

# COST

Domain Committee “Transport and Urban Development”

## COST Action TD1106

Start Date (14/03/2012)

### Urban Agriculture Europe (UAE)

## MONITORING PROGRESS REPORT

**Reporting Period:** *from (previous report date or start date of the Action)  
to (last update)*

This Report is presented to the relevant Domain Committee.  
It contains three parts:

- I. Management Report*** prepared by the COST Office/Grant Holder
- II. Scientific Report*** prepared by the Chair of the Management Committee of the Action
- III. Previous versions of the Scientific Report;*** *i.e., part II of past reporting periods*

The report is a “cumulative” report, i.e. it is updated annually and covers the entire period of the Action.

Confidentiality: the documents will be made available to the public via the COST Action web page except for chapter *II.D. Self evaluation*.

Based on the monitoring results, the COST Office will decide on the following year’s budget allocation.

#### **Executive summary (max.250 words):**

The starting phase of COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe has been used to organise the working process of the Action by starting the Working Groups and setting up the website with its communication tools. The first two WG meetings (Aachen and Barcelona), 2 STSMs (Barcelona) and a training school (Malmoe) have been organised in reference regions of the Action. The WGs have defined their research methodology (e.g. questionnaires) and set up first case studies. The most important output of the starting phase is the Barcelona Declaration on Urban Agriculture that will be used to address the subject in communication with European stakeholders. A first meeting with representatives of the European Commission on this issue will take place in June 2013.



**Participating Institutions from non-COST countries**

New Zealand

University of Canterbury, Department of Geography

**Working Groups**

WG 1 - Urban Agriculture definitions and Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

WG 2 - Urban Agriculture and governance

WG 3 - Entrepreneurial models of Urban Agriculture

WG 4 - Spatial visions of Urban Agriculture

**Website**

<http://www.urban-agriculture-europe.org/>

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## I.C. Overview activities and expenditure

### 2012/ 2013 Budget

Total Action Budget: 125 251.71 EUR

Remaining Action Commitment:

#### Meetings

Meeting Type	Date	Place	Cost in EUR	Total in EUR
Management Committee / WG Meeting	2012-07-09 / 2012-07-11	Aachen	32 655.43	32 655.43
Working Group Meeting	2013-03-12 / 2013-03-14	Barcelona	29 656.59 (Subtotal for payments to be approved)	Not finalized yet

#### STSM

Beneficiary	Date	Place	Cost in EUR	Total in EUR
Mr Attila Toth	2013-02-25 / 2013-03-15	Barcelona	2 000	2 000
Ms Giulia Giacche	2013-02-25 / 2013-03-15	Barcelona	2 000	2 000

#### Training Schools

Title	Date	Place	Cost in EUR	Total in EUR
Understanding Participation	2012-11-26 / 2012-11-28	Malmoe	13 198.39	13 198.39

#### Dissemination

Title	Date	Cost in EUR	Total in EUR
Documentation of keynote speeches, Working Group results and field trips	2012-07-26	1 037.91	1 037.91
Development of a public web page	2012-07-26	3 778.68	3 778.68

**Action Total :** 84 327.00

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## **II. Scientific Report**

### **II.A. Innovative networking**

The most important result of the starting phase of the Action has been the definition of a common approach to the research subject Urban Agriculture that has been put down in the “Barcelona declaration on Urban Agriculture and European Policies”. The declaration helps to address the further research need and the work looking for policy recommendations that should be given during the further lifetime of the Action. The Steering Group of the Action will discuss the content of the declaration with representatives of the European Commission in June 2013.

The starting phase of the Action has been used to organise its WGs and to start the Webpage with its online communication tools. After an overview gained through the presentation of national case studies in WGs 2, 3, and 4 the groups have been defining their methodology to analyse these case studies and to create new ones in order to gain deeper insight in the national situations and to standardise their analysis for Europe-wide comparison. The knowledge created by this in the next phase of the Action will form the core of new knowledge in the Action. The development of a standardised methodology to analyse nation cases is the key to make the national knowledge accessible.

Scientific breakthroughs could not be expected during the starting phase that was dedicated to the creation on a transdisciplinary working process within the Action.

Due to the short actual lifetime of the Action no pin offs to EC RTD Framework programmes have been realised yet. To place the subject of the Action in the horizon 2020 programme the Action has provided information on the research interest on urban Agriculture to the “Sustainable urban dynamics” stakeholder workshop in Rome on 28 March 2013 and through the BMBF Online questionnaire for Horizon 2020, Challenge 5 – Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials.

A spin off of national research projects has been realized in Switzerland:

- *“Urban Agriculture in Switzerland : definition and governance”* proposed by Dr. Joelle Salomon Cavin, Université de Lausanne, status : proposal successful
- *„Urbane Landwirtschaft in Schweizer Städten. Fallstudien zum Beitrag Urbaner Landwirtschaft zur städtischen Gesellschaft und zum städtischen Raum“* proposed by Hans Wydler, ZHAW Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, status: proposal under evaluation
- *„The Role of Urban Agriculture for a Sustainable Urban Food System“* proposed by Heidrun Moschitz and Dr. Robert Home, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, status: proposal under evaluation

### **II.B. Inter-disciplinary networking**

The starting phase of the Action has given the evidence that the subject can only be treated in a transdisciplinary way. All the knowledge obtained in the Action until present has been informed by the different disciplines represented. As the working process of the Action is strongly integrated among the disciplines and as all WGs are composed in an interdisciplinary mix the notion of measurable “additional knowledge through interdisciplinary” cannot be applied to the research approach of the Action. Beside the WG outputs the first STSM proves the success of this approach: it has been accomplished by a team of two ESR from different disciplinary backgrounds (agronomy and landscape architecture) who presented a common report.

All necessary disciplinary scientific expertise for the advancement of the Action has been found among the participating researchers.

The Action hopes to have an impact as well on the transdisciplinarity of education and practise in the field of Urban Agriculture. Action members are organising common teaching activities for students from different backgrounds and the Action conferences in the reference regions have induced discussions among sectoral stakeholders (agriculture, planning, NGOs etc.) working on Urban Agriculture.

In addition to its own interdisciplinary approach COST UAE communicates with COST Action

Urban Allotment Gardens which partly works on aspects that can be found in COST UAE as well. The Actions are considering the possibility of a common training school in the future.

### **II.C. New networking**

The Action has had a strong growth compared to the proposal state. The proposal had been submitted by 8 countries. At the first MC Meeting in Brussels in March 2012 13 members had joined the Action. Another 6 members joined it until the first WG Meeting in July 2012. Additional 4 countries have been joining it since so that the total number of members is now 23.

144 individual participants have registered for the Action. 61% of the participants are female, 39% male.

Two Turkish intentions to join the Action are under the national evaluation process of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey.

42% of the participants are Early Stage Researchers. ESR researchers have been strongly evolved in the WG activities as well as in special events organised for them. The first Training School of the Action has had 20 trainees. 85% of these trainees were female. The first two STSMs by ESR have been accomplished in February/March 2013. Due to the special mode of STSMs related to the Action's reference regions which needed to be established only 2 Missions could be organised in the first budget year. For the next budget year calls for 6 STSMs will be launched among the ESR of the Action.

The participation of the University of Canterbury in the Action has been approved via the reciprocal agreement with New Zealand. As only one visit to an Action event will be financed by New Zealand the contribution of the participant has still to be clarified. Another Non-COST participation via the reciprocal agreement with Australia is in the process of approval. External experts from Canada and Turkey have been contributing to the first WG Meeting and to the Training School.

During the start phase of the Action its publications were limited to the documentation of meeting results the STSM and the training school which can be downloaded from the Action website (<http://www.urbanagricultureeurope.la.rwth-aachen.de/downloads.html>). Other outreach activities include the website and especially the website Wiki that makes the working process of the Action transparent to the public. The direct contact of the Action participants with stakeholders in Urban Agriculture and concerned public can be considered the most important outreach activities. The two WG meetings organised in Aachen and Barcelona both included a public conference day that attracted the double of the actual COST participants from the visited region/country. Action members have communicated the scientific approach and objectives of the Action in national thematic conferences (Groenconferentie Maastricht, Urban gardening Kongress Bremen, Journée du Paysage Geneva).

Common activities of COST network colleagues have so far predominantly concerned teaching. Internet lectures on Urban Agriculture given to student groups at partner Universities or via the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools' platform Le Notre have been bringing the international insight to Urban Agriculture gained through the Action to a great number of students. A common Summer School for Master students has been organised by German COST participants and Turkish COST candidates.

Based on the current cooperation the Action looks forward to use the newly established links for raising research funds in the future.

### **II.D. Self evaluation**

***The Action has had a successful start. The outcomes of the first meetings and the strong growth of the Action during its starting phase prove the research interest in Urban Agriculture. The organisation of the Action's events in reference regions and the study of the specific situation of Urban Agriculture in these regions is a successful way to enrich the European discussion on Urban Agriculture. The foundation of a European researcher community on Urban Agriculture and its presence in the visited reference regions has been an important motivation for regional stakeholder to define their position towards Urban Agriculture. The Action members, especially WG 1, have managed to establish a common***

*understanding of Urban Agriculture through the Barcelona declaration. The other WGs now have to follow to deepen the knowledge on their specific facets of Urban Agriculture. The time between the Action proposal and the begin of the Action work has been underestimated so that the Action did not have the opportunity to elaborate extended recommendations for the current CAP reform. It has proven difficult to address the EU institutions with an innovative trans-sectoral issue like Urban Agriculture in the middle of the CAP reform and the horizon process, but contacts with the European Commission have been installed at the end of the first budget year and should help to inform further research and future.*

### ***III. Previous scientific report(s)***

This is the first Scientific Report on COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe.