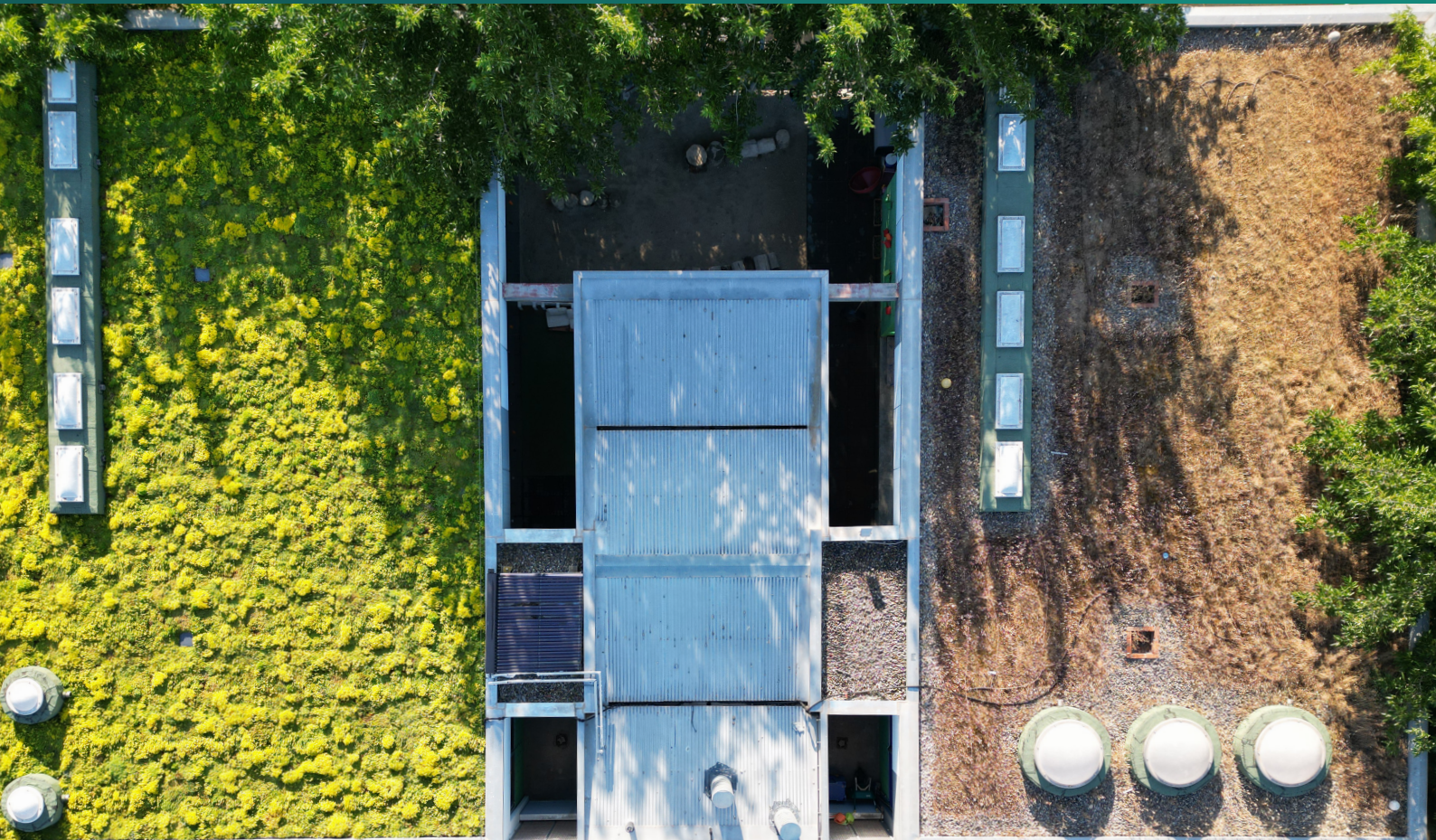




BIG4LIFE
BUILDING-INTEGRATED GREENERY

Promoting collaborative strategies for management, maintenance, impact monitoring, and evaluation of Building Integrated Greenery (BIG) systems
Towards the New European Bauhaus by advancing the lifespan of BIG Systems



/ Welcome to the **BIG4LIFE** newsletter!

This fourth edition summarises the project's progress over recent months, with special attention to the institutional visit from CINEA, the completion of new rehabilitations, academic exchanges, and the consortium's participation in international events. BIG4LIFE continues to promote urban renaturalisation through green roofs and façades, strengthening collaboration between institutions, research centres, and educational communities.



