

COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe (UAE)

Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda

February 23, 2016



COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda

13:30 Welcoming speech
Dr. Monica Dietl, COST Director

Introduction of Local Organizers
Presentation of the Action's results and the book
"Urban Agriculture Europe"
Frank Lohrberg

14:00 4 Presentations on Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda:
Wolf Lorleberg, Dona Pickard, Lionella Scazzosi, Axel Timpe

14:45 Coffee Break

15:00 World Café - Discussion with the audience
Conclusions: Urban Agriculture Perspectives
Charlotte Prové, Michiel Dehaene

16:15 Closing remarks / Closer look at the book
Frank Lohrberg



Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda

Presentation of the Action's results and the book "Urban Agriculture Europe"

Prof. Dr. Frank Lohrberg, Chair of the Action



COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

Reason

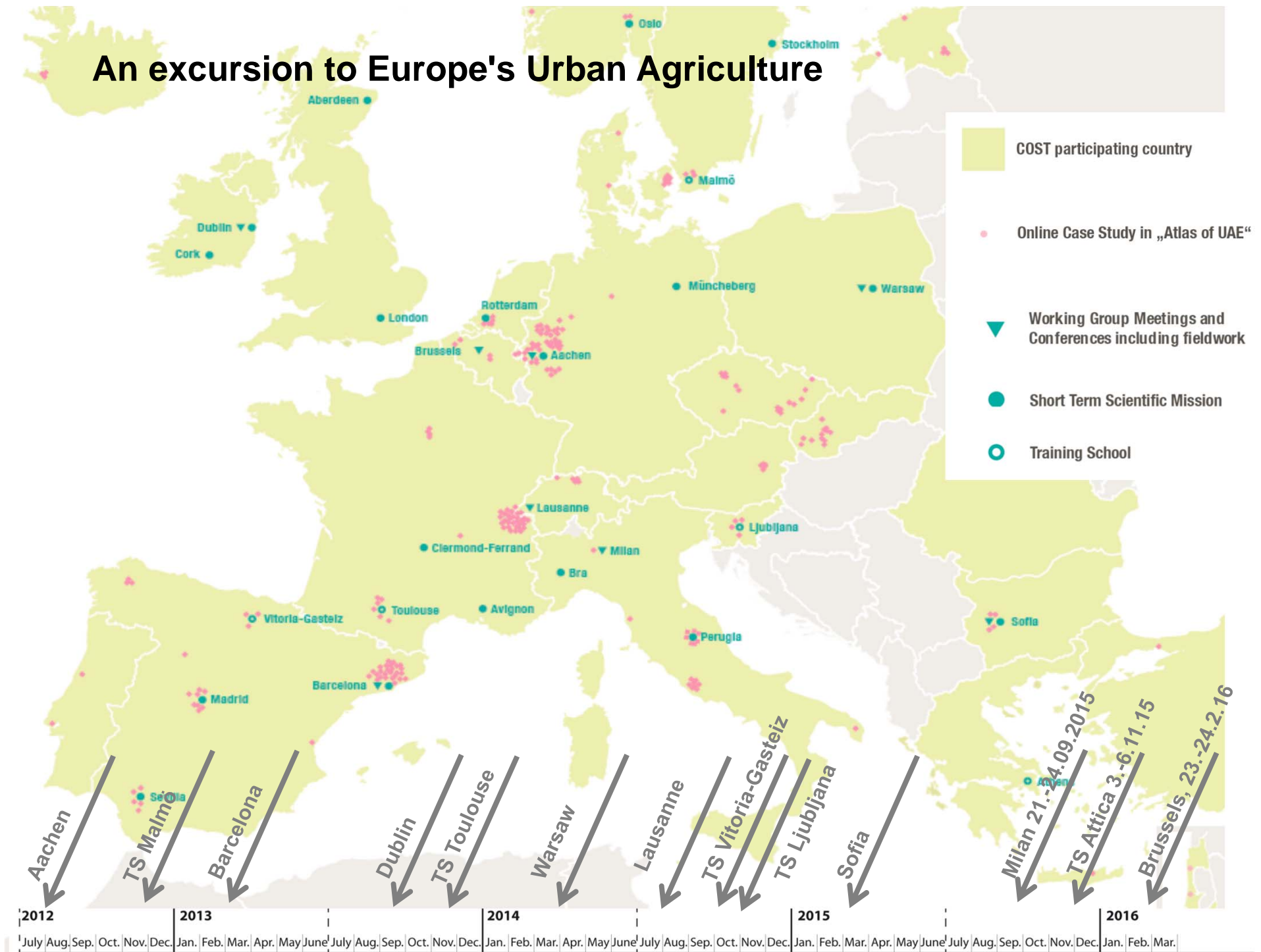
Urban agriculture is a hidden champion. It has been neglected for decades by both, urban and agricultural policies. City planners treated the agricultural land as potential building ground, agricultural policies focussed on the rural areas.

But due to worldwide challenges as urbanisation, food security and the need for a sustainable development Urban Agriculture is back on the global agenda.

- How can Urban Agriculture contribute to a smart, inclusive and sustainable development of European cities?
- How can it create vital urban spaces that have new social, cultural and ecological qualities and are also economically viable?



An excursion to Europe's Urban Agriculture



Approach

Urban Agriculture is characterized by various forms of interaction between agriculture and the urban sphere. Defining these forms of interaction will lead to a better understanding and managing of Urban Agriculture.



Interaction

Urban Agriculture is characterized by various forms of interaction between agriculture and the urban sphere. Defining these forms of interaction will lead to a better understanding and managing of Urban Agriculture.

2

Governance

Community activities,
education, social policy, ...

1

Phenomenon

Definiton, Typology,
Policy Agenda ...

3

Business

Specialisation to urban
needs, local market sales,
economic diversification, ...

