

## 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	Provincia di Torino
Type of institution (city, region, agency, tech institute...)	Provincia (Public Body)
Main contact	Name: Simonetta Alberico Position: official contact person for the project Telephone: 0118616223 Mail: simonetta.alberico@provincia.torino.it

#### 2. Project description

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

Name of the project	<b>Occupation des Sols et Développement Durable du Territoire sur l'Arc Méditerranéen</b>
Acronym of the project	OSDDT-MED
Starting date	1 giugno 2010
Ending date	31 maggio 2013
Project status (finished, in execution...)	finished
Project type (standard, targeted, strategic, ...)	standard
Lead partner of the project	Provincia di Torino
Project website	<a href="http://www.osddt.eu/">http://www.osddt.eu/</a>
Programme (MED, Interreg...)	MED
Programme Priority	2: "Protection de l'environnement et promotion d'un développement territorial durable"
Programme Objective	2.1 Protection and valorisation of natural resources and heritage
EU 2020 Strategy (choose the most suitable one from the following options)	X Smart growth <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive growth X 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)*

The phenomenon of land consumption is inherent to urban growth, pre-eminent in our societies. The last thirty years have seen such a large expansion in the use of land for housing, infrastructure and other activities that the beneficial properties of agricultural land are being compromised and our rich biodiversity is endangered. These changes can seriously impact ecological systems, rendering them disturbed or even threatened.

OSDDT project focus on the phenomenon of land consumption and degradation that is compromising Europe competitiveness and sustainability as defined in the proposal of COM (2006) 232 to the European Parliament and Council. OSDDT partnership worked to provide tools which can help to manage land sustainability and to learn how to reduce human activities pressures on remaining soils.

The main results of OSDDT project are: **consumption?**

- Indicators on how to measure land consumption
- Operational tools to manage the territory limiting land consumption
- Consultation and communication tools to raise awareness on issues related to land conservation.

These tools (indicators and planning tools) should raise the capacity of public institutions to modify their average planning models characterized in the last 20 years by a high level of soil consumption and to reflect about how to adopt planning tools able to preserve the soil and its environmental functions.

### 3. Result description

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

Name of the result to be capitalized in URBAN EMPATHY	Indicators of land consumption
Type of result (operational tool, recommendations, good practices, guideline, ...)	operational tools and recommendations
Current status of the result (under development, completed, not started...)	completed
Type of deliverable (document, website, database, ...)	documents, website, database, guide
Specific URL link	<a href="http://www.osddt.eu/fr">http://www.osddt.eu/fr</a> .
Publication date	31/05/2013
Language	English, French, + Guide in English, French, Spanish, Italian, Greek

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.)*

OSDDT partnership has built a set of indicators useful to evaluate soil consumption in planning territory activities which can be used by any public institution of the Mediterranean area. Moreover OSDDT listed and identified planning operational tools that can help decision-makers to protect soil and soil environmental functions and that are a complement of the indicators.

Testing indicators highlights that to be sustainable urban and planning tools have to integrate all current knowledge about natural resources (forest, soil, biodiversity, animals, water), to be able to preserve natural resources and ecosystemic functions, especially in Mediterranean area where urban landscape is more and more intrusive and spread-out.

While indicators are focused on the extent of the urban fabrics which tend to expand, conversely the observation is that operational tools of knowledge of the phenomenon offer developers the faculty of 'reversing the point of view'.

These tools make the assumption that before any urbanization, there should first be a complete diagnosis on inputs, amenity landscape, agricultural and natural territories. Specifically the decision must also rely on an assessment of the eco-system functions of soils to determine their actual values for the community.

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...)*

Soil consumption, urban planning, sustainable growth, governance, biodiversity, urban quality

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)*

The aim of OSDDT project is to disseminate and share its results with policy-makers and local government, local authorities, politicians and technicians, citizens and associations involved in the preservation of natural resources. This capitalization process is an opportunity to reach more actors.

Testing activities have demonstrated that all the indicators produced inside the OSDDT project can be used and mobilized by technical services of European local authorities as long as they are equipped with Geographic Information System and they have stable nomenclature information on the use of territories and resources with good accuracy. In this prospective satellite imagery is an excellent resource of information if the images are of high quality. For this reason intermediate local authority (like Scot, Department, etc) can do a good work as observatory of soil consumption.

The capitalization of these experiences is an important source of reflections and identifies useful levers for changes. The analysis of operational tools thus opens many clues as to adopt solutions to reduce consumption land in the future.

#### 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)*

##### Strengths

The Indicators are a useful tool for urban planners in a frame of sustainable urban design opposed to urban sprawl.

The comparison of these indicators within planning that limits the consumption soils shows that these tools are effective when operations are strictly dedicated to soil conservation.

OSDDT underline that some urban models are able to limit soil consumption: these new models show how it is possible to choose less intensive solutions in land and/or enhancing natural resources in the territory. In fact, these pilot projects tend to promote a systemic ecological function of land: green space, landscapes, ecological continuity, and suburban farmland. Financial leverage should promote these eco experiments that are systemic in agriculture (in particular, the management of biodiversity and corridors ecological and new forms of urban housing)

##### Weakness

It is not sufficient to measure. To limit soil consumption a new way of planning territory has to be invented and enhanced.

At policies level there is still lack of decisiveness: the approval of a European directive which effectively limits the use of land, and land consumption, is necessary.

