



ACTION PLAN

EURE: EFFECTIVENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL URBAN
POLICIES TO IMPROVE RESOURCES EFFICIENCY



NICOSIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CY)
MARCH 2022

**Interreg
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund



Part I – General information

Project: **EURE: Effectiveness of Environmental Urban policies to improve Resources Efficiency**

Partner organisation: **Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL)**

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): N/A

Country: **Cyprus**

NUTS2 region: **Κύπρος (Kypros)**

Contact person: Eleni Malekkidou

email address: emalekkidou@anel.com.cy

phone number: 00 357 22 489105

Part II – Policy context

- The Action Plan aims to impact:
- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
 - European Territorial Cooperation programme
 - Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed: **Operational Program “THALIA 2021 – 2027”**

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1: New project implementation: Urban Park of Palourokampos in Latsia Municipality

1. The background

1.1. Introduction - Current Situation:

Nicosia Development Agency partnered with 8 other European organisations in the Interreg Europe EURE project. The aim of the project is to work on the article 7.4 of the Europe 2020 Strategy, where Member states must allocate at least 5% of their national ERDF, within the framework of the investment for growth & job objective, to the support of sustainable urban development integrated strategies. More specifically, EURE project proposes the exchange of experiences among managing authorities and local authorities (including their representatives/associations) of the policy instruments addressed by them to the development of ERDF Article 7, about the different ways they articulate the above mentioned 5% and aims at optimising Structural funds investment for the improvement of environmental performance management of EU urban spaces, including the urban areas of low population density.

1.2. EURE project – LSG Meetings Outcomes:

The engagement of the Local Stakeholders through the LSG series of meetings (online & with physical presence) organised in Cyprus offered the opportunity of drawing the local situation and identifying which of the Good Practices shared from the partners would be more suitable for adoption, for the case of Cyprus. Furthermore, the following suggestions have been produced with the objective to improve the selected policy instrument during the LSG meetings:

A) Propose the establishment of new methods (or new criterion) of evaluation that could ensure the allocation of at least 5% of the national ERDF, within the framework of the investment for growth & job objective, to the support of sustainable urban development integrated strategies.

B) Initiation of new project(s) to be funded in the framework of the specific PIs aiming on the improvement of environmental performance management of urban spaces in Nicosia, including the urban areas of low population density. New project(s) should embody elements included in the Good Practices identified in other EURE partners' areas.

The member municipalities of ANEL along with the Managing Authority (Directorate General Growth - DGG) are the core members of the Regional Multi-stakeholder Group created in Cyprus to support the EURE project's activities.

1.2.1. Selected GP: "Pontevedra Urban Model"

Through the exchange of experience process of the project, all partners identified several GPs from their region which were presented during the Thematic seminars and Study Visits of the project. One GP promoted by the lead partner EIXO ATLANTICO entitled "Pontevedra Urban Model" attracted the interest of Cypriot Partner (Nicosia Development Agency).

The project is focused towards achieving *a more friendly, safe, high quality, accessible, without noise or atmosphere pollution, egalitarian, cohensive city that also facilitates the autonomy of people*. The project has 5 horizontal objectives, more specifically: *Sustainable development; Accessibility; Demographic change; Climate Change Mitigation and Gender Equality*.

From the information gathered regarding the GP, the Urban Model of Pontevedra seems to *emphasize on green infrustructure approaches and the benefits of applying this kind of approaches in design and planning phase*. Benefits related to the improvement of the quality of life of the citizens through environmental, social and economic impact. (e.g. more exposure to the natural environment, opportunities for recreation and physical activities, improvement of safety, promotion of community identity, well-being, economic benefits for the community etc)

During the presentation of this GP and further discussion on its technical & economic details with the members of the LSG, the GP ("Pontevedra Urban Model") was endorsed by all stakeholders and especially the emphasis on **green infrastructure approaches**. It was decided that the philosophy of this GP should be adopted on local level through the new strategies which were under development at that time, the two OXA Strategies of Nicosia (Strategy for Sustainable Development of Southern Nicosia and of Latsia & Geri).

More specifically, during the public consultation of the two OXA Strategies of Nicosia (Strategy for Sustainable Development of Southern Nicosia and of Latsia & Geri), ANEL has presented the outcomes of the LSG meeting and suggested:

- a) the adoption of the 5 horizontal objectives related to the "Pontevedra Urban Model" (*Sustainable development; Accessibility; Demographic change; Climate Change Mitigation and Gender Equality*), as well as,
- b) to emphasize on the inclusion and promotion for implementation of green infrastructure projects (projects that are relevant with the improvement of the environmental performance management of urban spaces in Nicosia)

Some of the proposed projects on this direction that were proposed in OXA Strategies of Nicosia are the following:

- Linear Parks (Yiallias, St Pauls etc)
- **Urban Park of Palourokampos**
- Urban Forest Park of Lourka
- Energy upgrading of municipal buildings
- Renovation/restoration of historic and listed buildings
- Regeneration of old historic neighbourhoods and city centres
- Nature trails
- Flood defences infrastructure

1.2.2. Project Initiation:

Based on the above mentioned, through this Action Plan it is aimed to follow the second method of improvement, which is to initiate a new project to be financed through the selected PI. The proposed project is a green infrastructure project that aims on the improvement of the environmental performance management of urban spaces in Nicosia and it is entitled: the **Urban Park of Palourokampos**.

