

URBAN GREEN & FORESTS IN ITALY: THE WAY FORWARD



San Marino, 20-23 November 2023



ASviS Position Paper on Urban and Peri-urban green infrastructures



- PP 2022, 2023 (in press): state of the art of urban forests and green spaces in major Italian cities & key messages for policy makers
- PP 2023: focus on the law 10/2013 «Norms for the development of urban green spaces» after 10 years from its approval
- First national law dealing with urban green spaces: addresses the importance of UGS for urban sustainability and quality of life (ecosystem services) and the role of local administrators (LA)
- National Committee for the development of urban green spaces (Ministry of the Environment): a.o. national guidelines (2017) and a strategy for urban green (2018) putting good-quality & diverse urban forests as new paradigm for cities' resilience
- Positive contribution to the increase of a «green culture» among local administrators (see the «tree balance» obligation for municipalities > 15,000 inhab.) – more aware of the benefits provided and keen to better know and manage UG&BI



BUT...

Lack of long-term vision for local natural capital & urban forest development

More efforts to meet EU objectives

- ✓ Positive trend in the amount of UGS is not enough
- ✓ Lack of long-term vision for local natural capital – only 8% of the major Italian cities has a Green master plan approved – more integration of UGI into local urbanistic instruments and spatial planning
- ✓ More efforts to reach EU objectives & fulfill EU strategies (Biodiversity Strategy 2030, restoration of urban ecosystems, local adaptation to CC etc.)
- ✓ Ministerial forestation financing programs & funds of Next generations EU (6,6 mln trees in 2024)



PROPOSALS OF THE ASVIS WG ON GOAL 11.7

1. Strengthen the implementation of the law 10/2013 by completing its normative path - support the LA in limiting soil sealing and protect non urbanized land
2. Launch a national communication campaign to educate and raise awareness about the value of urban nature (social acceptability)
3. Turn Urban green Plan - which is now voluntary - into a compulsory urbanistic instrument: the asset & development of urban periurban green&blue infrastructures/biodiversity/ecosystem services/ need to be planned through the time as much as grey infrastructures engaging commitments from various sectors of local policy
4. Approve a national law to stop soil consumption - urban forests need (good) soil to grow and land development increasingly compete with urban forestry needs&objectives



anna.chiesura@isprambiente.it

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