

NBS 3



Community-based urban farming and gardening on post-industrial sites



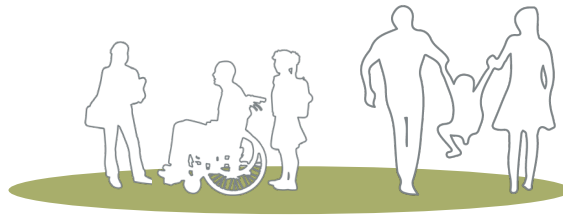
Gardens in Cascina Piemonte (Orti Generali)



Target groups (beneficiaries)

Key beneficiaries include:

- families (also one-person households),
- collectives,
- schools of the district,
- disadvantaged people.



Stakeholder constellations

Main responsible partner

The association Orti Generali is the key partner involved:

- designed all activities,
- in charge of pre-implementation and implementation phases,
- currently managing the social gardens area,
- organise courses and workshops

Orti Generali will guarantee the continuity of the NBS over time.

ProGReg partners involved

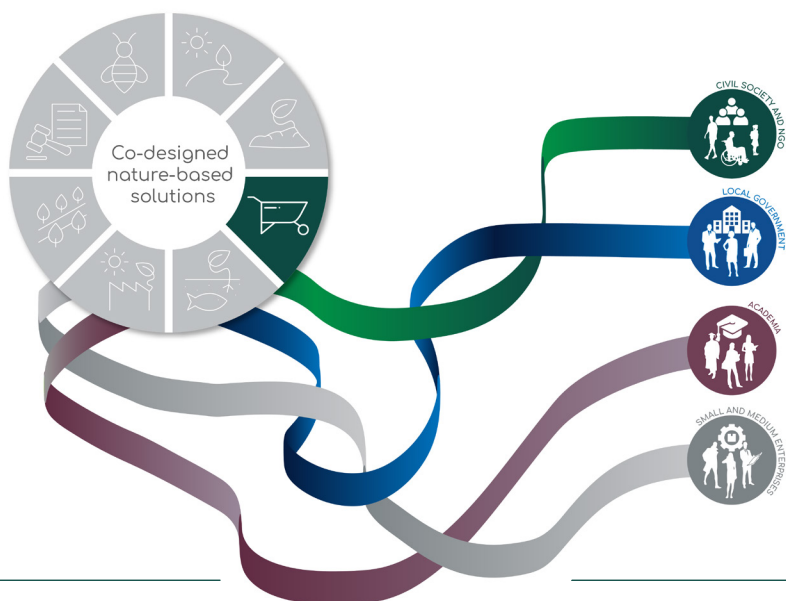
- NGO Fondazione Mirafiori: Supports the association, shares office space and acts as a facilitator in relations with institutions.
- University of Turin (Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology, DBios and Department of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, DISAFA): DISAFA is responsible for the environmental monitoring in the area and collaborates in experimenting and disseminating the new soil concept; Department DBios monitored pollinators and advised on choice of trees and shrub species.

Other stakeholders involved

- MIUR (Ministry of Education, University and Research): Support during start-up phase
- PON Metro (City of Turin): Supported social inclusion and voluntary activities
- Compagnia di San Paolo. Supported physical transformations of the area.
- IREN SpA: Supported the energy requalification of Cascina Piemonte and implementation activities in the collective garden.
- Fondazione CRT: Supported the physical construction of the pollinator garden and citizen science activities.



Co-design activities, stakeholder engagement, and pre-implementation activities



Orti Generali is the result of a four-year period of participatory planning process involving schools, non-governmental associations, gardeners and citizens of Mirafiori (Mira Orti), discussing with Borgata Mirafiori (voluntary resident NGO) and the Environment Department of the Turin Municipality.

Planning and preparatory activities (administrative and technical procedures)

The design of Orti Generali originates from a 4-year research-action project called MiraOrti in the district of Mirafiori Sud: with the aim of social survey and local entertainment for accompanying urban-environmental transformation of the Sangone river banks, which are traditionally used for agricultural production.

Inclusive decisional programs have been activated for planning the territory focusing on vegetable gardens and involving institutions, gardeners, students and parents from neighborhood schools in plenary discussions and educational activities.

The implementation of this NBS has been funded by European Horizon 2020 projects. Funds were transferred to the City of Turin, which distributed funds to relevant partners involved. All phases have been accounted for.

