



Mediterranean Seminar

“Respecting Nature and Environment In Urban Extensions”

Florence 30 May 2008

Call for papers 7 March 2008



Organizer
COMUNE DI FIRENZE
Environment Department

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GreenLink PROJECT PARTNERS

Regione Toscana (I)
Ayuntamiento de Sevilla (E)
Regione Emilia-Romagna (I)
Camara Municipal de Vila Real de Santo Antonio VRSA (P)
DEADIZ Municipality of Zografou - Athens (GR)
Regione Sardegna (I)
ARSIAL- Agenzia regionale per lo sviluppo e l'innovazione dell'agricoltura del Lazio (I)
Fundació per al desenvolupament sostenible de les Illes Balears (E)
Region Tanger – Tétouan (Moroco)
Consorti del Parc de Collserola FEDENATUR, Barcelona (E)

President :

Giovanni Malin, Director of Environment Department of the City of Florence, Italy.

Members :

Marià Martí, Director of Consorci Parc de Collserola, Barcelona, Spain.

Julia Georgi, Landscape architect, University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

Biagio Guccione, Landscape architect University of Florence, Italy.

José Carlos Barros, Vice Mayor of Vila Real Santo Antonio, Portugal.

Deadlines

7 March 2008: Seminar announcement and call for Papers.

28 March 2008: Electronic submission of **Paper drafts**.

28 March – 7 April: *Evaluation and selection of Paper drafts.*

7 April 2008: Communication of Paper drafts selected.

30 April 2008: Submission of **final Papers** for publication in the proceedings.

30 April – 9 May: *Selection of final Papers.*

9 May 2008: Communication of final Papers selected for oral presentation in the Seminar.

23 May 2008: Submission of **power point files** for oral presentation.

The GreenLink project and seminar

This GreenLink Mediterranean seminar is the major event of the INTERREG IIBMedocc project GreenLink performing, from 2006, networking activities in the Mediterranean between a transnational sample of cities and regions that exchange experiences and elaborate exemplary pilot projects for the integration of town planning and environment/nature protection tools in urban boundary areas. The seminar is also held, looking forward to a capitalisation performance of the GreenLink experience through interregional cooperation EC programs.

The suburban areas of the Mediterranean are characterised by highly critical conditions, weakness of management, fully open positions (territories waiting to be used) and by degradation. The added economic values, essential to attract investments, often create procedures which do not pay enough attention to the risks for the environment and nature quality and which do not develop a preliminary base line recognition, a strategic vision and an integrated approach through a wise evaluation of the impacts. This condition reduces the competitiveness and produces a structural weakness of the global system of the metropolitan area. On the other hand the potentiality of these territories is very important and, if well exploited, can generate quite positive repercussions, considering the improvement of the suburban quality conditions, the level of global quality of the urban region and consequently its competitiveness and increased attraction.

The more qualified environmental values, needed by the city, are situated in the suburban peripheral areas, where there are also major pressures for development. On the other hand, many services, requested by the surrounding rural hinterland, can be delocalised from the inner urban areas, to the suburban and near hinterlands, avoiding interdependence stress. An obligatory platform of alliance between cities and rural hinterlands should lead to wise and integrated planning, needed for promoting innovative dynamic profiles in border urban systems, solving conflicts and tackling opportunities.

Seminar thematic sessions

1. NEW URBAN SPACES AND NATURAL AREAS

The relationship between urban physical extensions and open periurban areas, is recently concentrated on the question of preserving, improving and increasing natural and semi-natural values as components of urban space quality planning .

The GreenLink seminar is keen in acquiring further knowledge and experiences of significant cases focusing on the relationship between nature and city, and assess relevant realizations and experimentations.

2. NEW URBAN SPACES AND MARGINAL AREAS

The urban marginal areas exuberant development, among its visible consequences, determines loss of identity of open spaces. The loss of the agricultural function, the dismissal of industrial areas, the disused railway areas are the most common ingredients of such phenomenon.

