

Living Lab Turin, Italy



NBS 7

Establishing protocols and procedures for environmental compensation

Strategic public-private partnership for greening the City of Turin



PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

The management of public green

The NBS „Establishing protocols and procedures for environmental compensation“ in Turin addresses the management of public green. The City of Turin owns more than 18 million square meters of municipal public green (2019), representing about 14% of the city's surface. This patrimony implies a very important heritage: preservation, maintenance and enhancement requiring not only necessary skills and professionalism, but also adequate resources: hence the decision of the City to adopt initiatives that encourage greater collaboration, including financial support from the private sector.

Aim & goals

In recent decades, the actions of the Public Administration have been considerably affected by the difficult overall economic situation. While local authorities have been increasingly called upon to carry out primary administrative tasks and meet the growing expectations of citizens, available resources have been decreasing, partly due to reduced government transfers.

Therefore, alternative ways of managing certain activities are increasingly being tried out at local level, not least with the aim of limiting expenditure. For instance, private party involvement in developing new infrastructures is sought after such as creating new green areas, playgrounds, sports areas, urban gardens. Supporting maintenance and care of existing green assets requires early consideration for green areas, trees and woods, playgrounds, dog areas, urban gardens, furniture and fountains.

A priority area of involvement of private entities is also the enrichment of the city's arboreal heritage, through urban forestation interventions

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Main partner and role/function

The municipality of Turin coordinates the NBS activities. Implementing this NBS started with useful collaborations between different sectors of the City of Turin administration ranging from departments such as Green Environment, Urban



planning, ICT, Private and public building. Fruitful dialogue and exchange have led to collecting and elaborating a list of opportunities for financing public green areas. Some of these have been adopted in the Living Lab Turin Mirafiori Sud.

TOOLS/SOLUTIONS

Donation & sponsorship

Donation is a simple mechanism to involve the private sector in the care of the public green.

- Financial support or participation in interventions, citizens and companies can act with purely philanthropic attitudes. This method is used by non-profit organizations or individual citizens and companies as part of social responsibility actions.
- Sponsorship is a contract whereby one party (the sponsee) allows another party (the sponsor) to use its public image and name to promote a brand or product in return for payment. The private subject carries out maintenance and enhancement of the city's green areas at their own care and expense in response to public calls for proposals and following an evaluation procedure of proposals. In return, the sponsors image is enhanced established by the contract in addition to tax benefits according to current fiscal laws (may vary according to the sponsor's legal nature and tax position).

Collaboration agreements

The municipal Regulation n. 357, about municipal contracts, defines the collaboration agreement between the City's administration and private organizations and citizen. The Regulation n. 375, about urban commons, regulates the collaboration agreement for care, shared management and regeneration of green areas and other spaces and buildings within green areas.

ICT Tools

Provided the City and the territory to develop IT tools and technologies able to systematically collect all spatial and non-spatial data on common cartographic databases. The City Acquired "FME software suite" a Geo ETL (Extract, Transform, Load), to build workflows that receive input from heterogeneous data sources, perform transformations on them (e.g. mapping, restructuring, manipulation, coordinate projections) and generate output in as many formats as possible, both proprietary and free.

CASE STUDIES

Donation & sponsorship

The sponsorship tool helped companies to invest resources as a measure of corporate social responsibility. In April 2020, the first urban forestation intervention was carried out under the protocol with the partner Mellin S.p.a. for [3,000 trees planted in Piedmont Park](#) along the ecological corridor of the Sangone river in the Mirafiori Sud district. In 2021, another 3,000 trees were donated by Ikea in the same Piedmont Park within a forestation campaign named "[Mosaico Verde](#)".

Collaboration agreements

The regulations allowed to improve and simplify procedures for finding a sponsor and stipulate collaboration agreements. As a result, the Municipality of Turin adopted a multi-year program to find sponsors for the care and enhancement of the city's public green areas. The collaboration agreement fosters collaboration and private engagement in maintaining the NBS implemented at WOW building (Green Roof, Pollinator gardens).

ICT tools: flat roofs

The City Heritage Department collects estates data inside fragmented CAD files, one for each cadastral sheet. These are suitable for graphic representation but not for data analysis. FME technology has helped the ICT department to translate CAD files into GIS format, providing the City with a full-view city map of estates and a dataset suitable for further processing and analysis. Exemplary for the use of GIS estates dataset, the ICT department leveraged FME to obtain a map of public buildings with flat roofs, representing valuable support for identifying potential green roof NBS sites.

ICT tools as a policy and regulatory instrument

FME is a powerful instrument demonstrating possible effects of applying NBS widely in urban areas, verifying the improvements, i.e. related to heat islands effects. Reference is made to instruments helping the administration to design and implement good policy mix to support innovation in the NBS sector:

- Municipal regulations (e.g. Building Regulations)
- Thematic action plans (e.g. Climate Adaptation Plan)
- Instruments to engage private sector (environmental compensation, CSR Green network)

RESULTS AND OUTLOOK

All tools elaborated within this NBS require further development. Shared knowledge and resources through collaborations of several third parties and networks in the area will be necessary to respond to the demand by the private sector of seeking opportunities for environmental compensation or creating social and environmental value to increase the environmental quality of public green spaces.

Next steps

- Developing a software and procedural tools that support the municipality to assess and guide urban transformations while calculating

possible environmental compensations. The tool should allow the analysis of changes in the value of eco-systemic functions by modelling and comparing different intervention in land use transformations.

- Attracting further opportunities for innovation in this area, may be even unusual environmental investments.
- Given increasing attention of the state of the environment, climate change effects, the value of soil and biodiversity, and the need to compensate the environmental impacts of individual economic activities, some private investment funds are looking for opportunities to generate environmental value to complement the economic and financial value generated by traditional investments.



Fact Sheet



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CITTA' DI TORINO

✉ progireg@comune.torino.it

🌐 www.comune.torino.it



🌐 www.progireg.eu

🐦 @proGireg

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