

THE AREA



Văcărești Natural Park

- First urban nature reserve in Romania
- 183 hectares
- Home to a rich variety of flora and fauna
- Role in regulating urban heatwaves in Bucharest

Childrens World Park

- Urban recreational park in Bucharest
- 19,3 hectares
- Habitat for the green toad - *Bufo viridis*, a protected species that disappeared, due to environmental conditions, in Văcărești Natural Park
- Highly appreciated by families with children, athletes, or people who live in the neighborhood

INVOLVED PARTNERS



ABOUT NATALIE

NATALIE is an **European Union research project** contributing to the objectives of the **EU mission "Adaptation to Climate Change"**, aiming to empower at least 150 regions and local communities to become climate resilient by 2030.

To achieve our technical, financial, legal and social objectives, we are a consortium of **43 partners** committed for **5 years** to the common goal of accelerating the adoption of **Nature-based Solutions (NBS) across Europe**.

8 CASE STUDIES

18 NBS are being implemented, monitored and their performance assessed in 8 demonstration sites covering 6 different biogeographical regions of Europe. All these sites have different context and are facing different climatic challenges.

The potential of replication of these solutions will be studied in 4 "follower sites".



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GET IN TOUCH

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NATALIE
Accelerating and mainstreaming transformative NATURE-based solutions to enhance resiliENCE to climate change for diverse bio-geographical European regions.

FRESH WATER HABITAT RESTORATION IN URBAN ECOSYSTEMS

Bucharest, Romania



Văcărești Natural Park



Childrens World Park



CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES

1 **Altered precipitation patterns** and rising temperatures have led to the **drying of wetlands** and small lakes in the Văcărești Natural Park.



3 **Rising temperatures** intensify **urban heatwaves** in Bucharest.



2 **Heavy rains** caused **flooding** near the Children World Park area.



COMMON OBJECTIVES

- * Develop Văcărești Nature Park as a **NBS for rainwater retention**,
- * Preserve urban **green spaces** as crucial habitat for biodiversity,
- * Support the protection of **urban biodiversity** and enhance its capacity to provide **ecosystem** services,
- * Connect Văcărești Natural Park to the city's **green-blue infrastructure**,
- * Promoting Childrens World Park as a space for **raising awareness** about the contribution of **nature and green solutions** to the **well-being** of the community



HOW WILL THIS WORK?

- * **Design and construct** seasonal rainwater collection and storage, bio-filtration,
- * **Monitoring** scheme and adaptive management plan to assess the effectiveness of the NBS in place,
- * **Engage and share knowledge** with **local communities** on NBS,
- * **Upscale the results** in regional, national and other Eastern European contexts.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

What are Nature-based Solutions (NBS)?

“Solutions inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience.”

European Commission, 2015

NBS Deployed

Both sites focus on **retaining rainwater from wet periods for use during drier season**.

- **Văcărești Natural Park:** Collect, treat and maintain rainwater to support wetlands and ponds.
- **Children's World Park:** Transform parts of the park into a rainwater catchment area, to prevent street flooding during heavy rainfall.



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NATALIE is the first biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation project in Bucharest. Thanks to the project, we have the opportunity to talk to people about how the climate will affect their lives and about the available solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change.