

Nature moves us: green cities, active living | Narava nas zmiga!

Exploring the urban nature-health nexus | Zelena mesta za aktivno življenje

EUKN Policy Lab for Slovenia

12 January 2026 10:00–15:00 CET Ljubljana

Location	M-hotel, Derčeva ulica 4, Ljubljana
Language	English with interpretation to Slovene in the morning session); English only in the afternoon session (interactive workshop).
Organisers	The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) & the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning (MNVP)

The EUKN Policy Lab for Slovenia “Nature moves us: green cities, active living” will bring together leading voices from policy, academia, and practice to reflect on the growing importance of the nature-health nexus in cities. Participants will explore how nature-positive approaches in urban policy and planning can enhance wellbeing by fostering more active, nature-connected ways of living. The Policy Lab will also work toward identifying actionable pathways for embedding Planetary Health principles into policy frameworks and strategies. Insights and outcomes from the discussion will directly contribute to shaping the agenda of the HEPA EUROPE 2026 Conference, “Green Pathways to Health.”

Registration



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA NARAVNE VIRE IN PROSTOR

Program

9:30–10:00 Walk in and registrations

10:00–10:30 Welcome & opening by EUKN and MNVP

- State Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning (Slovenia)
- Martin Grisel, EUKN Director (Netherlands)

10:20–11:15 The nature-health nexus in cities: health benefits of urban green & blue spaces

- Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, Director of the Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative, ISGlobal (Spain)
- Tjaša Knific, Head of 24hr movement research group, National Institute for Public Health (Slovenia)

Q&A with participants, moderated by:

Martin Grisel, EUKN Director / Federica Risi, Senior Policy & Project Officer EUKN

11:15–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–12:45 Panel discussion: key lessons from design and implementation of urban nature-health strategies

- Ina Šuklje, Senior researcher, Urban Planning Institute of Slovenia (Slovenia)
- Marju Prass, Project Lead, Lahti University (Finland);
- Mario Balzan, Founder, Ecostack Innovations, GoGreenNext project (Malta)
- European expert tbc (Sweden)

Q&A with participants, moderated by:

Martin Grisel, EUKN Director / Federica Risi, Senior Policy & Project Officer EUKN

12:45–13:45 Lunch break

13:45–15:00 Workshop: Working group discussions (English only)

Participants engage in interactive discussions divided in 3–4 thematic WGs to delve into and address a set of questions/tasks. Each WG will be self-organised and will appoint its own rapporteur. Experts as well as EUKN and MNVP staff will be distributed across the WGs to feed the exchange and fill-in moderation gaps as needed.

WG rapporteurs report back to plenary (15mins)

15:00–15:10 Wrap up & closure by EUKN