

# AGROS Project

Activation of Green ROofs Synergies as a tool for civic participation & environmental consciousness

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## Indicative Best Practices for 3rd Newsletter

### Cyprus

#### Gardens of the future

Gardens of the Future is a project that aims to create a network of communal gardens in cities across Cyprus. The initiative has the support of the Nicosia municipality, the environment commissioner, the volunteer commissioner, the refugee council, the energy office and the Cyprus Youth Organisation, as well as more than 20 private organisations and companies.

### FRANCE

#### Beaugrenelle Shopping Center

The shopping center located near the Eiffel Tower in the 15th arrondissement of Paris was unveiled during the sustainable development week with its 7000m<sup>2</sup> of hanging gardens. Planted with several thousand plants, the largest green roof in Paris is a small paradise of biodiversity, where six beehives and birdhouses have also been installed.

### Lithuania

#### Interdisciplinary Prototyping Laboratory Centre KTU M-Lab in the campus of Kaunas University of Technology

This good practice has not yet been fully implemented. But we would like to present it as one of the practices of how to incorporate the green roof concept in the design of a modern study and research center. A new unique interdisciplinary prototyping laboratory centre KTU M-Lab will open its doors at the end of 2022 in Kaunas (Lithuania), on the campus of Kaunas University of Technology.

### Latvia

#### Magdalena Quarter Roof Garden

##### *LATVIAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AWARD*

The purpose of the outdoor space improvement project of the Magdalena Quarter was to create an aesthetically qualitative and functionally thoughtful urban environment that coincides well with the ensemble established in the centuries of the historic centre of Riga.

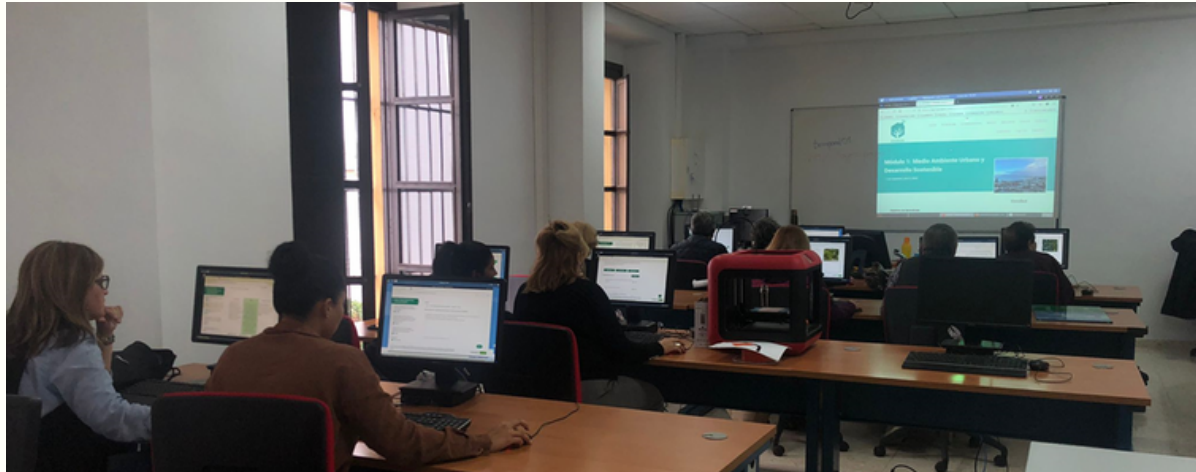
### GREECE

#### "Green Houses" program of the Municipality of Athens

In context of "Green Houses" program of the Municipality of Athens 17 schools of all grades in Athens got green roofs (2016) which were designed by Koutsogianni Stavroula. The green roofs have low xerophytic vegetation and they belong to the expansive planted roof categories (extensive green roof / semi intensive).



## Piloting event in Spain 16/11/22



Last 16th of November, the City Council of La Palma del Condado held an event to pilot the results of the IO1 of the AGROS Project: The AGROS modules. During this activity, 14 students from the Adult Education School La Palmera, were able to learn more about the project and all of them had time to go through the platform and study a couple of modules on green roofs. Afterwards, the participants completed an evaluation questionnaire and there was a session to share their comments, suggestions and opinions about the project. The feedback received was very positive and opened the door to further collaboration between the AGROS project and this Adult Education School in the future.