Other operational tools for land conservation are yet to be explored, such as tools and tax incentives, for example, to promote the renovation of existing centres and abandoned or conversion of industrial wasteland and penalizing instead new construction on soils with high value heritage.

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

OSDDT project has its main focus on territorial management and urban design. The project defines a new way to preserve natural resources like soil and also other factors of biodiversity.

A conservative consumption of territory results in compact cities that research show to be much more efficient in energy or water consumption. Cities that avoid urban sprawl also influence sustainable mobility, because when long distances to travel are less frequent, non-motorized transport means (walking and cycling) are more used. Besides cities with low soil consumption have population densities that make public transport useful and competitive.

OSDDT project shows a direction: a breakthrough in the average way of planning territory has to be done. To have a social and economic development and a sustainable future med area has to be less stressed by urban systems and infrastructures. Therefore sustainable urban model has to be identified and applied.

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)*

The indicators system may have a relevant tool in public governance, and also in other actors involved in soil consumption.

To know the consequences of planning decisions it is necessary to evaluate what the ecosystemic functions raised by soil are and to realize that they are free of charge for community. How many citizens, how many planning offices have awareness about ecosystemic functions of soil and natural resources in general? About the kind of services they give to populations and communities?

Money evaluation of free services given by natural resources and biodiversity could change the way to plan territory and highlights why natural resources should not be damaged for private interests or private economical goals.

At least this kind of evaluation could push private business investors to adopt economical models that can be sustainable in the long term (green economy, low carbon economy, green tourism, ext.) and give the opportunity to municipalities to have urban taxes and building taxes linked to the real cost of soil sealing

For all these reasons, OSDDT project recommends that:

- even if soil is most of the times owned by private, it has to be protected and considered as non renewable resource and therefore EU soil framework directive (2006) has to be achieved.
- is necessary to make the sustainable use of soil a priority of territory planning in medium and long term and a priority of local administrators and politicians;
- is necessary to promote a coherent framework of governance based on spatial and management planning and on practices to reduce soil consumption;
- is necessary to develop a monitoring and evaluation system of soil consumption based on commons criteria among Mediterranean countries;
- is necessary to increase the capacity of public administrations (mainly city-hall) in charge of planning territories to change their way of managing in order to adopt land use policies respectful of sustainable development criteria.

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 main results of OSDDT are addressing urban development and should be shared with policy-makers and local government (local authorities, politicians and technicians, citizens and associations involved in the preservation of natural resources).

The final guide of OSDDT is therefore addressed to all those decision-makers, politicians, professionals in the field, who want to understand better what is at stake and the challenges set by land consumption.

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)*

Indicators to measure the consumption of lands have been tested by all the OSDDT partners: Murcia region, Municipality of Pembroke, Departement de l'Heraoult, Province of Terni and Region of Krete. Therefore it is possible to infer that these indicators can be mobilized by technical services of European local authorities.



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

The final guide of OSDDFT project describes the indicators for monitoring the consumption of land and the operational methods of management of the territory, aiming to reduce this land consumption, but it also underlines the importance of consultation tools integrated with spatial planning policies to support decision-making through the appreciation of landscape heritage, biodiversity, habitat forms and urbanisation that respect social demand and conservation. The awareness of all stakeholders, experts or general public, faced with the challenges imposed by land consumption, is one of the sine qua non conditions to limit the phenomenon in the coming years and to move towards a sustainable use of land.

Consultation actions in the area and the involvement of communities living on the land allow building participative paths likely to generate an awareness of the “value” of natural, still intact, areas and the nourishing of agricultural spaces, and as a consequence to support the implementation of strategies and models of development alternative to those proposed so far.

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 approx.) *(Please provide further information on implementation and transferability requirements of the result)*

Indicators to measure the consumption of lands tested by all the OSDDT partners, it is possible to infer that these indicators can be mobilized by technical services of European local authorities as long as they are equipped with a Geographic Information System and they have a stable nomenclature information on the use of territories and resources with good accuracy. In this sense, satellite imagery, is an excellent resource of information if the images are of high quality.

Similarly, the comparison of these indicators within planning that limits the consumption soils showed that these tools are effective when operations are strictly dedicated to soil conservation.

It is therefore to promote at all levels of instruments efficient and integrating the dimension of planning and soil conservation. In terms of operational tools, the analysis highlights a lack of decisiveness: the approval of a European directive

effectively limits the use of land, and offers wide inter-communal or above to act more effectively limit the phenomenon.

Original initiatives emphasize the educational value of new models and their ability to show how it is possible to choose less intensive solutions in land and/ or enhancing natural resources in the territory. In fact, these pilot projects tend to promote a systemic ecological function of land: green space, landscapes, ecological continuity, and suburban farmland.

Financial leverage should promote these eco experiments that are systemic in agriculture (peri in particular, the management of biodiversity and corridors ecological and new forms of urban housing) for their dissemination and sharing. Other operational tools for land conservation are yet to be explored, such as tools and tax incentives, for example, to promote the renovation of existing centres and abandoned or conversion of industrial wasteland and penalizing instead new construction on soils with high value heritage.

In terms of consultation, it is important to capitalize and pool methodologies and know-how. Because given the proposed by the partnership experiences, there is a deficit collaboration tools. To increase awareness of the phenomenon and major push elected to a local area planning less greedy point of view of land, so it should maximize the value technical approaches to serve the public awareness.

Please send this form duly filled to Mercedes Vidal [mercedesvidal@bcnecologia.net](mailto:mercedesvidal@bcnecologia.net)