

## THE EU GREEN AND INNOVATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS FOR UKRAINE

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Nowadays the sustainability of growth is a key landmark of the world economic development. The European Union has turned to the sustainable development (SD) implementation since SD priorities were set out at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992. As a result, SD values and goals are presently incorporated into all main policy areas of the European Union and notwithstanding the world economic and financial crisis, sustainable development prioritization enhancement still remains the fundamental trend in the majority of the EU member-states today. Hence, the sustainability is the central challenge to be addressed by the EU potential candidates and the EU partner countries (Ukraine in particular) on their way to the European Union.

Amongst many EU sustainability enhancement policy areas green infrastructure (a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services [1, p. 3]) seems to be the newest, most potentially beneficial and less developed one. In its turn, Ukraine, being highly EU-oriented, tries to strike the balance between economic and environmental challenges in order to meet the EU expectations and requirements today. In this light, key modern attributes of the EU green infrastructure development being of special interest to Ukraine are the following:

*green infrastructure goals and priorities are incorporated into all key policy frameworks of the EU:* Europe 2020; EU Policy Framework for Climate and Energy in the period from 2020 to 2030; EU Waste Framework Directive; Resource Efficiency Roadmap; EU Biodiversity Strategy etc.; whereas Green Infrastructure Strategy «Green Infrastructure – Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital» as an independent strategy was adopted in May 2013 [1];

*the EU leaders in terms of innovative infrastructure are:* Netherlands, Germany, France, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Finland [2, p. 16];

*active civil society dialogue on green infrastructure development issues is ensured by a wide range of NGOs and platforms:* European Green Infrastructure Practitioners’ Network, European Environmental Bureau, European Business and Biodiversity Platform, European Learning Network for Regions and Biodiversity, CEEweb for Biodiversity etc.;

*a comprehensive approach is used to put into practice green infrastructure goals and priorities –projects of that type are implemented at all levels of economic system within the European Union:* e.g. pan-European level – the European Green Belt (a project launched in 2003 and focused on nature conservation); regional level – Alpine-Carpathian Corridor (a joint project of Austria and Slovakia); local level – Ekostaden Augustenborg (an urban regeneration project in Sweden) [3, p. 19].

6. *Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital : Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions / European Commission. – Brussels : the European Commission Publications, 2013. – 11 p.*

7. *The Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015 : Full Data Edition / World Economic Forum. – Geneva : World Economic Forum Publications, 2014. – 548 p.*

8. *Building a Green Infrastructure for Europe / European Union. – Luxembourg : Publications Office of the EU, 2013. – 24 p.*