

An user friendly application to select the best tree species in urban areas

The choice of tree species in urban green areas should not neglect the importance of potential environmental benefits provided by trees, such as air pollutant removal and carbon storage, and low emission of allergens or BVOC. To answer this request, this project wants to carry out a web based application, transparent and user-friendly, to support managers to select the appropriate tree species by comparison of the desired tree functions.

During a STSM in the framework of the COST Action FP1204, Michele Salviato, from the University of Padova (Italy), took advantage of networks among different research institutions in order to collect data, methodology and other information to estimate the possible environmental benefits for a wide range of species taking into account the climate and other site characteristics and limits of the main EU cities.

In particular, the collaboration with CIEMAT (Spain) has permitted to achieve the knowledge needed to understand the major features related to environmental benefits estimation, to retrieve links and references from helpful databases, to contact with other institutions (like the Dept. of Botany, University of Granada, Spain, to collect data about allergenic index) and specially to programme a continuous collaboration to exchange research information.

Even if the tool does not include all the species yet, it could already be used to link research knowledge to the final users, and to promote an urban management that considers tree effects and environmental benefits.