ESPON EUROPEAN UNION

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

// Insights to TA+2020 from GRETA

(Green Infrastructure, Ecosystem Services, Connectivity, Multifunctionality, Spatial planning and management)

space 4 environment

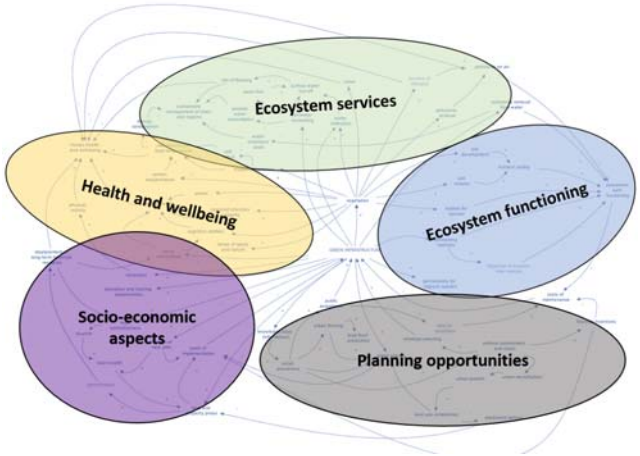
UAB Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Nordregio

The James Hutton Institute

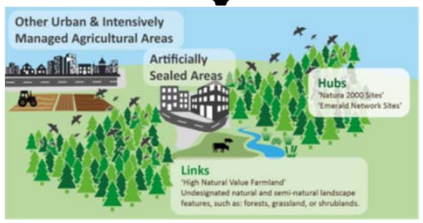
tecnalia

GRETA project results contributing to Green Infrastructure assessment, enhancement and implementation



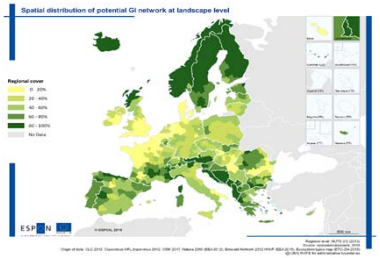
Applied research results

Literature review on GI and ES **benefits and challenges** and economic valuation methods

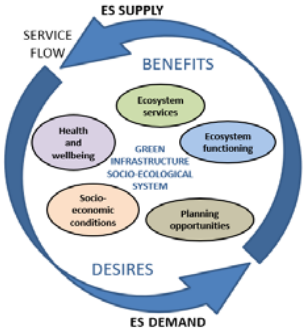


Spatial distribution of **GI in Europe**

- Characterization in **physical** terms at landscape and city level
- Characterization in **functional** terms at landscape level

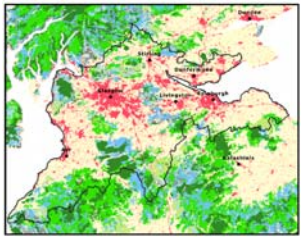


Spatial analysis of **ES synergies and trade-offs, accessibility, supply and demand for GI** to inform planning



Analysis of **policy context, strategies and planning instruments** in Europe in support to GI implementation and management
32 NFS

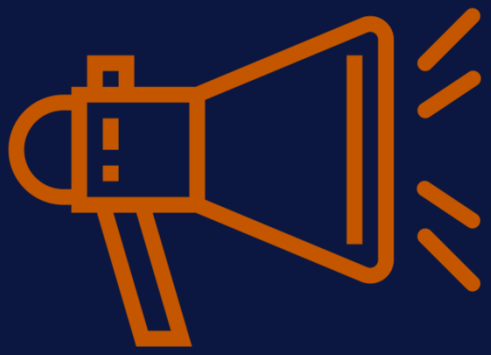
12 **Case studies** and 25 **good practice** examples