4

Space

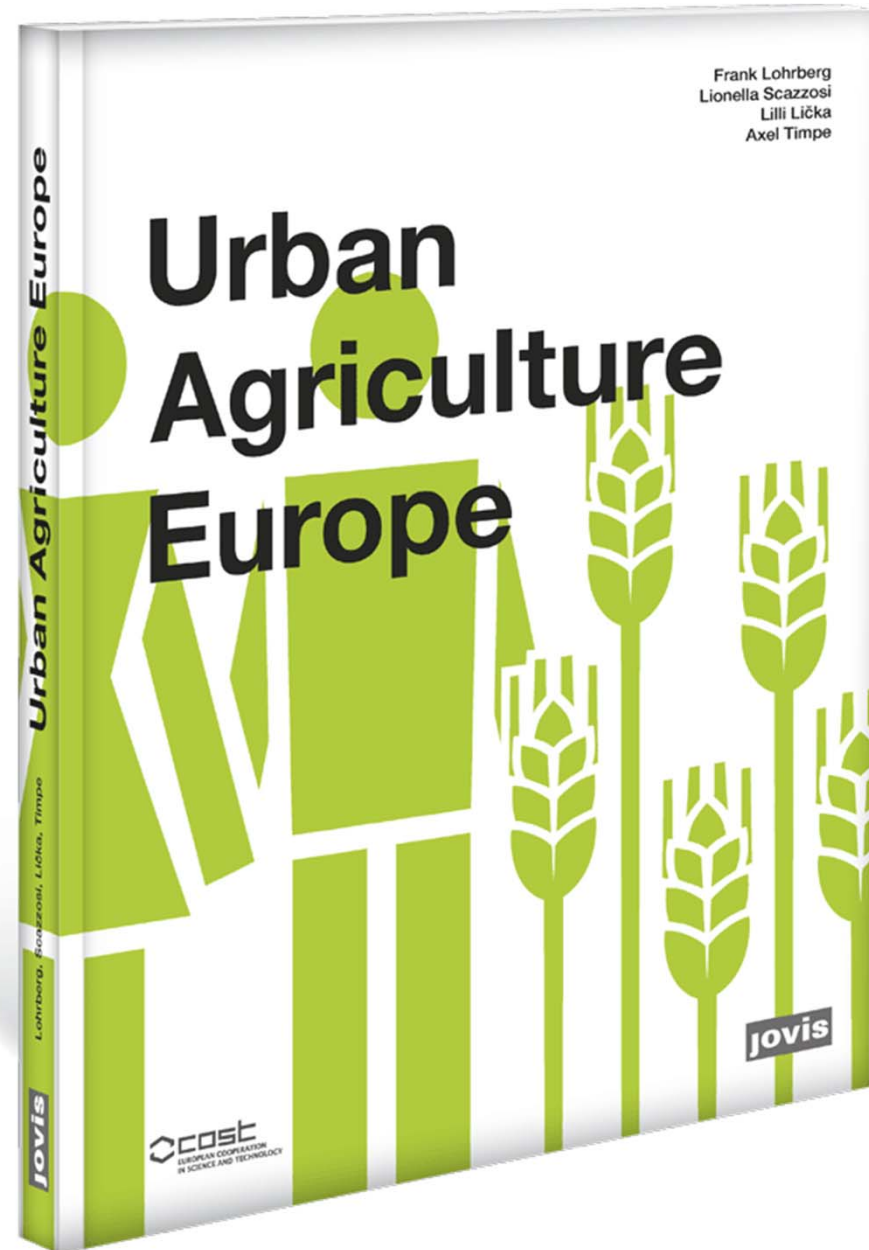
Open space access,
green infrastructure,
cultural heritage, ...

5

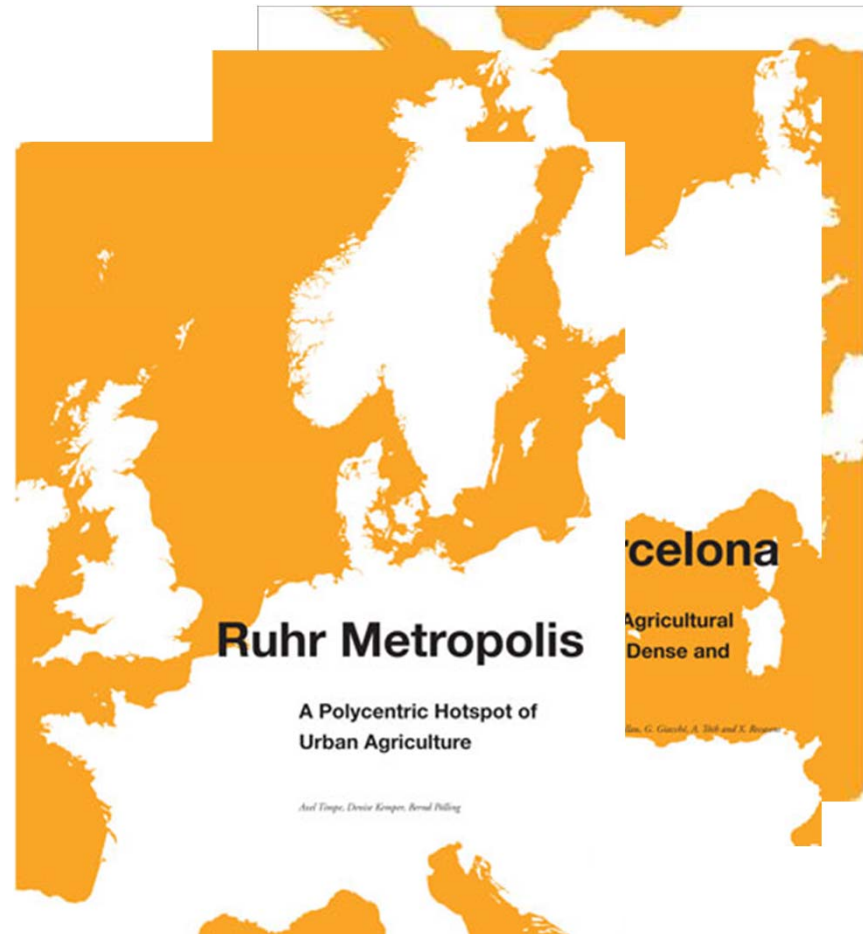
Metabolism

Waste recycling,
CO₂ sequestration,
soil and climate, ...

