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From knowledge of ecosystem services values to the planning processes

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## LIFE SAM4CP

From knowledge of  
ecosystem services values  
to the planning processes



<http://www.sam4cp.eu/>

The **LIFE SAM4CP** European project (described in NewDIST, December 2015) has completed the mapping and the biophysical and economic assessment of ecosystem services (actions B1 and B2) and initiated the activities dedicated to the relationship between ecosystem assessment and spatial planning (urban and territorial), with the ultimate aim of defining urban models to reduce land consumption and promote a good use of the soil.

These activities consist in drawing up an urban plan through the joint planning procedure called Co-planning, provided for by the planning legislation of Piedmont. They will first be tested in the pilot of the Municipality of Bruino and later in the other three Municipalities (Settimo T.se, Chieri e None) selected through a public tender addressed to all the Municipalities of Città Metropolitana di Torino.

The Co-planning procedure is a 'horizontal' decision-making process where the governance authorities at the different levels work together in assessing the municipal urban plan. The prerequisite is to define a shared cognitive framework to assess the range of planning options available, based on the mapping and evaluation of ecosystems and their services. The goal is to build a strong consensus among local decision-makers and citizens as well as decision makers at all institutional levels on planning measures and management policies geared towards soil protection.

Supporting policy makers with information on ecosystem services will explicitly include the environmental, economic, social and cultural components of planning and establish clear links between decisions and ecosystem services. Moreover, the risk of losing services or the ability to maintain or







enhance specific services under different policy options and management can also be assessed.

In addition to the activities ongoing in the pilot Municipality of Bruino (action B5) around building consensus on planning choices (specifically provided for the B6 action), first results began to be seen also in Settimo and None.

In Settimo, the dialogue between the City Council and the citizens about the general review of the current Local urban Plan (Prg) was first developed through an internal debate involving the members of the Municipal Planning Commission with the participation of the DIST research group (March 2016) and later (during the months of March and April 2016) through a series of meetings with various stakeholders, representing the key local associations: Unions and Commerce, Professionals and contractors, Crafts and Industry, Agriculture, Environmentalism, Citizenship. The goal is to carry out the technical proposal of the Local plan-Preliminary Projects by the end of August and then to start the first Co-planning Conference.

The methodology taken by None is somewhat different because the Municipality will implement a variant of the Local plan and not a general review. For this reason, the consensus building began with the institutional authorities of Città metropolitana and Piedmont Region (May 2016) to share the method (ecosystem services evaluation) and the procedural aspects. In July took place another important phase of information on ongoing activities and consensus building on how to proceed in the preparation of the Local plan variant, meeting the members of the Planning Commission. In addition, the comparison was open to the citizens.

**LIFE SAM4CP** will demonstrate, even in the case of a highly urbanized and infrastructured Municipality like Settimo T.se, the importance of adopting an ecosystem approach susceptible of improving urban ecological quality through a reorganization of the city (in some cases eliminating the previous settlement forecasts), without consuming any additional land and raising more awareness of the citizens and the authorities on biodiversity values.

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*Municipality None. Discussion in the Planning Commission of the Project LIFE SAM4CP.*



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