Green infrastructure for better living

Project newsletter No.5
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After 3 years of hard, successful work we would like to invite you to our final conference in order to share our experiences and results with you:

**10th of October, Munich, Germany**
We will interview the people of LOS_DAMA! about the Job Shadowings; take part in an interesting discussion on how to better implement green infrastructure and the Expo Of Experiences, which shows all of our local pilot activities!

**11th of October, Freising, Germany**
We will be hearing different talks about: green infrastructure and landscape benefits when developing city regions. Our local partners will shed light on the advantages of EU-projects for the regional level and we will discuss with politicians about the importance the landscapes!

We might even have a small surprise for you! So if you are curious, please register here: https://web5.wzw.tum.de/umfrage/index.php?sid=52399&lang=en

## LOS_DAMA! local stakeholders speak up

**Grenoble-Alpes Métropole** organised a “treasure hunt” in the recreational park of “Les Vouillants”, in the Vercors foothills. On Saturday, 13th October 2018 more than 1,500 participants came together from the whole Grenoble metropolitan area. Mainly families took part in the treasure hunt named “7 Snakes of the Saint-Venin Tower”. Sabrina Bibollet, policy officer for natural spaces, and organizer of the tells us more about it:

**Sabrina, why did you organize this event?**
Our motivation was to allow people to discover this particular site. The aim was also to give a better understanding on how diverse uses cohabitate and why and how we should respect nature; We wanted to do that with more fun than usual pedagogic way.

**Can you say more on how you conceived it?**
We conceived the event by involving the “organized” users (sport or nature NGOs, farmers and institutional stakeholders) in the choices of the frame, the messages and the characters we aimed to develop. The second aspect was to hire a “gaming” company to create the game to ensure its quality.

**What lessons did you learn from this experience?**
It was a great success, also thanks to the beautiful weather. We learned that using playful means is a great way to attract people’s interest, and to deliver messages about respect of nature and ways to behave in green areas.
The City of Trento organized exploration and ‘peri-urban hunts’ with elementary school pupils. Children from different schools of the city have been guided to discover parks and other green and open spaces around the urban fringe. More than 50 students have joined the activities and visited three different areas named ‘Le Coste’, ‘Gocciadoro’, and ‘Doss Trento’. They have met people from the municipality and two experts on landscape, territorial, and ecologic dynamics. We have interviewed Gabriella Gretter and Anna Brugnara, the two experts.

Do you think the LOS_DAMA! project can help to spread the knowledge on the values of peri-urban landscapes?
We think that LOS_DAMA! is very important because the development of itineraries to discovery and connect peri-urban areas with the city can make more people understand the beauty and usefulness of the vegetation of these areas. Moreover, these pathways were for us ‘open air classrooms’ to experiment and promote sustainable practices also in cooperation with local citizens or farmers.

Do you think the cooperation with LOS_DAMA! can be further developed?
The cooperation with the project has been fruitful and important as occasion and tool to bring together experts and students. We hope that other activities can be developed to spread the knowledge on ecosystem and ecological values of peri-urban green areas through itineraries ‘from school to green areas’.

Why is it important that children gain insight of nature and green areas in the city?
It is important that children use these areas not only as a playground but also as spaces that offer a wide range of possibilities to learn, discovery, and get in touch with nature and its features. It is important for them to learn from the beginning that these areas are very close to their homes and that they should take care of them.

Learning by doing and sharing this knowledge with other practitioners is the idea of the LOS_DAMA! toolbox.
LOS_DAMA! partners developed a toolbox which is a collection of informal tools that have been used in the local pilot projects. We implemented different tools to find answers on how the cultural landscape of city regions can be upgraded in terms of ecology and recreation and thus be used multifunctionally. The described tools range from tools for problem identification, goal-setting and idea generation to tools to facilitate the implementation and management of green space projects to tools on awareness raising and involving stakeholders.

To get a good overview over the tools, they have been analyzed for different characteristics, such as their link to planning process steps, their level of participation or their different types of involved stakeholders.

As the toolbox only contains informal tools, it can be used independently from planning systems. The tools are, therefore, transferable to other contexts, and can be implemented by other city or region administrations.
Quickly find the right tool

The toolbox has five categories, which help to quickly find the right tool for different questions.

- Tools to identify issues, to analyze, to evaluate and monitor.
- Tools to raise awareness about the pilot project, its aims and activities, and to promote involvement and engagement of stakeholders.
- Tools that support collaboration; either collaboration with specific stakeholder groups or between multiple stakeholder groups
- Tools that describe how ideas and aims are planned and implemented. These are often the more traditional planning instruments like plans, visions, and guidelines.
- Tools that are referring to organizations or groups, which can support the planning and implementation processes.

Tips for application

Since the toolbox is made for practitioners, the focus has been on the experiences the partners have made in using the tools and their lessons learned. Do’s and Don’ts should help other practitioners to avoid mistakes and make the application of the tools easier.

The toolbox also supports the practitioner network. This network has its origins in the project LOS_DAMA! and facilitates exchanges at a technical level between administrations.

Insights into our Job Shadowing visits

The LOS_DAMA! job shadowing programme sets the frame for mutual visits of officers in the administration in host cities and is an important part of transnational learning and exchange approach. Job Shadowing visitors usually stay one week in one of the LOS_DAMA! project partner cities. The visitors learn different planning approaches, for example different strategies to implement landscape approaches. Furthermore, they learn corresponding new knowledge and skills, which can be used in their own cities and their administrations. Both visitor and host can learn a lot from the exchange including suggestions for improvement. The LOS_DAMA! Job Shadowing started in summer 2018 and thirteen officers went abroad until now. Each of the experiences, impressions, critics and suggestions are summarized in an individual job shadowing report, and these reports are evaluated and reviewed in a separate summary report.
Matthias LAMPERT (City of Munich) visited the Division for Urban Development and Urban Planning of the City of Vienna from 18th until 22nd February 2019. The City of Vienna and the City of Munich face similar challenges regarding urban development, open space development and inter-municipal co-operation. Despite a different organizational structure the City of Vienna has very interesting takes on public relation work for open space issues and uses different criteria and methods for the evaluation of green spaces. Matthias conclusion is:

“I was surprised about the density, also in present housing projects, the active role of the forestry department in open space development, the importance of Sociology and the spread of professions within the division.”

Martina van Lierop (Technical University of Munich) visited the Department for Parks and Gardens of the City of Trento from 28 October-01 November 2018 and from 16-17 February 2019. Here is an example of how Martina summed up her visit:

“Interesting in Trento is to have on the one hand innovative and progressive approaches and methods and on the other a rather conservative sectorial department culture within the city administration.”

Giorgio Pelassa (Regione Piemonte) visited the Grenoble Alpes Métropole from 5th until 9th November 2018. The experience was extremely positive, it was possible to observe how various problems related to environmental sustainability policies addressed in the urbanistic, forest/ production, management of protected areas have been manage by Grenoble public administrations. Considering the commonality of some problems and the analogy of the physical characteristics of the territories beyond the Alps with those of the Piedmont region, it is noted that some problems could be faced with greater synergies. Giorgio conclusion is:

“We need to increase the moments of confrontation and collaboration between our administrations. It could be represent an interesting opportunity for growth and development!”
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