



Conference

Adapting urban areas to climate change through planning:

the European GRaBS project



- Wednesday, April 6th, 2011, 9.00 am
- Aula Magna dell'Università degli Studi di Catania (Rettorato) Piazza Università



Programme

9.00 - Welcome speeches

- **Antonino Recca**
Rector of the University of Catania
- **Raffaele Stancanelli**
Mayor of the Municipality of Catania
- **Luigi Fortuna**
Dean of the Faculty of Engineering
- **Matteo Ignaccolo**
University of Catania
- **Giuseppe Castiglione**
President of the Province of Catania
- **Antonio Pogliese**
President of Etnambiente



09.45 - The GRaBS project to increase the resilience of our cities to climate change

Introduction: **Paolo La Greca**
University of Catania – GRaBS partner

09.50 - Setting the scene for the adaptation
John Handley,

*Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology,
University of Manchester*

10.10 - The GRaBS project: Overview of achievements and impact

Diane Smith, *GRaBS project manager*

10.30 - Design of urban green spaces

Andreas Kipar,
*LAND (Landscape Nature Architecture
Development) srl, Milano*

11.00 - Coffee break and Press conference

11.30 - Transport and Climate Change

Introduction: **Giuseppe Inturri**
University of Catania – GRaBS partner

11.35 - Adapting transport to Climate Change

Derek Palmer, *Centre for Sustainability –TRL, UK*

12.00 - A global approach to adaptation

Introduction: **Mariagiovanna Laudani**
Project manager – GRaBS partner

12.05 - Comprehensive adaptation to climate change at local level

Richard Langlais, *Lund University, Sweden*

12.25 - Working together: the political value of GRaBS and European projects

Bill Clark, *Southampton City Council*

12.50 - Questions and answers

13.00 - Lunch and closure of the conference.



The *UN Environment Programme* has warned that if national carbon emissions pledges are not increased, temperatures may still rise by up to 4°C during this century. As we become vulnerable to more frequent regional climatic events and extreme weather, we need to accept that global warming will not be put on hold, and that adaptation to the inevitable effects of climate change is a major priority.

Regional spatial planning and urban design can provide solutions that make our communities less vulnerable to climate risks through adaptation measures. Green infrastructure including gardens, parks, green corridors, green roofs and walls and blue infrastructure (water bodies, rivers, streams, floodplains and sustainable drainage systems), can play a vital role in creating climate resilient developments.

The *GRaBS* project (*Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban*

Areas and Eco Towns) is a network of leading pan-European organisations involved in integrating climate change adaptation into regional planning and development. The *GRaBS* project has 14 partners, drawn from eight member states, representing a broad spectrum of authorities and climate change challenges, all with varying degrees of strategic policy and experience.

Since November 2008, the partners have engaged with communities and stakeholders, worked with politicians and officers and attended mentoring and study visits to produce leading-edge and transferable outputs on adaptation measures and policies.

From Adaptation Action Plans, High Level Policy Statements and Expert Papers, to Good Practices, Case Studies and a Risk & Vulnerabilities Assessment Tool, partners have been improving services and opportunities to stimulate the urban economy.

The *GRaBS* project has been made possible by the Interregional Cooperation Programme INTERREG IVC, financed by the European Union's Regional Development Fund.

For more details visit our website <http://www.grabseu.org/> or <http://www.interreg4c.eu>, and for the DG for Regional Policy see http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm