



# Grow Green Valencia

**The district of Benicalap: The area which the pilots of the project were developed, congregated mainly in the neighborhood of Ciutat Fallera. Why?**

After many years of institutional neglect and a lack of investment, Benicalap district is lacking resources and services and its inhabitants face social and economic problems, which are even more serious in Ciutat Fallera. All of these make the area very vulnerable to climate change. The project is seen as an opportunity to revitalize the most degraded areas.



**Citizen participation and local governance: To give the project the social aspect the neighborhood needed, co-creation and public consultation were implemented. How did it go?**



The participatory process showed had strong potential for NBS development, linked to cultural traits and urbanistic deficiencies. The implementation of citizens voices and concerns in the project agenda complemented the technical analyses and improved the public opinion. The highlight of this process was the Collaborative Green Initiatives Competition, that funded five pilots submitted by citizens, some of which have been the most impactful in Valencia.

**Results: The project has impacted positively the people of Benicalap and Ciutat Fallera, and aims to replicate itself over the rest of Valencia.**



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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement n° 730283. The project will run from June 2017 - May 2022.



## Pilot 01 Sustainable Forest: Ampliation of Benicalap Park with SUDs and biodiversity

It transforms an unused plot with bioretention systems consisting of three cascading infiltration basins, other SUDs and a mediterranean ecosystem. Water management and vegetal species diversity have been improved greatly. Some people view the most naturalized areas as too "wild" and with "weeds".

### Sustainable Forest



Tree area with a rehabilitated traditional farm house in the background



Construction phase in the degraded plot



The new grassland with the three basins under the vegetation

## Pilot 02 Responsible Basket: Distribution of organic local orchard products for Benicalap

Coordination of a delivery service of Km0 food from the valencian agricultur, which did not exist before in the area, using an electric vehicle that recharges in the UPV and the labor force of people with functional diversity to improve their laboral inclusion to do the deliveries. Events were held to divulgate the service by mouth to mouth.

### Responsible Basket



Public calçotada, a typical dish, cooked in one of the events



The electric van for making the deliveries



The design for the event which is the same style as the advertising

## Pilot 03 Green Roof: Senior citizens wellbeing

The roof of a centre for the erderly, originally a layer of gravel, achieved permeabilization and temperature regulation, lowering the original maximum temperature in summer from 40 C° to 26 C°, improving the habitability and the energy efficiency of the centre. The spontaneous vegetation from the near Benicalap Park supposes a threat of excess of mass.

### Green Roof



## Pilot 04 Vertical Ecosystem: Water cycle systemization

Green wall located in a façade of the public school Ciutat Artista Faller, which insulates and insonorizes the classrom inside, but has as objective the purification of grey water from the school bathrooms to reutilize it in the school garden. The analysis of the water to be used in human alimentation are very expensive and reduces greatly the economic viability of the pilot.

### Vertical Ecosystem



The vertical garden in the shcool wall



The vertical garden as seen from Regino Mas Square



Water depuration system inside the shcool

## Pilot 05 Green-Blue Corridor: Naturalization and SUDs in Foc Street and Regino Mas Square

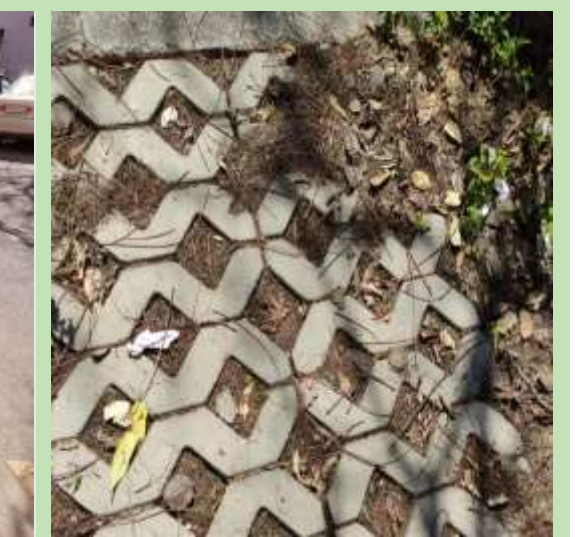
In Foc Street, the intervention was over existent gardens and tree pits, being the tree pits expanded, to create rain gardens. It also consisted in the permeabilization of pavement and slots for car parking. Water management and quality improved but there have been problems with clogging due to wrong particle size of the joint filler and accumulation of vegetal and urban waste and car oil added to a lack of traning for street cleaning services, that didn't know how to manipulate the SUDs and thus dind't clean thoroughly. Also, many new plants died due to the harsh conditions of the street, but not the bigger and more resistant shrubs.

