



# Co-Creation and Awareness Workshops for the Region of Murcia: "Reflecting on the implementation of nature-based solutions in schoolyards in the municipality of Puerto Lumbreras"

May 2024



Summary report of the  
Co-Creation and Awareness Workshops for the Region of Murcia: "Reflecting on  
the implementation of nature-based solutions in schoolyards in the municipality of  
Puerto Lumbreras"

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*All minors who appear in the photographs of the present report have the relevant authorisation.*



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Directorate-General of Housing and Architecture of Murcia participates in the **GO GREEN ROUTES European** project which consists of a multidisciplinary consortium of 40 partners. In this project, nature-based solutions (hereinafter NBS) are implemented in urban spaces in six laboratory cities, the so-called growing cities, to promote the health and well-being of citizens.

The goal of **GO GREEN ROUTES** is to position European cities as global ambassadors for urban sustainability. To do this, it seeks to change the approach of NBS towards the co-benefits of health in a multidimensional context, called 360-Health. It aims to maintain and elevate urban sustainability and improve both society and the environment, as well as the relationship between people and their urban environment.

One of the tasks of the project is to apply the co-creation processes developed in the **GO GREEN ROUTES** project in the Region of Murcia (Spain) and replicate the process of *seedbed interventions* in a municipality in the Region of Murcia so that it can serve as a model for other municipalities.

Within this framework, the Directorate-General of Housing and Architecture of Murcia collaborated with **CETENMA** on four workshops in the selected schools of the municipality of Puerto Lumbreras, replicating the contents of the co-creation project (*seedbed intervention*) with the active participation of students, teachers, and representatives of the public administration. Through innovative methodologies and by applying citizen science, the aim was to reflect on the capacity of SBNs to transform schoolyards into kinder, healthier, more sustainable and resilient places.

The objective was that the results of the workshops would provide useful information to give final shape to the SBN projects to be executed in the selected schools as well as promote the incorporation of natural elements into school spaces.



## 2. DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

### 2.1. SELECTION OF CENTRES AND PRE-VISIT

The four educational centres where the workshops were held were selected by the Directorate-General of Housing and Architecture of Murcia. The following centres, all located in the municipality of Puerto Lumbreras, were chosen:

Educational Centre	Workshop Date	Workshop Schedule
<b>CEIP SAGRADO CORAZÓN</b>	4 April, 2024	From 9.00 am to 12.30 pm
<b>CEIP JUAN ANTONIO LÓPEZ ALCARAZ</b>	4 April, 2024	From 9.00 am to 12.30 pm
<b>CEIP ASUNCIÓN JORDAN</b>	12 April 2024	From 9.00 am to 12.30 pm
<b>CEIP PURÍSIMA CONCEPCIÓN</b>	12 April 2024	From 12.00 pm to 14.00 pm

Prior to holding the workshops, CETENMA staff visited the four centres to identify any potential needs to be addressed during the workshops.

### 2.2. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKSHOPS

Applying co-creation to the design and transformation of these school spaces involves sitting down with experts and users (current and potential), asking them what their needs are today, and incorporating these insights into the future strategy for using common spaces.

It's a process that requires an open mind and a lot of humility, as it is an important open innovation process that helps administrations to co-create their strategic plans together with their users.

At the beginning of the workshops, the participants were presented with white "company" T-shirts, while the organisation's staff wore T-shirts in the same design, but in black, to differentiate them.





Design of the T-shirts for the participants and organisation staff for the Workshops



Delivery of T-shirts to the Workshops participants

In the workshops, the participants were divided into teams (tables). Each team had at least one person who guided the students so they could provide nature-based solutions to their schoolyard.

