



## **VARCITIES - VISIONARY NATURE BASED ACTIONS FOR HEATH, WELLBEING & RESILIENCE IN CITIES**

In an increasingly urbanising world, governments and international corporations strive to increase productivity of cities, recognized as economy growth hubs, as well as ensuring better quality of life and living conditions to citizens. Although significant effort is performed by international organisations, researchers, etc. to transform the challenges of Cities into opportunities, the visions of our urban future are trending towards bleak. Social services and health facilities are significantly affected in negative ways owed to the increase in urban populations (70% by 2050). Air pollution and urban exacerbation of heat islands is exacerbating. Nature will struggle to compensate in the future City, as rural land is predicted to shrink by 30% affecting liveability. VARCITIES puts the citizen and the “human community” in the eye of the future cities’ vision. Future cities should evolve to be human centred cities. The vision of VARCITIES is to implement real, visionary ideas and add value by establishing sustainable models for increasing H&WB of citizens (children, young people, middle age, elderly) that are exposed to diverse climatic conditions and challenges around Europe (e.g. from harsh winters in Skelleftea-SE to hot summers in Chania-GR, from deprived areas in Novo mesto-SI to increased pollution in Malta) through shared public spaces that make cities liveable and welcoming.

**UNIPD Team Leader:** Raffaele Cavalli

**Department:** Department of Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry

**Coordinator:** Erevnitiko Panepistimiako Institutouto Tilepikononiakon Systimaton

**Other Participants:**

Cyclopolis Sistimata Koinoxriston Podilaton Idiotiki Kefaleouxiki Eteria (Greece)

Dimos Chania (Greece)

Accademia Europea di Bolzano (Italy)

Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)

Unismart- Fondazione Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)

Comune di Castelfranco Veneto (Italy)

Università ta' Malta (Malta)

Darttek Ltd. (Malta)

KORONA inženiring d.d. (Slovenia)

Razvojni center Novo mesto, Svetovanje in razvoj, d.o.o. (Slovenia)

Mestna občina Novo mesto (Slovenia)

Sara Van Rompaey (Belgium)

Stad Leuven (Belgium)

IES R&D (Ireland)

Louth County Council (Ireland)

Skellefteå kommun (Sweden)

Prospex Institute (Belgium)

Crowdhelix Limited (Ireland)

Inlecom Innovation Astiki Mi Kerdoskopiki Etaireia (Greece)

ISOCARP Institute Centre of Urban Excellence (Netherlands)

Universitetet i Bergen (Norway)

Bergen commune (Norway)

Decca Technology AS (Norway)

Sensedge, razvoj inovativnih rešitev d.o.o. (Slovenia)

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