COST-Action TD 1106: Urban Agriculture Europe (UAE)

COST TUD Annual Progress Conference 2013

Prof. Dr. Frank Lohrberg, Action Chair

Chair of Landscape Architecture, RWTH Aachen University



Topics

- 1. Action objectives
- 2. Action growth during starting phase
- 3. Action activities and outcomes
 - meeting and workshop activities
 - WG activities
 - Website activities
- 4. Work plan
- 5. Strengths and challenges, added value of COST UAE



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Main/primary Action objectives defined by the MoU

"The main objective of the Action is to develop a common, specifically European approach to urban agriculture among European scholars and professionals in this field.

This will be established by the method of a European Atlas on Urban Agriculture grounded in field experiences and reference regions and will serve European policy makers for the further development of the Common Agriculture Policy."



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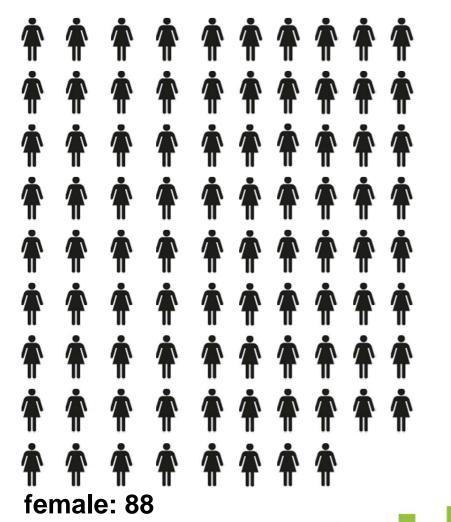


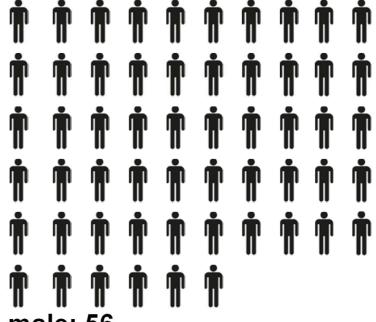
15 Partner Countries March 2012





Gender Balance: 144 individuals registered for the Action





male: 56





TILL T

Early Stage Researchers: 61 of 144 participants are ESR (42%)



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1st WG Meeting Aachen, 09-12/07/12













Frank Lohrberg, Axel Timpe (eds.)

COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe: Documentation 1st Working Group Meeting

Aachen 9-12/7/2012



1st Training School Malmö, 26-28/11/12











Tim Delshammar

COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe: Training School

Malmö 26-28/11/2012



2 Short Term Scientific Missions Barcelona, february/march 2013

Two ESR from different disciplines (agronomy, landscape architecture) and different WGs have been working as a team











GIACCHÈ, Giulia - TÓTH, Attila

COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe: UA in Barcelona Metropolitan Region Short Term Scientific Mission Report

Barcelona, Spain 25/02-15/03/2013





1st WG Conference Barcelona, 12-15/3/13





COST Urban Agriculture Europe

2nd Working Group Meeting

Castelldefels (Ba colona), 12/3/13- 15/3/13

UPC - Oniversitat Politécnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech BL - Campus Baix Llobregat, Castelldefels (Barcelona) SAB - School of Agricultural Engineering of Barcelona



First policy recommendations: The Barcelona Declaration





Barcelona Declaration on Urban Agriculture and the Common Agricultural Policy Poster 1/2

The COST Action TD 1106 Urban Agriculture Europe has started in 2012. It gathers researchers and practitioners from more than 20 European countries.

The objective is to elaborate a European perspective on Urban Agriculture and its potentials for a sustainable development according to the Europe 2020 Strategy. To this end the Action will prepare recommendations for improving European policies. A special emphasize is to be placed on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The CAP is currently repositioned. Thus, the Action has elaborated this short term declaration on Urban Agriculture and the Common Agricultural Policy.

We define Urban Agriculture as spanning all actors, communities, activities, places and economies that focus on biological production, in a spatial context that, according to local opinions and standards, is perceived as "urban". Because agricultural production in the urban realm tends to be strongly context related (to local markets, citizens, urban spaces, cultural histories and so on) Europe's Urban Agriculture is characterized by a broad variety of types. These types offer a lot of values for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for job creation as well.

Based on a long tradition of direct custom orientation Urban Agriculture provides a high knowledge and innovation potential. Its products aim at quality, specialization and services and therefore are trend setting / impulse giving for the whole agricultural sector (smart growth). Urban agriculture can contribute to resource efficiency and food security. It is an excellent tool for building up, designing and maintaining the cities green and climate active infrastructure (sustainable growth). Urban Agriculture is actually on the agenda of most European cities because it offers opportunities for social inclusion and job creation on a low threshold (inclusive growth). The presence of agriculture within and in the perimeter of cities provide the urban dwellers with high quality recreational experiences and raise standards of living.

