

Interreg**Co-funded by
the European Union****North-West Europe****Cool Neighbourhoods**

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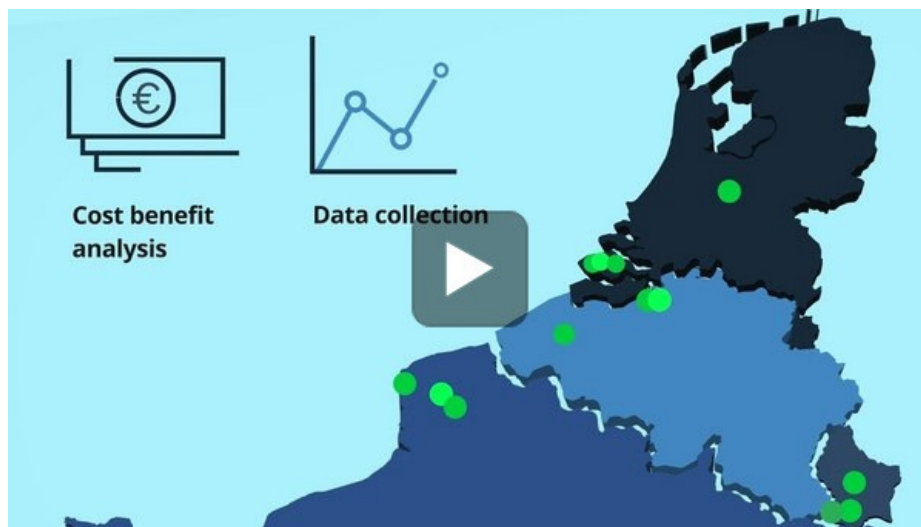
The Cool Neighbourhoods Project in a Nutshell

The Cool Neighbourhoods project is on a mission to tackle urban heat stress by transforming cities into cooler, greener spaces. What sets this initiative apart from other climate projects is its emphasis on research and real-time data collection. Led by the Municipality of Middelburg, this project brings together partners from across North-West Europe, with nine pilot areas across five countries, to implement nature-based solutions that improve urban liveability. One of the unique aspects of the Cool Neighbourhoods project is the use of sensors to measure the impact of various cooling measures, not only on public spaces but also on adjacent buildings. In collaboration with HZ University of Applied Sciences in Zeeland, we are conducting heat stress measurements at the neighbourhood level using temperature and humidity sensors to monitor Urban Heat Islands (UHI). This data will be used to develop a comprehensive guideline for municipalities to carry out comparable heat stress measurements in other areas.

In addition to this, the project is developing an implementation plan for citizen science, using low-cost temperature sensors to involve local communities in monitoring and mitigating heat stress. The results of this research will be compiled into a guidebook that will help municipalities across the pilot areas and beyond to assess and tackle heat stress at the neighbourhood level. Through these innovative research-driven approaches, Cool Neighbourhoods is creating a blueprint for climate-resilient neighbourhoods that can be adapted across Europe. By engaging communities and testing scalable solutions, we're building a future where urban spaces are cooler, greener, and more liveable. Stay up to date with the latest news and developments from the Cool Neighbourhoods project.

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Discover Cool Neighbourhoods Through Our New Animation

We're thrilled to share an exciting new way to explore the Cool Neighbourhoods project—through a visually captivating animation. This short video illustrates the project's mission to reduce urban heat stress and improve liveability by transforming public spaces with nature-based solutions.

The animation highlights key elements of the project, including community involvement, pilot projects, and sustainable urban planning strategies. It's a quick, engaging way to see how Cool Neighbourhoods is making a difference in cities across North-West Europe.

Don't miss out—watch the animation today and get a glimpse into the future of climate-resilient neighbourhoods.

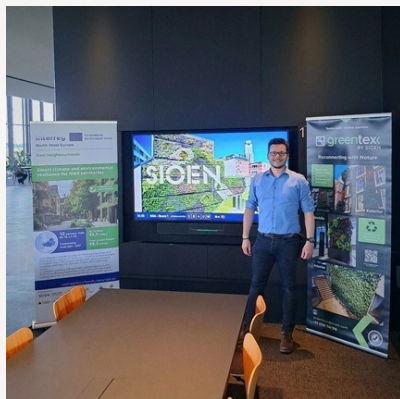
Click [here](#) for the Dutch subtitled version

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Partner Focus - Cool Neighbourhoods at Recent Sustainability Events



This month, we are excited to spotlight our partner Sioen, represented by Dr. Benny Pycke, who made significant contributions to the Cool Neighbourhoods project at the European Hospitality event in Kruisem and the Transition Forum Day in Mechelen. Both events were centred around sustainability and the future of our environment, providing a fantastic backdrop for discussing our project's impact and future plans.



Dr. Pycke shared his experiences with Cool Neighbourhoods, highlighting our mission to create comfortable and sustainable environments in North-West Europe. The response was overwhelming, with more than 350 visitors eager to learn about our initiatives and how we can work together to combat urban heat stress.

