WELCOME!

Training the Urban Foresters of Tomorrow: connecting Europe, America and Africa experiences
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UFOREST
An Erasmus+ projects fostering innovation in education and entrepreneurship

Ilaria DOIMO\textsuperscript{a}, Colm O’DRISCOLL, Erica ALGHISI\textsuperscript{b}
\textsuperscript{a} ETIFOR Valuing Nature \textsuperscript{b} Ente Regionale per i Servizi all’Agricoltura e alle Foreste (ERSAF)
WHY THIS PROJECT?

CHALLENGE 1
Many cities across the globe are setting challenging urban reforestation targets, but they are struggling with:

• high related costs
• the need for long-term citizen engagement
• capacity of existing institutions to implement Urban Forestry (UF) solutions.

CHALLENGE 2
Today, the demand for UF practitioners able to innovate urban areas is increasing, but there is a lack of interdisciplinary training and support for innovative public-private UF initiatives.
The UFOREST project

Uforest is a Knowledge Alliance project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

**AIM at creating learning opportunities and supporting students and practitioners in gaining multidisciplinary knowledge and approaches towards the planning and implementation of innovative Urban Forestry projects**
12 partners among universities, businesses, and public institutions, of often non collaborating disciplines

HOW?

Promoted by ERSAF and Etifor

In partnership with 4 universities

6 research and networking organisations and companies
HOW?

3-STEP APPROACH:
JOIN • LEARN • GREEN YOUR CITY
Step 1. JOIN the UFOREST Alliance

230 members around the globe
Step 2. LEARN

REPORTS
uforest.eu/learn

FACTSHEETS
uforest.eu/case-studies

E-LEARNING COURSES
https://www.pok.polimi.it
Step 3. GREEN your city

Urban Forestry INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Urban Forestry WORKSHOPS

Urban Forestry PLANTING CAMPAIGNS
Step 3. GREEN YOUR CITY!
Urban Forests planting campaign

- **European PLANTING CAMPAIGN** in 4 different - Milan, Brasov, Barcelona and Dublin **this Fall**

- Involving citizens, companies and students!

- Each campaign will implement **an innovative Urban Forestry solution** tailored to the needs of that specific urban context, in Milan and Barcelona final projects **integrate students’ results**!
Thank you

ILARIA DOIMO | ETIFOR

ilaria.doimo@etifor.com
http://www.uforest.eu
https://www.linkedin.com/company/uforest/

Uforest has been promoted by

In partnership with
The Uforest training programmes

Presented by
Sofia PAOLI, Maria Chiara PASTORE

Politecnico di Milano - Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani (Polimi DASU)
How do the Uforest learning path work?

1. **NATURE IN THE CITY: TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO URBAN FORESTRY PRACTICE**
   - Online
   - Free and accessible to everyone

2. **GREENING YOUR CITY: DEVELOP YOUR URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT**
   - Online
   - Specialized course for partner universities

3. **INNOVATION PROGRAMME**
   - In-person
   - Intensive 14-days training (1 week in Milan, 1 week in Barcelona)

Credits: 6 ECTS for online courses + 8 ECTS for the in-person programme
1. THE MOOC

1. NATURE IN THE CITY: TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO URBAN FORESTRY PRACTICE
FREE AND ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

- From November 2022 to April 2023
- 6 modules, streamed lessons
- Total workload: 50 hours

Participants will learn how to effectively apply the transdisciplinary principles of Urban Forestry, spanning from urban design to forest ecology, from socioeconomics to information and communication technologies. No specific background is required.
1. THE MOOC

The MOOC “Nature in the city: turning knowledge into urban forestry practice” is structured in 7 interdisciplinary weeks:

Introduction to the course
1 - History of urban forestry
2 - Urban Forestry planning and design
3 - Urban forest ecology
4 - Socioeconomics - Governance and community engagement
5 - Entrepreneurship and innovation
6 - Final assessment
7 - Live events - Urban Forest Case Studies
Number of learners enrolled: 1024
Initial surveys filled: 1020
Final survey filled: 147

1. THE MOOC: the results

Q10 In general, how do you rate this course experience?

![Pie chart showing the distribution of responses to Q10]
THE MOOC: the results

1.024
Enrolled Participants

226
Earned Certificates

22%
Completion rate

(Data from 5th June 2023)
1. THE MOOC: the results

- **38%**: Of users are between 26 and 35 years old.
- **50%**: Of users have a Master or PhD.
- **59%**: Are workers.

(Data from 5th June 2023)
1. THE MOOC: the results

Q2 How did you use the materials of the course?

