

Which are the benefits of collaboration between City Development Groups and Civic Universities?

A Civic University's operation benefits society as a whole: at the local, regional, national and European levels by rediscovering the role of an "anchor institution" in place, making innovation, economic and social development.

Here are some of the key advantages:

- * Urban Development and Planning
- * Research and Innovation
- * Community Engagement
- * Skill Development and Education
- * Social and Economic Impact
- * Data-Driven Decision Making
- * Sustainability and Resilience
- * Public Policy and Advocacy
- * Networking and Partnerships

Through research, outreach programs, and community engagement, academic institutions can actively promote the adoption of environmentally friendly and forward-thinking approaches to urban development.

The MED-QUAD project partners are thankful for all collaborating City Development Groups and willing to boost the role of Civic Universities!

Together, we can create a lasting impact on sustainability and innovation in the Mediterranean. By working hand-in-hand, we can design interdisciplinary programs, research initiatives, and educational campaigns that empower citizens with the tools they need to build greener, smarter, and more resilient cities.

If you're interested in partnering with us to shape a sustainable and innovative urban future, please reach out to our dedicated team at eni.communication@epimorfotiki.gr.

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with budget of **3.3** million euros"
37 months (September 2020-November 2023)

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MED-QUAD

MEDiterranean QUadruple helix
Approach to Digitalisation

City Development Groups (CDGs) & Civic University under the MED-QUAD project

Empowering Communities, Shaping Tomorrow with the use of innovation



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In the context of the MEDiterranean QUadruple helix Approach to Digitalisation project funded by the European Union under the ENI CBC MED Program, seven universities from 6 countries collaborated. In addition to the seven partners, which consist of the coordinating partner Epimorfotiki Kilkis sm LLC (Greece) and the academic institutions:

- * International Hellenic University (Greece),
- * University of L'Aquila (Italy),
- * Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (Egypt),
- * Al-Balqa 'Applied University (Jordan),
- * Palestine Polytechnic University (Palestine),
- * University of Sousse (Tunisia),

And six associated partners from the participating countries will actively participate in a supporting role.

The MED-QUAD project is a cross-border cooperation project aiming to foster effective cooperation between key actors in education, research, technological and sustainable development and innovation, together with the citizens, following the Quadruple Helix approach.

The creation of the CDGs and the operation of the Civic Universities are the practical evidence of the MED-QUAD project's vision for the Universities. The vision is to transform universities into "socially aware" organizations that, together with businesses, local government, and society, fully respond to their role by operating not only "in" the city/local community but "for the city," i.e., for the social benefit of citizens.

The material has been created in the context of MED-QUAD to make the concepts of "City Development Groups" and "Civic University" more widely known to the public, policymakers, and public authorities. Also, the goal is to multiply the followers of the actions and to continue development efforts in society, culture and economy.

City Development Groups (CDGs)

Urban development plays a crucial role in creating vibrant communities. By carefully planning and designing cities and towns, people can foster environments that facilitate social interaction, economic growth, and cultural exchange.

City development groups play a vital role in creating vibrant communities by spearheading strategic planning, infrastructure improvements, and urban revitalization efforts.

During the project preparation Partners and Associates already identified the key SMEs, according to competence on the sectors covered by the project activities, and citizens' organizations, according to degree of participation on city development planning.

In the six participating countries in the MED-QUAD project, i.e., Greece, Italy, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Tunisia, six development groups were established for the city for this purpose. They collaborate locally and internationally while taking advantage of the research possibilities offered by the Applied Research for Cultural Heritage Exploitation - ARCHEO Living Lab and Smart Water Use Applications (SWUAP) living labs. The living lab is an open space accessible to the citizens where pilot projects regarding new products and services are tested, resulting from the fermentation process of the Quadruple Helix approach factors and serve the specific needs of citizens. The project contributed to reduce environmental impact and resource use: SWUAP living lab installed a pilot network of sensors to improve water provision and gave the citizens the possibility to measure their water consumption and change habits with a reduction of costs and impact on water reserve; ARCHEO living lab, by applying Key Enabling Technologies (KET) to tourist exploitation of cultural heritage, allowed a better preservation of the sites by reducing the pressure of the "physical" visits. Thus, positive effects are both direct and indirect since the actions increased the citizens' awareness on all environmental issues.

The created City Development Groups collaborate with stakeholders, including local governments, businesses, and residents, to envision and execute projects that enhance the overall urban experience. Through their initiatives, city development groups promote economic growth, attract investments, and facilitate the emergence of vibrant neighborhoods where people can live, work, and socialize. Their efforts help shape dynamic and cohesive communities that celebrate diversity, promote innovation, and ultimately contribute to the overall prosperity and well-being of the city's inhabitants.

Key Statistics: Include relevant data or facts highlighting the impact of collaborative efforts in city development.

- 6 City Development Groups were established in Greece, Italy, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia.
- Since their creation, the City Development Groups members have worked together at national and Mediterranean levels.
- The university of each participating country trained the members of the City Development Groups.

In each involved country local authorities, university, private and public sector, have set up a City Development Group able to think long-term about the city's sustainable regional development in the fields of water quality and the promotion of cultural heritage, based on digitalisation.

University, transformed into a "socially aware university" has a guiding role within the CDG and it is responsible, among other things, for the training of the CDG members.

The CDG members of the MED-QUAD project were trained with innovative methods and tools to think long term about the city's prospects and research needs through the:

- * Creation of a common vision and language
- * Formulation of co-designed pilot projects underpinned by a commitment to enhance digital development
- * Testing and evaluation framework of real-world trials and innovation in collaborative practices
- * Development of an agreed strategy for the city.