The Book



Statements and Case Studies



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- 8 Urban Agriculture Europe: Agriculture Interacting with the Urban Sphere

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Space

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Main findings

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Definition

Urban Agriculture spans all actors, communities, activities, places, and economies that focus on biological production in a spatial context, which—according to local standards—is categorized as ‘urban’. Urban Agriculture takes place in intra- and periurban areas, and one of its key characteristics is that it is more deeply integrated in the urban system compared to other agriculture. Urban Agriculture is structurally embedded in the urban fabric; it is integrated into the social and cultural life, the economics, and the metabolism of the city.

Why using Urban Agriculture as an overall term for intra- and periurban activities in agriculture?

- *To shed light on professional farming and gardening activities in intraurban areas / “It’s agriculture”*
- *Not to exclude periurban agriculture and its achievements from the recent promotion of Urban Agriculture / “Urban Agriculture is more than just community gardening”*



Typology

Urban Farming

On-site Experience



Leisure Farms



Social Farms



Cultural Heritage Farms



Educational Farms



Therapeutical Farms



Experimental Farms

Flows



Local Food+ Farms



Environmental Farms

Urban Food Gardening

Individual Production



Allotment Gardens



Family Gardens



Squatter Gardens

Collective Production



Educational Gardens



Community Gardens



Therapeutical Gardens



Allotment Gardens



Actors involved

Non-professional farming dominates in intraurban areas, while professional farming dominates in periurban areas.

But there is evidence that professional farming is interested in developing new business models for the intraurban areas.

New alliances from government, civil society and the market occur.



Business Models

*Urban Agriculture is a business characterized by 5 business models
All models can be found in rural areas as well but the urban area has proofed to be a breeding ground for innovation
(forerunners inspiring the whole sector).*

Differentiation



Diversification



Low Cost



The Commons



Experience

Green Infrastructure by Urban Agriculture



UA as part of a Green Belt:

- Belvedere Park, Cologne
- Ceinture Verte, Toulouse
- Anillo Verde, Vitoria-Gasteiz
- Berliner Barnim



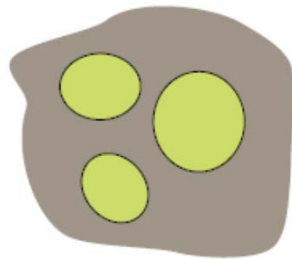
UA as a Green Corridor:

- le parc fertile, Geneva
- Espai rural de Gallecs
- Pferdelandpark, Aachen



UA as a Green Network:

- Green C, Bonn
- Landschaftspark Mechtenberg, Ruhr



UA as a Green Patch:

- Parc des Lilas, (near) Paris
- Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord
- Landschaftspark Herzberge, Berlin

A Green Infrastructure in urban areas as required from the European Commission can only be build up and maintained with different forms of Urban Agriculture.

Urban Agriculture can forge green belts, corridors, networks, patches and matrices.

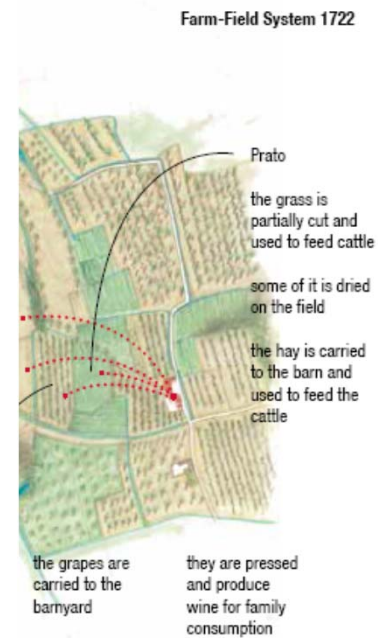
It allows trans-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder consultation processes for co-design, co-development and co-implementation.

A shift is needed from ornamental to productive nature based solutions.