Concluding, the following brief SWOT analysis was produced by the RMSG during its last meeting concerning the proposed actions (project):

Strengths: a) The philosophy of the strategy is easy to transfer (goals and focus), b) OXAs strategies were still under development (public consultations were pending etc). c) Urban Park of Palourokampos project has aligned purposes and goals with EURE project and will add significant value (environmental, social and economic) to the area of intervention.

Weaknesses: a) Public procedures and delays.

Opportunities: a) OXA Strategies of Nicosia were under development at that time. b) ANEL's participation in the public consultation for the formation of the framework of the new Programming period 2021 -2027 c) The Cypriot MA of Structural Funds along with the member municipalities of ANEL have shown high interest in supporting the adoption of the philosophy of the selected GP and inclusion in OXAs of more projects that have to do with the improvement of the environmental performance management of urban spaces in Nicosia as well as the funding through ESIF of Cyprus of selected projects.

Threats: a) The maturity level of the proposed project. b) unstable economic conditions. (e.g. Covid19)

2. Action

A number of LSG meetings were held in order to decide a) which of the proposed projects will be included in the OXA Strategies of Nicosia and b) which one will be proposed to be financed under the new ESIF of Cyprus for the purposes of the specific Action Plan.

As mentioned earlier, the **Urban Park of Palourokampos** was selected, because of its significant impact (environmental, social and economic) in the area of intervention. Its goals are fully aligned with:

- a) the main goal of EURE project which is the improvement of the environmental performance management of urban spaces in Europe, and in the case of Palourokampos Park, the urban spaces of Nicosia District,
- b) the 5 horizontal objectives related to the “Pontevedra Urban Model” (*Sustainable development; Accessibility; Demographic change; Climate Change Mitigation and Gender Equality*), as well as,
- c) the proposed emphasis to be given on promoting the implementation of green infrastructure projects.

Few words about the proposed project:

*The proposed **Urban Park of Palourokampos** is located in the southwestern part of the Municipality of Latsia and covers an area of 4.2 ha. The proposed interventions aim at the connection of the Urban Park with the city, as well as at the transformation of the park to a pole of attraction and a reference point for the wider area. The Park is envisioned as a ‘linear observatory’ or as a ‘balcony to the city’, providing easy access and beautiful views. The various and important entrances of the park provide access to it from all over the city.*

The proposed project aims to transform the site into a new urban public space, an attraction for residents and visitors, which will culturally and environmentally upgrade Latsia. The Park aims to become a green lung for the area; while also combine other related functions such as outdoor recreation, aesthetics, physical sports and more. The proposed interventions have taken under serious consideration the specific characteristics of the area, the large slopes and the existing flora. The Park is designed with absolute respect to the natural environment and in a way so that it remains vibrant throughout the day and the year.



Figure 1: Pallourokampos Masterplan



Figure 2: Pallourokampos park render images of the proposal

On February 2021 the OXA Strategies of Nicosia were submitted to the Directorate General Growth (DGG) of the Ministry of Finance. The final document has taken under consideration all suggestions made during the public consultation, where ANEL presented the outcomes of the LSG meeting and made the relevant suggestions. (please see section 1.2.1.) The selected project, **Urban Park of Pallourokampos**, was included and promoted as a high priority project in OXA Strategy of Latsia & Geri. (Strategy for Sustainable Development of Latsia & Geri).

In April 2021, a meeting between ANEL and Latsia municipality was held after the submission of the OXA strategy in order to:

- identify the next steps and;
- prepare for the meeting with the Ministry of Interior and Managing Authority related to the list of projects proposed in the Strategy.

Nicosia Development Agency was asked to prepare a more detailed technical document on behalf of Latsia Municipality related to the proposed project, to be submitted for funding to the Managing Authority of ESIF (Directorate General Growth (DGG), Ministry of Finance) for approval. (Procedure estimated to be finalized within March 2023).

3. Players involved

Directorate General Growth (DGG), Ministry of Finance - **Managing Authority** of the Policy Instrument.

Latsia Municipality - **Final Beneficiary**

Nicosia Development Agency - **provision of support on management and coordination level** of the new project for the Final Beneficiary

4. Timeframe

The decision for approval by the Directorate General Growth (DGG), Ministry of Finance is expected within March 2023.

Finalization of road mapping the implementation activities on the commitment granted is expected by the end of March 2023.

The project's implementation will last for three years, ideally from April 2023 until March 2026.

The project is divided into Working Packages as follows:

WP	Activity	Duration	Indicative Time-plan
1	Project Management (including public procurement procedure for WP2)	36 months	April 2023 - March 2026
2	Implementation Phase – Phase A & B of the Project	30 months (from 6th to 36th month)	October 2023 – March 2026

5. Costs

The new project's budget is allocated to the above-mentioned WPs as follows:

WP	Activity	Budget
1	Project Management (including public procurement procedure for WP2)	€100.000
2	Implementation Phase - System's Development	€1.900.000
	TOTAL	€2.000.000

6. Funding sources:

The total budget of the project (€2.000.000) will be financed through the ESI Funds of the programming period 2021-2027 and more specifically through the **Operational Program "THALIA 2021 – 2027"**.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____