

To: Associate Professor Daniel Micallef

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Letter of support for the VARCITIES Project

The main mission of VARCITIES is **to implement real, visionary ideas** and establish sustainable models for increasing health and well-being (**H&WB**) of citizens (children, young people, middle age, elderly) that are exposed to diverse climatic conditions and challenges around Europe (e.g. from harsh winters in Skelleftea-SE to hot summers in Chania-GR, from deprived areas in Novo mesto-SI to increased pollution in Malta) through shared public spaces, making cities livable and welcoming. VARCITIES has the following specific objectives:

* To contribute to the shaping of future cities by developing nature-based (NBS) solutions integrating Digital, Social and Cultural innovation (DSC) with high replication potential, in eight European cities.
* To design NBS solutions to address health and well-being of the citizens by co-creating the solutions with the public, local authorities and industry.
* To assess the sustainability and impact of the interventions by developing new and advancing existing key performance indicators.
* To improve the transition to smart and future cities by creating a framework of governance, business, financing (GBF) models of the NBS that considers the unique character of the interventions with the support of the Municipalities.
* To inform a number of stakeholders (STK) and inspire sustainable and resilient future smart cities which embody principles established or emerging as a best practice, according to the New Urban Agenda for the EU, MAES, Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations by developing a robust dissemination, communication, and capacity building plan.
* To transfer, upscale and sustain practices of VARCITIES through the development of the Healthy Cities Helix (>150 members)– a network of *industrial actors, exploiters and investors* that will outlast the project to ensure high replication potential and exploitation of the solutions proposed in VARCITIES.

We hereby declare that, the Municipality of Szombathely City with County Rights will participate in the dissemination and replication activities linked with the Pilot City of Gżira.

Our support to the project will specifically consist of:

* Participating and supporting VARCITIES City to City Exchange
* Providing data and information about the policy and regulatory aspects concerning good practices on nature-based, digital, social and cultural solutions in our Municipality.
* Participating in the dialogue concerning the obstacles facing in implementing innovative social, digital and nature-based solutions in our context, as part of VARCITIES’ replication tasks
* Sharing of experiences and good practices with the VARCITIES team.
* Participating in the forums, seminars and workshops upon request and invitation by the Consortium.
* Promoting the project’s outcomes via our communication media and networks.

Signature and stamp Place and date