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euPOLIS BRINGS NATURE BACK TO CITIES

The mission: Innovative euPOLIS urban planning methodology integrates nature-based solutions to enhance the health and wellbeing of citizens in 4 European cities!

We are proud to announce that the international euPOLIS project, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 program, just kicked off, coordinated by the **National Technical University of Athens NTUA**, interconnecting the knowledge and experience of 28 partnering entities from all around the globe, including four European case cities: Piraeus, Belgrade, Lodz, and Gladsaxe. These cities will pilot the citizen-wise engagement and nature-based solutions of the euPOLIS innovative urban planning methodology, while Bogota, Palermo, Limassol and Trebinje will follow, replicate, and demonstrate the advantages of our innovations through mentoring and coaching.

The world is changing dramatically, and European cities face major urban development, social, geopolitical, economic and climate challenges that affect the quality of our lives. It became evident that we can no longer base our urban planning solely on profit-based criteria. The conventional approach oversees the interactions of social aspect and concepts, the needs of the local communities are merely neglected, which is why the costly investments are not embraced, lack sustainability and create a gap of distrust among citizens and city authorities. These imbalanced relations accumulate all kinds of social distortion which trigger stress, dissatisfaction and lower the quality of life, all affection public health and well-being.

To address these challenges, **euPOLIS NBS-based, centered, Urban Planning methodology** offers the **synergy of people/health-centered approach with significant environmental and economic benefits of Nature Based Blue Green Solutions**.

The euPOLIS project aims to replace or combine the traditional costly engineering systems built to protect the environment with natural systems to create resilient urban ecosystems at lower Life-Cycle Costs and simultaneously enhance public health and wellbeing. To addresses critical challenges such as low environmental quality, fragmentation and low biodiversity in public spaces, water-stressed resources the project introduces a structured approach to activate the hidden resources and services of existing Natural and Engineered urban systems, and it regenerates and rehabilitates urban ecosystems. The euPOLIS' detailed objectives are to improve urban resilience through interventions of proper urban planning matrices and co-create livable, inclusive urban spaces by systematically implementing innovative participatory tools, with particular attention to gender, age and disability perspectives within the process. The experts of the euPOLIS team will map the critical challenges that the demo cities encounter, provide holistic solutions and measure their positive impact on the quality of the lives of the citizens: their overall wellbeing, and physical, mental, and emotional health.

Coordinated by the NTUA, the euPOLIS team makes: University of Warsaw - Institute for Social Studies (Poland), University of Belgrade - Faculty of Civil Engineering (Serbia), Amphi International ApS (Denmark), European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology of the Polish academy of Science, Vertical Farming Institute (Austria), Geosystems Hellas S.A. (Greece), Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine (United Kingdom), Biopolus (Hungary), RISA Sicherheitsanalysen



(Germany), Resilience Guard (Switzerland), CDP Worldwide GmbH (Germany), EnPlus (Serbia), BioAssist (Greece), Sentio Labs Monoprosopi (Greece), Byspecter (Denmark), Mikser Association (Serbia), Plegma Labs (Greece), Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Universidad de los Andes (Colombia), City of Belgrade (Serbia), City of Lodz (Poland), City of Piraeus (Greece), Gladsaxe Municipality (Denmark), City of Palermo (Italy), City of Limassol (Cyprus), City of Trebinje (Republika Srpska), City of Bogota (Colombia), Fengxi New City (China).

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