

From Greening Schoolyards to Urban Biodiversity: theories and case studies



CoolSchools european project conference - 8 and 9 June 2023 - Paris

The CNRS (UMR LADYSS, LIED), Université Paris Cité and the City of Paris are involved in the European research project CoolSchools (2022-2025) on green schoolyards. Based on schoolyard transformation pilot projects in Barcelona, Brussels, Paris and Rotterdam, the project seeks to assess how schoolyard greening practices can lead to socio-ecological transformations in favor of urban sustainability, climate resilience, social justice and quality education. The symposium brings together various French and foreign speakers to discuss more specifically the place of biodiversity in schoolyards' transformations.

The Eco-pedagogy of the Microforest A cutting edge project at the intersection of ecology, urbanism and outdoor education

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Cities and urban areas are one of the critical global systems that can accelerate and upscale climate action and more than ever need to achieve the 11 goals of Agenda 2030 becoming inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



In 2019, Science published a paper suggesting that planting trees, on a massive scale and sustained period of time, represented one of the most effective solutions at our disposal to mitigate climate change. Cities across the world have started implementing urban forests to address multiple environmental issues.



Urban Forests (UF) are capable to provide more complete solutions than other urban NBS. In this context, the challenge for cities is to disseminate UF-NBS throughout the city in order to release environmental and social benefits even in the most dense areas, spreading wellbeing for all citizens.







The presentation illustrates a cutting edge experimentation of a tiny forestation action at the neighborhood scale, aimed at integrating both regulative and social-cultural ecosystem services. In line with the principles of the UN Agenda 2030, the Ecopedagogical Microforest project, that took place in Rome, demonstrates that even a small patch of nature can increase young people's biospheric values, influencing proenvironmental behaviors and actions, enhancing wellbeing.



The first stage is dedicated to building a multistakeholder and multilevel partnership. The second consists in the design and realization of Microforests. The third is focused on the Eco-pedagogical pathway. The assessment stage is related to the third stage because the surveys are mainly released through young citizen science actions. The last stage concerns dissemination and the possible connections with the City's regeneration agenda .

I. build a partnership Learning & experiment V II. Design & disseminate implement & connect the Ecopedagogical with pathway planning Young Science Citizen entrusted to Science the young III. Desing IV. assess & realize the **Microforest**

THE 5 STAGES OF THE METHODOLOGY

THE 3 STAGES OF THE ECO-PEDAGOGICAL PATHWAY

THE VISION: MICROFOREST AS A ECO-REGENERATION TOOL; AND A MEAN TO EMPOWER SCHOOLCHILDREN IN GREEN ACTION



2 PROJECTS, 1 SUCCESSFUL STORY

- a. the involvement of the local school, was not considered a priority and so it is still in progress. The result: the Microforest is now suffering from a lack of stewardship and waiting to be "discovered". The multiple benefits that it can produce remain, for now, in incubation.
- b. from the early stage of the process the school community has been actively involved and the Microforest has blossomed thanks to the primary and secondary schools of ICS Tiburtina Antica 25. Teachers and schoolchildren have been guided through the 'eco-pedagogy of the Microforest' process by the University team





SAN LORENZO' STORY



THE ECO-PEDAGOGICAL PATHWAY

ENHANCE THE NATURE CONNECTEDNESS, FIVE CONCEPTS



MEANING - nature bringing meaning to our lives, e.g. the first migratory birds in the spring, a sunset or sunrise...



COMPASSION - caring and taking action for nature, e.g. collecting trash in nature, helping a wounded animal..



SENSES - tuning in to nature through the senses, e.g. listening, enjoying the scents, feeling the textures, ..



EMOTION - feeling alive through the emotions & feelings nature brings, e.g. hearing the increased birdsong in the spring, experiencing a thunder storm or a blizzard,



BEAUTY - noticing nature's beauty, e.g. enjoying a breathtaking landscape, rainbow, a detail, scent, sound, music or piece of art depicting or inspired by nature...



THE GOALS OF THE STRATEGY

Strategy	Application of the strategy in practice		
Combine the science of environmental change with information about how to make a difference	Young people need to understand physical and social causes of environmental changes in order to identify effective solutions. It is equally important for them to know what they can do to address problems, what others are doing, and how decisions made today have the potential for positive impacts tomorrow	Foster social trust	Bring young people together with others who are working to protect and restore the natural world, enabling them to see that they are not alone but allied with others who are working on nature's behalf
Create a receptive space where young people can share emotions	Let young people know that they can safely share their feelings about the environment		
	Take time to listen receptively. Be supportive and solutions oriented	Show that voluntary simplicity can be a fulfilling way of life	Introduce young people to examples of individuals and groups who find happiness in community, creativity, service and nature,
Encourage the positive reappraisal of problems	Help young people find meaning in addressing environmental challenges and see positive possibilities in the changes societies need to make to preserve the natural world		instead of the accumulation of more and more material things
		Connect young people with nature	Give young people time to become comfortable and competent in nature and feel kinship with
Engage in visioning	With a focus on local areas, engage young people in visioning futures they would like to see unfold and identifying realistic steps to move in the desired direction		other living things
Provide young people with opportunities to experience agency	Enable young people to investigate environmental problems that concern them, determine personally meaningful actions to address the problems, and implement practical ideas that they can accomplish individually or in partnership with others		CLEARING HOUSE 2021