In Regino Mas Square, once a degraded roundabout near the local school, it consisted in pedestrianization, naturalization, permebalization and urban equipment, including a pergola for shadow decorated with the participation of local students to reinforce their appropriation. Insect Hotels were installed but due to their "accessibility" they were vandalized.

### Green-Blue Corridor



The tree pits became new gardens with native plants



SUDs between the new gardens covered with waste



The transformed Regino Mas Square with gardens, SUDs and a pergola



**Pilot 06**

**Benicalap Green Space:  
Associationism and food production  
naturalizing the city with social initiatives**

One of the winners of the Collaborative Green Initiative Competition, Green Space Benicalap responds to citizen demands and through the temporary provision of a space a disused site was transformed into a naturalised space for work, reunion and recreation under the principles of cooperation, direct democracy and solidarity through associations, previously not very present in the neighbourhood. New and very diverse neighbourhood associations are created, which must learn to organise themselves collectively, creating and/or reinforcing local social networks and knowledge. The citizens were really involved in all stages of it's development, making the space their own from the very beginning. At the same time, due to the great diversity of profiles, the value of the exchange of experiences and learning, is added to the intercultural and intergenerational exchanges, making possible the necessary transfer of farming knowledge. The initiative involves the implementation of an alternative model of production and consumption based on solidarity, collective work, traditional agriculture and interpersonal support networks.

Observed through personal testimonies, the Benicalap Green Space is an agent with a strong positive impact on their lives, which has helped them to overcome personal difficulties, to be active, and to feel part of a community.

The pilot has showed to be the intervention most impactul in terms of success, participation, acceptance and divulgation of the project, reiterating the need to adapt to local needs and create horizontal structures for working with citizens.



The fifteen land slots are assigned by the associations in a rotative and temporal system

**Climate change action is social: Motivated by the problems of the neighbourhood, apart of all the pilots, a tool to measure the impact over wellbeing of energy poverty with examples of NBS for homes was developed**



**"For a better Benicalap, more green and sustainable"**



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**Pilot 07**

**GrowGreen APP:  
Educational tool to learn about local biodiversity playing**

A game that uses geolocalization to function, which consists mainly in the sighting and registering of birds that findable in the district but includes the NBS locations. Activities with schools were made to teach children, the target audience, how to use, increasing according to our data the APP's usage after.

**GrowGreen APP**



The game



Bird sightings congregates mainly in Benicalap Park



EcoGymkhana with children in Benicalap Park

**Pilot 08**

**Winged Allies:  
Study of bats biodiversity and installation of nests**

One of the winners of the Collaborative Green Initiative Competition, Winged Allies aims to monitorize bats and visibilize their importance in the ecosystem. Workshops were held in the local school and public bat sightings at night, which attracted many citizens but only two were done due to lack of money for more.

**Winged Allies**



Installed bat nests in palm trees of the neighbourhood



Ultrasound systems were used to monitorize bat population



One of the public "Bat nights" held in Benicalap

**Pilot 09**

**EcoRemedi:  
Communication project**

One of the winners of the Collaborative Green Initiative Competition, Ecorremedi mapped the solutions and produced audiovisual material and illustrations, such as videos and comics. Possibly because these resources were posted in their own separated web, they were used in our events but is unclear if had more usage.

**EcoRemedi**



**Pilot 10**

**Green Civic Center:  
A place for reunion and leisure**

One of the winners of the Collaborative Green Initiative Competition, the Green Civic Center was constructed by the solidary work of the people from the associations. It is a place where the associations hold their reunions and rest, but also it aims to be a space for the neighbourhood to held social activities and events. The own associations fulfilled it's purpose.

**Green Civic Center**



The center also serves as storage for the tools of work of the associations



The structure has solar panels installed by the associations too



Las Naves uses it to held divulgation and education workshops

**Pilot 11**

**Urban Resilience Provision:  
Naturalized and sustaniable device for socialization**

One of the winners of the Collaborative Green Initiative Competition, the Urban Resilience Provision consisted of the construction of a device that, given the necessity stated by the local highschool Benicalap of needing spaces to rest with shadow in their schoolyard. School workshops with students were held, where they selected the wooden material for it's commodity and low heat absortion. Also, the students from the Formative Profession Course of Carpentry and Fallas Art were involved in it's design and construction.

We have learned that schools have an effective organization system to held these type of workshops and that they help a lot to make the right decisions and to improve appropriation from the community (lowering the risk of vandalism) of the intervention. Also, both Ciutat Artista Faller school and Benicalap highschool as institutions proved to want to participate in any way possible with the Project, and even being "ambassadors" of it's interventions.

**Urban Resilience Provision**



The students of carpentry and fallas art participating in it's construction



The final design



The device being used by the students