

### Territorial Context

The Umbria Region is located in the central of Italy and Perugia is the main city. Partly hilly and partly flat, and fertile owing to the valley of the Tiber, its topography includes part of the central Apennines.

#### Population:

895,824 (2014) inhabitants

#### Surface:

8456 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Total agricultural area:

536,676 ha (Istat, 2010)

#### Utilized agricultural area:

326,877 ha (Istat, 2010)

#### Number of farms:

36,244 (Istat, 2010)

### Case studies

#### Perugia

166,003 inhabitants (Istat, 2013)

449.9 km<sup>2</sup> municipal extension

#### Assisi

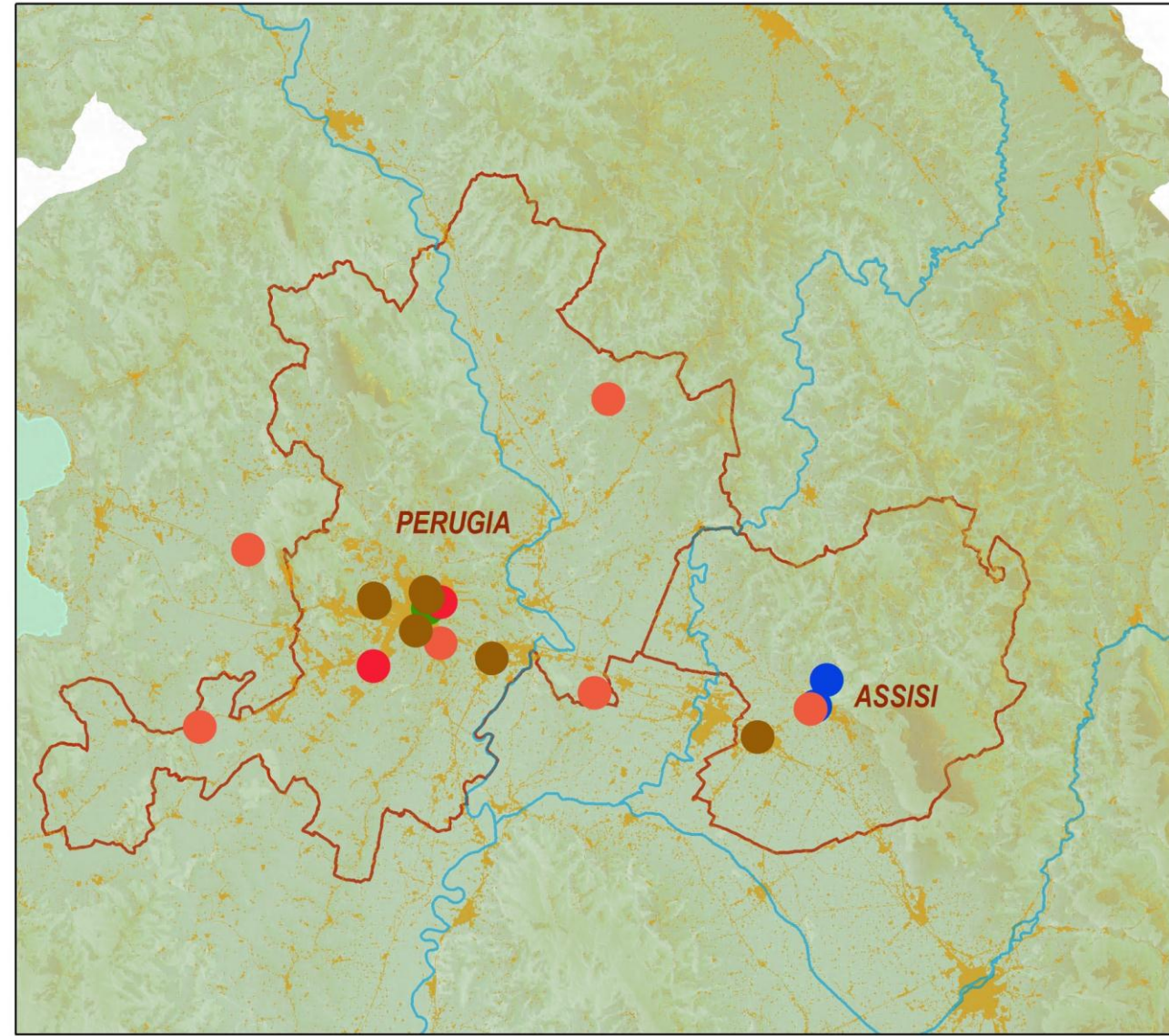
28,249 inhabitants (Istat, 2013)