- 67% of users watched all material.
- 81% would like to conclude the MOOC but hadn’t enough time.

(Data from 5th June 2023)
1. THE MOOC: the results

The MOOC explores different disciplines of Urban forestry. How effective can be the following topics to enhance the context where you work / live or the projects you are working on?

(Data from 5th June 2023)
1. THE MOOC: the results

- I acquired new knowledge on the topic
- I improved my existing knowledge on the topic
- I will insert the participation in this course in my CV

Now that the course has ended, how much do you agree with the following statements?

(Data from 5th June 2023)
1. THE MOOC: the results

Generally, comments are very positive. Here below a selection of the ones with suggestions/desiderata:

**Would like more courses about horticulture/ agriculture/ even eatable landscaping**

**The only thing I think was missing was a section related to botany. It would have been nice to have at least a lecture on tree structure and basic information on general classifications of tree (at least) forestry structures and on ecological**

**A topic that I have missed, probably because this situation occurs in my town, is how politicians approach urban forestry and what can be done to implement policies/laws that force local governments to implement green infrastructures.**

**I really missed a job pool to connect interested individuals to projects working for the same goal of greening cities.**

**Please put more examples from Asian country or developing country on how they are practicing urban forestry with a challenging situation. Thank you very much for this nice platform and wonderful course.**
The MOOC Nature in the city: turning knowledge into urban forestry practice will be always free and available on Polimi Open Knowledge platform at the following link:

https://www.pok.polimi.it/courses?search_query=UF101
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE

**2. GREENING YOUR CITY: DEVELOP YOUR URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT**

SPECIALIZED COURSE FOR STUDENTS OF PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

- From February 2023 to June 2023
- 4 modules, streamed lessons
- Total workload: 100 hours

This course is limited to 150 participants to provide specialised training in Urban Forestry and is designed with a project-based approach, meaning that participants will have the opportunity to develop their own project idea.
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE

The Capstone course “Greening your City: develop your Urban Forestry project” is structured in 4 parallel modules:

Module 1: Politecnico di Milano
Design an URBAN FOREST

Module 2: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Assessing Urban Forest Ecosystem Services (UFES) through Earth Observation and local data

Module 3: Transilvania University of Brașov
Mapping and monitoring the dynamics of the urban tree/forest ecosystem

Module 4: Trinity College Dublin
Strategic Leadership of the Nature-based Enterprise
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE

Greening your city: develop your urban forestry project: total 95 students enrolled

Students origin:

Students coming from: Italy, Ireland, Romania, Australia, France, Spain, Canada, Poland, Ukraine, Finland, Norway, Israel, Germany, Belgium, UK, Bahrain, Mexico, India and more!

Students age:
- 26-35: 36%
- 36-45: 18%
- 46-55: 14%
- 20-25: 27%
- <19: 5%
- 5-19: 5%

Tot. 95 students enrolled.
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE

Politecnico di Milano: tot. 60 students enrolled

Students were working in groups to produce an Urban Forestry plan for the area selected for the Uforest planting campaign in Milan!
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE

Peer Learning: case studies on Urban Forestry
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE

Peer Learning: case studies on Urban Forestry

- Almost 500 case studies presented by the students
- Topics: UF Equity, Food Forests, Biodiversity, Phytoremediation, Urban and Regional UF Plans, Green Corridors, and more
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE: the students projects

The Manifesto

- BATS AND BERRIES
  - Circular Forest
  - Coexist with the urban environment
  - Naturally clean the water
  - Cultivate without chemicals
  - Bring value to the neighborhood
  - Increase canopy cover
  - Reduce noise contamination
  - Educate in land伦理

- FORESTA SUL NAVIGLIO
  - Forests for biodiversity
  - Enhance water use efficiency
  - Reduce erosion and soil contamination
  - Enhance the social and cultural potential

- TO BE OR NOT TO BEE
  - Bees as indicators of ecosystem health
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE: the students projects
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE: the students projects
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE: the students projects

1. working with nature - garden

3. being in nature - forest
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE: the students projects
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE: the students projects

MANAGEMENT
MAINTENANCE TIMELINE

- PLANNING AND APPROVAL
- IMPLEMENTATION I
- IMPLEMENTATION II
- FINAL ASSESSMENT

FITNESS FOREST
GROUP 8

- SITE PREPARATION
- STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT & MAINTENANCE I
- STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT & MAINTENANCE II
- PILOT PROJECT II IMPLEMENTATION
2. THE CAPSTONE COURSE: the students projects
3. INNOVATION PROGRAMME

