Insights into governance from the UNaLab Project

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24.11.2020

UNaLab: Our Partner Cities

28 partners & **2 observers** from industry, research and public organisations.

10 cities with a balanced geographical spread, diversity in size and climate conditions.

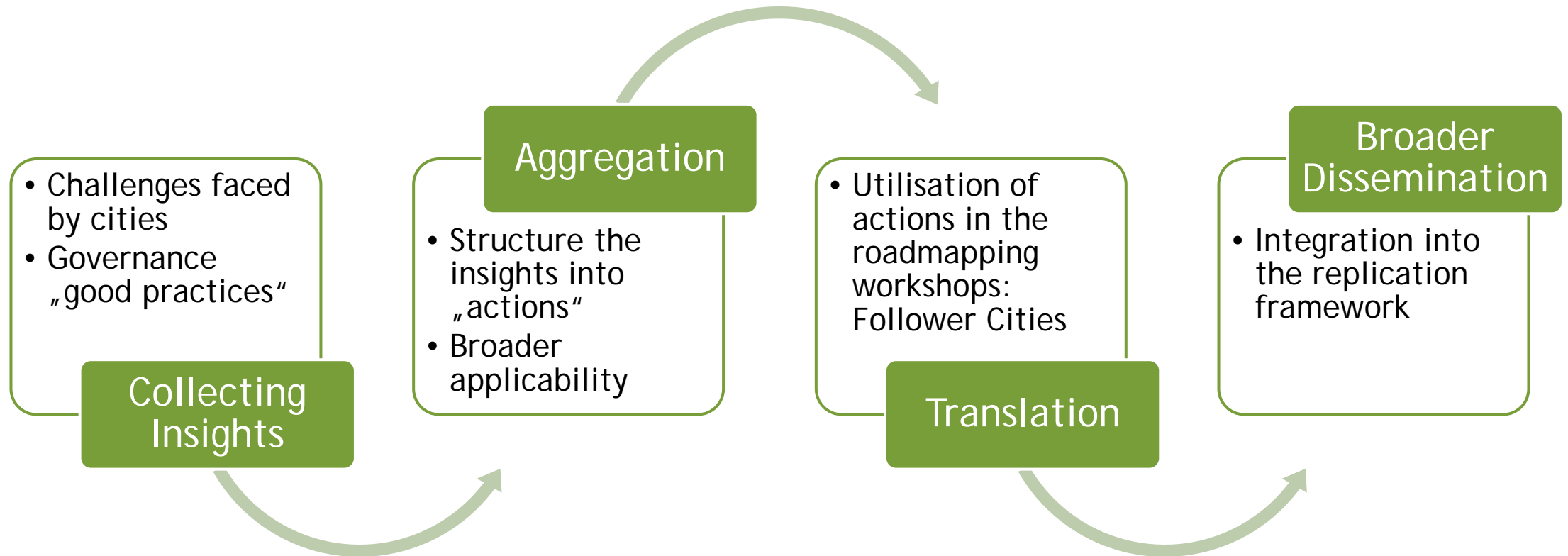**Front-runner Cities:** Eindhoven, Genova & Tampere

Follower Cities: Başakşehir, Cannes, Castellón, Prague, Stavanger, Buenos Aires & Hong Kong

