Working Group 2
Socio-cultural services of GI

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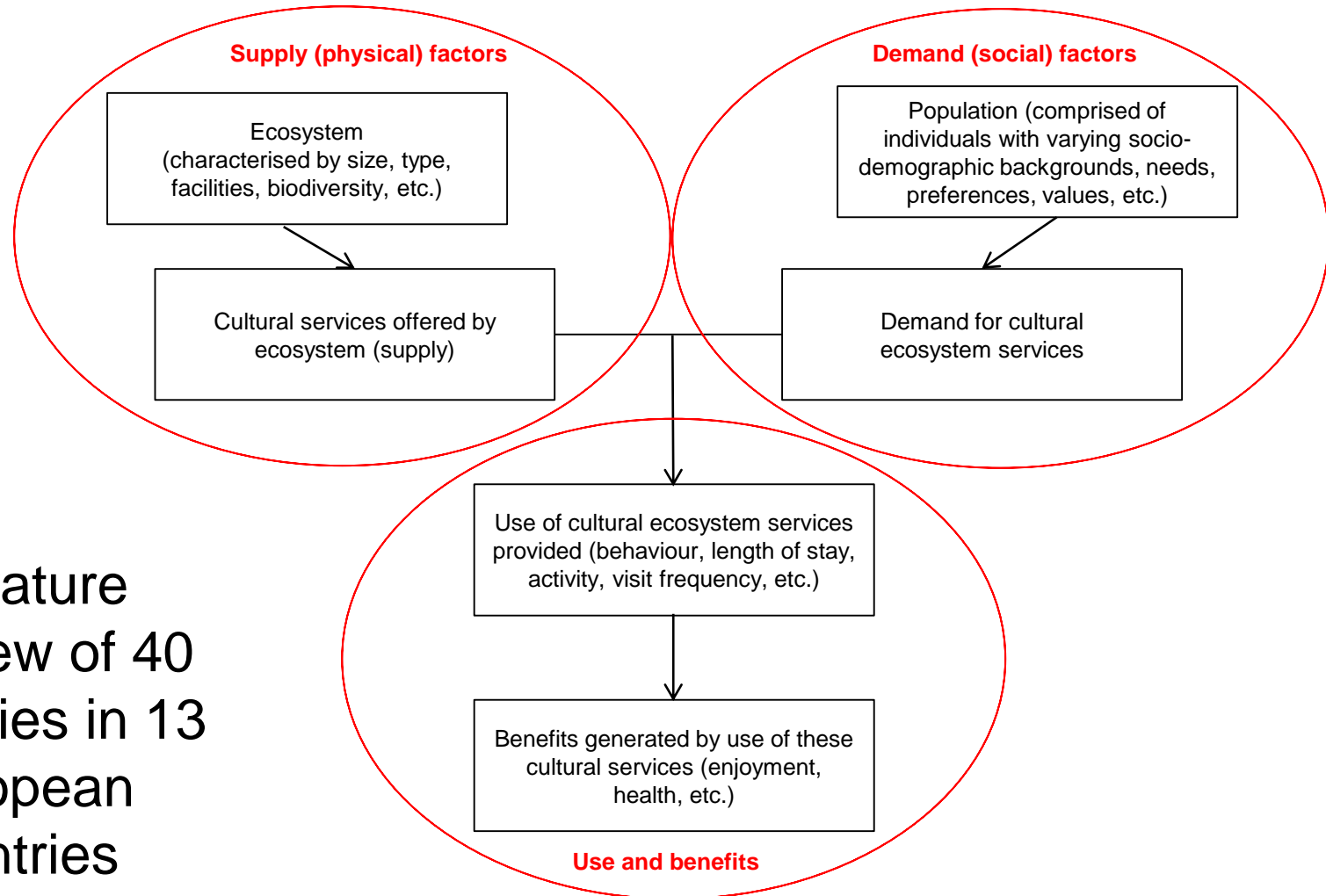
- **Gather qualitative and quantitative data** on the social or cultural services provided by UF and GI
- Consider evidence on the **social distribution** of ecosystem services

- Task Group 1: Physical and social characteristics of GI
- Task Group 2: Socio-cultural benefits of GI
- Task Group 3: Role of GI in tourism
- Task Group 4: Good practice going awry

Conceptual model

Literature review of 40 studies in 13 European countries

- Most common methods:
  - On-site questionnaires combined with visual on-site recording of elements
  - Off-site questionnaires combined with GIS data
  - Links provided by statistical tools or by overlaying different thematic maps

- Demand and supply influenced use and benefits but was sometimes contradictory e.g. the presence of vegetation promoting feelings of privacy but also sometimes concerns about safety

