

## Safeguarding European urban trees and forests through improved biosecurity



### Background

- Urban trees are increasingly threatened by alien pests (insects and pathogens) that are introduced via trade and transports.
- In a new environment, these pests may become invasive, causing devastating environmental and economic losses, and threatening also unique cultural values, such as those linked to veteran trees.
- **The current biosecurity system fails to capture alien pests** that often also benefit from the altered climate.
- COST Action “UrbanTreeGuard” brings together a pan-European and international network of
- scientists and stakeholders to meet this challenge.

### Goals

UrbanTreeGuard network aims to:

- Collect, share and harmonize **scientific and stakeholder knowledge**.
- Accelerate development of innovative technological **tools and solutions for biosecurity** purposes.
- Inform policy and support implementation of the EU plant health regime while providing **science-based recommendations** for decision makers, especially at operational levels.
- Foster an inclusive and open research environment, with explicit **support to young professionals**.
- Increase European **competitiveness in the field of biosecurity**, improving also the quality of everyday life for people, especially urban dwellers, in Europe and beyond.

### Working Groups (WGs)



#### WG 1 - Identification

Finding the relevant stakeholder groups and understanding their needs.



#### WG 2 - Innovation

Mapping and recommending available tools and measures for urban tree biosecurity.



#### WG 3 - Integration

Informing policy, identifying obstacles and suggesting measures for policy implementation.



#### WG 4 - Information

Transparent and rapid communication and dissemination activities and knowledge exchange.

