



**URBAN
ALLOTMENT
GARDENS**

COST Action TU1201

**Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities
Future, Challenges and Lessons Learned**

**Riga Joint MC and WG Meeting
September 4 - 6, 2014**

Event Report



**Faculty of Architecture and Urban planning
Riga Technical University, Kipsala
Azenes street, 18**



URBAN ALLOTMENT GARDENS



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Abbreviations:

AG Allotment Garden

CG Core Group

COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology

MC Management Committee

WG Working Group

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Program of Event

Thursday September 4th

Opening Session

Welcome Addresses

- Professor Leonids Ribickis, Rector of the Riga Technical University
- Mr Renars Grinbergs, member of Riga City Committee of Housing and Environment
- Towards a New Understanding of Allotment Gardens, *Ms Runrid Fox-Kämper, Chair of COST Action TU 1201*
- Keynote: Growing Seeds of Change. Crisis Sows Urban Gardens, *Ms Elke Krasny, Senior Lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Visiting Professor at the University of Technology Vienna, Curator and Urban Researcher*
- **National Presentations**
- Local Cultures of Urban Gardening and Planning in Germany, *Mr Martin Sondermann, Geographer at Leibniz University Hanover*
- Changing Trends - Development of Urban Allotment Gardens in Latvia, *Ms Lauma Lidaka, Architect, Riga City Development Department*

Friday September 5th

Working Group 1 to 4 Parallel Meeting

World Café and MC Meeting

Saturday September 6th

Field Trip



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INTRODUCTION



The Chair of the Action, Runrid Fox-Kämper, welcomed all participants for the three days meeting in Riga. She thanked Prof Leonids Ribickis, Rector of the Riga Technical University and Renars Grindbergs from Riga City Committee of Housing and Environment for their warm welcoming words. She acknowledged the Riga Technical University for being host and especially thanked Sandra Treja and her team as well as Kristina Abolina from Latvian University for preparing the meeting.

In the first part of her introduction Runrid Fox-Kämper summed up a lesson she gave the week before at the Focus on Allotment Conference in Utrecht, Netherlands organized by the AVVN, showing the manifold functions urban gardening has with relation to future trends and challenges in European cities. In the second part she connected these functions with questions that at present are addressed in the Action's Working Groups.

CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN CITIES

European cities have to face relevant challenges (Figure 1, summarised e.g. in European Commission (2011)).

Societal change in Europe encompasses in particular the well-known demographic change with phenomena like the ageing, internationalisation and partly decline of population. Economic change goes together with globalisation and the international division of work that affects our cities. And last but not least it is climate change that affects European cities with phenomena like urban heat effects or heavy rainfalls. Related to these challenges urban gardens can provide several benefits such as social cohesion and education, urban generation of derelict areas and food production, water household regulation and enrichment of biodiversity.

The world is growing, but Europe is in stagnation due to low fertility rates.

Figure 1: Trends and Challenges in European Cities

- *Societal Change*
- *Economic Change*
- *Climate Change*



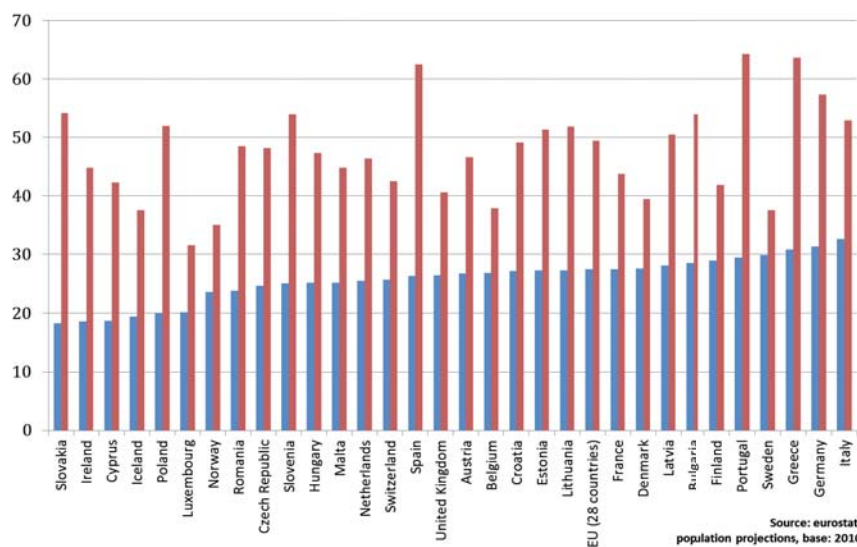


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The effects of low birth rates are clearly visible in peripheral rural areas like Northern-Spain, Southern-Italy, in East-Germany and in nearly all Eastern-European countries. In some regions, this is compensated by a growing number of migrants from other European countries or from other regions in the world. While countries with higher fertility rates e.g. France, Ireland or Norway and sustained migration rate, continue to having enough inhabitants even in peripheral-rural areas. East Germany, Romania, Bulgaria and many other parts of Eastern Europe are going to be major population losers (Berlin Institute 2008). What affects all European countries without exception is the ageing of their societies. The ageing-quotient of many European countries will nearly double from 2013 to 2050 with an average rate around 50 by 2050 in Europe and countries like Greece, Portugal and Spain having to face a quotient higher than 60 (Figure 2).

From this perspective it is important to understand and foresee how this generation is willing to live and what their needs will be in years they are literally aged. In this context urban gardening has a lot of functions: Urban gardens allow recreational activities for different life-styles and, and that is important, often in the direct neighbourhood. They support physical and mental health, especially for aged persons. As important space for interaction and communication and thus for integration of minority groups or people living alone, urban gardens offer a place to be (Figures 3-4).

Figure 2: Ageing-quotient 2050



Figures 3-4: Functions of Urban Gardening: Social Change

- Recreation for different life-styles in the direct neighborhood
- Physical and mental health esp. for ageing societies
- Communication and integration of minority groups
- A place to be



Leisure of aged persons on an allotment plot in Austria, photo: www.welt.de



Users in community garden at Tempelhofer Feld, Berlin, photo: ILS



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Relating to economic aspects urban gardening is most commonly connected to food production but another important aspect related to economic effect of urban gardening is that urban regeneration can be influenced by new forms of urban gardening emerging across Europe in recent years. Data about the youth unemployment rate (under 25 years old) show that in many European countries this rate is twice as high as the rate of adults (Eurostat, Figure 5).

So perhaps it is no coincidence that financial crisis led to the emergence of urban

Figure 5: Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) - EU Member States, 2008, 2010 and 2011

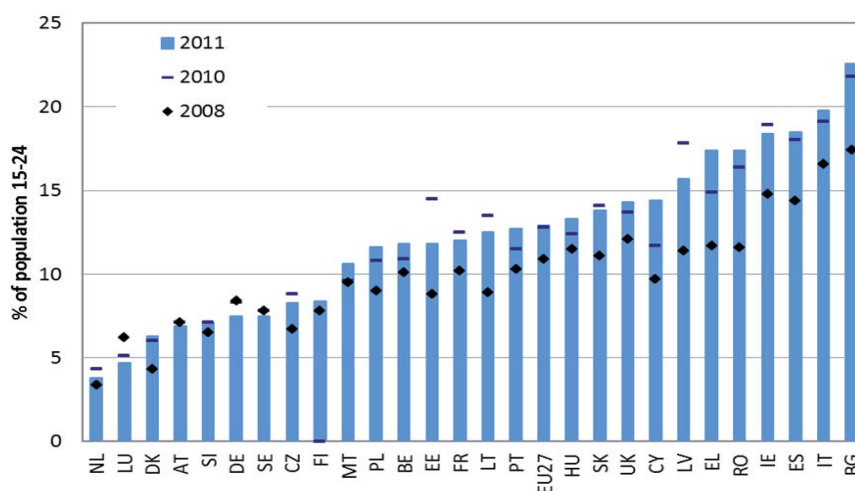


Figure 6: Allotment plots on vacant land in the dense urban fabric of Porto, Portugal, photo: Sandra Costa



Figure 7: Maroussi Allotments, Greece, photo: Nerea Moran

Figure 6-7: Functions of Urban Gardening: Economic Change

- Creating local identity and place-making
- Transformation of abandoned urban spaces
- Reduction of direct costs (subsistence, health)

gardening initiatives in many countries in Southern Europe, where partly urban gardening had no tradition but both land and young unemployed people were and are available (Figure 5). Thus, with relation to economic change urban gardening supports local identity and place-making, helps to transform abandoned urban sites and it can contribute to lower costs as urban gardening supports a healthy living and feeds people.

With relation to climate change, European countries have to face an increase of extreme weather incidents (especially storms and heat-waves), and an alternation of periods with flood risks and dry spells. Figure 7 shows one of the most dramatic rainfalls ever heard of in Germany. In July 2014 within 7 hours nearly 300 liter rain/m² fell, leading to a flood that caused death of at least two persons and very high damage. Urban gardening sites contribute to the preservation and expansion of inner-city green space and its cross-linking and thus to keep fresh air corridors that contribute to temperature regulation. Urban garden sites also contribute to air filtration and carbon storage, they help to regulate the water household and protect and improve habitats and biodiversity (Figure 9).

Runrid Fox-Kämper summed up this part of her presentation with a quotation from a recent presentation, held by Silvio Caputo "The emerging trends have an impact on the city, and on the public perception of the meaning of urban gardening. Concerns about the environment, uncertainties related to economy and the society in general trigger a new interest in gardening".



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Questions to be reflected in the Action's Working Groups



Figure 8: Climate change effects, Münster, Germany; photo: twitter.com

Having all these trends and challenges in mind, what outcomes can be achieved expect by end of the Action?

Working Group 1 deals with the role of different bodies (public authorities, private enterprises, public) and wants to explore governance regimes on different levels – also on a European level, that are supportive for urban gardening. An open question that could also be considered is what appropriate measures could be to deal with the mismatch of supply and demand in different European regions.

With respect to social aspects WG 2 asks what different forms of urban gardening can learn from each other and wants to understand the demographic profile of urban gardeners and how different groups practice urban gardening and who will use them in future. Another issue could be to understand how urban gardening can cope with downgrading neighborhoods.

WG 3 wants to understand the ecological function of urban gardening and therefore studies the role and the impact of urban gardening in the urban green network. Research questions go into two directions a) What is the man-made impact on allotment gardens (according to their location in the urban tissue, soil contamination on derelict sites,...) and b) what are environmental effects of allotment gardens?

Last but not least WG 4 analyzes the spatial impact of urban gardening in the city and studies how emerging types of urban gardening respond to the most pressing issues urban designers are confronted with? It also works on the urban gardening's typology and how it can contribute to designing future urban space.



Figure 9: Urban gardening near London city, photo: www.capitalgrowth.org

Conclusion

Urban gardening is not new in Europe, but urban trends and challenges trigger a new interest in gardening. This is a change for both: traditional allotments and new forms of urban gardening, if traditional allotments are open for new developments, user-groups and their ideas of urban gardening, new forms of urban gardening learn to benefit from approved practices and public authorities on different levels (EU, national, federal, local) learn how to support urban gardening. COST Action Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities hopefully supports this development.

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Eurostat: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsdde511>



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GROWING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE - CRISIS SOWS URBAN GARDENS

Ms Elke Krasny, Senior Lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

The focus of Elke Krasny's speech was mostly on her recent exhibitions that she curated in 2012 and 2013 in Vienna and Leipzig: "Hands on Urbanism 1850-2012 - The Right to Green" (Figure 1) besides her views about the politics of space in relation to the spatial dimension of gardening and what role they play in the urban context.

The following text is the modified transcript of her speech. Figures are taken from her presentation.

We should not overlook that there is a chrono-political dimension to the notion of urban gardening, because when we look back at the dichotomy between the urban and the rural - the people who come from what we call the countryside are considered the ones who are back in time. They are not the ones who are at the avant-garde of time. And when we look at the cities, we have to understand that this dichotomy or being in time or being contemporary all of a sudden is now being associated with the number of urban garden projects and our innovativeness and how we are at the forefront of urbanization by way of gardening. In a paradoxical way: the rural suddenly becomes the driver of innovation for re-urban and if we look back, we have to ask ourselves: has it not always been like that? Has the rural not always played a very specific role in the processes of what really meant to us as urbanization and they are most conventionally equated but what we call modernization. Considering this paradox what this urban gardening is?

A long term research on the history of the presence of urban gardens and allotments, the forms of contemporary urban gardening in 2007/2008 proved that this type of gardening has sprouted anywhere and they are visually, socially, spatially present everywhere and they beg for our attention. But I also don't believe them in a glorified way. I read them very much as a symptom, I would say of crisis or crises. So, I think whenever there is crisis, there is urban gardening. And this is in a way the equation I am travelling through time.

Iconic image of urban gardens is how we see the urban today. So we have more or less recent urban residential development in the background, we have what is conventionally referred to us as more or less informal settlement and then we have urban farming in the very forefront. So if we look at these layers, we could actually say: this is what the urban is constituted by. It is not the exception, but it is actually what it is made out of. And "Hands-On-Urbanism" has travelled to different venues such as the museum of contemporary art in Leipzig with a collaboration with the Heinrich-Böll- Foundation in Germany where we met policy makers, local businesses, local authorities, representatives from the communities during the exhibition and have exchanged ideas with people from other cities who actually have experience with local gardening and the reason why it is important to discuss that again in the city of Leipzig - it is part of the former GDR- we already talked about cities in former east Germany.

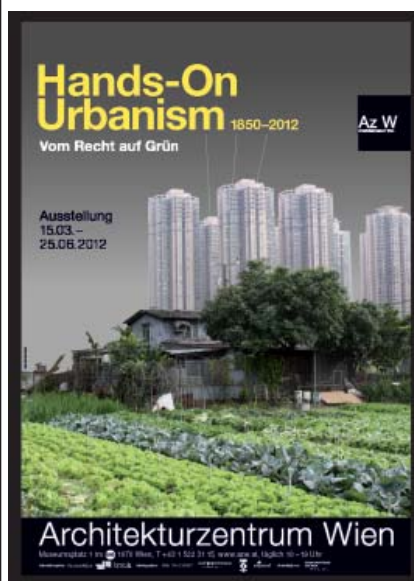


Figure 1



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For the last twenty years urban gardens were very welcome in Leipzig because there was a lot of abandoned or underused land. But as soon as the real estate value increased, you could say we have unwanted side effects of urban gardening that is called with the unwanted 'G-word' gentrification. So I think urban gardening is also even it doesn't want to but it is implicated in these processes of capitalization of upgrading and of what is referred to us as gentrification. And it is very important to understand these dynamics, but also to understand what sort of action local associations or other legal forms of organizations can take in order to guarantee that their garden is not just contributing to the real estate value, but will be there in the future. This is what it looked like in the architecture center in Vienna; the architecture center in Vienna supported micro material projects and the research and they are located in the museum quarter Vienna.

