

URBAN-SMS a regional cooperation project for urban soil management

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Abstract:

The specific objective of URBAN SMS (funded under the Interreg IV Central Europe program of the European Commission) is to develop and establish a comprehensive soil management strategy for Central European municipalities helping urban planners to consider the value of soils and their different functions within the planning process.

The project has two core outputs:

- Soil Manager Suite which includes IT tools for use in urban planning. Two computer tools will be developed: a desktop tool (end-user PC computer application) and a GIS web planning tool;
- Municipal Soil Manager, a handbook for municipal decision makers. The guide will give practical advice on how to implement a permanent management structure for soil protection within urban planning.

The main outcomes of the URBAN SMS Project will be:

- Improved awareness of the urban soil importance, threats related to soil in cities, the need for proper urban soil management and the benefit resulting from it.
- Application of a comprehensive Urban Soil Management System in cities of European countries and consequent improvement of urban planning and a more considerate use of soil.

The direct beneficiaries will be the local governments acting as decision making bodies in the field of environmental protection, natural resource management and urban or regional development. The implementation of the Urban Soil Management System will improve the assessment of land use options and balance the exploitation and conservation of land resources.

Indirect beneficiaries are all public players in land use planning and environmental protection and real estate developers.

Last, but not least, beneficiary is the whole society as the improved urban soil management will help to conserve the soil as one of the major natural resources.

Partners:

- City of Stuttgart, Department for Environmental Protection, Germany (project coordinator)
- City of Vienna, Environmental Department, Austria
- City of Milan, Department of Executive Plans and Programs for Buildings, Italy
- District Authority Stuttgart, Germany
- City of Celje, Slovenia
- Austrian Environmental Agency, Vienna, Austria
- Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Centre for Soil and Environment Research, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- University of Torino - DIVAPRA Chimica agraria, Italy

- Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia
- Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, Pulawy, Poland
- Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

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