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VALORISATION OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURES THROUGH RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION: THE FIRST RESULTS OF THE ERASMUS+ GREENO2 PROJECT

In recent decades, problems linked to the main environmental issues, such as climate change, global warming, land consumption and loss of biodiversity, are affecting all European and global states [1].

At European level, to address these problems, the Commission has issued various strategies, all linked to the European Green Deal which sets ambitious objectives in environmental and social terms: among all, the 55% reduction in emissions by 2030 and the achievement of climate neutrality by 2050 [2]. This is accompanied by the 2030 Agenda with its 17 sustainable development goals and the Paris Agreement, which sets the objective of limiting the increase in global temperature to 1.5° compared to pre-industrial levels [1].

At an urban level, the problems are greater than in the suburbs and rural areas: in fact, in the main European and non-European cities, real heat islands are created, with significantly higher temperature peaks compared to areas where there are trees and parks urban [3].

On the basis of what has been said, and in light of various scientific research, it emerges that the role of green infrastructures, i.e. a network of natural and semi-natural areas, green spaces and other environmental elements strategically designed and managed to provide a broad spectrum of services ecosystems, turns out to be fundamental to guarantee adequate psycho-physical well-being for citizens [3,4].

In fact, these infrastructures offer interesting solutions to environmental, social and economic problems, and are able to provide multiple functions in the same area, such as the conservation of biodiversity, adaptation to climate change, water drainage, the creation of recreational facilities and rising real estate prices [5]. Unlike traditional gray infrastructure, which tends to perform single functions, green infrastructure has the potential to address multiple problems simultaneously [1,6].

One of the main problems relating to these infrastructures is that of communication and raising awareness of the new, and old, generations. From the first results of the Erasmus+ KA220-HED *GREENO2 – Green Roofs in higher education institutions as sustainable cEnters for research, participation, ENvironmental consciousness and O2 generation* Project, it emerges that a large part of the European and world population does not actually know the benefits of green infrastructures and some of them do not even know what they consist of.

The Erasmus+ GREENO2 Project therefore aims to promote knowledge of the benefits of these green infrastructures among European and global citizens, in order to encourage their use and practical application in urban and peri-urban contexts, effectively combating environmental and improving the quality of life of citizens themselves.

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