

Participating City Basic Information

The City of Novi Sad

- Educational, economic, cultural and administrative center of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the most productive agricultural region in Serbia
- Among the first cities outside the EU to be designated European Capital of Culture (2022)
- Share of green areas and open public spaces in the total building land is 17.5% or 79 m²/inh. in 2020
- Total population is around 340,000 inhabitants, 250,000 being urban
- Novi Sad is the fastest growing local selfgovernment in Serbia and its population may reach 400,000 inhabitants in 10 to 15 years



The City of Niš

- Situated on the European road E75 and the river Nišava, close to the Bulgarian border
- One of the most important industrial centers in Serbia, well known for its tobacco, electronics, construction, mechanical-engineering, textile, nonferrous-metal, food-processing and rubber-goods industries
- Green and open public spaces made up 15.7% (2020) of the building land (110 m²/inh).
- Total population is around 260,000, 185,000 being urban. As the total population declines, it is expected to reach 246,000 in 10-15 years.
- In recent years the City reconstructed and extended the central city square

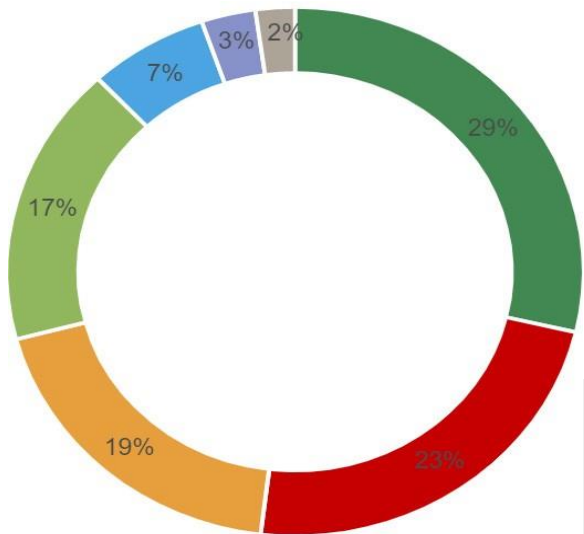


Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure – Department for Spatial and Town Planning

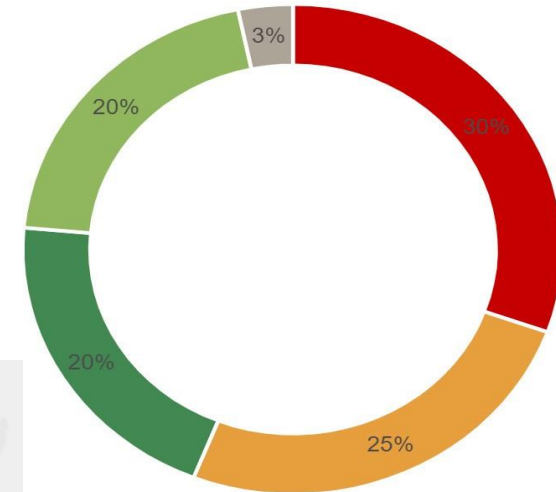
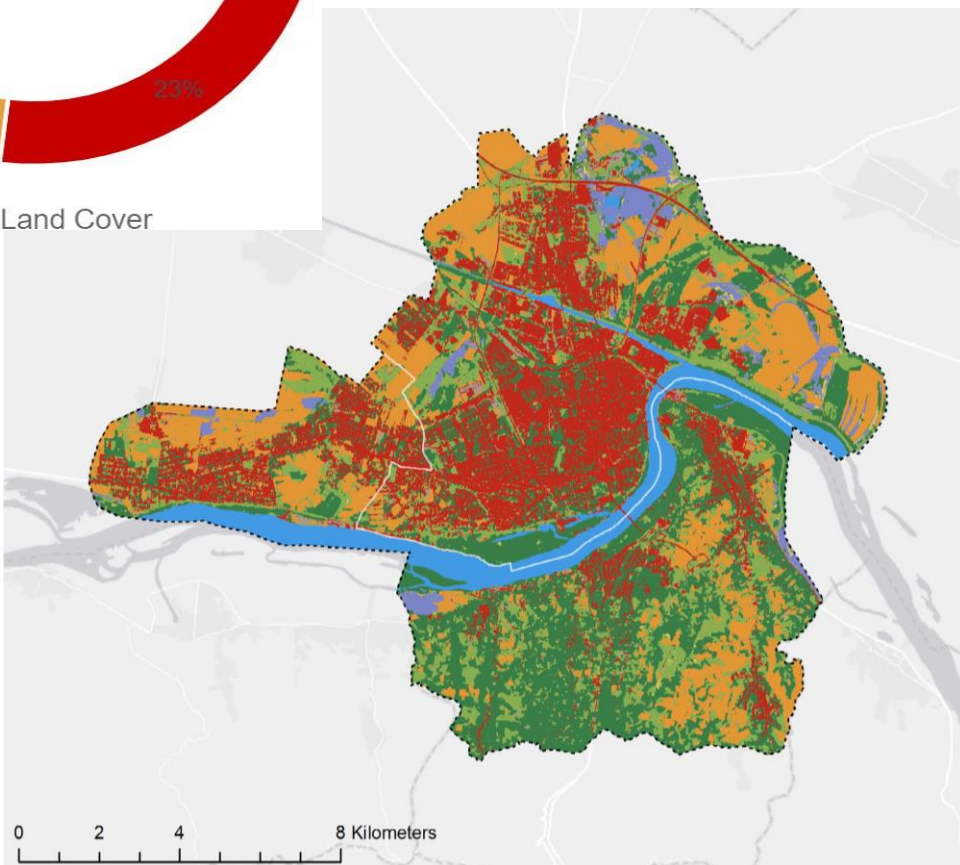
- Spatial planning and urban development – coordination of plan making process and preparation of strategic documents
- Legal affairs and information systems regarding planning and territorial development



