

CASE STUDY

NCI Bologna (IT) – Yangzhou (CN)

IURC – China



DECEMBER 18- 2023

Thematic Network(s): Innovative, Sustainable & Carbon Neutral Ecosystems & Strategic Sectors

Thematic Cluster(s): Innovation Centres, Tourism & Culture, Urban Renewal

Cross-cutting challenge(s): Energy Transition -Climate Change

Topic keywords: Joint Design Centre, Green Infrastructure

Joint Green Design Centre

NCI Bologna and Yangzhou collaborate to exchange knowledge and foster cooperation in sustainability, green design, and urban development through a joint Green Design Centre, emphasizing nature-based solutions, ecological transition, and cultural heritage preservation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The cooperation between NCI Bologna and Yangzhou aims to foster knowledge exchange and cooperation in green design and resilient urban development, focusing on nature-based solutions, ecological transition, cultural heritage, and smart cities. An MOU was signed between NCI Bologna and Yangzhou to establish a joint research centre on green design.

Delegations from Yangzhou and NCI Bologna have conducted study visits, meetings, events and workshops on topics such as urban regeneration, green design, and heritage protection. The cooperation involves various stakeholders, including universities, municipal governments, social organisations and enterprises. The aim is to establish a long-term partnership and engage in joint activities in urban design, music, art, and educational programs.



Both NCI Bologna and Yangzhou expressed their commitment to cooperation and knowledge sharing. They plan to establish a joint Green Design Centre, organize study visits, and facilitate in-person meetings. The focus is on promoting **green and resilient urban development**, **cultural heritage preservation**, and **nature-based solutions**. The cooperation aims to create a platform for continuous dialogue and effective cooperation between the two cities.



MAIN CHALLENGE AND SOLUTION

Yangzhou is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Due to rapid urbanization, industrialisation and increasing energy consumption, the city needs a rapid transition to a resilient and low-carbon city. The city is seeking **nature-based solutions** for various **urban regeneration** projects. Key issues include sustainable transportation, energy efficiency, waste management, water management, preserving green spaces, and promoting public awareness.

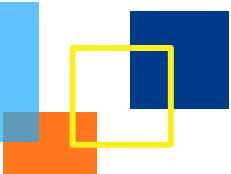
Climate change profoundly affects NCI Bologna with hotter temperatures, increased rainfall, and heightened flood risks. The city prioritizes sustainability and green services, focusing on **nature-based solutions, ecological transition, cultural heritage, and technological interventions for sustainability.**

NCI Bologna and Yangzhou City have signed an MOU to start a joint green design centre. The partnership includes knowledge exchange and projects on sustainable and low-carbon initiatives, focusing on nature-based solutions and ecological transition, as well as joint efforts towards smart and sustainable cities. The actions also involve projects on riverfront development, preservation of cultural heritage, and community-centric projects.



“Together we can create fruitful cooperation for green and resilient cities” Marino Cavallo

The joint green design centre initiative has selected a site within a significant redevelopment project in NCI Bologna, formerly a hospital established in 1890. The project has been included in the NCI Bologna Municipal budget and is actively seeking additional financial support. Additionally, a parallel site for the initiative will be established at Yangzhou University in Yangzhou.

