

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	Regione Emilia-Romagna DG Territorial Planning and Agreements. European and International Relations. Department of Urban planning Landscape and Sustainable Use of the Territory
Type of institution (city, region, agency, tech institute...)	Region
Main contact	Name: Barbara Fucci Position: Project Manager Telephone: +39.051.527 6068 Mail: bfucci@regione.emilia-romagna.it

2. Project description

(Summary information of the project corresponding to the result)

Name of the project	Hybrid Parks: Combining abilities, creating synergies and enhancing the performance of parks for sustainable local and regional development policies
Acronym of the project	Hybrid Parks
Starting date	1 st January 2012
Ending date	31 st December 2014
Project status (finished, execution...)	On-going
Project type (standard, targeted, strategic, ...)	Regional Initiative Project
Lead partner of the project	Stiftung Schloss Dyck, Zentrum fuer Gartenkunst und Landschaftskultur, Germany
Project website	http://www.hybridparks.eu
Programme (MED, Interreg...)	Interreg IV C
Programme Priority	Priority 2: Environment and Risk protection

Programme Objective	Cultural Heritage and Landscape
EU 2020 Strategy (choose the most suitable one from the following options)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart growth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inclusive growth <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable growth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic governance

Description of the **PROJECT**. Main topic and objectives. (300 words approx.) (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)

The project involves 16 European partners including cities and regions which are nowadays successfully using parks in a wider policy context such as economic development, urban renewal, rural diversification and protection of cultural heritage, landscapes, environment and parks as green infrastructures. It was inspired by the European Garden Heritage Network (www.eghn.eu), but involves new subjects and partners.

The overall goal of the project is to support an integrated system of governance, where innovative policies, different actors and diverse functions can contribute to the sustainability of different parks and urban green areas. The project aims to contribute to the improvement of the use of parks and gardens for sustainable local and regional development, including their use for the implementation of policies to mitigate climate change. The project also wants to stress the added value provided by parks and gardens to tackle several issues related to development, concerning the economic, social and environmental dimension.

Starting from the idea that parks and gardens have interlinked functions (concerning the economic, social and environmental sphere) within their contribution to sustainable development, the project intends to cover the so called 3 pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) by a wide range of activities:

- Best practice studies that analyse the following topics:
 "Economy: Tourism and urban (re)development",
 "Social: Widening the audience",
 "Environment: Public awareness".
- Six workshops that focus on policies using parks for economic, environmental or social development. Other six cross-cutting or "hybrid" workshops investigate how to combine these approaches to increase their synergies with the general aim of taking advantage of parks and gardens parks to facilitate policies for sustainable development and mitigation of climate change.
- Besides, a series of study tours and open conferences support the identification, analysis, exchange and transfer of best practices that are relevant to then elaborate and implement development plans to support the integration of parks and gardens management within sustainable development and climate change policies.

3. Result description

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

Name of the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY	Workshop methodology
Type of result (operational tool, recommendations, good practices, guideline, ...)	Operational tool
Current status of the result (under development, completed, not started...)	Under development
Type of deliverable (document, website, database, ...)	Documents, case studies, website
Specific URL link	http://www.hybridparks.eu/publications/presentations/
Publication date	2012, 2013 and finally 2014
Language	English

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 Hybrid Parks workshops are intended as the best tool to facilitate the exchange of experiences between the project partners.

The workshops are mainly open to the partners (regional and local authorities, public and private parks managing bodies or networks of parks), but they also welcome other relevant stakeholders, such as specific experts and professionals or other representatives from public institutions as speakers and/or attendants in order to increase the impact of the discussed topics.

Workshops provide both a window to show and an opportunity to discuss about concrete good examples and best practices concerning the above mentioned 3 pillars that are relevant for sustainable development: social, economic and environmental development.

During these occasions, partners show cases of policies and measures supporting the use of parks as vectors of sustainable development, addressing one, two or all of the three social, economic and environmental dimensions. This exchange of experience methodology aims at enhancing the knowledge and skills of the audience, in order to increase their capacities for future work on sustainable management and use of parks, applying an integrated approach able to take into consideration economic, environmental and social aspects.

The workshops are organised in a participative way, using different techniques, considering the possible different objectives of the workshops. Some best practices in the management of parks are selected, some meetings and open discussions are organised with the managers of the parks, some public visits on the ground and/or conference are organised. During the workshops, the partners of the Hybrid Parks Project present and show the results of other projects they are carrying out that are relevant to the specific topic of the workshop.

Some example of the topics tackled during the events are:

- the adoption of green public areas by private associations for a limited number of years (i.e. especially in Emilia-Romagna Region)
- the organisation of shared vegetable gardens within the cities (the England model)
- the involvement of agronomist schools, old and young people, detained people and associations for the maintenance of public spaces (in particular Swedish experiences)
- the creation of temporary public gardens with cultural initiatives in disused urban areas with recycled materials and the involvement of private green nurseries
- the creation of networks of green infrastructures (i.e. French experiences of green routes connecting parks and gardens).

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...)*

Parks, urban planning, sustainable governance, management of public spaces, local development policies, social integration, green economy, mitigation of climate change

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

The capitalisation process offers the opportunity to transfer the methodology developed within Hybrid Parks Project in other frameworks and contexts, by improving it and customizing it to the different situation.

The methodology of the Hybrid Parks workshops could facilitate the interaction and networking between different stakeholders, could help create the appropriate context for open discussions involving both private and public actors, professionals and citizens' associations in order to focus together on a specific topic or issue, analyse it in its different components and from different perspectives and identify synergies to:

- select and address in a more focused way urban sustainable policies;
- select more pursuable public objectives in a strategy;
- Identify the most adequate types of tools (such as direct actions, rules, voluntary instruments,...) to deal with different problems of sustainability.

