



Annual Review 2019

SURE 2019 in numbers

In 2019 SURE counts 360 active members (4 honorary members, 116 student members, 232 regular members, 4 unemployed, 4 institutional members). The international representation of urban ecology is reflected by the broad geographical background from the SURE members coming from Asia (227), Europe (97), North America (18), Latin America (10) and Africa (7) and Australia/Oceania (1).

SURE chapters and its activities in 2019

Currently, there are four SURE chapters installed: SURE China, SURE South-East Europe, SURE Central Europe and the new SURE Iran chapter. The SURE Latin America is currently under construction. The SURE chapters organized a range of activities around the globe including workshops, summer schools and common research among SURE chapter members.

In the course of the 10th SURE anniversary, the SURE South-East Europe chapter organized together with the Centre for Environmental Research and Impact Studies, Faculty of Geography – University of Bucharest the workshop *The Challenging Urban Nature and Nature'S Role in URban ChallEnges*. The workshop took place in Bucharest (Romania) from 5-8 September 2019 and was part of the ECOSMART 2019 – International Conference – Environment at a Crossroads: SMART approaches for a sustainable future. The workshop aimed to cover topics related to the use of nature in facing urban challenges, including the application of nature-based solutions, planning for eco, smart, resilient and sustainable cities and environmental conflicts involving green and protected areas. 28 researcher and students participated from 8 countries (Romania, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Russia, Poland). The workshop started with the presentation of the most important results of the SURE, related with organised events (SURE congress, symposium, workshops, summer schools), supporting projects, internships and common papers. The president of Society for Urban Ecology, Prof. Jürgen Breuste presented the new SURE book.



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10th SURE Anniversary Workshop in Bucharest

(picture provided by Cristian Iojă)



The SURE Chapter China organized the 8th Urban Ecological Forum sponsored by the State Key Laboratory of Urban and Regional Ecology, Beijing Urban Ecosystem Research Station, and Ecological Society of China, and organized by Society for Urban Ecology-China Chapter. The forum took place at the 28th May, 2019 in Beijing, China under the theme *Long-term Ecological Research and Management of Urban Ecosystems*. Nearly 300 participants from more than 100 universities and institutes from the United States of America, Germany, and China attended the forum. Five leading scientists gave plenary talks and eleven invited speakers gave their presentations. All participants of the event gave their opinions, suggestions, and discussions on the opportunities and challenges in how to establish a long-term ecological monitoring network and the comparative study in urban areas in China.

The 8th Urban Ecological Forum, May 28, 2019, Beijing, China

(picture provided by Yufen Reng)





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In the first quarter of 2019, the SURE Chapter Central Europe took the initiative for preparing and distributing a common study concept on greenery at hospitals from a Central European perspective. The aim of the collaboration is to establish a comparable study from Central Europe showing the hospital greenery significance in improving quality of hospitalization under consideration of ecosystem service demand and supply. Interested SURE partners joined the research group to contribute to this common SURE Chapter Central Europe research.

On 11th June 2019 the SURE Chapter Iran was founded with the aim of expanding international cooperation on urban ecology in Iran and at University of Tabriz. The main purpose of the SURE Chapter Iran is to encourage young and active researchers in the research fields on urban ecosystem management, urban sustainable development, landscape architecture, urban and regional planning, urban ecology, and geography. In this regard, SURE and the Iran chapter welcomed the City of Tabriz in Iran as an institutional SURE member. Tabriz is one of the bigger cities in Iran (1.8 Mio inhabitants). The Municipality Tabriz is interested to develop the city Tabriz based on ecological targets and to cooperate in this subject with the SURE. The mayor of Tabriz Dr. Iraj Shahin Baher explained the green policy of the city and expressed the willingness of Tabriz to join SURE for long-lasting cooperation.

Members of SURE EC, SURE Iran and Tabriz City administration

(from left to right: Prof. Ioja (Bucharest University, Romania, SURE Treasurer), Dr. Babaie (City Council Tabriz), Dr. Iraj Shahin Baher (Mayor of Tabriz), Prof. Rahimi (University Tabriz), Prof. Breuste (SURE president))

(picture provided by Jürgen Breuste)





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All activities by the SURE chapters in 2019 can be found in their annual reports published on the SURE webpage:

- SURE chapter [China](#)
- SURE chapter [South-East Europe](#)
- SURE chapter [Central Europe](#)

SURE INVITES ALL MEMBERS TO JOIN LOCAL CHAPTERS FOR PERSONAL AND TEACHING EXCHANGES.