Green Infrastructure inspired by agri-cultural heritage

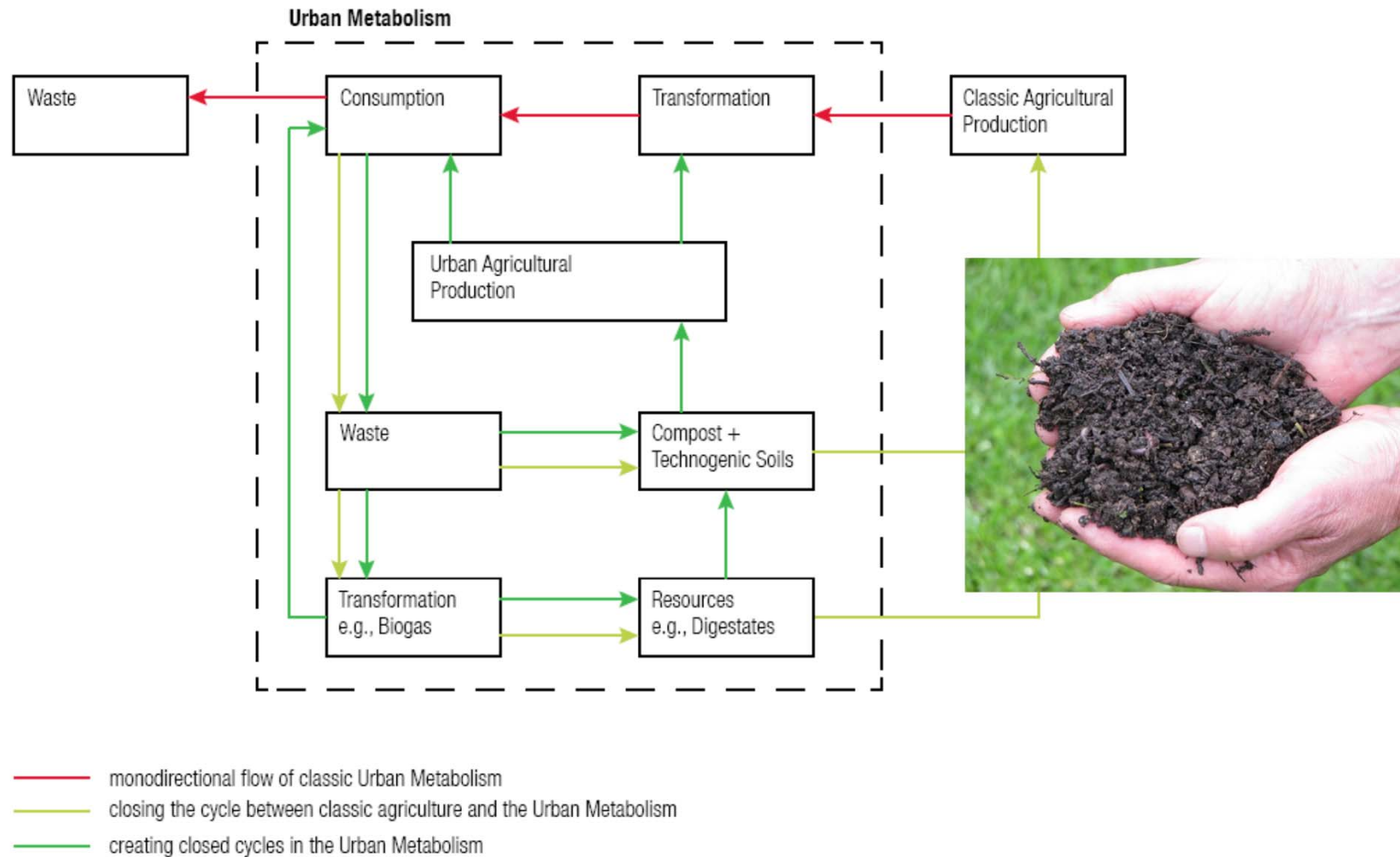
A Cultural Heritage approach can often enhance stakeholder and citizen ownership of the Green Infrastructure

It helps in redefining the city's social identity in a globalized world



New cycles / environmental justice

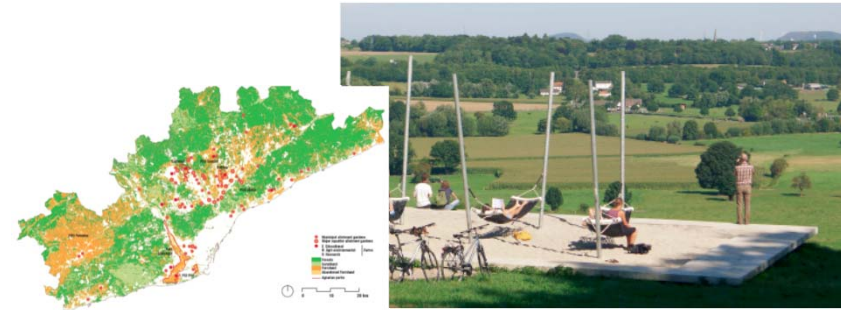
New Forms of Urban Agriculture and new rural-urban linkages are needed to achieve a more circular economy of cities and urbanized regions.



UA evolution on the farming level Europe's starting point



aspects of innovation



territorial approaches / green infrastructure



innovative business models



New alliances / newcomers

UA evolution on the gardening level Europe's starting point



aspects of innovation



new allotments / allotments as parks



community gardens and social purposes



food gardens as urban laboratories

Source: Generalisation from COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe case studies and reports (See figure XX)

Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda

14:00 Presentations on Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda:

Common Agricultural Policy

Prof. Dr. Wolf Lorleberg

Social and Environmental Policies

Dr. Dona Pickard

Territorial Policies

Prof. Lionella Scazzosi

Research Needs / Horizon 2020

Axel Timpe



COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

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- 1) *In your opinion, which European policy field(s) in particular should give more attention to UA?*
- 2) *Could you name one strategic initiative the EU could take that could have a real impact on the development of UA in Europe?*



Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda

14:00 Presentations on Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda:

Common Agricultural Policy

Prof. Dr. Wolf Lorleberg

South Westphalia University of Applied Sciences



COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

Contributions of UA to develop European Agriculture towards 2020 following the EU policy objectives:

Challenges:

Improved competitiveness:
Economic viability

Food security:
Food policies

Improved ecological sustainability:
Climate change
Conservation of natural resources
Cultural landscape maintenance
Biodiversity and habitats
Animal welfare

Improved (rural) vitality:
Demographic change
Vitality of (rural) areas
Social coherence



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Social coherence



Consumer needs:
Market



Citizen's need = societal needs:
Society



**Serving consumer needs & societal demands
under market conditions**



Business models of UA

**COST UAE business models show:
UA as a “laboratory“ for innovative and sustainable farming**



Differentiation – Creating distinctions



Low cost –
tly synergies



Diversification – Going beyond core activities











Experience – Selling experiences, less products



The Commons – Sharing resources & products

COST UAE business models show: UA creates societal values

Indicators	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
 Production Value (€/a)	<= 1,000	> 1,000 - 5,000	> 5,000 - 20,000	> 20,000 - 100,000	> 100,000 - 500,000	> 500,000
 Paid Jobs (full-time equivalent/a)	None	< 0.25	> 0.25 - 1	> 1 - 5	> 5 - 10	> 10
 Non-paid, Full-time Jobs (full-time equivalent/a)	None	< 0.25	> 0.25 - 1	> 1 - 5	> 5 - 10	> 10
 Educational Activities (person-hours/a*)	None	< 100	> 100 - 1,000	> 1,000 - 5,000	> 5,000 - 10,000	> 10,000
 Social Activities (person-hours/a*)	None	< 100	> 100 - 1,000	> 1,000 - 5,000	> 5,000 - 10,000	> 10,000
 Managed Open Space (ha/a)	None	<= 0.1	> 0.1 - 1	> 1 - 10	> 10 - 50	> 50
 Agrobiodiversity (varieties/races cultivated/kept)	1	> 1 - 5	> 5 - 10	> 10 - 20	> 20 - 30	> 30
 Cultural/natural Heritage (maintenance costs in €/a)	None	<= 5,000	> 5,000 - 20,000	> 20,000 - 50,000	> 50,000 - 100,000	> 100,000

Policy lessons to learn from business models – Where CAP can support

Differentiation:

- Protection of smaller plots of land as productive spaces
- Creation of local or regional premium product platforms...