Despite its high potentials Urban Agriculture is largely neglected in Europe's policies and especially in the CAP. Urban Agriculture is neither institutionalized on the EU administration level, nor in the member states. As the Directorate's General name puts out "Agriculture" is automatically combined with "Rural Development". Thus, UA is double marginalized by CAP: Due to its small size it does not really benefit from the direct payments pillar. Due to its location it is not covered

by most of the rural development programs. The CAP has a long tradition for recognizing the multifunctional character of farms and agriculture in Europe. The multifunctional character of farms is excessively well developed in the Urban Agriculture of Europe, hence it makes sense to integrate this job and growth promoting branch of agriculture in the CAP thinking.

Therefore we ask for a stronger consideration of Urban Agriculture in order to create valuable development impulses in urban and suburban areas and this is where most of Europe's citizens live - in the worlds' most urbanized continent.

We recommend basically to the EU Commission to

- recognize Urban Agriculture as a driving force for innovation in the whole agricultural sector
- raise awareness for Urban Agriculture and its special conditions, potentials and demands
- promote research on Urban Agriculture
- include Urban Agriculture issues in the mission statement of Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG Agri)
- install an advisory group on Urban Agriculture at the DG Agri
- institutionalize Urban Agriculture within one of the DG's Agri units

Concerning the CAP reform we recommend to both, the EU Commission and the member states

- to rearrange direct payments for the benefit of small-size, labor-intensive and innovative forms of agriculture
- not to limit the Regional Policy and Rural Development Programs and the Communitarian Initiatives as LEADER or PRODER automatically to rural areas, but to widen up the scope of at least some programs to urban areas
- to create development programs that stimulate smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by Urban Agriculture

The COST action UAE will carry forward its work until 2016 and differentiate its policy recommendations. We hope for a fruitful exchange of views with the European Commission and member states' administrations in order to address the potentials of Urban Agriculture as a multi-capable tool for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth all over Europe.

COST Action TD 1106 Urban Agriculture Europe



Steering Group and European Commission Meeting, June 2013

The strategic orientation of the Action and the cooperation of the four Working Groups has been defined on a meeting of the Steering Group (Action Chairs, WG Chairs, Website responsible) in Brussels.

2 Short Term Scientific Missions Dublin, August/September 2013

The connection of STSMs to a reference region has proven to be a successful way to provide high quality output for the Action in Barcelona.



2 Freelance Short Term Scientific Missions, 2013/2014

Freelance STSMs offer ESR the opportunity to place their personal research interest within the framework of the Action.



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WG activities: WG 1 – Definitions and European Policies of UA

WG 1 has prepared the "Barcelona Declaration on Urban Agriculture" adopted by the whole Action. It is now working on the "Interaction Model of Urban Agriculture" representing the overall policy dimensions to be addressed by the Action. A literature review concerning typologies of UA has been elaborated

Work on the "Dictionnary of Urban Agriculture in Europe" will follow.

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COST Action TD 1106 Urban Agriculture Europe

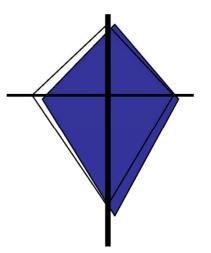
ST-Action Urban Agriculture Europ

Interaction Model of Urban Agriculture:

Social interaction

Which are the social preconditions promoting interaction among people by urban agriculture?

Ecological interaction Which are ways to make urban agriculture an interacting part of urban metabolism?



Spatial interaction Which are the spatial preconditions promoting interaction of/on urban agricultural land?

Economic interaction How do entrepreneurial models of UA promote spatial, ecological and social forms of interaction?

WG activities: WG 2 – Governance and local policies of Urban Agriculture

A collection of papers on reference regions has allowed WG 2 to establish a framework that shows different policy goals linked with Urban Agriculture mainly on the municipality levels.

Further research will allow to compare policies that can be found throughout Europe and to give recommendations for an integrated Urban Agriculture policy on local and regional level.

Involvement of urbanites in UA On this side of the x axis stronger involvement of urbanites On this side of the x axis stronger involvement of professional farmers of urbanites in UA On this side of the x axis stronger involvement of professional farmers Of professional farmers On this side of the x axis stronger involvement of professional farmers Of Peripheral

POLICY MAKING SECTORS

SECTORS	URBAN AGRICULTURE ADDED VALUE	MAIN UA ACTORS INVOLVED		
		MARKET	STATE	CIVIL SOCIETY
AGRICULTURE	DISTRIBUTION SHORT CIRCUITS LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM			
MOBILITY	PROXIMITY ENERGY REDUCTION			
TOWN PLANNING	CITY GREENING, URBAN METABOLISM, DERELICT SPACES, LAND USES			
REGIONAL AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING	LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP, GREEN INFRAESTRUCTURE, LAND USE			
SOCIAL AND WORK	INTEGRATION, ANTICRISIS, IMMIGRATION			
ENVIRONMENT	CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCES, WATER, ENERGY, WASTE REDUCTION, ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES, GREEN NFRAESTRUCTURE			
HEALTH AND WELFARE	LOCAL FOOD, FOOD SECURITY			
ECONOMY	SELF SUFFICIENCY, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, SHORT CIRUCUITS			
EDUCATION AND CULTURE	SCHOOL GARDENING LAND ART			

WG activities: WG 3 – Entrepreneurial Models of Urban Agriculture

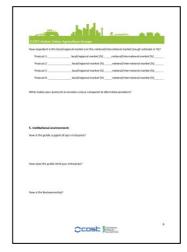
Based on a review of national case studies presented at the first WG meeting in Aachen WG 3 has developed a standard questionnaire for analysing urban and peri-urban agricultural activity at the Barcelona WG Meeting.