📅 September 2023

📅 2 weeks, in person (1 week in Milan, 1 week in Barcelona)

⏰ Total workload: 180 hours

The **20 best performing participants** of the e-learning course will be given the opportunity to participate in the Innovation Programme, an **intensive 14-days training delivered in person** (1 week in Milan, 1 week in Barcelona). Grants and financial aid are provided.
The Innovation Programme is a Specialization School in Urban Forestry

• The programme lasted **2 weeks** (14 days):
  - 12-17 September 2023 in Barcelona
  - 18-24 September 2023 in Milan

• Open to **20 selected students**, coming from the four Uforest universities;

• It is an **intensive training** based on presentations, group work, workshops, seminars, field visits;

• Students **worked in interdisciplinary groups** to develop a project of an Urban Forest in the UAB Campus.
3. THE INNOVATION PROGRAMME

BARCELONA WEEK AGENDA

13 lectures:

Lesson 1_ Joan Pino (UAB) Urban forests in the Mediterranean: ecology, functions, and services

Lesson 2_ Vicent Guallart The city and the forest: opportunities and challenges

Lesson 3_ Jorge Olivera and Jose Luis Tomé (Agresta) Forest restoration and planting for CO2 compensation: challenges and opportunities

Lesson 4_ Joan Pino (UAB) Introduction to the Uforest Challenge: Creating a climate refugia in the UAB campus through urban reforestation

Lesson 5_ Cristina Domingo (CREAF & UAB) ECOPOTENTIAL EU project: remote assessment of ecosystem services

Lesson 6_ Rafael Poyatos and Jordi Martínez-Vilalta (CREAF-UAB) Measuring tree water use: from understanding mechanisms to monitoring forest function at regional scales

Lesson 7_ Antoni Farrero and Laura Cid (AMB- Barcelona Metropolitan Council) Metropolitan Forests and Green Infrastructure Planning

Lesson 8_ Coloma Rull and Joan Bernat (Barcelona City Council) The Nature Plan of Barcelona

Lesson 9_ Pablo Navascués Forests management

Lesson 10_ Corina Basnou (CREAF) NBS in urban and metropolitan forests: the example of CLEARING HOUSE

Lesson 11_ Joan Marull The Metropolitan Laboratory of Ecology and Territory of Barcelona (LET): opportunities for co-creation and entrepreneurship on metropolitan green infrastructure

Lesson 12_ Carles Ibáñez (EURECAT-CRC) The development of Living Labs for innovation in forest and landscape sustainability in the Mediterranean: the example of the Ebro Basin

Lesson 13_ Eudald Vicens Urban nature imaginations in NBS implementation in Europe and Latin America
3. THE INNOVATION PROGRAMME

BARCELONA WEEK AGENDA

3 site visits:

Site Visit 1_ Walk from Collserola Natural Park to Barcelona The ecology and conservation of Mediterranean urban forests.

Site Visit 2_ Exploration of the UAB campus with focusing on potential areas for tree planting UAB Sustainability Office representatives talk to the students about the planning methodology processes and history at the UAB campus

Site Visit 3_ CREAT research plots in the Can Balasc Forest lead by Josep M Espelta and Rafael Poyatos (CREAF-UAB) The monitoring of the status and trends of Mediterranean urban forests.
3. THE INNOVATION PROGRAMME

MILANO WEEK AGENDA

10 lectures:

Lesson 14_ Cecil Konijnendijk (NBSI) Governance, Planning & Stewardship of Urban Forests. How to make it work?

Lesson 15_ Maria Chiara Pastore (POLIMI) The FORESTAMI project

Lesson 16_ Federica Caminoli (FORESTAMI) Forestami funding strategy and communication

Lesson 17_ Colm O’Driscoll (ETIFOR) EU Public Financing for Urban Forestry

Lesson 18_ Ilaria Doimo (ETIFOR) Urban Forests for wellbeing

Lesson 19_ Arianna Ruberto (ETIFOR) Communication & marketing in Urban Forestry projects

Lesson 20_ Erica Alghisi (ERSAF) What is ERSAF?

Lesson 21_ Giovanni Ravaneli (ERSAF) Forest nursery production and supply chain certification

Lesson 22_ Sofia Paoli (POLIMI) Vertical Forests: the Bosco Verticale of Milan

Lesson 23_ Lara Giamporcaro (ERSAF) The BAM park in Milano
3. THE INNOVATION PROGRAMME

MILANO WEEK AGENDA

3 site visits:

Site Visit 4 _ Visit to the Forestami Potential areas for tree planting in Cernusco sul Naviglio, with Forestami Experts and the Mayor of the city.