Observers: Guangzhou (CN) & Brazilian Network of Smart Cities

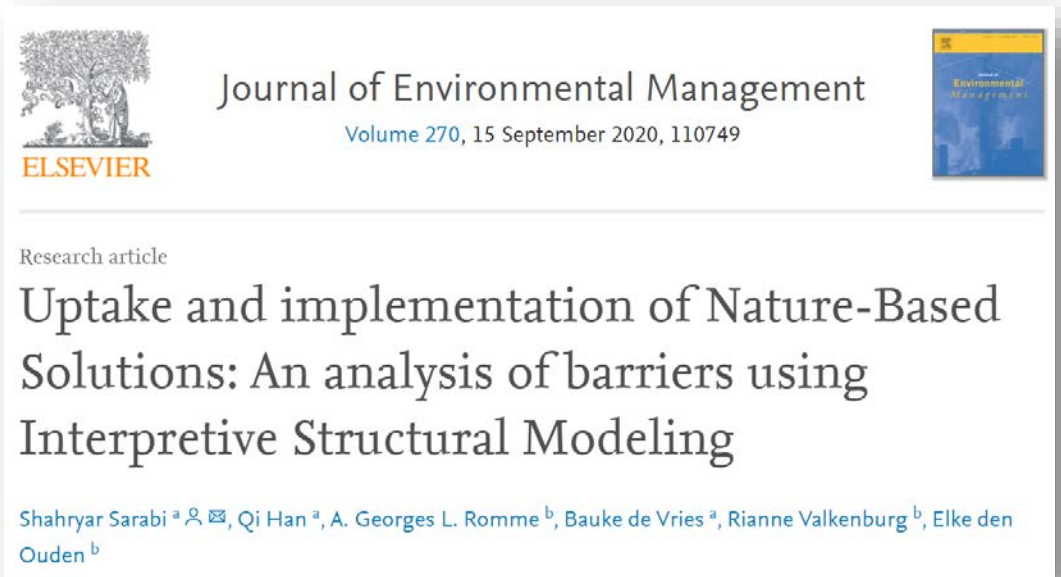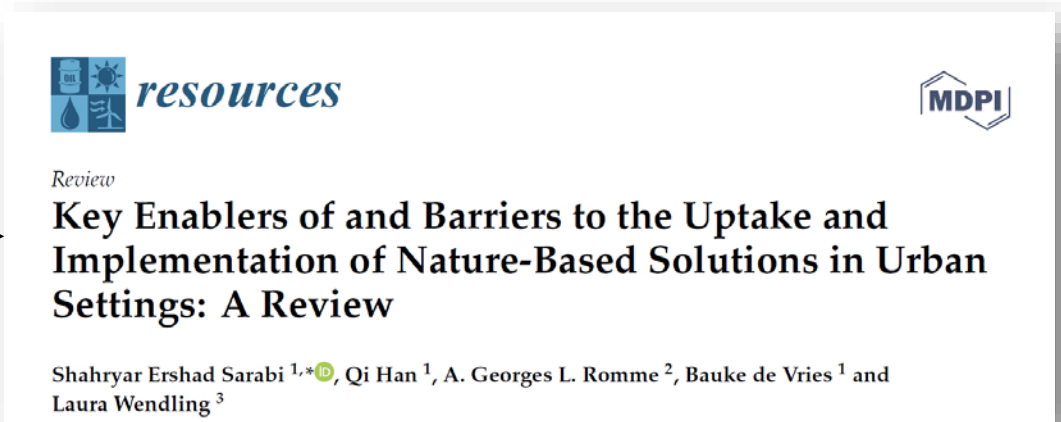= Front-runner City   = Observer City

= Follower City

Stages of development of the governance perspective

Collecting Insights
- Challenges faced by cities
- Governance „good practices"

Aggregation
- Structure the insights into „actions"
- Broader applicability

Translation
- Utilisation of actions in the roadmapping workshops: Follower Cities

Broader Dissemination
- Integration into the replication framework

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Governance-related Challenges

Lack of knowledge and awareness

Political commitment

Organisation

Perceived cost and benefits and financing

Social and environmental justice and land use trade-offs

More Comprehensive perspectives!

