

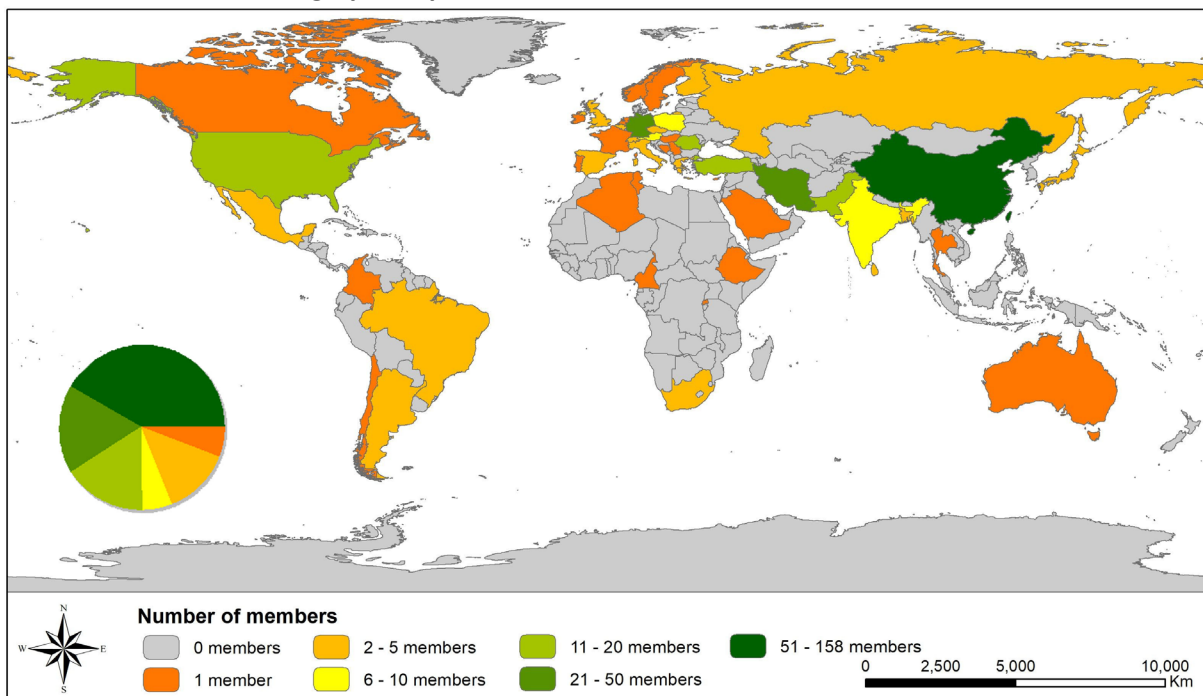


Annual Review 2021

SURE 2021 in Numbers

In 2021 SURE counts 398 active members (4 honorary members, 148 student members, 238 regular members, 3 unemployed members and 5 institutional members including 59 individual members). The international representation of urban ecology is reflected by the broad geographical background from the SURE members coming from Asia (237), Europe (125), North America (15), Latin America (13) and Africa (7) and Australia/Oceania (1).

Geographical presentation of the SURE members in 2021



SURE Activities in 2021

The 3rd SURE World Conference was a great success

Between 7 and 9 July 2021, the [3rd SURE World Conference](#) under the topic “Cities as Socio-Ecological Systems” took place in Poznan, Poland. Organized as a hybrid event due to the current pandemic restrictions, over 300 participants from 36 countries and 6 continents participated online and onsite at the conference.