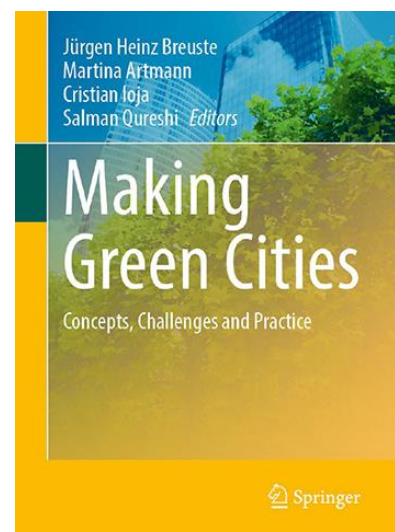
News from the SURE board

2019 was a special year for the SURE celebrating its 10th anniversary. In this regard, a range of activities were taking place including a workshop in Bucharest (Romania) organized by the SURE South-East Europe chapter (see above), a Summer School in Salzburg (Austria) and the first SURE Springer book will be published in 2020.

The first SURE book

The SURE board has finalized in 2019 the first SURE book that will be published for the Springer Cities and Nature Books series (<http://www.springer.com/series/10068>) in 2020. The book with the title *Making Green Cities – Concepts, Challenges and Practice* is edited by the SURE board members Jürgen Heinz Breuste, Martina Artmann, Cristian Ioja and Salman Qureshi. The SURE book brings together the existing international and interdisciplinary knowledge on urban nature and green city, its benefits and ways of implementation for interested students, researchers and practitioners. The book provides theoretical and conceptual knowledge on the Green City as well as related empirical studies by SURE members around the world dealing with urban agriculture, urban wild land - forests, waters and wetlands, urban protected areas and urban biodiversity as well as multi-functional urban green spaces. More information about the forthcoming book can be found at the [SURE webpage](#).

The first SURE book





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SURE welcomes the new member of the SURE Advisory Board: Cigdem Coskund Hepcan

Ass. Prof. Dr. Cigdem Coskun Hepcan, Department of Landscape Architecture, Ege University Izmir, Turkey was appointed a new SURE Advisory Board Member. Cigdem Coskun Hepcan received her Ph.D. in landscape architecture from Ege University (Turkey) in 2008. She has been working as associated professor at the Department of Landscape Architecture, Ege University since 2013. Her current research interests are landscape ecology, urban ecology, ecosystem services, ecological networks, greenways and green infrastructure planning, and nature-based solutions.

7th SURE 10 Years Anniversary Summer School URBAN + MOUNTAINS in Salzburg, Austria

The SURE Summer School was one of the events, celebrating in the 10th year of anniversary of the Society for Urban Ecology (SURE). It took place between 7-21 July 2019 in Salzburg, Austria under the leadership of SURE president Prof. Dr. Jürgen Breuste. The summer school was organized by the SURE in cooperation with the University of Salzburg (Austria) and with the Erasmus+ CBHE project Sustainable Natural Resource Use in Arctic and High Mountainous Areas and regional (Austrian UNESCO Geopark Ore of the Alps, and the only German alpine

7th SURE 10 Years Anniversary Summer School (picture provided by Jürgen Breuste)



National Park Berchtesgaden) and international partners. 54 students from several countries (Austria, China, Germany, India, Iran, Russia, Turkey) participated successfully. The focus of the summer school was on the relation of urban environment and mountainous conditions. The city of Salzburg, Austria in a cross-border region of Austria and Germany, close related to the Northern Limestone Alps was an excellent location to learn about this topic.

Call for papers: Special Issue on urban agriculture in the SURE partner journal Sustainability

Linked with the SURE working group on urban agriculture, leader of the working group Dr. Martina Artmann together with Jan Vávra, Kathrin Specht and Marius Rommel is guest editing a Special Issue in the Open Access journal Sustainability under the topic *A Systemic Perspective on Urban Food Supply: Assessing Different Types of Urban Agriculture*. This Special Issue aims to show up the current international state of the art in conceptualizing different types of urban agriculture, evaluating their different multifunctional impacts and ecosystem services, as well as developing and evaluating planning strategies for implementing urban agriculture on different scales. Deadline for manuscript submission is 28th February 2020. SURE members benefit from a 10% discount for article processing fees to publish in Sustainability. More information on the Call for papers can be found [online](#).



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SURE Outlook - 3rd SURE World Congress in Poznan, Poland

The 3rd SURE World Congress will take place between 6-8 July 2020 in Poznan, Poland. The conference will be organized by SURE Central Europe, Prof. Andrzej Mizgajski (University Poznan, Poland). The congress will be hosted in the newly built complex of Collegium Iuridicum Novum of Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan.

Under the theme *Cities as Socio-Ecological Systems* the conference topics include:

- The metabolism of urban ecosystems
- 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

The 3rd SURE World Congress webpage

<https://www.sure2020.org/>

