

Greening up the city of Nicosia

Bringing
cities to life,
Bringing life
into cities.

Eleni Malekkidou
European Projects Officer



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730222



Nicosia Development Agency (ANEL) – Who we are

- Established in 2011 by the Municipalities of Greater Nicosia
- Non - profit



Member Municipalities

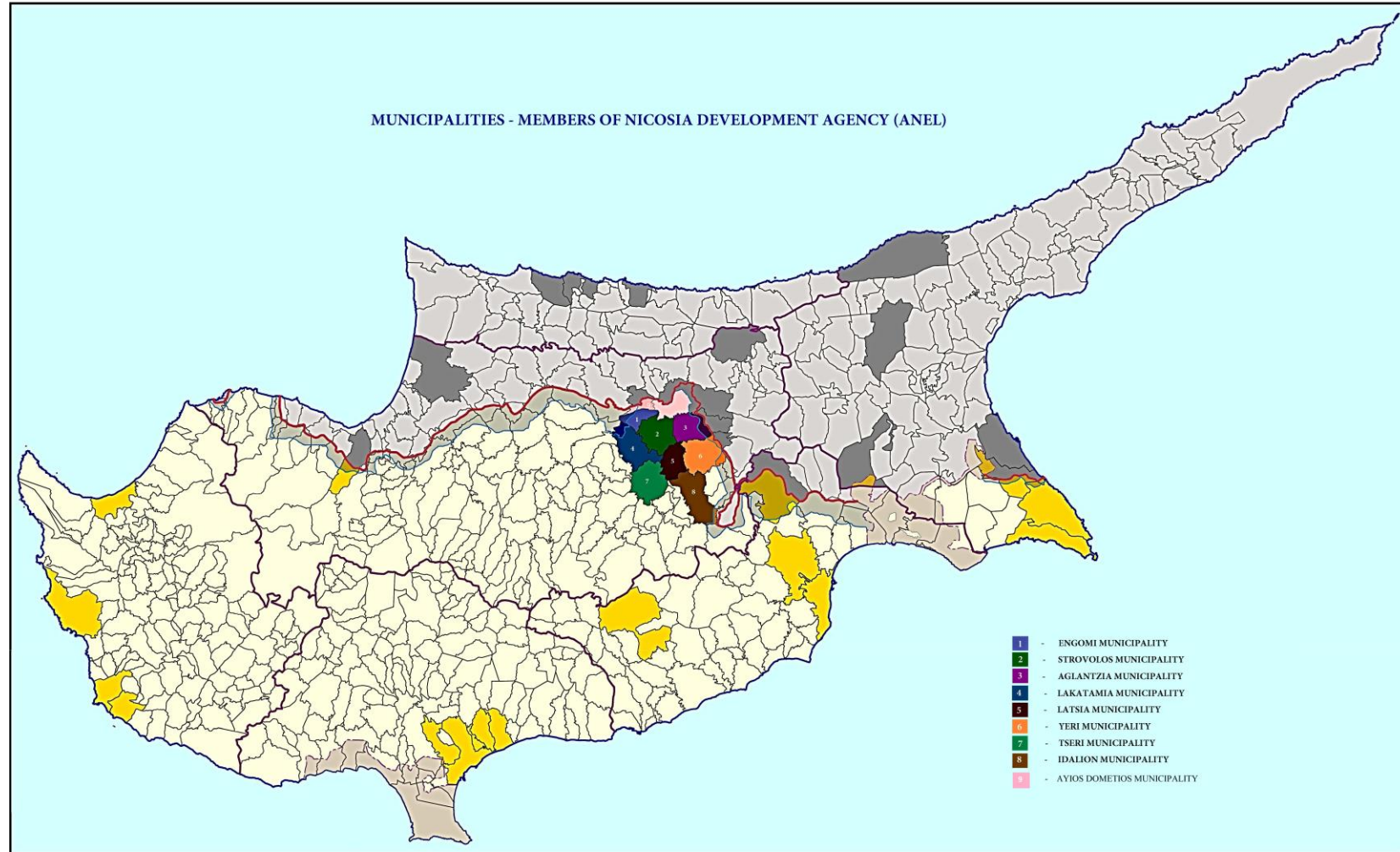
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Area of Intervention