STAGE I - LEARNING EXPERIMENTATION OUTDOOR &



8 meetings and a multidisciplinary team -Sapienza Terza Missione proff. D. D'Alessandro, F. Fratini, R. Magini, P. Monti, L. Varone, P. Viotti; dott. Proietti Rocchi

QUESTIONNAIRES: prof. M. Buonaiuto, dott. V. Chiozza; Sapienza' students and schoolchildren

STAGE I - LEARNING EXPERIMENTATION OUTDOOR



WHAT'S A MICROFOREST



VEGETATION WORLD



BIOLOGICAL FIGHT AGAINST TREE PEST







POLLUTION AND HEAT ISLANDS



NATURE AND WELLBEING



WATER RESOURCE

STAGE II. SCIENCE ENTRUSTED TO THE YOUNG

In this stage from listeners and novice experimenters, schoolchildren of different ages are called to become science communicators



The European researchers' night at the children's Explora Museum of Rome; the Science Festival of Rome; the Saffi school Open Day; and the Inauguration of the Microforest are the events that seal the change of the role of the schoolchildren, challenging them in scientific communication, and allow them to act in favor of nature, actively support the realization of their future Microforest.

III. MICROFREST PROJECT AND MAKE IT REAL



DISPOSIZIONE GENERALE scala 1.100



Strato arboreo Strato alto arbustivo Strato basso arbustivo



THREE LAYERS

PROJECT



120M2

213 PLANTS OF THE MEDITERRRANEAN FOREST

13 SPECIES

RISERVA REGIONALE MONTI AURUNCI



IIC. YOUNG CITIZEN SCIENCE

AIR QUALITY, MOBILE SENSOR -CO2 -PM10 -PM 2,5 -VOCX	1 volta al mese da ottobre ad aprile 1 volta a settimana da maggio a settembre
MICROCLIMAT, MOBILE SENSOR -temperatura -umidità -rilevamento raggi UV con sensore, comparazione sole/ ombra piante -questionario temperatura percepita	1 volta al mese da ottobre ad aprile 1 volta a settimana da maggio a settembre e per attività di sensibilizzazione
WATER CYCLE, SENSOR AND DO-IT- YOURSELF TOOLS	2 volte anno e per attività di sensibilizzazione
SOIL QUALITY, MICROFAUNA INVESTIGATION	Per attività di sensibilizzazione
BIODIVERSITY -analisi della microfauna del suolo -osservazione avifauna -osservazione impollinatori	4 volte l'anno 21 marzo, 22 giugno, 22 settembre
PLANTS 'WELLEBEING, MOBILE SENSOR AND DO-IT YOURSELF TOOLS -catalogazione -rilevamento attività clorofilliana tramite sensore da campo	4 volte l'anno 21 marzo, 22 giugno, 22 settembre, 22 dicembre

MONITORING TOOLS

Fig. 8. Medie marginali stimate per la variabile "Comportamenti pro-ambientali" nei due gruppi per Tempo0e Tempo1



STUDIO EVOLUZIONE DEI COMPORTAMENTI





00 FILTERAFT. UV-SI







surazione	2° Misurazione	
ità:	Località:	
.5:	PM 2.5:	
0:	PM 10:	
elle:	Particelle:	
	CO2:	
):	НСНО:	
eratura:	Temperatura:	
ità:	. Umidità:	

3° Misurazione
Località:
PM 2.5:
PM 10:
Particelle:
CO2:
нсно:
Temperatura:
Umidità:

Species		Scientific Name	Number of Tiny Forests	
ð,	Small White	Pieris rapae	6	
1	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	4	
-	Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	4	
1	Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	4	
X	Large White	Pieris brassicae	3	
CARG	Peacock	Aglais io	2	
3	Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	1 200	
M	Comma	Polygonia c-album	1	
316	Skipper species		1	

Passeggiata 19 Maggio

Loc PM

PM Par

CO₂ HCH Ten



Mobile sensors to measure temperature, humidity, CO2, PM10, PM 2,5. A scientific tool able to catch at best children attention