Diversification:

- Multi-functional zoning designations in physical planning
- More interaction between professionals and urban policy makers....

Low cost:

- Support by planning policy and zonal designation
- Investment in efficient public infrastructure
- Promotion of synergies for resource efficient production....

The commons / share economy:

- Support for land and irrigation water access, incl. intermediary use
- Flexibility in regulations, f.e. ref. construction regulations.....

Experiences:

- Protect character and support accessibility of places / farms
- Support with start-up support schemes
- Flexibility in regulations

e.g.

CAP 2nd pillar -
Operational Groups –

EIP-Agri / Thematic
Networks –

Flexible eligibility rules
of great importance!

Actual CAP / Rural Development Programs (RDPs) 2014 - 2020

- are principally open for UA
- offer a broad range of measures / instruments suitable to support urban agriculture, f.e. direct sales / local food labelling / short supply chains / quality schemes, marketing, agri-environmental schemes, cooperations, pilot projects (operational groups/EIP), investments, evtl. LEADER
- does not distinguish between rural / periurban areas, only in few cases UA is excluded (f.e diversification)
- great influence of member states on detailed regulations!

Other CAP elements relevant for UA:

- Young farmer support schemes
- Fruit and vegetables market measures

Cross-sectoral:

- Integration of different funds – new RDP are more combined with the different structural and investment funds
- New tool Community-led Local Development CLLD

Outlook: Urban Agriculture and CAP after 2020

Urbanization will continue:

Strategies for agricultural policy and development should address UA as a specific category

Stronger focus on „public money for public goods“ – a chance for UA:

- More accurate measures remunerating evidence-based societal contributions (instead of historical land use rights!)
- Strengthening of 2nd CAP pillar / profiling direct payment scheme in 1st pillar: Coupling payments efficiently to sustainability indicators?
- Flexibility for eligibility rules for UA projects and enterprises
- Improving / creating specific support to small farms/projects and new entrants



Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda

14:00 Presentations on Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda:

Social and Environmental Policies

Dr. Dona Pickard

Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences



COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

Urban Agriculture and Social and Environmental Policies

Growing Communities Through Growing Food

(Contextualising Urban Agriculture as a policy field)

UA can potentially address most issues on the EU political agenda, but is still not widely recognised as a tool to solve social, economic and environmental problems:

- unemployment;
- social exclusion;
- poverty;
- education;
- climate change mitigation;
- preservation of biodiversity;
- valorisation of cultural heritage.



Employment, social inclusion, poverty reduction and education

EU social rights and principles for sustainable development:

- full employment;
- social progress;
- social inclusion and protection;
- education as an investment in the sustainable development of the Union.

How can UA contribute?

- Providing employment opportunities and job training skills to traditionally marginalized social groups (e.g. unqualified, disabled, immigrants) and thus enhancing social inclusion through integration into the urban social network
- Creating secondary system of employment related to marketing and processing activities, thus sustaining small communities and families;
- Alleviating food insecurity, which is not an insignificant phenomenon in Europe.
- Diversifying the process of teaching history, geography, agronomy, biology through interdisciplinary, interactive and experimental methods that teach visionary, critical- and systemic thinking;
- Developing skills to implement sustainable development ideas in practice through hands-on experience in educational gardens, farms and environmentally-friendly projects;

Climate Change Mitigation and Preservation of Biodiversity

EU environmental policies aim to reduce greenhouse gases and temperatures and protect the animal and plant species, and their habitats and preserve the ecological balance for future generations.

How can UA contribute?

- Decreasing the effects of the urban heat-island phenomenon;
- Developing short supply chains and thus reducing emissions from transport;
- Utilizing urban organic wastes that can find application in energy production and organic fertilizers;
- Preservation of biodiversity through low-intensity farming systems, promoting traditional endemic varieties adapted to local characteristics and green infrastructure;
- Reduced use of pesticides and fertilizers, through traditional techniques for control of plant diseases and soil fertility;
- Preventing soil erosion, desertification and floods through enhancing soil biodiversity.

Cultural heritage, culture and landscape

The EU defines cultural heritage as a common good, able to encourage economic growth, employment and social cohesion through the requalification of degraded areas, the creation of locally rooted jobs, and promoting a shared understanding and sense of belonging to a community.

How can UA contribute?

- Preserving and promoting local cultures by maintaining and re-using traditional local customs and uses related to agriculture;
- Preserving pre-existing features such as historical rural buildings, ancient irrigation systems and a variety of historic agrarian landscape features;
- Increasing the specificity and identity of places or enhancing the quality of intra-urban and periurban spaces;
- Diversifying the local economy: agrotourism activities; income from entrance fees; renting farms that have been converted into holiday homes;
- Restoring the connections of urbanites with rural spaces and activities and with the natural environment.

Urban Agriculture and Social and Environmental Policies

Discussion and Conclusions

UA interacts with different urban spheres: social life, spatial fabric and markets and it involves a lot of different stakeholders and potential innovators.

Still, UA is seldom used as a cross-sectoral field of action by local stakeholders.

The complexity of the problems that Europe faces calls for a complex and integrative solution that promotes the interplay of different sectors, policies and tools. UA is a perfect tool for such solutions.