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Main responsibilities

- 1.** Maximum exploitation of the available national and EU funds through participation and management of projects related to the needs of its members
- 2.** Undertake initiatives on environmental protection, conservation of cultural heritage & development of the social cohesion
- 3.** Promote the widest possible cooperation of our member municipalities with public bodies, semi-public and private sector, seeking synergy
- 4.** Exchange of experience and best practices with local authorities of other Member States aiming at implementation of innovative actions or policies on regional and local level
- 5.** Development of an international & interregional network of cooperation
- 6.** Implementation of the Strategic Urban Development Plan of our area of intervention

Every activity of ANEL aims to improve the quality of the citizen's lives in all sectors in its area of intervention

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COproductionN with NaturE for City Transitioning, INnovation and Governance

CONNECTING NATURE PROJECT

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What is Connecting Nature?

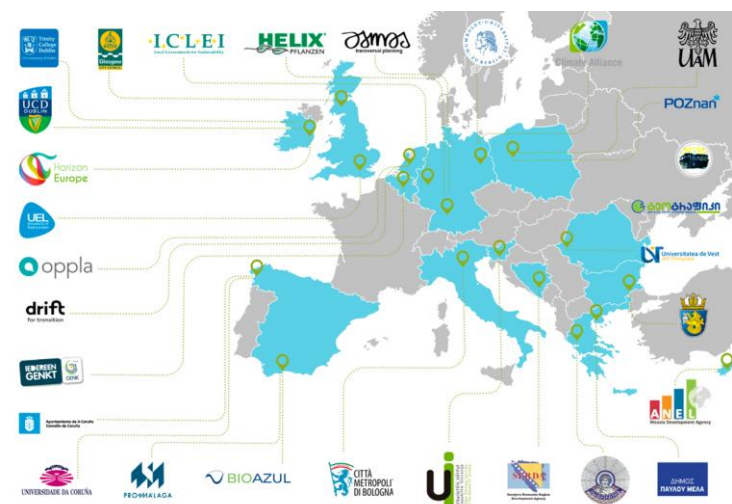
Overall goal: “to position Europe as a global leader in the innovation and implementation of nature-based solutions”

Consortium: 29 project partners involved from 16 EU countries

Coordinator: Trinity College Dublin

Budget: Total €13 million EC contribution €11.4 million

Funding Programme: Connecting Nature is an Innovation Action funded by the H2020 Research and Innovation Programme of the EU



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Create, on a district level, an urban network of Open and Green spaces (connecting them with an integrated **bicycle and pedestrian network**) using as a core the National Forest Park of Athalassa and other existing successful urban NBS projects.

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The city of Nicosia - the challenges

The urban quality in the city of Nicosia, faces at least two related challenges:

1

the performance of its mobility system, heavily biased towards the use of individual cars,

2

the lack of adequate, environmentally rich public space in the proximity of the urban core.

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Connecting nature - what we aim

Engage all interest groups and involved actors. (stakeholders) - Weak participatory culture in city-making

Improve the performance of Nicosia's mobility system (Nicosia is still very much a **car city**)

Enrich the existing (poor) network of public open and green spaces – urgent accessibility issues need to be resolved

Deliver **nature-based solutions** as part of Nicosia's strategic and operational plans (under implementation)

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WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE

identified a number of big and small **green & open spaces** that can be used for the enrichment of the existing (poor) urban network of O&G spaces.

explore **mobility solutions** based on connecting, densifying and developing this urban network (for ex. in the form of bicycle and pedestrian paths)

arranged a number of individual and group meetings with the involved actors aiming to **engage all interest groups**

working on the **strategic and operational plans** (how we can use **nature-based solutions** to address city problems)

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NBS projects – core of what we plan