Below is the programme for each workshop:

- Welcome and Presentation of the GO GREEN ROUTES Project.
- Presentation and objectives of the Workshop.
- First dynamic: "Imagining our schoolyard through the senses"
- Second dynamic: "Co-creating our schoolyard"
- Close

## Workshop Programmes

PROGRAMA TALLERES DE CO-CREACIÓN Y CONCIENCIACIÓN PARA LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA	PROGRAMA TALLERES DE CO-CREACIÓN Y CONCIENCIACIÓN PARA LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA	PROGRAMA TALLERES DE CO-CREACIÓN Y CONCIENCIACIÓN PARA LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA	PROGRAMA TALLERES DE CO-CREACIÓN Y CONCIENCIACIÓN PARA LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA
<p><b>CEIP SAGRADO CORAZÓN</b> Jueves 04 de abril de 2024   9:00h a 12:30h C/ Paso Ceasá s/n 30980 Puerto Lumbreras</p> <p><b>Programa:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00h   Bienvenida y presentación del proyecto GO GREEN ROUTES (GARDM)</li> <li>9:15h   Presentación y objetivos del taller (CETENMA)</li> <li>9:25h   Primera dinámica: "Imaginemos nuestro patio escolar a través de los sentidos"</li> <li>11:00h Pausa-desayuno</li> <li>11:30h   Segunda dinámica: " Co-creamos nuestro patio escolar"</li> <li>12:25h   Próximos pasos, agradecimientos y cierre</li> </ul>	<p><b>CEIP JUAN ANTONIO LÓPEZ ALCARAZ</b> Jueves 04 de abril de 2024   9:00h a 12:30h C/ San Javier, 2. 30980 Puerto Lumbreras</p> <p><b>Programa:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00h   Bienvenida y presentación del proyecto GO GREEN ROUTES (GARDM)</li> <li>9:15h   Presentación y objetivos del taller (CETENMA)</li> <li>9:25h   Primera dinámica: "Imaginemos nuestro patio escolar a través de los sentidos"</li> <li>11:00h Pausa-desayuno</li> <li>11:30h   Segunda dinámica: " Co-creamos nuestro patio escolar"</li> <li>12:25h   Próximos pasos, agradecimientos y cierre</li> </ul>	<p><b>CEIP ASUNCIÓN JORDÁN</b> Viernes 12 de abril de 2024   9:00h a 12:30h C/ Herenito, 30980 Puerto Lumbreras</p> <p><b>Programa:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00h   Bienvenida y presentación del proyecto GO GREEN ROUTES (GARDM)</li> <li>9:15h   Presentación y objetivos del taller (CETENMA)</li> <li>9:25h   Primera dinámica: "Imaginemos nuestro patio escolar a través de los sentidos"</li> <li>11:00h Pausa-desayuno</li> <li>11:30h   Segunda dinámica: " Co-creamos nuestro patio escolar"</li> <li>12:25h   Próximos pasos, agradecimientos y cierre</li> </ul>	<p><b>CEIP PURÍSIMA CONCEPCIÓN</b> Viernes 12 de abril de 2024   12:00h a 14:00h Av. de la Estación, 0. 30981 Esparragal de Puerto Lumbreras</p> <p><b>Programa:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00h   Bienvenida y presentación del proyecto GO GREEN ROUTES (GARDM)</li> <li>12:15h   Presentación y objetivos del taller (CETENMA)</li> <li>12:25h   Primera dinámica: "Imaginemos nuestro patio escolar a través de los sentidos"</li> <li>13:30h   Segunda dinámica: " Co-creamos nuestro patio escolar"</li> <li>14:00h   Próximos pasos, agradecimientos y cierre</li> </ul>

The **Welcome** and presentation of the GO GREEN ROUTES Project was carried out by personnel from the Directorate-General of Housing and Architecture of Murcia on all 4 occasions. By way of example, photographs of three of the four centres are presented:



The **presentation and objectives of the Workshop** were given by CETENMA staff on all four occasions. By way of example, photographs of three of the four centres are presented:





The **first dynamic: "Imagining our schoolyard through the senses"** was carried out by professionals with experience in both sustainability and re-naturalisation of spaces, as well as in group dynamics and mentoring. This ensured that ideas were proposed and presented by all participants. They worked collaboratively to create proposals, bringing out the best in each individual, helping to shape their needs, and maintaining the energy necessary to work on them.

The dynamics were designed to create effective connections around the implementation of SBN in schoolyards, to increase cooperation and the success rate of the project.

In the first dynamic, the aim was to contextualise the importance of incorporating nature into school playgrounds.

