



## Case Description: POCET parks in Athens

The Athens Lifelong Learning Institute, as part of the Co-Bio Project, is developing and facilitating a local initiative in Athens. In partnership with the Municipality of Athens and Organization Earth, the Institute is embarking on a project to maintain and upgrade a pocket park in the city.

The concept of pocket parks, a novel approach to upgrading urban spaces, has been embraced in the Greek capital, which is prioritizing green and sustainable development to support Athens' biodiversity. Like many other major cities across Europe and the world, Athens faces a shortage of free, public spaces. The urban planning model of past decades, coupled with the influx of people migrating from rural areas to the capital, has led to a congested living environment, not only in the city center but also in many surrounding districts.

This particular pocket park, located in the heart of Athens, will be renovated and upgraded to provide the community with a green space and create a haven for the local ecosystem. In addition to the physical improvements, the organizations will design and facilitate a series of workshops to encourage community members to participate in co-creation sessions, fostering a sense of co-ownership and co-stewardship of the park.

The Deputy Mayor of Athens, Mr. Nikos Chrisogelos, responsible for Green Spaces and the Department of Parks, will designate the area where the pilot project will take place. The project will commence soon, as the finalization of the designated area and the acquisition of necessary permits are underway.

The design of the area will focus on preserving and showcasing local elements of urban biodiversity, which will stimulate and enhance civic participation. This enhancement will be achieved through the design and implementation of co-creation sessions, based on the methodologies created throughout the project.

Finally, the cooperation between the Athens Lifelong Learning Institute and the Municipality of Athens will be validated through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU aims to amplify the reach of the project and support the city of Athens in its efforts to become one of the European Commission's "100 Climate Neutral Cities," joining the 75 other organizations supporting Athens in this endeavor.



