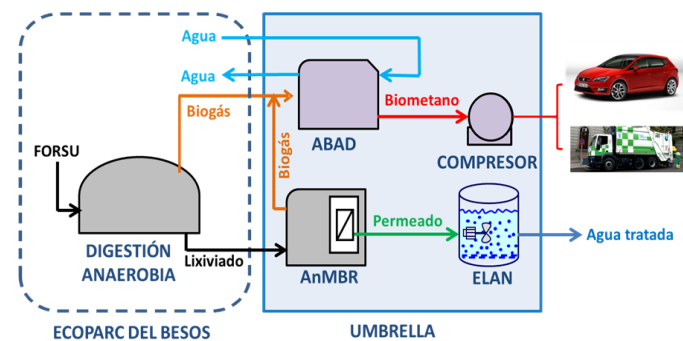


- **PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT INCREASES SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICABILITY**

Private sector involvement in LIFE projects increases the potential for continuity beyond the LIFE funding and replicability within and outside Europe through the prospect of commercialisation. The role of SEAT in the LIFE METHAmorphosis project is a good example of how a large automotive company can be an active partner in a LIFE project, contributing to the achievement of projects' objectives on one side, and ensuring after-LIFE viability on the other.



- **INVOLVING THE INSURANCE SECTOR IN URBAN CLIMATE ACTION**

The insurance sector has an important role to play in climate action, not only by compensating for losses after extreme weather events. The LIFE DERRIS project highlights the multiple roles of the insurance industry: as risk manager (physical risk management), risk carrier (financial risk

management), investor (asset management) and capacity builder (especially in support of SMEs), pointing to the great potential of multi-stakeholder partnerships among public institutions, insurers and businesses for improving resilience and minimising losses through increased preparedness.

- **FUNDING BEYOND LIFE FOR GREATER IMPACT**

Integrated Projects (IP) have the capacity to mobilise large amounts of resources, like in the case of LIFE-IP ZENAPA (Zero Emission Nature Protection Areas), in order to advance the implementation of plans, programmes and strategies

developed at the regional, multi-regional or national level. IPs ensure the involvement of multiple stakeholders and promote coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other relevant Union, national or private funding source.

- **BREATHING LIFE INTO EU, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICIES**

LIFE projects confirm consistently in practice their potential to downscale European policies and contribute to their implementation at national and local level. Conversely, LIFE project results occasionally point to the need for updating existing policies or developing new ones, as in the case of application of technological innovations the standards for which have not yet been defined. See for example LIFE DIADEME, which is dealing with smart urban lighting and applies standards that are not yet mandatory for public lighting; or LIFE AERFIT, dealing with advanced systems

for water infiltration, and LIFE ZENITHYS, implementing integrated telecommunication stations not yet covered by established standards.

LIFE projects in some cases can also highlight the need to **update existing local plans and sectoral regulations**, which could otherwise turn out as barriers to innovation action. The review process and timeframe foreseen for local plans and programmes should allow their periodic revision and updating taking into account LIFE project results.



LIFE PLATFORM MEETING CLIMATE ACTION IN URBAN AREAS

21-22/06/2017

Barcelona - SPAIN

The platform meeting on Climate Action in Urban Areas brought together LIFE project beneficiaries, urban planning experts, competent local, national European and international authorities, and other stakeholders to share knowledge and discuss how best to advance climate change adaptation (CCA) and mitigation (CCM) in urban areas.

The meeting allowed participants to have a thorough understanding of the role of climate action in urban areas in the European and international context.

Intense working group sessions dedicated to concrete case studies, as represented by relevant LIFE projects, allowed for the exchange of good practices in specific sectors, in addition to the plenary sessions, where overall policies, support and coordination mechanisms were discussed.

LIFE Platform Meeting Climate Action in Urban Areas

BARCELONA – SPAIN, 21-22 JUNE 2017

SUMMARY FOR POLICY-MAKERS

Fifteen expert speakers and representatives of regional, national, European and international institutions, in addition to representatives of thirty-two LIFE projects animated the two-day meeting, which brought together more than one hundred participants. The meeting was divided into four plenary sessions, four working group parallel sessions, and two parallel site visits.

The international and European policy contexts were initially discussed in the first two plenary sessions, to introduce attendants to the high-level framework for climate action in urban areas. Good practices from outside LIFE and disseminating, scaling up and financing urban climate action projects were the subject of the two final plenary sessions, which allowed participants to expand their horizons in terms of available models and opportunities for urban climate action.

European Commission representatives illustrated the EU policy perspective on climate action, highlighted the scientific outlook on climate change impacts on the European continent, and provided an overview of the role of the LIFE Programme.

Among others, UN-Habitat presented the recently adopted New Urban Agenda (Quito 2016), as well as its City Resilience Profiling Programme, and NEEMO provided an overview of the state of play on climate action in urban areas following the UNFCCC Paris Agreement.

The European Climate Adaptation Platform “Climate-

ADAPT” was presented by EASME, with a focus on the linkages between the platform and LIFE projects, the latter being an important source of relevant case studies and good practices for the knowledge sharing managed through it.

The European Investment Bank representative illustrated the Bank’s activities in support of EU climate objectives, focusing on the Natural Capital Finance Facility (NCFF), an instrument blending EIB finance with LIFE Programme funding in support of nature-based solutions in urban areas.

Other speakers ranging from representatives of the Union for the Mediterranean to the Architects’ Council of Europe (ACE), Madrid City Council, CES-MED Project (Cleaner Energy Saving Mediterranean Cities), RESCCUE Project (Resilience to cope with Climate Change in Urban arEas), provided an insight of many activities being carried on to tackle climate change in urban areas.

Central to the meeting was the presentation and discussion among LIFE funded projects from around the EU, which presented their work and shared good practices and challenges they face in their climate change adaptation and/or mitigation activities.

The rest of this summary for policy-makers focuses on points primarily brought up by LIFE projects, as part of their experience with policy implementation and relevant challenges they face.

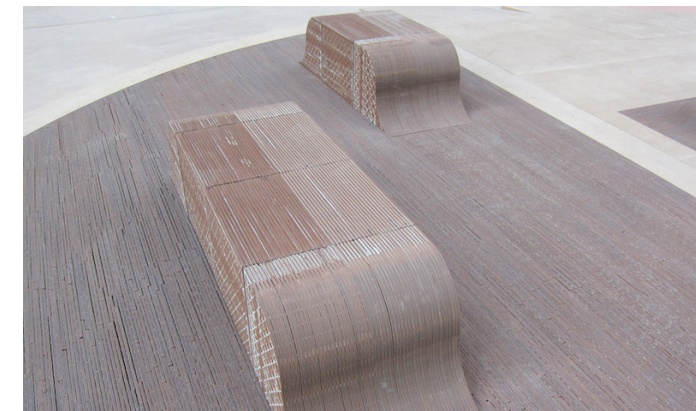
for free. Of course, a certain level of control to prevent the spreading of sensitive data is understandable, but a central repository collecting and sharing data and databases related to climate and the environment would be highly appreciated by public and private bodies.

• A HOLISTIC APPROACH TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Cross-cutting, integrated approaches to climate action make sense, especially when dealing with complex systems such as urban areas. LIFE projects often show the way by connecting different sectors to produce economic, environmental and social co-benefits. This is the case of LIFE METHAmorphosis, which links waste treatment and transport by obtaining low-cost biomethane from waste to power vehicles.

Other LIFE projects contribute to urban climate action through innovations connected to European policies on circular economy. Thus, LIFE CERSUDS foresees the reuse of materials to develop innovative low carbon sustainable urban drainage systems, and LIFE BIOHEC turns used cooking oil into biofuel for low carbon public

transports. Mainstreaming such activities in municipal processes can reduce energy demand as well as greenhouse gas emissions as part of waste processing and material reuse.



• GREEN INFRASTRUCTURES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION



Green infrastructures such as extensive green roofs or permeable surfaces in urban areas have proved to be not only sound means to combat urban flooding, but also have the great co-benefit of improving the living conditions and wellbeing of city dwellers. LIFE projects like LIFE Climate-proofing Social Housing Landscapes, on retrofitting blue and green infrastructure with increased stakeholder engagement in a London neighbourhood are showing the way and deserve to be mainstreamed through policies at various levels.

• PUBLIC AWARENESS CRUCIAL FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Public awareness of climate-related risks is crucial for the development and effective implementation of relevant public policies. Such is promoted through the early warning system of LIFE PRIMES and other LIFE governance and information projects.

It is important to **engage all relevant stakeholders** since the earliest stages of a project, to reach better results in implementation and ensure a sound follow-up.

At a local level, achieving behavioural change of resident communities is key to delivering effective long-term results.

• FREE ACCESS TO DATA

Data availability and access emerged as a crucial issue for enabling climate action planning and implementation. The overall consensus among LIFE projects was that data collected by or resulting from EU funded agencies and projects, as well as from national and other public sources, should be made accessible