187.2 km<sup>2</sup> municipal extension

### Spatial Planning and history phenomenon

Years/ Levels	Regional	Provincial	Municipalities
1960			First and Second Master Plans of Assisi elaborated by Astengo. In these plans a part of the plain and the olive groves on the hill have been preserved as agricultural areas.
1970		Allotment garden program for the assignation of plots to retired people	
1980	Territorial Development Plan (PUT) identification of areas of particular agricultural interest and decision to enhance a polycentric urban structure		
1990	In the period 1990-2000 there is greater integration of agriculture in the planning tools, which is no longer limited to simple indication on zoning of agricultural areas, but also in the structural part of the documents, which provides guidance on the development of the sector and the valorisation of rural space.		
2000		Recognition of the city Assisi and agricultural plain as world heritage sites	
After 2010	The Regional Landscape Plan is the only tool for landscape planning which aims to maintain the identity characteristics of the Umbrian landscape pursuing landscape quality objectives. - Memorandum of Understanding for the development, improvement and dissemination of knowledge and practices related to peri-urban agriculture and urban food gardens		Management Plan of Unesco Site (Assisi Municipalities)

### Urban Agriculture Types



Legend  
● AG - Allotment Garden  
● CG - Community Garden  
● FM - Farmer Market  
● SF - Social Farming  
● UFG - Urban Food Gardening  
□ administrative boundaries

#### FARMING LEVEL

##### Local food farms:

Quantitative: 225 local food farms, 97 DOC or IGP production, 8 farmers' markets, 3 GAS  
Qualitative: expanding

##### Leisure farms:

Quantitative: 2 equestrian centers, 121 agrotourisms

Qualitative: consolidated

##### Agri-environmental farms:

Quantitative: 48 Companies that own equipment producing renewable energy

Qualitative: expanding

##### Social farms:

Quantitative: 7 Companies that own equipment producing social services

Qualitative: expanding

#### GARDENING LEVEL

##### Allotment gardens

Quantitative: 310 plots distributed in 2 areas located in border of the city of Perugia

Qualitative: consolidates

##### Community gardens

Quantitative: 1 community gardens in the city of Perugia

Qualitative: expanding

The first program of UA activated in the Region was devised by the Provincia di Perugia in the 70s and concerned the assignation of allotment gardens to retired people.

However most of the initiatives both of public institution and civil society have been developed in the last five years.

In 2014 the Umbria Region signed with the ANCI (National association of Italian municipalities) the Memorandum of Understanding for the development, improvement and dissemination of knowledge and practices related to peri-urban agriculture and urban food gardens, Aimed at spreading 'green culture' and agriculture among citizens to limit the use of the land, especially agricultural, at redeveloping lifestyles, at enhancement of landscape and at environmental protection.

Gardening assumes an activism role that shows the need to regain public space and really know how food is produced. Gardens become instruments of empowerment and requalification of urban spaces, places for educational, social activities and rehabilitation.

Within cities there are several actors involved that aim to reach different goals and perform multiple functions.

#### 1. Forest of Saint Francis

Type: Urban food gardening

Year: 2012

Ha: 64 hectares tot surface, 5.2 ha of olive groves and 1 synergistic garden

Promoter: FAI

Actors: 2 technicians and 1 farmer made the management, 25,000 tourist/year

Functions: cultural, historical, social, recreational

#### 2. San Peter Abbey Garden

Type: Urban food gardening

Subtypes:

