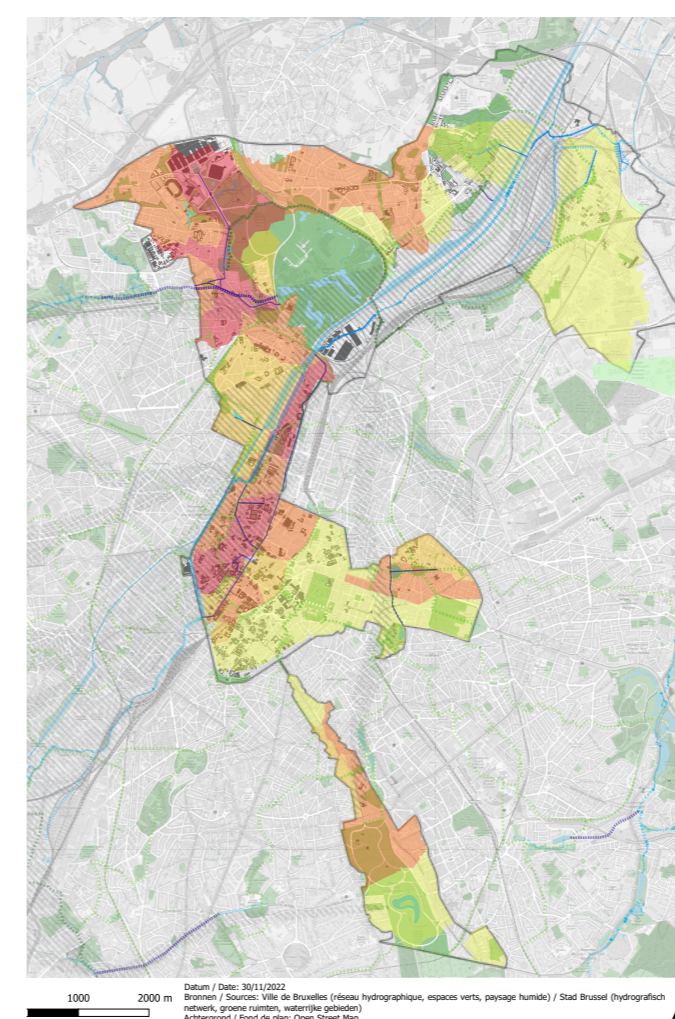


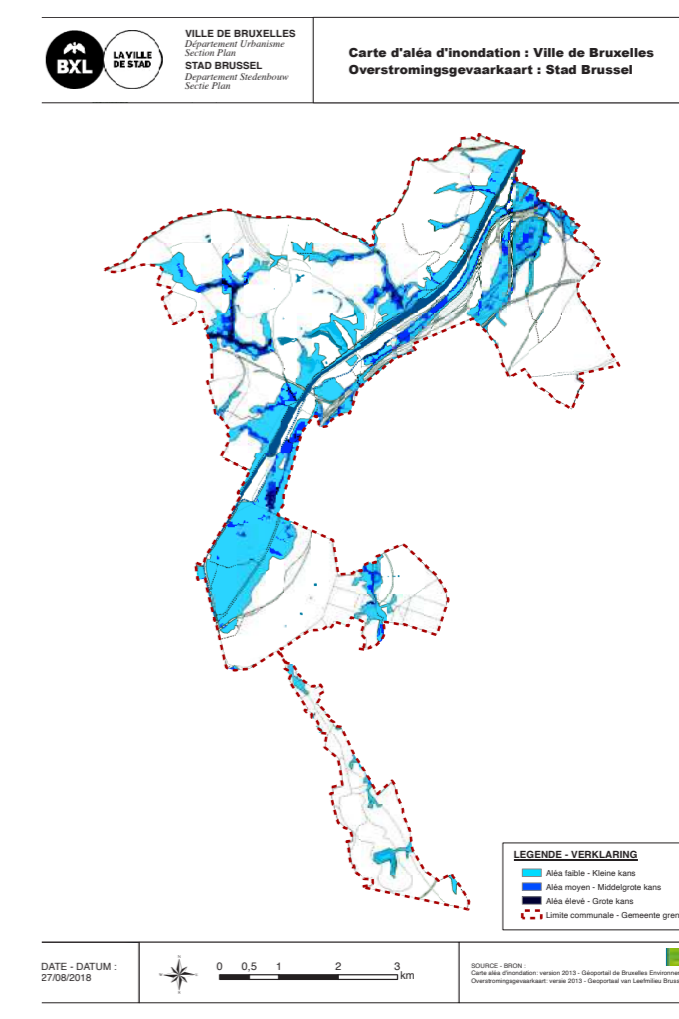
Localization of the priority intervention zone (blue contour) within the Brussels Capital Region and the territory of Brussels.