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Governance-related Challenges

- Lack of knowledge and awareness
- Political commitment
- Organisation
- Perceived cost and benefits and financing
- Social and environmental justice and land use trade-offs

▶ Amongst municipal workers

▶ Amongst decision makers

▶ Amongst local businesses and citizens

▶ About the potential of NBS to address challenges, their co-benefits and the suitable types to employ

▶ About the functions nature provides to cities

▶ About the technical aspects of planning, building, and maintaining NBS

▶ …

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Governance-related Challenges

Lack of knowledge and awareness

Political commitment

Organisation

Perceived cost and benefits and financing

Social and environmental justice and land use trade-offs

▶ local governments often are subject to short-term actions and decision-making cycles (Kabisch et al., 2016)

▶ Shifting priorities between administrations

▶ Often low on the political agenda: "more pressing issues"

▶ Trade-offs can be politically difficult: e.g. competition for urban space

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▶ NBS tend not to be ad hoc - they are not developed to address one specific problem, but a range of interconnected challenges

▶ Require the cooperation of a range of actors who typically may not have worked effectively together in the past

▶ NBS often contribute a high degree of public (rather than private) goods; therefore, these dispersed benefits cannot be easily allocated to one department or actor, but multiple departments and actors

▶ At times unclear responsibilities

→ NBS as a boundary object to improve cross departmental cooperation?

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▶ Some of the ecosystem services provided by NBS are intangible public goods → Payoffs not easily measurable as financial streams to investors (Toxopeus and Polzin, 2017)

  ▶ Budgetary constraints might imply prioritising other policy areas for funding that have more readily quantified and articulated benefits

▶ Difficult to demonstrate cost effectiveness when compared to conventional solutions with traditional cost benefit models

▶ On private land: private costs for often public goods

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Governance-related Challenges

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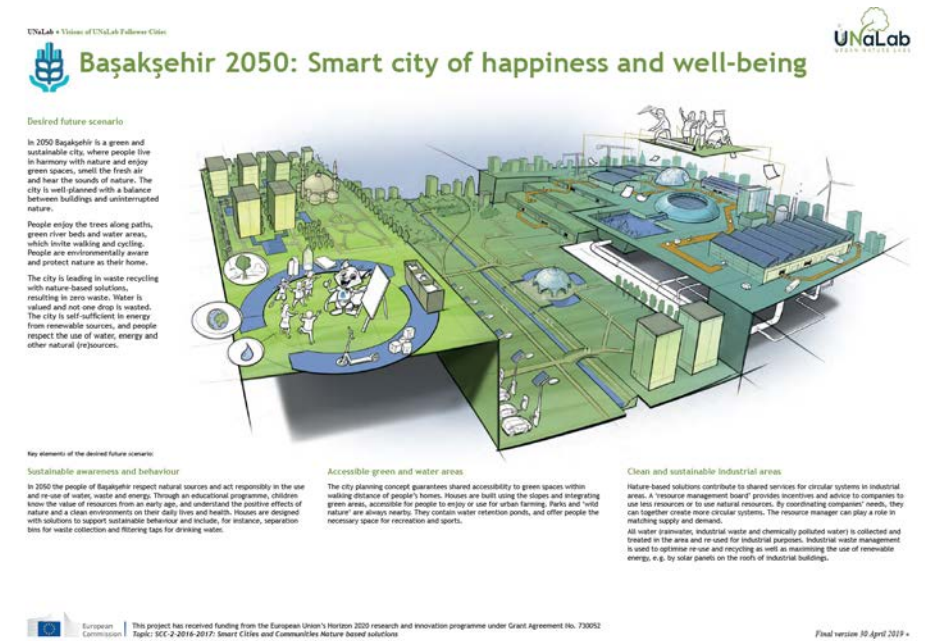**Social and environmental justice and land use trade-offs**

- ▶ Green gentrification: Increasing attractiveness → increasing demand for housing and housing prices, potentially pushing certain groups out
  - ▶ See Lene-Voigt-Park in Leipzig and the "High Line" project in New York (Haase et al. 2017)
- ▶ Uneven distribution: need to utilise mechanisms to support more even green space accessibility
- ▶ Building compact cities vs green space accessibility → building density can come at the expense of space for nature

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Governance interventions: visions and guiding principles

▶ Bringing actors together to work towards a common ambition

▶ Potential to break down the vision into goals and performance indicators

2020 Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities Ltd.