## Multiplier Event in Latvia 30/09/22



On September 30, the Multiplier Event of the AGROS project took place in Cēsis municipality, Latvia. The main purpose of the event was to inform about project activities and achieved results. Participants represented various organizations such as municipalities, NGOs, as well as citizens to encourage them to share their experiences and ideas. The AGROS project emphasizes the use of green roofs as a valuable environmental practice with positive results. It is a practice of active participation, as it provides citizens with tools and ways to respond to environmental protection, sustainable development, and improvement of the quality of life. Mrs Mudīte Priede, Secretary General of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, emphasized the role of local governments in the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change and the rise of greenhouse gases require an urgent change in the way we live and build. With the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, new buildings are expected to meet more ambitious sustainability targets. One area that is often a visible representation of architects' sustainability goals is the roof. Green roofs are a popular choice for both sustainable and aesthetic reasons, especially in urban settings. Growing concerns about the decline of urban wildlife and pollinators has added to their popularity and the importance of green roofs.

# Multiplier Event + Piloting session - 10/06/22

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

The aim of the event was to inform the participants about the project, train them on the AGROS Courses, as well as to encourage them to share and exchange experiences and ideas. In total, 24 people participated, coming from various organizations and backgrounds, such as Universities (professors and students in the field of the environment), NGOs oriented towards environmental protection and sustainable development, as well as nature lovers and amateur gardeners. The total duration of the event was one working day, which followed the structure below:

1. Project presentation: In the first session, the participants became acquainted with the project, its main concepts and principles, its aims and objectives, as well as the partner organisations and the main outcomes. The project website (<https://agrosproject.com/>) and social media were presented as well (<https://www.facebook.com/AGROS.EUproject>), and the participants were encouraged to like and share.

2. Presentation of project results and Intellectual Outputs: In the second session, all project deliverables were presented, as well as all IOs. Specific focus was given to IO1 – The AGROS Courses, which formed the basis of the following sessions.

3. Piloting of the AGROS Courses: In the third session, the participants were guided into enrolment in the online learning platform of the project and, after creating their accounts, they were asked to go through all Modules and then pick one to focus on and pilot. More specifically, each participant was asked to choose the Module that was more relevant with their background, experience or interests, carefully study all the available material and complete the online quiz. In turn, they had to evaluate the Module, as well as the project's website and online learning platform via an online form (<https://forms.gle/o8WGiFJ6QM7Nwx8C6>). In particular, they were asked to evaluate the appearance, graphics and functionality of the website and platform, as well as the parameters of each Module and corresponding Quiz: language, interesting content, inspiring, rich in resources, statistics etc. The comments were very positive in general, and most participants stated that the courses covered their interests, were easy to follow, included a variety of information, images, tables etc., while they sparked their curiosity to find more about green roofs and environmental awareness.

4. Further discussion: On completion of the piloting process, the participants engaged in a further discussion, during which they shared their ideas, experiences and suggestions about the implementation of green roofs and their benefits in everyday life.

5. In-service learning: The last session of the event was an experiential workshop, during which the participants had the opportunity to engage in an actual tree-planting process and create a small green roof! To be more specific, they were taken to one of the University's rooftops, where they were split in groups and given all the necessary material, instructions and equipment to plant some small trees and plants. With the guidance of experienced gardeners, each group planted a set of trees and plants around the rooftop, turning it to a beautiful and sustainable venue. The procedure was followed by interesting comments and discussion, during which the participants noted how important in-service learning is for the successful implementation and sustainability of such a project.

Overall, it can be supported that the multiplier event was a total success, and that the project received very positive feedback.



## Sustainability Initiatives for Lithuanian Cities: AGROS Multiplier Event in Lithuania

Green initiatives are gaining momentum in Lithuania. How do we welcome and engage with them?

What is needed to raise awareness in this area? On the 8th of November Kaunas STP invited to the event **AGROS**. How to create a more sustainable and greener city?

It is encouraging to see that business and companies themselves are discovering and appreciating sustainability not only in the construction of buildings, but also in their everyday actions. The most impactful initiatives are those that go from the bottom up, so it is important to be open to new ideas and to see the city as a whole of many components, says Kaunas University of Technology professor Dr. Lina Šeduikytė, who presented the sustainability trends in the building sector.

Roofs as part of green infrastructure was presented by Mantas Pilkauskas, chairman of the Lithuanian Union of Landscape Architects and lecturer at the VMU Academy of Agriculture. How to adapt roofs to promote urban beekeeping was shared by the SBA initiative

"Let's get together!" coordinator Petras Lingė who invited to enjoy honey produced by bees living on the roofs of Kaunas and Vilnius.

Irma Bagdonienė, a project expert from Kaunas STP presented the importance of public initiatives related to sustainable actions and introduced participants to the project AGROS and its outcomes, invited join and explore AGROS course.

The event was attended by local government representatives, academics working in the field of sustainability, students of landscape architecture and activists interested in environmental issues.

**Project link: <https://agrosproject.com/>**

**FB: AGROS.EUproject**



Center for Social  
Innovation



Kaunas Science and  
Technology Park

