



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

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About the project

The GiFluid project commenced in 2021 and will see the construction of two Green Roofs, at the GHAJN National Water Conservation Centre in Rabat, Malta and at the Di3A headquarters, University of Catania, Sicily.

The implementation of the Green Roof holds significant importance for the Energy and Water Agency (EWA) and the University of Catania, as it will generate crucial data to inform future policy frameworks pertaining to stormwater management and flood risk mitigation. Through this installation, various aspects of the Green Roof's functionality will be measured, including the correlation between rainfall and runoff discharge, water retention capacity, runoff water quality, and the water required for plant irrigation.

Moreover, the Green Roof will facilitate the assessment of its cooling effects on the building and evaluate the positive influence of the micro-climate on the photovoltaic (PV) system's electricity generation capacity, which will be integrated with the Green Roof.

The experimental Green Roof is a key milestone achieved through the GIFLUID Project, which received funding from the Interreg V-A Italy – Malta Programme.



Green Roof Inaugurated at University of Catania as part of GiFluid Project

The University of Catania, in collaboration with the Energy and Water Agency (EWA), celebrated the completion of a Green Roof project at the Di3A headquarters on 16th November 2023. This initiative, funded by Interreg Italia Malta through the GiFluid project, aims to explore the potential of green infrastructure in flood prevention while enhancing the sustainability and energy efficiency of the building.



Similar to the successful project at Ghajn Centre, Malta, this multi-faceted green roof serves as a platform for collecting crucial scientific data. The project focuses on understanding the impact of green infrastructure on rainwater flow, vegetation retention rates, and release times. The green roof also features a diverse array of vegetation tailored to thrive in Sicily's unique climate. The roof includes multiple pollinator houses, providing shelter for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Furthermore, the green roof is equipped with a drip irrigation system to ensure the vegetation is maintained.



Following the inauguration event, a technical seminar was held on the 17th of November at the University of Catania. Around 200 participants attended the seminar to learn about the work that has been done over the duration of the project in Malta and Sicily. During the seminar, representatives from the Sicilian Region and the University of Catania, alongside delegates from the Energy and Water Agency and the Rabat Local Council, shared insights into the project, including the purpose, methodology, and key learnings. The discussion was further enriched by the participation of a representative from IRIDRA, highlighting their dedication to extending the success achieved in the Giffluid project through their active involvement in the CARDIMED project, funded by Horizon Europe.

Manuel Sapiano, CEO of the Energy Water Agency, emphasized the importance of these projects for both Malta and Sicily, and he is looking forward to continuing building on the success of the project. The results of the project should not be limited to the region of Malta and Catania but should be extended to other parts of the Mediterranean.



Final Remarks

As the GiFluid project concludes, we take a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey from its inception. It has been truly exciting to witness the implementation of pilot projects on both islands, aimed at reducing urban flooding and helping mitigate the effects of climate change.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the GiFluid project. We eagerly anticipate how this initiative will pave the way for similar projects on the islands in the future.

Together, we have made strides towards a more sustainable and resilient future for our communities. Let this be a stepping stone for the transformative projects yet to come.

