LIFE CERSUDS, an innovative project with which the European Commission aims to mitigate the effects of climate change.

- LIFE CERSUDS has presented in Benicàssim the first milestone in the adaptation of cities to climate change, co-financed by the European Union
- This is a sustainable urban drainage system (SuDS) made from ceramic tiles to reduce the problem of flooding and recover rainwater.
- The European Commission, in line with the Sustainable Development Objectives, is committed to innovative projects that integrate different solutions to combat climate change and its consequences.

Benicàssim, October 24th 2018. LIFE CERSURDS presented today in Bennicàssim its new Urban Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) which, co-financed by the European Commission, uses ceramic tiles of low commercial value and high quality to mitigate flooding and reuse rainwater. The presentation was attended by Javier Mira, head of research at the Institute of Ceramic Technology and principal researcher at CERSUDS, Susana Marqués, mayor of Benicàssim and Lucas González Ojeda, spokesperson for the European Commission in Spain.

The proposal consists of a permeable pavement made up of ceramic paving blocks of low commercial value. These paving stones are placed on draining bases that filter the water and lead it to a tank or channel located under the bicycle lane. In this way, the water is recovered for the irrigation of the landscaped areas. In addition, the system also acts as a collector, preventing the sewage network from being overloaded during rainfall peaks.

At the end of 2016, 800 million economic losses had been recorded in Spain and ten serious episodes related to flooding had been recorded. Currently, there are 1,300 black spots of flooding located along 9,000 km of riverbed and 1,300 km of coastline.

Regarding the project, Javier Mira commented that "one of the problems addressed by the LIFE CERSUDS project relates to the mitigation of climate change, as it reduces the environmental impact of CO2 emissions associated with the manufacture of paving materials. This reduction is possible thanks to the use of ceramic products already manufactured, which remain stored and have few possibilities of being put on the market. In addition, the performance of the original soil functions is enhanced through the installation of a permeable pavement that allows a better use of natural resources such as water and reduces the impact of flooding.

This solution is related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, mainly in the area of infrastructure, by collaborating in the construction of cities more resistant to climate change. Specifically, LIFE CERSUDS makes it possible to modernise infrastructure and reconvert industries to make them sustainable, using resources more efficiently and developing clean and environmentally sound industrial processes, which is why the European Commission has decided to take part in it.

For his part, Lucas González Ojeda, spokesman for the European Commission in Spain, highlighted that "for the European Union it is a priority to promote sustainable investment projects that also generate employment. LIFE CERSUDS makes it possible to combat a problem such as flooding in urban areas and the lack of water for irrigation, while at the same time promoting growth and local development. The prevention of natural disasters from sustainable development solutions is a big step in the adaptation of cities to climate change, one of the main focuses of this European Commission.

During the event there was also the presentation of the first phase of this project, known as Demonstrator, a section of the street Torre de Sant Vicent de Benicàssim, which has been paved with the technology of this Urban Sustainable Drainage System and serves to show first hand the results of water collection and soil permeability.

In this sense, Susana Marqués stressed that "Benicàssim has contemplated emergency actions for cases of cold drop, but always looking for new initiatives that can alleviate this situation. The LIFE CERSUDS street pavement renovation project is one of these proposals which, thanks to the collaboration of the European Commission, will make it possible to alleviate water pressure in times of heavy rainfall, placing our city at the forefront of the fight against climate change and promoting the sustainable growth of the locality".

During the development of the project, two other pre-projects will be carried out: one in the region of Aveiro (Portugal) and the other in Fiorano (Italy), two countries with ceramic clusters and climate problems similar to the Spanish one. These projects will be evaluated by both municipalities with the aim of analysing the replicability potential of the system.

On EU investments and the investEU campaign:

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About LIFE CERSUDS:

LIFE CERSUDS Ceramic Sustainable Urban Drainage System is funded by the European Commission through the LIFE programme. It is currently developing a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) that uses ceramic material of low commercial value as a paving filtering system. Its main objective is to improve the capacity of cities to adapt to Climate Change and to promote the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS).