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**SIDIGMED - Capitalisation event in Rome, Italy: November 28<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
**Report of the Conference on "Urban gardens, tool for social inclusion"**  
**"Elsa Morante" Cultural Center, District of Rome 9 (Municipio Roma IX)**

The Conference was aimed to share and capitalise with local stakeholders and citizens of the Municipio Roma IX the results of the project and the characteristics of the pilot project of Casal Brunori in District of Rome IX.

Participants: associations, networks, committees and citizenship.

**Speakers:**

**Filippo Cioffi, President of the Culture Committee of District of Rome IX;**  
**Alessandro Drago, Councilor of the District of Rome IX;**  
**Marzi Paola, Head of Urban gardens – Department of Environmental Protection of Roma Capitale;**  
**Claudio Bordi, project officer in charge of SidigMed Project;**  
**Stefania Favorito, SidigMed local participation coordinator;**  
**Filippo Gotti, SidigMed expert.**

Specifically, the local event regarded issues related to urban gardens as tool for social inclusion, their value as good practices and the Regulation of urban gardens of Roma Capitale, approved in July 2015, along with the implementation of Sidigmed project.

The meeting continued with contributions and questions from the citizens and associations involved in the Capitalisation event, regarding the experience and competences, which have been consolidating in Rome, over the years, and the relevance for urban gardening as good practices for sustainable urban development.

Difficulties encountered by the City of Rome for the implementation of this third pilot in Rome have been highlighted. Difficulties in the choices to be performed for SidigMed action due to the complexity of administrative procedures and to its consequences towards the process of sharing between the local community and administration. This has led to the considerable delay in the selection of the area to be used as urban gardens and in the execution of the works, for which it was necessary to seek a further extension of the project.

However, the strong participation from the citizens (bottom-up approach), in particular in this District, on one hand, resulted in a greater length of the decision-making and operating times, on the other hand, it has likewise favored the co-responsibility and the active role of all local actors, public and private, and a renewed awareness on the part of the new city government that took office, last July, in Rome and in the Rome District of Rome IX. It has to be recognized that District of Rome IX has been able to understand the importance of SidigMed project and it has provided an important contribution to ensure the implementation of the project and the broader interest within the Town Hall of District Rome IX.

This District is, therefore, to be the District that, most of the others in Rome, would figure as the best significant model and representative – in terms of lessons learned – to be followed by other urban areas, not only in Rome.