

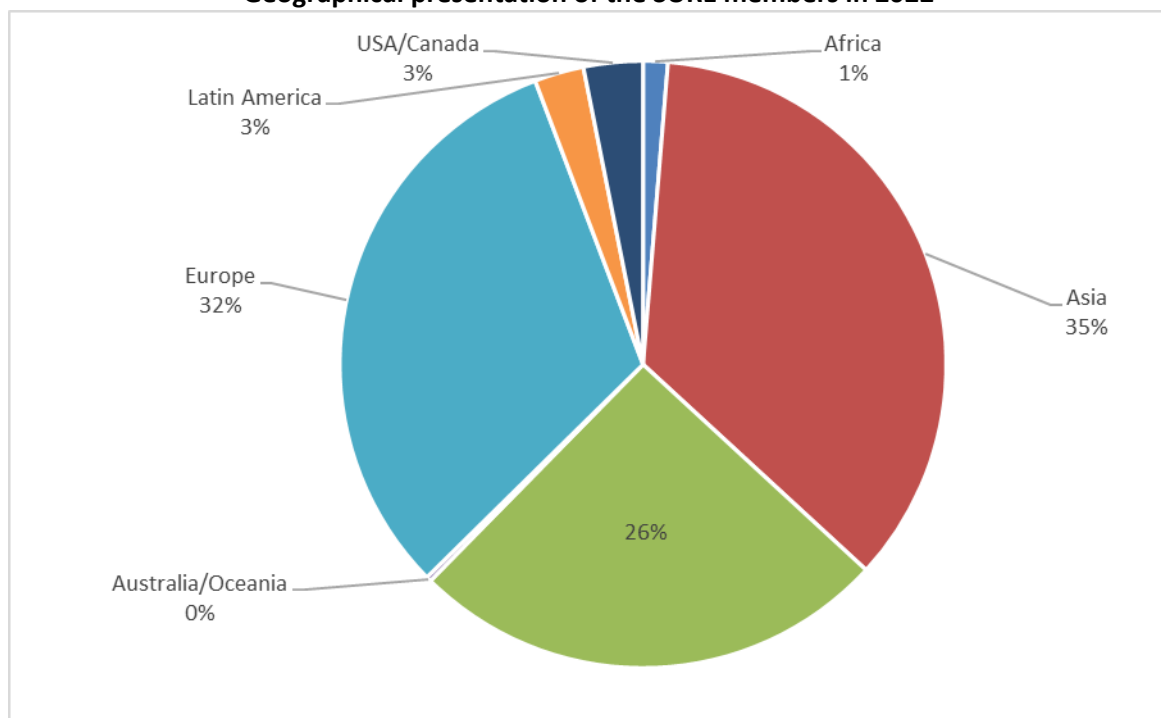


## Annual Review 2022

### SURE 2022 in Numbers

In 2022 SURE counts 342 active members (6 honorary members, 88 student members, 174 regular members, 2 unemployed members and 8 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 (135), Europe (120), North America (12), Latin America (10), Africa (5) and Australia/Oceania (1).

**Geographical presentation of the SURE members in 2022**



### SURE Activities in 2022

#### **IOER-Forum and SURE board meeting: “Urban transformation – SURE meets SURE-institutional members”**

Under the organisation of Dr. Martina Artmann (SURE-Secretary General), the SURE Executive Committee visited between 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the SURE institutional member *Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER)* in Dresden, Germany. Under the IOER’s research focus on sustainable spatial socio-ecological transformations, the SURE board members discussed challenges and chances for urban transformations.



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During the two-day event, Prof. Jürgen Breuste (SURE-President) led an excursion around the Dresden urban agglomerations visiting historical sites, urban protection areas and the city's blue infrastructure. Another excursion was offered by Dr. Ralf-Uwe Syrbe and Dr. Henriette John (IOER) exploring urban ecosystem services provided in the city of Dresden. In the course of the [IOER-Forum](#), Prof. Jürgen Breuste gave a lecture about "Dare Urban Wilderness – Preserve, Use and Manage!". The IOER co-presentation on "Wilderness on urban wastelands – an annoyance or a paradise for biodiversity?" was given by Dr. Juliane Mathey. The lecture can be found [online](#).

