

Cooperation of European countries for the promotion of Urban Greening Technologies

Frederick Research Center announces the launch of the European project entitled «Urban Greening Systems for the Mediterranean Region» with the acronym «UGreenS». The project aims to transfer knowledge in the field of Green Roofs and Living Walls and it is funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme, Leonardo Da Vinci Transfer of Innovation Programme of the European Union.

UGreenS is a partnership of three European Universities engaged in research in the field of green roofs and living walls with Small-Medium Enterprises which are engaged with the development and the implementation of such technologies in Europe. The partnership is led by Frederick Research Center and it includes the University of Seville, the Agricultural University of Athens, the University of Malta, the Agricultural Research Institute of Cyprus and the companies Terabia Urbana (from Spain), as well as P. Papadopoulos Consulting Engineers, THANGKO I4 Engineering Consulting Services and Technovation Solutions from Cyprus.

The benefits of pertinent Urban Greening technologies can be categorized in environmental, aesthetic, social, and economic. Environmental benefits include the mitigation of the heat island effect, mitigation of urban storm-water runoff, enhancement of urban biodiversity, and thermal insulation of buildings. UG technologies have been reported to reduce noise pollution in cities, as well as improve the efficiency of photovoltaics installed on roofs of buildings. Further to the environmental benefits, UG technologies can significantly improve the aesthetics of city centers, and can lend themselves as focal points for tighter social interactions within urban communities. Economic benefits include the improved efficiency of photovoltaic panels installed on building roofs. As a result of the aforementioned benefits, the sustainability of urban environments is significantly enhanced, contributing to the sustainable development of our country.

In Mediterranean countries, however, UG technologies have witnessed limited application, possibly due to either lack of knowledge, by society and the construction industry, or limited technical expertise that would support the effective implementation of UG technologies. Few organizations, in the Mediterranean, have developed expertise in the field of UG, and these include our Spanish and Greek partners. Therefore, the main objective of this project is to capitalize on the existing knowledge of aforementioned organizations, and transfer this innovative know-how to practitioners in our country.

The specific tasks of this effort include 1) the development of instructional material on UG technologies that would cater to the needs of practicing engineers and architects, 2) the training of a small number of engineers and scientists to subsequently act as a nucleus for further dissemination such technologies 3) the creation of demonstration pilot units and activities that would present this technology. *UGreenS* seeks to introduce specialized knowledge in a pragmatic / tangible way that would be of immediate use to the country's sustainable infrastructure. The contribution of UG technologies to EU's 2020 targets would be multifaceted and immense.



For further information on our efforts, please, contact the coordinator of the project, Dr Christos Anastasiou, by phone (99455392) or by email (info-cy@ugreens.eu), or visit the project's website (www.ugreens.eu).