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From Greening Inner Cities to Royal Recognition – A Mid-Year Snapshot

In this third edition of the Cool Neighbourhoods newsletter, we highlight key milestones from the first half of 2025. The focus is on progress made across the Inner-City pilot areas in Middelburg, Goes, and Wimeroux — each addressing heat stress and liveability through citizen-driven, nature-based solutions. We also celebrate a moment of national recognition in Ettelbruck, Luxembourg, during the Foire Agricole, and recap the productive Luxembourg partner meeting, where NHSAPs and the Liveability Index took centre stage. Together, these stories show how Cool Neighbourhoods is translating strategy into real urban transformation across North-West Europe.

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Cool Neighbourhoods Partnership Meets in Luxembourg – Collaboration and Climate Action

In July 2025, Cool Neighbourhoods partners came together in Luxembourg for two action-packed days of exchange and planning. Hosted by the municipalities of Differdange, PRO-SUD, and Ettelbruck, the meeting brought fresh energy to the project and underlined the power of collaboration.

Key moments included updates on the Neighbourhood Heat Stress Action Plans (NHSAPs), the first Liveability Index results, site visits to inspiring pilot locations, and a live demo of the e-training programme. The discussions strengthened shared goals and reinforced how small municipalities are leading the way in climate resilience and liveability.

[Read the highlights from the Luxembourg gathering](#)



Royal Visit Shines Spotlight on Ettelbruck Pilot

On 4 July 2025, the Ettelbruck pilot received national attention during the Foire Agricole, with a visit from the Grand Ducal Family. The site, being transformed from a car park into a multifunctional green space, demonstrates the project's core aims: to mitigate heat stress, boost biodiversity, and improve liveability. The visit marked a proud moment for the city and the wider project, showing how local innovation can attract recognition at the highest levels.

[Full article available here](#)



Greening Wimereux's Historic Centre

Wimereux's central square, Place Albert 1er, is being reimagined with greenery, shaded spaces, and citizen participation. As part of the Inner-City pilot, the municipality is overcoming heritage and budget constraints to roll out cooling interventions that reflect the town's historic charm.

Innovative materials, public engagement, and a focus on inclusion make this pilot a standout example of adaptive urban design.

[Click to explore Wimereux's greening strategy](#)



Nature-Based Solutions in Goes' Inner City

The Goes pilot is greening Bastion and Zusterstraat to address flooding and heat stress. Co-creation workshops with residents ensure that interventions — like planting, shading, and permeable surfaces - meet local needs while respecting heritage and space constraints.

The project reflects how tailored solutions and active communities can shape more resilient urban spaces.

[Discover Goes' Inner-City pilot](#)



Cooling Historic Streets in Middelburg

In Middelburg, heat stress is being tackled through a network of cool spots and routes. With minimal space and historic restrictions, the city is using mobile gardens, shaded seating, and water points to bring relief to key gathering areas.

Citizens and students from HZ University of Applied Sciences are deeply involved in co-creating these solutions — with 70% of residents even supporting the removal of parking for more greenery.

[Learn more about Middelburg's cool network](#)

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