

Application of the DNSH principle to the restoration and enhancement of a historical garden: the project "Well-being and spirituality: Orto-giardino Laudato Si"

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Abstract. The application of the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle, as foreseen by the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan (so-called PNRR in Italian), intends to demonstrate that a project intervention does not cause significant harm to the environment and can produce positive impacts. This paper describes the results of a preliminary analysis of environmental aspects and impacts, in accordance to DNSH, related to the restoration and reforestation of the historic garden of Villa San Leonardo al Palco, in Prato. Alongside the care and restoration of the villa, which already hosts events, conferences and retreats, the project "Well-being and spirituality: *Orto-giardino Laudato Si*" will enhance the garden and preserve biodiversity, with benefits for citizens and tourist attractions. One of the main objectives is the adoption and development of ecosystem functions in the garden, with direct and positive environmental effects. The principles of both circularity and sustainable agriculture let inspire the creation of the bioactive garden, to cultivate local biodiversity for self-consumption, with the possibility to enhance sustainable food models, health and well-being. The garden will become an ecological, economic and social laboratory, capable of strengthening and spreading scientific, technical, botanical and environmental knowledge.

Keywords. urban gardens, circular economy, environmental impacts, well-being

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