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European Regional Development Fund

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Green Infrastructures to mitigate Flood risks in Urban and suburban areas and to Improve the quality of rainwater Discharges

NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE PROJECT, CURRENT INFORMATION, PROGRESS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES.

GiFluid Newsletter

June | 2023 | Vol. 02

About the project

The project recognizes the increased risk of flood events in coastal catchment areas in Sicily and Malta, resulting from the impacts of climate change. This risk has been exacerbated by anthropogenic activities, including the increased urbanization of the low-lying areas of these catchments, creating increased hazards to human life, economic and cultural activities.

The project focuses on the mitigation of these risks, through the increased integration of nature-based solutions in the urbanized sections of these catchments, reducing the flow of rain runoff-water and more importantly giving back water to nature, hence supporting the comprehensive optimization of cross-border coastal communities.

Key Deliverables

- 2 Technical Manuals for GUIs identification
- GIS modelling framework for GUIs application
- Methodology for GUIs cost feasibility

Expected outcomes

- 6 Pilot Project Testing GUIs in Malta & Sicily
- 2 Regional Master plans for GUIs application & flood risk impact assessment
- 1 Policy Paper for flood risk mitigation through GUIs

News

GiFLUID Project Showcased at Expo Ecomed - Progetto Comfort, Highlighting Urban Planning with Green Solutions

Between the 19th and 21st the GiFLUID project was featured at the Expo Ecomed – Progetto Comfort which was held in Catania, Sicily. This provided an excellent opportunity to present GiFLUID's efforts for mainstreaming green solutions in urban planning

As part of EcoMed- Progettocomfort, the University of Catania's Departments of Civil Engineering and Architecture, as well as Agriculture, Food and Environment, joined forces with several organizations. Together, they organized a session titled " Extreme events and climate change: the tomorrow that cannot wait any longer between technological innovation, planning and infrastructures." The session focused on discussing the scientific and technical challenges related to defending against extreme events and exploring innovative management solutions.

During the event, a session titled "Addressing Extreme Events and Climate Change: Tomorrow's Urgent Imperative" focused on hydrological extreme events like floods, droughts, and landslides, particularly in Sicily. The session featured presentations from university professors, territorial governance representatives, technicians, the Energy and Water Agency and companies.

It highlighted the GIFLUID project and it’s aims to implement green infrastructures for flood risk mitigation and improve rainwater discharge quality in urban and suburban areas.

The session discussed two main topics: assessing hydraulic risk and using nature-based solutions to tackle flood risk. They presented a case study of the Acquicella stream in Sicily to illustrate these concepts. Additionally, they talked about evaluating hydraulic risk management in Malta and the implementation of green infrastructures as preventive measures.

In addition, the session highlighted the LIFE SIMETORES project, which was funded by the European Community's LIFE 2017-2020 program. This project focused on making the Simeto Valley resilient through urban adaptation and community learning. The University of Catania and beneficiary municipalities like Paternò, Ragalna, and S.M. di Licodia shared their experiences and initiatives as part of this project.