WS 1- benefits of Green Infrastructure

The aim of the workshop was to demonstrate that multiple benefits can be derived from Green Infrastructure.

We listed through a collective brainstorming suggestions for potential benefits of Green Infrastructure. As the spatial dimension is recognized as key for green infrastructure, we tried to investigate whether these benefits might be relevant for different land types. We looked at nature reserves/protected areas/N2K (N), rural land – meaning cultivated land e.g. for agriculture, forestry etc… (R) and urban land (U). [If there were a bit more time we could have attributed the benefits to different sectors. We have not done it in the workshop, the moderator added this aspect when writing this summary]

The result is summarized in the table below:

Benefits of green infrastructure	**land types**		
	"protected land", e.g. nature reserves, N2K, national parks etc…	"used land", e.g. farm land, forested land	urban land
biodiversity protection, increased connectivity, decreased fragmentation	X	X	X
climate change adaptation and/or mitigation	X	X	X
human welfare and well-being	X	X	X
overall rural and urban planning	X	X	X
job and business opportunities, green economy	X	X	X
reconnection of people to nature			X
ecosystem services (green lungs, water provision, noise protection, pollution reduction etc)	X	X	X
cultural landscape, sustainable farming		X	
balanced delivery of ecosystem services		X	

However, possible conflicts need to be tackled when increasing connectivity and "inviting "wilderness into the cities".

In addition the "branding" Green Infrastructure could be a possible marketing tool and through positive incentives the implementation of Green Infrastructure could be enhanced.

The result confirmed the hypothesis that Green Infrastructure can provide multiple benefits from the same piece of land and it thus holds potential benefits for various sectors. This makes Green Infrastructure a possibly powerful integration tool.