cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Hackathon

Novi Sad, 6-10 October 2025

Dear colleagues,

We have **two open calls** to participate in the coming meta-analysis of Urban Forestry Management Plans (UFMPs) during our Hackathon:

1. Call for participants for the Hackathon
2. Call for a Virtual Mobility Grant to preprocess our UFMPs database

Call for hackathon participants

Meta-Analysis on Urban Forest Management Plans

Are you passionate about urban forest management, urban forest ecosystem services, urban forest policy, sustainable cities and community engagement? We're inviting researchers to join a unique and hands-on workshop dedicated to meta-analysing urban forest management plans from across Europe.

📅 6-10 October 2025, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

🌍 Open to Masters in Science, PhD candidates and postdocs

This hackathon is a unique opportunity to:

- Collaboratively analyse diverse urban tree strategies using both qualitative and quantitative tools.
- Gain practical experience with tools such as Python, R, and data science methods.
- Contribute to a meta-study that may shape future policy and practice in urban forestry.
- Work towards a co-authored academic publication on urban forestry management
- Work alongside leading experts (Anna Codemo, University of Trento; and Eugene McGee, University of Birmingham) and passionate early-career researchers in an interactive and supportive environment.
- Encourage open exchange and discussion between students and trainers, creating a rich space for learning, mentorship, and shared insight.

We welcome applicants with interests or expertise in:

- Green Infrastructure / Urban forest management and planning
- Urban forest ecosystem services
- Geography and landscape planning
- Urban forest policy and Environmental policy
- Community engagement
- Qualitative data analysis

📂 **How to Apply:**

We have approximately 10 places available for this hackathon. Each applicant is requested to upload (i) a short motivation letter, (ii) and a one-page CV by 28th August 20205. The organising committee will use this information to decide which candidates will be accepted. Decisions on participation will be communicated no later than 3rd September 2025.

Please **fill out the application form** and **submit your motivation letter and CV** by following the instructions here: https://bit.ly/intuf-hackathon-2025

✦ There is no registration fee! Participants from COST countries are eligible for full reimbursement of travel and accommodation. Other applicants are welcome if they can provide their own funding.

Virtual Mobility Grant

Call for Researcher: Pre-processing and Structuring of Urban Forest Management Plans

The COST Action Network on Urban Forestry will conduct a meta-analysis of Urban Forest Management (UFM) plans collected from cities across Europe. To date, we have received nearly 300 manuscripts of UFM plans. In preparation for our upcoming Hackathon, we are seeking a highly motivated and skilled researcher to undertake the critical task of pre-processing and structuring the collected data.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

1. Review and clean up the collected UFM plans by removing non-relevant or non-urban forest-related submissions.
2. Classify and structure the relevant UFM plans based on predefined thematic categories (e.g., governance, biodiversity, public engagement, monitoring, etc.).
3. Develop a structured database that consolidates all relevant metadata and plan contents in a usable format for analysis.
4. Ensure the standardization and harmonization of terminologies and document formats across different languages and regions.
5. Prepare a summary or descriptive statistics of the dataset (e.g., geographic distribution, types of plans, timeframes).
6. Work collaboratively with COST Action members to ensure the database is tailored for further analyses during the Hackathon.

Required Skills and Qualifications:

- Background in urban forestry, environmental science, geography, data science, or a related field.
- Proven experience in qualitative and quantitative data pre-processing.
- Strong organizational and analytical skills.
- Familiarity with database management
- Experience in data cleaning and document classification.

- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines.
- Excellent command of English; knowledge of other European languages is a plus.
- Experience working with policy or planning documents is highly desirable.

Timeline:

The task is expected to be carried out **during August–September 2025**, with the final structured database ready by the **end of September, prior to the Hackathon from 6–10 October 2025.**

Compensation and Authorship:

The COST Action may foresee a **virtual mobility grant** to support the researcher's work, depending on the scope and availability of funds. Moreover, the resulting structured database is intended to be published, and the selected researcher will be offered **authorship**, together with other contributors who have submitted UFM plans and supported this collaborative effort.

How to apply:

Interested applicants should submit:

- A brief letter of motivation (max. 1 page)
- A CV highlighting relevant experience

Please send your application no later than the **10th of August 2025** to Prof. Veronika Andrea (vandrea@fmenr.duth.gr) and in cc to Dr. Dieter Anseeuw (dieter.anseeuw@vives.be) and Dr. Tomas Goga (tomas.goga@savba.sk).