Source: Shuyang Xu. From Chan et al (2018)

UNalab Roadmaps

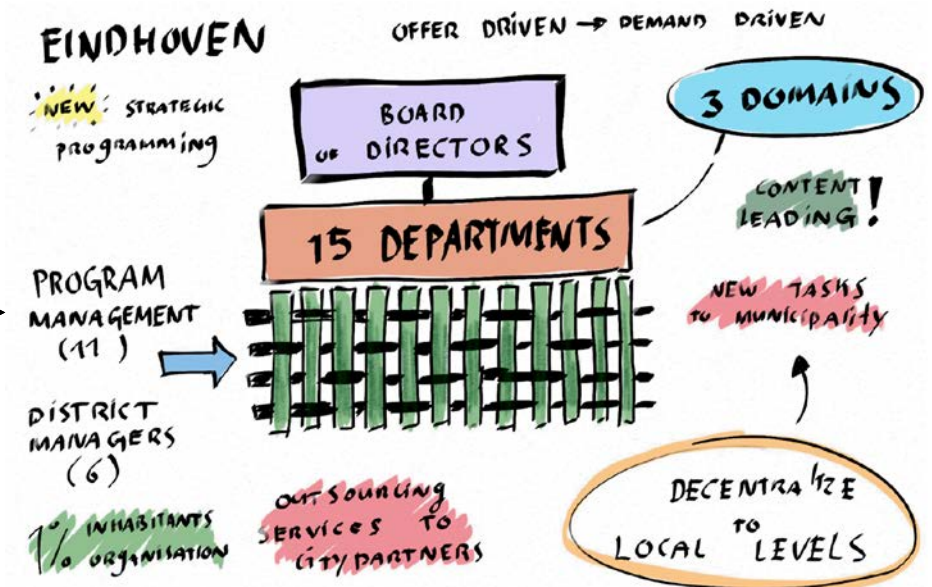Başakşehir's vision for a climate resilient city

Governance interventions: Fostering cross-sectoral exchange

- ▶ Providing institutional (and physical) space for exchange between actors

- ▶ Working on common projects

- ▶ Development of informal networks
  - ▶ Presentations/bar camps/workshops/etc.

- ▶ Beyond the „usual suspects"
  - ▶ Health? Transportation? Maintenance?

Program: "High-quality public spaces"

Program: "Climate adaptation and health"

HIEDANRANTA, Tampere

SMART IMPACT (Radecki et al 2017)

Governance Interventions: Regulations and incentives

- Carrots and Sticks to steer development
  - Hamburg and Basel: Green roof requirements embedded into building law and subsidies; award for the „best looking green roof"
  - Stuttgart: Green roof requirements embedded into building law
  - Tampere: Grants for NBS; "Green factor" to guide development projects: taking into account blue green elements

