



Developing open space in peri-urban areas



Value of green investments in the heart of Europe
Conference 12-13 October 2010
Bruges

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

During the Belgian EU Presidency in the second half of 2010, various meetings and conferences on different aspects of open green spaces and the 2010 Biodiversity target are planned.

The Flemish Land Agency (VLM), member of several networks and partner in various Interreg projects, also takes the initiative to organise a conference on the development of open space and the value of green investments on 12 and 13 October 2010 in Bruges. Several local, regional and international partners and organisations will cooperate in the organisation of the conference.

The main ambition of the conference is to open the dialogue between scientists, policy-makers, administrators and stakeholders on the major challenges of developing green investments and their value in peri-urban regions in the heart of Europe.

The conference will also provide the perfect opportunity to learn from other participants, to exchange best practices, to stimulate trans-boundary contacts and to develop learning lessons. Furthermore, the conference also intends to provide lessons learned for the European Environmental Advisory Council conference taking place later that week in Bruges.

Call for speakers

We are looking for experts in the field of development of open space and green investments, and also for speakers from the various Interreg project partners to provide high-level sessions during the first day of the conference (12 October 2010).

Sessions must be held in English and will be 20 minutes in length.

Topics

We are soliciting presentation ideas in the following topics, listed according to the approach to the topic:

- **social:** how to increase public awareness of green spaces, how can different target groups add to a high-quality management of open space
- **economic:** demonstration of economic surplus value of green investments, how to convince stakeholders, governments and the business world to financially support green investments
- **ecological:** importance of more and high-quality peri-urban green spaces, biodiversity in peri-urban green spaces, increasing attention for restoration of valuable landscapes in border regions
- **planning:** an efficient planning constitutes the base of successful execution; an integrated approach adds to a high quality plan-shaping and realisations, integrating biodiversity in the plan-shaping process.
- **place-keeping:** characteristic properties of management in peri-urban regions, how can 'place-keeping' projects deal with biodiversity questions, the value of good management in 'place-keeping' projects

Presentations can be an interpretation of existing theories and research, or serve as innovative and striking examples for the above-mentioned topics.

It is also possible to propose a variation on the above-mentioned topics.



Participants of the conference

Approximately 400 participants with a professional background in rural/ urban development/ land management are expected (policy-makers, Interreg-partners, scientific world, stakeholders, administrators).

Provisional program in a nutshell

12 October 2010: Presentation of various participating projects, presentations of speakers, workshops.

13 October 2010: Excursions to the different projects, presentation of the conclusions of the conference, info market of various Interreg projects (IVA and IVB) and poster session.

Speaker package

Speakers benefit from full access to all sessions and activities for the duration of the conference. Furthermore, speakers are invited to the gala dinner on 12 October 2010 as well.

Submission Deadline

The call for speakers ends on 1 April 2010.

Submit your proposal

Please submit your proposal completing the [application form](#).

We will review and provide scheduling for the selected sessions by 1 June 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Frank Stubbe, on info@vlm.be or +32 499 99 43 05