In the participants’ opinion, the SURE had three very rewarding days, filled with interesting plenary keynotes and sessions covering a high diversity of topics, including:



Annual Review 2021

- Ecosystem services of all ecosystem types – data, indicators, bundles, synergies and trade-offs
- Biodiversity in urban areas
- Social awareness of urban ecosystems
- Ecology of degraded areas
- Life quality in cities
- Green infrastructure in the urban areas
- Nature based solutions for cities
- Urban water planning
- Waste management in urban social ecological systems
- Food production in cities – urban agriculture
- Developing of low-carbon cities
- Dynamics of urban landscapes
- Cities between sprawl and compaction
- Urban development versus sustainability
- Urban transition towards the eco-cities
- Urbanization and its changes in global perspective
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation in cities
- Smart Cities
- Nature protection in urban areas

The SURE family had many interesting discussions with researchers and practitioners of all over the world confirming that urban ecology is a recent topic that achieved already a lot to strengthen the sustainable development in, of and for cities, although there is also still a lot to do. We thank all participants and in particular the organization team of the **SURE Central Europe Chapter – Katarzyna Fagiewicz – Conference Executive Manager** under the **lead of Andrzej Mizgajski** with the **support of Iwona Zwierzchowska** from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland for making this event a great success. Despite the constraints due to the current pandemic situation, this event brought leading researchers and practitioners, senior and young researchers together to discuss and exchange how to connect cities with nature.

This great event makes us already now very much looking forward to the next SURE Congress 2025 taking place in Istanbul/Izmir, Turkey.



Annual Review 2021

3rd SURE World Conference



SURE General Assembly and Election of the SURE Executive Committee 2021

The SURE General Assembly elected a new [SURE Executive Committee](#) on 9th of July 2021 during the 3rd SURE World Congress in Poznan, Poland. The General Assembly unanimously accepted the list of the Executive Committee: Jürgen Breuste (Austria) was elected as President, Martina Artmann (Germany) as Secretary General and Cristian Ioja (Romania) as Treasurer. Salman Qureshi (Germany, Pakistan), Junxiang Li (China) and Henry Garay-Sarasti (Colombia) were elected as Supplementary Executive Committee members.

The SURE Executive Committee has appointed the new [Advisory Board](#) for the period 2021 - 2025:

- Chapter Central Europe: Andrzej Mizgajski, Iwona Zwierzchowska
- Chapter South-East Europe: Mihai Razvan Nita, Constantina Alina Hossu
- Chapter Latin America: Ana Faggi, Cecilia Herzog
- Chapter Iran: Akbar Rahimi
- Chapter China: Zhiyun Ouyang, Chen Shuang
- New conference organizers: Cigdem Hepcan, Meryem Hayir Kanat
- Further members: Sarel Cilliers (South Africa), Charles Nilon (USA), Janmaimool Piyapong (Thailand), Chris Ives (UK), Lalitha Dissanayake (Sri Lanka), Prakash Tiwari (India), Maria Ignatieva (Australia)



Annual Review 2021

Marc Gimenez Maranges and Miaomiao Xie have been approved by the General Assembly as comptrollers for 2021-2025. SURE president Jürgen Breuste thanked Miaomiao Xie and Angela Hof for their support as comptrollers for 2016-2021.

The SURE Executive Committee would like to express their sincere gratitude to Luis Inostroza and Angela Hof for supporting the SURE board election as nomination committee.

The proposal for the next SURE Congress 2025 in Istanbul/Izmir, Turkey organized by Cigdem Hepcan and Meryem Hayir Kanatwas was approved by the General Assembly as well.

During the SURE General Assembly, SURE honorary memberships have been awarded to Prof. Ingo Kowarik and Prof. Andrzej Mizgajski. Katarzyna Fagiewicz received a SURE award of honor for her great support of the 3rd SURE World Congress.

News from the SURE Latin America Chapter: SURE supported FIMA 2021

The event included an academic agenda of international stature within the first version of the First Environmental Entrepreneurial Meeting – for a sustainable reactivation. The academic agenda was developed and supervised by Dr. Henry Garay Sarasty, CAEM, Bogotá, Colombia, SURE Chapter leader Latin America. SURE president Prof. Dr. Jürgen Breuste and representatives from the SURE Chapter Central Europe (Dr. Luis Inostroza) and the SURE Chapter South East Europe (Prof. Dr. Cristian Ioja, head of session) participated with presentations and in the panel discussion. SURE contributed to the success of the event.