Implementation budget



Total implementation budget: 324.100 €

ProGReg Partners funds: 61.500 €

ther funds:

- 45.000 € MIUR
- 155.000 € Compagnia di San Paolo
- 18.000 € IREN AmbientAzioni
- 11.600 € Comitato Territoriale Iren
- 8.000 € PON Metro (City of Turin)
- 10.000 € Fondazione CRT
- 15.000 € Segnali d'Italia



Co-design and engagement activities

The co-design process involved diverse stakeholders from the public and private sector. In workshops and focus groups stakeholders discussed and planned the NBS to create an inclusive urban garden for the local community. Orti Generali was predominately implemented by Mirafiori citizens with the support of NGOs and the City of Turin. Co-creating the gardens allowed for developing protocols on how to use common and private spaces in line with the needs of gardeners, and practices with schools. For instance, how to shape economic commitment from schools, third sector entities and users when supporting or collaborating in such a project, while considering environmental issues, creating innovative ideas tailor made to the needs of urban gardeners.

Key achievements and implementation results

The Orti Generali urban garden concept has resulted in a shift of understanding co-managing common goods. The „concession of a city area“ remains a practice that excludes the city’s administrative and economic responsibilities in regard to managing common goods, while the current „collaboration agreements“ already constitute a more horizontal approach to co-management and spaces between private and public bodies. Orti Generali is popular with long waiting lists for garden plots.

Synergies with other proGReg activities

- Joint activities with “Citizen science and social inclusion of mentally disabled with UNITO (University of Turin) as part of:



NBS 8 - Pollinator biodiversity improvement activities and citizen science project

- Feeding into the „Spatial analysis and analysis framework“ of Work Package 2.1
- Feeding into “Methodologies and variables for NBS monitoring and evaluation” (Work Package 4) in collaboration with UNITO.

Links with other external projects or activities

- Collaboration SERD (Public Health Service

The following interventions were carried out:

- extending garden areas has been monitored since June 2018. Construction of water well, irrigation system, and three greenhouses (seedbed, classroom, tropical greenhouse)
- improved road access to the farm in June 2019, all gardens have been assigned
- involving disadvantaged people and students for caring and implementing the gardens since July 2019
- planting hedges and all 330 trees in 2019
- renovating Cascina Piemonte by June 2020 restoring the building as an open kiosk
- setting up an experimental plot for cultivating ancient grains in collaboration with ASCI Piemonte in October 2020;
- completing the pollinator garden end of 2020 in a series of citizen science activities in collaboration with Farfalle in Tour.

Critical implementation issues and barriers encountered



Overall, lengthy bureaucratic processes pose a major barrier. Missing procedures on how to approach the city as a civil society initiative is a minor barrier. Financial barriers could be overcome by sourcing external proGReg funds to secure the derelict Cascina Piemonte building. Covid-19 restrictions hampered access to Orti Generali and other activities. Online offers compensated to some extent:

- “telecoltivazione”, a remote cultivation activity made by the association workers saving the annual harvest;
- “Telegite” (collaboration Microsoft Italia and municipality) digital school trips
- online platform for permaculture classes.

for drug dependencies) and local NGO Consorzio Abele;

- “Biodiversity Turin for pollinators” monitoring and conservation of pollinators in Piemonte Park in collaboration with DBios + CRT funding;
- “Un chiosco per Orti Generali” project of energy upgrading of Cascina Piemonte with IREN funding;
- “L’orto collettivo. Manuale tangibile di economia della reciprocità su scala di quartiere” → activities in the collective garden with IREN funding;
- “FUSILLI” (Fostering Urban Food System Transformation through Innovative Living Lab Implementation) in collaboration with Turin Municipality → implementing circular management of the kiosk, organising artistic and cultural activities related to food topics.

Communication activities



From February 2019 onwards, communication activities focused on creating a community in social networks and disseminating information through DEM and the press office:

- over 40 posts published with hashtag #proGReg
- 90 press articles were released in 2019

🌐 Website www.ortigenerali.it has on average 1.500 monthly visitors.

✉ Over 1700 newsletter subscribers

Social media channels:

📘 facebook: more than 5.000 followers

📷 Instagram with the hashtag #ortigenerali has reached 4.100 followers.

Other events incl. „Social Passata“ to make tomatoe puree; charity evenings, open-air cinema and workshops for children and adults

Maintenance & Sustainability beyond proGReg

Orti Generali APS will continue to maintain and manage the area beyond the end of proGReg. To quickly reach economic sustainability in order to cover management and personnel costs, the following measures are taken:

- revenues deriving from monthly rents and other collateral activities (e.g. kiosk, educational activities, courses)
- offering a wide and diversified range of services to citizens;
- continuous dialogue with the environment department of the City of Turin discussing possible future scenarios for the implementation of Orti Generali.