Once the teams were created and seated at tables, they were assigned a colour and a bracelet in that colour was given to each member. Next, three roles were chosen:

- The Delegate
- The Collector
- The Auditor

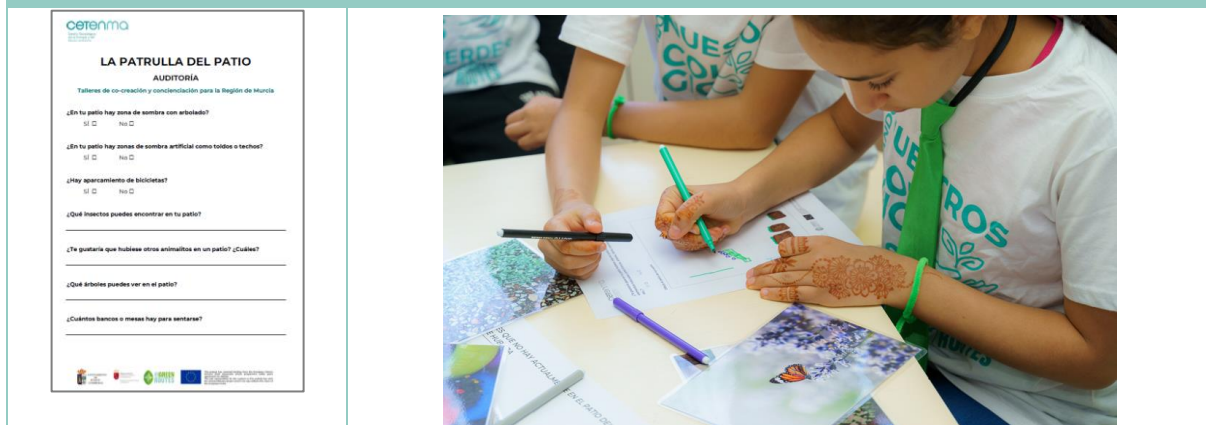
In this first dynamic, three activities or games were included to awaken their sensitivity and attraction to greener schoolyards.

Activity 1. "The Patio Patrol".

The teams strolled through the schoolyards and outdoor areas, looking for certain items on a checklist that they had been provided with.

Then they returned to their place of work, to complete it with their classmates.

**"The Yard Patrol".**



Activity 2. Experiences Table

In each workshop, there was an Experiences Table on which the teams could experience different smells, colours, textures, animals, and other natural elements that could be found in a schoolyard, etc.

Through sound, visual and olfactory stimuli, participants were given new ideas of what a schoolyard could be like, in addition to becoming aware of the benefits that nature has on humans.

When the teams returned to their workplace, participants were asked questions like: if your yard was a smell, what would you like it to be? what plants would you like to have in it? and what sounds would you like to hear in it?

### Experience Tables



### Activity 3. Looking for colours.

We went out to the yard again to look for colours.

When the teams returned to their workplace, participants were asked questions like: what colours did you see most? What colours were missing?

### Looking for colours



The **second dynamic, "Co-creating our schoolyard"**, aimed to capture ideas in the specific area of the schoolyard.

To do this, each team had to indicate:

- In pink post-it notes: What's in the schoolyard that you'd like to keep
- On yellow post-it notes: What's in the schoolyard that you'd like to get rid of
- On green post-it notes: What's not in the schoolyard that you would like to be

To lead this last session, each table asked questions like: What elements of nature would you like to have in this yard? How would you like to use this yard? What activities would you like to be able to do that are not possible now? etc.

### Co-creating our schoolyard



To close the workshop, a final phase of sharing and evaluation of the different proposals for the naturalisation of the spaces was proposed to select those that align with the users' expectations.

### Discussion





### 2.3. MATERIALS AND MEANS

For the work dynamics, the required materials were available on each table to streamline thinking and encourage participation and creativity. They were used to reflect and collect the ideas, experiences, reflections and suggestions provided.

The materials used were:

- Materials for sensory experiences: samples of smells, sounds, textures, tastes, images, etc.
- A3 format work templates (3 per table > yellow post-its, pink post-its, green post-its)
- Identification and motivation elements: gloves, magnifying glass, tie, bracelets, etc.
- Markers, cards, sheets, post-it notes, tweezers, etc.