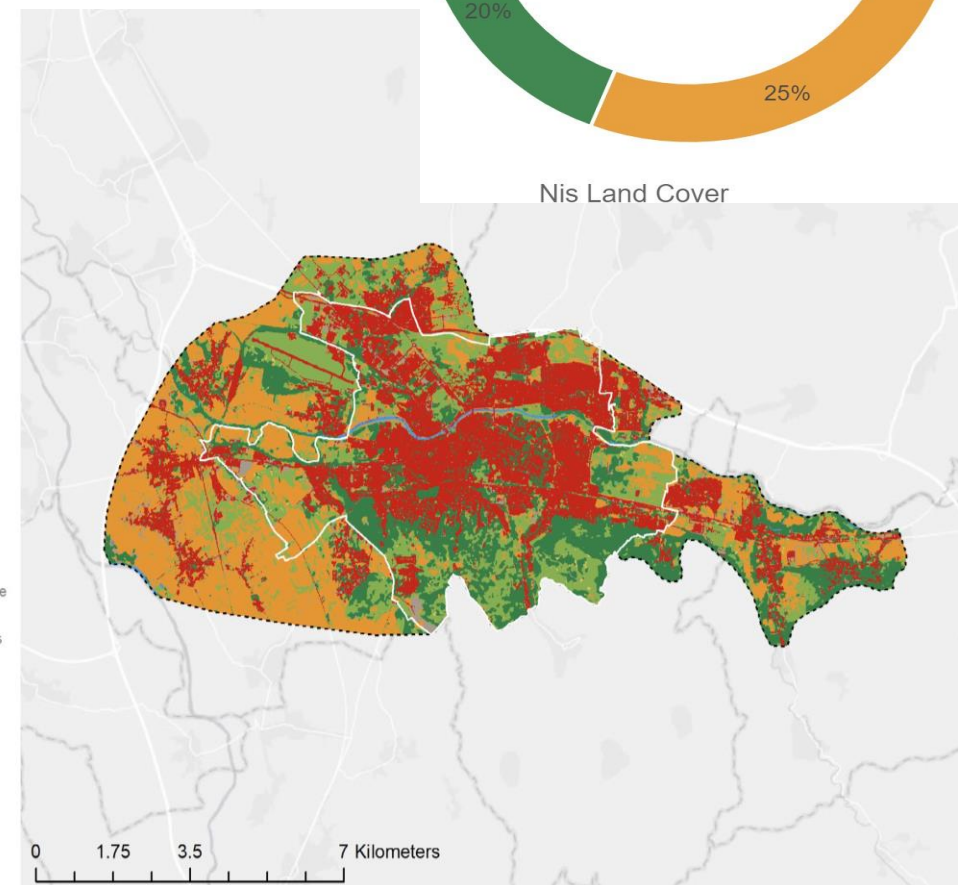
Land cover – from City Scans done by WB City Resilience Program



