

COST Action CA20132 *UrbanTreeGuard*
Safeguarding European urban trees and forests
through improved biosecurity



Challenge

- Urban trees and forests provide vital ecosystem services for over 70% of European citizens.
- In urban environments, trees are often stressed and vulnerable to **alien invasive pests and pathogens**. These species spread with global trade and transport and are often established initially in urban and peri-urban environments.
- By damaging and killing trees, alien pests and pathogens cause both direct and indirect economic costs to society and irreversible damage to ecosystems and native biodiversity.
- Improved **biosecurity** strategies and measures to prevent, control, and manage the introduction and spread of alien pests and pathogens of trees in urban settings are therefore needed.



Working Groups

WG 1 - Identification

- WG1 identifies relevant stakeholder groups and their needs. It also explores host species at risk and high-risk pathways as well as decision-making processes at the local level.

WG 2 - Innovation

- WG2 maps and recommends innovative technological tools and control measures for improved urban tree biosecurity.

WG 3 - Integration

- The goal of WG3 is to inform policy, identify obstacles in implementation of best practices and suggest standards and measures.

WG 4 - Information

- WG4 works to ensure transparent and rapid communication, by organising dissemination activities and knowledge exchange.



Objectives

UB3Guard aims to support urban tree biosecurity by:

- Promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange across disciplines and sectors.
- Recommending innovative strategies and tools for better urban tree biosecurity.
- Advocating for policy measures and standards, to boost awareness and preparedness to prevent, control and manage alien pests and pathogens in urban settings.
- Supporting knowledge transfer through comprehensive education, training and dissemination activities.

Main activities and deliverables

- Stakeholder inventory and identification of stakeholders' needs.
- Inventory of tree species in 24 European countries (about 8.7 mio trees and 3400 species).
- Makeathon workshops to encourage innovation.
- Horizon Scanning workshop to anticipate emerging technologies.
- An interactive online map and a wiki-based online resource for engaging and user-friendly knowledge transfer.
- CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) for promoting best practices and standardization of urban tree biosecurity.
- OA book with narratives to increase awareness, educate and provide guidelines for a broader audience.
- Teaching material tailored for different educational levels (youth, professionals, academics).
- Training schools and STSMs to promote collaborations and support the new generation of experts in the field.

