Bologna (Italy) holds GreenCities 2017

On September 2017 Bologna (Italy) has held GreenCities 2017, the *International Symposium on greener cities for more efficient ecosystem services*.

From 12 to 15 Semptember 2017, Alma Mater University of Bologna and the National Research Council organized *GreenCities* 2017 in Bologna (Italy), to focus and discuss on the role that urban green infrastructures can play on the resilience of the city and adaptation in a climate changing world.
A large group of scientists from many different universities and organizations shared advanced experiences in the fields of horticulture, plant physiology, sociology, meteorology, urban planning, architecture, civil engineering and design.
The main themes of the conference were:

- Cities and climate change: risks of climate change; influence of urban green on human thermal comfort; application of thermal indices; use of modelling tools (ENVI- met, i-TREE , etc) for urban planning and bio-meteorological assessment.
- Smart horticulture for sustainable cities: greenhouse technology; hydroponic systems; food production on greening of roofs and facades; automated and integrated solutions for indoor farming and microclimate mitigation; irrigation and nutrient management; community gardens; horticultural therapy for persons afflicted with disease like dementia.
- Green infrastructures for more efficient ecosystem services: eco-physiological characterization of vegetation used in green infrastructures; plant selection for more efficiency in rainfall capture and CO2 sequestration; phytoremediation of heavy metals in urban soils; urban agriculture for sustainable social recovery of metropolitan slums areas; green roofs as a strategy for urban heat island mitigation; biodiversity increasing.
- Designing and engineering greener cities: green facades and green roofs; flood mitigation measures.

One of the main outcomes of the conference was that nature-based solutions would oblige a general rethinking of the built environment and require major innovation processes. In these developments, research, policy and business will need an ever-tighter dialogue to achieve the required effects.
However, some contradictions are emerging in urban greening.
Isabelle Anguelovski, senior researcher and principal investigator at the Institute for Environmental Science and Technology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, using case studies in global north and south cities, argued that while urban green spaces provide numerous health, social, and ecological benefits, the creation of urban greening project does not benefit everybody equally. The provision of green spaces and amenities generally leads to the displacement or exclusion of the most socially and racially vulnerable urban residents (environmental gentrification) and so it can establish new forms of environmental privilege, not just greener cities.
For more information on all the participants and their abstracts, please go to:
https://www.greencities2017.org/