The exhibition in Vienna was a venue to discuss contemporary projects in the city apart from the historic contemporary overview that the exhibition offered and this is what it looked like in Leipzig. So you can also see when the concept travels, it has to adapt in a way to the local venue. We, the urban dwellers who live in cities are actually the ones who have the resilience or the capacity to act in crisis. And I see urban gardens as part of the problem. Not so much a solution, but as part of the problem to move within the problem. We all know that under this new neoliberal regime that we are living and leaving these days, there is a very dangerous précarisation of bodies, labor and space and I think that urban gardens optically again express this précarisation. So we could say human beings need those gardens for different reasons in order to come together as human beings and to have this neighborhoodly exchange. But we could also turn it around and we could say these gardens cannot do without human beings either. So they are co-dependent, or they depend on each other. The gardens need us, but we also need the gardens in a more human, non-human relation between them. Self-organization plays a very important role in both the history and the present configuration of urban gardens.

I am more interested in what are the forms that these gardens can take on a legal form of organization. Can that be an association, can it be a foundation, and can it be a group of friends that is already recognized as a legal entity? I would also say the gardens themselves produce regulation. So they are spaces where people actually negotiate with each other about the legal form they want there being together to take on. Or they also allocate work, labor etc. Hands-On is a work that I particularly like that why it is also in the title of the exhibition. So on the hand it's very explanatory; hands on needs something to do with your hands and when you are a gardener, or an urban gardener- you work with your hands. But Hands-On has also different meanings; it means active political participation and when I speak of participation, I do not speak of this more recent development that government uses participation as a certain form of pacification. But I speak of something that people actually decide to participate to actively participate. So it is not participation upon invitation, but it is participation because human beings have decided to take land and use it, or to become urban gardeners, not because they are invited because they are jobless or because they have been prisoners or because they have been naughty children or all these



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Figures:2-4

Colonists Farmer and Proletarian, Berlin

Schreber Movement, Allotment Gardens, Leipzig

Hull House, Settlement House Program, Chicago

other means. Because I think that there is a very long history of discipline that comes with the garden also and it has been used as a disciplinary measure to make people work or to make them work again.

Austerity urbanism is much discussed today, so if there are things that are not there, people have to make it happen. Uneven development is what characterizes our cities today, not just cities in Europe, but I think cities globally and this uneven development grows to stables this metaphor fast and faster, and I think urban gardens again are not a remedy but I think it is an interesting question how they could counteract on a smaller scale this uneven development. Justice has figured largely in urban debate recently, so spatial justice being one of them, there are more recent movements much discussed in Detroit, another North American city, when it comes to food justice and I think they are related with each other when we look at urban farms and urban gardens more difficult is redistribution who does that today? Who are the agents of redistributing urban space and urban time? Because of this I have been working on space and more recently I become more interested in time, because we need to have time in order to keep these urban gardens alive. But they also ask social time in a sense that we have to organize how to organize.

Support and interdependence are also talked about that I think we depend on these gardens but they depend on us too as Judith Butler talks about the politics of the streets, she wonderfully wrote about support and says that all human action is actually supported action, so it means we are all relying on the support of others; be it the support of material, immaterial, or human that we actually rely on.

Self-organization, legal forms, forms of organization is something I find very interesting to study because I think it tells us something about how citizens can express their right to the city and urban gardens are parts of this right to the city. I think we were already in this timespan. The images I am showing you came from 1850 when massive immigration turned these cities into these growing cities. So if we say a city grows, I think it is always phenomenal how we think cities grow by themselves, because of course they only grow if human beings immigrate to cities or if there are new arrivals that make cities grow. But then they also literally grow the city, because at the beginning, a lot of immigration be it world-urban immigration or be it global immigration today, are actually the people who start cultivating land because they cannot afford the food that they normally have. And the examples we are looking at here - the first one from Berlin- the people who settled, were actually called colonists. Again; that is a very interesting word, because colonize goes back to cultivating the land if we look at the Latin root of the word, so it means that you do something with the land. But then of course colonization has taken on a very different meaning. And colonization shares this history of urbanization. So if we look at the processes of colonization and expansion that were part of this history of the last 150 years and also processes of neo-colonization that we are witnessing today, I find it very interesting but the people, who did these humble settlements at the edge of Berlin, were referred to as colonists. Then we have the Schreiber- movement and the allotment gar-



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Figure 5



Figure 6

Activist Gardeners, Green Guerillas, Bowery-Houston, Community Farm and Garden, New York 1974, renamed Liz Christy Garden 1985

dens in Leipzig. There was this hybrid creature of the farmer and the proletarian bringing the knowledge of farming to the city but also working in the factory. Schreber was an educationalist; he was a bestseller when it comes to telling parents what to do to their children. Later people found out that what he advises parents to do could rather be referred to as black pedagogy than anything else. So, he had a son - Daniel Paul Schreber - who was one of the most famous patients of Sigmund Freud. One can see that this Schreber education did not really produce emancipated human beings. It was actually planned as a collective playground, where then children were also taught to plant something and then it was the parents who took over the planting and we see that this configuration of not a collective space, is the space that we think of, when we think of allotment gardens, but very much the single parcel. We could say the space represents a certain kind of individualization within a collective configuration (Figures 2-4).

You know that urban gardens were bargaining during World War I so there were a lot of war gardens, victory gardens "Every garden is a munition plant" (Figure 5). So we can see that there is a very close relation between not only the processes of modernization, urbanization and gardening, but also to the history of war. So, whenever there is a war, nations, and countries have to produce their own food and they have to build up something that is called the home front and the gardens figure largely in this home front. So I think there is also an implication that gardens do not have an innocent history within the historiography of both more conventional and radical gardens. We cannot forget about the implications of the history of war that is linked with the history of gardening. And this is roughly the same time that this poster was produced for the US food administration where citizens were advised -you could say urged- to have a garden. At the same time in Vienna, a former military ground was converted into these small gardens that we see in the forefront, and then they were used as war gardens from 1914-1918 and now they are allotment gardens and they have at least to be to the year of 2043. You could say they are very long term lease from 1919 to 2043, and their full name is free association of the gardeners of the future - also die drei Vereinigungen der Gärtner der Zukunft - which I think is a beautiful name and the location is called Schmelz but we can also see that they have a date, where they potentially might come to an end and I think this brings back these questions that how do you ensure something that becomes durable or long term or should we question this longtermness? Do urban gardens have to be long termed or they are models where short time is okay? And this is something I don't have a yes or no answer to that but it is something that I think where it works while to think about that in certain contexts.

There are both, functionally, but also in the invocation of terminology, a close link between garden, war, and a certain kind of militancy. If we look at New York at the mid and late 1970s, there were a lot of abandoned lots. There was land that nobody wanted and so around 1972 Liz Christy, who was an artist and gardener, developed a community garden which still exists (Figure 6). The Bowler-Houston Community Farm and Garden and I think it is also important to look at the name again because it is not just a garden, it is also a farm. What I think is important to mention with regard to the Liz Christy garden - it was renamed



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after Liz Christy's death in 1958 as Christy community garden. But the garden still is existing it is one of the gardens that have ensured their survival and it is a very interesting model to study how is sociability organized.

Another model that has been largely studied, globally, and that came into being because of crisis is the Cuban model of the urban community garden or the Organoponicos os Populares. What is interesting is that the very first ones actually were initiated informally so there were not a top down, or a government initiative but something that citizens who did not have enough food due to the meta political constellation. In 1991 the USSR was collapsed that was the most important trading partner for Cuba at the same time the embargo by the US became tighter so they did not have any fuel. So as you all know, there were a model, based on a large scale plantation and gardening and large scale monoculture of sugar. So all of a sudden no fuel, no light, no export, no food and in order to counteract this, a lot of people took up gardening and became one of the best organized models of urban gardening that has really changed the image of what contemporary cities look like. There was an image of something that is not an urban garden, but really a farm in front of your window. They worked with close transportation or no transportation, where you could buy locally and they have this so-called "national alternative agricultural model" which started in 1991. They changed the law 20 years later because until then 1999-2011 what we see here as the land use was still considered second best. This is going to be here until something comes along, that will be better, until something that is urban development or capital inflow, or another type of building or using the land will come but now it is not considered second best any longer, but something that remain permanent. I think that is a very important shift in thinking about what is there.

One of the case studies that I mentioned at the very beginning, because it also produced or gave me access to the image that became the poster image of "Hands-On-Urbanism", is the Mapopo Community Farming Ma Shi Po Village, new territories in Hong Kong and I will first run you through the images and then I will speak a little bit about the very complicated situation there. In the new territories in Hong Kong there are a lot of villages. They are referred to as villages and many of them are under pressure because there are new policies how the new territories in Hong Kong will be developed in the future. So on the one hand we have developer pressure with consortium of developers and on the other hand there is also an urban planning that wants to change the whole area of the new territories, so that all the urban agriculture, the urban farming, the fish production that is still part of Hong Kong and is part of feeding the city of Hong Kong, should be moved to the main land of China which is a very political situation that these villagers found themselves in that led them to constitute the northeastern concern groups. As long as Hong Kong was part of the British Empire, all houses were numbered and registered but they had been built informally. The original owners in this part of Hong Kong are so called indigenous population have specific rights to ownership but most of these people have moved to parts of the Commonwealth, so they are based now in London or in Vancouver, or in other parts of what used to be the British Empire and the Commonwealth and they, then, gave their land over to people who are actually tenants, most of them from



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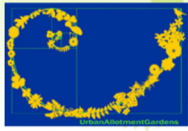


Figures 7-8

mainland China who came to Hong Kong in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s and the people who actually live there; who farm and who live in these houses; they do not have any rights to their property, they just have a lease. So you see there is a complex situation between ownership and use and this is also what makes them so vulnerable to the developers who have begun to buy property that might live far away and are more or less happy to sell their land. From the images you can see how the development encroaches on to the farming land but there are also new alignments because a lot of people who live in these houses in the back have actually joined the farming communities since the young people moved in. So we can see a very hybrid constellation that is again a constellation of maybe mutual support and interdependence.

Hands-On-Urbanism in Venice biennale managed to build alignment and alliances with local activists and I think these global events like biennale are very hegemonic in their nature, I think they also have the potential to become locally meaningful. All the things that were mentioned in the introduction to urban gardens they are very relevant to a city like Venice as well. Many gardens in Venice are based on volunteer works or volunteered time and I think this can be a cause of tension in the future as these gardens come with a kitchen in order to organize what Ivan Illich has called conviviality, so conviviality, sociability and how to share what you actually produce in the garden you share. So people come, people who are part of the garden, people who live in homes for the elderly, but also people who might just be passing through like me.

So it is a very trans-local space in a way, very local but also very trans-local. And I think that is another important aspect, that these gardens can work as a condiment for people who are local but also for people who are actually passing through. Many gardeners are actively involved in fighting the cruise ships, so out of these garden associations comes a lot of political activism but not sure whether they will be successful or not but there is a petition out to sign against the second channel they are trying to dig for the cruise ships and it comes out of this group of people and other people who are working closely with them in order to counteract this very threatening presence of the cruise ships that offsets the fragile and delicate ecology of the lagoon (Figures 7-8). So again, even though it is a very small garden, out of it come very big issues and they attack larger problems than just their garden. Thank you.



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NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

LOCAL CULTURES OF URBAN GARDENING AND PLANNING IN GERMANY

Martin Sondermann, Leibniz Universität Hannover

1 Introduction

As an integral part of our cities, urban gardens provide various functions and possibilities of use and are therefore highly appreciated in public debates. However, the responses from local planning administrations to new gardening initiatives are considerably heterogeneous, which leads to the central question of that paper:

What are the major factors supporting or hindering planning, implementing and maintaining new forms of urban gardening?

To answer this question this paper starts with an overview of the forms of urban gardening in Germany, with a focus on community gardens in order to characterise the national context (chapter 2). Following this, the theory and methodology of the analytical planning culture-approach will be explained (chapter 3). In Germany, issues of urban planning are the responsibility of municipal politics and administrations. Therefore, the following analysis is primarily set on the local level and based on empirical research in the cities of Hannover and Düsseldorf (chapter 4). Based on the analysis, outcomes concerning the development of a 'cooperative planning culture' will be drawn (chapter 5). The paper ends with a conclusion and a short outlook section (chapter 6).

2 Forms of Urban Gardening in Germany

Urban gardening in Germany has a long tradition, reaching back to the mid of the 19th century when the first allotment gardens were established. Still today, these gardens, which are called 'Kleingärten' ('small gardens' or allotment gardens), are the major form of urban gardens. There are presently approximately 1.2 million (BMVBS/BBR 2008a: 2 ff.). The original idea was that these gardens could contribute to a healthier living in cities, providing a place for physical recreation and exercise. Today these gardens are primarily used for leisure and recreation, social exchange and food production. They are regulated by a national act for allotment gardens ('Bundeskleingartengesetz') concerning design and use of the gardening areas. In addition to this, most allotment gardens in Germany are protected by long-term zoning and binding land-use plans ('Flächennutzungs-/Bebauungspläne')(Appel et al. 2011: 24-34; BMVBS/BBR 2008a: 2 ff.). Beside these classical allotment gardens, two new forms can currently be observed in Germany:

- Community gardens appear as a contemporary form of allotment gardens as they concurrently contribute to social exchange, recreation and food production. These gardens are less formalized and follow non-traditional approaches in design and use. They are often established as interim-uses on brownfields and are neither regulated nor protected by any specific law (Fox-Kämper/Sondermann 2014: 56, Rosol 2010: 552).