4. Result evaluation

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

The main strengths concerning the workshop methodology are the following:

- Integrated vision of the different functions an urban park can provide, thus offering a complete and broad understanding of their role in urban sustainability
- Combination of analytical studies (from theory) and on-sites visits (to practice through concrete examples);
- Involvement of different categories of stakeholders during group discussions and Q&A sessions.

The main weaknesses are the following:

- from a participation point of view, sometimes it is easier to involve the “positive” actors, the ones that supported the case studies analysed for “Hybrid Parks”, but it is more difficult to involve the *detractors*, the actors in conflict with environment protection issues;
- the methodology does not include any evaluation system involving an external point of view (i.e. evaluation forms to be submitted by participants after the event) to assess the impact and the quality of the workshop.

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

(300 words aprox.) (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

Hybrid Parks is connected more with cross-cutting aspects such as:

Territorial management and urban design:

The workshops are planned in a way that the participatory system provides an opportunity for participation by several actors and players who are all relevant for the topic of management of green areas (which strictly relates to territorial management and urban design): local administrators from the public sector; technicians who are expert of specific sectors such as architects, agronomist, rangers and gardeners; managers and marketing experts. Involving several points of view, this gives a better chance to analyse the multiple aspects of the theme, its issues and problems and relevant possible solutions.

Besides, the topic of management of green areas allows to focus on the changing needs of the communities and social groups at local level in the urban areas and to identify good practices that can be transferred (i.e. open-door nurseries, zero kilometre vegetable gardens, aggregative green spaces in a fragmented city, re-appropriation of collective spaces,...).

Social and economic cohesion:

The participatory approach gives a chance to the administrators and politicians who are willing to participate in the workshops to learn and exchange ideas about the opportunities to improve both the quality of spaces and people's life while managing green spaces in urban areas. As a matter of fact, the workshops allow a confrontation between the partners who have already good examples to show and those who need to learn about existing good practices in this domain, in order to try to export them in their specific context.

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 aprox.) *(Describe the level of influence of the result and its applicability on EU policies)*

The large exchange of experiences that the workshops facilitate (through the best practices exhibition and on site visits), will contribute to support more creative, adequate, integrated and **effective environmental policies at a local and regional level**. As a matter of fact, project partners are both local authorities, regional institutions and gardens networks, as far as the public sector is concerned, and foundations and private gardens from the private sector. During the events, all these actors, with the involvement of external participants and experts, who bring their expertise and related added value to the discussion, analyse together some specific cases related to one or more aspects of management of green areas. Each partner, according to its field of action and regional or local authority, brings its issues and expose its reality and learn from the others.

Besides, the topic of management of green areas is strictly related to environmental governance: the increase and connection of green areas in urban spaces definitely complies with current EU policies (i.e.: Green Infrastructure— Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital COM-2013-249 final) and contributes to the improvement of the local communities’ quality of life through sustainable practices.

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 aprox.) *(Describe the target audience that could use the result and if citizen participation processes have been considered)*

The partners of the project are constituted by:

- **municipalities and regional councils,**
- **territorial and citizen associations and foundations** for the enhancement of gardens parks and their neighbouring green areas.

They are supported, during the conferences and workshops, by different external actors:

- **external experts** (agronomists, architects, urban planners, psychologists...) who contribute with diverse and widening issues, introducing reflections on the different themes involved with parks and gardens management;
- **managers/directors of gardens and parks** who provide an insight of their personal experiences;
- **politicians** who express the point of view of the public spheres involved in the urban environment policies.

Representatives of the Council and/or Regions hosting the event are always invited either to public conferences and internal workshops.

In addition to the workshops, the projects also includes some conferences (a total of 4 events organized during the whole length of the project), that are open to the public. In this occasions, call for papers can be launched, to widen the professional exchange and transfer of innovative approaches.

The workshops instead are intended for the internal exchange of expertises among the project's partners. Upon request, professionals and other interested participants can also be invited to join the work sessions.

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)*

At this stage of the project, interregional conferences, workshops and study visits on the fields are going on among the different European territories involved.

The best-practices analysed in the project are disseminated to the partners and participants. All the bodies/entities involved in the project constantly update a list of stakeholders which could be possibly interested in the project activities. Jointly the partners have set up a database for the Hybrid Parks Newsletter distributed within the groups mentioned above. Furthermore, thanks to local contacts, working relations and network of activities the project outcomes are disseminated at the local level, widening its impact.

The Hybrid integrated model will be developed in 2014 with the involvement of all the partners, experts and people that have taken part to the project.

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 “Hybrid Parks” model will improve the debate about different ways for management of green areas and for the development of these areas as multifunctional places (i.e.: slow tourism, therapeutic parks, vegetable gardens, locations for events, etc. ...) in order to make them at the same time environmentally and economically sustainable.

The approach of the project, that connects environmental with social and economic issues, is innovative since it considers parks as engines, driving forces, an active part of the urban system and not only local areas to be preserved with fences, isolated from the rest of the cities.

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)*

The model is easily transferable as it consists in a methodology to organise participative events and it includes a planning phase, a dissemination phase and an implementation phase. The materials developed during the workshops are both disseminated through the project newsletter and downloaded by the project website.

Costs must include: event organisation (welcoming services, catering, transportation etc...); lump sums for speakers ; logistic (before and during the event).

Suggested timing: promotion and organisation of the event should start min. 2 months ahead; the workshop should last from 2 to 3 days.

Key actors: according to the topic to be addressed by the workshop, experts such as academics, politicians, documentary directors, journalists and garden lovers can be invited as speakers. Besides a vast range of stakeholders can be invited as participants, such as: students, citizens, associations and administrators.