The questionnaire available in different languages will be used to collect material for the catalogue of entrepreneurial models in Urban Agriculture.

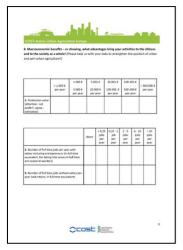






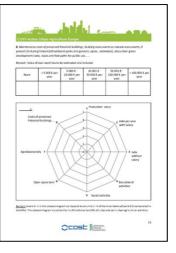














WG activities: WG 4 – Spatial Visions of urban Agriculture

WG 4 has collected national case studies at the 1st WG Meeting in Aachen. The 2nd WG Meeting in Barcelona has been used to start the creation of a common working method for the description and graphic representation of the different case study landscapes.

First case studies adopted to this method will be submitted in autumn 2013.

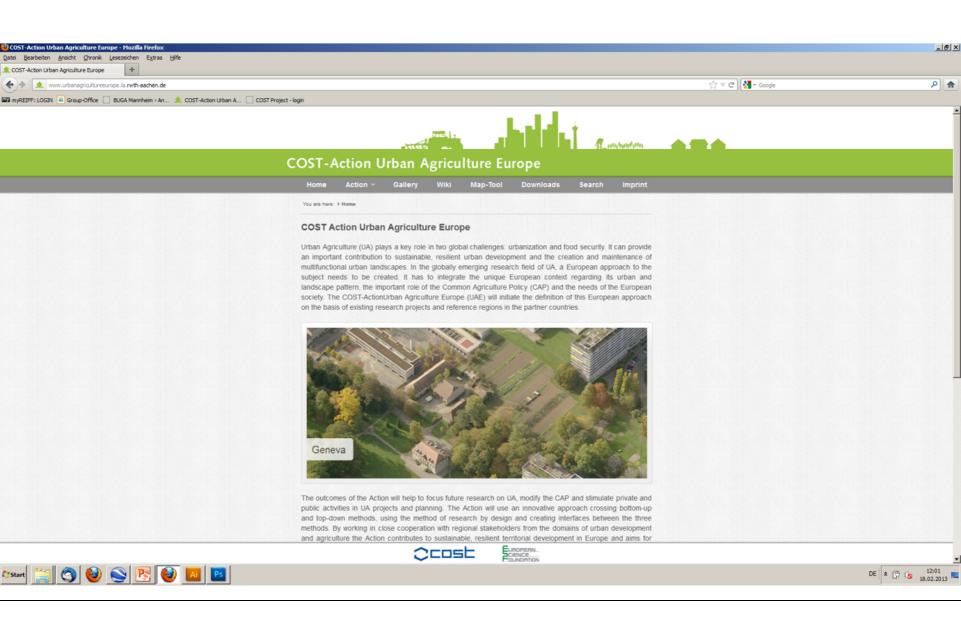


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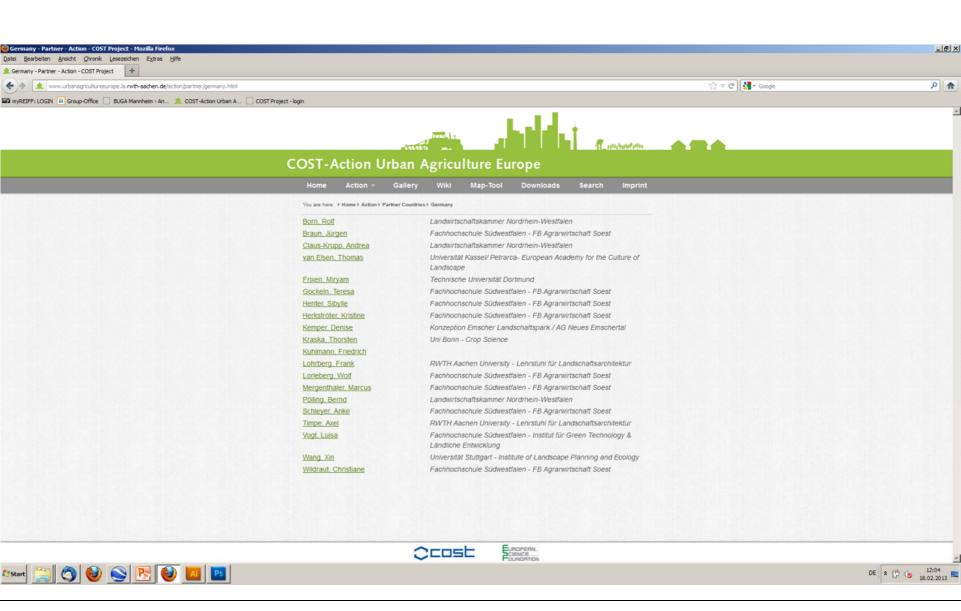
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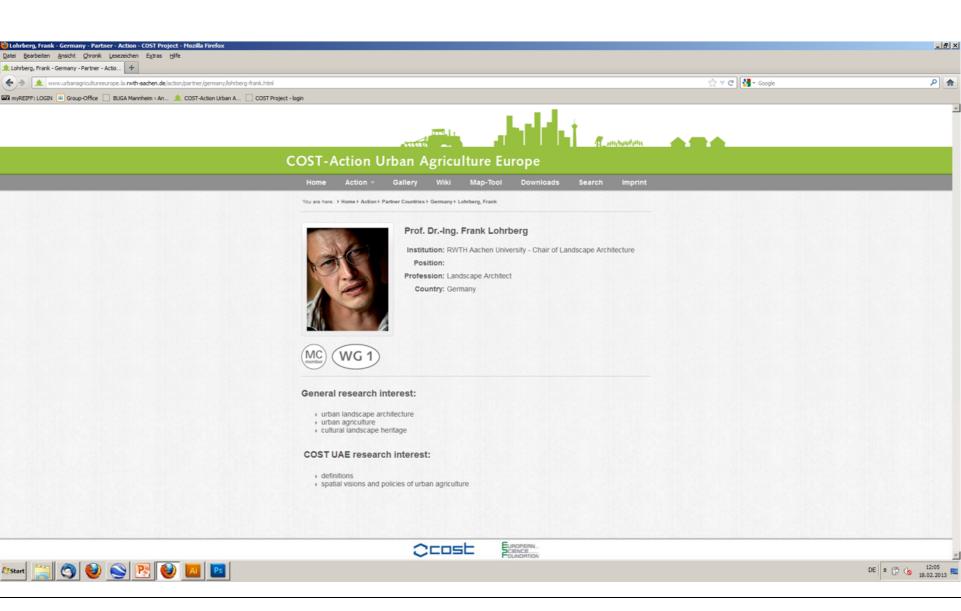
Action Website online



All partner countries and researchers are displayed on the website

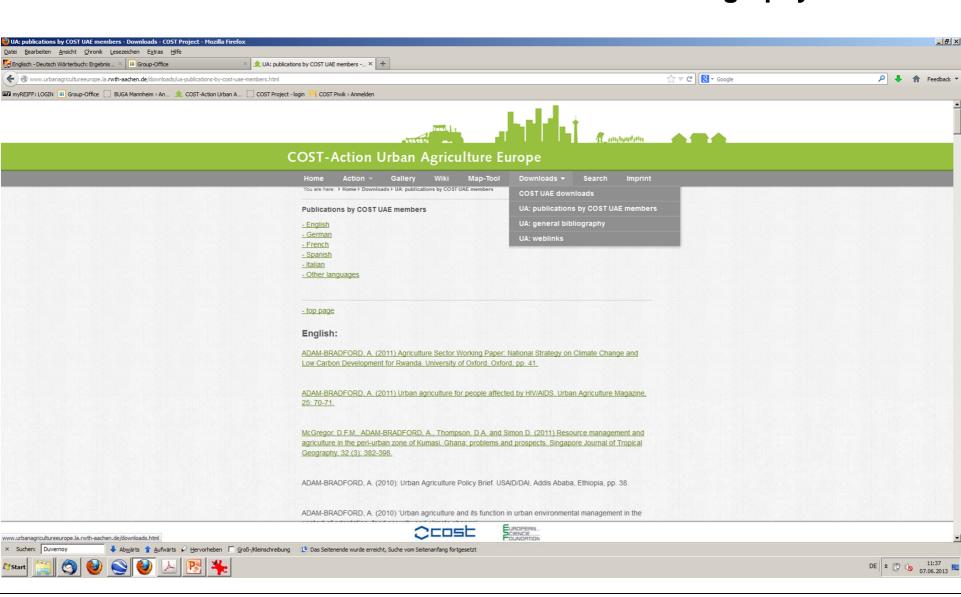


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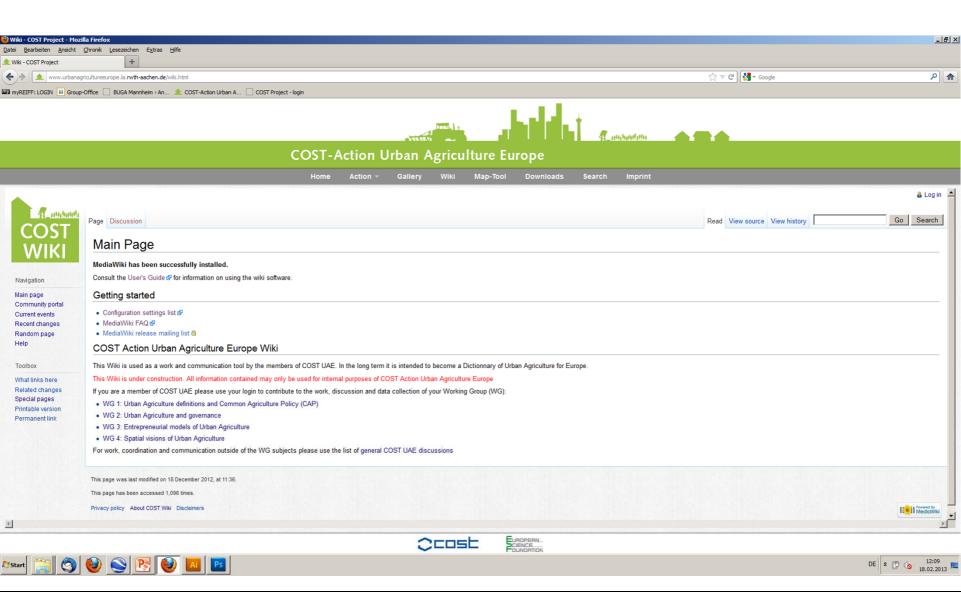


