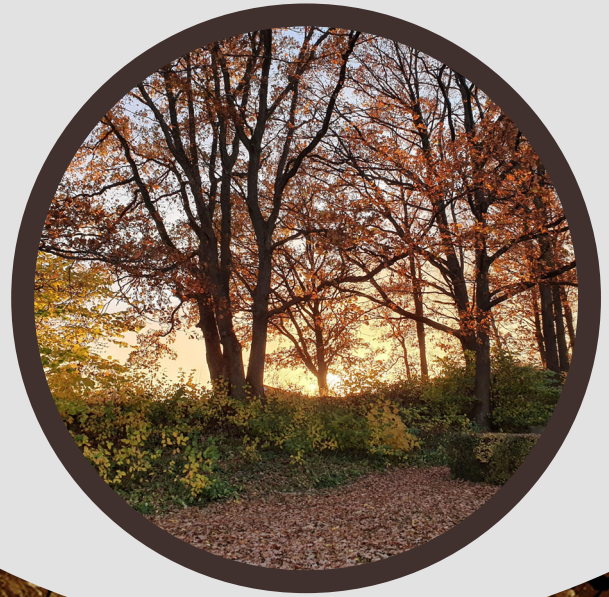


## Policy Brief

# STRENGTHENING URBAN TREE BIOSECURITY SYSTEM IN EUROPE





## Problem

Urban green areas are vital for healthy, climate-resilient cities, yet they are increasingly threatened by invasive alien pests and pathogens introduced through trade and transport.



## What Is at Stake?

- Plant health and biodiversity. Invasive species can devastate tree populations and ecosystems.
- Cultural and aesthetic values. The loss of iconic or veteran trees alters city character and heritage.
- Rising maintenance costs. Pest control, tree removal, and replacement strain municipal budgets.
- Human health and well-being. Fewer trees mean poorer air quality, urban heat, and lower life quality

Findings from policy workshops and surveys across 20 European countries (14 EU and 6 non-EU) highlight major governance and capacity gaps in urban biosecurity.

***Strengthening coordination, education, and preventive measures at local and regional levels is key to securing the future of urban forests and green infrastructure.***

## Policy Priorities and Recommended Actions

### ***Build a Knowledge Base***

Improve urban tree inventories including species, provenance, and health status. Promote data sharing between municipalities, research institutions, and national authorities.

### ***Strengthen Monitoring and Early Detection***

Relevant educational programmes in universities and vocational schools must add courses in phytosanitary theory and practice into their curricula.

### ***Educate and Engage***

Incorporate biosecurity education into professional training, school curricula, and public campaigns. Encourage community-based monitoring with schools, NGOs, and botanical gardens.

### ***Improve Planting Material Control***

Enforce traceability and certification for planting materials. Promote locally produced, pest-free, and climate-adapted plants.

### ***Support Local Nursery Development***

Provide incentives and guidance for nurseries meeting biosecurity standards. Strengthen local supply chains to reduce dependency on imports.



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*This publication is based upon work from COST Action UrbanTreeGuard, CA20132, supported by COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology.*

*COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.*