An overall aim of this event was the annual SURE board meeting reflecting on past and future activities as well as strategic orientation of the society. During the meeting, all agreed that after the restrictions due to the COVID-19-pandemic, a major aim of SURE will be to foster again SURE summer schools to provide young researchers the chance to network and deepen their knowledge and international experiences in the field of urban ecology. Dates about upcoming summer schools can be found at the SURE webpage.



**The SURE board with IOER director Prof. Marc Wolfram**

(From left to right: I. Zwierzchowska, C. Ioja, M. Artmann, M. Wolfram, J. Breuste, C. Coskun Hepcan, A. Mizgajski, M. Hayir Kanat) (picture: A. Pohl/IOER-Media)

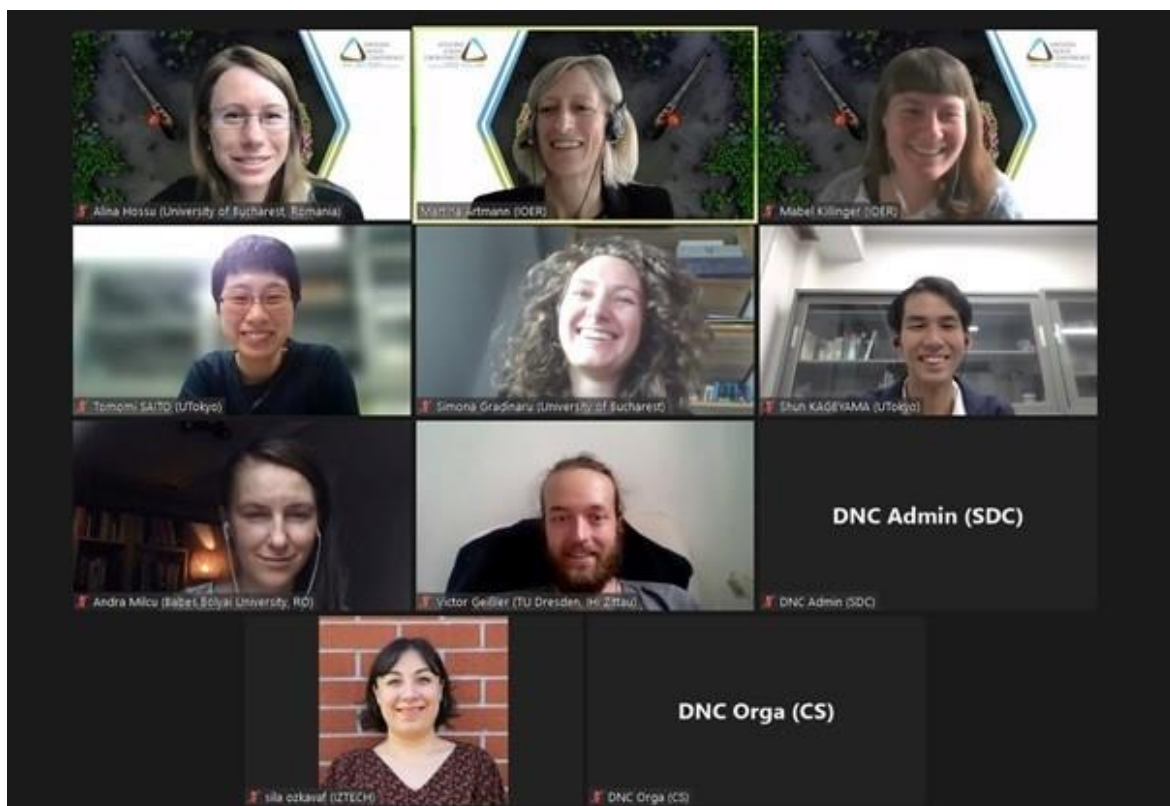


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### SURE at the Dresden Nexus Conference

From 23-25 May 2022, the [Dresden Nexus Conference \(DNC 2022\)](#) took part as an online conference focusing on “Biodiversity – Stewardship for vital resources”. Dr. Alina Hossu ([SURE Chapter South-East Europe](#)) and Dr. Martina Artmann (SURE-Secretary General) hosted a session on “Relational Values and Planning of Urban Nature and Biodiversity” with speakers from Romania, Turkey, and Japan. Main conclusions from the session are:

- Strengthening of human-nature connection and avoiding the loss of nature experience in cities is crucial due to the benefits not only for nature (by conserving it), but also for humans due to the favorable health and emotional outcomes.
- The choice of methods for values assessment is challenging. Qualitative data from surveys is complemented by quantitative approaches to have a deeper understanding on factors affecting human-nature connections. Therefore, approaches for knowledge co-creation and co-productive are needed to enable the identification of values and the “real” interactions people have with the environment.
- A need that has been pointed out is the integration of local communities (including vulnerable groups) and their values about their relationship with nature into planning, especially to strengthen urban sustainability.



The participants of the DNC-session



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### News from the SURE South-East-Europe Chapter

- The SURE South-East-Europe Chapter organized a Symposium for National Geographers Students Bucharest (25-27 March, 2022) and the Symposium Constantin Bratescu Constanta (September 9 -11, 2022). During the symposiums awards for the best presentation in urban ecology was given to the students.
- Online Summer School – Practical Methods for Environmental Impact Assessment – 19-25 July, 2022. The summer school was attended by bachelor and master students in the fields of Geography and Environmental Sciences, with a focus on designing and conducting research for urban environmental impact assessment.
- The chapter hosted Nagmeh Ravaei and Kimiya Aliakbary, University of Tabriz as ERASMUS fellowships and SURE internships at the University of Bucharest, Center for Environmental Research and Impact Studies (February-July, 2022).
- The chapter hosted the visit of Prof. Akbar Rahimi (University of Tabriz) who participate in practical activities of the master students of the University of Bucharest in Călimănești (June 2022).
- The chapter hosted the visit of the group of 4 PhDs and 1 postdoctoral researcher, coordinated by Prof. Martin Sauerwein (University of Hildesheim) and Stefan Zerbe (University Bolzano-Bozen, Italy). The activity is funded under the project "Cultural landscapes – Traditions and innovation for sustainable land use by promoting multiple ecosystem and landscape services" by the Bodnarescu Foundation. The visit started with the workshop *Cultural landscape*, where different aspects of further collaboration have been discussed, and was continued with a visit in the Văcărești Nature Park.



Visit of the group funded by the Bodnarescu Foundation in Văcărești Nature Park  
(picture provided by Cristina Ioja)



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- [Workshop: Making urban nature count!](#), was organized between September 8 – 11th, 2022. The workshop was part of the CIVIS HUB 4 meeting Bucharest – Nature in Cities, Territories, and Mobility, aimed to cover topics related to the human-nature interactions in the urban fabric: typologies, drivers, consequences, feedback loops, beneficiaries, or perceptions. In the workshop members of the SURE SEE chapter from Romania and Turkey (Cigdem Coskun Hepcan and Serif Hepcan, Ege University of Izmir) participated together with representatives of the University of Salzburg, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Aix-Marseille Université, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Sapienza Università di Roma, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, University of Glasgow. The presentation was completed with three field applications:
  - Urban nature between the city walls (coordinated by Gabriel Vânău in Vacaresti Nature Park, Bucharest).
  - Memory of place – investments and changes in urban areas (coordinated by Simona Grădinaru in Basarab Bridge area)
  - Constanța city – urban nature in coastal cities (coordinated by Cristian Ioja)

The program meeting can be found under this [link](#).



**The participants of the workshop: Making urban nature count!**  
(picture provided by Cristina Ioja)



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### News from the SURE Iran Chapter

#### Founding of the Iran Research Centre for Urban Ecology

The [SURE Iran chapter](#) is founding the Iran Research Centre for Urban Ecology for advancing the goals of the Society for Urban Ecology (SURE).

The overarching targets of the Iran Research Centre are:

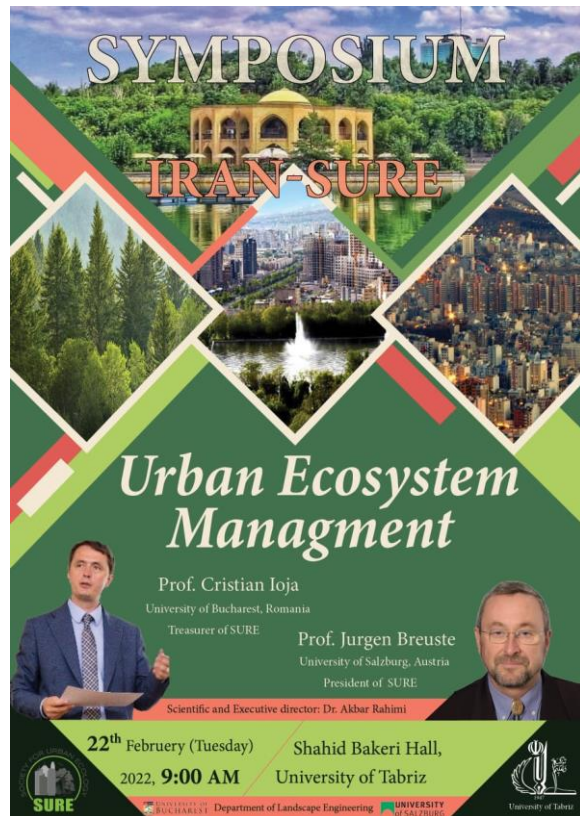
- International, national, and regional cooperation and networking between Iran and the SURE
- Cooperation with public and private organizations and institutions
- Holding training courses, workshops, conferences, symposiums, etc.
- Educational and scientific support of Iranian students, experts and institutions