Download section with COST UAE publications

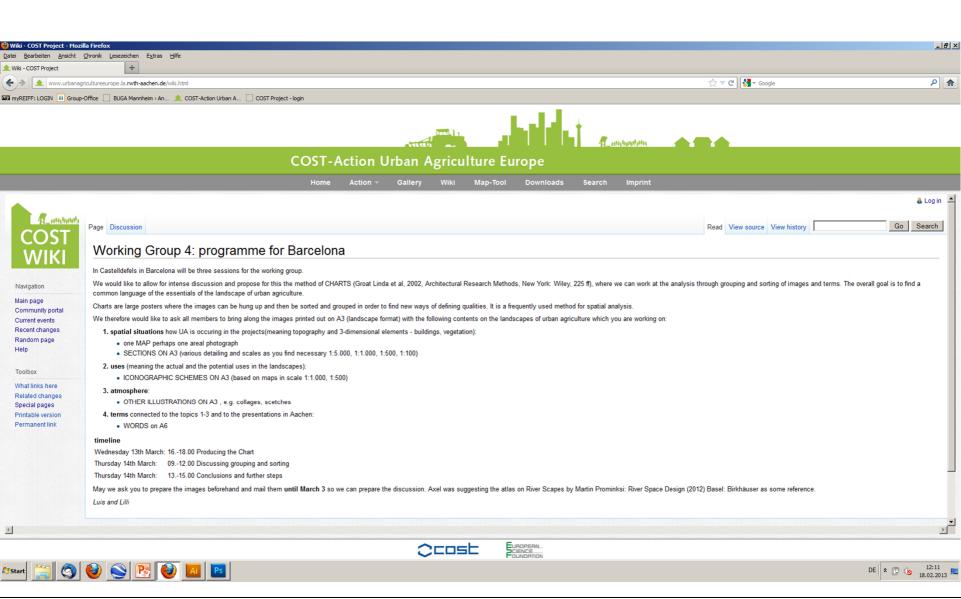
→ will be extended as documentation centre with bibliography and links