- Studies focused on recreation and aesthetic services rather than spiritual, inspirational or educational

- Infrastructure had an effect on visitor preferences, activities and visitor numbers

- Use of greenspace associated with several benefits especially restorativeness, general health and wellbeing

Theoretical and conceptual framework – taken from UK National Ecosystem Assessment published in July 2014

Spaces and practices lead to benefits

UK NEAFO Work Package 5: Cultural ecosystem services and indicators

5.2 Conceptual framework for cultural ecosystem services

The conceptual framework for CES is summarised in **Figure 5.1**. This framework represents an elaboration and development of what the UK NEA (2011) described as an 'environmental settings' based approach to cultural ecosystem services, and draws on the work of Fish and Church (2013). In general terms the approach articulated in the UK NEA highlighted that cultural goods and benefits associated with ecosystems arise from interactions between people and the natural environment. Put another way, an environmental settings approach emphasised a place, locality, landscape or seascape-based perspective to cultural ecosystem services (Church et al. 2011). Although these terms have their own distinct traditions and meanings, from the perspective of ecosystem assessment, the broad aims of a settings-based perspective is to explore the idea of culture in a geographical context. In Figure 1 the different components that make up the relationship between culture and ecosystems are represented graphically.
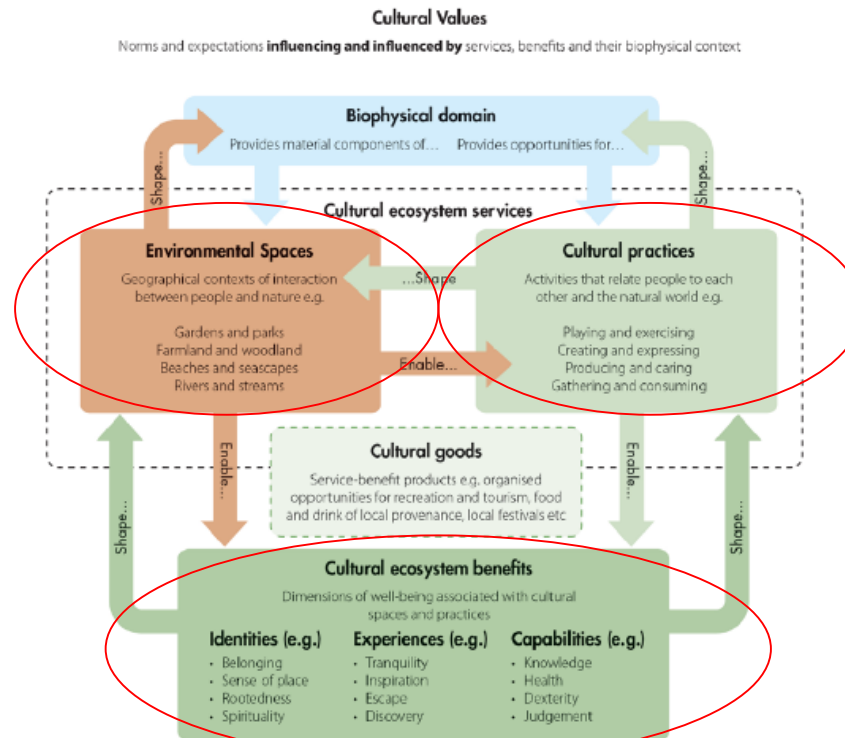

