

SMART AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURES AND INTEGRATED URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

The idea of a Smart and Sustainable city has to be understood as a broad and open concept in order to broach the planning and management of the contemporary urban processes. Its ultimate purpose is to reach an efficient and sustainable management in the different sectoral areas of the city (urban planning, infrastructures, transportation systems, education, health, public security, social services, energy etc.), to cope with the needs of, both, the urbs and the citizenship.

In that sense, the green infrastructure is a relevant concept and planning tool to advance in the direction of a smart and sustainable city. Green infrastructure can be defined as a new perspective of planning and management of open spaces and natural resources in urban and metropolitan areas. This perspective is based upon network interconnection, the strengthening of multifunctionality and in a strategic and proactive approach in its planning and management. The objective of this study is to offer a set of methodological, empirical and instrumental resources for the articulation of multifunctional green infrastructures in the Andalusian metropolitan areas with the aim of promoting the generation of more sustainable, livable and integrated metropolitan-urban spaces in our Community.

The study includes three basic items. First, a general diagnostic about the potential of the Andalusian metropolitan areas in order to design green infrastructures. The diagnostic is based on the analysis of the actual resources in the metropolitan spaces, from a territorial and environmental perspective (linked to the concept of ecosystem services), but at the same time including a social perspective (public use and social function). Secondly, an evaluation of planning tools and practices (specially, urban and metropolitan plans) which can be fitted for the articulation of green infrastructures in the Andalusian context. By last, a sort of general criteria and specific proposals of intervention are posed in order to develop and to promote the articulation of more sustainable and livable urban environments.