Possible critical issues for the future include:

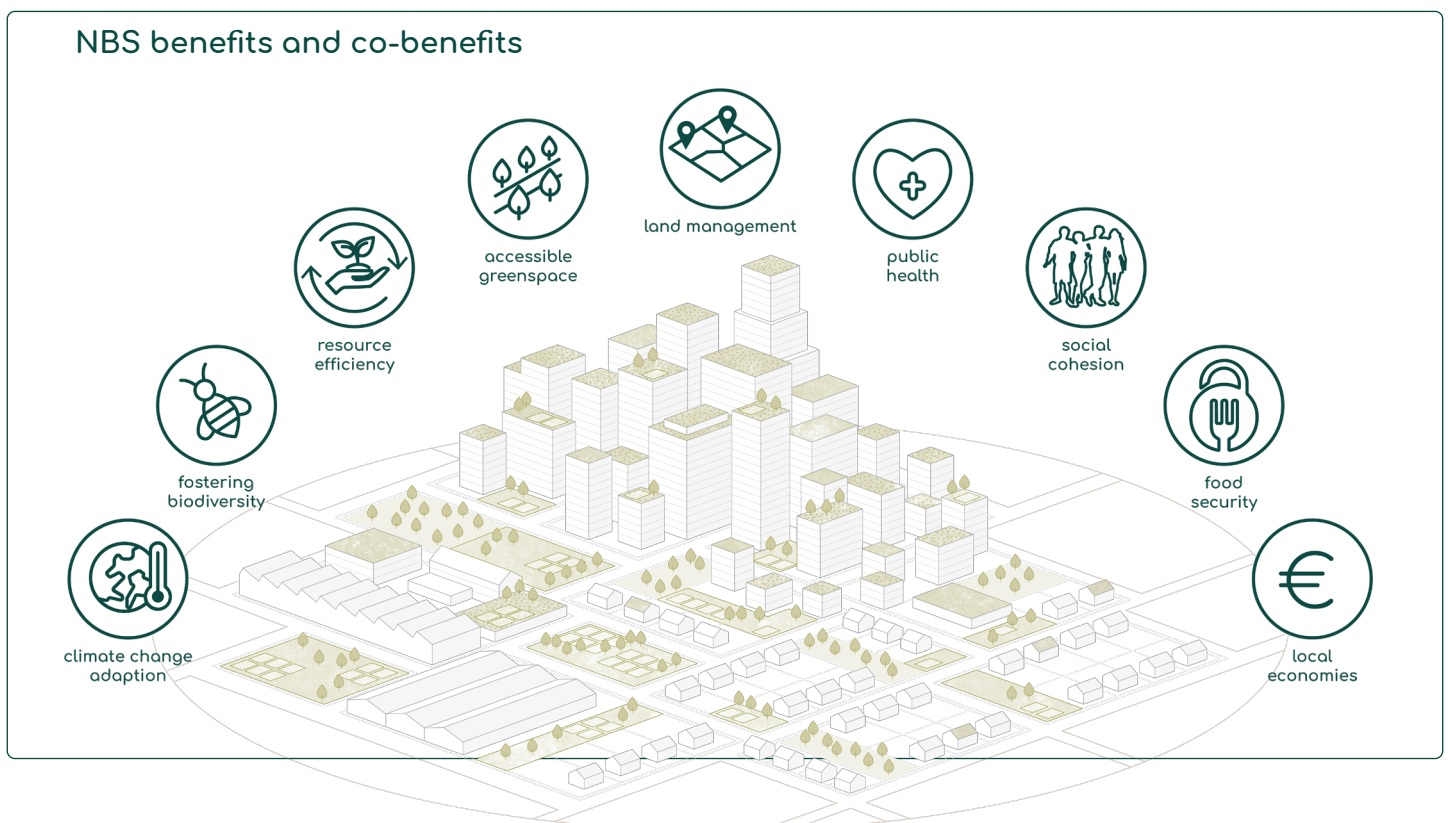
- long timeline and high costs of the Italian bureaucracy to obtain authorizations and permissions
- Small theft prolonged over time (e.g. work tools, gas cylinder, coffee, dishes).

NBS benefits and co-benefits for the Living Lab Turin

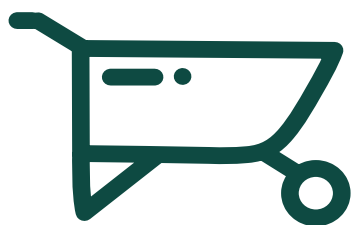
Co-creating the community garden Orti Generali has benefitted the Living Lab in multiple ways incl. environmental improvements, access to

quality urban green space, effective land use, supporting disadvantaged citizens through food production, mitigating climate change effects by improving biodiversity and creating a strong sense of local community and identity.

NBS benefits and co-benefits



Fact Sheet



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Piemonte (Orti Generali)

Contact:

✉ ortigenerali@gmail.com

🌐 www.ortigenerali.it



🌐 www.progireg.eu

🐦 @proGReg

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 innovation action programme under grant agreement no. 776528.