For the current funding period (2014–2020), it will be crucial to make better use of the integrative potential of Urban Agriculture: ERDF, Green Infrastructure, European Social Fund and Social policies for youth unemployment and integration of minorities



Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda

14:00 Presentations on Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda:

Territorial Policies

Prof. Lionella Scazzosi

Politecnico di Milano



COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

Lessons learnt from case studies

➤ **Rural versus urban**

In Europe's metropolitan areas the rural(agricultural)-urban dichotomy is vanishing in terms of both, the mental and cultural attitude and the perception of space

➤ **UA spaces in intraurban and periurban areas provide goods & services to society:** fertile soil, clean water, food, ... , and “non-provisioning” services, such as cultural value of landscape, recreation, social cohesion, physical and mental health

➤ **UA greatest specificity is not in serving one function in one space,** but in promoting the interplay of different ones (social, environmental, food production, culture, health, recreation,) in the same spaces

➤ **UA contributes to change vision and strategies for collective open spaces,** adding a third solution to the public designed urban parks and protected natural areas: agricultural spaces as recreational and multifunctional spaces which are less expensive and more sustainable



Lessons learnt from case studies

- **Some current territorial planning strategies and instruments conflict with UA**
Agrarian parks are useful models but not comprehensive
- **Urban Agriculture can have an ecological role**
- **Bottom-up process is a resource**
spontaneous cooperation and networks of stakeholders characterise many UA initiatives
- **UA can promote a shared understanding**
and a sense of belonging to a place, contributes to the identities of urban metropolitan population
- **Food gardening stakeholders (citizens) can have conflicts with farmers**
in term of spaces and activities



Key messages

- The Metropolitan area is the strategic territorial and administrative level for UA policies. European Metropolitan areas should better coordinate their strategies.
- Change territorial strategies, policies and territorial (and landscape) planning instruments to produce a new city-countryside mesh of interactions in terms of spaces and functions.
- Encourage cross-sectorial policies and tools (territorial and landscape dimensions; ecological and cultural sectors; social and economical perspective; ...).
- Sustain bottom-up processes, improve collaboration among stakeholders (farmers, food gardeners, citizens, landowners) and mutual understanding between farmers and citizens.
- Interconnect strategies for food gardening and farming, in term of spaces, activities, and production.
- Sustain research and professional education to build decision-supported tools.



European Instruments

- Territorial Agenda 2020 and the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (2006) call for an integrated development of cities and urban regions
- The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) should be better addressed and used as a driver for Urban Agriculture
- The EC's Green Infrastructure initiative should be promoted also by Urban Agriculture and supported by agri-environmental programs 2014-20 using a result-based payment scheme for farmland biodiversity.



A NEW IDEA OF CITY IS NEEDED!

•Source: European Commission, 2013. [Building a Green Infrastructure for Europe](#).

Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda

14:00 Presentations on Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda:

Research Needs / Horizon 2020

Axel Timpe

RWTH Aachen University



COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

COST UAE Research

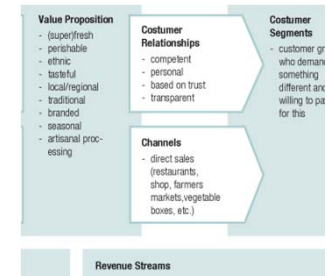


European typology

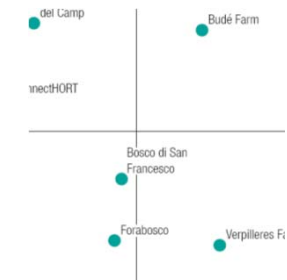


7 case study regions

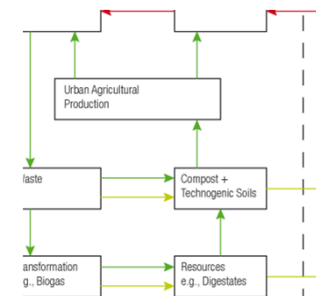
Business model catalogue



Actors model

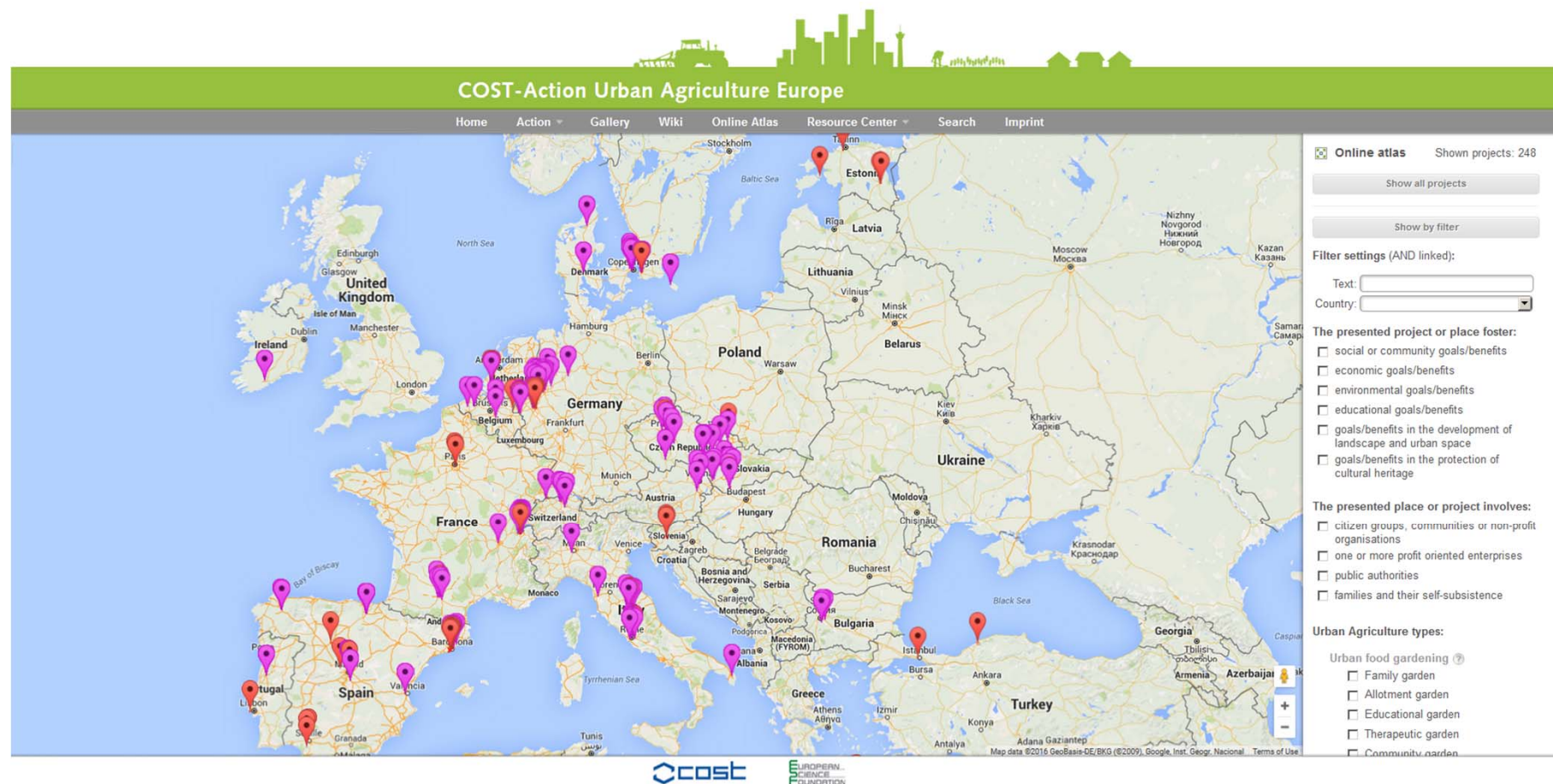


Urban metabolism model



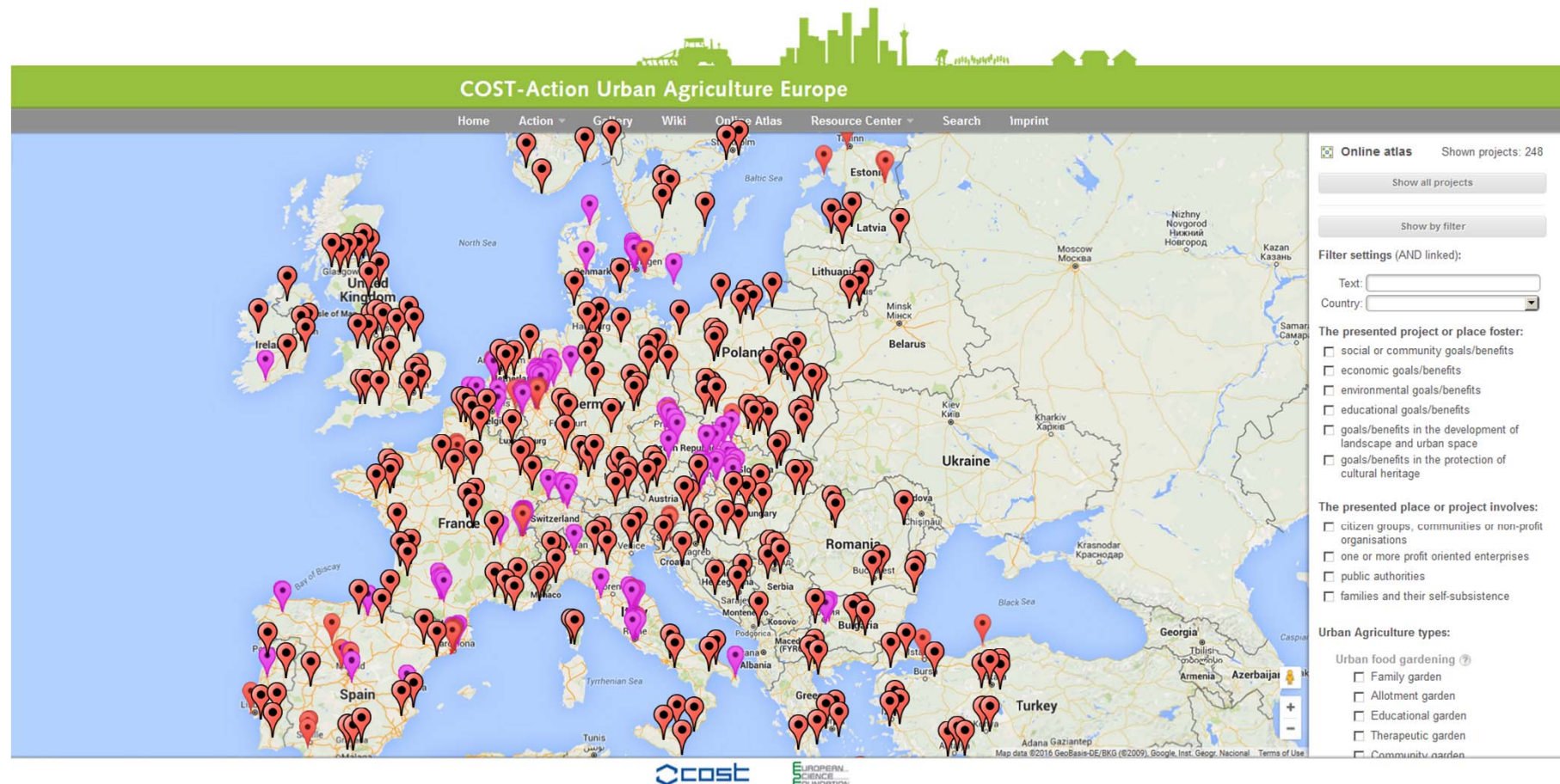
COST UAE Research

UAE Atlas: A European overview of UA types and distribution



Broadening UA Research

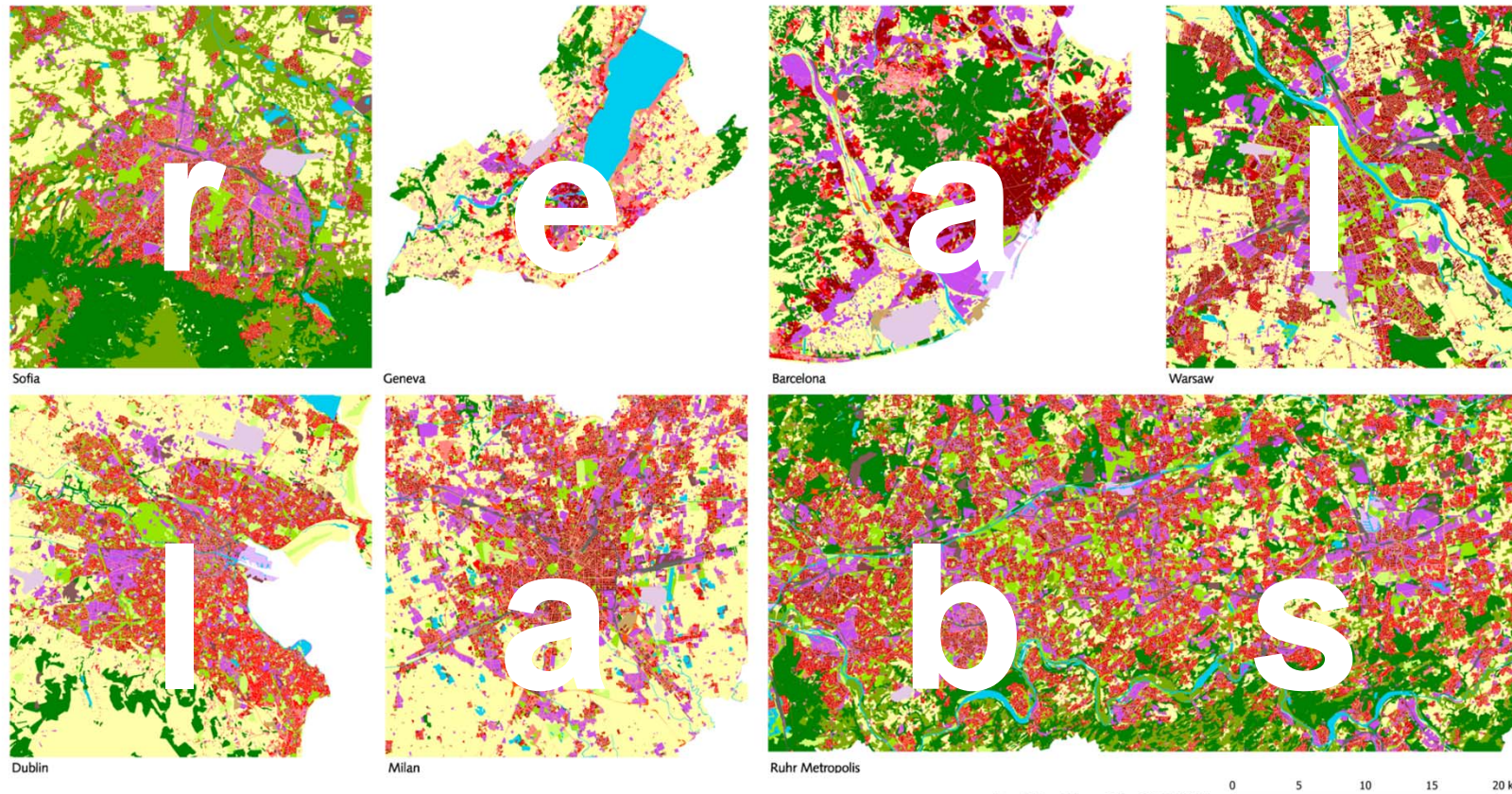
- Developing the UA Atlas towards a European Observatory of Urban Agriculture to detect innovation and critical developments
- How to sustain this tool?



Deepening UA Research

Exploring the potential of UA in real-labs:

- How can UA be used for a smart, inclusive and sustainable development of cities and metropolitan areas?
- How to benefit from innovative UA business models in enhancing the urban community, space and metabolism?
- How to establish best-practices and foster knowledge in advanced UA solutions?



Fostering UA Research within Horizon 2017-20 work programs

Societal Challenges 2

- Launching a call on how Urban Agriculture can **thrive innovation in the whole agricultural sector**, specifying on innovative business models and newcomer entrepreneurship in Urban Agriculture and how to support it (research action).

