FarMet

Metropolitan Farming Management System

ΠΡΑΣΙΝΟ ΤΑΜΕΙΟ

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΣ & ΚΛΙΜΑΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΛΛΑΓΗΣ

Development of an urban farming and urban green assessment information system as a means of enhancing environmental quality and social cohesion in urban areas

The scope

The FarMet projects aims to the development of an information system enhancing urban farming in Greece. In modern reality, a change in policy making is required in order to safeguard the quality of life in the urban environment, the increase of urban green, but also for the enhancement of the connection between the urban population and the urban green. This connection can be reinforced with the integration of farming activities from citizens within the urban ecosystem. Even though such activities are acknowledged as basic drivers in participatory Eco-innovation, in Greece an "integration gap" exists in the introduction of relative actions that promote sustainable development policies.

The Benefits

There are multiple benefits from the integration of urban farming in urban spatial planning. More specifically, in the social level, such actions can reinforce social cohesion, networking and solidarity among citizens, will in parallel they constitute a strong stimulant in the promotion of participatory perception. In addition, urban farming connects modern citizens with the nature and the environment in the core of urban areas, while the cultivation of land offers a great exercising opportunity with beneficial physical and mental effects, thus improving the quality of physical and mental health of society as a whole. Moreover, the citizen engagement with primary organic farming is a source of supply of high-quality products for own consumption or to support initiatives such as social groceries. Similarly, at the financial level, the contribution can be significant, and in many cases, even critical (especially to low-income citizens), as through their involvement there is a financial benefit by limiting the expenses required for daily subsistence. At the environmental level, beyond the fact that the ecological awareness of the citizens is increased (especially in small ages with examples of urban gardens in schools), similar activities in urban centers contribute to the decrease of the carbon footprint though the promotion of green supply chains.

WP1: Project Management

WP2: Analysis of information system requirements

WP3: Information System Development

WP4: Education material and policy guidelines

Project Implementation

The focus of this information system is on the following:

- Good practices of urban farming activity at international level
- Urban space specifications for the development of farming activities by citizens
- Development of an information system for monitoring urban farming activity
- Pilot application for monitoring areas suitable for urban cultural activity
- Data collection for utilities and availability of local products
- Practical advice to citizens/farmers and generation of educational material
- Guidelines for environmental policy-making to promote urban farming

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