Year: 2010

Ha: 0.4 hectare

Promoter: Abbey of San Peter

Actors: 2 employees and 1 seasonal worker

Functions: economic, cultural heritage

#### 3. Ortobello

Type: Urban food gardening

Subtype: community garden

Year: 2015

Ha: 8 sq.m. of vegetables and herbs

Promoter: Borgo Bello

Association and British

Institute Perugia

Actors: around 20 city-dwellers

Functions: regeneration of urban space, social, education, recreational

#### 4. Orti Sociali

Type: Urban food gardening

Subtypes: allotment garden

Year: 1976

Ha: 5.1 hectares total / 4.53 hectares cultivated

Promoter: Province of Perugia

Actors: 302 retired people

Functions: social, economic, recreational

#### 5. Synergistic Gardens

Type: Urban food gardening

Subtypes: therapeutical garden

Year: 2013

Ha: 0.7 hectare

Promoter: Social Cooperative

Actors: 2 social operator and 7 people with mental disabilities

Functions: therapeutical, social, work inclusion

#### 6. Garden in the jail

Type: Urban farming

Subtypes: Experimental farm

Year: 2013

Ha: 11 hectares and 200 head of chicken

Promoter: Umbria Region

and Italian farmers association

Actors: 8 employed people / 12,250 prisoners

Functions: social, integration at work, experimental

#### 7. Forabosco

Type: Urban farming

Subtypes: therapeutical garden

Year: 1984

Ha: 1 hectare

Promoter: AURAP Foundation

Actors: 2 social operator and 7 people with mental disabilities

Functions: therapeutical, social, work inclusion

#### 8. Elaia Farm

Type: Urban farming

Subtypes: allotment garden

Year: 2015

Ha: 0.3 hectare

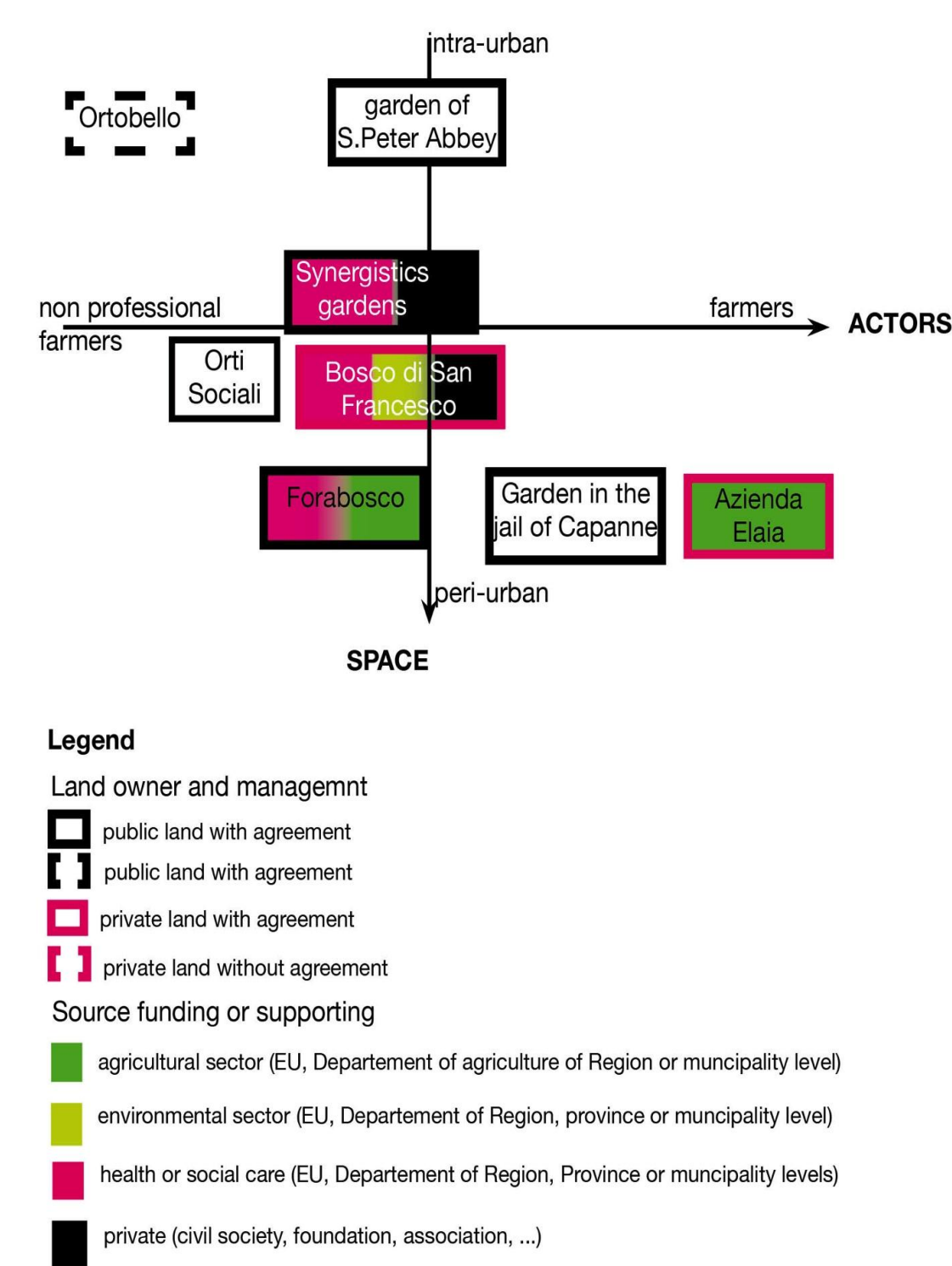
Promoter: AgricityUmbria

Project

Actors: 1 farmer / 15 city-dwellers

Functions: social, healthy, recreational, educational

### Actors and Public Policies



Civil society is the *key initiator* of UA project and initiatives.