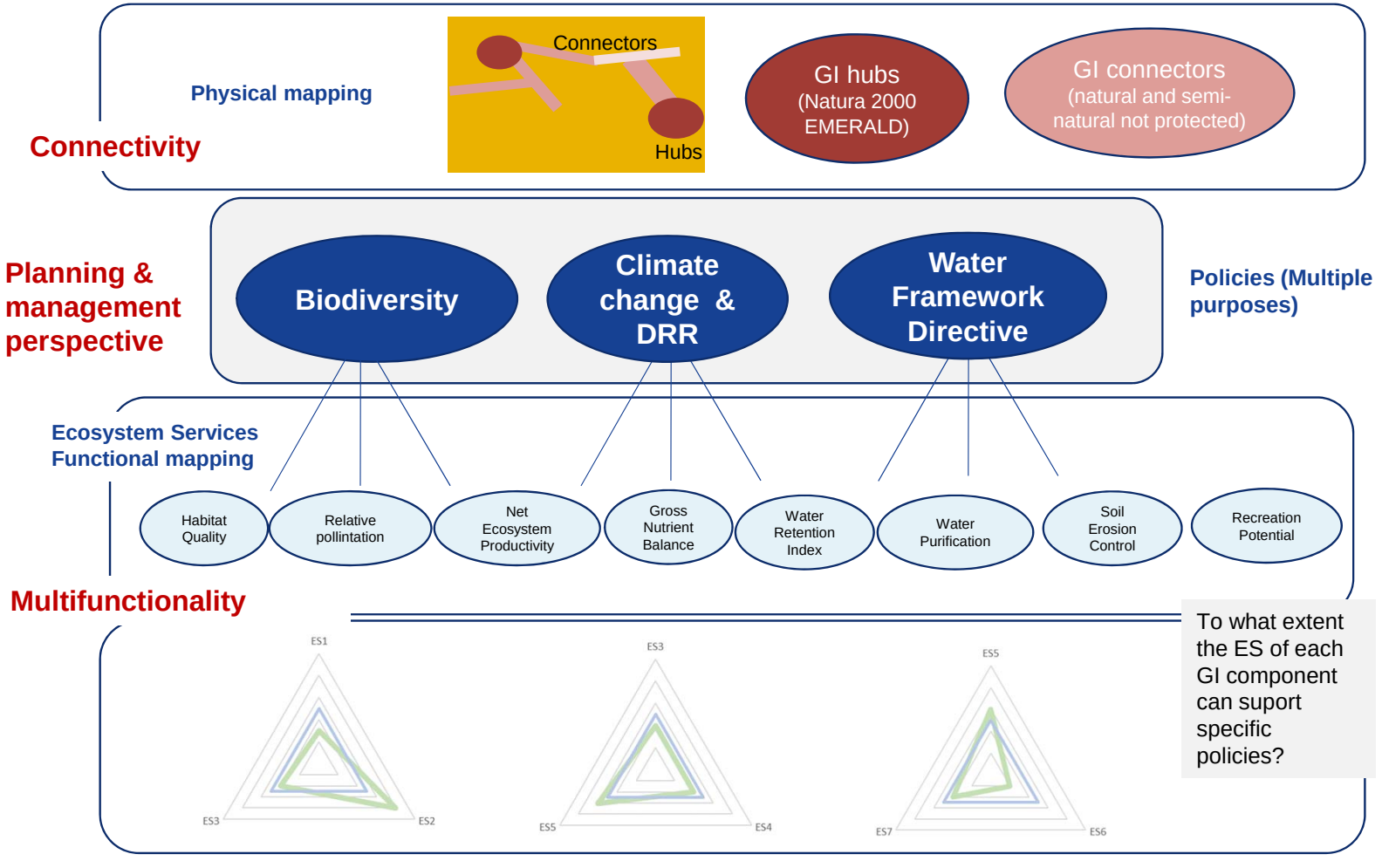
Policy guidelines and practice briefings

2

GRETA messages towards a greener TA+ 2020



1. Spatial distribution of potential GI in EU



- Standardized comparison of “potential” GI
- Evaluation of the ability of GI to serve different policy objectives: i.e. biodiversity, water management and climate change.
- Transferible methodology

2. Green Infrastructure as an instrument to support policy objectives

Connected and multifunctional GI network is an opportunity to contribute to mitigate the main long term environmental challenges- **PROACTIVE APPROACH**

