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### For Immediate Release

#### **DivAirCity City-to-City Twinning Programme Launch in Orvieto: A Milestone Event for Urban Innovation Collaboration**

**Orvieto, Italy - May 17, 2024** - "If we could globally unite under nature and social inclusion, humanity has won," said Prof. Knud Erik Hilding-Hamann, DTI - Partner in DivAirCity. This statement encapsulates the spirit and ambition of the DivAirCity City-to-City Twinning Programme, which launched in the historic city of Orvieto on May 16-17, 2024. Representatives from 25 cities across four continents gathered to foster collaboration and share innovative solutions for urban sustainability and climate resilience.

The event was a testament to the power of collective action and knowledge exchange. Twin city representatives, project partners, and key stakeholders came together to discuss ideas and strategies regarding three key topics: Nature-Based Solutions (NbS), Inclusive Co-Creation, and Urban Data Management and Data Gaps.

Representatives from the five DivAirCity ecosystems (Aarhus, Bucharest, Castellon Orvieto and Potsdam) and their matched cities shared insights, challenges, and best practices on these key topics in hybrid roundtables.

#### **DivAirCity City/Ecosystem and Matched Cities Representatives:**

- **Aarhus:** Klaipeda, Lithuania (Online); Kitwe, Zambia; Ploiesti, Romania; Vinnytsia, Ukraine (Online)
- **Bucharest:** Cairo, Egypt (Online); Freetown, Sierra Leone; Lviv, Ukraine; Patras, Greece (Online)
- **Castellon:** Bogotá, Colombia; Galapagar, Spain; St. Boi de Llobregat, Spain; Veracruz, Mexico
- **Orvieto:** Brasov, Romania; Manchester, UK; Stintino, Italy; Uvwie, Nigeria
- **Potsdam:** Basildon, UK; Chennai, India; Dhaka, Bangladesh (Online); Malaga, Spain

A reporting session allowed each table to present their findings and discuss potential strategies for urban resilience.

#### **Key Highlights and Outcomes**

##### **1. Nature-Based Solutions (NBS):**



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- Cities face unique challenges in deploying NBS, including construction skills, funding for maintenance, and public procurement limitations.
- Successful projects highlight the importance of community involvement and ongoing maintenance.
- Connectivity of green spaces and inclusive access for people with disabilities are essential for effective NBS implementation.

### 2. Co-Creation at the City Level:

- Effective co-creation requires overcoming barriers such as policy constraints, budget regulations, and stakeholder interests.
- Engaging citizens is challenging due to their personal commitments, making government involvement crucial for motivation.
- Sustainable projects rely on engaging residents through trusted community stakeholders and addressing their immediate concerns.

### 3. Urban Data and Data Gaps and Management:

- Managing data for urban projects is complex, especially when addressing vulnerable groups and environmental issues.
- Cities need to invest in data capture and management, leveraging expertise from universities and other institutions.
- Sharing best practices and handling sensitive data with care is vital for successful project outcomes.

The DivAirCity Twinning Programme aims to address these challenges through a series of hybrid workshops, training sessions, hackathons, and site visits over the next year until May 2025, when the closing event will be held in Valencia. These activities will showcase, teach, and collaborate on the tools and solutions developed during the DivAirCity project lifecycle.



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### About DivAirCity:

DivAirCity is an ambitious project, funded by the Horizon 2020 Programme, aiming to redefine urban environments by embracing human diversity, particularly focusing on vulnerable categories as defined by the UN (women, kids, elderly, LGBTQ+, minorities, people with different abilities and low income groups), as a catalyst for innovative urban solutions. It seeks to create cultural-driven green cities by integrating various aspects such as people, places, peace, economic growth, climate resilience, and air quality improvement. Through citizen science and creativity, the project will co-design solutions and monitor their impact transparently. It involves five EU cities as replicable case studies and aims to establish Permanent Living Labs, a Diversity and Inclusion green city index, Smart Cities Climate contracts, a Community of Practice, and air pollution mitigation services. Additionally, it intends to develop an EU protocol for decarbonization diagnosis. DivAirCity extends its reach beyond EU borders through international collaborations and aims for real-world impact by involving diverse stakeholders and fostering market-ready outcomes. The project's visibility will be enhanced through collaboration with Belgian National TV and its associated European and Global channels.

### For further media inquiries or technical information, please get in touch through:

**LinkedIn:** <https://be.linkedin.com/company/divaircityh2020>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/divaircityh2020/>

**Youtube:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl0kjW\\_ALLadD\\_fmC0qtw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl0kjW_ALLadD_fmC0qtw)

**X:** <https://twitter.com/divaircity>

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