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Ways to green infrastructure – Today and Tomorrow



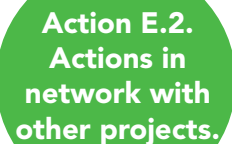
WAYS TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

TODAY AND TOMORROW

OCT 20-21 | Zaragoza (SPAIN)

CAMINANDO HACIA LA INFRAESTRUCTURA VERDE

PRESENTE Y FUTURO



Action E.2.
Actions in
network with
other projects.

Zaragoza hosted the European meeting **"Ways to green infrastructure – Today and Tomorrow"** on 20 and 21 October at Etopia which was an exceptional opportunity to raise awareness of this matter in Spain and Europe.

The meeting involved professionals of renowned international prestige from different fields of work, who presented success stories, techniques and strategies aimed at creating more sustainable urban environments. As a result, one of the few Spanish forums was held that discussed the promotion of green infrastructures in a global and multi-disciplinary manner.

Its mission is to foster the exchange of ideas and experiences, as well as the participation and debate among the sector's players, involving the society as a whole. To this end, a series of panel discussions were organised where the attendants could pose questions, put forward ideas and state their opinions. It was organised by the **Zaragoza City Council** through the **Life Zaragoza Natural project**, which the city is taking part in.





20th October

AGENDA

*Welcome

Pedro Santisteve. Mayor of Zaragoza – Zaragoza City Council

Teresa Artigas. Councillor for Environment and Mobility - Zaragoza City Council

Sandra Ortega. Director General of Sustainability – Regional Government of Aragón

*Towards a proposal of National Strategy on Green Infrastructure, connectivity and ecology restoration.

Paula Gil. Coordinator of the development team of the future national Strategy on Green infrastructure, connectivity and ecology restoration – National Natural Sciences Museum

*Presentation of the LIFE “Zaragoza Natural” project

Montserrat Hernández. Head of the Forest Management Technical Unit – Zaragoza City Council

Luis Manso de Zúñiga. Head of the Environment Conservation Unit – Zaragoza City Council

*Urban forests without irrigation: LIFE+ “Quick Urban Forest” Project

Environmental consultant - SDL Environment Research and Dissemination

*Poster session

*Technical session: Presentation of success stories at national level

Xavier Carbonell. Environmental mediator – ARC Environmental Mediation

*Planning, design and implementation of the urban Green Infrastructure

Cristina del Pozo. Degree in landscape architecture – Rey Juan Carlos University

*Green and Biodiversity Plan of Barcelona as a nature-based solution.

Margarida Parés. Head of the Biodiversity Programme – Barcelona City Council

*Green Infrastructure as a natural public health system. Context and municipal applicability in A Coruña

Pedro Calaza. Member of the Executive Board – Spanish Association of Public parks and Gardens

*Green infrastructure and territory planning: The experience of the regional Government of Barcelona

Carles Dalmases. Territory analyst – Barcelona Provincial Council

*Green Infrastructure. A new paradox in the nature conservation?

Carlos Montes. Professor in Ecology – Autonomous University of Madrid

*Conclusions and closure

Xavier Carbonell. Environmental mediator – ARC Environmental Mediation

*Technical session: New formulas for urban water management by means of Green Infrastructures

ZINNAE - Cluster for the efficient use of water

Beniamino Russo (Aquatec - EUPLA) / *Lucía Soriano* (FNCA) / *Manuel Arce* (Zeta Amaltea) -

European experts advocate in Zaragoza for introducing environmental criteria in urban planning

On the first day of the congress “Ways to green infrastructure. Today and tomorrow” in which the most cutting-edge experiences in the development of green infrastructures were discussed. The meeting was promoted within the framework of the Life Natural programme, and gathered European experts who advocate for environmental criteria in urban planning.

The Councillor for Environment and Mobility of the Zaragoza City Council, Teresa Artigas, pointed out that the capital of the region of Aragon is a pioneer in research in the city's natural environment, with municipal works since 2001”. For this reason, “it is the ideal framework to hold an international meeting to promote the development of green infrastructure in Europe” she stated.

The initiative is part of the activities of the Life Zaragoza Natural project which has the aim of “fostering the exchange of ideas and experiences, as well as the participation and debate among the sector’s players, involving the society as a whole”, as pointed out by the people in charge of the project Montserrat Hernández and Luis Manso de Zúñiga. To this end, a series of discussion panels were organised where the attendants could pose questions, put forward ideas and state their opinions.

The meeting, which was held on the 20th of October involved professionals of renowned national and international prestige from different fields of work, who presented success stories, techniques and strategies aimed at creating more sustainable urban environments.

