Shaping a 'Living Lab as a Service' model for innovative Nature-based Climate solutions

REGREEN

A Living Lab as a Service model where diverse actors collaborate in a physical or virtual space and employ an open methodology to co-create, prototype, test, validate and promote the diffusion of innovative nature-based climate programmes, products, services, and processes.

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THE TASK

Amidst a burning need for solutions that address the numerous and diverse negative impacts of climate change, the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Zagreb has identified good opportunities and possibilities of using its vast research knowledge base in addressing these challenges, particularly pollution and the heat island effect in Zagreb and beyond.

THE SOLUTION

To champion this course, the Faculty of Agriculture has teamed up with the School of Natural Science at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland to design and develop a Living Lab as a Service model that will provide a comprehensive and proprietary tool for training diverse actors in problem solving skills for developing nature-based climate solutions. The intended service will provide the tools for identifying and understanding project challenges, producing in the process a visual representation of these for action and change. The service will employ bespoke and state-of-the -art methods to educate, teach, ideate, and develop innovative educational materials that help students and other key community stakeholders confront and engage with climate change challenges with the view of developing solutions that address these challenges,

THE PROCESS

The entire process is funded and supported by the EIT Climate KIC. Experts from Trinity Colleges Dublin will assist in the training of local Trainers in the design and development of appropriate educational materials and corresponding handbook as guidance material for hosing the programme locally, replicating the Living Lab as a Service model within the context and scaling up its use across Croatia and the region. This 3-month project is to ensure that the Faculty of Agriculture and in particular the Department for Landscape Architecture and Ornamental Plants becomes the champion of nature-based climate solutions in Croatia and the region.

This skill- based educational approach will be adopted by the "challenge owner" and included in its educational offer. Other educational institutions in Croatia and possibly in the region of the Central and East Europe will be contacted as potential adopters of this programme. A wider impact will thus be achieved through replication and scale-up.

PROJECT PHASES

The proposed project will connect the introduction of an education and skills-based training approach to problem solving with climate education and research-based knowledge vested in academia. The chosen approach allows for contribution from a broader source of knowledge by identifying and including the voices of key stakeholders. The relevance of these stakeholders cannot be underestimated and will play a significant role in situational analysis of context, understanding challenges in a broader sense and being able to promote the co creation process towards more suitable and appropriate and scalable solutions that will address most notably the heat island effect, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.