The International Environmental Fair (FIMA by its acronym in Spanish) becomes a benchmark opportunity in Latin America, which promotes sustainability and environmental care actions in today's society, strengthening synergies between professionals, buyers and exhibitors to showcase environmental products and services aimed at the productive sector, becoming the ideal meeting point for the different actors in the chain.

Among the organizers of this 7th version were the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Corferias and the Environmental Entrepreneurial Corporation – CAEM, a subsidiary of the Bogota Chamber of Commerce, to meet the environmental needs of the region and entrepreneur's.

More than 200 experts on environmental issues, 152 academic activities, 4,000 m² of exhibition space and 8,900 visitors made these four days of the fair an ideal event to continue promoting the care of the planet and the protection of natural resources. More information about the event can be found at the [SURE webpage](#).



Annual Review 2021

The role of the business sector in urban environmental management.

*(SURE on the panel: Dr. Luis Inostroza, Prof. Dr. Cristian Ioja (SURE treasurer), Prof. Dr. Jürgen Breuste (SURE president), Dr. Henry Garay Sarastry (from right to left)
(picture provided by Jürgen Breuste)*



News from the SURE Iran Chapter: Symposium on Urban Biodiversity and Its Management in Tabriz

On October 19th, 2021, the SURE, together with the University of Tabriz, University of Salzburg, and University of Bucharest organized the Symposium *Urban Biodiversity and Its Management* in Tabriz, Iran. The event focused on discussing various new ideas about urban biodiversity management including presentations, courses, a play-role game and field activities. The symposium was coordinated by Prof. Akbar Rahimi, University of Tabriz, as keynote speaker contributed Prof. Jürgen Breuste (SURE president) and Prof. Cristian Ioja (SURE treasurer) to the symposium. More than 100 teachers and students of the University of Tabriz participated at the event.



Annual Review 2021

Symposium on Urban Biodiversity and Its Management in Tabriz

(from right to left: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Breuste (SURE president), Prof. Dr. Cristian Ioja (SURE treasurer), Akbar Rahimi SURE Chapter Iran)
(picture provided by Cristian Ioja)



News from the SURE South-East-Europe Chapter

- The SURE South-East-Europe Chapter organized a [Symposium for National Geographers Students](#) Bucharest (27-28 March, 2021) and the [Symposium Constantin Bratescu Constanta](#) (September 17 -19, 2021). During the symposium in September an award for the best presentation in urban ecology was given to students.
- The chapter hosted Martina Marei Vitti, University of Bologna as a SURE internship at the University of Bucharest (September 9th - November 9th, 2021).

SURE China Chapter participated at the 20th Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of China

The SURE China chapter actively participated at the 20th annual conference of the Ecological Society of China (ESC), Oct. 24-27, 2021, Shanghai, China. In the course of the conference, Junxiang Li and Weiqi Zhou, who are both EC members of the SURE China chapter, co-chaired a session named “Nature-based Solutions to Ecological Security in Urban Areas”. The session consisted of nine oral



Annual Review 2021

presentations covering diverse topics on lower carbon community, urban heat island and heat stress, food-energy-water nexus-based urban green infrastructure and urban resilience, urban ecosystem services optimization and sustainability, urban ecological risks assessment, and nature-based solutions to urban thermal stress and security. More than 150 participants, including nearly 50 on-site and more than 100 online, joined the sessions.

SURE China chapter at the 20th Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of China (picture provided by Junxiang Li)



SURE participated at „The Nature of Cities Festival“

The Nature of Cities Festival was organized as an online event and took place from 22-26 February 2021. The festival offered a range of interesting inter- and transdisciplinary plenary talks, seed sessions and digital excursions.

SURE participated with two sessions at the festival:

- **Revitalizing urban rivers** (Spanish & English) (Ana Faggi (SURE Latin America Chapter), Juergen Breuste (SURE President), Circe Monteiro, Diana Wiesner, Iturriaga Sandra): The session included short presentations of revitalization projects (Bogota-Colombia, Mapocho-
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Annual Review 2021

Chile, Piracicaba- Brasil and Isar Germany) with a following discussion addressing SWOT analysis, what have we learned and the role of the community participation.