- Payment for ecosystem services

Stadt Hamburg

Governance Interventions: Inclusive urban development

▶ Genova: Re-connecting the Gavoglio Barracks area to the local neighbourhood

▶ Improving green space accessibility and flood protection

  ▶ A park for all → Access to new functional areas and paths for local residents

  ▶ Spaces for socializing to reconnect people with nature

  ▶ Bottom up initiative: Driven by diverse local and community organisations

  ▶ Participatory process involving citizens' cooperatives, builders' groups and more than 30 local associations → co-designing their public spaces
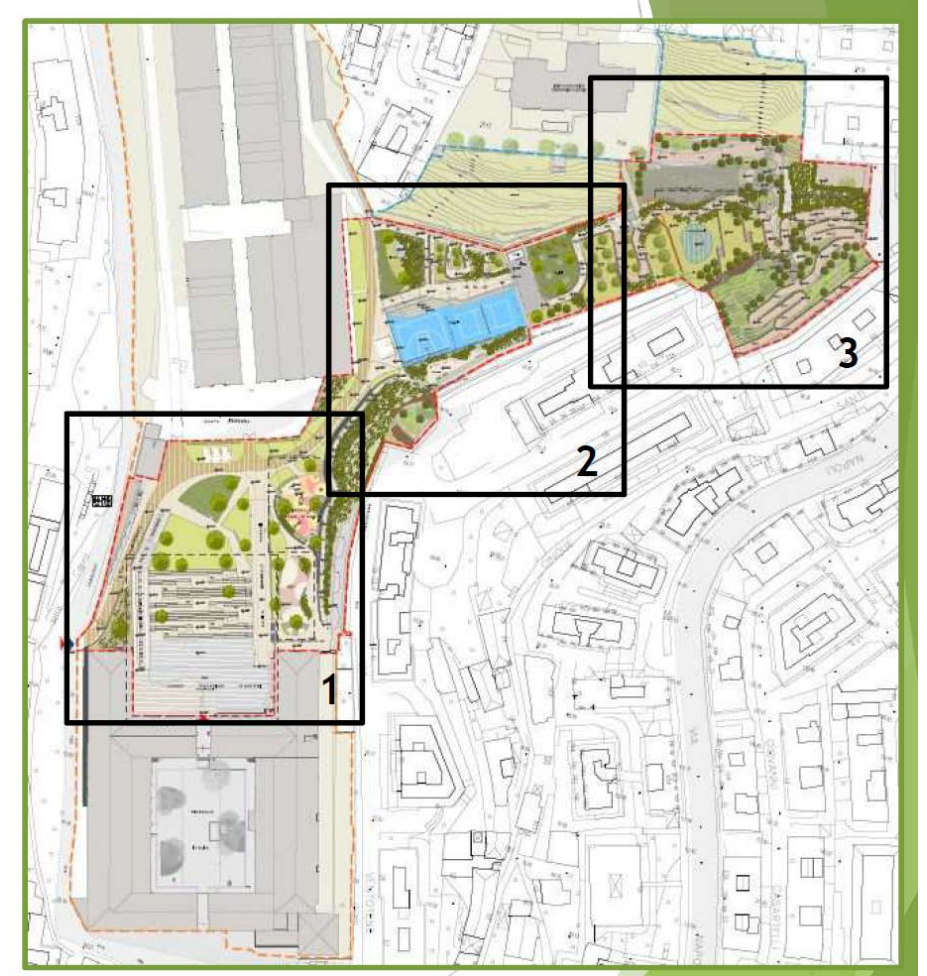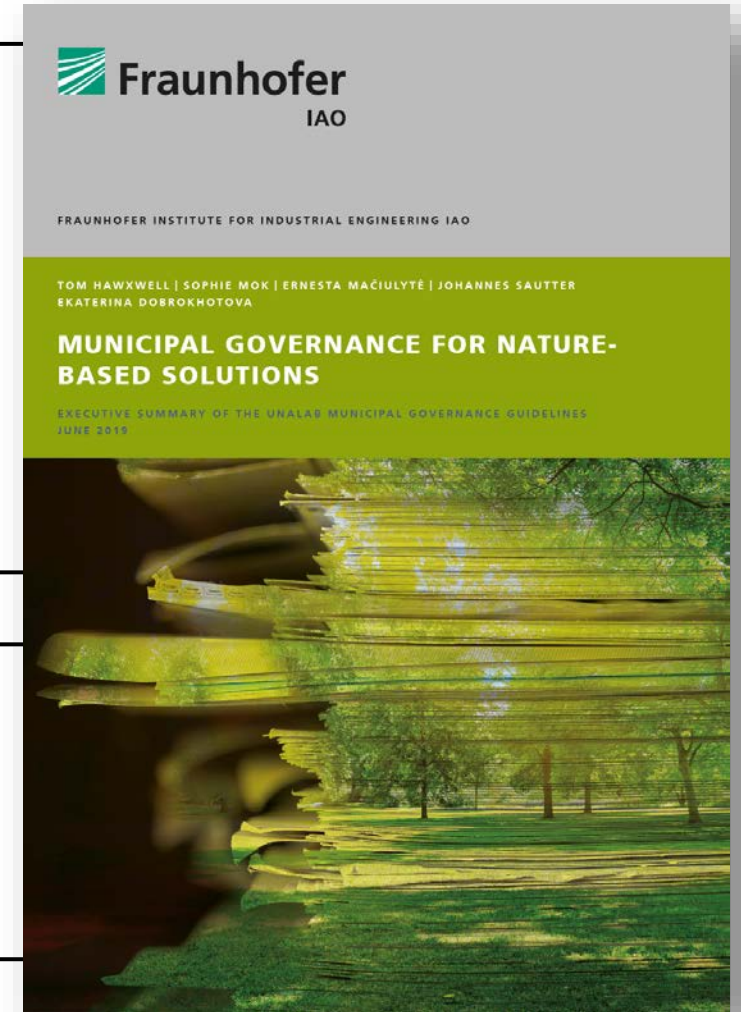

