



TORINO

PILOT 1. Valdocco Vivibile



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PILOT 1. Valdocco Vivibile

Start date: April 2020

End date: August 2024

What and Where?

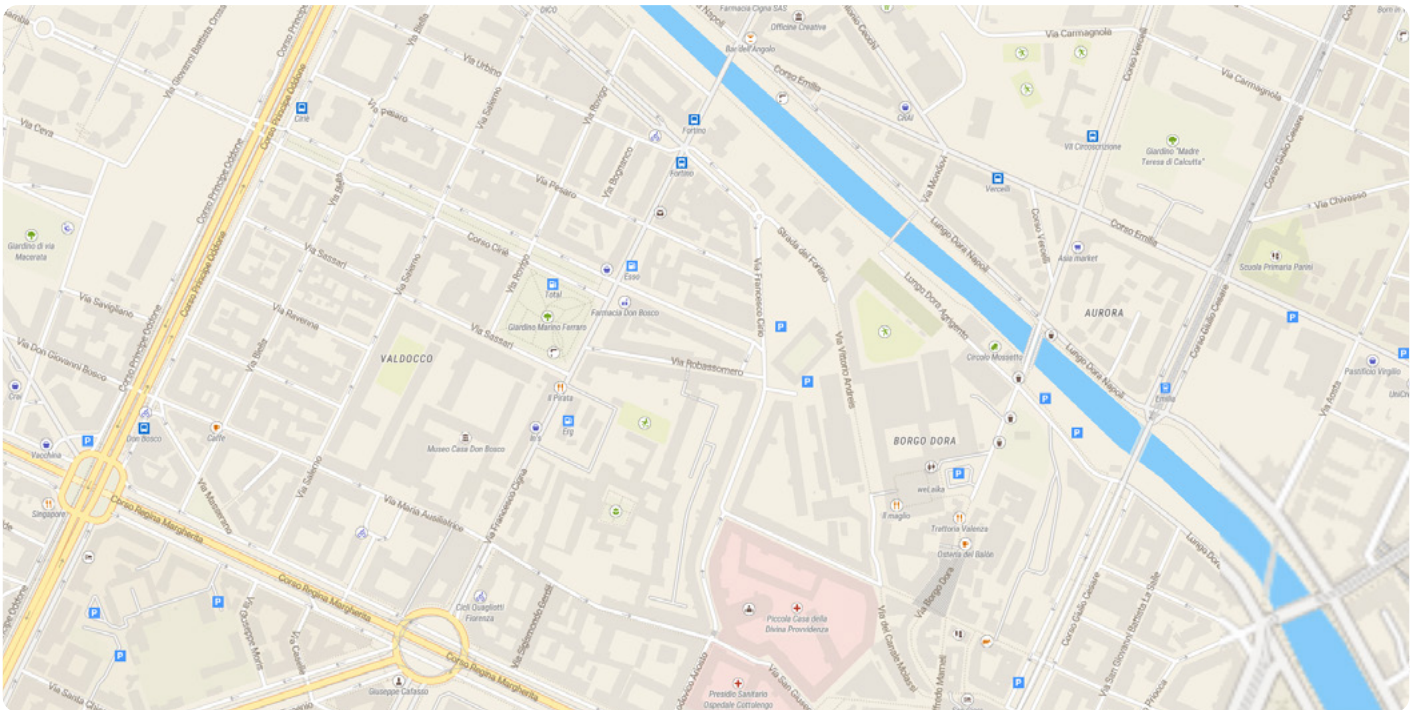
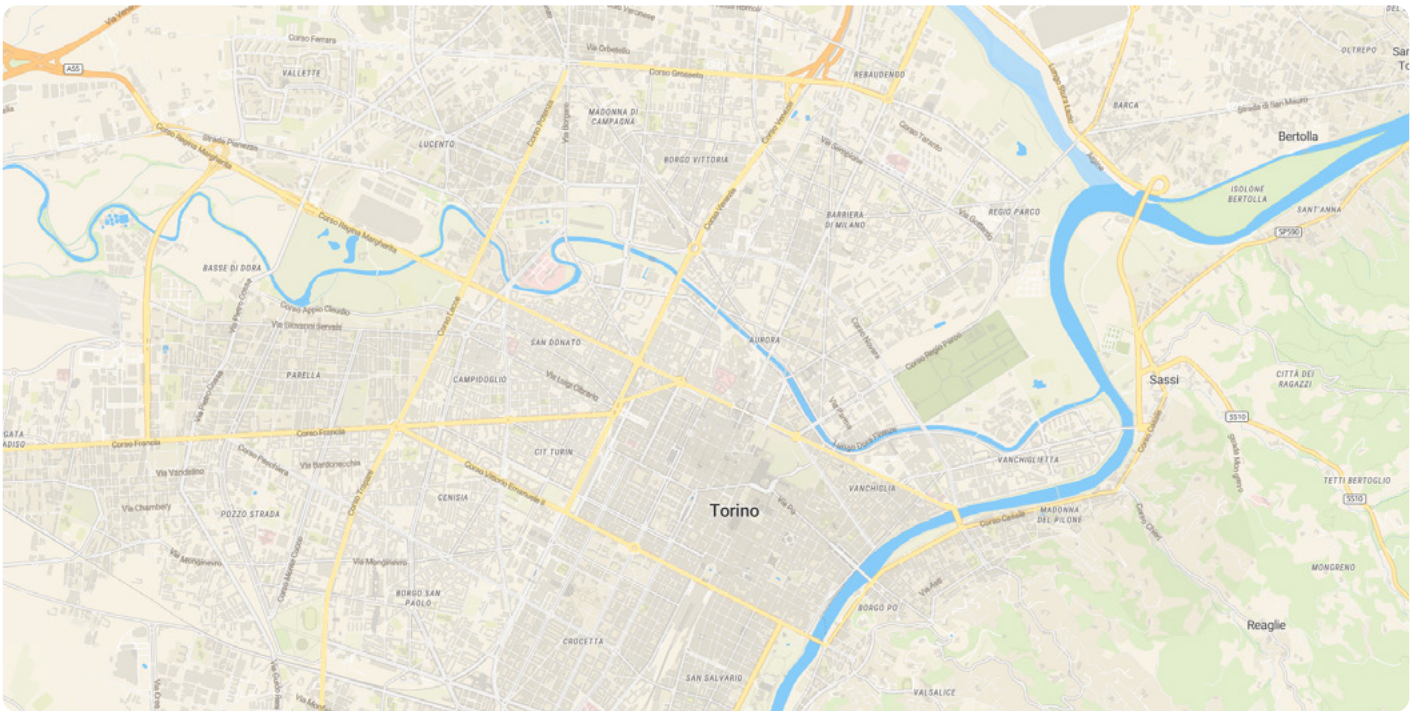
Location:	<u>Valdocco Vivibile site</u>
NBS type, and habitat/s to be created or restored:	Plants, shrubs and small NBS solutions distributed along the roads, school entrances and parking slot, to restore built environment of the district Valdocco.
Ecosystem services:	Carbon storage in vegetation; Biodiversity: Shannon Diversity Index of Habitats; Cultural benefits: Pedestrian and/or Cycling Paths; Children involved in educational activities.
Management & maintenance:	The management and maintenance of these spaces is carried out by Turin City Council.



Map



Turin map and Valdocco Vivibile area



Why?

Over the past few years, the City of Turin has embarked on a path of change in waste collection management, moving from street-side bins to door-to-door collection. This choice has led to freeing up small but widespread areas of public space. This led the administration to seize this opportunity to transform and regenerate parts of the neighbourhoods affected by these changes, such as the Valdocco district.

The idea was to give back to the citizens a usable space instead of a parking space; building a green environment in a dense and impermeable urban environment; using greenery to infrastructure the territory. It is a project that focuses on the well-being of citizens and is based on the concept of climate resilience through nature-based solutions.



STRENGTHS

- The implementation of the Life Lab is not an isolated project: the City of Torino has been working over the last 5 years to build an operational plan for the future.
- There are similar activities already in place (e.g. proGReg).
 - update – Working actively with proGReg representatives is enhancing knowledge and know-how among Conexus Life Lab.
- In the neighbourhood there are a lot of educational institutions.
- Headmasters and other teachers were very interested in the project.
- Some of the actors involved are aware of other related initiatives.

WEAKNESSES

- Currently only experts or interested people are involved in the project, so it is not yet open to public debate.
- In the neighbourhood there isn't much space for green areas.
- The planned interventions are very punctual and limited to specific areas.
- Economic resources are limited.
- It may be difficult to identify all the stakeholders in the neighbourhood
- Information asymmetry between municipality decision-makers and Life Lab representatives and stakeholders.
- Losing stakeholder throughout the 4 years project-process.

OPPORTUNITIES

- It's the first project to deal with these issues in the neighbourhood, so it can become a good example.
- The project tests the implementation of NBS in non-peripheral locations, more similar to the rest of the city.
- Can be open to non-expert actors, educating them about environmental issues
- Building relationships with specific stakeholders can also lead to partnerships in the future.
- Co-creating the communication can introduce new tools better suited to specific targets.
- Connection with the EU Project ToNite, that is working near the Valdocco area.
- October 2021 local elections results have allowed a continuity in the project purposes.
- The possibility to co-define urban transformations of Masserano Park and Vicolo Grosso is an enhancement of Turin Life Lab.

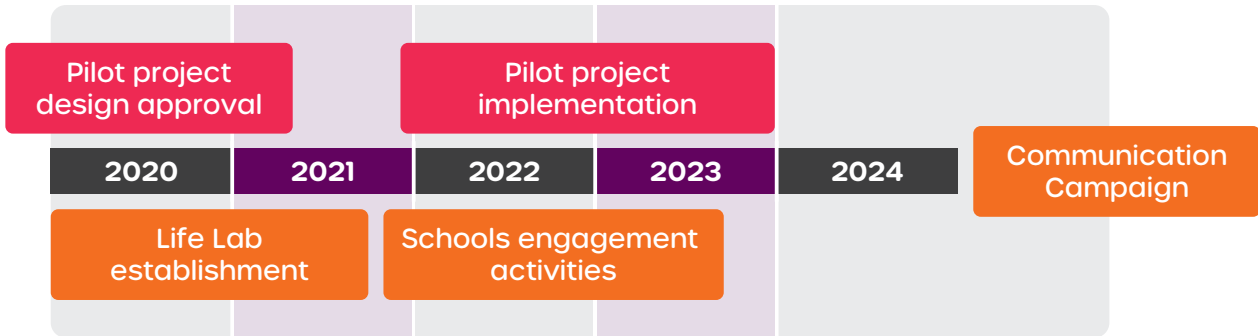
THREATS

- There is a risk of "trivialisation", because the project can be confused with similar ones.
- Health emergency due to COVID-19 limits opportunities for live meetings with the stakeholders.
- Difficulties in obtaining availability from stakeholders.
- There is a risk of excluding some actors who are crucial to the success of the project.
- Since there is a participatory process, there is a risk of not being able to positively reply to citizen's requests from/for the neighbourhood, generating disillusion and distrust.
- The english term "Life Lab", since its not translated, could create confusion towards the community.



When?

The work of the pilot is closely connected to the construction of the Life Lab, the community of stakeholders that supported the realisation of the project, disseminating information on the objectives of the pilot, developing knowledge on the topic of climate change and promoting dialogue on these issues. In particular, the Life Lab activity addressed schools in the neighbourhood. The two activities therefore ran in parallel and synergistically from 2020 to 2024.



How?



Small NBSs and viability changes to reduce vehicle velocity





BEFORE



AFTER

Before and after parking lot



NBS and a sample of the communication campaign installations



Engagement activities with pupils and teachers: final public event (June 2023)

So what?

The pilot benefits are being monitored through the ecosystem services analysis evaluation and they will continue it until the end of 2024. This activity already produced promising results in terms of carbon; Carbon sequestration and storage; Heat mitigation; Avoided Runoff; Permeability; Green Usability; Pollination; Pollutants removal; environmental education for targeted groups (pupils of the engaged schools). In addition, the Valdocco Vivibile pilot project has generated wider social benefits by improving the aesthetics of the public space along the intervening areas, making it more pleasant for passers-by.

The educational benefits mentioned above are directly linked to the activities carried out in our Life Lab. This result represents a concrete added value generated by the Conexus activities in Turin. In fact, based on the increased awareness of the importance of involving stakeholders and citizens in urban regeneration projects, the administration decided to extend the communication and awareness-raising activities and strategies carried out during the project to promote a communication and involvement campaign at city level to promote the benefits of NBS in relation to the risks of climate change.



Project Partners



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