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- The second form to mention is street gardening, which is based on green interventions, mostly in form of planting flowers in public spaces. It occurs particularly in streets and around street trees ('Baumscheibengrünungen'). As this form is often accepted or even permitted by public authorities it can be preferably labelled as 'street gardening' rather than as 'guerilla gardening', a common term for the same form of gardening but which denotes an illegal or informal action (Haide et al. 2011: 267 f.).

Form of gardening	Quantity	Origin	Function	Form of regulation
Allotment gardens Kleingärten (small gardens)	appr. 1.2 Million.	mid 19th ct.	Leisure and recreation, food production	Formalised (Bundeskleingartengesetz, national act on small gardens), highly institutionalised
Community gardens Gemeinschaftsgärten	appr. 250-400	late 1990s	social and ecological objectives, food production	non-formalised, regulations on local level
Street gardening scheibengrünungen	not counted	Since 1980s	beautification of neighbourhoods and street spaces, political protest	legal or illegal uses of public spaces, depending on local regulations

Table 1: Forms of Urban Gardening

2.1 Community Gardening

This form of urban gardening has been emerging in Germany since the mid 1990s. Community gardens ('Gemeinschaftsgärten') can be defined as collectively created, run gardens and green spaces, which are oriented towards serving local communities and public welfare. They are based on the involvement of volunteers who follow ideals such as socio-cultural integration, ecological regeneration, green and post-growth economy, direct democracy and active citizenship. The gardens are used for social interaction, leisure and food production (cf. Rosol 2012: 243; Steffenhagen/Sondermann 2013: 42 f.; Interviews HP2, HC2, HC3, DP2, DC1).

Municipalities or municipal (housing) companies mostly own the land plots, which lease them to community gardeners associations for a stipulated time as interim-uses. Long-term leasing contracts are relatively rare. At the same time, these gardens are mostly located in residential and mix-use areas. The properties allocated to or uses for urban gardening are mostly regarded as 'building zones' in zoning and land-use plans. Therefore, many community gardening projects do not exist anymore or have moved to a different location once the properties were sold for final land-use (Rosol 2010: 558 f.).

The first well-known project in Germany was the 'Internationaler Garten' ('International Garden') in the city of Göttingen. This was established as an intercultural project in 1995. During the late 1990s and early 2000s several gardening projects have been established in bigger German cities, especially in Berlin (Appel et al. 2011: 37 f.; Meyer-Renschhausen 2011: 328 f.) In the late 2000s



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public interest into community gardening grew and the movement gained more and more media attention, with popular projects such as 'Prinzessingärten' ('princess gardens') in Berlin (Ewert/Evers 2014; Wißmann 2014). There are no official statistics, but it can be estimated that around 250 to 400 community gardens exist throughout Germany, not including sites explicitly designated to urban agriculture (Fox-Kämper/Sondermann 2014: 56; Stiftungsgemeinschaft anstiftung & ertomis 2014: www). In according with their major idea or use, they are often called 'Interkulturelle Gärten' (intercultural gardens), 'Kiezzgärten' or 'Nachbarschaftsgärten' (neighborhood gardens) and primarily serve a social agenda in combination with ecological ideas of organic and alternative gardening. These gardens are primarily established on urban brownfield sites and vacant lots in urban neighborhoods with high population densities in bigger cities (Rosol 2006: 7; Appel et al. 2011: 34-39, Sondermann 2013).

Activists of the modern community gardens mostly do not relate to the tradition of allotment gardening in Germany (Fox-Kämper/Sondermann 2014; Interviews HP1; HC1) but to international movements such as the community garden-movement in New York City (cf. Eizenberg 2013: 17-23), the 'Transition Town'-Movement (UK) or to forms of urban agriculture seen in Latin American countries such as Cuba. Accordingly, modern gardening activists often regard themselves more as political or ecological activists performing 'alternative ways' of gardening, living and working. They reject the traditional forms of allotment gardening, arguing that they are too conservative and overregulated (Appel et al. 2011: 23-39; Interviews HC3, HC4).

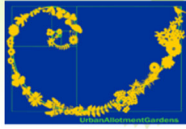
The community gardeners are very heterogeneous regarding age, gender, education and financial aspects. They can therefore not be easily characterised by statistical criteria. However, it can be stated that most of the community gardeners live in flats without private gardens, gain pleasure from gardening and are motivated to actively take part in community volunteering (cf. Rosol 2006: 211 ff.; Rosol 2012: 549-552).

The major challenges community gardens in Germany are confronted with are a lack of funding and institutionalisation, an availability and provision of suitable sites and long-term maintenance (Sondermann 2013: 18 ff.).

2.2 Street (guerilla) gardening

Guerilla gardening in Germany can be traced back into the 1970s. A growing activity and public debate about it, however, is observed since the late 2000s (Jahnke 2007: 64 f.; Interviews HP2, DP5). It is mainly perceived in public debate as illegal or informal green interventions in public spaces – mostly in the form of planting flowers in the green areas around street trees, along streets or on traffic islands (Haide et al. 2011: 266-270). Therefore, it can also be described as informal 'street gardening', in reference to where it is commonly taking place.

The emergence of street gardening in Germany cannot be traced back to one single motivation. As activists are generally very individualistic, they have consequently considerably different motivations. Nevertheless, two major objectives of the activists have been identified:



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- Firstly, a beautification and ‘clean up’ of the immediate living area, to feel at home in their part of the city in terms of a physical and mental appropriation or socio-cultural place-making (Interview HC3; Rosol 2006: 29-32, 114).
- Secondly, a political expression of the gardeners’ idea to claim their ‘right to space’ or that ‘another world is plantable’ (Haide/Jahnke 2013), which means that a sustainable development and a fair society are possible.

Street gardening can therefore be seen as a pragmatic approach to create green and liveable urban environments as well as a realization of and claim for political freedom and democratic participation. This is strongly linked to a growing demand in German society, since the late 1960’s, for active participation in processes of urban development (cf. Haumann 2013). Dissatisfactions with a traditionally expert-based, technocratic planning system caused a lot of conflicts and protests during the last decades. This has gradually lead to a general shift in German urban planning towards more communicative and direct democratic approaches (Peters 2004; Selle 2007). Various creative appropriations of public spaces, including street gardening, thereby demonstrate civic bottom-up alternatives to top-down planning. It is often seen as oppositional to classical forms of greening public spaces by municipal authorities and is therefore regarded respectively as illegal or informal (Haide/Jahnke 2013; Wißmann 2014).

The guerilla gardeners groups is extremely broad, including individual senior citizens, organized groups of young academics from an alternative-left-wing milieu, traditional parents planting flowers with their children and owners of cafés or stores beautifying the street in front of their premises (Interview HC4; participatory observations in Hannover and Düsseldorf).

2.3 Urban gardening and planning

Looking at these forms of urban gardening it is notable that especially the new forms, community gardens and street gardening, are not yet regulated through any specific law. This has an impact on their handling in urban planning. As the planning sovereignty in Germany is made on the municipal level by constitutional law (Art. 28, Grundgesetz), these gardens are subject to local political and administrative discussions and decisions about whether, where and how to establish them. As the current urban gardening movement only began around 2010, most municipalities in Germany have as yet not established administrative structures and procedures to deal with bottom-up gardening initiatives in terms of planning. Accordingly, the responses of local authorities responsible for urban green spaces and planning are considerably different throughout Germany. Proceeding from this observation, this paper provides a closer look at the local cultures of gardening and planning in two case studies.

3 Analysing planning culture: theoretical background and methodology

In order to understand the structures and processes of planning, implementing and maintaining new urban gardens on a local level, the idea of ‘planning culture as an analytical concept’ and the related theory and methodology will be addressed in this chapter.



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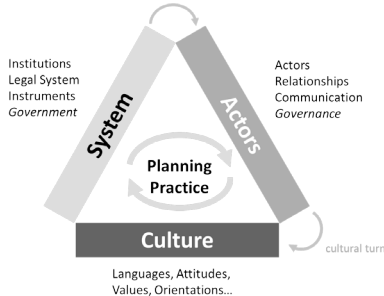


Figure 1: Cultural turn in planning theory, Modified from Levin-Keitel/Sondermann (2014: 183)

3.1 Towards a cultural understanding of spatial planning

Traditionally, spatial planning in Germany has been recognised as a form of civil engineering, which is set in the institutional and legal system of politics and administration representing the government-dimension of planning (see Fig. 1, Peters 2004). Based on the 'communicative turn' in planning theory (Healey 1996), the scientific view on spatial planning today focuses more on the actors, their relations and communication (representing the governance-dimension) and also their thoughts and actions. The social context of action is also taken more and more into account as well as national, regional and local differences (Knieling 2003; Fürst 2009; Healey 2012).

Recent discussions in planning theory are going one step further, dealing with a cultural turn. The cultural dimension of planning can be understood as a third perspective on planning practice (Figure 1), expanding the dimensions 'system' and 'actors' by looking at cultural elements such as languages, attitudes, values and orientations (Levin-Keitel/Sondermann 2014, also cf. Othengrafen 2012).

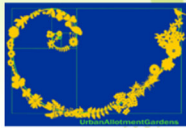
The term culture therefore needs to be examined more closely, as the term is broadly used and not uniformly defined. In a first attempt, the term culture can be understood as the specific ways people think and act within a defined context of time and space. In other words and more detailed, Hans Gullestrup (2012: 4) describes the term as follows:

"Culture is the world conception and the values, moral norms and actual behaviour – as well as material and immaterial results thereof – which people (in a given context and over a given period of time) take over from a past generation, which they – possibly in a modified form – seek to pass on to the next generation; and which make them different in various ways from people belonging to other cultures."

The idea to analyse planning practice from a cultural perspective is based on the observation that practices, for example the interpretation of planning tasks or ways of using planning instruments, differ from context to context (cf. Knieling/Othengrafen 2009). The national planning systems thereby frame regional and local contexts and represent fundamental values in a society (Nadin/Stead 2008). These fundamental values, such as the interpretations and implementations of democracy, freedom and equality, form the basis in each country. In this paper, however, the focus lies on planning cultures on the local (municipal) level and therefore, aims to understand and describe the specific structures and processes as well as the underlying cultural elements in the cities Hannover and Düsseldorf.

3.2 Planning culture as an analytical concept

There has been an active academic debate about planning cultures in the last five years. However, a general approach to conceptualise and analyse planning cultures cannot be found yet. Therefore, a definition and analytical model is proposed, which recognises the approaches of planning culture in major papers (cf. Levin-Keitel/Sondermann 2014).



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Definition of Planning Culture

Planning cultures are cultural systems in the context of spatial planning, which develop through interactions of different planning actors and their organisational cultures. These cultural systems have an impact on the actions of the actors and vice versa. Planning cultures can be identified by visible artefacts and can be distinguished from other planning cultures according to time, space and subject (Levin-Keitel/Sondermann 2014: 184, own translation).

Analytical model

To analyse planning cultures the following model is proposed (Figure 2): Based on an actor-centred approach (cf. Scharpf 2000) the constellations and interactions amongst and between planning actors are of central consideration. Thereby, the idea of 'organisational' or 'corporate culture' is used (cf. Schein 2003, Faust 2003: 69 ff., Othengrafen 2012: 60 ff., 186 ff.): Organisational cultures are forming through processes of learning and socialisation, which are based on attitudes, beliefs and orientations and lead over time to the formation of specific rules and self-conceptions.

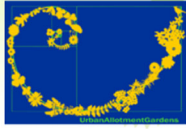
These organisational cultures are developing within the planning context, which consists of structures and rules of the planning-related institutional and legal system. As every culture is producing visible artefacts, the products and outcomes of spatial planning and implementation are also considered. Lastly, the societal context with its fundamental values is recognised as framing all planning cultures existing in a society (cf. Levin-Keitel/Sondermann 2014: 183 ff.).

3.3 Methodology

The analytical model for planning culture forms the theoretical background of this paper, which is methodologically based on two comparative case studies.

The chosen cities for the case studies are Düsseldorf and Hannover. Düsseldorf, the state capital of North Rhine-Westphalia, has approximately 598.700 inhabitants (in 2014) and has the title 'Gartenstadt' ('Gardencity') (Interviews DP5, DP6). Hannover, the state capital of Lower-Saxony, has about 524.500 inhabitants (in 2014) and calls itself the 'Stadt der Gärten' ('City of Gardens') (Interviews HP1, HP4).

In total 21 qualitative guided interviews each of approximately one hour duration were conducted between October 2013 and August 2014 with civic gardening actors and public authorities (see table 2). Additionally, participatory observations were made at meetings of civic and public actors as well as on-site inspections of the gardening projects. In addition to the interview-transcripts and memos on participatory observations and site-inspections, relevant documents such as city council-protocols, newspaper articles, flyers and websites have been analysed.



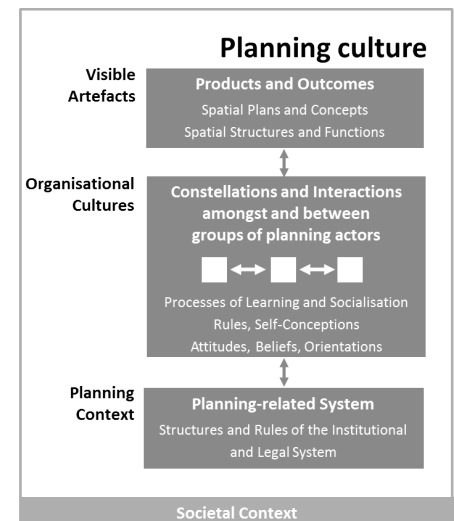
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Interviews	Civic initiatives		Public authorities	
	Number	Code	Number	Code
Hannover	n=6	HC	n=5	HP
Düsseldorf	n=4	DC	n=6	DP

Table 2: Interviews

The analysis of the empirical materials is based on the 'grounded theory methodology' (Strauss/Corbin 2010, Corbin 2006). According to the actor-centred approach, this methodology provides the possibility to analyse the qualitative interpretation of actions. At the same time, the approach is designed for theory building based ('grounded') on empirical material and on the interplay between inductive and deductive thinking.