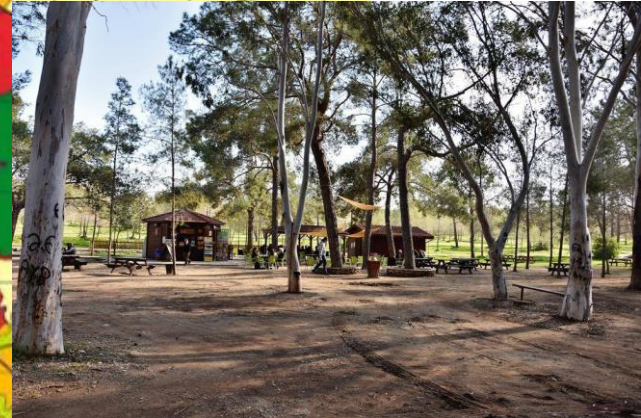
Nicosia includes a variety of green spaces that are intensively used by the local population.

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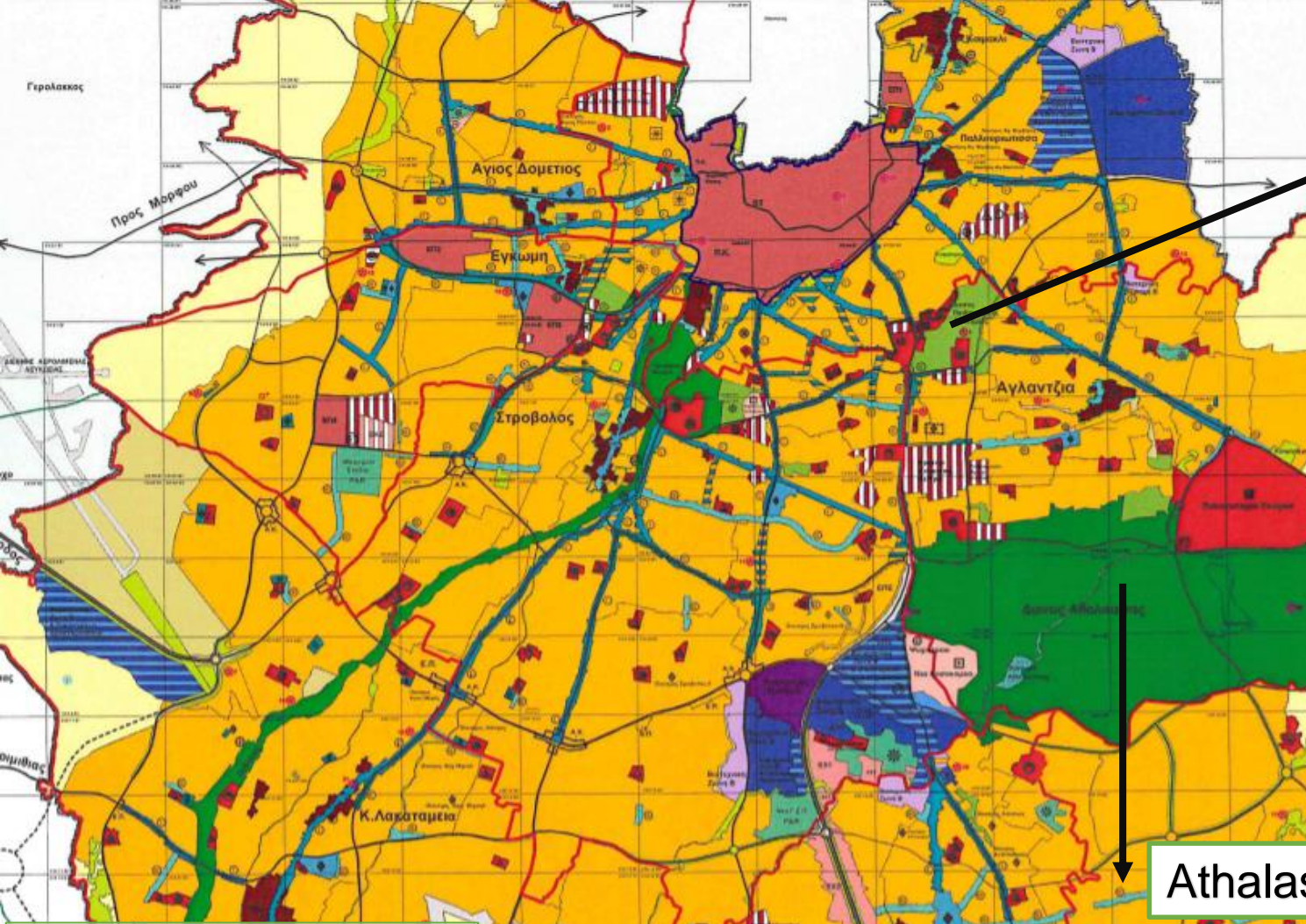