#### Materials and means



After the four workshops, a summary of what happened was made on an A0-sized panel, customised for each of the four schools.

The panel was presented in a physical format, on a rigid panel that served as a display unit.

#### Summary panels size A0



### 2.4. DESCRIPTION OF THE TREES PROVIDED

The selected trees were lemon trees. Four copies were provided per school (a total of 16 copies).





This tree helps provide shade and freshen up the atmosphere. Its leaves provide a citrusy aroma, which also works as an insect repellent.

It's a tree that requires care and dedication since it needs direct sunlight, constant irrigation and a special fertiliser to stay nourished and grow quality lemons.

The 4 schools included these specimens in their school gardens.



Lemon trees in the educational centres of Puerto Lumbreras

Lemon tree at CEIP Sagrado Corazón.

### 3. ADDED VALUE

The Technology Centre for Energy and the Environment of the Region of Murcia (CETENMA) has extensive experience in the application of innovative methodologies for citizen participation to solve environmental challenges in the private and public sectors. To carry out these workshops, the following improvements were made:

#### **Involvement of various actors**

A range of actors participated in order to create a real vision towards a more sustainable, efficient and resilient school model.

#### **"What is not communicated does not exist"**

An external professional was present during the four workshops to create a comprehensive photo and video record that faithfully reflected the essence of the activities carried out, through the testimonies and impressions of the participants themselves.





### **Motivate by innovating**

Great attention to detail was taken to engage and win over the participants. Different team roles, identification elements, motivation, and other factors were proposed.

### **Creating the teams**

T-shirts were made to foster a sense of unity on the teams and serve as a means of promoting the project.

### **Committed to sustainability**

All the events had environmental, economic, and social impacts within the geographical context, depending on the circumstances in which they occur.

During the workshops, every effort was made to respect the environment.

## **4. RESULTS**

### **What did we do?**

We learned about what they are doing in other European countries through the European **GO GREEN ROUTES Project**.

We worked on different dynamics that helped us identify natural elements in schoolyards.

We learned about the global benefits that nature has on humans.

### **What did we learn?**

The Schoolyard Patrol conducted an audit of each schoolyard.

We imagined the schoolyard through the senses thanks to the table of sensory experiences.

We discovered the diversity of colours that we can find in the school.

### **What is the schoolyard of our dreams like?**

It would have more shaded areas and more trees.

It would have a large tree that serves as a refuge.

It would have water fountains.

A composter.

A large orchard.

Lots of different coloured flowers.



It would have a lot of animals and exist in balance with nature.

It would have less asphalt and fewer artificial elements.

### What do the participants think?

*"The experience of touching the plants, of doing activities with the leaves, is very cool. It's been a really fun activity and we're learning."* - Participant from CEIP SAGRADO CORAZÓN.

*"I love everything we've done, especially touching the textures, smelling the flowers, and having more shade..."*. - Participant from CEIP JUAN ANTONIO LÓPEZ ALCARAZ.

*"I would like to have trees in my yard with fruits and colourful flowers that bring me a lot of joy"*  
– Participant from CEIP ASUNCIÓN JORDÁN.

*"I find today's activity really fun and it is helping me to identify natural elements in my yard. The courtyard of my dreams is a large courtyard with many green and shady areas."* – Participant from CEIP PURÍSIMA CONCEPCIÓN.

*"In our school, we've been promoting activities related to the environment for a long time and we are very grateful for this initiative and that they have counted on us."* Director of CEIP PURÍSIMA CONCEPCIÓN.

*"At the Ministry, we support the GO GREEN ROUTES Project, and we wanted to accompany the educational centres participating in the workshops to find out what their needs are and offer them a better Quality of life."* María Dolores Gil García, Director General OF HOUSING AND ARCHITECTURE OF MURCIA.

## Annexe 1: Video and Group Photographs



**CEIP SAGRADO CORAZÓN**



**CEIP JUAN ANTONIO LÓPEZ ALCARAZ**



**CEIP ASUNCIÓN JORDAN**



**CEIP PURÍSIMA CONCEPCIÓN**



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