Aerial view on the priority intervention zone



Risk zones in the territory of Brussels concerning water threads



Flooding sensitivity and risk in the territory of Brussels



Brussels when the Zenne was still visible © Photonews



Works on the Zenne in 1940, near the South district © Photonews



Sightings of recent flooding in the priority intervention zone



Sightings of recent flooding in the priority intervention zone



Participatory workshops © Brusseau



Participatory workshops (2) © Brusseau



Participatory walk Solidarité de la Vallée © EGEB

Community social characterization

Brussels Capital Region has 19 municipalities with a variety of people with socio-spatial fractures, economic inequalities. 30,000 (neighbourhood) > 178,000 (municipality)

Motivation of the pilot

Flooding risks occur more and more. Mostly socially vulnerable groups live near the basins where water damage occurs the most. Giving more room to water within the city (passive approach towards water threads) by integrating NBS for water management with regard to the complex social challenges.

Existing NBS applications and initiatives

H2020 project "URBINAT" with NBS projects in Never-over-Heembeek. City is piloting NBS: water management, urban agriculture, biodiversity, energy management in municipal buildings, and support to citizen initiatives.

Leverage resources for NBS

Climate Action Plan and Municipal Water Plan are essential tools to leverage NBS implementation. At the Regional level, various plans such as the regional water plan or the regional climate plan.

Environmental Challenges

Flooding risks, overflow of sewage waters and Urban Heat Island effects (UHI) : adapting to these challenges, linked to an increased densification of the urban landscape (sealing of surfaces), and balancing the various needs attached to land uses (e.g. housing)

Social Challenges

Diverse, growing population, with associated housing needs, lack of public services, and many young children, as well as an intergenerational gap in public services, and specific needs associated with international migration (administrative, economic, socio-educational, and health support).

Economic Challenges

Precarity and polarisation linked to financial precarity, and a growing concern with education (qualification for the job market, intergenerational dynamics, language skills, discrimination in recruitment procedures, drop out levels from training programs).

Governance in the pilot case

Current legislation has a strong focus on democratic innovations (neighbourhood councils, participatory budgeting)

Local governance profile

Brussels municipality, regional organisations, local partners (universities, institutional partners, SMEs, inhabitants).

Target group

Focus on precarious and vulnerable populations within the intervention zone.

Small scale NBS testing

Formalizing water taskforce for the intervention zone in line with the framework of TRANS-lighthouses (e.g., inclusion of under-represented groups, iterative participatory process), to integrate water measures as part of NBS spatial interventions. Several specific sites can be chosen, depending on bottom-up dynamics and other projects of the city.

Challenges raised during the preparatory meetings

The social context of the intervention zone will have to be studied. Mapping the cultural, ethnical, social and religious landscape in order to be truly able to find representatives of each group and to engage the community.

Who owns the land?

Diverse and diffuse ownership structures. The city and the social housing companies own some buildings in the perimeter. Opportunities for pilots can be found near owned (social) houses or buildings, where the city can bring additional stimulus surrounding the integration of water measures in co-design processes, on top of the bottom-up dynamic.

Related projects to create synergies

Contrat école Paul Henri Spaak. Deconnection of roofs Brussels expo, redesign of the prince Leopold square, existing subsidies for water works (prime verts), communal water plan and its proposed structures and projects.

Possible local partners, associations, initiatives and champions to be engaged

Brussels municipality, regional organisations, local partners (universities, institutional partners, SMEs, inhabitants). Neighbourhood council, Brusseau-network EGEB-network.