

NICHES



NICHES Newsletter, December 2024

Effective stormwater management is crucial in mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events, as evidenced by the recent flooding in Spain that caused widespread damage to infrastructure and communities.

The NICHES project, with its focus on urban ecology and innovative solutions like Nature-Based Solutions, provides a pathway to enhance urban resilience and prevent such disasters in the future.

And as the year has almost reached its end, we are happy to showcase the NICHES achievements towards transforming urban social-ecological-technical water systems and which contributed to making 2024 a successful one for us!

Kicking-off the year with a research paper



Sitting in our own soup? Combined sewers, climate change and nature-based solutions for urban water management in Berlin

NICHES members Tom Wild, Gregory Fuchs and McKenna Davis have joined efforts to conduct research that addresses key challenges faced by cities, researchers and water industry stakeholders. Drawing on insights from Berlin – a city renowned for its innovative and ecologically sustainable practices, the study offers a set of recommendations to guide city stakeholders in developing more comprehensive assessments of the impacts of combined sewer systems and the effectiveness of stormwater management practices.

Cite this paper: *Wild, T., Fuchs, G., & Davis, M. (2024). Sitting in our own soup? Combined sewers, climate change and nature-based solutions for urban water management in Berlin. Nature-Based Solutions, 5(1), 100113.*

<https://doi.org/10.1016/nbjsj.2024.100113>

Read the paper

NICHES met in Barcelona for an annual meeting

NICHES' third annual meeting took place on 15 and 16 March 2024 in Barcelona, Spain. Hosted by [ICTA-UAB](#), the event brought together over 20 in-person and virtual attendees in a hybrid setting. They represented all six partner organisations and the cities that the project's research focuses - Barcelona (Spain), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Boston (USA), Berlin (Germany) and Sheffield (UK).



Read more

NICHES at events

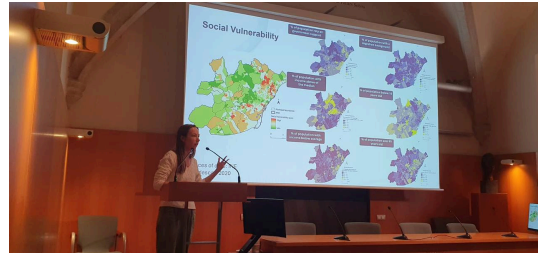
Throughout the past year, NICHES partners attended various events. Some of them are listed below. For more information on the themes and participants, visit the [NICHES website](#).

May 2024

CONEXUS conference

Members of the NICHES consortium presented insights from the NICHES project at the international conference CONEXUS, which took place from 15-17 May 2024 in Barcelona. The conference showcased the latest thinking on urban nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation, linking NBS research, policy, and innovation.

Read about NICHES' attendance [here](#).



June 2024

World Biodiversity Forum

The 3rd World Biodiversity Forum took place from 16 to 21 June 2024 in Davos, Switzerland. NICHES was showcased in a dedicated session titled "Understanding Urban Nature as a Social-Ecological-Technological System." The session was well-represented by consortium members, including the project coordinator Ulf Stein ([Ecologic Institute](#)), along with Tom Wild ([University of Sheffield](#)), Johannes Langemeyer ([Autonomous University of Barcelona](#)), and others.

Read about NICHES' attendance [here](#).

November 2024

Urban Transitions 2024 Conference

At the Urban Transitions Conference, which was held from 5-7 November in Sitges, Spain, NICHES was represented in a dedicated session on *Nature-Based Solutions for Urban Water Challenges - A Social-Ecological-Technological Pathway*, led by project coordinator Dr Ulf Stein of the [Ecologic Institute](#) in Berlin, alongside project partners Johannes Langemayer, Max Lopez-Maciel and Giulia Benati from the [Autonomous University of Barcelona](#).

Read about NICHES' attendance [here](#).



November 2024

NICHES at the 5th ESP Europe Conference

Between 18 and 22 November, the 5th ESP Europe Conference took place in Wageningen, The Netherlands. NICHES partners Johannes Langemayer, Anna Puig and Max Lopez-Maciel of UAB were spotted at the event. While their participation may not have been directly linked to the project, it is crucial to see partners engaging in such significant events. This involvement not only helps expand networks but also opens doors to new opportunities for collaboration with other practitioners in the fields of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation.

November 2024

Fostering nature-based solutions in urban water systems

On 13 November, gathered at the [ICTA-UAB](#) in Barcelona, members of the NICHES project hosted the workshop "Fostering nature-based solutions in urban water systems". The event focused on engaging



various stakeholders of the NICHES project in exploring the pathways for empowering just, sustainable and resilient urban transformations.



December 2024

Transformation of Berlin's Rainwater Management through NbS

On 3 December 2024, the [Ecologic Institute](#) in Berlin hosted a workshop titled "Transformation of Urban Stormwater Management through Nature-Based Solutions: Future Paths for Berlin." This event brought together experts from urban development, water management, nature conservation, and governmental agencies to explore innovative approaches to sustainable rainwater management.

Read more about the event [here](#).

For an overview of NICHES' past events and activities visit our project website!

Explore NICHES' news section

Coming soon...



NICHES Policy Briefs

At the beginning of next year, NICHES is to launch three policy briefs, developed within the context of the project and addressing issues vital to urban ecology implementation.



NICHES Final Conference

NICHES is slowly reaching the end of its duration in March 2025. Looking back at the progress of the project and paving the way forward, NICHES is hosting a final project conference at the beginning of the new year.

And for now, we wish you Happy Holidays!



NICHES

wishes you Happy Holidays and
an amazing New Year!

Don't miss a beat!

Subscribe to the NICHES social media channels!



NICHES Project

This project was funded through the 2020-2021 Biodiversa and Water JPI joint call for research proposals, under the BiodivRestore ERA-Net COFUND programme, and with the funding organisations: German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Agencia Estatal de Investigación, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands.

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