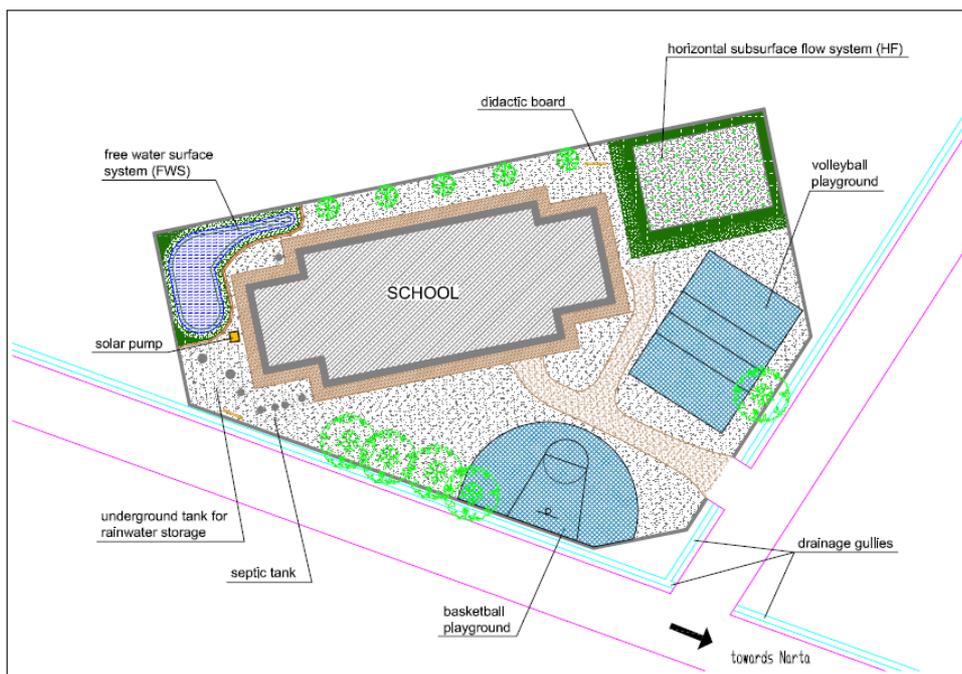


The Constructed Wetlands project in Albania and the Ecological School

The primary school of the Albanian village of Narta, where the Constructed Wetland system will be implemented in the framework of IDEASS and the ART GOLD Programme, will constitute the first Ecological School in the Country. The UNDP GEF Small Grants Program officialised its economical participation to the project, for an amount of 47,564 US Dollars. Contacts are ongoing with the Italian Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, which is interested in joining the project's donors in the framework of the ART GOLD Programme.

A new mission of the ARPAT experts, Beatrice Pucci and Marco Gardenti, took place from 18 to 25 February 2007, in order to define the executive project. In this contest, according with the school director, the Narta's authorities and the donors, it was decided that the system implementation will be accompanied by other ecological initiatives, in order to create a sustainable development model for other institutions and a didactical centre for environmental education.



In practice, the depurated waters coming from the constructed wetland system will be collected, by means of gravity, in a "free water system" that will be organized as a small didactical botanic garden with samples of local flora and reproducing the Narta Lagoon natural environment. The raining waters will be also utilized: coming from the school's roof, they will be collected to a tank, allowing the system maintenance during the dry period of the year. These waters will be brought to the system by means of a solar-energy pump, representing a further example of sustainable use of the resources.

The whole green area of the school as well as the common spaces will be reorganized and rehabilitate. Finally, the school will be equipped with computers, printers and internet connection that will allow to carry on didactical activity and to publish self-made environmental awareness material. During the project, cultural and environmental activities will be realized, as training courses, concerts and environmental days, in collaboration the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Tuscany (ARPAT) and with other scientific and cultural organizations.

