

Green Campus Project at Istanbul Technical University

Turkey
ITU Ayazaga Campus
October 2015

21.03.2018 / Serkan Akoglu

Project profile and description



- Since several years Istanbul Technical University (ITU) is putting increasing awareness on environmental issues. This includes considering the environmental impact of its own infrastructure.
- The "Green Campus" Project started in 2013. It was based on the principle of being a pedestrian-friendly, sustainable and 24-hour living campus. Landscape studies were carried out by making endemic plant choices suitable for climate conditions. Rain and ground waters collected in ITU Artificial Pond were used in the irrigation.
- Also, water permeable asphalts were used to contribute the irrigation of the plants and trees at the campus. GreenMetric, a platform that creates global awareness on sustainability and environmental awareness, stated that ITU ranks 77th among the world's 619 most reputable universities.
- The vast campus where 40,000 students study could only be accessed by car and in the light of the "Green Campus" project, the university decided to establish a six kilometer bike lane network to in order to offer a more sustainable and environmentally aware lifestyle.
- Safety aspects played a key role in designing the cycle paths: In order to separate cyclists from motorized traffic, distinct bike lanes were clearly marked with red color which is produced with Evonik's DEGAROUTE® cold plastic resins!

Project contribution to road safety

- We paid carefully attention to anti-skid properties of the bike lane to reduce accidents caused by slippery grounds - especially after rain. "No accident reported so far."
- "The bike path has been well accepted by the students and no conflicts between cars and bikes have been reported so far."
- The new bike lanes encouraged many students to switch from car to bike.
- "Since the start of practicing separated bike lanes, very productive feedback got from the cyclists -students and stakeholders- and emphasizing that they feel very confident. They also state the new lanes made the bike riding quite enjoyable."



Project contribution to sustainability

- Encouraging cycling is a trend in many cities. For several reasons, this supports a sustainable transport.
- On the one hand it reduced the traffic in the campus and contributed to reducing parking problem in the campus as well, on the other hand, cycling has a positive health effect on the individual.
- The material chosen for marking the bike paths, is very durable and economic and thus has a low environmental impact.



Project contribution to innovation

- The design of the bike path is not new, but the way it was applied was very innovative and economic.
- For the first time in Turkey, the colored bike lane was created by spraying a thin layer of colored material, followed by anti-skid aggregates and a second thin top layer sprayed on it. These thin layers not only saved material, but also the application was very fast and the bike network has been opened in just three days.
- The feed back from the university : Easy to replication, very fast repair work if needed and very fast application system!



Project contribution to replication

- Encouraging biking is a trend in many cities and countries around the world. Our project showed an innovative way how a safe and sustainable bike network can be applied quickly and effectively.
- Following the application at ITU, just recently Izmir Metropolitan Municipality started a very big bike lane project (230.000sqm) with the same system used. Further projects are also expected and projected.
- University reported that, "After this application, all new bike paths in the campus were done with this system"





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