Figure 2: Analytical planning culture model. Illustration modified from Levin-Keitel/Sondermann (2014: 184)



4 Local Cultures of Gardening and Planning in Hannover and Düsseldorf

As previously mentioned, (cf. 2.3) the forms of planning, implementing and maintaining new forms of urban gardening in Germany differ from municipality to municipality. Drawing on empirical findings of two case studies, in the cities of Hannover and Düsseldorf, this chapter will point out the local characteristics, similarities and differences of urban gardening and planning cultures in these two cities.

4.1 Case examples: gardening projects

In both cities a variety of new urban gardening projects can be found. Notable projects are listed in Table 3. This selection of projects illustrates that gardening projects vary considerably concerning their origin, use, temporal and spatial dimension as well as concerning the role of public administration. All these projects are based on social as well as ecological objectives, although the weighing of these dimensions and their manifestations are considerably heterogeneous in terms of the design of plots, the selection of plants and the composition of the group of gardeners.



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Name of the project (year of establishment)	Description	Role of administration
Hannover		
Internationale Stadtteil- gärten (Spessartgarten) (2007)	On a former garage roof within a high-rise settlement for social housing an intercultural garden has been established, which enables communication and intercultural exchange for people in the neighbourhood.	Several public authorities give financial support for operational costs and project coordination.
Pagalino – Palettengarten Linden-Nord (2012)	Within a public green space this community garden has been established without any fences. This garden is run by a local Transition Town Initiative.	The local authority for public green spaces gave long-term permission to use a part of a public green space for urban gardening.
Nachbarschaftsgarten Behnsenstraße (2014)	On a former derelict playground this community garden was planned and implemented by a neighbourhood association.	The local authority for public green spaces gave long-term permission to use this space for urban gardening.
Düsseldorf		
Ökotop Heerdt (1982)	On an industrial brownfield of 16 ha a group of activists planned a public park which includes community gardens, urban agriculture and ecological housing.	The public authorities for planning and green space implemented the plan in collaboration with the activists. Still today, the gardeners receive reimbursement for the maintenance of the public areas.
Neue Lohe (1995)	This neighbourhood garden has been established on a former parking lot by a group of neighbours.	The local authority for urban planning permitted long-term use as 'Grabeland' (garden land).
Gemeinschaftsgarten Ellerstraße (2006)	A derelict playground has been transformed into a community garden. It is run by people from the neighbourhood, who are organised as a formal association.	The local authority for urban planning initiated this project and implemented it in collaboration with a group of neighbours.
Elisabeths Garten (Satelliten- garten am KIT) (2014)	This educational garden is a temporary project in a public green space, which was created during the art festival 'Quadriennale' as an 'ambassador' for the idea of growing regional crops in urban areas.	The local authority for public green spaces gave temporary permission to use this space for one season.

Table 3: Community gardens in Hannover and Düsseldorf

Other than these forms of community gardens, a lot of street gardening can be found in both cities. Local authorities for public green spaces have officially supported street gardening since the early 1980's. People who are interested can officially register to 'adopt a tree' ('Baumpatenschaft') in order to take care of it and to plant flowers around it however, it is not mandatory to officially register. Both cities provide information material about selecting suitable flowers and how to plant them without damaging the tree (Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf 2006, Landeshauptstadt Hannover 2013; Interviews HP1, HC4, DP6).

4.2 Constellation of actors

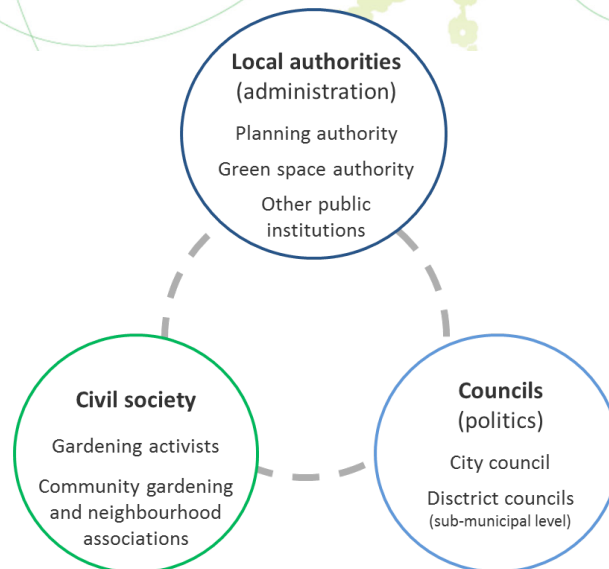
Four major groups form the constellation of actors in politics and planning, relating to community and street gardening in Germany (Fig. 3). Firstly, there are the civil society actors (gardening activists) who are often organised as



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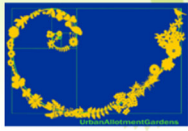
Figure 3: General constellation of actors

Illustration: Martin Sondermann



registered associations ('eingetragene Vereine'). The second group includes local politicians in city and district councils, on the municipal level or below, who are responsible for policies and strategic directions. Public authorities for urban green spaces and gardens ('Grünflächenamt' or 'Gartenamt') as well as for urban development and planning ('Stadtplanungsamt') for the third group. They are responsible for operative actions on behalf of the councils. Their major tasks are the coordination and weighing of interests, the regulation of land-use and the implementation, which includes the drawing of contracts and financial support. Lastly, external organizations such as non-profit associations and foundations should be mentioned. They either support the gardeners with information and financing or mediate between policymakers, administration and civil society actors.

Having a look at the two the cities, the general constellation of actors (Fig. 3) appear characteristically different in practice: Firstly, the group of civic initiatives in Hannover is currently considerably bigger, which represents a high degree of civic engagement into urban greening. Secondly, the city councils are not actively involved in actual cooperation; however, they are of periphery importance concerning legally binding decisions on land-use and financial support. The district councils are actively involved in Hannover, as they and related actors act as first contact institutions, which highly support gardening projects (Interviews HC3, HC5). In Düsseldorf these projects are discussed in a few district councils but they are mostly not involved in concrete decision-making processes (Interview DP3). Thirdly, the local planning authority plays a crucial role in the cooperation between civic and administrative actors in Düsseldorf, as it is traditionally their role to coordinate all processes of urban development and is therefore also actively involved in strategic development towards a green and liveable city (Interview DP2; also: Levin-Keitel/Sondermann 2012). In Hannover, the planning authority is hardly involved in issues of urban green spaces. Accordingly, the local green space authority is the central actor for all forms of cooperative urban greening as they are in charge of coordination and financial support (Interview HP2). The green space authority in Düsseldorf, however, is also actively involved – but mainly in terms of implementation and maintenance (Interviews DP5, DP6).



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Figure 4: Ökotop Heerdt (community garden area) in Düsseldorf (Photo: Martin Sondermann)

4.3 Artefacts and organisational cultures

After the case studies have been introduced through an overview of gardening projects (4.1) and the constellation of actors (4.2), the following analysis will draw on the concept of planning cultures (3.2). This is split into two parts. In the first part (4.3), the visible artefacts (forms of gardening and cooperation) are analysed in relation to the organisational cultures of the actors involved. Thus, two major forms gardening and cooperation will be highlighted: 'cooperation on a common ground' and 'experimental uses of public spaces'. In a second step (4.4) these organisational cultures will be reconsidered in the planning context (Figure 2).

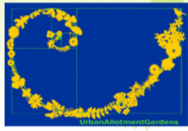
4.3.1 Cooperating on a common ground

A form of cooperation found in both cities can be labelled as 'cooperating on a common ground'. This means that civil society actors and local authorities perform forms of long-term cooperation as (more or less) equal partners, which are based on shared attitudes of all actors concerning liveable and green urban environments.

To understand these forms of cooperation the normative frame on the national level has to be considered. In German spatial planning a shift has been seen since the 1990's from technocratic, top-down, to communicative and cooperative approaches. This shift, in practice, is related to the 'communicative turn' in planning theory (cf. Healey 1996, Selle 2007). Today the common ideal in urban planning is an integrated and integrative urban development as in the 'Sustainable European City' (Leipzig Charter 2007, Toledo Declaration 2010) and related strategic documents. This form of urban development aims at sustainability, the integration of all stakeholders and the simultaneous and equal consideration of economic, social and ecological interests and needs (BMVBS/BBR 2007).

Within this normative frame, public authorities support urban gardening in specific ways. Generally this support includes the provision of suitable sites, soil, plants and building materials as well as financial contributions ('Zuwendungen') e.g. for the initial set up of a site or a project coordinator. Local politicians and authorities also act as mediators between private property owners and civic gardening groups. They support gardening initiatives by helping gardening groups to set up leasing contracts for land-use (BMVBS/BBR 2008b; Interviews HP2; DP1). A rather uncommon but innovative form is to set up a maintenance contract, which includes payments from public funds to a community gardening association that maintains their site as a public green space (cf. Table 3: Ökotop Heerdt, see Fig. 4).

These forms of cooperation are based on common ideas concerning liveable and sustainable urban environments. This can be, for example, a socio-ecological urban renewal of urban brownfield sites. The example of 'Ökotop Heerdt' in Düsseldorf illustrates (cf. Table 3; Interviews DP5, DP6, DC1) the creation of a new area integrating social housing and community gardens. Another form of socio-ecological cooperation is the integration of community gardens into



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Figure 5: Community garden 'Pagalino' in a public green space in Hannover
(Photo: Martin Sondermann)

existing parks and green spaces, as can be observed at projects like 'Pagalino' in Hannover. The 'Pagalino' project is a community garden that is integrated into a public park (Interviews HP1, HP5, HC3, see Fig. 5). Another common motivation for cooperation is a socio-cultural agenda for urban neighbourhoods that are characterized by a lack of social interaction or even social conflicts. In these areas community gardens are initiated either bottom-up as the 'Nachbarschaftsgarten Behnsenstraße' in Hannover or top-down like the 'Gemeinschaftsgarten Ellerstraße' in Düsseldorf (Table 3). These projects primarily serve as a platform for social exchange and intercultural integration of people living in the neighbourhood (Interviews HP2, HC3, DP2). Aside from shared attitudes concerning liveable and sustainable urban environments, another motivation for public authorities to cooperate with urban gardeners lies in their contribution to a local 'Gartenkultur' ('garden culture'). Through this, community and street gardening contributes to the variety of different types of urban parks and gardens by adding contemporary and alternative forms of design and use (Interviews HP4, HP5). By comparing local implementations of these forms of cooperation in the two cities cultural differences can be identified:

In Düsseldorf gardening projects are generally supported on brownfield sites as well as in public green spaces. This support is based on shared attitudes within the public authorities. They consider all forms of greening as a contribution to liveable and attractive urban neighbourhoods, which includes urban gardening. Important are the basic assumptions; that urban ecology is highly valuable and that an ecological urban renewal is a cooperative task of public authorities for green spaces, environment and urban planning as well as of private investors and civil society actors (Interviews DP1, DP4, DP5).

In Hannover gardening projects are also generally supported, but primarily in 'challenged' neighbourhoods. This is related to the attitude of local authorities as well as of local politicians that community gardens are primarily social projects, which contribute to intercultural integration and neighbourhood-building. Here the basic assumption is that social urban renewal is highly important and a cooperative task. The ecological aspects, which are explicitly addressed and highlighted in Düsseldorf, are of lesser importance in Hannover. A second important belief of local authorities for green spaces in Hannover is that these new gardening projects are part of a 'private garden culture' – as they consider Hannover a 'City of Gardens', which includes both public and private gardens as well as the 'German capital of allotment gardens'. Therefore, new urban gardening projects are considered as part of a 'living tradition' (Interviews HP1, HP5, HC1, HC5).

4.3.2 Experimental uses of public spaces

In contrast to these cooperative gardening projects, which are conceptualised for a long-term use of space, experimental forms of support are aiming at time-limited green interventions. These projects are mostly created bottom-up. Local authorities support them as experimental interim-uses of public spaces for a certain period of time by providing authorisations accordingly. The example



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Figure 6: Elisabeths Garten (Garten am KIT), educational garden in a public green space in Düsseldorf (Photo: Martin Sondermann)

of the 'Wandergarten' ('travelling garden') in Hannover best illustrates this form of support. The garden is set up on public squares for one season and moved to other places for the next season. It is an 'ambassador' for the idea of urban gardening (Interviews HP2, HP3, HC4; participatory observations 2012-2014). Another mentionable project is the 'Elisabeths Garten - Garten am KIT' in Düsseldorf, which was set up in 2014, for one season, during the art festival 'Quadriennale Düsseldorf' to demonstrate the idea of urban gardening and to provide information about local crops (see Fig. 6; Interview DC4, www.elisabethsgarten.de). The support of such experiments can be interpreted as an expression of the general open-mindedness of local authorities on contemporary movements, including projects for instance by artists and teenagers. However, the responsible authorities do not intend to establish these projects on a long-term basis, as they are of the opinion that public spaces should stay public and open for a wide variety of uses and appropriations. A long-term gardening project on an inner-city public square, for example, would favour a certain group of people and a certain form of use. As this could exclude other people and uses, the general opinion is that experimental installations are valuable in terms of diversity of uses but only for a limited period of time (ibid.).

Concerning these experimental uses of public space, no significant difference between local authorities in Düsseldorf and Hannover can be observed. There are however, different attitudes between civil society actors who aim for a long-term establishment and local authorities who do not want any form of long-term appropriation in terms of privatization of public spaces (Interviews DP6, DC4, HP3, HP5, HC4). This issue addresses general questions of land-use and is therefore related to the planning context, which will be considered in the following section.

4.4 Organisational cultures in the planning context

Generally, the use of land for gardening within cities depends on their availability, their status in zoning and land-use plans as well as on (potential) conflicts of interests. Civil society actors are often interested in the immediate and long-term use of spaces, especially of public spaces in the city centre. This is based on their intention to gain public attention for their gardening activities as well as on their wish to use them as a 'stage' for their message. In this way however, they mainly have group-specific interests in mind although they are convinced that urban gardening is for the greater good of all citizens (Interviews HP3, HP5). Public authorities, however, have a different attitude concerning the land-use in general and in particular concerning the use of public spaces. They are mostly aiming at long-term uses on 'suitable' sites, which are identified according to zoning plans, other planning documents and most importantly, through consideration of general public interest (Interviews DP1, HP4).

This example illustrates that there are general problems in spatial planning arising with new forms of urban gardening. They arise from or are related to the objectives and the national legal framework of spatial planning in Germany:

First of all, urban planning authorities in Germany are obliged to act in the general public's interest (Article 1 of the federal building code 'Baugesetzbuch').



