Growing in Cities

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Gardening

COST-Action 1201
Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities


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Welcome

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Basel! Basel endorses its allotments gardens! Three years ago, the voters passed a new allotment garden act that guarantees the preservation of a minimum of 80% of the city’s allotment gardens in all future zoning plan revisions. Basel’s Stadtgärtnerei is taking this and other changing social requirements as an opportunity to draw up a strategy for developing the allotment areas in our canton. This process is well under way – after all, we are dealing with an emotive and rallying subject. This is why I am particularly pleased that the EU Research Network’s closing conference is taking place in Basel. I look forward to hearing how other cities treat their valuable green spaces, which status and significance food production has and how unblemished urban nature can improve the quality of life despite rising congestion. The people of Basel have expressed their confidence in us. They expect us to make the best use of our allotment areas and create recreational facilities for everyone. Not a simple task – other cities’ visionary ideas, realistic assessments and first-hand reports are therefore very welcome. Once again, I am pleased to welcome you to Basel.

Dr. Hans-Peter Wessels
Council Member of the Government of Canton Basel City. Head of Building and Traffic Department
Welcome

As Chair of the Scientific Committee of this conference and of COST Action Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities I have the pleasure to warmly welcome you to this conference. I am sure that we can expect two days of fascinating scientific presentations and innovative ideas presented by internationally honoured keynote speakers and contributors from diverse disciplines. More than 170 scientists in 31 European countries and in New Zealand have co-worked in an interdisciplinary network for four years to study the position of and challenges for urban gardening in well-known and emerging forms. This conference is an important final milestone of this COST Action network’s work, and I am proud that it managed to enlarge its scope once again as it attracted many scientists from Europe and beyond. My first thanks thus go to all members of the COST Action who contributed to the success of this collaboration project. Also I would like to thank the members of the Scientific Committee and the local organizer who enthusiastically supported the academic organisation of this conference and the keynote speakers and all presenters for their valuable inputs to the conference. Enjoy exciting days and have a pleasant stay in Basel.

Runrid Fox-Kämper
Chair of the Action
Organizers

The COST Action TU1201 Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities and the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) welcome participants to GROWING IN CITIES: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Gardening International Conference, 9 - 10 September 2016, in Basel, Switzerland. The conference is hosted by the FHNW School of Social Work, Institute for Social Planning, Organisational Change and Urban Development ISOS in partnership with ILS - Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development, Germany.

We expect two days of scientific discussions and exchange of innovative ideas presented by internationally renowned keynote speakers and contributors from diverse disciplines, in the plenary and parallel sessions, discussion round-tables, and poster presentations. The conference also marks the conclusion of the 4-year EU COST Action Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities (pre-conference for Action members on 8th September).

Scientific Comittee

Johan Barstad, Norwegian University College for Agriculture & Rural Development, Stavanger (NO)
Simon Bell, Estonian University of Life Science, Tartu (EE)
Vikram Bhatt, McGill University, Montreal (CA)
Silvio Caputo, University of Portsmouth (UK)
Sandra Costa Baptista, Birmingham City University (UK), CITAB Research Centre (UTAD), Vila Real (PT)
Matthias Drilling, University of Applied Sciences, Northwestern Switzerland, Basel (CH)
Runrid Fox-Kämper, ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development, Aachen (DE)
Nazila Kesharvaz, ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development, Aachen (DE)
Andrzej Mizgajski, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan (PL)
Joe Nasr, Ryerson University, Toronto (CA)
Susan Noori, Birmingham City University (UK)
Annette Voigt, University of Klagenfurt (AT)
Conference theme

The conference aims to explore the dynamics of existing and emerging forms of urban gardening in Europe and beyond.

This is timely in the wake of the contemporary and projected social, economic and environmental changes and challenges faced by cities. Urban gardens, particularly traditional allotments, have been part of the city; however, with the emergence of community and modern pop-up to rooftop gardens, they are becoming permanent and prominent part of the urban and suburban landscape.

Creating healthy and inclusive cities, which are environmentally sustainable and economically affordable in an ever more urbanizing world, are vital challenges for scientists, policy-makers, and CITIZENS alike. This, along with a global commitment to the implementation of the ‘New Urban Agenda’, focusing on policies and strategies that can result in effectively harnessing the power and forces behind urbanisation, will help urban gardens enter into a new era.

Urban gardens create growing places for PEOPLE, but also act as catalyst in building viable and equitable communities, enhance quality of life, and help create safe and prosperous neighborhoods. The conference aims to further critical dialogue and advance knowledge on the subject.

Impressum

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Programme: Friday, 9.9.2016

09.00 am Welcome coffee - Registration
Location: Gundeldinger Feld Halle 7

09.30 Opening with welcome addresses
Dr. Hans Peter Wessels
Council Member of the Government of Canton Basel City. Head of Building and Traffic Department
Malou Weirich
Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux, Luxembourg
Mickael Pero
COST Association Brussels, Belgium
Runrid Fox-Kämper
Chair of COST Action Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development, Aachen (D)

10.00 Urban gardening all over Europe: Four years of exploration, four perspectives
4 Working Group Chairs and the Chair of the Action

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Keynote 1 Stefanie Hennecke
Professor at University of Kassel, Germany
Adaptation, appropriation and administration of “dysfunctional” urban open space

12.00 Keynote 2 David Crouch
Professor Emeritus, University of Derby, UK
Allotments: lives and landscapes

12.30 Joint Q/A session

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Parallel Sessions 1
A1 - FHNW Room 115
Can urban gardens change our cities? Critical perspective on urban gardening as a practice and strategy of urban social work
B1 - FHNW Room 125
The question of spatial justice and governance
C1 - FHNW Room 134
Quantifying the sustainability of urban agriculture
D1 - FHNW Room 135
From theory to practice (I). Exploring innovative initiatives all over Europe

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 Poster Session FHNW Room 115

17.00 Parallel Sessions 2
A2 - FHNW Room 115
Understanding the gardeners: motivations of the Homo Hortensis
B2 - FHNW Room 125
Urban planning instruments for implementing urban gardens and designing neighbourhoods
C2 - FHNW Room 134
Enhancing resilience and ecosystem of cities
D2 - FHNW Room 135
Quality of soils, groundwater and vegetables in urban gardens versus environmental pressures

19.00 Social Dinner
Location: Citystudiobasel