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Aggregating the findings: Governance Actionfields

Municipal Strategy and Planning

- MP1 Development of shared visions
- MP2 Embedding NBS in existing plans and strategies
- MP3 Experimental areas for pilot projects
- MP4 Utilising environmental and sustainability management systems
- MP5 Development of a resilience strategy
- MP6 Awareness campaigns
- MP7 Use of Blue-Green Factors

Organisation and Structure

- OS1 Structures for cross-sectoral cooperation
- OS2 Fostering of informal networks
- OS3 Training of administrative staff in cross-cutting issues
- OS4 Central contact point for NGOs

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MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE UNALAB MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES
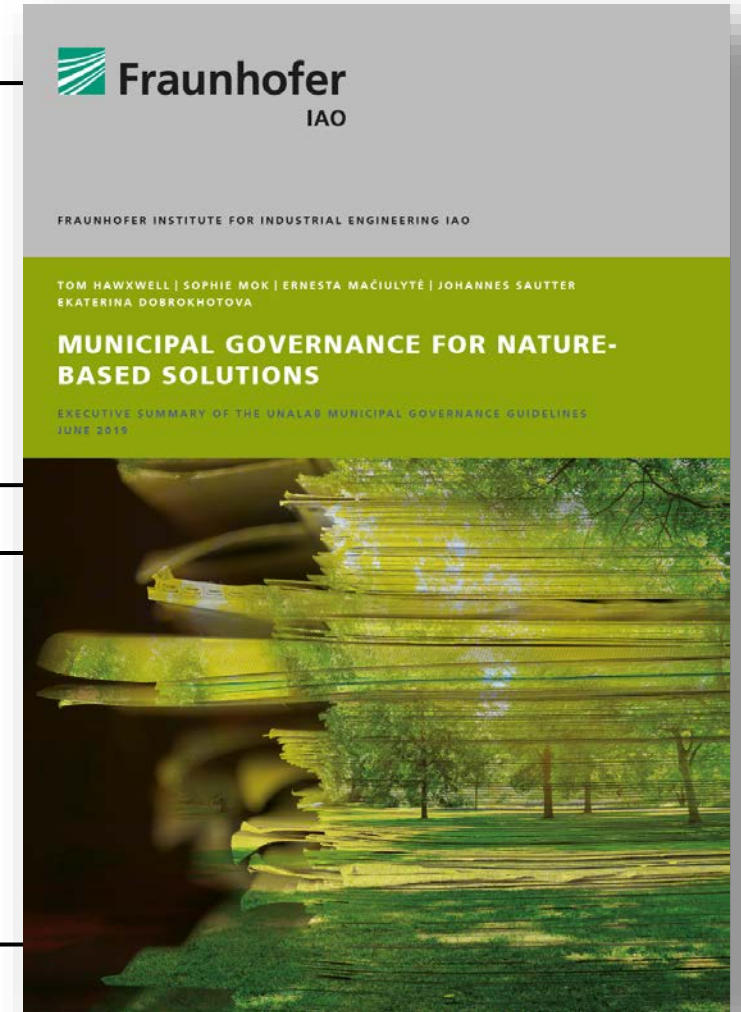JUNE 2019

