



**BIG4LIFE**  
BUILDING-INTEGRATED GREENERY

**Promoting collaborative strategies for management, maintenance, impact monitoring, and evaluation of Building Integrated Greenery (BIG) systems**  
Towards the New European Bauhaus by advancing the lifespan of BIG Systems



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## / Welcome to the BIG4LIFE newsletter!

Building Integrated greenery (BIG) systems, i.e., green roofs and facades, can help achieve health benefits for people living in urban environments. With this idea at its core, the BIG4LIFE project, which held its kick-off meeting at the University of Lleida in October 2023, aims to promote the renaturalization of the urban environment through BIG systems.

With a budget of 1.8 million euros, this LIFE project has three years to achieve the co-design of framework plans for maintenance, monitoring, and impact assessment of building integrated greening (BIG) systems. The project will ensure the implementation so that this can be verified in the demanding conditions of the Mediterranean climate.

The BIG4LIFE project will work on eight green roofs and facades of buildings in Lleida and Barcelona applying the xeriscaping concept, which optimizes the use of water in these spaces.

The project, coordinated by the University of Lleida, brings together eight European partners (Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, and Greece) from academia and business: the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), the University of Studies of Genoa (UNIGE), the Hellenic Open University (HOU), TEB Verd SCCL, Verdtical Ecosistema, Sempergreen BV, and Eixverd Solutions.



The BIG4LIFE project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union

[www.big4life.eu](http://www.big4life.eu)

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## / Project progress

Six months after starting the project, the work is advancing according to plan even though the characterization of the eight BIG study cases is being slightly delayed due to the difficulty of collecting data on projects in use. This delay, which could be seen as a drawback, is a blessing in disguise. So far, the characterization has unveiled the variety hidden behind these construction systems, in terms of architectural diversity, construction typologies, and most importantly, the diversity of interest groups that make up the social universe around these green areas.

The initial efforts of the project have been concentrated on drawing up the study cases and planning the repair works for the three failed ones. In addition, we are working on the design of the monitoring systems and the acquisition of equipment.



## / BIG4LIFE case studies

The BIG4LIFE team has met to inspect the extensive green roof of the l'Artesà Auditorium in El Prat de Llobregat (BIG4LIFE case study 7) before the beginning of the refurbishment works, which will start during the spring.



The researchers have met representatives of the Tibidabo amusement park and staff from Babilon – the company that will undertake the refurbishment work of case study 8, the Tibidabo green wall.







## / Kicking off refurbishment of failed cases

During the month of March, work began to repair the green roof of the Ronda Mercè kinder garden in Lleida (case study 2). So far, two lifelines and a provisional scaffolding have been installed (to allow access to the green roof without the need to access the building). Once the building's conditions are assessed, the team will start installing the needed improvements (irrigation system, geotextile layer, etc.) before introducing the new plants on the roof.



## / Giulia Macuzzo joins BIG4LIFE project

Giulia Mazzucco, a predoctoral student at the Architecture and Design Department at the University of Genova, started her PhD research within the BIG4LIFE project in November 2023. Her research focuses on the application of Nature-based Solutions (NBS) and the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative. The idea is to find a methodology to design and manage NBS, and more specifically BIG systems, according to the three pillars of the NEB - sustainability, inclusivity, and aesthetics. The importance of transdisciplinarity is well represented by NBS as it involves issues related to the environment, society, and economy. At the same time, the NEB initiative focuses on social and cultural aspects closely related to sustainability.

Thanks to the BIG4LIFE project, Macusso will be able to collect important data for studying and deepening issues such as stakeholder involvement, capacity building, and other aspects of sustainability.





## / Presentation of the BIG4LIFE project during the LIFE program Welcome Meetings

Last October 11, 2023, the LIFE22 Welcome Meeting took place. In this event, the winning LIFE projects of this call were presented. The BIG4LIFE project was framed on the topic of Circular Economy and Quality of Life, specifically in the Group: Citizens and Communities. During the presentation of the project, we explained the main objectives of the project and highlighted the contribution of the BIG4LIFE project to the New European Bauhaus initiative. The joint presentation of all the projects was very positive as this allows other complementary projects to be detected, with which we can establish collaboration ties in the near future.

In addition, on the 3rd and 4th of October, we attended the Horizontal Sessions, in which all the necessary information was given for the development of the LIFE projects. On October 24th we also attended the Financial Management session aimed specifically at administrative/financial managers.

### BIG4LIFE OBJECTIVES & SCOPE



LIFE22 Circular Economy & Quality of LIFE Welcome Meeting  
Thematic Session - 11 October 2023

Gabriel Pérez, BIG4LIFE coordinator



### BIG4LIFE POLICY IMPLICATIONS



#### BIG4LIFE project

- ✓ UE framework for BIG maintenance.
- ✓ UE framework for BIG monitoring and impact evaluation.
- ✓ Guideline for BIG cost-benefit assessment.
- ✓ Professional Guide for BIG maintenance.
- ✓ Municipal incentive on BIG maintenance.



New European Bauhaus

- ✓ Reduction of environmental impacts of buildings throughout service life.
- ✓ Urban and territorial regeneration.
- ✓ Citizen's well-being improvement.
- ✓ Support to biodiversity.

LIFE22 Circular Economy & Quality of LIFE Welcome Meeting  
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Gabriel Pérez, BIG4LIFE coordinator



## / BIG4LIFE in the media

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the project coordinator, Gabriel Perez, was invited to talk about the project BIG4LIFE at "Som Terra" a program led by journalist Pili Garcia focused on Catalonia's primary sector. You can listen to the interview here:

[https://www.emunfmradiocat.com/programs/somterra/emunfmradiopodcast\\_8199](https://www.emunfmradiocat.com/programs/somterra/emunfmradiopodcast_8199)



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