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Therefore, the promotion or permission for community and street gardening must be discussed in respect of a weighing of interests. Neighbours sometimes claim that these plantings, with their alternative design and forms of use, do not fit their personal taste (Interviews HP3, HC6, DC4). Two other aspects regarding general public interest is the competition for the space usage, for a variety of purposes such as social housing, children playgrounds, sports areas or public parks. The use of former public open spaces for community gardening is especially seen critically as it excludes non-gardeners from using these spaces. Due to problems with vandalism many community gardens have fences and are open to the public only at certain times. Therefore, it is questionable whether they are of interest to the general public or only of interest for the gardeners involved (Interviews HP4, HP5, HC1, DP1, DP4).

Secondly, the degree of professionalization, in terms of urban planning and open space design, determines the collaborations between public and civil society actors. This can be illustrated by non-implemented gardening projects, which have been conceptualised by activists who did not take into account that they have to consider property-rights, public law, binding land-use plans and so on (Interviews HP3, HP4, HC3, HC1, HC2). Another problem relating to groups that fail to implement a garden is a lack of organisational structure. If they are organised as a loose group of gardeners they do not form a legal entity such as registered associations ('eingetragene Vereine') and are therefore rarely able to sign lease contracts and other legal documents. The gardening activists' lack of organisational structure is also characterised by unclear responsibilities and a lack of experience, which is needed to implement and maintain a garden (ibid.).

Thirdly, permission for community and street gardening is necessarily linked to a consideration of whether it affects public safety (Article 1 of the federal building code 'Baugesetzbuch'). This includes a discussion about liability issues, rights and obligations, especially when gardening on public grounds. In order to clarify these issues and to formalise a cooperation between local authorities and civil society actors, formal or non-formal permissions, lease agreements or other forms of contracts can be set up (Interviews 2013: H-PA2, H-PA3; Bläser et al. 2012: 146 f.).

Lastly, public authorities tend to be sceptical regarding the reliability of some gardening groups and their long-term commitment (Interviews HP1, HC3, DP6). A short-term commitment or spontaneous green interventions do not fit well with the logics of planning as planners traditionally think of spatial development on a long-term scale. Moreover, public administrations can be sceptical about the seriousness of the gardeners' interests in gardening as some groups or single activists are politically motivated, perceiving themselves as an opposition to political and economic elites, fighting against capitalism and claiming their 'right to space'. Therefore it is assumed, that these groups or activists use urban gardening rather as a form of protest and self-realization than as a contribution to a sustainable, green and social urban environment. As evident, two conflicting 'logics of action' can be observed in forms of cooperation between public and civil society actors:



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- 'short-term interventions' vs. 'long-term development' and
- 'gardening as ecological and social action' vs. 'gardening as political protest and opposition'.

These conflicts are hindering trustful and reliable partnerships and consequently the establishment of public-civic partnerships (Interviews 2013: HP1; HC1; HC3; participatory observations 2012-2014).

5. Lessons learned for a 'cooperative planning culture'

Taking the findings from the two case studies into consideration, several lessons can be drawn concerning the development of a 'cooperative planning culture' in terms of cooperative planning, implementing and maintaining new urban gardens.

Firstly, the issue of what local authorities can do to develop such a cooperative culture can be queried. Most importantly, local authorities have to develop an appropriate governance structure, which is based on a positive attitude towards civic gardening projects and an open-mindedness. In order to simplify the contact to civil society actors, local authorities firstly need to discuss which department has responsibility and to perceive this as a 'one stop agency'. This means that although different authorities might be involved during the planning and implementation process, only one should take the leading role and organise internal discussions within public administration (Interviews HP2, HC3). At the same time, it is essential to gain knowledge about the availability of suitable sites and to develop routines in cooperating with civil society actors. This includes for instance, open discussions about issues of land-use and potential conflicts (cf. 4.4). Bureaucratic procedures need to be adapted to the civil society actors' ways of thinking and acting, which means that contracts on land-use have to be simplified. Finally, sufficient staff and funding resources are mandatory for actively taking part in such cooperation. (cf. 4.3; Interviews HP2, HC3, DP6).

Secondly, the possibilities for civil society actors to contribute to a cooperative culture shall be highlighted. For most activist groups it is highly important to professionalise and institutionalise. This includes the establishment of organisational structures with a legal form (e.g. as a formal association) as well as a clarification of responsibilities and obligations. This implies an adaptation to the 'logics of public administration' (e.g. thinking with a long-term perspective) to a certain extent and recognition of their possibilities and limitations in taking action and permitting land-use. The professionalisation also includes the development of gardening concepts that contain issues of land-use, design and organisation as well as recognition of the needs of non-gardeners in the neighbourhood and their interests in using these spaces (Interviews HC3, HC6, HP5).

6. Conclusion and Outlook

In this paper local cultures of urban gardening and planning have been considered based on case studies in the cities of Hannover and Düsseldorf. In this way, the importance of taking the cultural dimension of planning into consideration has



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been highlighted. Certain traditions, shared attitudes and underlying assumptions can support the establishment of new urban gardens (cf. 4.3). Additionally, they can lead to conflicts between civil society actors and public authorities (cf. 4.4.). To understand the characteristics and logic of local cultures it is consequently helpful to understand the specific situation in which possibilities as well as constraints appear. It also provides a practical guidance for the actors involved. For example, it might be helpful for civil society actors to point out either ecological or the social objectives of their projects that relate to the attitudes of the local authorities in charge for urban gardening (cf. 4.3).

To move towards a cooperative planning culture, several suggestions have been made regarding what public authorities and civil society actors can do to develop such a culture (cf. 4.4). It can be generally stated that forms of cooperation can improve over time due to positive experiences, the development of new administrative routines and the professionalization of civil society actors - in terms of a mutual approximation of actors to the logics of the others (Interviews HP2, HC3, HC5, DP5, DC1). Although well-established structures and procedures (especially within public administration) can change, they usually change very slowly due to the 'longue durée' of cultural determinations (Fürst 2009: 24), such as traditions and routines.

The recent changes in Hannover and Düsseldorf show that cooperative planning, implementing and maintaining of new urban gardens, especially community gardens, has become more professional and institutional over the last few years. This development is similar to the beginning of the allotment garden movement over 100 years ago. Therefore, a positive future can be assumed by looking back at the past (and tradition) of urban gardening in Germany.

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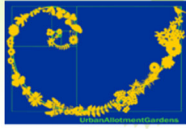
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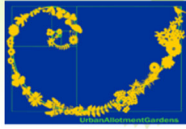
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BRIEF OVERVIEW ON DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGING POPULARITY TRENDS OF ALLOTMENT GARDENS IN LATVIAN CITIES

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Latvia is one of three Baltic States. It is located on the South bank of Bay of Riga. The typical climate for Latvia is mild and it is possible to yield only one harvest a year. Therefore the food supply for winter must be prepared during the warm period of the year.

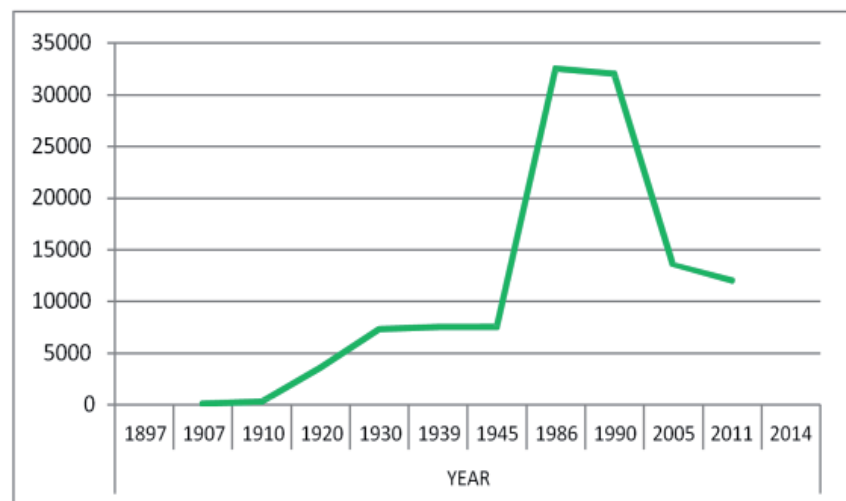
People who inhabited the lands of current territory of Latvia traditionally have been an agrarian nation. But the geographical location on the crossroads between Russia and Europe, as well as entrance to sea served as a catalyst for rapid growth of cities in the beginning of 20th century. As in many countries in the Europe as well in Latvia the origins of urban allotment movement is marked by the beginning of industrialisation.

One of the first written testimonies of establishment of allotment gardens dates back to year 1907 when the first allotment gardens were created in Riga [4]. It is likely that around the same time they were created in other large cities in territory of Latvia as well

The popularity of allotment gardens in cities has had its ups and downs. The tendencies have been closely linked with social and economic situation in country. For example at the very beginning allotment gardens were created to provide better food for growing working class. Later on even with the need for food in mind some other reasons came up. Newspapers wrote about importance of good quality food, need for vitamins and fibre as part of a healthy diet. There was a belief that working in a garden will have a positive effect on moral of workers as well [5, 7].

During the period of both world wars gardens were erected mainly to support citizens with food. But the period of independence of Latvia in between both wars was completely another situation. It was the time when economic of Latvia

Figure 1: The number of allotment gardens in Riga, source: author





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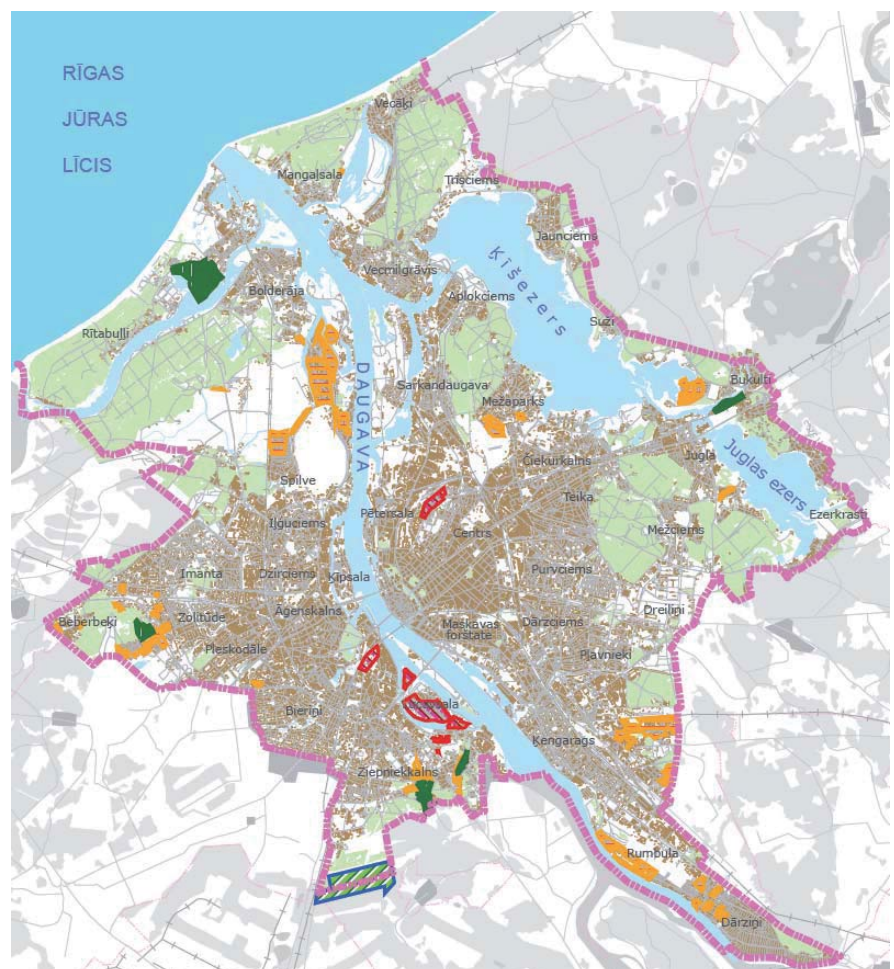
boomed because of its agriculture. The peasant lifestyle became a national symbol and urban allotments served as an instrument to promote living and working with land in urban environment. The creation of allotment gardens was encouraged in any way during this period [11].

The boom of allotment gardens started during the Soviet time. Most of territories were created during 60's and 70's. It is clear that in some or another way it was a need to compensate the food shortages as shops were empty. As well the garden gave a feeling of private property – something that no one living in small apartments in Soviet Union could dream about.

But then – what is an allotment garden in Latvia? With some exception those are land plots 200-600m² in size grouped in a larger territory that can have from 10 until some hundreds garden plots. The land usually is owned by municipality or state and one can rent but not buy an allotment garden. It is either municipality that rent the gardens directly to inhabitants or the territory is rented to cooperative who then lease plots to its members.

There isn't a general law at state level that regulates the development and maintenance of urban allotment gardens in Latvia. These issues are the

Figure 2: Status of allotment sites according Development plan of Riga 2006 - 2018, source: author





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responsibility of municipality. It is municipality's task to create its own inner rules on handling the garden territories. Typically the basics of that are included in building code.

One can find an allotment garden in almost all cities in Latvia. Survey made in 15 largest cities in Latvia show that the situation in all of them is similar. The definition of allotment garden is the same in all cities just with the differences in size (200-600m²). Proportion of territory that allotments cover range between 1,1% - 1,9% of the territory of the city. According to survey the popularity tendency of allotments is quite stable – most of representatives replied that the demand in last 20 years has slightly fallen or hasn't changed a lot.

In most of the cities allotment gardens are temporary use and the territory they cover according to land use plan are meant for something else. Therefore it is a matter of time – when there will be demand for new use of this land, gardeners will need to move. There are different uses that municipalities plan in places of allotment gardens – mixed functions, multi storey housing, industry and green territories. In some cities where there is a possibility to buy land, gardens slowly transforms into private housing areas.