#### Symposium Urban Ecosystem Management held by SURE Iran on 22 February 2022 at Tabriz University

Under the leadership of Prof. Akbar Rahimi, SURE Iran Chapter held a one-day symposium on Urban Ecosystem Management at Tabriz University, Iran, on 22 February.

More than 45 students of different departments and faculties participated and actively discussed the subjects presented by Prof. Cristian Ioja, University of Bucharest, Romania (SURE treasurer), and Prof. Jürgen Breuste, University of Salzburg, Austria (SURE president). The symposium took place in the Shahid Bakeri Hall of Tabriz University and included a site visit to El Goli Park, the largest inner-city green space in city of Tabriz.

The presented and discussed subjects were: urban wildlife, management of biodiversity, and urban tree and green space management. The symposium is already the fourth that is organized since 2019 by SURE Iran at Tabriz University on the subject of urban ecosystem management. These symposia are of constant and rising interest among students and practitioners. Supported by an ERASMUS + cooperation, there is an intensive exchange of students from Tabriz University with University of Bucharest, Romania, and University of Salzburg, Austria.





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### News from the SURE China Chapter

#### The 8<sup>th</sup> SURE Summer School was successfully held in Shanghai, China

- The 8<sup>th</sup> SURE summer school on urban ecology, which was co-organized by Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), SURE, SURE-China chapter, and the University of Melbourne, and hosted by School of Design at SJTU, has been successfully held at Shanghai, from 8 to 12 August, 2022. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the 8<sup>th</sup> SURE-SJTU summer school was held online. The 2022 international summer school is themed on Urban Biodiversity and Conservation: Global Perspectives and Comparisons. It focuses on hotpots of urban biodiversity, and the nexus of human activities and human habitats, and urban ecology.
- The summer school has successfully attracted nearly 200 students from undergraduate to PhD who come from 93 universities at 10 countries: the United Kingdom, the USA, Hungary, Korea, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Mexico, Iran, Turkey, and China. The summer school was co-chaired by Prof. Dr. Junxiang Li at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Breuste at University of Salzburg, and Dr. Amy Hahs at University of Melbourne. 11 distinguished scientists in urban ecology and urban biodiversity have been invited to give lectures at the 8<sup>th</sup> SURE Summer School. Their talks cover the wide topics on urban biodiversity protection, urban biodiversity research methodology, state-of-the-art theories of urban biodiversity, and urban biodiversity conservation practices. ... [READ MORE](#)



The participants of the 8<sup>th</sup> SURE Summer School  
(picture provided by Junxiang Li)



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### **SURE China Chapter organized a Session on the 21<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ESC**

The SURE China Chapter organized the session „The Ecological and Environmental Effects of Urban Pattern Evolution in China“ which was convened by Prof. Dr. Junxiang Li and Prof. Dr. Weiqi Zhou on the 21<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of China (ESC) from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 in Guiyang, Guizhou province, China. There were eleven oral presentations in this session and more than 80 in-person and online participants due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One student member, a PhD student, Miss Xing Bi from Shanghai Jiao Tong University won the Award for Excellent Oral Presentation of the Graduates issued by the ESC.



