

GOOD PRACTICE SUMMARY

Limassol, A New Era

For a visual documentation (video) please go to:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B104GI_BgNL_VmMyNGs3MVhyNHc

Limassol City in 2003, in an attempt to face its problems and needs proceeded with the preparation and adoption of a Strategic Plan for an Integrated Sustainable Urban Development to solve urban issues like abandoned spaces, city planning, urban mobility, cultural and heritage and urban renewal.

The Plan determined the functional structures, permitted uses of land, pedestrian modules, creation of open spaces and organized parking areas; all within an existing and already structurally defined area.

The objectives were defined, such as the completion and modernization of a basic infrastructure in the area, the creation of areas of special interest, traffic management, the identification and promotion of monuments and the combination of old and new.

The Plan described the scope of the city regarding the function, quality improvement and specialization of services, the separation of incompatible uses, the modernization of basic infrastructure, proper urban planning and the creation of sites of special interest, and the protection of the historic character.

In Limassol, a city with a vision, problems became opportunities, through their successful identification, bearing in mind the importance of the area as its historical, social, cultural and natural core.

Over 15 years, Limassol successfully managed the sustainable development of the city.

The interventions were based on the principle of utilizing the existing building and environmental inventory and returning to the centres to deal with the crisis and urban development problems.

In Limassol, this step-by-step procedure enabled economic and social actors to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges.

The Area Plan for the city centre was issued by the Department of Town Planning and Housing of the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with Limassol Municipality.

The Local Authority was financially unable to undertake this huge restructuring intervention consisting of large infrastructure projects, due to its limited budget. State involvement, as well as semi-government organisations and private sector initiatives were essential. Methods such as BOT, PPP and others proved to be particularly efficient.

Additionally, co-financing from European Union funds for projects was also crucial, wherever feasible.

Limassol has had new life breathed into it as a result of several major urban regeneration projects that have improved the city's historic centre, the seafront and elsewhere.

The environment and quality of life have been improved and the city's marketability and competitiveness boosted. As a result, new businesses have opened and new jobs created.

The projects have improved the attractiveness and the air quality of commercial and residential areas. The local economy has been boosted thanks to more visitors, charmed by the city's new look. The city's residents have benefited from the regeneration projects, as have those of the wider metropolitan area.

As the city became more attractive, its public places increasingly became meeting places for social activities. The projects have helped preserve the cultural identity of Limassol's historic centre by highlighting its traditional architecture: old buildings have been restored and are now used for cultural, educational and residential purposes.

The vision of the Municipality of Limassol has been achieved: the redevelopment, upgrading and sustainable evolution of the centre of Limassol, as a unified, single place consisting of individual functional areas, which constitute the main commercial and service provision zones, whilst maintaining its own symbolism and character. All these improvements have led to the opening up the horizons to new jobs and essentially revitalizing the city socially and economically.

The positive results have already materialised as, despite the economic crisis plaguing the country, the centre of the city is one of the very few areas in Cyprus exhibiting growth and development.

Limassol Municipality now follows a more integrated approach to Urban Development and is committed to continue its efforts, always aiming at further Sustainable Urban Development.

The Municipality of Limassol has been awarded another €22 million to implement more projects derived from a revised Strategic Plan to be implemented in the context of Priority Axis 6: Sustainable Urban Development of the Operational Programme "Competitiveness and Sustainable Development", which will be co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF), cost of €22 million.

In addition to that, another Area Plan for the old 730,000sq.m. abandoned industrial estate next to the upgraded area is now being prepared. The plan which is expected to be completed before the end of 2017 describes an integrated approach to Urban

Development for the area, making it possible to enhance a commercial, building, office complexes and tourism development.