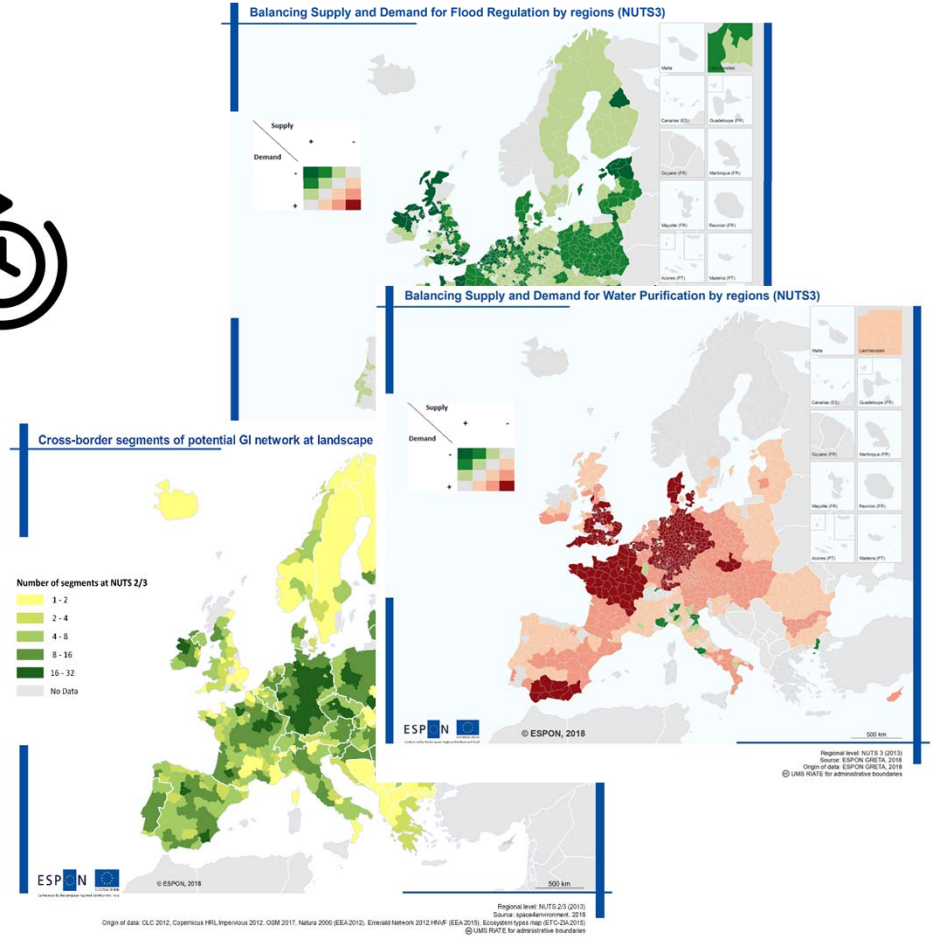
Climate change vulnerability (adaptation/ mitigation)- **need for dynamic planning future conditions**

Loss of **biodiversity** + ecosystem services degradation by land fragmentation

Decoupling of energy, mobility and **resource consumption** (e.g. water, land) with growth

Air, soil, (fresh) water and maritime **pollution**

Key challenge: How to better integrate **agriculture**- <u>areas with Low % of potential GI-</u> opportunity to greening agriculture in a more integrated way - linking agricultural practices in a regional context. Strategic agriculture.



3. Green Infrastructure as an integrated approach for rethinking territorial trends

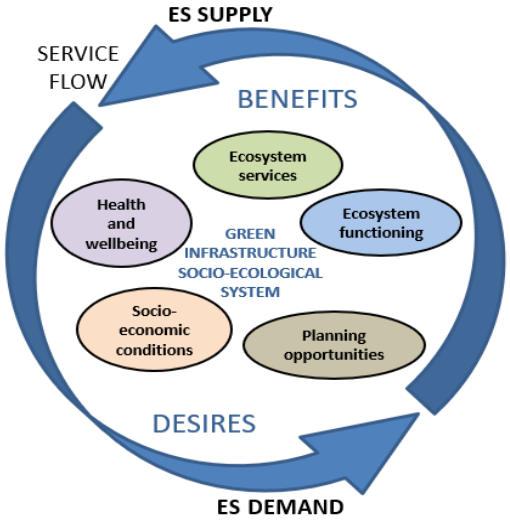
- **Economic trends** that will have an strong impact on environmental challenges:

(-) Competing land uses, urban expansion, transport and energy infrastructures
(-) Concentration of specialized hotpots (i.e. trade, logistics, financial, educational..)
(-) Reindustrialization processess in many European Regions
(-) Agriculture and Forestry (CAP)

(+) Circular economy favouring ”placed-based” activities
(+) Changing nature of tourism

- **Also political trends:** different jurisdictions and planning systems; land use conflicts between neighbouring countries and/or regions

GI could be an instrument to have a different perspective on the territory



4. Green Infrastructure to inform strategic planning and evidence-based decision making

GRETA methodology and findings allow for:

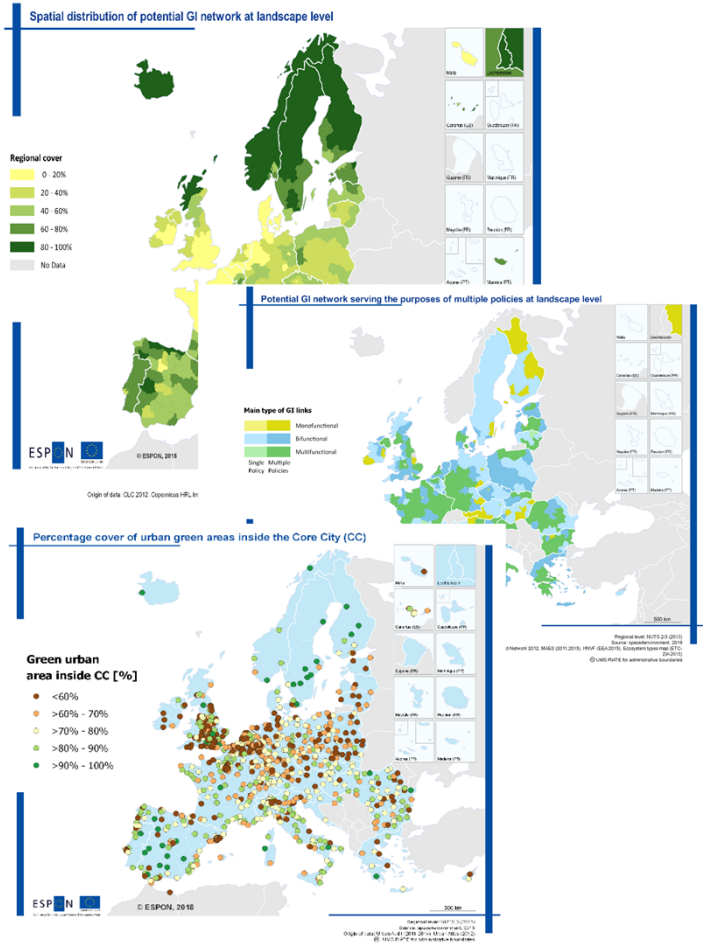
Hotpots of potential GI and the deficiencies in its availability- **fragmentation-** **(**LinkPAs project)

Areas of opportunity for **investment in GI restoration or maintenance**

Areas to improve connectivity and to address specific policy objectives (particularly for **transboundary spatial planning-** (CPS targeted analysis)

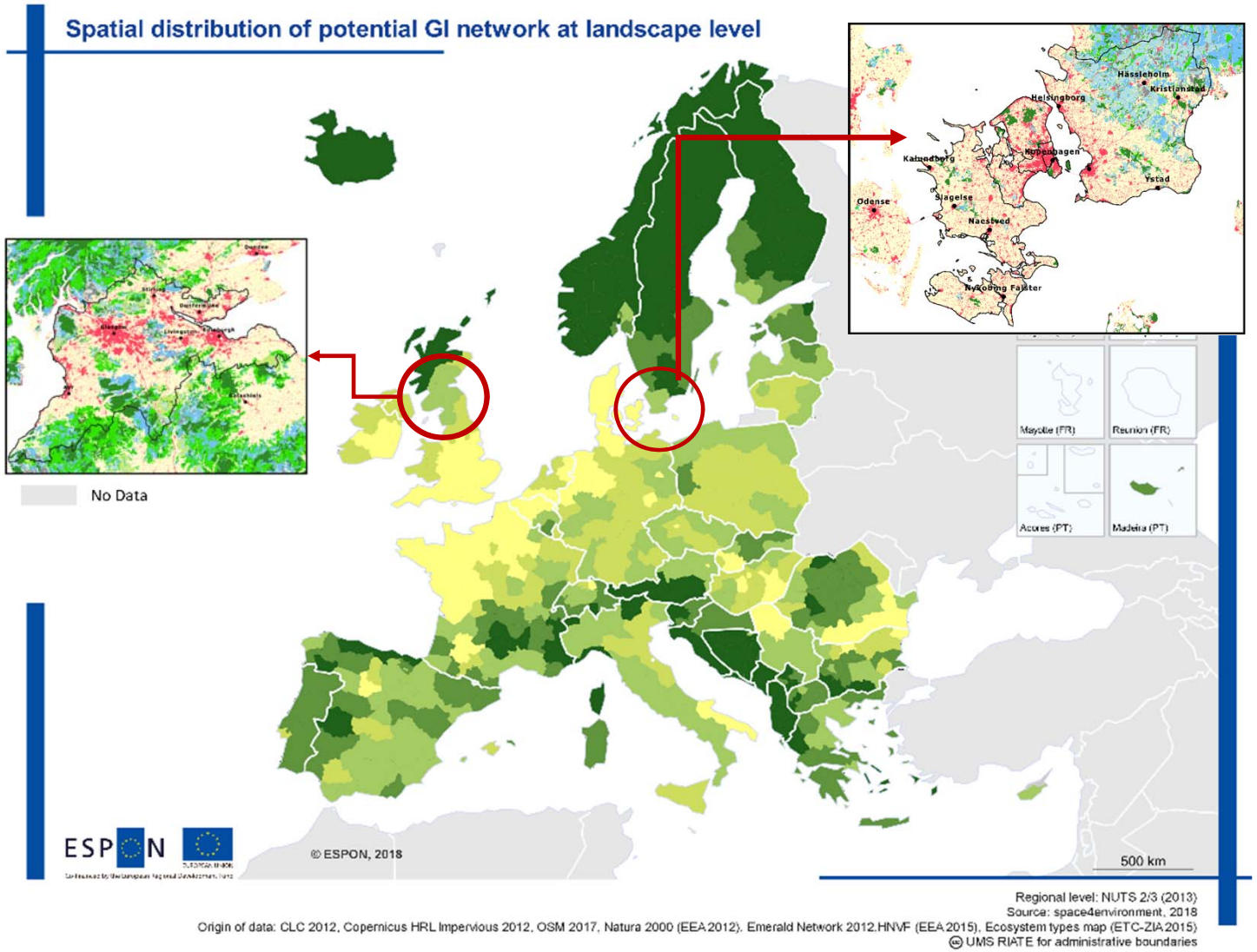
The city level analysis allows for the **identification of gaps** and untapped potential in GI networks- **urban-peri-urban realities- low accessibility to GI**

