



## PRESS RELEASE

On Friday October 7 2022, the Kick-Off Meeting of the project "A System for Integrated Environmental Information in Urban areas - **LIFE SIRIUS**" took place in Thessaloniki. The project is co-financed by the **LIFE 2021 – 2027** program, with a total budget of €1,192,729 and an implementation duration of 36 months.

LIFE SIRIUS overarching ambition is to improve **governance in urban air quality planning** and management, considering a holistic environmental approach through advancing knowledge, skills and competences of the responsible authorities, by providing:

- a. a tangible pathway in order to scale-up and accelerate solutions aiming at tackling air quality issues, giving emphasis on health impacts and compound effects, and
- b. a robust framework for increasing awareness of environmental issues associated with poor air quality.

The project brings together **7 partners** of excellence from 3 EU Member States (**Greece, Cyprus, Italy**) with a representative geographical coverage concerning the targeted environmental problem (air quality), cross-cutting complementary competences and excellent track records in European projects.

LIFE SIRIUS will improve the quality of public authorities of the three targeted areas (Thessaloniki/Greece, Rome/Italy, Nicosia/Cyprus) at all levels in relation to preparatory, mitigation and adaptation actions foreseen in respective **Air Quality Plans** with two main goals:

- Increase the capacity and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public administration of the three regions involved in the project to upgrade the performance of Air Quality Plans in each city.
- Develop common evaluation system regarding health effects of air pollution and future scenarios that will assess the evolution of the situation in selected future periods.

LIFE SIRIUS will develop an Environmental Management System as a vital decision support tool that will enhance Air Quality Plans and accommodate multidimensional elements for efficient and operational information flow, facilitate management decisions for corrective actions and enhance cooperation between decision-making bodies in the scope of air quality planning implementation.

All beneficiaries participated in the project's Kick-Off event, and in particular the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki/Department of Applied and Environmental Physics (Project Coordinator), the Agenzia Regionale Protezione Ambientale del Lazio, the Cyprus Institute, the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate-National Research Council of Italy, the Department of Labour Inspection of the Cyprus Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, the Municipality of Thessaloniki and AXON Envirogroup Ltd.

Soon, you will be able to receive direct information about the latest news, through the project's official page and social media.



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