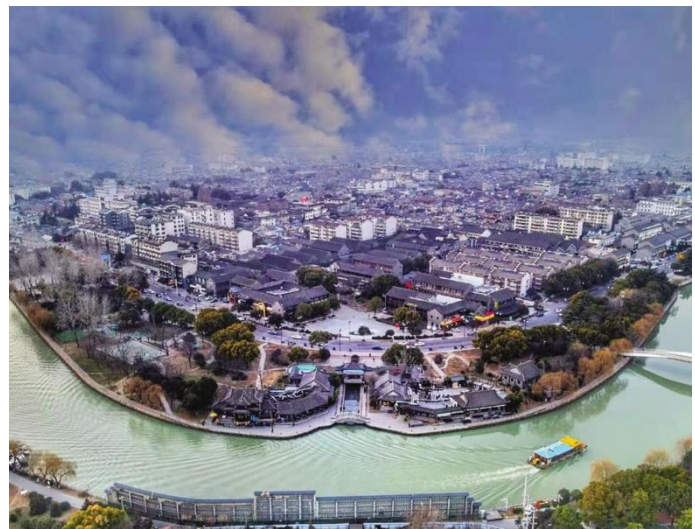


RESULTS AND **IMPACT**

The joint green design centre between NCI Bologna and Yangzhou is a promising initiative that aims to foster cooperation and innovation in the field of green city and sustainable urban development. The centre will involve stakeholders from both cities, including **universities, social organisations, enterprises, and municipal governments**, and will focus on designing and implementing projects on nature-based solutions and **smart cities with cultural and ecological aspects**. The result of this collaboration is to create **a network of academic and professional partners** that can exchange knowledge, best practices, and joint projects. The impact of this cooperation is to enhance the environmental performance, social inclusion, and economic competitiveness of both cities.

The joint green design centre initiative between NCI Bologna and Yangzhou resulted in:

1. Establishing a strong long-term knowledge network between the two cities.
2. Implementing innovative and replicable nature-based solutions for a resilient city.
3. Enhancing green infrastructure addressing the climate adaptation challenges and the life quality of citizens.
4. Protecting cultural heritage and ensuring the unique cultural legacies of both cities are safeguarded.



KEY FIGURES

2

parallel Design Centres established in NCI Bologna and Yangzhou

2 million


investment of resources and funding

1

pilot project of renewal of historical urban centre identified



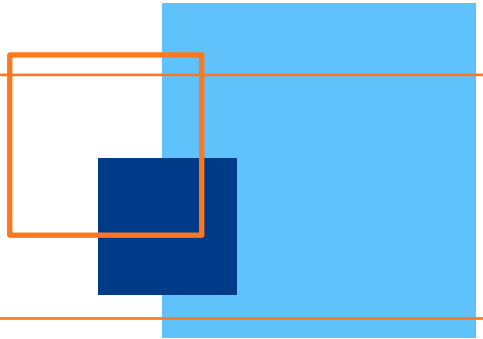
LESSONS **LEARNED**



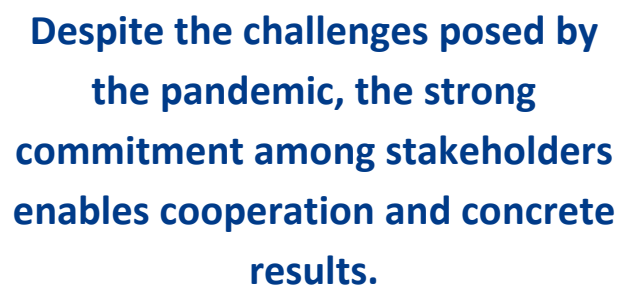
Continuous city-to-city cooperation is crucial in creating strategies and tools to solve global issues such as environment and climate change.




The implementation of the innovative green design provides valuable support for urban climate risk management planning.



Sharing and disseminating project outputs through knowledge networks such as awareness-raising events & exhibitions and education & training will reach wider range of target groups.



Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the strong commitment among stakeholders enables cooperation and concrete results.



THE IURC PROGRAMME

The International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) programme enables cities in different global regions to link up and share solutions to common problems. It is part of a long-term strategy by the European Union to foster sustainable urban development in cooperation with the public and private sectors, as well as representatives of research and innovation, community groups and citizens. Through engaging in IURC, cities will have the chance to share and exchange knowledge with their international counterparts, building a greener, more prosperous future.

The IURC programme is an opportunity for local governments to learn from each other, set ambitious targets, forge lasting partnerships, test new solutions, and boost their city's international profile. Its activities will support the achievement of policy objectives as well as major international agreements on urban development and climate change, such as the EU Urban Agenda, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement.

Author:

Acknowledgments:

Links to related outputs: