

Structure

Work in COST action UAE is based on 5 working groups (WGs). While WG 1 is working on a general approach, definitions and typologies the other WGs concentrate on the interaction of Urban Agriculture with the urban society (2), markets (3), space (4) and metabolism (5).

WGs meet twice a year at the COST UAE meetings or conferences to discuss their research methods and to bring together the results of national and individual work on the WGS subject.

Working Group 1

UA definitions and European Policies

Definition, types of UA, dictionary of UA, policy recommendations

Working Group 2

UA and governance

Analyse of existing public policies on UA, community activities, education, food policy

Working Group 3

Entrepreneurial models of UA

Specialisation to urban needs, sale to local markets, economic diversification

Working Group 4

Spatial visions of UA

Open space access, public infrastructure, cultural heritage

Working Group 5

UA metabolism

Waste recycling, CO₂ sequestration, soil and climate



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COST Members during study tour in Warsaw Metropolitan Area, April 2014.



COST Action TD1106

URBAN AGRICULTURE EUROPE (UAE)



Why urban agriculture?

Urban Agriculture (UA) plays a key role in two global challenges: urbanization and food security. It can provide an important contribution to sustainable, resilient urban development and the creation and maintenance of multifunctional urban landscapes. In the globally emerging research field of UA, a European approach to the subject needs to be created. It has to integrate the unique European context regarding its urban and landscape pattern, the important role of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the needs of the European society. The COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe (UAE) will initiate this European approach on the basis of existing research projects and reference regions in the partner countries. The outcomes of the Action will help to focus future research on UA, modify the European policies and stimulate private and public activities in UA projects and planning. The action uses an innovative approach crossing bottom-up and top-down methods using the method of research by design. By working in close cooperation with regional stakeholders from the domains of urban development and agriculture the Action contributes to sustainable, resilient territorial development in Europe.

Key Facts

Start of action 14/03/2012
End of action 13/03/2016
Budget 600 000 €
More than 120 researchers and practitioners
61 universities
25 European countries
4 international experts
from Canada, Cuba, Ghana, Japan

COST Members in Action

Participating countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

COST Action Activities

Working Group Meetings and Workshops

1st Aachen, 09-12/07/2012
2nd Barcelona, 12-15/03/2013
3rd Dublin, 11-14/09/2013
4th Warsaw, 02-04/04/2014
5th Lausanne / Geneva
6th Sofia spring 2015
7th Milano autumn 2015

Training Schools

„Understanding Participation”
Malmö (Sweden), 26-28/11/2012

„From farming near the city to farming with the city”
Toulouse (France), 25-28/11/2013

„Urban Agriculture inside the city:
alternatives for vacant lots and public space”
Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain), 24-26/09/2014

„Urban Food Production”
Ljubljana (Slovenia), 21-24/10/2014

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)



Mission Statement

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 megatrends as urbanisation, food security and the need for a sustainable development Urban Agriculture is back on the global agenda. Urban Agriculture is of high relevance for European policies, too. It is not to be treated as a rural leftover, but as something growing with the cities and thereby integrating into its social life and spatial fabric, its markets and material flows. In this perspective Urban Agriculture becomes a fascinating tool to achieve the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy. Based on a long tradition of direct customer orientation Urban Agriculture provides a high knowledge and innovation potential. Its products aim at high quality, specialization and services and therefore are trendsetting for the whole agricultural sector. Urban Agriculture can contribute to resource efficiency by linking material flows and shortening supply chains resp. production miles (smart growth). In addition it is an excellent tool for building up, designing and maintaining the cities green and climate active infrastructure. It can provide the urban dwellers with high quality recreational experiences, especially if it is addressed as part of the cities' tangible and intangible cultural heritage (sustainable growth). Urban Agriculture is actually on the agenda of most European cities because it offers among others benefits for health and well-being, food consciousness and food sovereignty and especially for social inclusion and job creation on a low threshold (inclusive growth).

The COST action recommends to regional, national and European institutions to:

- recognize UA as a cultural resource for quality of urban life and wellbeing
- recognize UA as a driving force for innovation in the whole agricultural sector
- raise awareness for UA and its special conditions, potentials and demands
- promote research and strategic development on UA