Novi Sad Land Cover



Nis Land Cover

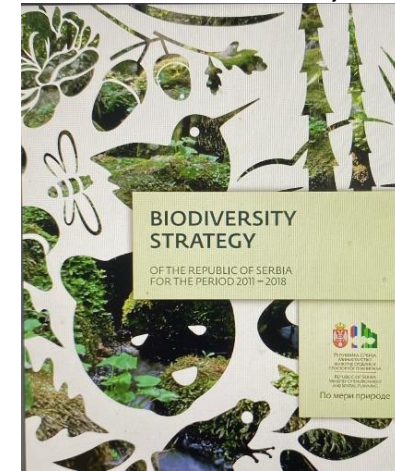


Summary of Urban Biodiversity Context – national level

Government of Serbia adopted overarching Biodiversity Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (2011-2018), Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (SUDS) until 2030 (currently under revision) & Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia.

SUDS Measure 4.1.4. - Preservation of biodiversity of urban areas (green areas, green infrastructure, protected areas, landscapes, water bodies)

Name of Activity	Implementing entity	Partner Organization	Timeframe
4.2.3.1 Preservation of biodiversity in protected natural areas in cities	Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia (INCS)		2022.



Spatial Plan of Serbia 2010-2020: 3 strategic priorities in relation to biodiversity: (i) reduction of biodiversity loss, (ii) reduction of pressure on biodiversity, and (iii) establishing a system of protection and sustainable use of biological resources

Draft Spatial Plan of Serbia 2021-2035: biodiversity as such in analytical part then covered under nature protection in synthesis and planning solutions (increasing the total area under protection, rehabilitation of degraded parts of protected areas, completion of the revision of the status of protected areas, revision of the status of protected species of wild flora)



Summary of Urban Biodiversity Context – City level

The City of Niš

- Local Development Plan 2021-2027
- Environmental Protection Program 2017-2027
- Initiatives that focus on improving the biodiversity in the city like „One apartment one tree”

The City of Novi Sad

- Commitment and high importance of environment and sustainable energy in the city
- EBRD Green Cities in 2019 with the vision of boosting green infrastructure and ensuring a sustainable future for the city and its inhabitants
- Environmental Protection Program (2015-2024)
- Nature Protection Program (2022-2031)
- Strategy for the development of the system of green areas of the City of Novi Sad (2013)
- Air quality plan in the agglomeration of Novi Sad (2022-2026)
- Green City Action Plan (GCAP) and Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) are being drafted
- Novi Sad is developing Cadaster of public green areas through an information system with database to monitor trends and activities related to the organisation, maintenance and improvement of green areas. <https://gis.zelenilo.com/>
- Novi Sad - biodiversity



What are the top three key challenges in implementing urban biodiversity strategy?

- ✓ Lack of integrated approach & cooperation between different city departments
- ✓ Quality and implementation of urban and spatial plans and their harmonization with other planning instruments
- ✓ Lack of awareness related to biodiversity and so interest to in innovations
- ✓ Public spaces
- ✓ Ownership & property issues
- ✓ Lack of public – private partnerships in the implementation of plans



What are the opportunities for implementing urban biodiversity strategy?

- ✓ Expanding collaboration with different stakeholders, particularly academia
- ✓ Presence of national framework strategies and plans (SUDS, Spatial Plan, etc.)
- ✓ Cities are endowed with rich biodiversity around them
- ✓ Brownfield conversion
- ✓ Nature based solutions