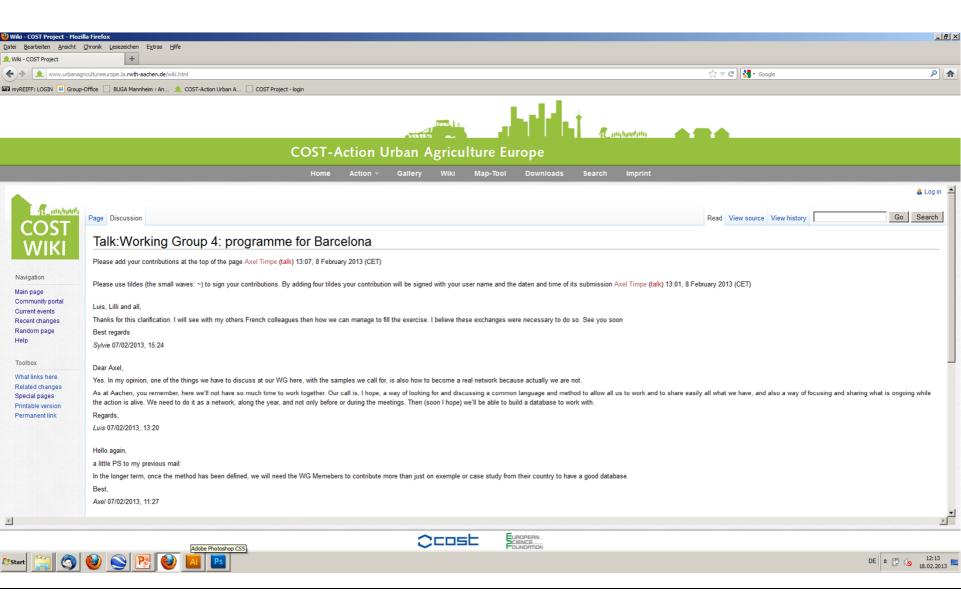
COST UAE Wiki as a cooperation tool



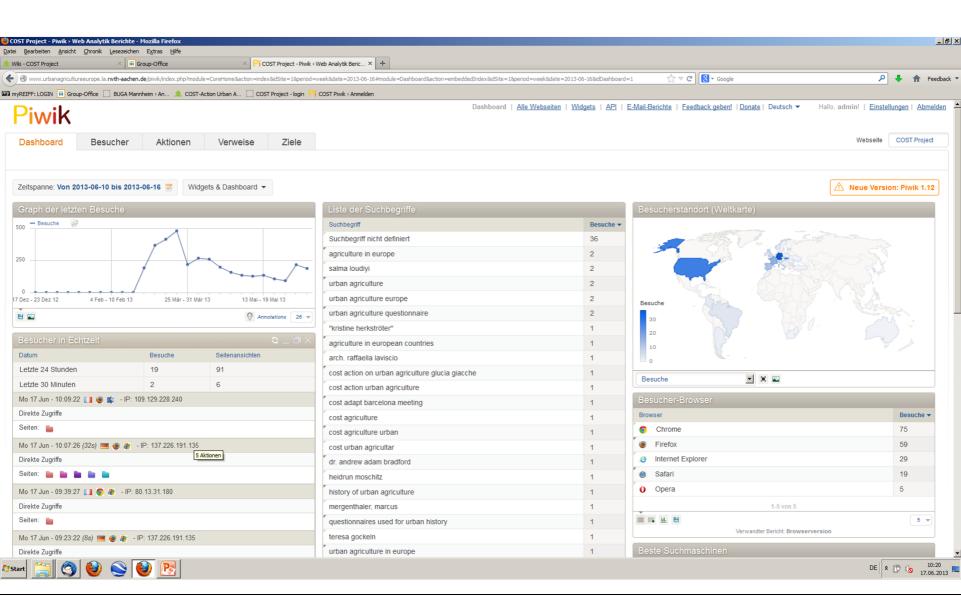
Content can be added and edited by all Action members



Discussion pages can be used as a forum for exchange



Since 26th February a website statistic tool has been installed

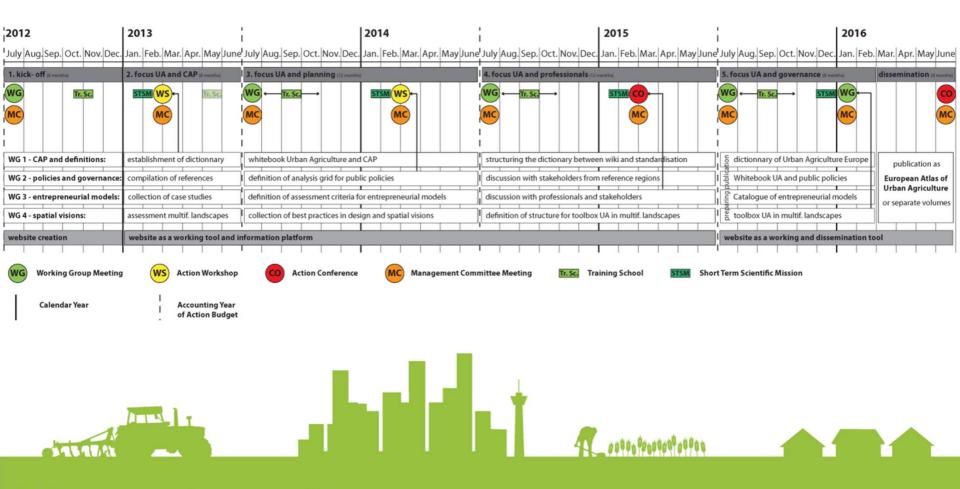


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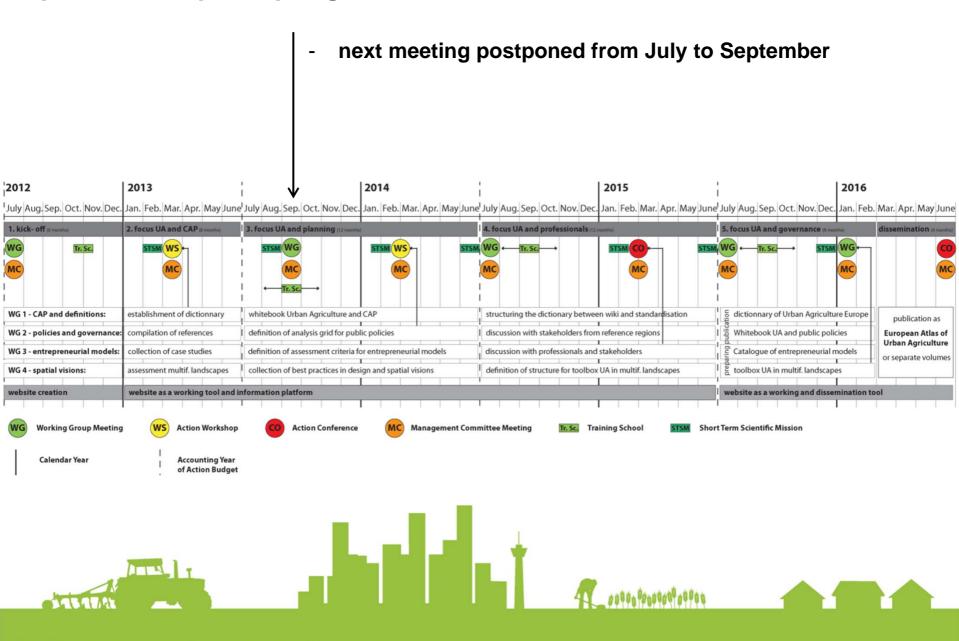