**The participants in the session organized by Prof. Junxiang Li and Prof. Weiqi Zhou**

(picture provided by Junxiang Li)





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**Student member from the SURE China chapter, PhD candidate Miss Xing BI won the ESC Excellent Oral Presentation Award for Graduates**  
(picture provided by Junxiang Li)

### News from the SURE Central Europe Chapter

As a result of the SURE World Congress 2022, organized by the SURE Central Europe Chapter, two Special Issues in renowned international journals have been completed. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* has published the Special Issue titled *Urban transitions towards Nature-based Solutions* ([Urban Forestry & Urban Greening | Urban transitions towards Nature-based Solutions | ScienceDirect.com by Elsevier](#)). The journal *Ecosystem Services* has realized the collection of papers titled *Ecosystem services in transdisciplinary approach* ([Ecosystem Services | Ecosystem services in transdisciplinary approach - ES & transdisciplinarity | ScienceDirect.com by Elsevier](#)).



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### News from the SURE Board

#### Obituary for Jari Kalevi Niemelä

The Society for Urban Ecology (SURE) mourns the loss of Prof. Jari Kalevi Niemelä who recently passed away in Helsinki, Finland.

Jari was an outstanding ecologist specializing in urban ecology with an international reputation in the field. He is the author of numerous urban ecological essays in international journals and urban ecological textbooks, e.g.

NIEMELÄ, J., J. BREUSTE, T. ELMQVIST, G. GUNTENSPERGEN, P. JAMES, N. MCINTYRE (eds.) (2011): Urban Ecology, Patterns, Processes, and Applications. Oxford University Press, Oxford

Since 2000 Jari worked as Professor of urban ecology in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences of University of Helsinki, Finland. In 2018 he was appointed as rector of the University of Helsinki. Since 2010 he has trained students in urban ecology at the University of Helsinki in a variety of courses.

Jari was a co-initiator of the founding of the international Society for Urban Ecology (SURE) in Salzburg, Austria in 2009. He supported and promoted SURE in many ways through his profound knowledge and diverse activities. The Executive Committee of the Society for Urban Ecology (SURE) has therefore decided to posthumously award Prof. Jari Niemelä honorary membership.

We will miss Jari, his advice and support and remember him with gratitude.

Jürgen Breuste

SURE president for SURE Executive Committee



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### Society for Urban Ecology – S.U.R.E.

To Whom it May Concern:

*This is to certify that **Professor Jari Niemelä**, has been duly elected to Honorary Membership in the Society for Urban Ecology, and is entitled to all the privileges and benefits pertaining to such affiliation.*

*In Witness Whereof the President has hereunto set his signature and the official seal of the Society.*

President of Society for Urban Ecology

Prof. Jürgen Breuste

July 19th, 2022 Salzburg, Austria

## SURE Publications

### Global ecological challenges on the way to Green Cities: new books are available, good ideas need to be implemented!

- Breuste, J. (2022): The Green City. Urban Nature as an Ideal, Provider of Services and Conceptual Urban Design Approach. Springer Spektrum, Berlin Heidelberg
- Breuste, J.; S. Pauleit; D. Haase; M. Sauerwein (2021): Urban Ecosystems. Functions, Management, Development. Springer Spektrum, Berlin Heidelberg
- Breuste J (ed), Artmann M, Ioja C, Qureshi S (co-eds.) (2020) Making Green Cities – Concepts, Challenges and Practice. Springer, Cham, Switzerland. ISBN 978-3-030-37716-8 (Cities and Nature Series)

Cities are the most attractive place to live for people worldwide. They offer the hope of a better life than in the countryside and what is often lacking or less available there: jobs with a secure income, health care, education, entertainment and social advancement. For many, however, this remains just an unrealized hope, which does not diminish the attractiveness of cities. Read [here](#) the complete statement of the SURE President about the new SURE books.



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### Successful publication – Man-made natural disaster of lake Urmia (Iran)

Publication in *Frontiers in Environmental Sciences* based on SURE cooperation (Akbar Rahimi, Iran, and Jürgen Breuste, Austria) on Lake Urmia in Iran gets great public and political interest in Iran and among scientists worldwide.

Rahimi, A, J. Breuste (2021): Why Urmia Lake is Drying up? Prognostic Modeling with Land Use Data and Artificial Neural Network. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, Volume 9 | Article 603916, 11 pages, doi: 10.3389/fenvs.2021.603916

### Lake Urmia

(Picture: J. Breuste, 2018)



### 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 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 June 2023.
- The Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland together with the ESP National Network and SURE – Central Europe Chapter, are pleased to invite you to attend the 7th Scientific Symposium "Ecosystem services in transdisciplinary approach" – ECOSERV 2023, 14-16 September 2023 in Poznań, Poland, [www.ecoservpol.amu.edu.pl/en](http://www.ecoservpol.amu.edu.pl/en)