

PRESS RELEASE

## The impact of urban environment on tree growth

Urban green areas, and trees in particular, play a crucial role in limiting the negative impact related to environmental and climatic characteristics in the urban context. On the other hand, typically urban factors such as air quality, rising and persistent temperatures (heat island effect) and anthropogenic activities affect urban vegetation.

During a Short Term Scientific Mission from June to November 2013, funded by the COST Action FP1204, Dr. Giusepp Colangelo, research assistant at the University of Bari, visited the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Birmensdorf (Switzerland).

The purpose of the visiting period was to provide preliminary evidence that urban tree growth can effectively represent urban environmental conditions and variations.

With this aim field data collection was performed over three areas within a transect from the outer to inner zones of the park at an increasing distance from a heavily polluted urban road.

Wood samples were measured in order to obtain statistical data of the tree growth patterns and subsequently treated for chemical analyses (heavy metal concentration, Carbon isotopes).

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