Changes in blue/green areas: the fact that so few core cities in Europe have seen an increase in GI represents a critical opportunity for more **joined-up, cross sector planning** particularly in the face of the urgent need for climate change mitigation and adaptation action.



5. Zoom in to GRETA spatial analyses

Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN)



Greater Copenhagen and Scania

The maps tell us a full narrative on the GI phenomena and its implications for planning and management:

TA+2020 priorities to become greener

TA+2020 As a framework for bottom– up vision

Identifying and quantifying the **benefits and challenges** of GI is important **for strategic planning**

1) There is a need for improved understanding of the motivations for implementing GI

2) also for better management to maximise synergies and minimise trade-offs between different policy objectives

Accurate and updated spatial data on potential GI networks should be **informing strategic planning and evidence-based decision making**

3) to prioritise areas that either require increased safeguarding or restoration-maximization of investment priorities

Appropriate territories

Regional level seems to be best scale for GI implementation in line with spatial planning

However- a focus on urban-peri-urban areas is important for reinforcing the link between inside and outside the city. Some results showed that some urban areas where completely disconnected (implying low accessibility)

GI as an integrated approach for enhancing sustainable territorial trends

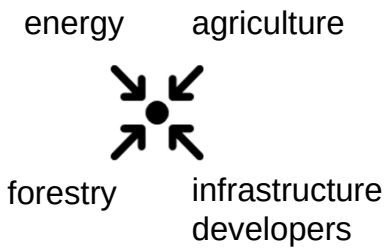
TA+2020 priorities to become greener

TA+ 2020 As a framework for enhanced cooperation strategies

GI concepts and approach could help in building up a robust and convincing argument for cooperation and action

Sector approach:

Coordinating and integrating GI design, planning, implementation and management across policy sectors- spatial planning as an umbrella



Spatial approach:

- Cross border areas (regional/national) as opportunity areas: different geographies, jurisdictions, planning systems…
- Taking advantage of the mature cross-border institutions and strategies already in place and looking for new opportunities (i.e. CPS)

TA+2020 priorities to become greener

- **Local and regional authorities** have a particular important role in assessing environmental impacts and protecting & enhancing our natural capital.
- There is a need for further collaboration, awareness, capacity building, and knowledge exchange to **build a common understanding** between professionals operating at different implementation stages and scales.
- Better use of the **spatial planning process**, improved **capacity** and **knowledge-based decision making** and better **institutional cooperation** are also needed.
- **Strategic integration of GI across policy sectors must be encouraged** and supported to maintain existing integration between policy areas and further embed green infrastructure in other relevant policy domains, including: finance, energy, health, and social services.
- Other actors – private - public partnerships
- Different levels of engagement and stakeholder analysis in order to deliver **the right messages to the right audience**

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Thank you

GRETA team

Gemma Garcia-Blanco, TECNALIA

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