



“Frontlines of Urban Conservation and Restoration” – a special session of the AE Budapest Knowledge Hub’s Urban Sustainability thematic mission

Invitation

to the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub’s special session co-organized by Péter Batáry (DSc., Centre for Ecological Research) and Péter Török (DSc., University of Debrecen, AE Budapest Knowledge Hub)

Title: “Frontlines of Urban Conservation and Restoration” – a special session of the AE Budapest Knowledge Hub’s Urban Sustainability thematic mission

Wednesday, 22 March 2023, 10:30-14:30 hrs (CET)

The Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub’s thematic mission for “Urban Sustainability” is cordially inviting you to its special session, under the title “Frontlines of Urban Conservation and Restoration”, which will be held in hybrid format, that is with in-person attendance in the **Small Lecture Room (2nd floor) at the Palace of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (address: 1051 Budapest, Széchenyi István tér 9.)**, and online. Some of the speakers will join via Zoom, while the online audience can follow the event through live streaming on the Youtube Channel of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/MTA1825/featured>

We very much look forward to welcoming you at the special session either in person or online. Registration for the event is open here: <https://forms.gle/CWNgsFNnhw4RxLHw9>.

Abstract

Urbanisation is one of the most important challenges for natural communities in the 21st century. Urbanisation – as a process in which there is an increase of concentration of human population in cities – leads not only to the change of land use and cover but involves a set of demographic, sociocultural, economic, technological, and environmental changes. Urbanisation is considered one of the most pressing human activities, which causes the homogenisation of flora and fauna, provides space for plant and animal invasions, and also changes the local climate through the heat island effect. Urban green spaces play a decisive role in the mitigation of these negative effects towards suburban and rural habitats and also provide a set of ecosystem services for cities. Thus, habitat conservation and restoration actions focusing on cities and understanding urbanisation effects on natural communities are vital. With this special session, we would like to invite researchers from Hungary and abroad to facilitate their networking and communication by highlighting hot topics in urban conservation and restoration.

Schedule of the program:

10:30-10:35 Welcome by the AE Budapest Knowledge Hub – Prof. Péter Török, Co-chair, Urban Sustainability Thematic Mission, Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub



Section 1 10:35-12:15 Presentations of the foreign researchers with discussion (15+5 min each)

Moderator: Prof. Péter Batáry

10:35-10:55 Land sharing in urban gardens: ecosystems for biodiversity conservation and health restoration – **Prof. Monika Egerer**, Urban Productive Ecosystems, School of Life Sciences, Technical University of Munich, München, Germany - **ONLINE**

10:55-11:15 Colourful ribbons for our cities: The importance of flower patches along traffic roads as temporary habitats for pollinators – **Prof. Christina Fischer**, Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Bernburg, Germany

11:15-11:35 Quantifying the plant functional specialization of urban habitats using Grime's CSR strategies – **Prof. Carlo Ricotta**, Department of Environmental Biology, University of Rome 'La Sapienza', Rome, Italy

11:35-11:55 Urban landscapes as a habitat for pollinator communities – **Dr. Weronika Banaszak-Cibicka**, Department of Zoology, Poznań University of Life Sciences, Poznań, Poland

11:55-12:15 Exploring bird's responses to urbanization in European cities: From community metrics to individuals' behaviour – **Prof. Federico Morelli**, Community Ecology & Conservation, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic – **ONLINE**

12:15-12:45 Lunchbreak (Sandwich lunch)

Section 2 12:45-14:25 Presentations of the Hungarian researchers with discussion (15+5 min each)

Moderator: Prof. Péter Török

12:45-13:05 Effects of land use on streams: traditional and functional analyses of benthic diatoms – **Dr. Csilla Stenger-Kovács**, Limnology Research Group, University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary

13:05-13:25 Evolutionary ecology of anthropogenic habitat conversion in amphibians: stress and sex – **Dr. Veronika Bókonyi**, Department of Evolutionary Ecology, Plant Protection Institute, Centre for Agricultural Research, Eötvös Loránd Research Network, Budapest, Hungary

13:25-13:45 What did we learn from urban ecological meta-analyses? – **Prof. Péter Batáry**, "Lendület" Landscape and Conservation Ecology Research Group, Centre for Ecological Research, Vácrátót, Hungary

13:45-14:05 Urban biodiversity and the urban homogenization hypothesis – **Prof. Béla Tóthmérész**, University of Debrecen, Department of Ecology, Debrecen, Hungary

14:05-14:25 Urbanization effects on the cognitive abilities and behaviour of birds – **Dr. Ernő Vincze**, Department of Biology, Lund University, Lund, Sweden; ELKH-PE Evolutionary Ecology Research Group, Centre for Natural Sciences, University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary - **ONLINE**

14:25-14:30 Closing remarks (Prof. Péter Batáry)