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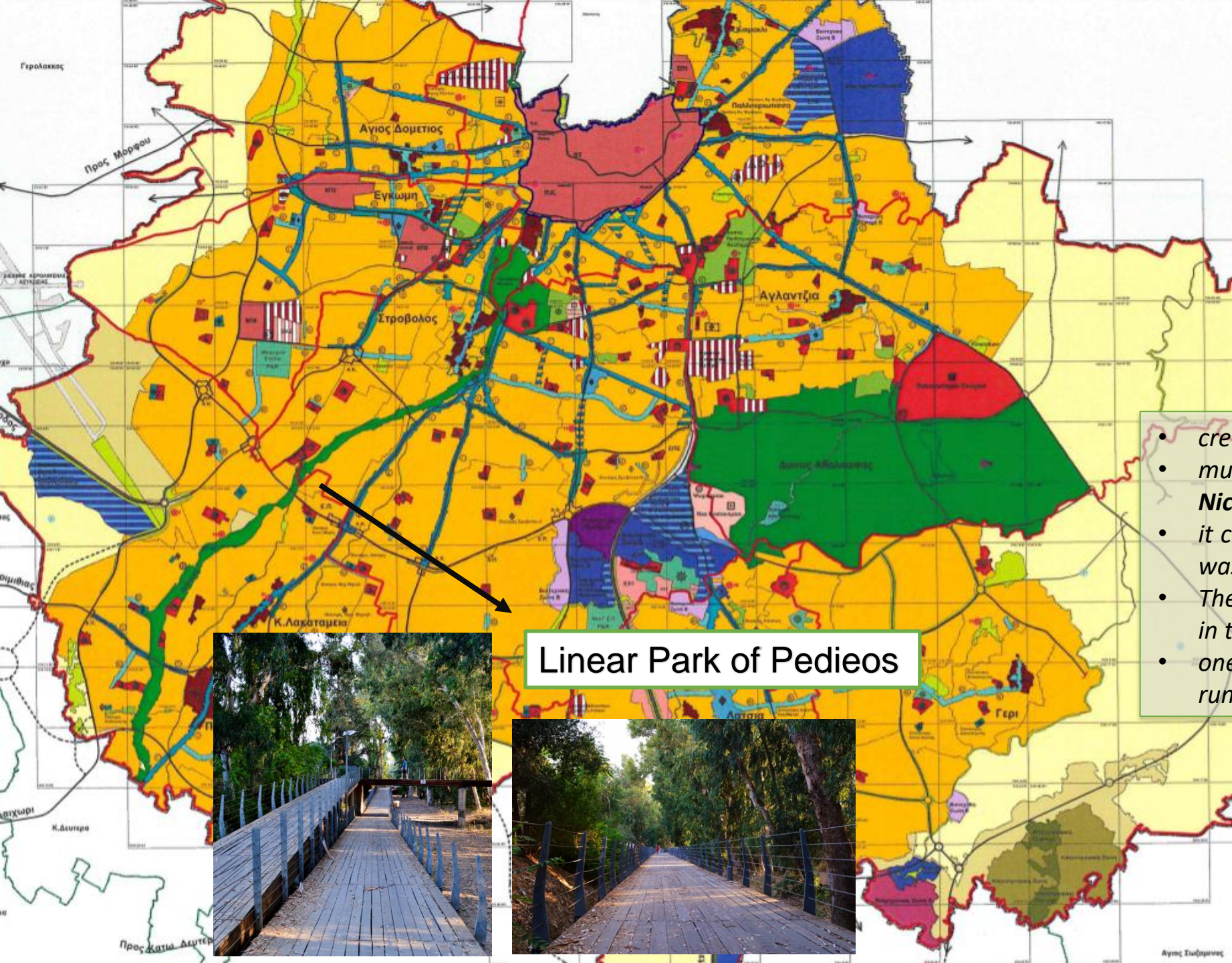
Academia Park



Athalassa Forest Park



- Creation of the park was initiated in **1904**
- Covers an area of **840 h**
- Between **4 municipalities**
- next to the **buffer zone** between the South and North.



