



LIFE LUNGS Project Changes with which we all win

Did you know that Lisbon will have a flock of sheep grazing in the heart of Bela Vista Park and other areas of Lisbon?

And that this surprising fact is related to the Environment and Climate Change?

Did you know that biodiverse rainfed meadows are more sustainable than lawns?

What is a biodiverse rainfed meadow?

It is an area sown with a set of herbaceous plants (herbs), preferably native, of great variety, especially rich in leguminous plants and grasses. The area benefits not only from the use of rainwater, but also from the relationship between the various existing species.

The chosen herbaceous species are mainly annual and permanent. They complete their cycle when they dry in the summer, but before that they form seeds that stay in the soil and allow a good and fast regeneration capacity in the autumn/winter period.

Why considering a biodiverse rainfed meadow? What are its advantages?

- Contributes to the capture of carbon in the soil, through the increase of organic matter;
- Its flowering attracts pollinating insects, promoting biodiversity;
- Does not require watering, constituting an alternative to classic lawns that consume large amounts of water;
- Acts as a sponge in terms of water retention;
- Prevents erosion by increasing vegetation cover;
- The leguminous plants existing in the meadow, by fixing atmospheric nitrogen, reduce the need for chemical fertilizers;
- It is an excellent source of food for herbivorous animals, such as sheep.

Why the sheep? Come and get to know these friendly animals better!

- They are herbivorous animals that feed on pasture, preferably biodiverse, cutting it close to the ground, keeping the meadows under control;
- Eliminate the need for traditional cutting machinery, reducing energy consumption;
- Contribute to raising organic matter in the soil, enriching it;
- These are animals that we can visit peacefully while they graze in various meadows in Lisbon.

For all these reasons, biodiverse rainfed meadows and sheep contribute to adaptation to climate change.

LIFE LUNGS is a project co-financed by the European Union that will run until 2024, with the aim of contributing to making the city more resilient to climate change and its adverse effects.

Find out more at: life-lungs.lisboa.pt