These events allowed us to connect with various stakeholders and the public, emphasizing our commitment to developing cooler, greener neighbourhoods. It was an inspiring few days, and we're excited to continue collaborating with our partners to drive forward the objectives of the Cool Neighbourhoods project!

Cool Neighbourhoods Project: A Transnational Partnership for Climate-Resilient Cities

The Cool Neighbourhoods project, is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at mitigating urban heat stress while creating greener, more liveable neighbourhoods across North-West Europe. This ambitious project brings together nine pilot sites across five countries, each representing one of three unique typologies: Inner City Neighbourhoods, Deprived Areas, and Green Hubs.

At the heart of this initiative is the partner Except, which is responsible for the co-joint development of the Cool Neighbourhoods Action Plans. These action plans are tailored to address the specific challenges and opportunities of each typology, supported by an empowerment scheme, a structured methodology, and a guidebook for wider application.

The Nine Pilot Sites and Their Typologies

Location	Typology
Middelburg, Netherlands	Inner City Neighbourhood
Goes, Netherlands	Inner City Neighbourhood
Wimereux, France	Inner City Neighbourhood
Saint Omer, France	Deprived Area
Middelburg, Netherlands	Deprived Area
Ettelbruck, Luxembourg	Green Hub
Province of Antwerp, Belgium	Green Hub
Differdange, Luxembourg	Green Hub
Goes, Netherlands	Green Hub

Key Contributions by Knowledge Partners



HZ University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands)

Leading efforts in heat stress monitoring using innovative sensor technology. This includes collecting temperature and humidity data and developing guidelines for municipalities to conduct neighbourhood-level heat stress assessments.



University of Antwerp (Belgium)

Spearheading strategies to improve liveability by integrating citizen-driven approaches into climate-adaptive urban design and a cost benefit model on neighbourhood level.



Province of Antwerp

Leads the development of a training scheme to build the capacities of professionals in local authorities, urban planning agencies and other organisations involved in climate adaption and heat-stress reduction at neighbourhood level.

A Collaborative Vision for the Future

Together, these pilot sites and partners are testing, refining, and scaling solutions to create a blueprint for climate-resilient cities. The Cool Neighbourhoods project exemplifies the power of transnational collaboration, showing how diverse regions can come together to tackle shared climate challenges.

Stay connected for updates and insights as we continue to transform urban areas into cooler, greener, and more sustainable spaces. To learn more and stay informed.

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A Transnational Partnership for liveability Neighbourhoods

The Cool Neighbourhoods project, spearheaded by the Municipality of Middelburg, is a ground-breaking initiative addressing urban heat stress by creating greener, more liveable neighbourhoods across North-West Europe. With nine pilot sites spanning five countries, this collaborative effort unites diverse regions to implement nature-based solutions, enhancing urban resilience and sustainability.

What sets Cool Neighbourhoods apart is its focus on research-driven approaches and community engagement. By incorporating real-time data collection, the project measures the effects of cooling measures not only in public spaces but also on neighbouring buildings. Partners like Except Integrated Sustainability play a vital role in developing the Cool Neighbourhood Action Plans, which account for the unique characteristics of three typologies—Inner City Neighbourhoods, Deprived Areas, and Green Hubs—while integrating empowerment schemes, methodologies, and a comprehensive guidebook for scalability.



Kick-Off and Inspiration Event – How Cool is That?

On 13 June, the Cool Neighbourhoods project officially launched with an inspiring kick-off event in Middelburg, Netherlands. Moderated by Tako Popma, the event brought together over 100 participants from various fields to exchange ideas and explore solutions for mitigating heat stress and enhancing liveability.

The day began with a warm welcome from former Mayor M.A. (Marcel) Fränzel MSc of Middelburg, followed by an introduction to the project by Tiny Maenhout, the Project Manager.

Key moments included:



Professor **Jan Cools** from the University of Antwerp presenting a toolbox of solutions for greener cities, including the Urban Nature Atlas, which outlines project costs and benefits (biophysical, social, and economic). He also highlighted the climate-adaptive VMM portal (klimaat.vmm.be), a resource for urban planners.



Nico Tillie of TU Delft exploring how urban ecology design enhances sustainable city planning from the Interreg NWE Green Dense project ([Green Dense](#)).



Thijn de Voogd from the City of Arnhem sharing insights from the Interreg North Sea Region Cool Cities project ([Cool Cities](#)).

After a networking coffee break, attendees participated in additional sessions:



Wito van Oijstaeijen from the University of Antwerp introducing a cost-benefit model for green infrastructure developed during the Nature Smart Cities project.



Tom Bosschaert of Except Integrated Sustainability discussing strategies for planning and financing effective cooling initiatives.

The event concluded with presentations on leveraging data science for heat stress analysis and implementing innovative greening measures, leaving participants inspired to take action in their own cities. If you want to be inspired by the presentations have a look at the recording of the Kick-off.

Join us on LinkedIn



Contact

Lead partner: Municipality of Middelburg

Contact person: Tiny Maenhout

Email: t.maenhout@middelburg.nl

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