Site Visit 5 _ Visit of Forestami afforested areas in Parco Nord and WOWnature food forest, with Parco Nord technicians.

Site Visit 6 _ Visit to ERSAF Regional Nursery in Curno.

Site Visit 7 _ Visit to Bicocca Nursery, with a zoologist and a plant physiologist.

Site Visit 8 _ Visit to Bosco Verticale and BAM park in Milano.
3. THE INNOVATION PROGRAMME

- 2 weeks
- 20 students
- 2 cities
- 8 site visits
- 23 lectures
- 32 international experts involved
- 1 challenge
- 4 urban forests projects developed
3. THE INNOVATION PROGRAMME: the results
3. THE INNOVATION PROGRAMME
Thank you
and JOIN US!

http://www.uforest.eu
https://www.linkedin.com/company/uforest/

Sofia PAOLI | Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI)
sofia.paoli@polimi.it
2nd World Forum on Urban Forests
Washington DC, 2023

Title

Presented by
Sara Barron

University of British Columbia
Title

Presented by
Michela Conigliaro

FAO
SCAN THIS AND ACCESS TO LIVE Q&R
SLIDO.COM  # 4122186
Towards an European (and beyond) Learning Alliance on Urban Forests

Presented by
Dr Rik DE VREESE
European Forest Institute (EFI)
European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF)
The UFOREST Alliance

• Aim of the Alliance
  – To build a community of learners, (prospective) entrepreneurs and practitioners working in the field of urban forestry, or having the ambition of working in the field.
  – Alliance members are the first focus for Uforest trainings, and development activities
  – Foster multidisciplinarity
How does the Alliance work?

- We provide urban forestry content and knowledge on several topics in the News section
- Members have a platform for sharing knowledge with the community
- Just need to Join!
The UFOREST Alliance mapped

230 members around the globe
Future prospects

Challenges:
- How to guarantee its life beyond the project?
- Many existing network, how to differentiate and support synergies?

Possible solutions:
- Linking the Uforest Alliance to an existing network
- Characterize it with a focus on education and knowledge sharing
“The European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF) is a unique meeting place for practitioners, policy-makers, managers, educators and scientists who are active in urban forestry, urban greening and green infrastructure.”

Since 1998, the EFUF has met annually to discuss new developments, to exchange experiences, and to visit examples of good practices on planning, design and management of urban forests (from woodland to urban parks and street trees).
Learning from the European Forum on Urban Forestry

• EFUF is …
  – A community/family
  – Organising its yearly conference (in collaboration with a local partner)
  – Organising webinars
  – Facilitating knowledge exchange through myEFUF app
  – An International not-for-profit Association since April 2023
myEFUF app

DOWNLOAD THE MYEFUF APP

Google Play (Android)

App Store (iOS)
Integrating the Uforest Alliance with EFUF will make it a long-lasting network

- The EFUF network is driven by volunteers since 1998. This lean structure makes it possible to exchange knowledge efficiently.
- Through integrating the Uforest Alliance, EFUF will be expanding the scope towards education.
- **Education** will be a recurring topic during the EFUF activities.
Thank you and JOIN US!

Rik DEVREESE | European Forest Institute (EFI)
Rik.devreese@efi.int
Rik.devreese@efuf.org
Join at slido.com
# 4 122 186

https://wall.sli.do/event/dwXNGARQp3pmVCcs9MNdUB?section=a561e2b6-4d1e-41d6-acdb-226408ebbc5d
What do you expect from a Learning Alliance?

• Q1 – DO YOU THINK SUCH AN ALLIANCE CAN BE USEFUL FOR THE URBAN FORESTERS OF TOMORROW?
What do you expect from a Learning Alliance?

Q2 - What would make our alliance really useful? What would you like to find within it?
What do you expect from a Learning Alliance?

• Q3 – The Alliance should offer to its members:
  – Webinars
  – Online courses
  – Meeting places
  – In-person lessons
  – Excursions
  – News, knowledge sharing (as it’s doing now)
What do you expect from a Learning Alliance?
How should this Alliance look like?

• Q4 – Are there other relevant and interesting alliances and networks on this topic we should take into consideration?
What do you expect from a Learning Alliance?

• Q5 – I feel I might contribute to the Alliance through
  – Teaching classes or contributing to webinars
  – Offering material (manuals, powerpoints, papers,...)
  – Supporting the management of the Alliance
  – Financially
  – Organising in-person events
  – …
CEUs
Training the Urban Foresters of tomorrow: connecting Europe, America and Africa

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