



The UPSURGE Project Final Conference

# Guiding Cities to Deliver Regenerative Urban Transformation

## SESSION 1

# Setting the Scene: From Policy Visions to City Action

Keynote: Paola Lepori

Moderator: Priscila Franco Steier

10 February 2026  
Katowice, Poland



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 101003818

## Keyonte

**Paola Lepori** - ICLEI Europe



HEAD OF BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Expert in bridging policy with local action on sustainable development. Paola leads flagship EU projects including NetworkNature and the Berlin Urban Nature Pact, working at the intersection of policy, science, and practice.

## Panelists

**Helena**

**Jadwiszczok-Molencka**

Silesian Marshal's Office

PhD in Cultural Studies, art historian. Specialist in sustainable buildings and cultural heritage protection. Focuses on heritage valuation and sustainable development



**Martin Grisel**

European Urban Knowledge Network

Director and founder of EUKN. Focuses on sustainable urban development with European governments. Expert in NbS, Greening Cities Partnership, and EU urban programmes



**Małgorzata**

**Bartyna-Zielińska**

City Council of Wrocław

PhD at the Wrocław University of Technology, research focused on NbS in spatial planning. Urban planner at Wrocław Municipality; since 2017, project manager and head of the Climate and Environment Unit.





# Urban transformation has long been destructive



Camilo Jose Vergara



# But it doesn't have to be.





# City-centered approach to catalyze nature-based solutions through the EU Regenerative Urban Lighthouse for pollution alleviation and regenerative development



[WWW.UPSURGE-PROJECT.EU](http://WWW.UPSURGE-PROJECT.EU)



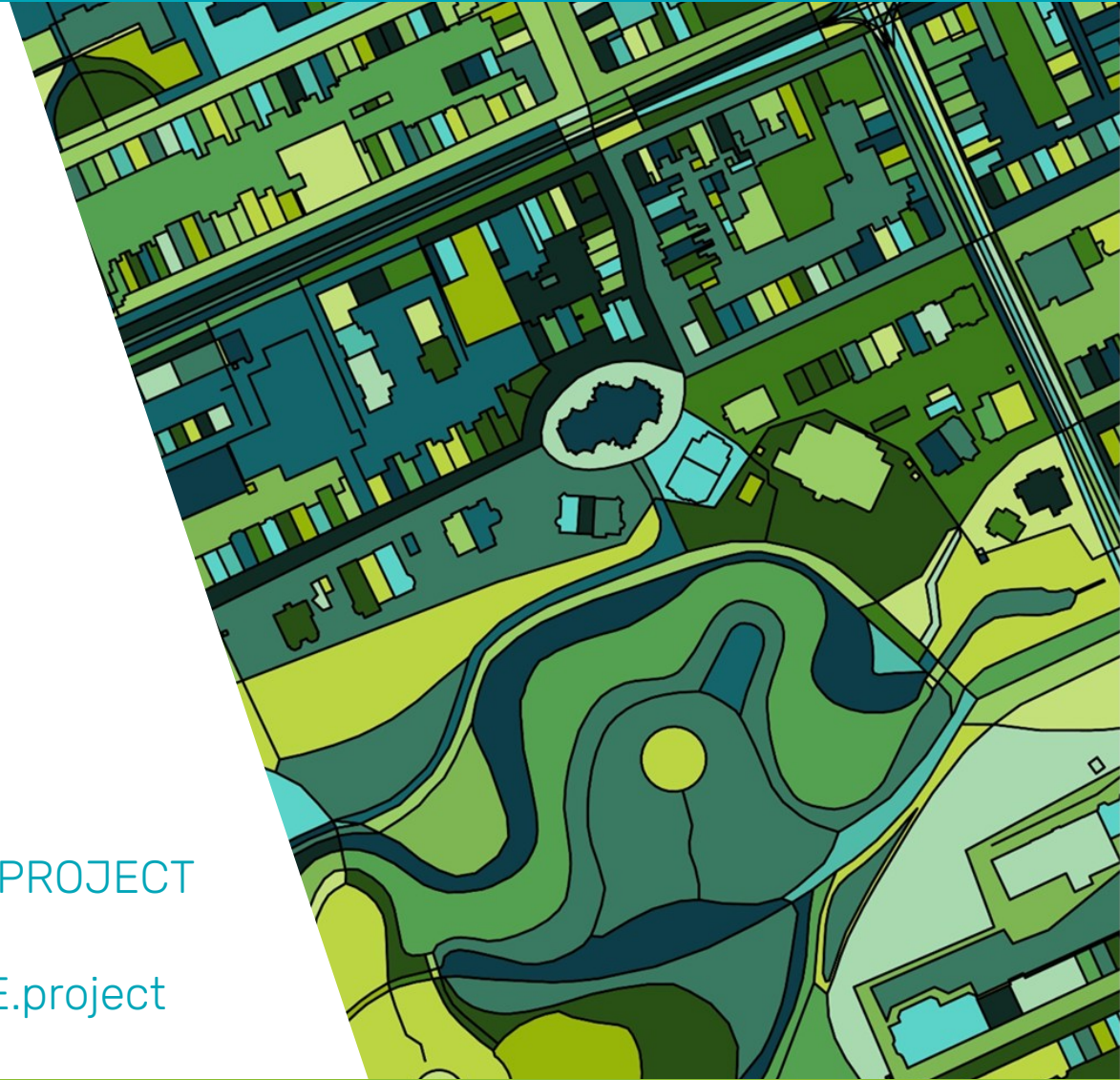
[@UPSURGE\\_H2020](https://twitter.com/UPSURGE_H2020)



[UPSURGE-PROJECT](https://www.linkedin.com/company/upsurge-project)



[@UPSURGE.project](https://www.facebook.com/UPSURGE.project)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 101003818

The UPSURGE Project Final Conference: Guiding Cities to Deliver Regenerative Urban Transformation

10.02.2026, Katowice, Poland