

## URBAN EMPATHY – Working Package 3

### RESULT INFORMATION FILE – Phase 1

Description of the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY

#### 1. Partner's description

*(Summary information of the partner presenting the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY)*

Name of the institution presenting the result	Municipality of Genoa
Type of institution (city, region, agency, tech institute...)	City
Main contact	Name: Gianluca Saba Position: Project coordinator Telephone: (+39) 010 5572332 Mail: gsaba@comune.genova.it

#### 2. Project description

*(Summary information of the project corresponding to the result)*

Name of the project	Change Mediterranean Metropolises Around Time
Acronym of the project	CAT-MED
Starting date	1/04/2009
Ending date	30/11/2011
Project status (finished, execution...)	Finished
Project type (standard, targeted, strategic, ...)	Standard
Lead partner of the project	City of Malaga
Project website	<a href="http://www.catmed.eu">www.catmed.eu</a>
Programme (MED, Interreg...)	MED
Programme Priority	Axis 2: Environmental protection and promotion of a sustainable territorial development
Programme Objective	Objective 4: Prevention and fight against natural risks
EU 2020 Strategy (choose the most suitable one from the following options)	<input type="checkbox"/> Smart growth <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive growth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable growth <input type="checkbox"/> Economic governance

**Description of the PROJECT. Main topic and objectives. (300 words aprox.)** *(Describe in more detail the project's main thematic and objectives, providing relevant information about the contents addressed in it and where does the result to be capitalized come from)*

CAT-MED project aims to prevent natural risks related to climate change, thanks to the convergence of metropolitan strategies and actions, connecting natural risks prevention and climate change with the development of sustainable urban models.

Thus, the main objective of CAT-MED is the promotion of sustainable urban models which are based on the classical Mediterranean city: compact, complex and with proximity to basic services, following an integrated approach with 4 pillars: economy, social development, environment and governance.

These characteristics have a clear connection with the ability to save natural resources and the energy efficiency in urban areas, and consequently, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction and its relation to prevent possible future natural risks related to climate change.

- To fulfil this objectives the project has developed:
  - A common indicator system to measure whether established objectives or targets have been achieved or not in the frame of a sustainable urban model and to assess the impact of sustainable development public policies.
  - A pilot project called the Green Apple; a sustainable urban area, with the objective of showing the main characteristics of the proposed urban model, both at a planning and building level. Those pilot projects are being developed in every city with the definition of Metropolitan Groups, that involve people interested in the development of a Green Apple, residents of the selected pilot areas, urban developers and local key actors.
  - A political commitment and the continuity to the project's aim is achieved by the signing of the Malaga Charter and the constitution of the CAT-MED platform. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2011, the Mayors and representatives of the 11 cities participating in the project signed the Malaga Charter, expressed their interest in the development of a platform for sustainable urban models in order to continue the works carried out during the project.

### 3. Result description

*(Summary information of the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY)*

Name of the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY	Metropolitan groups
Type of result (operational tool, recommendations, good practices, guideline, ...)	Methodology
Current status of the result (under development, completed, not started...)	Under development
Type of deliverable (document, website, database, ...)	Methodological Chart for Sustainable Urban Models
Specific URL link	Website: <a href="http://www.catmed.eu">www.catmed.eu</a> ;
Publication date	July 2011
Language	Italian

**Description of the chosen RESULT to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY. Result objectives. Utility and purpose. (200 words approx.)** *(Brief description of the result's most relevant characteristics, pointing out the main objectives and purpose.)*

The Metropolitan Groups involve stakeholders that means people interested in the development of a «Green Apple», residents of the selected pilot area, technicians, local administrator and urban developers; the creation and working of metropolitan groups has been a key part of CATMed project named citizen participation and governance.

To gather the participants that worked in the thematic groups it has been considered the different skills and competences of every member (public entities, district and trade associations of the green apple).

The working steps have been:

- signing of adhesion to the project,
- members convocation,
- division of activities in reference to members' competences
- Creation of sub-thematic groups under the coordination of the Architecture Faculty of the University of Genoa that worked as facilitator and led thematic groups' meetings.

Finally, it was necessary to be able to continue the project after the predicted project time plan, so that the participating cities could continue with the work started during the project: annual monitoring of the indicators, further development of the Green Apples in each city or the incorporation of new cities to the project. Those steps have been made following the methodology of the metropolitan groups.

**List of keywords related to the result (10 words max.)** *(Please provide a short list of keywords related to the result to be capitalized in Urban Empathy, e.g.: urban planning, sustainable growth, mobility, energy efficiency, renewable energies, governance...)*

Urban development, governance, key actors, multidisciplinary approach, participation; green development; public spaces

**Describe the potential benefits or improvements that the result may generate through the capitalization process (200 words approx.)** *(Describe improvements either in your result or those that it may generate due to the capitalization process)*

- Identify good practices that emerged from the projects, give them the formal framework and facilitate the exchange between them.
- Integrate good practices in the ongoing regional development strategies and use the gained knowledge during the reprogramming phase of the projects.
- Provide partners with information about projects' potentialities. Sharing new data and experiences to improve projects as well as common rules.
- Design one or more types of projects for every cluster as a synthesis of obtained good practices.
- Improve divulgation of best practice in order to allow ongoing projects benefit from them.
- Avoid the dispersal of knowledge and promote the integration of experiences.

#### 4. Result evaluation

**According to your own criteria, which are the main strong points of your result? Which are the weak ones? (300 words approx.)** *(Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the result to be capitalized in Urban Empathy)*

Strong points:

- As the logic of sustainable development is not the main feature of the Mediterranean region, the important point is to have been able (through local working groups) to raise awareness of the new vision of sustainable urban planning among the main stakeholders. Many institutional and associated subjects that were involved in the participation phase are willing to maintain the offered collaboration.
- The project assumptions created, combine the specificity of Mediterranean region with the new energy systems and good practices of sustainable development with the respect for local identity.
- Definitely the influence will go beyond the urban area, involving many different decision-making levels engaged in territorial programs.
- Furthermore, the CAT-MED project encourages the multilevel approach: it involves politicians as well as technicians that need to share their competences and knowledge and citizens that are expected to participate in its elaboration. Thus, the consensus of numerous groups will make the project more virtuous. That approach is first of all a human process, not strictly a top down planning act.

Weak points:

- A weak point of this methodology is linked to the complexity of fractionated property of the area and the regulations and planning instruments at municipal, provincial, regional and port authority level that makes difficult to coordinate the decision making process, in order to arrive to a definitive content; in fact, this does not speed the timing of intervention and may as well limit its implementation. For all these reasons, the weak point of the methodology stays in following a precise time schedule to reach a shared decision considering the different actors, needs and objectives involved.

**How do you think your result can affect the main aspects to be considered in a sustainable urban model?**

**(300 words approx.)** *(Describe the capacity of the result to fulfil the sustainable urban model main principles)*

*Cross - cutting aspects*

- Territorial management and urban design
- Social and Economic cohesion

*Sectorial aspects*

- Sustainable mobility
- Energy efficiency

Territorial management and urban design, sustainable mobility, energy efficiency

During the creation of the methodology of metropolitan groups all the different aspects of the idea of sustainable development were taken into consideration and analysed from different points of view. The multidisciplinary approach of the metropolitan groups produces proposals on all aspects of sustainability. On the whole they were integrated by experts related to all sustainability fields; water, energy, air pollution, noise, architecture, mobility...

Social and economic cohesion

The aim of the methodology is to put the human aspect in the procedure to create an Urban Model, considering that the real final aim is to improve life quality of citizens so the social aspect have to be taken in great consideration.

Metropolitan groups methodology allows to combine together various topics. Thus the focal point is not only the energy efficiency, the reduction of pollution or new energy sources; in fact, quality of life in terms of environment, clean transportation and communication, and what most important, social level of interactions that includes interpersonal relations, have the same importance.

In the activities of metropolitan groups, citizens, associations and the municipality are meant to be actors and directors in the management of their own territory. It can be obtained through by studying outdoor spaces that lead to social cohesion between classes, races and individuals.

All these aspects, thank to metropolitan groups, may influence an urban model, a study of a district, a new green apple which can be reproduced limitless, with all the necessary aspects to recuperate the existing urban structure and make it more sustainable.