The BIG4LIFE project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union

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/ World Green Infrastructure Congress 2026

Barcelona will host the 12th World Congress on Green Infrastructure in 2026, coinciding with the Gaudí Year, honouring a pioneer in integrating nature into architecture and urban design. The congress will offer a unique space to rethink urban health, climate resilience, and the future of green cities with experts from around the world.

BIG4LIFE  **W G I C 26**

World Green Infrastructure Congress 2026

Save the date! | October 27-30, 2026
CCIB, Barcelona



/ CINEA visit and annual group meeting

In mid-September 2025, we received a monitoring visit from CINEA, the European Commission agency responsible for environmental and climate programmes such as LIFE. Representatives from the National Contact Point of the LIFE Programme of the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge also took part.

The meeting took place in Lleida and Barcelona, where several of the consortium's pilot projects were visited. All BIG4LIFE partners were present, creating a space for dialogue with European and national institutions. The visit made it possible to assess the project's progress and reinforce the shared commitment to addressing climate and urban challenges.



/ Roof rehabilitations

All pilot roofs of the BIG4LIFE project continue to undergo environmental and social monitoring.

Completion of the rehabilitation of the Cavallers roof

The roof of the building in Cavallers Street, in the centre of Lleida, has been fully restored thanks to collaborative projects with students from different training programmes. Students from Agronomy and Technical Architecture at the University of Lleida worked on improving the substrate and planting vegetation.

Carpentry students from the Castell dels Templers Institute installed two insect hotels and five nest boxes designed in the classroom. Cleaning and adaptation tasks were later carried out, including replanting half of the flowerbeds with local sedum and creating a small pond with logs to support wildlife. A camera trap was also installed to monitor the biodiversity present.

Adaptation of the Agrobiotech Park roof as a leisure and relaxation space

The roof of the Agrobiotech Park in Lleida has been adapted to become a more accessible and pleasant space. Shaded benches have been installed, along with thermo-treated pine wood decking with views over the Horta and the Seu Vella, and the paths have been improved with a weed-control mesh and compacted gravel finish. A new central platform facilitates access to the meeting room. These actions transform the roof into a habitable, welcoming space open to the community.





/ Academic exchanges

Stay of Giulia Mazzucco at the UdL

For three months, Giulia Mazzucco, a PhD student from the University of Genoa, carried out a research stay at the University of Lleida within the framework of the BIG4LIFE project. She worked on the cost-benefit analysis of BIG systems, the development of social perception surveys, and the application of the LEVEL'S methodology to assess the sustainability of the green roof at the Ronda-La Mercè School in Lleida.



Visit from a Portuguese delegation

In mid-October, a Portuguese delegation linked to the LIFE Programme visited Barcelona as part of a training initiative. BIG4LIFE presented several pilot projects to them: the Tibidabo green wall, the Urbaser biodiverse roof, and the green rooftop of the Pérez Iborra School. This exchange strengthens the project's international dimension and the commitment to sharing knowledge to advance towards greener and more resilient cities.



Visit from a professor at the University of Catania

At the end of November, we welcomed Dr Vincenzo Costanzo, professor at the University of Catania, who taught classes at the Polytechnic School of the UdL on energy efficiency and sustainable construction. He also delivered a seminar for PhD students on passive cooling and thermal comfort. During his stay, he visited several BIG4LIFE roofs, such as those of the Ronda-La Mercè nursery school and the Cavallers Street building.





/ Participation in events

World Congress on Green Roofs and Façades in Basel

On 5 and 6 June 2025, project researchers took part in the World Congress on Green Roofs and Facades in Basel, one of the leading international forums on green infrastructure. BIG4LIFE presented notable results::

- Laura Herrera: Rehabilitation of 3 green roofs
- Gabriel Pérez: Collaborative strategies for the maintenance and impact assessment of BIG systems
- Julià Coma: Advanced intelligent green roof system based on xerophytic criteria, suitable for Mediterranean and semi-arid climates (TED21 project)

The congress forms part of Green Building Week, bringing together experts from around the world to discuss innovation in urban greening.



ICED 2025 – Heraklion, Crete

The BIG4LIFE team participated in the international ICED 2025 conference on environmental design and health, presenting two papers:

- Monitoring and evaluation of impacts of building-integrated greenery systems
- Building-integrated systems. Characterisation of building and stakeholders

These events provide opportunities to share research and promote nature-based urban solutions.



Smart City Expo World Congress – Barcelona

BIG4LIFE was present at the Smart City Expo, within the CINEA space, showcasing how building-integrated green infrastructure can transform Mediterranean cities and improve urban health.



Outreach event in Genoa

The research team took part in the event “How green roofs can shape the cities of tomorrow”, featuring talks, a round table, and a workshop with students. It was an opportunity to share experiences and strengthen cooperation with the University of Genoa.





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