

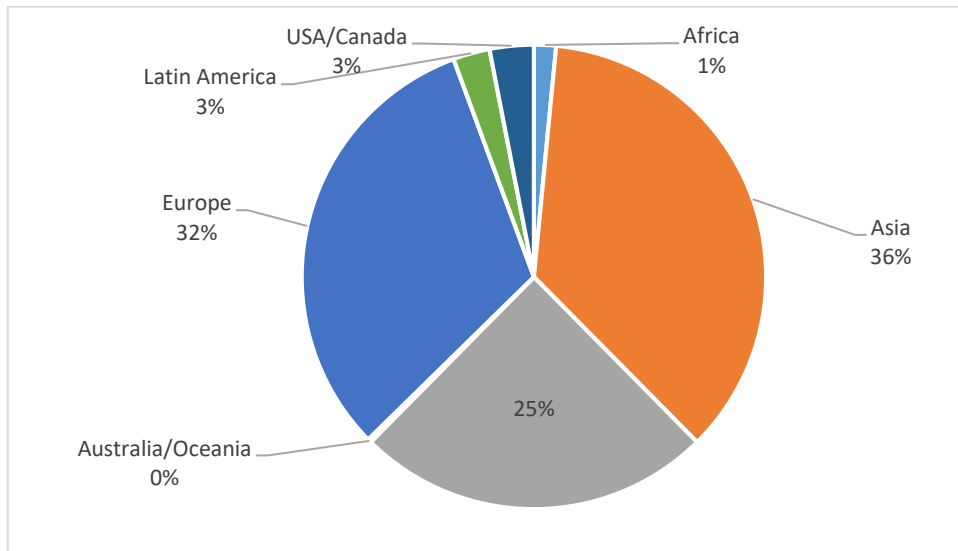


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SURE 2023 in Numbers

In 2023 SURE counts 294 active members (6 honorary members, 96 student members, 180 regular members, 4 unemployed members and 8 institutional members including 62 individual members). The international representation of urban ecology is reflected by the broad geographical background from the SURE members coming from Asia (141), Europe (124), North America (12), Latin America (10), Africa (6) and Australia/Oceania (1).

Geographical presentation of the SURE members in 2023





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SURE Activities in 2023

SURE board meeting and symposium in Izmir (Turkey)

Under the organization of Prof. Dr. Cigdem Coskun Hepcan (Ege University, Izmir), the [SURE Executive Committee](#) (EC) met 10th – 12th May 2023 in Izmir, Turkey. During the board meeting, Prof. Coskun Hepcan's great efforts to foster SURE activities through research and the upcoming SURE World Congress 2025 in Istanbul (Turkey) have been honored by her co-optation to the SURE EC. The SURE World Congress 2025 will be hosted by Prof. Dr. Meryem Hayir Kanat and Yildiz Technical University in co-operation with Prof. Coskun Hepcan.

The board meeting was connected with the [international symposium](#) "Urban ecology and urban ecosystem management" in which pressing challenges and promising solutions for sustainable urban development have been discussed with an interdisciplinary field of speakers. The talks covered examples from Iran, Turkey, Romania, India or Germany showing the global importance of urban ecological research and its implementation in practice. During the two-day event, an excursion to Cesme Peninsula showed urban and rural ecology interactions in practice and provided space to deepen the lively discussions during the previous symposium among the participants. You can find the slides of some of the participants in the symposium [online](#).

The SURE board and participants of the SURE symposium in Izmir (Turkey)





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News from the SURE South-East-Europe Chapter



SURE Workshop – Paradigm shift in urban ecology, Bucharest, 17-19 November, 2023

Venue: University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography, Bucharest, Romania

Organizer: Centre for Environmental Research and Impact Studies, Faculty of Geography – University of Bucharest and Society for Urban Ecology – [South East Europe Chapter](#)

Society for Urban Ecology in partnership with Centre for Environmental Research and Impact Studies have organized the Workshop of Society for Urban Ecology – *Paradigm shift in urban ecology*, in Bucharest, November 17-19th, 2023. The workshop was part of the

[ECOSMART 2023 – International Conference – Environment at a Crossroads: SMART approaches for a sustainable future.](#)

The workshop aimed to offer a framework for discussions into the Society of Urban Ecology, for creating the new opportunities for collaboration between their members.

22 researchers and students participated from 4 countries (Romania, Austria, Turkey, Poland). The SURE Central Europe Chapter was represented by a strong delegation from Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan, which include Professor Andrzej Mizgajski, Damian Łowicki, Iwona Zwierzchowska, Lidia Ponizy, Katarzyna Fagiewicz, and Piotr Lupa. Also, from Turkey participated Professor Meryem Hayir Kanat, Professor Çiğdem Çoşkun Hepcan, and Professor Şerif Hepcan, and from Austria, Associate Professor Angela Hof.



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The workshop started with two presentations of the local experiences related to Poznan (Iwona Zwierzchowska) and Bucharest metropolitan area (Alexandru Ionuț-Petrișor). After that three proposed microprojects were presented in order to be extended inside of Society of Urban Ecology:

- *Creating urban green spaces which promote intergenerational equity.* Project and discussion coordinated by assistant professor Diana Onose, University of Bucharest. Contact: diana.onose@g.unibuc.ro
- *Socio-cultural integration of immigrants using urban nature.* Project and discussion coordinated by Professor Mihai Răzvan Niță, University of Bucharest. Contact: mihairazvan.nita@g.unibuc.ro
- *Nature integration in large commercial areas.* Project and discussion coordinated by Professor Cristian Ioja, University of Bucharest. Contact: cristian.ioja@geo.unibuc.ro.

The presentation of the next Society of Urban Ecology activities was realized, including further workshops, summer school, internships offers and so one and so forth.

The workshop included a practical component related to understanding blue-green spaces in center area of Bucharest.

News from the SURE China Chapter - 9th SURE-SJTU International Summer School

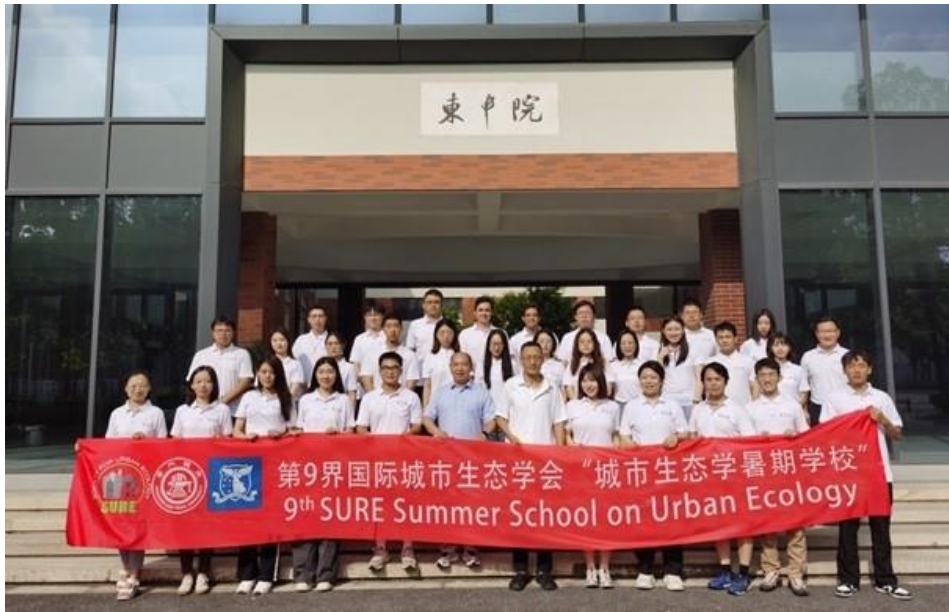
The 9th SURE-SJTU International Summer School on urban ecology was successfully held at Shanghai, from 8 to 12 August, 2023. The summer school was co-organized by SURE (Society for Urban Ecology), [SURE-China chapter](#), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), and the University of Melbourne, and hosted by Department of Landscape Architecture, School of Design at SJTU and the Sino-Bulgaria joint Lab of Adaptation and Governance of Rural Ecosystems to Climate Change. It was sponsored by the School of Graduate, SJTU.