Linear Park of Pedieos

- created in 2002 & 14 km long
- municipalities of **Lakatamia, Strovolos and Nicosia**
- it consists a pedestrian and bicycle path that was formed on river bank
- The **most expensive green space** of Nicosia in terms of maintenance costs,
- one of the **most popular areas** for walking, running, cycling and dog walking.



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Ayios Dimitrios Park



Eleftheria Square



- a high-profile square of 1 ha in the city center
- It is managed by the municipality of Nicosia
- The renovation of the square started 10 years ago and is still not completed

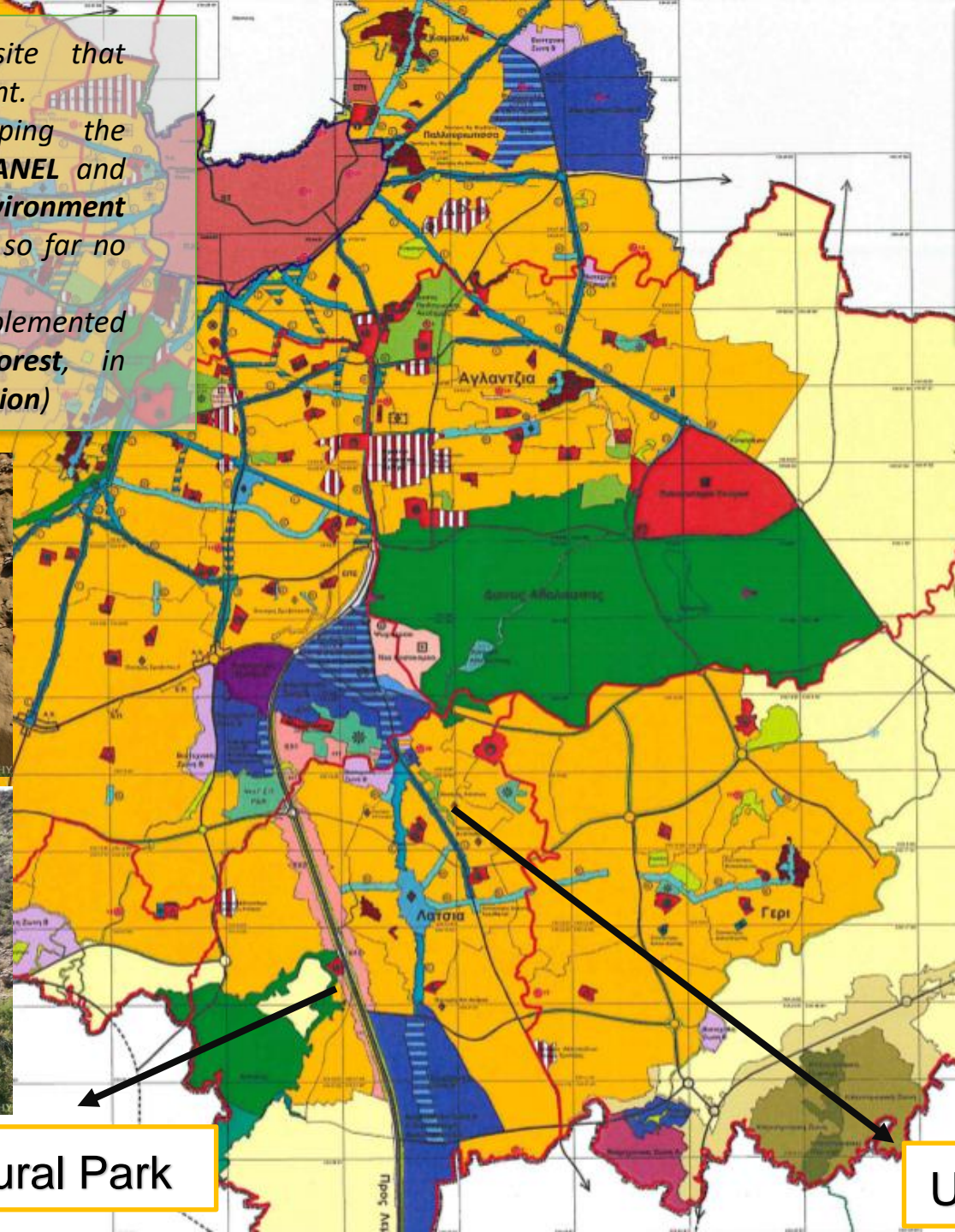
Acropolis Park



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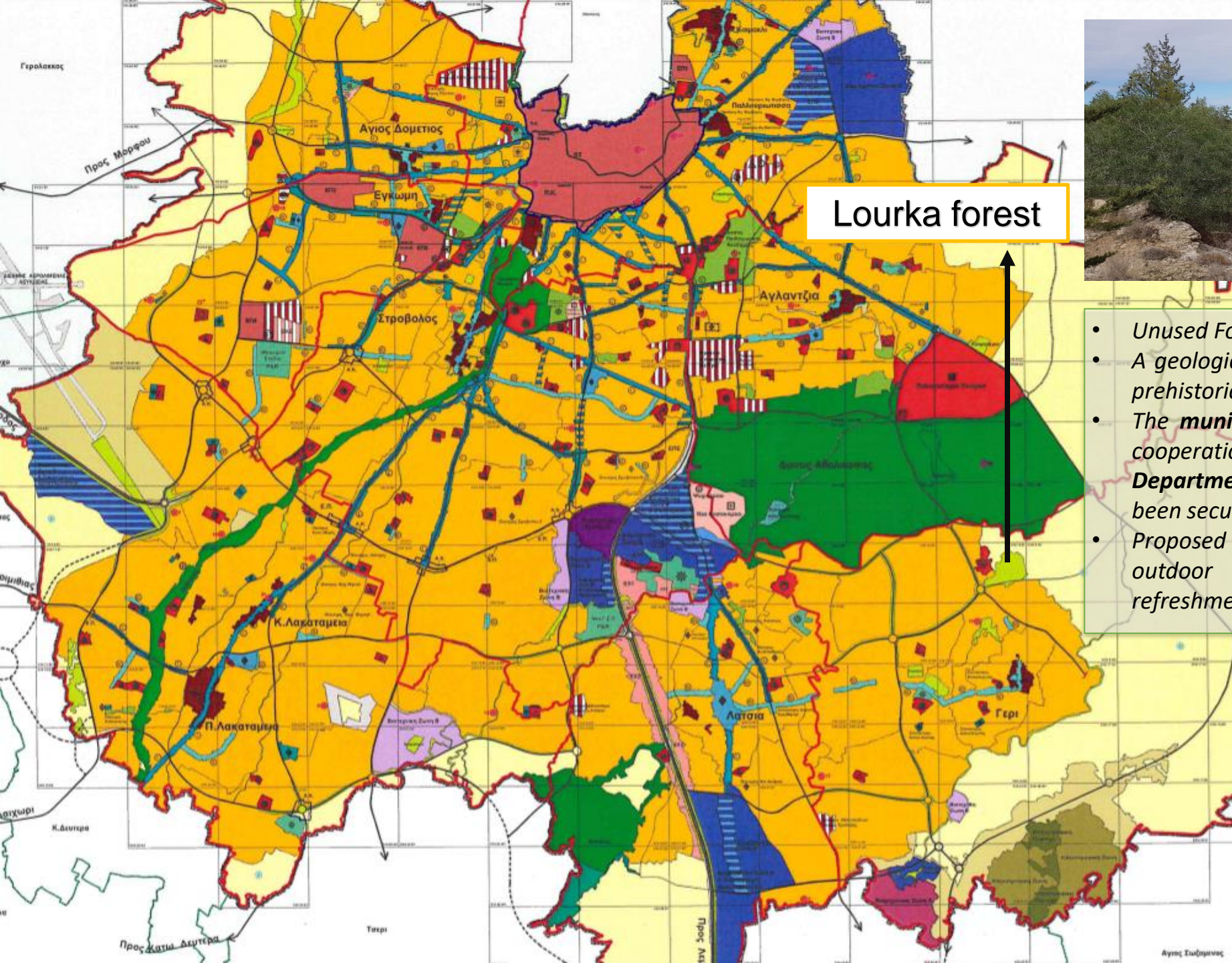
- A geologically important site that features a prehistoric monument.
- The **municipality** is developing the project in cooperation with **ANEL** and the **Department of Environment** (Ministry of Agriculture) - but so far no investment has been secured.
- A **nature path of 3km** was implemented by the **Department of Forest**, in November 2018 (private donation)