- ***Soul in the city – connecting our inner and external nature*** (Martina Artmann (SURE Secretary General), Katharina Artmann): The session explored through a short presentation, meditation and interactive breakout rooms how to overcome the human/nature dichotomy. Afterwards a discussion followed on what it means to be a human being in cities and how we can experience urban nature as a sentient, soulful member of our kin. You can read about the session and its ideas in this essay [“Soul and the City: Re-Establishing our Relational Capacity Beyond COVID-19”](#).

News from the SURE Board

Statement of the SURE President on the [UN Biodiversity Conference \(CBD COP 15\)](#) in October 2021 in Kunming (China)

The UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP 15) in October 2021 in Kunming (China) stated despite on-going efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide and this decline is projected to worsen with business-as-usual scenarios. A new set of goals for nature over the next decade through the Convention on Biological Diversity post 2020 framework process will be necessary. This needs ambitious plans to implement broad-based actions to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature. This is urgently necessary in the humans living sphere – the cities. We need a New Deal for nature in cities – urban biodiversity.

SURE asks to present good examples worldwide on the SURE webpage to support internationally more activities for urban biodiversity! Read the complete statement on the [SURE webpage](#).

SURE Publications

Special Issue linked with the SURE working group on urban agriculture published in Sustainability

“[A Systemic Perspective on Urban Food Supply: Assessing Different Types of Urban Agriculture](#)“ edited by Martina Artmann (SURE Secretary General), Kathrin Specht, Jan Vávra and Marius Rommel.

This Special Issue was initiated in the course of various sessions organized by the guest editors in the course of the ESP Europe conference 2018 in San Sebastian (Spain), the IALE World Congress 2019 in Milan (Italy) and the Dresden Nexus Conference 2020 (Germany).

In total, the Special Issue comprises 15 articles including one conceptual paper and 14 case studies from different countries: Australia, Benin, China, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK. The papers cover a broad range of impact and



Annual Review 2021

implementation dimensions, assessment methods and geographical backgrounds that can support future studies to develop a systemic perspective on urban food production.

"Smart City Development and Remote Sensing Application in Urban Ecology" edited by Tao Lin (SURE China), Peter van Bodegom and Pfaender Fabien,

This Special Issue was initiated in the course of smart city session organized by the guest editors in the course of the 3rd SURE World Conference (2021) and SURE China conference (2020).

In total, the Special Issue comprises ten articles including one conceptual paper and nine case studies from different countries: China, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Australia, and the UK. The papers cover a broad range of urban ecology and remote sensing application including innovative and multidisciplinary researchers on the latest developments in urban data science, smart city application, remote sensing methods, and pilot urban ecosystem studies in the world, exploring the potential cooperation between the ecological city and the smart city.

The guest editors want to express our sincere thanks to all authors and reviewers who have contributed their time and effort to make this Special Issue success and we are looking forward to further exchange and research on this topic.

Upcoming SURE Events and Activities

Due to the current pandemic situation, most of the SURE Summer Schools will be postponed. Please follow the [SURE webpage](#) for recent announcements:

- The SURE Summer School Shanghai, organized by Junxiang Li together with Amy Haze (University Melbourne) and Jürgen Breuste, is planned to take place in 2022 in a hybrid format, more information will be announced soon.
- The SURE Summer School Bucharest, organized by Cristian Ioja together with Jürgen Breuste, is postponed to 2022.
- The SURE Summer School Berlin, organized by Salman Qureshi, is postponed until further notice.
- The SURE Summer School Tabriz, organized by Akbar Rahimi in cooperation with Jürgen Breuste and Cristian Ioja, is postponed to 2022.
- SURE participates at the [Dresden Nexus Conference](#) "Biodiversity - Stewardship for Vital Resources", which takes place from 22-23 May 2022 as an online event. Constantina Alina Hossu (University of Bucharest, Romania, SURE Chapter South-East Europe) and Martina Artmann (IOER, Germany, SURE Secretary General) host a session on [Relational values and planning of urban nature and biodiversity](#). The call for abstracts ends 10 February 2022.