On day 2, which was the 21st of October, a discussion panel was held for all the participants to exchange impressions and ideas.



Approximately 150 people took part in the event



The mayor of Zaragoza, Pedro Santistevé during the opening



The Director General of Sustainability of the Regional Government of Aragon, Sandra Ortega, welcomed the attendees



The councillor for Environment and Mobility of the Zaragoza City Council, Teresa Artigas, during her intervention

21st October. AGENDA

*Opening

Xavier Carbonell. Environmental mediator – ARC Environmental Mediation

*Green belt of the Bay of Santander: Connecting nature and the city

Carlos Sánchez Martínez. Chairman – Nature and Man Foundation

*Green networks and urban planning. Urban instruments for the construction and management of reticular structure

Francesca Lotta. PhD in Urban and Land Planning – University of Palermo

*TURAS project – Transition towards Urban Resilience and Sustainability

Pilar Zapata. Senior Project Manager - BioAzul

*Green Infrastructure in the Urban and land planning system

José Fariña. University professor – Technical University of Madrid

*Poster session

*Discussion panel

Carlos Montes. Professor in Ecology – Autonomous University of Madrid

Luis Manso de Zúñiga. Head of the Environment Conservation Unit – Zaragoza City Council

Carles Dalmases. Territory analyst – Barcelona Provincial Council

José Fariña. University professor – Technical University of Madrid

Xavier Carbonell. Environmental mediator – ARC Environmental Mediation

Marc Montlleó. Technical Director / Director of the Energy and Environment Projects Department - Barcelona Regional, Agencia de Desarrollo Urbano SA

*Meeting closing ceremony

Teresa Artigas. Councillor for Environment and Mobility - Zaragoza City Council



Coffee break



Artigas attended the media

The meeting comes to an end with great success of attendance and participation

Around 150 professionals gathered in Zaragoza with the aim of analysing, fostering and disseminating the role of Green Infrastructures and the benefits they provide to the society and the environment.

The high level of participation in the discussion sessions and debates, the number and quality of the posters presented, as well as the variety of topics that were addressed during the two-day meeting, revealed the growing interest and awareness that exists in the defence of this urban planning instrument.

The documentation generated at the meeting is on the website, <http://www.greeninfrastructure-zaragoza.com/es/recursos> and <http://www.zaragoza.es/ciudad/medioambiente/natural/acciones-e2.htm>



The Head of the Environment Conservation Unit of the Zaragoza City Council, Luis Manso de Zúñiga during his intervention



The speakers during the discussion panel



The attendees were able to pose questions to the speakers



The meeting took place in Etopia



Posters

The posters display was a unique opportunity for professionals / teams / projects to show the latest advances in knowledge and solutions to support the future of green infrastructures.

Introduction:

It required the presentation of a summary which was the basis for selecting the poster. The authors were recommended to focus on the most outstanding aspects in a concise way.

The works presented were evaluated taking into consideration three aspects: Innovation, impact and viability.

The proposals had to be submitted electronically either by means of a questionnaire or on the website registration tab.



In total, 17 posters were chosen

Prize:

All the posters automatically entered into a competition to determine the best work submitted. The voting was open to all the attendants from first thing on Thursday 20th of October until Friday 21st November, at 1 pm. The winner was announced during the closing ceremony, and was published on the website of the meeting.

Poster sessions:

The posters were exposed next to the hall and the conference room throughout the event. Specific sessions were also planned that allowed the authors to present their respective works to the public.





Projects presented at the Green Infrastructures Meeting - Zaragoza

Green belt of the Bay of Santander. Carlos Sánchez Martínez

LIFE + Green belt of the Bay of Santander: Connecting nature and the city

The project "LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity Green Belt Bay of Santander: Connecting nature and the city" (LIFE 14 NAT/ES/000699), of which the Foundation Nature and Man is the beneficiary coordinator, will work until 2019 in the recovery of natural areas of the Bay of Santander.

Italian Project on Green Infrastructure. Networks and urban planning. Francesca Lotta

"Green networks and urban planning. Urban instruments for the construction and management of reticular structure"

Since 2009, her research line covers environmental topics and, more specifically, their relation with urban and land planning. Francesca published her doctoral thesis in monograph number 88 of the Ci[ur] Urban Planning Research Journal.

TURAS project – Urban Resilience and Sustainability. Pilar Zapata

The "TURAS" project unites the urban and business communities with the local and investigation authorities to collaborate in the development of new practical solutions to achieve more sustainable and resistant European cities.

Green Infrastructure as a natural public health system. Context and municipal applicability in A Coruña Pedro Calaza Martínez

Doctoral thesis D. Pedro Calaza. Green Infrastructure, public health and physical activity.

