

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 urban forests and green spaces in major Italian cities/review relevant scientific literature/key messages/ policy recommendations to advance practices and policies on the topic
- PP 2023 focuses on the law 10/2013 «Norms for the development of urban green spaces»: after 10 years from its approval reflections successes&tdt
- 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 as key actors
- National Committee for the development of urban green spaces (Ministry of the Environment): annual report to the Parliament, national guidelines (2017) Strategy for urban green (2018) putting good-quality& diverse urban forests as new paradigm for cities' resilience



BUT...

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

More efforts to meet EU objectives



✓ 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

✓ Urban green indicators: positive trends in the amount of UGS...

BUT

✓ More efforts to comply with EU strategies (Biodiversity Strategy 2030: greening plans for cities > 20,000 inhab..)

✓ Lack of long-term vision for local natural capital – only 8% of the major Italian cities has a Green Plan approved - strategy to enhance & protect nature, reverse the degradation of urban ecosystems, ensure that towns and cities grow greener in the future – more integration of UGI into local urbanistic instruments and spatial planning

RECOMMENDATIONS of ASVIS PP on UPGI

1. Strengthen the implementation of the law 10/2013 by completing its normative path - extend the monitoring of its implementation
2. Launch a national campaign (Min. environment & education) to educate and raise awareness about the value of urban nature (social acceptability&ecological literacy)
3. Turn Urban Green Plan - which is now voluntary - into a compulsory urbanistic instrument: as much as grey infrastructures green&blue infrastructures/biodiversity/ecosystem services/ need to be planned through the time - long term vision/adequate financial resources/engaging commitments from various sectors of local policy
4. Approve a national law to stop soil consumption (0 net soil consumption) - urban forests need (good) soil to grow/land development increasingly compete with urban forestry needs&objectives/green spaces often lose out



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