For instance, private individuals mostly initiate community gardens and foundation or associations use Urban Agriculture as a tool for achieving different purposes (e.g. educational, therapeutic). At the same time, local authorities support several initiatives (such as. *Orti Sociali*) by providing land, water and technical support.

The aim of these projects or initiatives is more social (educational, recreational, therapeutic, health-care) than economic. Concerning the urban farming level that involves the farmers or economical activities (located on the right of the axis) the form of organisation and the policy domain is varied in accordance with location.

Currently, agricultural policies finance only the initiatives and projects that are located in the periurban or rural areas but several spheres of public policy as environmental, education and health are providing budget or support Urban Agriculture projects or initiatives especially if located within the city or its surroundings.

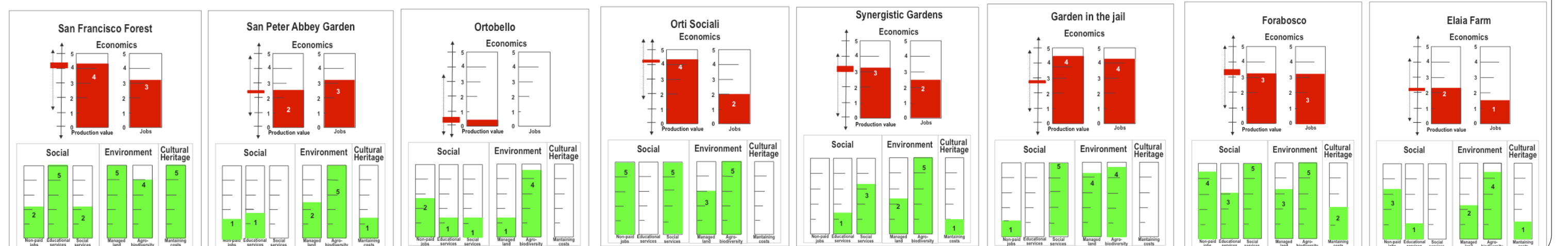
### Social Entrepreneurial Models

In the UA co-exist different social entrepreneurial models that produce different benefits related to economic, social, environmental and cultural heritage aspects.

The **economic aspects** are more relevant in the case studies where there is the cultivated area is wider and some people are paid to work on these projects that usually are based on voluntary work and are implemented in small area. Concerning **the social aspects**, the results vary related to the focus of initiatives (ex. Forabosco mainly focuses on work inclusion of autistic people) and the starting date of the project that being very recently (ex. Ortobello was created in April 2015) in some cases still can not be defined with certainty the impact on social and educational activities.

Concerning **the environmental aspects**, all project presented an high level of agrobiodiversity cause of the method of production that is organic but the level of maintenance of open space vary according to the size of the area invested.

The **cultural heritage dimension** is more relevant in the Saint Francis Forest and San Peter Abbey garden, both located in Assisi within a historical and cultural site.



### Spatial Context



### Urban Agriculture Metabolism

#### Nutrients sovereignty (resource sovereignty)

Gesenu, the company managing urban waste gathering and and waste disposal in Perugia, is promoting an urban waste stream from the city. Through the creation of the "I love orto" program, the company has decided to supply citizens or schools that have a vegetable garden with compost soil obtained by the city organic waste. The compost was also donated to farms participating in the project AgricityUmbria, including the Elaia Farm.

#### Nutrition sovereignty (challenge to the urban diet):

The urban food gardens managed by retired people and the garden of San Peter Abbey have the major value (6) of resources sovereignty because they can satisfy the majority of their needs. The participants of Elaia Farm project are able to satisfy only partly their needs of vegetables (tomato, pepper, salad, eggplant, ect.) for this reason a level 5 of sovereignty was assigned. The synergistic gardens present a lower level of sovereignty (as 4) because the production is lower considering that the main goals are therapeutic and educative. The other cases (Forest of Saint Francis and Forabosco) present the lowest value because all production is sold or donated.