Societal Challenges 5

- Launching a call on the **cross-cutting potentials of Urban Agriculture** for a smart, sustainable and inclusive urban development and who to deploy UA solutions (research and innovation (real lab) action)
- Launching a call on promoting a **circular economy by Urban Agriculture** interfering the urban metabolism (research and (real lab) innovation action)

Explicitly mentioning Urban Agriculture as a tool / relevant aspect in other research and innovation areas, esp. the Green Infrastructure, Nature Based Solutions, Smart Cities and Communities, Cultural Heritage, Social Inclusion, Sustainable Urbanisation, Urban-Rural linkages and so on

Urban Agriculture and the European Agenda

15:00 World Café - Discussion with the audience
Conclusions: Urban Agriculture Perspectives
Charlotte Prové, Michiel Dehaene

4 tables

Common Agricultural Policy: Wolf Lorleberg, Bernd Pölling

Social and Environmental Policies: Dona Pickard, NN

Territorial Policies: Lionella Scazzosi, Marian Simon Rojo

Research Agenda: Axel Timpe, Attila Toth

4 rounds: 1st -15 min, 2nd – 10 min, 3rd – 5 min, 4th – 5 min

Questions for each table

- 1) Has the COST Action identified the relevant potentials of UA for Europe's policies?
- 2) What role should Europe play in promoting UA and which policy instruments could be most effective?