Aggregating the findings: Governance Actionfields

Regulations and incentives

- RI1 Review of the existing policy framework
- RI2 Introducing NBS-supportive building regulations
- RI3 Introducing NBS-supportive zoning regulations
- RI4 Introducing incentives to enhance private sector engagement
- RI5 Use of compensation schemes
- RI6 Use of certification schemes and sustainability programs

Data Governance

- DG1 Data management strategy
- DG2 Data governance and management inside departments
- DG3 Data governance and management between municipal departments
- DG4 Data as an instrument for governing external agencies and contractors

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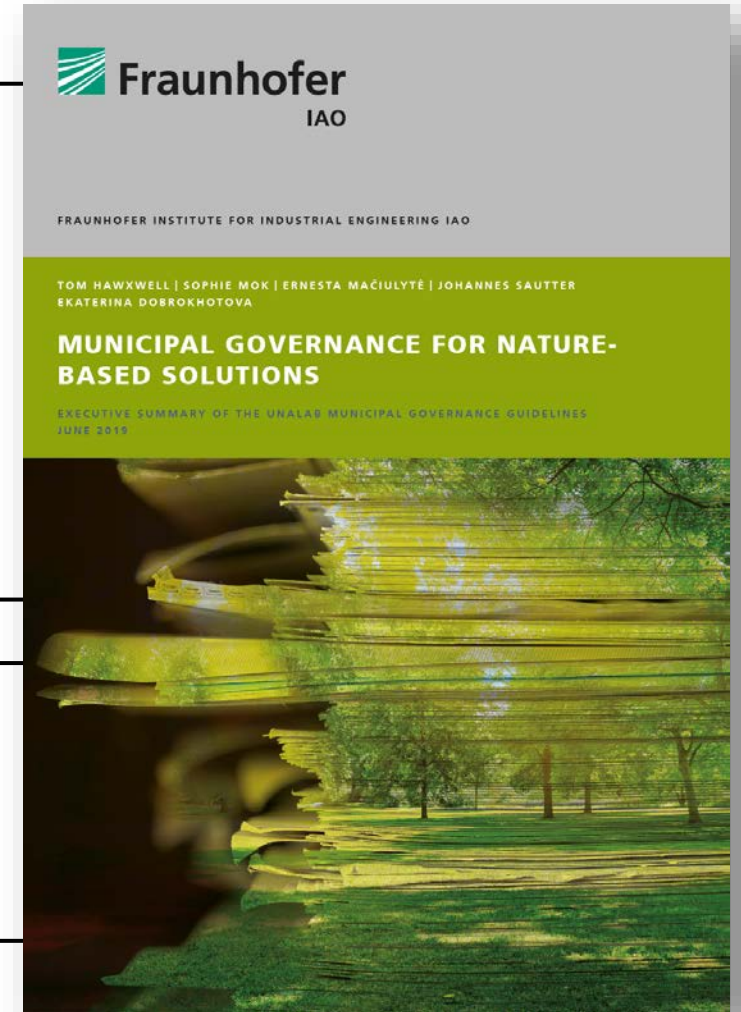JUNE 2019

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Aggregating the findings: Governance Actionfields

Finance and procurement

- FP1 Including the Total Economic Value Framework (TEV) in Cost Benefit Analysis
- FP2 Investigating the opportunities for additional internal revenue sources
- FP3 Issuing green bonds
- FP4 Engaging in public-private partnerships
- FP5 Introducing MEAT award criterion in public procurement
- FP6 Evaluate the possibilities for applying for EU and other Donor-funds
- FP7 Coordination across multiple departments

Inclusive urban development

- ID1 Integration of social inclusion into green space planning
- ID2 Mechanisms to influence housing prices
- ID3 Establish a "Just green enough" approach
- ID4 Quantitative and qualitative assessment tools and standards

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"Translation" into other urban contexts

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Question for the Audience: Menti

In your opinion, what is the most important governance challenge to address to improve the uptake of NBS in cities?

Lack of knowledge and awareness	Political commitment	Organisation	Perceived cost and benefits and financing	Social and environmental justice and land use trade-offs	Something else...

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