- Planning phase also with uncertain funding
- Link to the geological site of Kakkarista via a museum (1000m2 education/information site)
- 3 playgrounds (basketball, volleyball) - Playgrounds - Paths - Cafeteria - Open air cinema - **Mobility connection:** new road, sidewalks around the area



Kakkarista Natural Park

Urban Park of Pallourokampos

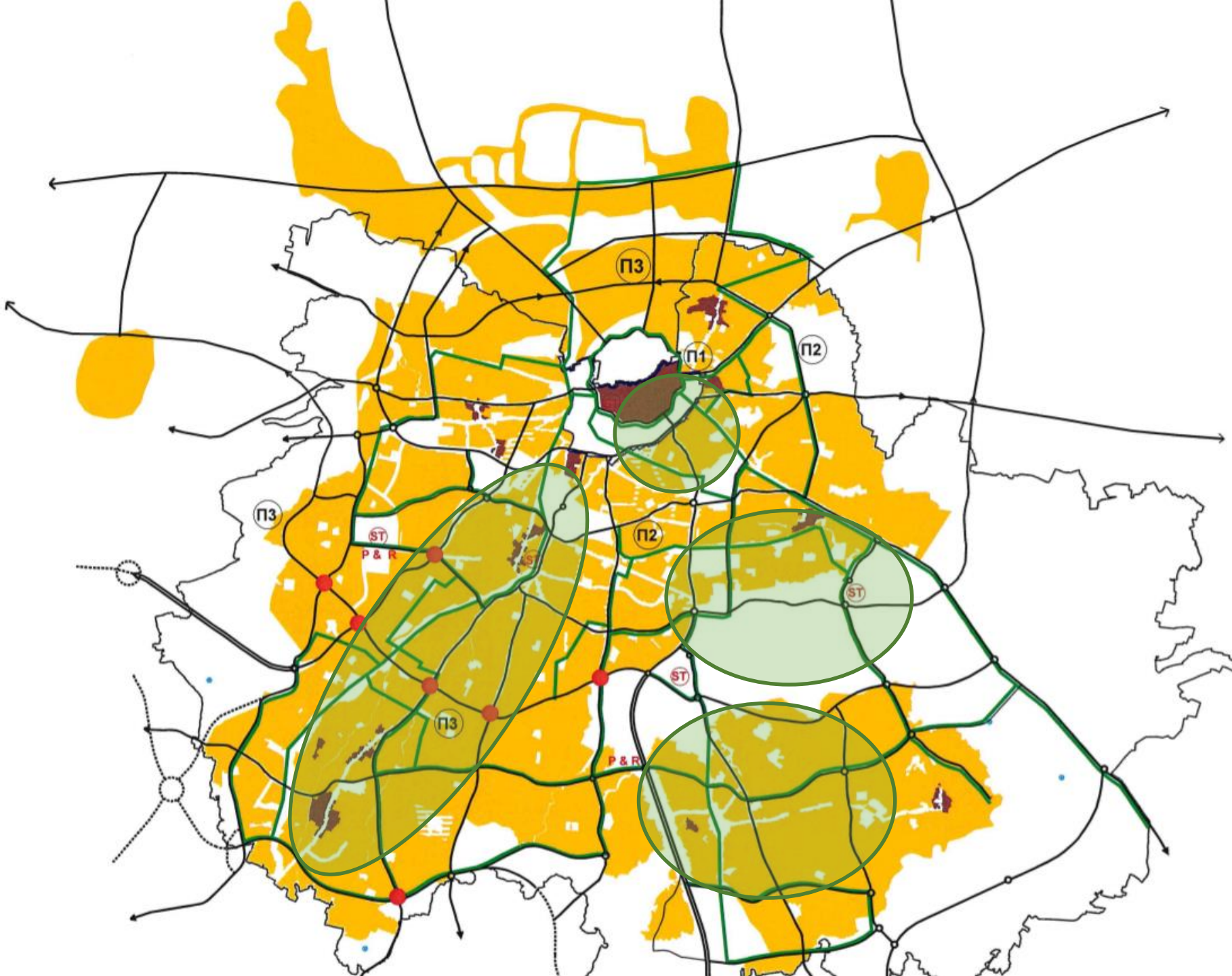


Lourka forest



- *Unused Forest Land*
- *A geologically important site that features a prehistoric monument*
- *The **municipality** is developing a project in cooperation with **ANEL** and the **Forest Department** - but so far no investment has been secured.*
- *Proposed actions: Walking – Cycling paths, outdoor gym, nature path, moving refreshment shop.*

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The **mobility master plan from 2010** proposed a network for active mobility that builds on the existing road system (green lines).

Main idea:

This network could be complemented with more attractive and safe bike lanes that would run through parks.

Link the 4 clusters where the existing NBS are located



Challenges & Opportunities

How to **connect the different green spaces** into a network of parks

