

Issue #5

Newsletter 5



U.BI.TEACH - Connecting Universities and Communities through Urban Biodiversity Observatories



As the U.BI.TEACH project progresses, a new and exciting phase is taking shape: the development of the **National Urban Biodiversity Observatories**.

These Observatories are designed as online spaces where Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), students, local authorities and stakeholders' communities can come together to observe, monitor, and better understand urban biodiversity challenges and opportunities in their local environments.

More than just information repositories, the Observatories serve as living platforms that strengthen the connection between universities and their surrounding communities, fostering dialogue, collaboration, and action for more sustainable and biodiverse cities.

Seven Countries, Seven Observatories

A total of **seven National Observatories** are being established, one in each partner country: Spain, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Belgium, Greece and Cyprus.

While each Observatory reflects the specific characteristics and biodiversity needs of its local context, **together they form a European network of knowledge and practice dedicated to promoting urban biodiversity through education and community engagement.**

The Observatories include information on:

- Local biodiversity needs and challenges
- Existing initiatives and good practices
- Community proposals and suggested actions
- Educational resources and student projects
- Opportunities for collaboration between HEIs and local stakeholders



LOCAL WORKSHOPS: LISTENING TO COMMUNITIES

The foundation of each Observatory has been laid through a series of Local Workshops organised across the seven partner countries.

These events brought together a diverse range of participants, including:

- Local authorities and municipalities
- Environmental organisations and associations
- Urban planners and biodiversity experts
- Educators and students
- Community representatives and citizens



The workshops provided participants with an opportunity to discuss local urban biodiversity challenges, identify priorities, and share ideas for future actions.

Through open dialogue and collaborative discussions, stakeholders contributed valuable insights that will directly shape the content and structure of the National Observatories.

The Partners

Our project is supported by esteemed institutions across Europe:

- **University of Zaragoza (Spain):** Leading the project with a rich history in higher education and research.
- **Klaipėdos valstybinė kolegija (Lithuania):** Offering modern facilities and a strong international profile.
- **European Association of ERASMUS Coordinators (Cyprus):** Facilitating collaboration among ERASMUS+ coordinators.
- **IDEC (Greece):** Providing training, consulting, and digital solutions.
- **European Digital Learning Network (Italy):** Addressing digital skills and learning opportunities.
- **Ghent University (Belgium):** Promoting internationalization and competence-oriented education.
- **North-East Regional Development Agency (Romania):** Driving regional development and sustainable growth.
- **AETU (Spain):** Innovating in urban biodiversity education.

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