As well the problems related to urban allotment garden sites in all of the municipalities are the same – burglaries, the sad look of some of the territories and as well antisocial behaviour that can be spotted in some gardens. As largest proportion of gardeners are pensioners or people with low income the price of rent is an issue as well – despite the fact that it rarely exceed some Euros per year it is still expensive pleasure for this part of society. The income from garden plots is so low that it is expensive for city representatives to carry proper control in gardens sites – check whether that all of the users have paid the rent, maintain the security and plan for development.

The Case of City of Riga

Riga is the capital of Latvia. Almost one third of countries population live in Riga. Therefore the city with its 302km² area and almost 700 000 inhabitants is the 3rd largest city around the Baltic Sea.

Riga is founded in year 1201. As in many medieval cities the gardens has been there almost always. Located just behind the fortification wall they were used to produce food for citizens of Riga.

The first allotment gardens as we know them today were created in year 1907. German Ernest von Roth claimed that gardens will be a remedy against the popularity wave of socialism, alcoholism and bad behaviour. The idea reached hearing ears – the mayor of the city Georg Armisted. With time the responsibility about integrity of gardens, their look and development was assigned to chief garden director of the city G.Kufalt. The project was made and building rules assigned. Gardens were leased for one or three years. According to that the allowed crops were listed. [14,6]

In 30's there were two main reasons for garden popularity. In the first years after



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war a lot of people were left unemployed and garden was way how to sustain at least food. [13] The second reason is closely related to overall nationalism policy of Latvia that promoted agrarian lifestyle. A lot of resources from municipality were allocated for support of garden movement – finances were given for creation of new plots, installing water supply. There were cases when gardens needed to be moved because of city development plans. In these cases city allocated resources for compensation of trees and houses and assigned new territories for gardeners. To promote use of gardens a lot of articles that promoted the activity were published in mass media. An article in magazine reveals:

"The City council is not trying to get a lot of profit from gardens, because they believe that they create a beautiful surrounding for our gray metropolis. It also teaches the inhabitants that not only the machinery that they work with on daily bases is the riches of our country. It is mother earth that creates wealth of it." [11]

There was a strong control carried out and competitions organised to encourage maintenance of garden plots [9]. The gardens were so popular that there was a belief „Riga is the green metropolis not only thanks to its parks but even more thanks to its allotment gardens”. [10]

The newspapers at that time wrote that biggest problem in gardens is burglaries and alcoholism.

War and rebels has always been a catalyst for garden popularity as it can be the only available food source. After Second World War the number of gardens had grown several times.

During the Soviet time allotment gardens were seen as both – as an important recreation space as well as a place for growing food. Already from the begging of Soviet occupation all free land in the city was divided in small plots and allocated for gardens. There were two types of gardens – individual and collective. The second were created for workers of big factories. [16] The first hand was for soldiers, war veterans and their families. But not all happened on legal basis. Because of harsh conditions after War and also later a lot of people created gardens illegally on free land. The maximum popularity was reached in 70's and 80's [15]. In total during soviet time the number of family gardens grew 4 times (Figure 1).

The typical problem at that time was the inappropriate visual look and buildings of various sizes and appearance that didn't fit with building regulation. Though it was assigned to organize annual monitoring in gardens it didn't always happen [1].

After regaining independence the number of gardens fell rapidly. Lands were given back to their previous owners as a consequence of denationalisation, included in land reserve fund or planned for development. Still quite lot of land that went back to municipality and wasn't possible to develop was kept as allotment sites. Yet some of the most central garden territories were sold. For example the site of first allotments of Riga, in Skanste neighbourhood was closed, houses torn down and trees removed. Now there are banks, sport arena



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and concert hall and territory is undergoing slow process of development to become the new business district of Riga.

This event is important in history of Riga allotment gardens as it became a starting point for society's activism regarding allotment territories, their potential and significance in Riga. The group of gardeners lead by Ms Rita Bebre fought for their rights. And even if they were not able to retain their gardens in Skanste, they achieved that urban allotment gardens as part of green territories were included in Riga development plan 1995 - 2005. It was the first development plan of Riga elaborated after regaining independence. This is where the definition of allotment garden in Riga came up „allotment garden is a specific type of greenery, they are small plots – 100 – 400 m², intended for creation of garden for family or individual's needs.” Development plan defined that urban allotment gardens are long-term temporary use that can be carried out until the development according development plan takes place.[12]

When the current Development Plan of Riga (2006 - 2018) was elaborated some alterations were made. The gardens kept their status as temporary long-term use and a general policy of urban allotment gardens in Riga city was made [13]. Four categories (Figure 2) of allotment sites were divided:

1. Urban allotment garden territories that are going to be torn down soon (can be leased for 1 year)
2. Urban allotment gardens territories that will be torn down when new development takes place (can be leased from 3-5 years)
3. Urban allotment territories that will be preserved (can be leased from 6-9 years)
4. Territories that could be made from anew.

The consequences of this plan we can see today in real life.

Gardens in Skanste were closed and eliminated in year 2002 to give space for extension of city centre, gardens in Torņakalns in 2010. The territory will host the new campus of University of Latvia and building process has already started. Around the same time was stopped the renting of gardens in northern part of Lucavsala and territory was cleared. Nowadays there a very popular public park is built there. In year 2011 some middle term gardens have been closed, mainly on the left riverbank to give space for Port extension.

It means that slowly but gardens are being pushed out of the city centre. Every time when a garden territory is removed there are protests. Yet they newer reach the limit that could become a turning point for allotment garden development. One of the reasons might be that gardens are associated with value by people who use them. Those who don't use them typically associate gardens with degraded territory.

Here we come to the problems of nowadays garden territories in Riga. The image that is in mind of those who doesn't own a garden is sad looking, overgrown spaces with strange architecture and fencing made from anything that has been



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at hand, inhabited by people with no permanent residence, with high rate of crime [8].

This image doesn't promote the use of gardens. So doesn't the short lease term and the unclear future of garden sites. Yet both of these things are important elements in chain reaction that facilitates the current state of gardens. The short lease term make gardeners feel insecure about future and they choose either to abandon garden or use cheap materials to avoid losses if renting of garden is interrupted. As more people abandon their garden, more and more empty plots are left. As garden territories tend to be big and it is hard to oversee them, homeless people move in the empty houses often bringing criminal activities with them. Burglaries and vandalism push enthusiastic gardeners to leave and gardens become even more degraded. This look make municipality think that activity is not popular, it lowers the quality of cities space and serves as a hotbed of crime. These facts serve as a substantiation to step by step reduce garden territories and give shorter lease terms. And the loop starts again [8].

Yet urban allotment gardens have a potential to become an important instrument to sustain the inhabitants of city with accessible green space.

An important factor in Riga case is the housing type that defines the relationship with nature that people can achieve on daily bases. According to Central Statistical Bureau only 5.5% of inhabitants in Riga live in private or twin houses. Apart from 94.5% that lives in apartments, around 70% of them – in multi-storey apartment houses. It means that most of people in Riga don't have a possibility to have a closer contact with soil and green spaces than in a park or forest.

This is an appropriate time to overlook the urban allotment garden policy in Riga. By evaluating the possibilities to protect natural structure and to sustain ecological, recreational and social functions, Riga needs to evaluate the possibility to use allotment gardens as a mean to achieve this goal. If the territories are created based on well thought management policy it would be possible to achieve both – widening the social function spectrum in built up areas and expanding the accessibility to public water spaces and green areas in the city. It would allow achieve the goal of neighbourhood policy that states the need to provide diverse functions in each of Riga's 58 neighbourhoods.

As the new territorial plan is in working progress now, it is possible to start already today.



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WG 1 POLICY AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Chairs: Nazila Keshavarz, Matthias Drilling (absent)

Participants:

Andis Zilans, University of Latvia, Latvia
Ans Hobbelink, AVVN, Netherlands
Bruno Notteboom, Ghent University, Belgium
Byron Ioannou, Frederick University, Cyprus
Chiara Certoma, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Belgium/Italy
Giorgia Silvestri, Dutch Research Institute for Transitions, Netherlands
Kamila Stachura, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
Kristine Abolina, University of Latvia, Latvia
Lidia Ponizy, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
Malou Weirich, Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux, Luxemburg
Martin Sondermann, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany
Nazila Keshavarz, ILS Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development, Germany
Nerea Moran Alonso, Technical University of Madrid, Spain
Renata Giedych, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland
Simon Bell, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia
Simone Tappert, University of Applied Sciences & Arts, Switzerland
Tanja Klöti, University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland
Theodosia Anthopoulou, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece
Werner Heidemann, Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux, Luxemburg

Agenda

Thursday September 4th 15.00-18:00

Topic: Urban Gardens Development in Europe - Main Challenges

Welcome and overview; final agenda setting (NK)

Status report by the participants of WG1: What is new? What happened meanwhile?

An overview of WG1 activities since its inception with focus on book chapters and a short review of WG1 discussions in Lisbon

Team Work as a continuation of discussions in Lisbon about collected information that can be used for:

- Comparison of information within the chapters
- Introducing cross-national case studies (existing)



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- Formulation of recommendations for the use of practitioners
- New suggestions to be discussed and included

Discussions about how to use the experience of urban allotment gardens policy and development at a continental level. How proceed with suggestions to include urban allotment gardens initiatives in the European policy context.

Sharing results of the discussions within WG1 plenary including presentations by lead authors

Friday September 5th

Topic: New Case Studies / New Projects

Presentation 1

Allotment Gardens in Spatial and Environmental Policies of the City - Warsaw and Poznan Case Study

Presentation 2

Future of the Poznan Allotment Gardens, Review of Zoning Plans

Presentation 3

Urban Community and Allotments Gardens in Milan (Italy)

Group discussions about book chapters:

Issues Discussed

Chair of the WG1 updated the team on the topics that were discussed in past three WG meetings in Dortmund (March 2013), Poznan (September 2013) and Lisbon (March 2014) respectively. The idea was to bringing everyone on a same level of knowledge and understanding about what we have done and supposed to do in WG1 during the aforementioned biannual meetings.

Dortmund Meeting, March 7 – 9, 2013

The focuses of WG1 were reiterated which are on the transformation of urban garden itself as a political entity as well as the transition process from urban garden to different forms of urban gardening based on the case studies in European cities and diversity of cases. WG1 interprets the situation and transformation of urban gardens across Europe from the following perspectives:

1. planning philosophy and planning paradigms
2. Users and actors (gardeners, activists, planners, stakeholders, and governing communities)
3. value theory (land value, private and public spaces and location)

These preliminary discussions developed the idea of collecting information from case studies and from the network of researchers who joined the Action in a systematic and structured manner which led the team to develop the “Matrix of Policies” as a baseline for further works in this research area of WG1.



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Poznan Meeting, September 16 - 17, 2013

In Poznan initial brainstorming was directed to two major questions about urban gardens: question one was about the research nature and activities (how to call this phenomenon? Neo-, Re-, Retro- → Forms of cooperation between different modes of AG (gorilla garden, community garden, etc.)) and question two was about Practitioners (different understanding of values).

In Poznan three editorial boards for three chapters of the Action's book under research theme and directions of WG1 were formed.

Lisbon Meeting, March 19 - 21, 2014

In Lisbon the Matrix of Policies was presented followed by roundtable discussions about WG1 main theme and national case studies, as well as the definitions of allotment and community gardens. Their overlaps, distinctions and their position within the urban governance regimes in each specific European country that are members of the Action and are contributing with their case studies were addressed as topics to be included in book chapters. Presentation of Matrix of Policies was a summary of urban allotment gardens governance regimes in Europe which resulted the following questions:

- How governance regimes in European countries that are dealing with community and allotment gardens shall be assessed in our work with having Action's book in mind?
- There are certain levels of governance regimes in different countries that need to be classified and addressed (National, Federal, Regional, Provincial, Local, ...)
- It is useful to develop "Classification Criteria" based on above definitions that demonstrate types and strengths of allotment and community gardens' governance regimes.

In overall 3 levels of governance regimes in presented European countries are observed:



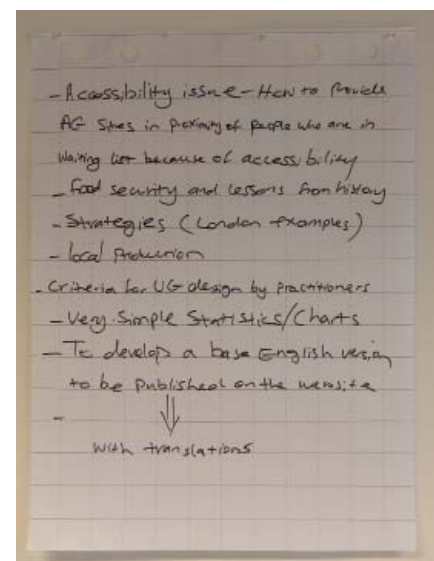
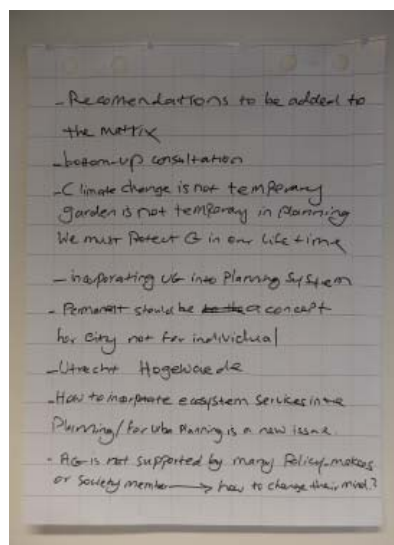
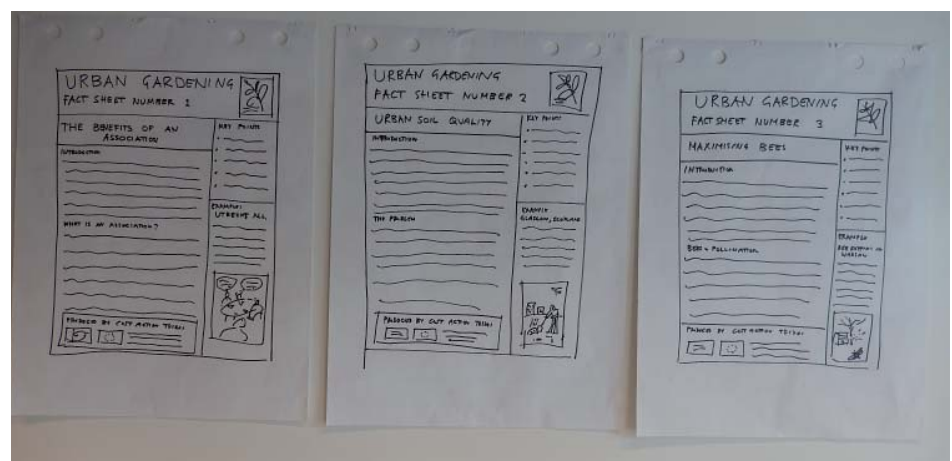


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National, regional/provincial and local (how weak or strong are these levels in relation to the governance of urban gardens in each country?)