Nicosia is a **car city**

Limited Funding (sustainability of projects)

Divided city (*This continuing division is central to the city's ongoing problems, restricting development and creating complex problems for future planning.*)

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Challenges & Opportunities

Many of the **planning tools** are **outdated**, and there is a **striking absence** of participatory culture in urban planning in the city.

Limited knowledge and **understanding** of how nature-based solutions can be adopted in Nicosia

Centralized governance of Cyprus - Local administrations enjoy limited financial autonomy in Cyprus (However, a governance reform is currently underway that could shift the balance of competences between the state, districts and (fewer) municipalities)

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Thank you for your time!

We dream of a greener, healthier, happier and a more resilient city!

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What do nature-based solutions look like?

"Nature can give to our cities the answers we are looking for!"

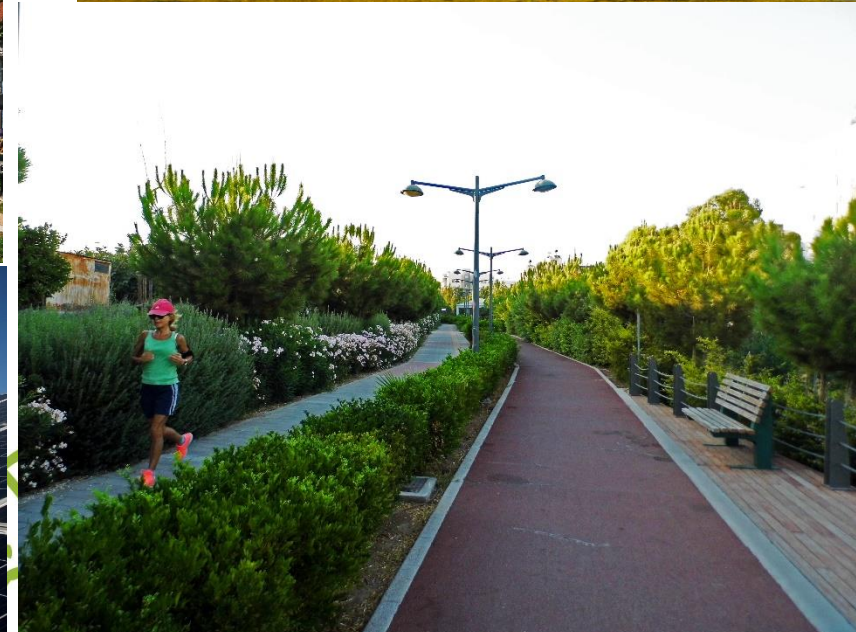


Photo contest 📷