Initial Action Work Plan, July 2012



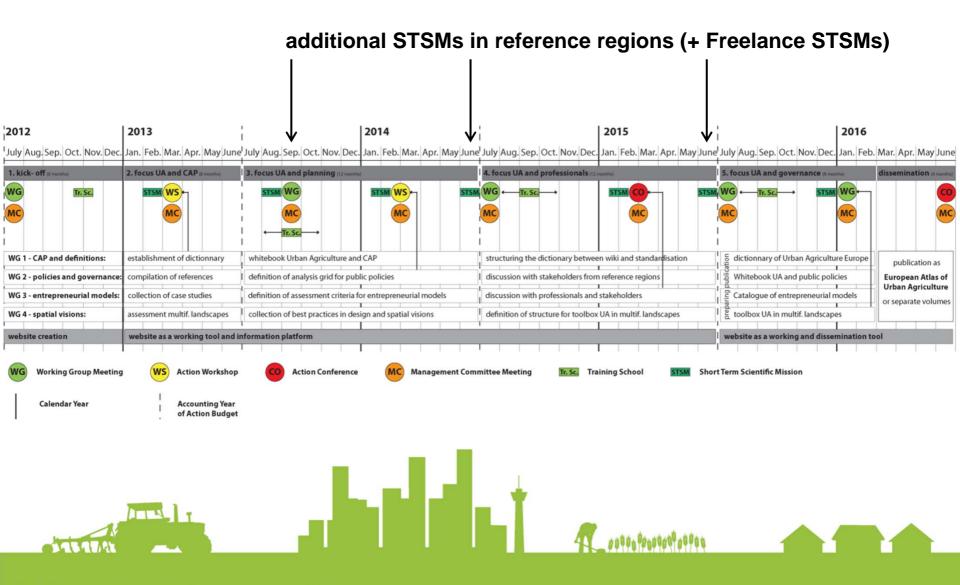
COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