The past 27th of June Pedro Calaza Martínez, PhD in Landscape Architecture and PhD In Architectural Engineer and Professional member of AEP, defended his doctoral dissertation in Landscape Architecture at the University of Lisbon titled "Green Infrastructure, public health and physical activity. Evidence of their relation. Case study A Coruña. Spain".

Green infrastructure and territory planning: The experience of the regional Government of Barcelona. Carles Dalmases

The Green and Biodiversity Plan of Barcelona as a nature-based solution. Margarida Parés.

Barcelona is committed to preserving and improving the green infrastructure in order for nature in the city to become a true green network that will benefit all citizens. To achieve this, Urban Ecology has developed the Green and Biodiversity Plan that defines the goals, commitments and achievements of the municipal government with regard to the preservation of the city's biological and green diversity.

The document plans on the long-term the actions to conduct to achieve an ecological infrastructure that brings benefits for the people and that builds not only an environmental service but a social service to face the future challenges.

Green and Biodiversity Plan in Barcelona 2020.

Barcelona is committed to preserving and improving its natural heritage for citizens to enjoy it and benefit from it. They want the city's nature to become a true green network and not a map of isolated areas. This network must be considered as an ecological infrastructure, in the sense that it constitutes a basic integral part of the city that offers not only an environmental service, but a social service as well.

LIFE "Zaragoza Natural" project. Montserrat Hernández

The overall aim of the project is to protect, improve, enhance, know and make known the Green Infrastructure of Zaragoza, that includes the Sites of Community Interest (LIC) and Special areas for the protection of birds (ZEPAS) but also the Green Belt and other areas of natural interest in the municipality, all of which of great singularity at European level due to their contiguity, their closeness to a large city and their notable state of conservation.

Urban forests without irrigation. LIFE+ Project. Susana Domínguez Lerena

The main aim of QUF (Quick Urban Forestation) is to promote reforestation in the Southern European cities, towns with arid conditions, surrounded by industrial areas, contaminated or of poor soils, with hardly any vegetation, often located in valleys which affect the air renewal and with a population that has to travel at weekends to other areas with better conditions.



Presentation of the LIFE “Zaragoza Natural” project

Montserrat Hernández. Head of the Forest Management Technical Unit

Technical Coordinator of the LIFE “Zaragoza Natural” project (LIFE 12 ENV ES/000567) which was allocated to the Zaragoza City Council by the European Commission in 2012.

Luis Manso de Zúñiga. Head of the Environment Conservation Unit. **He is currently the Technical Manager of the LIFE “Zaragoza Natural” project (LIFE 12 ENV ES/000567)** which was allocated to the Zaragoza City Council by the European Commission in 2012.

Zaragoza has multiple landscapes rich in biodiversity. Steppes, ravines, marshes, Mediterranean and riverside forests, the habitat to many species of flora and fauna, 10% of which are protected according to the state legislation.

This natural capital is not immune to the city's expansion and development processes that have a bearing on the fragmentation of the territory and contribute to the loss of connection and quality of the spaces.

The European Commission and the Zaragoza City Council, through the Life Zaragoza Natural project have the aim of protecting, improving and showcasing and making known the city's Green Infrastructure which incorporates the different types of natural areas, as well as the green belts and corridors that connect and give coherence to this tapestry of biodiversity.

Nevertheless, Zaragoza preserves the essence of its areas, its flora and its fauna. Objectives and actions:

The LIFE Zaragoza Natural project consists of 38 implementation sub-actions.

The specific actions and means of this project are structured around green and blue matrices of the city which are grouped in the following fields:

- Legal and administrative actions which have the aim of conferring to the Green Infrastructure the necessary legal nature and protection.
- Studies that enable increasing the knowledge base of the state of the green and blue matrices (Grooves of Juslibol, Gully of Las Almunias...).
- Management plans of forest areas of interest with regeneration and continuity problems (Reserve of Peñaflor and Mount Torrero).
- Actions to improve the ecological state of the Gállego and Huerva rivers.
- Recovery of the connection of the river and the city or of the natural areas and green urban areas.
- Promotion of green employment through nature tourism and of the management and protection of the natural areas.
- Public awareness of the values of our natural heritage.



Zaragoza

life
natural

The objective of the **LIFE ZARAGOZA NATURAL project** is to continue with the improvement and protection of the natural patrimony, creating a framework of biodiversity which connects and contributes an improvement of the valuable ecosystems which has the municipality of Zaragoza.

You can find more information about the project LIFE ZARAGOZA NATURAL in the municipal web site and follow us in the following platforms and social networks:



www.zaragoza.es/life-zaragozanatural



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