**What influence do you consider that your project result could have on environmental governance and what could be its impact on urban policies? At which level? (Local, regional, national, MED or European level...) (300 words approx.)**  
*(Describe the level of influence of the result and its applicability on EU policies)*

Metropolitan groups methodology can help to take decisions on contents in order to condition policies at different levels. Thanks to the metropolitan groups methodology, that allows to take in consideration ideas and indications, it is easier to produce an output, decision or result that considers real needs of citizens.

It's important to remind that the timing has to be regulated in order to avoid delays and long terms to achieve a final decision.

**What is the main target group the result is addressing to? (public administration, public sector, private sector, research groups, ...) How does it enhance public participation? (200 words approx.)**  
*(Describe the target audience that could use the result and if citizen participation processes have been considered)*

The result is aimed primarily at public administrations that on the basis of good practices, resulting from previous studies, will be able to adopt intervention strategies at urban level matching the outputs coming from metropolitan groups' activities (stakeholder, citizens needs and indications) with planning tools, building regulations, legislation of concerned areas in order to articulate the guidelines to realize the sustainable project of "green apple".

Furthermore partnership between public and private actors is the key point of successful realization of the project because it permits to public administration to work closely with private sector taking into account citizens' needs.

Furthermore, the participation of the private party must act as a catalyst for economic stable financial plan that will be attractive to investors such as companies, designers and builders – stakeholders that can participate in the project.

Last but not least point the participation of citizens in metropolitan groups enhances public activity in the field of a new governance; various kind of participation are essential to complete the directions and priorities needed to realize shared proposals on different levels.

**Is the result currently in use in the Europe/MED area? (150 words aprox.)** *(Please provide further information on the usability of the result, pointing out if it has already been implemented or in use)*

Metropolitan groups methodology is currently in use in some cities as main tool of the participation process.

Regarding to the example of the city of Genoa, tools of active participation have been used for the approval of new municipal urban plan – fundamental act of city planning, as well as for the european project of capitalization of the results TRANSFORM, in which the city of Genoa and its “green apple” area are taking part of.

**According to your own criteria, what are the main innovative aspects of the result? (150 words aprox.)** *(Please provide further information on the level of innovation achieved by the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY: new methodologies, etc...)*

The rapid meetings’ outputs diffusion to all the participants after every meeting; this allow to raise awareness on the importance of the procedure and to create an effective way to understand regional specificity;



**How do you think your result could be implemented? Through which means? Do you think it is easily transferable? Estimated costs, resources, time needed for implementation, key actors involved... Please include any other relevant criteria you may consider important (300 words aprox.) (Please provide further information on implementation and transferability requirements of the result)**

First of all, what is needed is the great political awareness and knowledge that will express the interest for the action to create sustainable and smart city. It is required to give these actions a proper priority, not to isolate them, and to share the ideas with citizens through the different kind of participation.

Every situation and region implies different choices; for this reason it needs an own economic– financing plan aimed at particular action and a decision on who involve in groups.

Moreover, it is as well needed to consider the differences of implementation of the project according to a context of new constructions or recuperation of existing urban tissue.

The cooperation between public and private partners is necessary for the balance of economic investment and for the involvement of stakeholders.

For what concerns concrete aspects what is important to transfer metropolitan groups methodology is:

- First of all in order to better organize every meeting it's important to prepare documents to send previously to groups' members;
- To find a person that can facilitate and lead the meetings; this person should be not directly involved in the project but at the same time he/she could carry expertise and know-how to the discussion to achieve objectives;
- costs are little and linked to the utilization of digital support for documents' elaboration and sharing, in order to avoid useless utilization of paper and other material;
- it is needed a place for the meeting that can be provided by public entities or others.
- Every meeting has to be organized with a time schedule for item in order to avoid distraction and outputs' dispersion;
- For every item it's important to foresee two meetings: the first to analyze the documents and material and to gather a first opinion by members; a second meeting to achieve shared decisions.
- The participation process of this methodology should finish in a quite short period to avoid dispersion of outputs that could prejudice the procedure;
- Finally, metropolitan groups methodology is easy to transfer and implement if there is a real commitment and a deep involvement of participants.