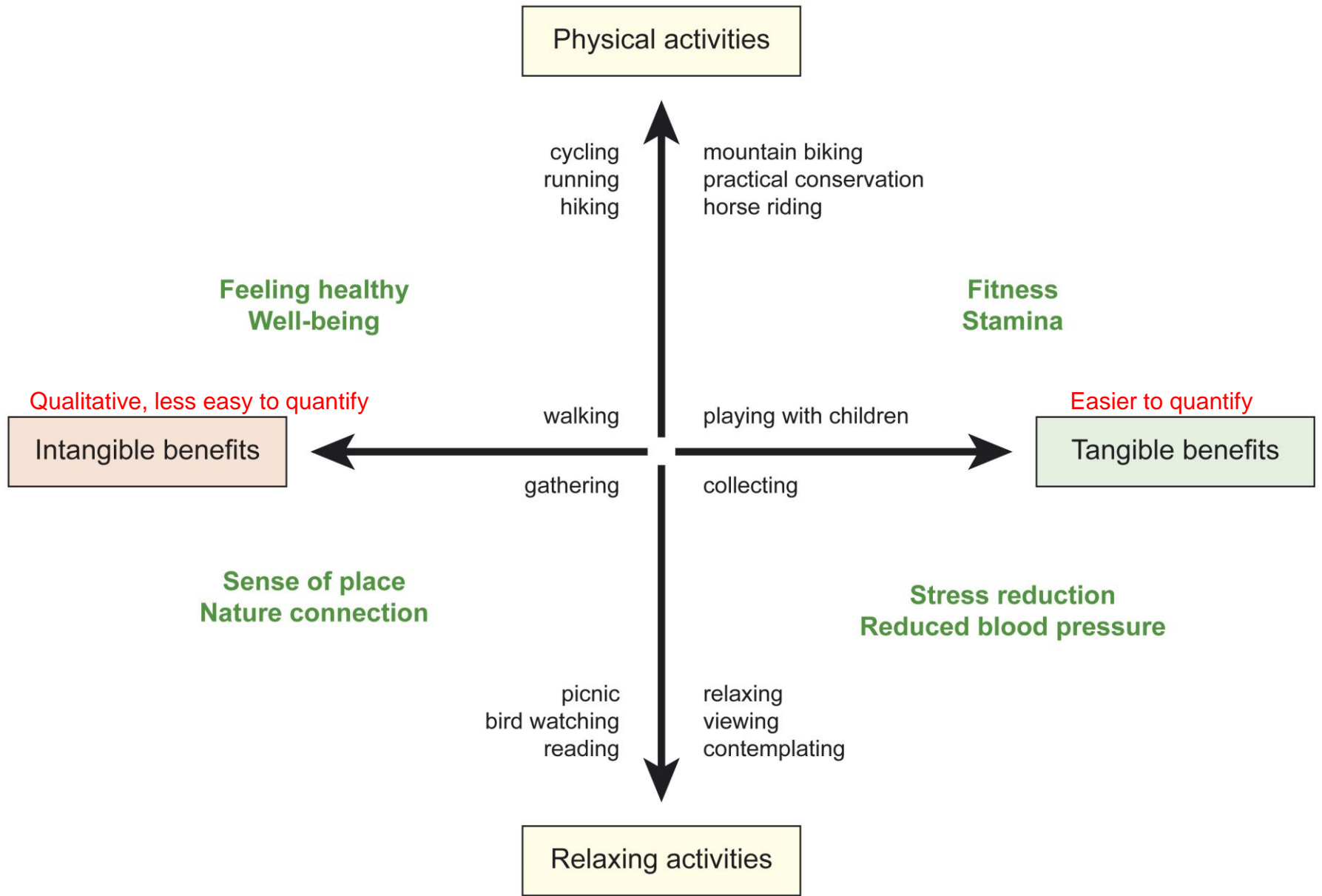Figure 5.1. Conceptual Framework (Fish and Church, 2013)

Socio-cultural benefits

- Literature review - Benefits identified from 56 studies in 15 countries

Overarching category	Wellbeing benefits of cultural ecosystem services – i.e. benefits from interactions between environmental spaces and practices						
Church et al (2014) Cultural ecosystem benefits i.e. dimensions of wellbeing benefits	Capabilities			Experiences			Identities
High level category	Learning	Health	Economic	Social connections	Connection to nature and benefits of different types of urban GI	Sensory experiences	Cultural and Symbolic
Benefit types	Ecological knowledge (1) Participation in planning and design (1) Education and learning (6)	Physical movement and activity (13) Escape and freedom (3) Enjoyment and fun (1) Relaxation, revitalised, restoration, refreshed (15) Being away (1) Calm / quiet (2) Opportunity for recreation, play (1) Confidence (2) Health (6) Quality of life (10)	Real estate value (1) Tourism (4) Contribution to economy (3)	Social inclusion (3) Social benefits, contact (19)	Wildlife (3) Plant and animal diversity (13) Nature in the city (1) Mix of trees and meadows (1) Open landscape (4) Water (2) Nearby nature (4) Nature / ecological connection (6) Quality of place (1) Forest (2) Growing Land regeneration (1) Environment (5)	Attractiveness, beauty, aesthetics (12) Atmosphere (1) Natural grandeur (1) Fresh air (3) Screening, shelter, security (1) Green view (1) Smell (1) Noise buffer (1)	Spiritual experience (4) Local identity (1) Sense of continuity between the past and future (1) Making a meaningful contribution (1) Satisfaction (1) Sense of freedom (3) Structure and routine (1) Inspiration (3) Place attachment (4) Cultural importance (6) Memories (1) Heritage (2)
Supporting infrastructure and management	The following were identified as important: • Amenities e.g. benches, trails, facilities suitable for the disabled (5) • Accessibility to sites (1) • Adequate maintenance and care of sites (1)						