Updated workplan spring 2013



COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

Proposal for updating the workplan

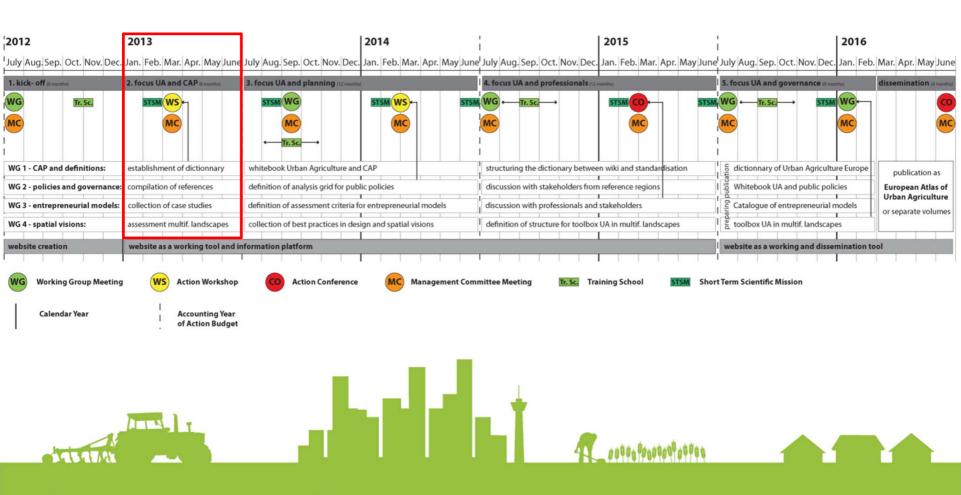


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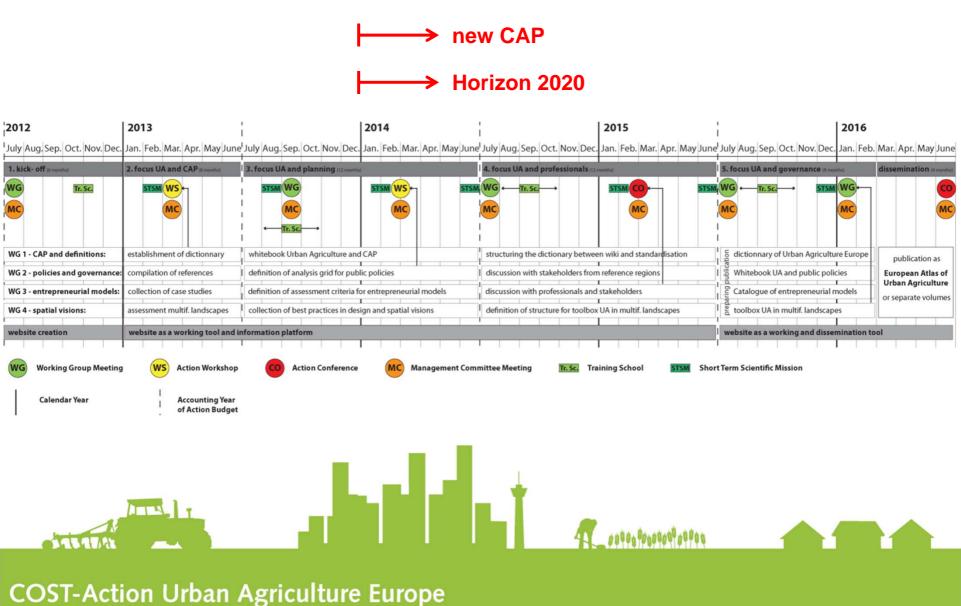
Previous and scheduled events, 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 July Aug. Sep. Oct. No. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mir. Apr. May Jun July Aug. Sep. Oct. No. Apr. May June July Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June r. Apr. May June July Aug. Sep. Oct Nov. Dec. 4. focus UA and professionals 2. focus UL and CAP 5. focus UA and governance dissemination (4) WG 1 - CAP and definitions: establishment of dictionnary whitebook Urban Agriculture and CAP structuring the dictionary between wiki and standardisation dictionnary of Urban Agriculture Europe publication as compilation of references definition of analysis grid for public policies discussion with stakeholders from reference regions Whitebook UA and public policies WG 2 - policies and governance: **European Atlas of Urban Agriculture** WG 3 - entrepreneurial models: collection of case studies definition of assessment criteria for entrepreneurial models discussion with professionals and stakeholders Catalogue of entrepreneurial models or separate volumes WG 4 - spatial visions: assessment multif, landscapes collection of best practices in design and spatial visions definition of structure for toolbox UA in multif. landscapes toolbox UA in multif. landscapes website creation website as a working tool and information platform website as a working and dissemination tool **Working Group Meeting Action Workshop Action Conference** Management Committee Meeting Training School **Short Term Scientific Mission** Calendar Year **Accounting Year** of Action Budget

2013: a decisive year for the Action's progress...

- definition of the WGs methodology and detailed workplan
- First output: Barcelona declaration on Urban Agriculture



... and for Urban Agriculture and research in general



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Strength: strong link to reference regions through Action events



Challenge: find an equal representation of reference regions visited Malmoe Dublin Poland Warsaw United Kingdom The Netherlands **Aachen** Czech Republic Germany France Austria Romania Milan Vitoria-Gasteiz Toulouse Barcelona

Strength: reference regions allow direct contact to stakeholders

















Strength: conferences in reference regions attract general public





Strength:

Stakeholders like municipality, regional governments, Chambers of Agriculture and NGOs are directly participating in the Action







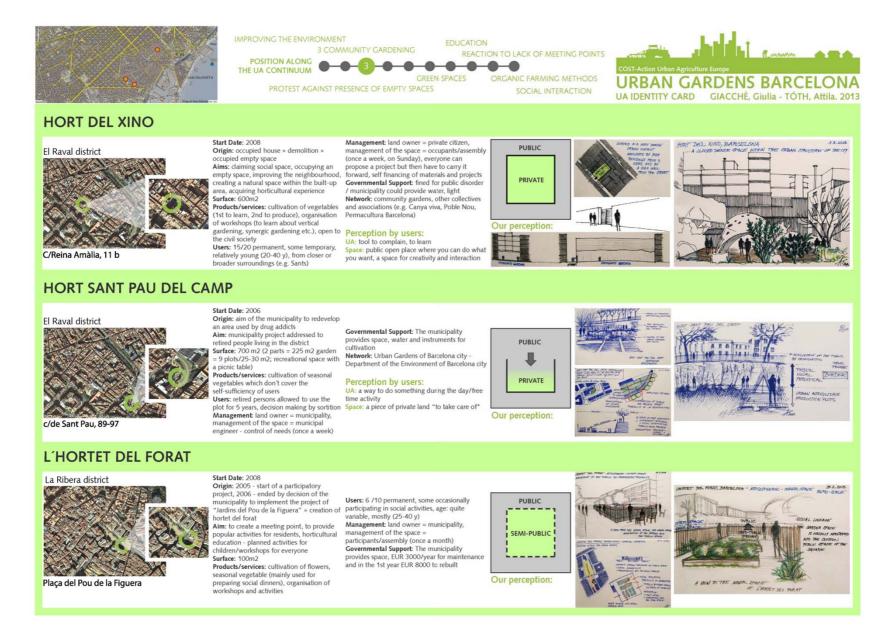








Strength: close connection to reference region allows high quality STSM



Resuming Strengths + Challenges:

The bottom-up work of the Action is successful through the strong links to reference regions

The link to European policy makers has been established but needs to be sustained.

The way to influence the future European research Agenda (horizon 2020) has to be clarified.

→ How can COST as an organisation support the Action in its contacts to European policy makers in Agriculture, research and other relevant policies?