The 9th international summer school was themed on Climate Change and Urban Eco-environmental Exposures and their Health Effects. It focused on hotspots of climate change, urban ecological and environmental exposures, such as urban heat island and heatwave, air pollution, water and soil pollution, and their health impacts on the public. The summer school successfully attracted 118 students, among 38 in-person and 80 online students covering graduate to PhD who come from 79 universities worldwide. The summer school was co-chaired by Prof. Dr. Junxiang Li, Prof. Dr. Shengquan Che at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Dr. Amy Hahs at University of Melbourne. 9 distinguished scientists in environmental sciences and public health were invited to give lectures at the 9th SURE Summer School. Their talks covered the impacts of ambient air temperature, extreme weather events, air pollution, urban greenness, and biodiversity and ecosystem services on public health. You can learn more on the event [online](#).



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Participants of the 9th SURE-SJTU International Summer School (picture provided by Prof. Junxiang Li)



News from the SURE Central Europe Chapter - ECOSERV Poznań 2023

The 7th Scientific Symposium “Ecosystem services in a transdisciplinary approach” – ECOSERV 2023 organized by Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań together with [SURE – Central Europe Chapter](#) and the National ESP Network took place on 14-16th September 2023 in Poland. The event gathered 100 participants from 15 countries.

Participants showed approximately 60 presentations and 20 posters during two plenary and eight thematic sessions. Their topics included:

- Ecosystem services across various ecosystems: urban ecosystem, water ecosystem
- Ecosystem Services at the landscape level;
- Socio-cultural services of ecosystems;
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Mapping and assessment of ecosystem services;
- Ecosystem services in management practice;
- Services provided by the main types of ecosystems in Poland

ECOSERV 2023 brought together research, ideas, concepts, and experiences and provided a friendly forum for discussing research and presenting different points of view on mapping, assessing, and implementation of ecosystem services.



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News from the SURE Iran Chapter

The International Conference of investment opportunities in Tabriz city in cooperation with the Tabriz municipality, the SURE chapter of Iran and the University of Tabriz took place in November 6, 2023 at the Tabriz University. During this conference, a total of six workshops have been whereby two of them have been managed by the SURE Iran chapter. The SURE Iran Chapter workshops focused on urban smart solutions and informal settlements. In this conference, more than 500 researchers and students participated.

International Conference of investment opportunities in Tabriz

(pictures provided by Akbar Rahimi)

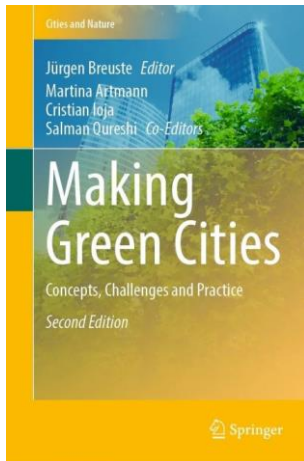




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News from the SURE Board and Publications

Release of the 2nd edition of the SURE book “Making Green Cities – Concepts, Challenges and Practice”



SURE is very happy to announce that the 2nd edition of the SURE book “Making Green Cities – Concepts, Challenges and Practice” has now been released. We thank all authors and colleagues that contributed to making the production of the book a big success. A big THANK YOU to you all! Without you, this would not have been possible. The electronic version of the book and more information can be found [HERE](#).

Breuste J (ed), Artmann M, Ioja C, Qureshi S (co-eds.) (2023) Making Green Cities – Concepts, Challenges and Practice. Springer, Cham, Switzerland. ISBN 978-3-030-73089-5 (Cities and Nature Series)

SURE in China – the visit of the SURE President

In China, urban ecology is developing very dynamically in various disciplines. Topics such as ecosystem services, CO₂ neutrality, resilience and biodiversity of cities are addressed in planning, design, architecture and urban development in research and teaching. Urban biodiversity in particular has become significantly more important in universities over the last four years.

SURE President Jürgen Breuste visited a total of 5 universities and institutes (Guangzhou, Xiamen, Shanghai, Xuzhou) in China in November 2023 and gave highly regarded and widely discussed lectures on urban biodiversity.

Overall, there is continued great interest among younger scientists and students in urban ecology topics and in particular in SURE as an organization. In 2024, the 10th SURE Summer School will take place in Shanghai at Jiatong University under the direction of Prof. Junxiang Li. The SURE International Center for Urban Ecology is planning a collaboration on urban biodiversity in research and teaching with the Center for Urban Architecture (CAUP) at Tongji University Shanghai (Prof. Jing Gan).



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Visit of SURE president in the Institute of the Urban Environment in Xiamen.
(picture provided by Prof. Jürgen Breuste)



Prof. Breuste and Prof. Tao Lin, the head of the institute
(picture provided by Prof. Jürgen Breuste)





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Webinar “Opportunities for scientific collaboration within SURE”

Organizer: [SURE Central Europe Chapter](#)

The webinar “Opportunities for scientific collaboration within SURE” gathered in March 2023 19 participants from 6 countries interested in strengthening collaboration within the worldwide SURE community. During the webinar representatives of the Polish National Agency of Academic Exchange presented funding opportunities available to scientists interested to visit Polish academic institutions together with programs for those who are interested in hosting Polish scientists.

Opportunities for incoming scientists were presented by SURE members from the University of Bucharest, Romania; Ege University, Izmir, Turkey; Aalto University in Helsinki, Finland, and Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology in China.

Scientific and collaboration ideas of SURE members were presented by 9 participants from 6 countries: Iwona Zwierzchowska, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland; Cristian Ioja, University of Bucharest, Romania; Mihai-Razvan Nita, University of Bucharest, Romania; Cigdem Coskun Hepcan, Ege University, Izmir, Turkey; Yanxia Qiu, Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland; Mohammad Nemati, University of Tabriz, Iran; Mohammad Ali Koushesh Vatan, University of Tabriz, Iran; Shuang Chen, Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, China.

Call for Papers – LAND Special Issue

- Topic: "Urban Ecosystem Services and Climate Resilience: Trends and Challenges"
- Guest Editors: Andrzej Mizgajski, Marek Degórski, Martina Artmann, Alina C. Hossu
- Deadline for manuscript submissions: 25 March 2024
- Call for Papers: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/land/special_issues/SN2N033CKE



You have new publications which you would like to share among the SURE community?

We offer SURE members the chance to share their current publications dealing with topics of SURE among the network. This should help to exchange knowledge and recent findings in the field of urban ecology between each other and to make the research of the SURE members more visible. If you are interested, please visit our [SURE Publication Service online](#).



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Upcoming SURE Events and Activities

2024 SURE EC meeting and workshop *Challenges in societal sharing of urban ecology research, 2024, 8-11 April*

Society for Urban Ecology warmly invites you to participate in the SURE workshop *Challenges in societal sharing of urban ecology research* that will take place from 8 to 11 April 2024 in Sinaia (Romania). The workshop is organized by the University of Bucharest (Center for Environmental Research and Impact Studies and Research Institute of University of Bucharest) and the Society for Urban Ecology (SURE). It aims to explore the main challenges of transfer of urban ecology research to different stakeholders, including public institutions, public and private companies, NGOs, or citizens.

SURE Summer School “URBAN + COAST”, 2-8 September 2024 in Istanbul (Turkey)

SURE warmly invites you to participate in the International SURE Summer School “URBAN + COAST” that will take place from 2 to 8 September 2024 in Istanbul (Turkey). The summer school is organized by the Yıldız Technical University (Istanbul-Turkey) and the Society for Urban Ecology (SURE) in cooperation with Turkish and international partners. It aims at exploring human and environmental challenges and finding solutions for these. Istanbul, Europe’s most populous city, serves as the perfect study area for this purpose. The school will include training on research methodology and group work on various research projects. Field studies that will focus on urban ecological areas of Istanbul will be carried out as part of the summer school.

Registration is already open. To register, please submit a short CV and motivation letter to [Res. Asst. Tuğçe CÖMERT](#) before 31 January 2024. More details about the summer school can be found [HERE](#).

Also the next **SURE World Congress** will take place in Istanbul, Turkey in 2025.

SURE trainees

- **SURE Trainee Offer at Yıldız Technical University (Istanbul, Turkey).** The trainee will support the upcoming SURE Summer School “URBAN + COAST”, 2-8 September 2024 in Istanbul (Turkey). More information about the position can be found [online](#).
- **Internship to offer?** To secure our successful internship programme we would like to invite all SURE members to offer future internships for students. If you have the possibility to offer an SURE internship, please fill the [form](#).