COST
FP1204
GreenInUrbs

Physical activities

cycling
running
hiking

mountain biking
practical conservation
horse riding

**Feeling healthy
Well-being**

**Fitness
Stamina**

Qualitative, less easy to quantify

Easier to quantify

walking

playing with children

Intangible benefits

Tangible benefits

gathering

collecting

**Sense of place
Nature connection**

**Stress reduction
Reduced blood pressure**

picnic
bird watching
reading

relaxing
viewing
contemplating

Relaxing activities

Task Group 3: Role of GI in tourism

- 50 interviews undertaken in 16 cities in 8 different countries

- The questionnaire survey aimed at assessing and interpreting tourists' a) perceptions, b) attachments/ preferences, and c) practices/ behaviors vis-à-vis urban GI in the cities of their destinations.

- Most interviews were with foreign tourists; very few domestic tourists

- Domestic tourists tend to use GI more than foreign tourists

- Younger tourists tend to represent the highest percentages of total interviewees

Country	City
Latvia	Riga
	Jelgava
Portugal	Faro
	Lisbon
Lithuania	Kaunas
	Bristonas
England	Southampton
	London
Slovakia	Bratislava
	Trencin
Serbia	Novi Sad
	Belgrade
Czech Repulic	Kromeriz
	Brno
Greece	Athens
	Mytiline

- Significant connection of GI with cultural points of attraction (connectivity of the natural with the cultural). Thus, natural attractions become cultural attractions and vice-versa

- Tourists visiting Northern and Central European cities showed more interest in UGI than those visiting Southern European cities

- Use of UGI was for walking, photography, picnicking, jogging, relaxing, socialising

- Types of UGI visited included parks, urban forest, green corridors, gardens, lawns

Mytiline   Novi Sad   Kromeriz   London

- One learns best from one's mistakes - yet, mishaps are hardly ever recorded
- Learning from such experience is essential for decision-makers, practitioners, users and researchers

- A questionnaire filled in by 20 'experts' (policymakers, decision-makers, researchers and practitioners -10 countries. Examples include:

- **<u>Using trees that increase sensitization to pollen</u>**, because the developers did not have a database of the potential allergenicity of different species used in urban green areas to serve as a tool for planning and design for all decision-makers involved in this issue, both public and private

- **<u>Natural elements were not robust enough e.g.</u>** to survive the play pressure (intensity of use of the area by the children)

- **<u>Greening project either did not start or the care of the established green space stopped</u>** due to the lack of funding, unrealistic time-plan for using funds, bureaucracy

Steps to take to avoid mishaps

STRATEGY

- fulfil the purpose
- literature review
- check similar projects
- check legislation conflicts
- do SWOT analysis
- involve and communicate
- know the users
- check species ecology

IMPLEMENTATION

- include project designer
- hire well-trained professionals
- maintenance
- educate locals
- build place attachment
- celebrate success with locals
- regular on-site events
- zero tolerance for vandalism and littering

FOLLOW-UP

- staff regularly present
- monitor
- adapt
- do research
- build a brand
- learn from mistakes
- do a back-to-back project
- share your experience

Journal Papers:

1. Hegetschweiler, T., de Vries, S., Arnberger, A., Bell, S., Brennan, M., Siter, N., Olafsson, A., Voigt, A., Hunziker, M. 2016. **Linking demand and suply factors in identifying cultural ecosystem services of urban green infrastructures: A few of European Studies.** Urban Forestry and Urban Greening 21: 48-59

2. O'Brien, L. De Vreese, R. Kern, M. Sievänen, T. Stojanova, B. Atmiş, E. 2017. **Cultural ecosystem benefits of urban and peri-urban green infrastructure across different European countries**. Urban Forestry and Urban Greening.

3. Tourism paper in development

Book chapters:

1. O'Brien, L., De Vreese, R., Atmiş, E., Olafsson, A., Sievänen, T., Brennan, M., Sanchez, M., Panagopoulos, T., de Vries, S., Kern, M, Gentin, S., Saraiva, G., Almeida, A. **Social and environmental justice: diversity in access to and benefits from GI - examples from Europe.**

2. Terkenli, T. S., Bell, S., Zivojinovic, I., Tomicevic-Dubljevic, J., Panagopoulos, T., Straupe, I., Toskovic, O., Kristianova, K., Straigyte, L., O'Brien, L. **Recreational use of urban green infrastructure: the tourists' perspective'**

3. Carrus, G., Dadvand, P., Sanesi, G. **The role and value of urban forests and green infrastructure in promoting human health and wellbeing'**