The GreenLink seminar aims to acknowledge innovative solutions experimented with either plans or projects, towards the realization of new urban landscapes.

3. NEW URBAN SPACES AND PERIURBAN PARKS

The realization of large periurban parks, still today as a lasting tradition, contributes to guarantee a correct relation between built space and open space in complex urban systems.

The GreenLink seminar intends to investigate and acquire knowledge on the most recent trends regarding periurban park designs, projects and realizations in strongly urbanized contexts.

4. NEW URBAN SPACES AND CONNECTIVE SYSTEMS

The open spaces systems reticular and connectivity theme, in periurban environments, represents one of the most recent trends for urban quality renewal.

The GreenLink seminar intends to present some significant experiences of redesigning periurban space through the valorisation of water courses, bike and pedestrian lanes, small size green spaces.

Regulation

1. This Mediterranean Seminar is co-financed by the European Initiative Program INTERREG IIBMedocc, in the framework of the GreenLink project activities.

2. Authors can submit one or more Paper drafts, corresponding to one or more seminar thematic session and concern recently realized or designed cases.

3. The Scientific Committee will evaluate the Paper drafts and will select the Papers for publication in the proceedings of the Seminar, inviting authors to submit final Papers.

4. Authors of selected Papers for the proceedings will submit the final Paper, following common, ready for print format and template, that will be communicated by the scientific committee.

5. The scientific committee will select final Papers to present during the Seminar.

6. Authors of Papers selected for the proceedings will be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses for participation to the seminar in Florence. (NB. EC ERDF Regulations will be applied for control of travel expenditures).

7. Authors of Papers presented in the Seminar will receive a fee of 500Euros, including all taxes.

8. Payments will be operated by bank transfer to the authors, following submission to the organizer, within the deadline of 6 June 2008, of: a) IBAN and SWIFT bank reference, b) fee invoice and c) original documents of expenditures, including boarding passes. Bank transfers can be operated within the 30 June 2008.

9. Papers and power points should be submitted in English language.

10. Papers and power point documents will be used by the organizer for purposes of publication and dissemination to Mediterranean cities in the framework of the GreenLink INTERREG IIBMedocc project.

Seminar organizer

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Seminar draft agenda

Friday 30 May 2008

Florence Palazzo Vecchio Salone dei Cinquecento

09:00

Opening by the City of Florence Government

General presentation of GreenLink by the project coordinator:

Giovanni Malin, Director of Environment office of the Municipality of Florence

09:30

First seminar session

- Sevilla (Gerencia de Urbanismo de Sevilla)
- Vila Real Santo Antonio (Camara Municipal Vila Real Santo Antonio)
- Zografou (Athens) (Zografou Municipal Enterprise of Development)
- Palma de Mallorca (Fundació per al desenvolupament sostenible de les Illes Balears)
- Firenze (Regione Toscana and Comune di Firenze)
- Oristano (Regione Sardegna)
- Riccione (Regione Emilia – Romagna)
- Agenzia regionale per lo sviluppo e l'innovazione dell'agricoltura del Lazio (ARSIAL)

12:30 Discussion

13:00

Lunch

15:00

Second seminar session

European Commission, "The Urban policy of the EC".

Union of Mediterranean Architects, "Challenges for Urban and architecture quality in the Mediterranean cities".

15:30

1. New Urban Spaces and Natural Areas
2. New Urban Spaces and Marginal Areas
3. New Urban Spaces and Periurban Parks
4. New Urban Spaces and Connective Systems

17:00

Presentation of GreenLink publications, by Biagio Guccione.

1. "Linking Urban Developments to Green Areas. An overview of good practices in Europe".
2. "the GreenLink manual".

17:30

GreenLink future perspectives and capitalisation, by Giorgio Risicaris.

17:45

Closing interventions. Distribution of GreenLink publications to participants.

18:00

End of the seminar.