiversity loss
- Ecosystem degradation
- Low availability of green infrastructure
- Urban sprawl
- Low aesthetic value
- Local unemployment
- Lack of local sense of ownership and/or participation.
- Negative environmental impacts on human health
- Limited knowledge about biodiversity

Submit

Low air quality, biodiversity loss, drought and heat risk are amongst the most important societal challenges faced by countries within the Mediterranean region.

Despite the significant impacts associated with these challenges, there currently remains a lack of practical tools that assess the capacity of nature-based solutions to effectively tackle the multiple, and often interacting, challenges faced by society. This knowledge gap is problematic for decision-makers and practitioners who need to determine the most appropriate nature-based solutions to implement in cities and in different environments.



## Mario Balzan

“After a three-year capacity building action, we wanted to ensure the continuation of ReNature’s legacy as a nature-based solution knowledge provider within the Mediterranean region by sharing information about existing case-studies provided by the international community. By doing so, we aim to further develop the networks and opportunities for knowledge exchange in the Mediterranean region, which is facing key challenges associated with rapid urbanisation (particularly in island and coastal environments) and climate change.”

Read more about the project coordinator

## How it works?

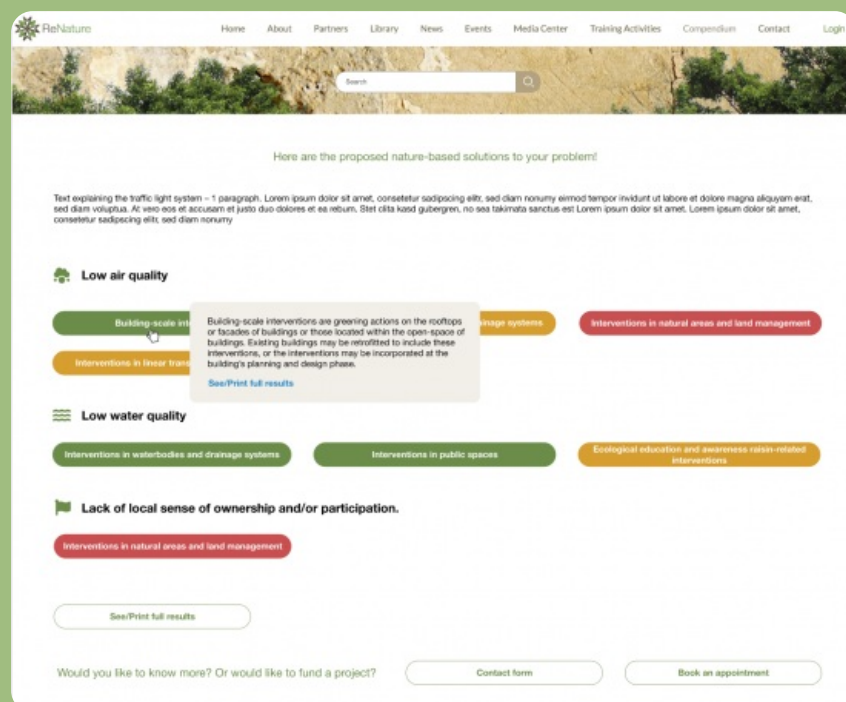
### Step 1

By using the list of nature-based-related problems, the user can submit the most relevant issues that a certain city or area is experiencing.

### Step 2

Based on the user's choices, the interactive tool will show the most applicable solutions. The user can then read more about the nature-based solutions and see successfully implemented examples from the Mediterranean regions.

*Considering the climate differences in different regions, the impact of a specific NbS type will differ depending on the local context. This makes the Toolkit mainly relevant for the Mediterranean climate but the solutions can be used anywhere in the world. For further advice on that, please contact ReNature’s coordinator, Mario Balzan at [mario.balzan@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:mario.balzan@mcast.edu.mt).*



### Step 3

By filling out a contact form users can arrange a follow-up discussion to directly avail of the ReNature’s research team’s expertise or can engage in supporting future evidence-gathering of nature-based

solutions in the region.

Furthermore, users can book an appointment with the project coordinator by clicking on the button in the bottom right and selecting a convenient slot for them from the event calendar of Mrs. Balzan. It can either be 30 or 60 minutes long.

Finally, after the user receives their results, they can print them out.

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## New feature coming soon!

Additionally, the toolkit will have one more feature presenting the co-benefits associated with each nature-based solution type.

Many nature-based solutions result in multiple co-benefits for health, the economy, society and the environment, and thus they can represent more efficient and cost-effective solutions than more traditional approaches.

The work carried out by ReNature is in line with the ambition of research and innovation policy, which aims to position the EU as a leader in innovating with nature to achieve more sustainable and resilient societies.

The European Commission defines nature-based solutions as “solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions”. Nature-based solutions must therefore benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services.

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## ReNature at the IUCN Congress

This Sunday, the 5th of September, ReNature is going to participate at [The International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) World Conservation Congress](#), where international scientists come together to set priorities and drive conservation and sustainable development action.



ReNature will be at the IUCN World Conservation Congress and will be presented at 2 joint sessions by the project coordinator, Mario Balzan. The topic for the first one is "Nature-based solutions for innovation, sustainable economic growth and human well-being in Malta: the ReNature project in Malta." and starts on Sunday 5th of September at 14:00 (CEST). This session will also showcase successful examples and initiatives of nature-based solutions (NbS) in different ecosystem types and urban areas.

The second joint session will include an overview of the ReNature nature-based solutions compendium and its new feature - the

interactive NbS Toolkit, from 16:00 (CEST) on the same day.

You can read more about our participation in the congress here

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📌 A ReNature article has been featured in the EDULEARN Proceedings collection as a successful outcome of the project's participation at the 13th @EdulearnConf Conference on 5 and 6 July 2021!

👉 Read more about the event and the collection here: [bit.ly/2VgqldT](https://bit.ly/2VgqldT)

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