THE FIRST CITIZEN SCENCE SURVEY, 4 May 2023





SURVEY GROUPS: 4 SCHOOLCHILDREN 6 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS







ACTIVITIES:

- HEAT AND HUMIDITY
- CO2, PM 10 PM 2,5
- UVA RAY
- CHLOROPHYLL
- QUESTIONNAIRES



IV. IMPACTS ASSESSMENT

Report RESEARCH, 2023. Prof. Marino Bonaiuto, dott. Valeria Chiozza

Medie marginali stimate per la variabile "Atteggiamenti di Partecipazione Civica" nei quattro tempi di somministrazione del questionario, Tempo 1 (T1), Tempo 2 (T2), Tempo 3 (T3) e Tempo 4 (T4).



Medie marginali stimate per la variabile "Connessione con la natura" nei quattro tempi di somministrazione del questionario, Tempo 1 (T1), Tempo 2 (T2), Tempo 3 (T3) e Tempo 4 (T4).



THE QUESTIONAIRE ELABORATED BY SCHOOLCHILDREN AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

pensi sia utile la microforesta all'interno del quartiere?

26 risposte



cosa rappresenta per te questa microforesta?

26 risposte

La rinascita del quartiere

Un cambiamento importante per il mio quartiere

Un luogo dove respirare aria pulita e sentirsi bene

Lesson learnt

- PLANTING TREES IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THE MICROFOREST TO SPREAD SOCIAL, CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
- THE SCHOOL IS A «SLEEPING» SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY
- AND, TO ACTIVATE IT:
- WE NEED TO DEVELOP ACTIVITIES TO ATTRACT CHILDREN CURIOSITY;
- LEARNING, EXPERIMENTATION, SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION HELP TO INCREASE NATURE CONNECTEDNESS
- BUT ABOVE ALL YOUNG CITIZEN DESIRE IS TO BECOME A KEY ACTOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMUNICATION
- UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO DEVELOP AN IMMEDIATE EMPATHY AS TUTORS IN CITIZEN SCIENCE'S ACTIVITIES

The Eco-pedagogical Microforest was selected in 2022 as best practice by the ASvis



l territori e gli Obiettivi di sviluppo sostenibile

Rapporto ASviS 2022

Denominazione. Eventuale link al sito web. Livello territoriale	11. Costellazione Microforeste Roma Comunale e Municipale	
Soggetto/i promotore/i ed eventuali partner	Soggetto promotore: Sapienza (DICEA) in collaborazione con l'Università della Tuscia. Partner: Municipio II, III, VIII; Regione Lazio Progetto Ossigeno; ISPRA e Université Paris 1 Sorbonne Panthéon; I.C.S. Tiburtina Antica n.25.	
Finalità e obiettivi	Obiettivi: ri-naturalizzare la città e accrescere la qualità dell'ambiente nella città densa; sperimentare forme di <i>urban green infrastucture</i> adattate alla città densa; accrescere la biodiversità (EU 2011); mitigare l'effetto «isola di calore» quindi accrescere il comfort micro-climatico; favorire una gestione sostenibile della risorsa acqua; incrementare il benessere dei cittadini; promuovere, a partire dalle scuole, la conoscenza relativa ai cambiamenti climatici e alle <i>Nature based solution</i> ; ri-connettere i cittadini con la natura; sperimentare	







MICROFORESTA ECO-PEDAGOGICA PARCO DEI CADUTI SAN LORENZO

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MUNICIPIO II, ICS TIBURTINA ANTICA

THANK YOU

The Global Forest Goals Report 2021, United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Global-Forest-Goals-Report-2021.pdf

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The Urban Forests' website contains a trove of information

Wageningen University and Research, "Tiny forest Zaanstad: Citizen scientist and determining biodiversity in tiny forest zaanstad"

https://edepot.wur.nl/446911

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Design-Essentialz, "Miyawaki Method of Plantation I Afforestation I Akira Miyawaki I Man Made Forest I urban forest" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5jtg2q1gnU&t=1s

Shubhendu Sharma, "How to Plant a Tiny Forest near You" <u>https://www.ted.com/talks/shubhendu_sharma_how_to_plant_a_tiny_forest_near_you?language=en</u>

IVN Natuureducatie, "Tiny Forest Documentary about the Effects of the Miyawaki Method in the Netherlands" <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyHVQtDtlMk</u>

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Himanshu Nitnaware, "26-YO Creates 8 Miyawaki Forests on Dry Land, Helps 1200 Farmers Boost Their Income" <u>https://www.thebetterindia.com/263797/rajasthan-miyawaki-forest-how-to-grow-dry-land-farmer-increase-income/</u>

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