



# What is happening in European cities?

European cities have experienced a high growth marked by a massive and dispersed urbanisation model. The extensive grey infrastructure causes land fragmentation. During this development, cities have been oriented mainly towards economic growth, becoming large generators of wealth and contributing to 80 % of the Gross Domestic Product. However, despite these economic achievements, the result has been the creation of unhealthy urban environments for the population with scarce quality green areas, limited land resources, high noise levels, high pressure on water resources and air pollution that exceeds the standards set by the European Union.

Cities represent only 3 % of the land area, but they play a key role in hosting 70 % of the European population. Therefore, it is necessary to address the environmental challenges they face in order to improve the quality of life of their inhabitants.



# Given this situation... what are the municipal authorities doing?

European cities committed to preserve the environment and health of their citizens can sign the **Green City Accord**, a movement in which local authorities take action to make their cities greener, more resilient and healthier.

The **Green City Accord** includes five pillars related to the most important areas for the urban environment: **water, air, waste, noise and nature**. The initiative was launched by the European Commission in October 2020 and currently has the participation of more than 100 cities across Europe.

By signing the Accord, municipalities commit to set benchmarks for the **5 areas** and ambitious targets that go beyond the minimum requirements set by EU legislation. In addition, they should plan and implement policies and programmes in an integrated manner to achieve their targets by 2030, and report on implementation and progress every three years.



# What will the LIFE GreenMe5 project do for my city?



LIFE GreenMe5 aims to facilitate the implementation of the Green City Accord in five European municipalities. The different territories will cooperate to find solutions to the common challenges of cities, working on identifying weaknesses and threats, as well as proposing solutions. The exchange of experiences and capacity-building will also take place.

Within the framework of the project, the municipalities will continue to work on the commitments made for a Green City through the use of new methodologies and approaches that facilitate the implementation of this agreement by other European cities in the future.

In addition, solutions to specific challenges in the field of biodiversity, air quality, waste management, water and noise that can be transferred as good practices will be tested.



## Who is GreenMe5?

The Project consists of seven partners: **Federation of Municipalities of the Region of Murcia**, leader of the project, the municipalities of **Murcia**, **Cieza** (Spain), **Arezzo** (Italy), **Vilnius** (Lithuania), and **Helsingborg** (Sweden), and **EuroVértice** (Spain).

### What solutions will be tested in cities?



#### Nature

Greening of the courtyard of a school in Cieza.



#### Water

Two-phase dam to improve water quality in Helsingborg



#### Waste

Door-to-door collection of high value and hazardous waste in Arezzo and reduction of food waste in school canteens in Murcia.



#### Air and noise

Study of the improvement of air quality and noise caused by transport in Vilnius.





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More information on the Green City Accord:  
[https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/urban-environment/green-city-accord\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/urban-environment/green-city-accord_en)

More information on the LIFE GreenMe5 project:  
<https://greenme5.fmm.es/>