

Utilization of green infrastructures for more resilient cities in Greece

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ABSTRACT

Green infrastructure includes any punctual urban green area and element as well as the ecological intervention adopted by city authorities which are crucial to provide multiple benefits in order to support a green economy, improve quality of life, protect biodiversity and enhance the ability of ecosystems to deliver services such as disaster risk reduction, water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate change mitigation and adaption. The LIFE GrIn project aims to incorporate the climate change adaptation and mitigation perspectives with green infrastructure management and conservation in local governance in cities, through the establishment of an integrated policy framework focusing on Urban Green Areas (UGAs). LIFE GrIn will utilize all available tools and indicators at European level to assist in strategic planning and management of UGAs in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation. The LIFE program started at 2018 and has a 3.5 year - duration. Six different partners are participating from Greece. Scientific Coordinator for the project implementation is the Institute of Mediterranean & Forest Ecosystems-HAO DEMETER and other partners are the Environmental Management Company - Homeotech Co, the Central Union of Hellenic Municipalities, the Greek Municipalities of Amaroussion and Heraklion and the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy.



EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results of the project are described below:

1. Establish an integrated policy framework for the management, monitoring and evaluation of UGAs based on cooperative planning and best practices in urban forestry, satisfying public values and promoting urban adaptation to climate change.
2. Integrate and promote European policies in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as sustainable urban planning and design.
3. Quantify and multiply the impact of UGAs on climate problems in cities (heat waves and heat island effect, increased runoff during heavy precipitation, increased energy consumption for heating/cooling buildings).
4. Promote the incorporation of sustainable urban forest management for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Covenant of Mayors and other EU policies.
5. Improve citizens' quality of life through the mitigation of the effects of climate change and the multifunctional planning of UGAs.
6. Raise awareness amongst decision-makers regarding the necessity and benefits of taking action on climate change adaptation/ mitigation at municipal level.
7. Raise public awareness about climate change and promote active participation of stakeholders towards mitigating its impacts.
8. Conserve nature and biodiversity and improve habitats for fauna and flora species in cities.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Project Areas

The project will be based on the implementation of actions in two Greek Municipalities. Municipality of Amaroussion, located in Athens and the municipality of Heraklion, located in Crete (Figure 1.).

Project objectives:

The main objective of the project is to incorporate climate governance in the management of green infrastructure at local level through the establishment of an integrated policy framework focusing on Urban Green Areas (UGAs) (Figure 2).

The project promotes urban integration, which translates into thinking of urban open spaces not as isolated units but as vital elements of the urban landscape with their own specific set of functions and contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This approach capitalizes on UGAs as valuable resources for the adaptation of cities to climate change and the mitigation of its impacts through urban forestry.

LIFE GrIn will develop a sustainable urban forest management framework through participatory planning that combines public perception and values of UGAs with management practices addressing climate change.

Supportive and well-tailored governance that covers horizontal and vertical engagement and broad stakeholder participation is a basic condition for all steps of the adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring process as is awareness and tailored knowledge creation (EEA, 2016).

Project Duration: 1/6/2018 until 31/12/2021

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Figure 2. Urban green areas.

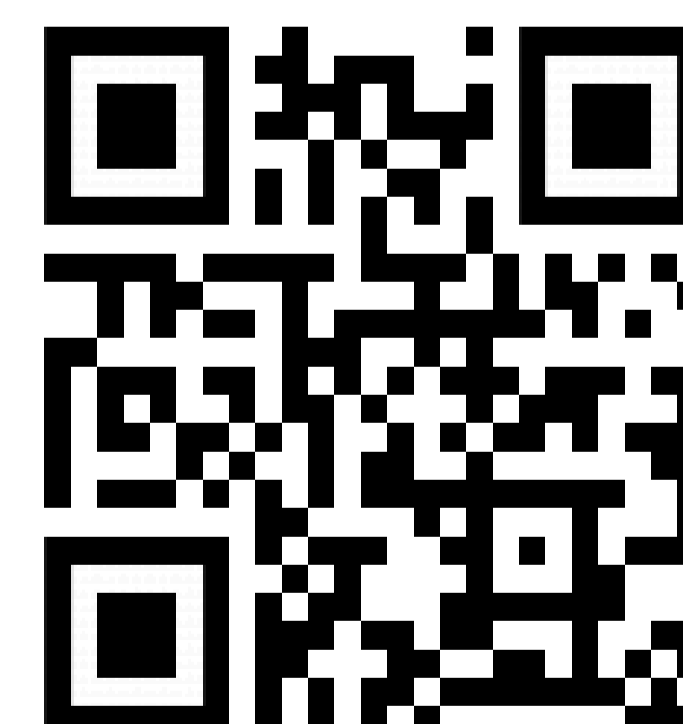


Figure 1. Map of Greece.

For further information please visit: lifegrin.gr



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