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EPPKA3 - Support for Policy Reform: EPLUG- European Platform for Urban Greening

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Jordbrugets UddannelsesCenter Århus/Green Academy starts European platform for urban greening

Together with partners in Denmark, Finland, Romania, Spain, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands, Jordbrugets UddannelsesCenter Århus/Green Academy will be building a European Platform for Urban Greening in the coming years.

Increase knowledge and skills of green professionals

The European Platform for Urban Greening aims to increase the knowledge and skills required to address biodiversity, climate adaptation and well-being in the urban, green living environment, and to broaden the expertise among professionals in Europe. The educational institutions from the mentioned countries work closely with business partners and governments in order to match the educational offer with regional needs.

From improvement of air quality to green facades

The challenges, expertise and climate zones differ per region. By joining forces and sharing good practices, regions can learn from green solutions elsewhere. Think for example of roof gardens and green facades, the capture of particulate matter by specific trees and shrubs, edible parks and green solutions for heavy rainfall and long periods of drought.

A selection of the main outcomes

- 6 *Centres of Vocational Excellence* for urban greening in Europe
- Relevant, innovative and attractive curriculum on biodiversity, climate adaptation and well-being in the urban, green living environment
- Urban greening training offer for a continuing professional development of VET teachers and green professionals
- An educational- and experience centre on vertical green landscaping
- Virtual and blended learning methods for students and employees
- Exchange of students, teachers, employees and employers

Partners

OK Nygaard is the largest landscaping company in Denmark. In the season there is about 650 employs. OK Nygaard is working with facility management as well as construction (Hardscaping). Furthermore, OK Nygaard supports Jordbrugets UddannelsesCenter Århus/Green Academy education program and is on several levels cooperating with Green Academy. During the last 40 years, the company has worked with sustainable projects and been part of developing green areas in almost all cities in Denmark. The county of Aarhus is another partner in this program. They have been contact with the mayor's office department of innovation. At the moment Green Academy and the mayor's office are working together in

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several project about education and sustainability. Furthermore, they work together with associate partner SEGES, an innovation organisation that works with sustainability within plants, environment, nature etc. SEGES

will work on qualifying the work in the project and bring it to the next level. Through the formalisation of this collaboration through a CoVE, the Danish partnership would like to further learn from other CoVEs in Europe.

In the other countries, comparable partners representing green education, the government and the business sector are participating. Umbrella project partner is the European Landscape Contractors Association for green professionals ELCA.

Erasmus+

The four-year project is funded by the European Erasmus + funding programme. The *European Platform for Urban Greening* is one of seven European *Platforms of Centres of Vocational Excellence* selected by the European Union in 2020. In total there were 55 applications, including more than 1,300 partners from the 27 EU Member States and 25 non-EU countries.