The above updates besides roundtable discussions resulted in formulating a new idea about WG1's next task in parallel to book writing that is to develop a series of simple, informative and not heavily technical Factsheets about urban gardens that will be published on the Action's website with easy format to be translated to different languages by the Action's member who are interested to support their gardener community in their own native language. The idea was supported within the Management Committee meeting in the last day of the event in Riga.

The WG1 had three national presentations with one case study from Italy and two cases from Poland and discussions about book chapters by lead and co-authors completed the session. The results of the WG1 meeting were presented to other Working Groups' members through World Café arrangement.





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Working Group 1 Presentations

Future of Poznan Allotment Gardens, Review of Zoning Plans

Kamila Stachura, Lidia Poniży

Department of Integrated Geography, Faculty of Geographic and Geological Sciences, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Dziegielowa 27 61-680 Poznan, Poland

Introduction

According to the spatial planning law (Act of spatial planning 2003 with further amendments), the local law in Poland on the level of commune is constituted by Local Spatial Management Plans (LSMP).

In the light of above, properly managed LSMPs can be consider as a chance for the existence of Poznan AGs in the future. The goal of the study was to analyze existing zoning plans in the context of AGs' spatial position and future.

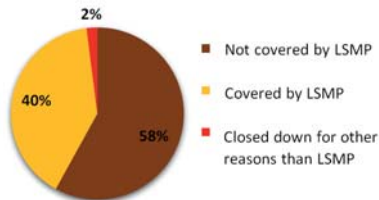
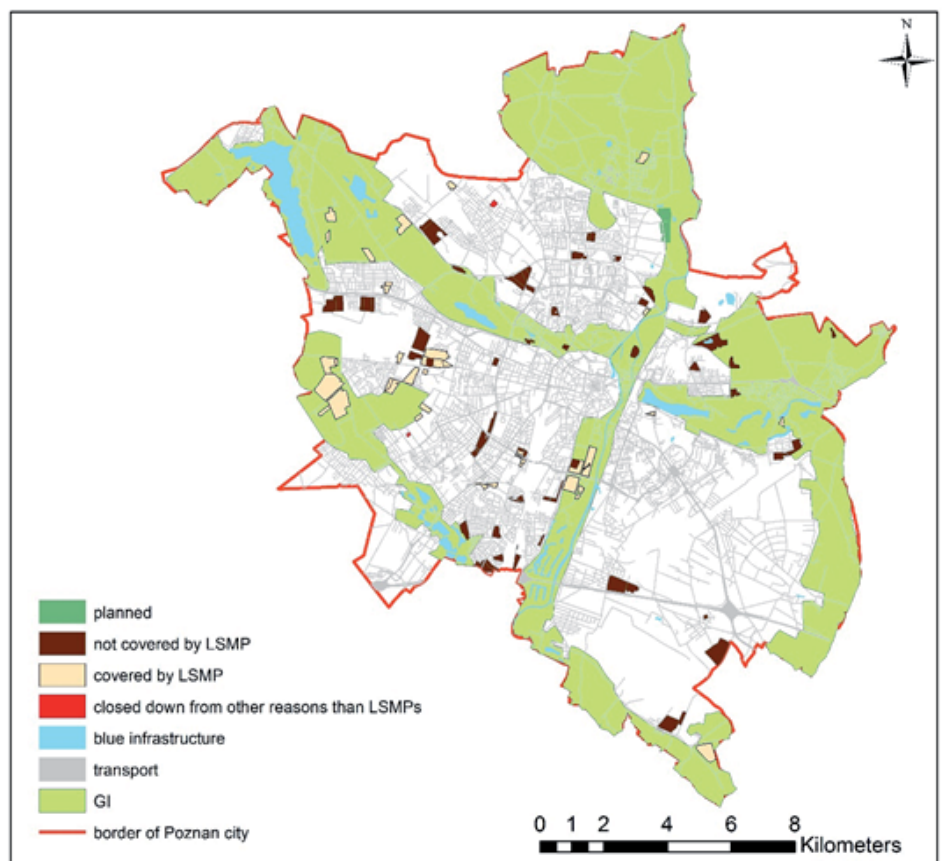


Figure 1. Percentage share of Poznan AGs number cover or not by LSMPs, planned and not existing (source: own elaboration in Excel program based on Urban Planning Office in Poznan website and Spatial Information System of Poznan city website).

Figure 2. Spatial distribution of Poznan AGs cover or not by LSMPs, planned and not existing (source: own elaboration in ArcGIS 10.2. based on Urban Planning Office in Poznan website and Spatial Information System of Poznan city website).





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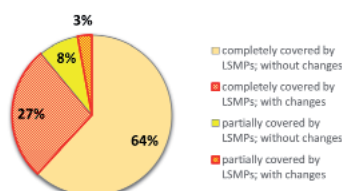


Figure 3. Percentage share of allotment gardens in Poznań covered completely or partially by LSMPs, with or without changes (source: own elaboration in Excel program based on Urban Planning Office in Poznań website and Spatial Information System of Poznań city website).

Methodology

The first step of research procedure was verification of allotment gardens number based on interview with Head of Polish Allotment Gardens Federation in Poznań. In the next stage, coverage of allotment gardens by Local Spatial Management Plans was verified using Spatial Information System of Poznań city website and Urban Planning Office in Poznań website. Stages of LSMP realization were investigated by use Google Earth. Further analysis were conducted in program ArcGIS 10.2.

Because of changes in the law, only LSMPs constituted after 1995 were taken into account as valid.

Results

Total number of allotment gardens taken into account was 98 (figure 1). Among them only 37 allotment gardens were covered by LSMPs, while 57 were not. Additionally, 3 allotments were planned to be opened and another 2 were closed.

Considering spatial distribution (figure 2), most of allotment gardens covered by LSMPs are localized in wedges of the Poznań Green Infrastructure. The Green Infrastructure (GI) of Poznań is mirrored in the ring-wedges system. Wedges are created by green belts from city center to the south and North among Warta river, to the West among Bogdanka river, and to the East among rivers Główna and Cybina (Łukaszewicz and Łukaszewicz 2006).

Total number of allotment gardens covered by LSMPs was 37 (figure 3). From them, 32 allotment gardens were completely covered by LSMPs. More detailed analysis of LSMPs showed that among them land use of 23 allotment gardens were planned to be not changed. However, 9 complexes will be transformed in the future to service area, parks, high housing and roads. From 4 allotment gardens partially covered by LSMPs, among them 3 complexes were planned with no changes in the land use. According to the Study of Land Use Conditions and Directions of Poznań city (1999), one of the complex is within the zone of limited land use of the Ławica Airport, while other 2 are within the border of registered cultural and historic monuments area. On the other hand, 1 allotment garden was planned to be partially transformed into road as a part of important transport junction.

Conclusions

Over half of allotment gardens is not cover by any Local Spatial Management Plans, however numerous LSMPs are being currently prepared. According to the valid plans, vast majority of allotment gardens are maintained entirely or partially. Furthermore, there is abundant group of still functioning complexes, despite land use changes in LSMPs. The reason of that situation is the lack of money for plans realization. However, allotment gardens planned to be changed in the future will be mainly transformed into transport, housing, service area



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and greenery in minority.

The important point of the LSMPs in Poznan situation is the fact that valid plans mainly cover the area of Poznan Green Infrastructure. The LSMPs were used to stop further land use changes of the Poznan greenery. Plans which are being currently prepared, cover the other part of the city. Considering valid plans as a sample it can be assumed that the presented tendency of allotment maintenance by LSMPs guarantees existence of Poznan AGs in the future.

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The Study of Land Use Conditions and Directions of Poznan city valid from 23 September 2014.

Urban Planning Office in Poznan website (www.mpu.pl, access 20.08.2014).

Spatial Information System of Poznan city website (www.city.poznan.pl/mapa_geopoz/poznan_internet.php, access 20.08.2014).



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Urban Agriculture Drives Sustainability Transitions in Milan (Italy)

Research Case Study Summary

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PLEASE DO NOT USE OR CITE WITHOUT AUTHORS' PERMISSION (THE CURRENT CASE STUDY IS PENDING REVIEWS FROM A PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL)

1. Introduction

In accordance with the current scientific research the urban areas and the global population are continuously growing. At the moment more than half of the world's population lives in cities (Dye, 2008). In 2008 the global urban population exceeded the rural population for the first time in the history. In Europe in 2009 the urban population was already 70 % (Nevens et al., 2013). At the moment the majority of the global population and more than 75 per cent of Europeans live in urban areas (Miller, 2005). In accordance with several scholars by 2050 three quarters of the world's population will live in urban environments (Pearson L. J., 2013). By 2030, 6 out of every 10 people will live in a city, and by 2050, this proportion will grow to 7 out of 10 people (UN Habitat, 2010). The population increment and the urbanization trend are paired with increasing uncertainty due to global change, migration of people and changes in the capacity to sustain ecosystem services (Ernstson et al. , 2010). In fact, as consequence of the contemporary urbanization, land uses are modifying and global resources are consuming. These exploitations of natural resources and transformations of green areas cause additional environmental impacts such as the climate change and the hydro-geological instability. For those reasons, in an urban context the traditional paradigm of planning is insufficient (Ernstson et al., 2010) and the urban growth and the urbanization need to be addressed with different strategies. The heads of State and Government, in Rio +20 affirmed the importance to improve the political management and planning of the cities to develop a sustainable future reducing the risks and improving the resilience (UNCSD, 2012).

One of the strategies for urban governance would be to maintain and enhance ecosystem services (i.e. the benefits urban inhabitants and cities derive from ecosystem processes, such as improved water and air quality, flood protection, micro climate regulation, health and social values) (TEEB, 2011; MA, 2005).

Urban agriculture is seen as a strategy to recreate and maintain these ecosystem services and to improve the resilience of the cities. In fact, in accordance with the literature, urban agriculture provides multiple benefits and outcome and it represent a potentially useful environmental change strategy to promote active



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and healthy lifestyles, socialization and social cohesion (Teig et al, 2009; Kuo & Sullivan, 1998).

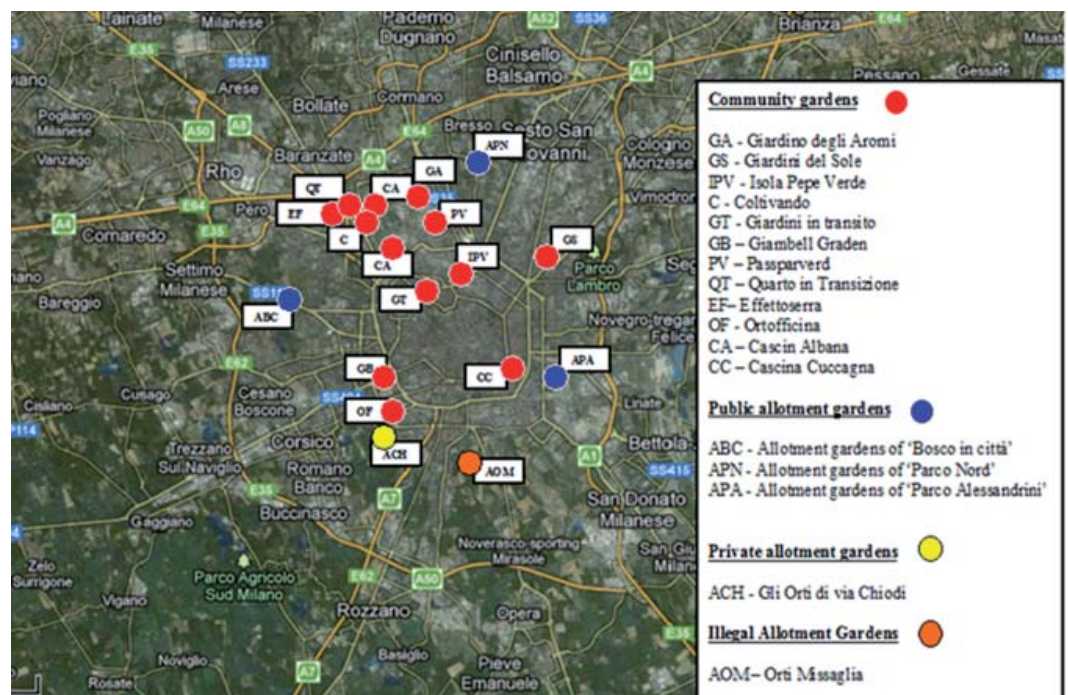
The case study of the research is Milan, the capital of Lombardy region and the second-largest city in Italy after Rome with about 1.324.110 citizens. The municipality of Milan covers 182,07 Km², its urban area is the center of the metropolitan area with more citizens in Italy and the 5th largest in Europe.

The present research aims at examining the current and potential role of the urban agriculture initiatives for the increment of the sustainability and resilience of the city of Milan. In particular the investigation addresses the following research questions:

1. What are the primary motives to create or to join urban agriculture initiatives?
2. What are the benefits (Ecosystem Services) provided by urban agriculture?
3. Which are the transition dynamics of the urban agriculture movement of Milan?
 - What is the relation between motives and benefits?
 - What are in-context problems perceived by the gardeners?
 - What are future wishes and expectations of gardeners?
 - What are the interconnections among community gardens and between these gardens and the local government?

The third research question is based on transition theories (Rotmans et al., 2010; Rotmans et al., 2001) and grassroots innovation theories (Smith et al., 2013;

Figure 1. Urban Agriculture initiatives analyzed in the research (Source: modified from Google Map)





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Figure 2. The oldest community garden of Milan: 'Il Giardino degli Aromi' (Source: Giorgia Silvestri).

Smith et al., 2010; Seyfang and Smith, 2007). The urban agriculture movement is conceptualized as a grassroots innovation movement while the urban agriculture initiatives are understood as socio-technical 'niches'.

2. Research methodology

The methodological approach of this research can be divided in different steps:

1. Literature review and formulation of the research case study and research questions (April-May 2013);
2. Identification of and establishing relations with urban agriculture initiatives and different stakeholders (May-June 2013);
3. Formulation of the interview guidelines (June 2013);
4. Data collection during the fieldwork (July-August 2013);
5. Data analysis (September-December 2013).

During the second step of the research existing urban agriculture initiatives in the city of Milan were identified through official documents, previous researches and an extensive internet research (on project websites). In this phase of the research community gardens, community garden coordinators, policy makers, architects, urban planners and journalists involved in the urban agriculture of the city were identified, studied and contacted.

In total thirty-six urban agriculture initiatives were identified. Twenty-nine urban agriculture initiatives were contacted by e-mail. In fact, we were not able to find contact details of seven out of the thirty-six urban agriculture initiatives identified.



Figure 3. 'Isola Pepe Verde' community garden (Source: left side: Giorgia Silvestri; right side: 'Isola Pepe Verde' association).



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The data collection phase of the research (step 4) includes the collection, storing and organization of the data during two months of fieldwork (July-August 2013). The data was collected using a qualitative research design.

The data collection methods during the fieldwork included:

- Forty-five semi-structured interviews.
- Participant observation of seventeen urban agriculture initiatives (twelve community gardens, three public allotment gardens, one private allotment garden and one illegal allotment garden).
- Focus group interviews as part of an event organized by the gardeners called 'La giornata degli orti urbani' ('the day of community gardens') at 'Il Giardino degli Aromi' on 7 of July of 2013.
- Participation in four public events organized in four different community gardens:
 - 'Coltivando' - 'Il sabato della Bovisa' (13/07/2013)
 - 'Giardini in transito' - 'Pic nic musicale' (14/07/2013)
 - 'Giardino degli Aromi' - Gardeners dinner (11/08/2013)
 - 'GiambellGarden' - Neighborhood party (21/08/2013)

The data analysis (step 5) followed a qualitative and interpretative approach. The recorded interviews were reviewed, coded, transcribed and translated by the author. The next step consisted in the analysis of the content of the interviews.

3. Results

Motives of gardening

The motives of urban agriculture movement in Milan are connected to the creation of an alternative for the city (Provision of a synergy space to solve both ecological and social aims). The problems of the context of Milan are connected to the motives of the creation and engagement of urban agriculture initiatives. The industrial setting, the lack of green space for the socialization, the overbuilding, the lack of a fair urban planning are all problems that reflect on the motives of the creation of grassroots initiatives in Milan. Additionally Milan is historically characterized by a vibrant and active civil society. These in context characteristics are at the base of the aim of community gardens initiators to re-create and re-plan a more liveable and new city. Urban agriculture initiatives participants wish to socially and ecologically transform the city re-creating spaces to re-establish a connection with both nature and other people. The organizers of the community gardens wish to exploit their personal skills and knowledge and at the same time the resources and spaces provided by the city.



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Motives changes over time



Figure 4. Public event 'Il Sabato della Bovisa' at 'Coltivando' community garden. (Source: Giorgia Silvestri)

The motives of both frontrunners and followers change over the time due to the benefits (Ecosystem services) provided by urban agriculture. This change of motives proves the importance of community gardens as educational labs characterized by multiple learning processes. These learning processes are promoted by different factors strictly connected: socialization, contact with nature, increasing of visions, building of networks.

Transition dynamic analysis

'Il Giardino degli Aromi' developed as the first community garden of Milan in 2003. In 2009 other two initiatives started: 'I Giardini del Sole' and 'Gianbellgarden' community gardens. In a first phase these initiatives were not connected and they did not collaborate with each other. In October 2010, during a public event at 'I Giardini del Sole', some organizers of the first community gardens established a contact and started to share information. Several meetings between different community gardeners resulted in establishing a network called 'Libere Rape Metropolitane'. Through this network community gardens initiatives can support each other, share information, organize workshops, events and advice citizens that wanted to create a community garden. The network 'Libere Rape Metropolitane' progressively grew in terms of community initiatives' becoming members and established a contact with the Municipality of Milan. After a seven month dialogue process with the city, the community gardens' network reached an agreement on the management of the vacant green spaces of the municipal property entitled 'Giardini Condivisi'. In 2012 other community gardens were created including 'Cascina Albana', 'Passaparverd', 'Coltivando', and 'Ortofficina'. A part of the park where 'Il Giardino degli Aromi' community garden is set, was set at risk of edification in 2012 for the realization of a building project by the Province of Lombardy. 'Il Giardino degli Aromi' opposed that plan and they successfully mobilized associations and citizens and even created a new activist network, with the collaboration of multiple local associations and cooperatives, with the purpose to stop the building project - the 'Seminatori di urbanità' (sowers of urbanity in English). 'Seminatori di urbanità' developed a campaign to demonstrate the environmental value of the area and collected signatures aiming to request a variation of the territory governmental plan. In November 2013 the municipality of Milan approved the request of special planning control of the area of 'Il Giardino degli Aromi' considering the interests of the citizens and activists.



Figure 5. The transition dynamic of the urban agriculture movement in Milan.

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Urban Allotment Gardens as A Subject of Municipal Policy, Poznan and Warsaw Case Studies

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Introduction

In spite of more than 100-year tradition of allotment gardening in Poland, at present allotment gardens are seen as a product of a socialism times. It makes that their role in the spatial structure of the city is marginalized. This is reflected in attitude to AGs in strategic and planning documents prepared for the Polish cities where AGs are treated as a reserve for the investments or public green areas.

However, as an essential element of green infrastructure with exceptional potential for sustainable development of the city, AGs should be a special object of space management. Whether they are it depends on legal conditions and local spatial and environmental policy.

Objectives and goals

Objective of the comparative study was to analyse the instruments determined spatial and environmental policy of Warsaw and Poznan in terms of allotment gardens.

Analysed documents:

- spatial policy - Municipal Study of Spatial Preconditions and Directions of Development (Warsaw 2010, Poznan 2008)
- environmental policy - The Environment Protection Programme (Warsaw 2010, Poznan 2009)
- Both documents are mandatory and drawn up by the municipality, both have a significant influence on the human well-being: Municipal Study...
 - by creating conditions for the development of particular functions and defining appropriate principles of the land use, EP Programme - by defining environmental objectives and priorities.

Comparative studies focused on way of identification of allotment gardens, its functions as well as the directions of its transformations.

Results

Allotment gardens in Warsaw and Poznan, which have many years' tradition, permanently etched into the urban landscape. In Warsaw, they occupy an area of 1170 hectares, which represents approximately 2.3% of the total city area. Allotment gardens in Poznan occupy a smaller area (804 ha) than in Warsaw. However, they have more significant percentage share (3.1%) in the area of the



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city. In both cities allotment gardens constitute a considerable share in urban green areas, what makes them an important element of cities' natural and recreational system.

WARSAW	
<i>Spatial policy 2010</i>	<i>Environmental policy 2010</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of allotment gardens colonies – 277 • Total area of allotment gardens – 17 km² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of allotment gardens colonies – 176 • Total area of allotment gardens – 11,7 km²
POZNAN	
<i>Spatial policy 2008</i>	<i>Environmental policy 2009</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of allotment gardens colonies – 90 (approx. 20000 plots) • Total area of allotment gardens – 8 km² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of allotment gardens colonies– 90 • Total area of allotment gardens – no data

Table 1. Allotment gardens in numbers

In the analysed documents we diagnosed the following functions of AGs presented in table 2.

WARSAW	
<i>Spatial policy 2010</i>	<i>Environmental policy 2010</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational • environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational • environmental • agricultural
POZNAN	
<i>Spatial policy 2008</i>	<i>Environmental policy 2009</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational • agricultural • environmental – not directly mentioned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational • agricultural

Table 2. Allotment gardens functions

Regarding the functions of allotment gardens in both documents prepared for Warsaw, recreational and ecological functions are noticed. In both documents, it is stressed that the allotment gardens are important element of urban green, especially a refuge for animals (mainly birds) thus contributing to increase biodiversity. In the Environmental Protection Programme (2010) according to the recreational function it is stressed that AGs are areas for leisure but with limited access (only for some of the inhabitants of Warsaw) and it may be regarded as a potential recreation base of Warsawers.

In the same document AGs are also treated as an agricultural land, so it can be recognized as a production function.

Both Municipal Study (2008)... and Environmental Protection Programme (2009) for Poznan indicate the importance of allotment gardens as places for recreation and leisure and in meeting the food needs of the city dwellers. However Municipal Study... emphasizes that the nature of their functions depend largely on the garden users themselves. These documents also indirectly point out the ecological function, stating that allotment gardens



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are a major special purposes area of urban greenery, in addition to being an important element to the wedge-ring green infrastructure system.

Analysing spatial and environmental policies we also diagnosed possible ways of transformation of AGs, which are presented in table 3.

WARSAW	
<i>Spatial policy 2010</i>	<i>Environmental policy 2010</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possible transformation of allotment gardens into public parks • decrease of allotment gardens number due to technical and social infrastructure development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transformation of allotment gardens located in Warsaw Natural System into public parks
POZNAN	
<i>Spatial policy 2008</i>	<i>Environmental policy 2009</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain of 82 allotment gardens • transformation of allotment gardens into public parks • use for development of infrastructure • development of new allotment gardens at the outskirts of the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the maintenance of allotment gardens or transform them into public green areas

Table 3. Allotment gardens possible directions of changes

Conclusions

Stereotypes that allotment gardens are a relic of bygone era, are areas with substandard conditions and in addition lack of reliable data could create barriers for allotment gardening development. Although we analysed spatial and environmental policies of two big Polish cities, where the same legal conditions are applicable, local authorities present different attitudes to AGs. It seems that in Poznan allotment gardens are better perceived. Despite this the study has shown that sectorial policies in both cities pay too little attention to the allotment gardens. They are often treated as a reserve for an urban development. Too little attention is paid its social and environmental functions, including in particular services delivered by the allotment gardens ecosystems. Even though AGs are important part of green infrastructure, their ecological meaning seems not to be noticed.

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WG 2 SOCIOLOGY SUMMARY REPORT

Chairs: Susan Noori, Johan Barstad, Mary Benson (absent)

Participants

Johan Barstad, Norwegian University College for Agriculture & Rural Development, Norway

Hervé Bonnavaud, French Federation of Allotment Gardens (FNJFC), France

Beata Gawryszewska, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

Michael Hardman, University of Salford, UK

Susan Noori, Birmingham City University, UK

Helena Nordh, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway

Maria Partalidou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Jeanne Pourias, AgroParisTech, France

Kadri Semm, Tallinn University, Estonia

Krista Willman, University of Tampere, Finland

Agenda

Thursday 15.00 – 18.00

- Introduction of new members
- Three papers/presentations (15 mins) of a detailed overview of how country case studies link in to the book chapter and the working group. Presentations by:
 - o Kadri Semm, Estonia
 - o Maria Partalidou, Greece
 - o Michael Hardman, UK
- Lead authors of the book chapters present a summary of their chapter to the group
- Discussion surrounding how to move forward with the book chapters

Friday 9.00 – 12.30

- Overview of Thursday's discussions – what did we learn?
- Discussion surrounding how to move forward with the working group – what steps to be taken next, what information needs to be gathered from our case studies, etc.
- Overview of information gathered to date and how this links into the main aim of the Action in relation to WG2 as set out in the provisional structure framework
- Discussion of World Café and how to present an overview of discussions



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Day One Discussions

The session started with a welcome by the chair, Johan Barstad. He introduced Susan Noori as the new co-chair of the WG2. He explained that the presence of a third chair was needed due to some changes in the circumstances of the existing two chairs, which may hinder their attendance at all the meetings. This was followed by a brief introduction by participants. All welcomed Krista Willman, who has recently joined the group from Finland.

The session continued by three presentations of case studies – Estonia, Greece and the UK. Presenters gave an overview of their case study investigations, its relation to the WG2 agenda and how it contributes to their selected book chapters. A short Q&A followed each presentation. Summary of the presentations can be found at the end of this report.

Following this, discussions in the group led to book chapters. Lead authors of the three chapters gave a brief overview of the content of each chapter and the contributing case studies. As the result of the revised structure of the book, the rest of the afternoon was spent on discussions surrounding redrafting chapter 10. As only one lead author of chapter 10 was present, it was agreed that any suggestions will be forwarded to the other lead authors and a decision will be announced later.

Day Two Discussions

The beginning of the second day of meetings was spent on an overview of discussions during the previous day, mainly the book chapters. The second item on the agenda was how to move forward with the Working Group, followed by structuring content for the presentations in the World Café. Stages and output are summarised below.

Potential subjects for investigation:

The WG2 provisional structure framework was projected onto the screen. The group began to identify and discuss areas with a lack of information as potential subjects for investigation during the next stage of activities. These were:

- Conflicts: between users, users and authorities, users and non-users, neighbourhood, do's and don'ts, etc.
- Negative social impacts: we talked extensively about the positive impacts of allotments, but what were the negative social impacts?
 - o Example of matters raised included exclusion of certain groups, closed groups 'clique', image of the allotment, aesthetic, value, 'NIMBG' (Not in My Back-Garden), gentrification.
- Give-up reasons: this could be linked with conflicts.



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Additional output:

One brilliant idea came up about producing a digital visual album of allotment plots; especially images of personalisation of the plots, with quotes from plot holders, based on our visual ethnographies. Maria initially suggested this as a printed book, but as this will incur high costs, an online platform accessible by the public is the best option currently. This will be a great output for the WG2, and the Action, and can be included in the book as a reference. The idea was highly commended in the World Café.

Scientific collaborations:

The group agreed that there should be more collaboration between members to produce scientific papers for publication, conference papers and/or conference workshops. Also, members should circulate news and opportunities within the WG. Some of the suggestions for upcoming conferences:

- The 6th Nordic Geographers Meeting, in Tallinn & Tartu, Estonia (15 – 19 June 2015) on the theme “Geographical Imagination: Interpretations of Nature, Art and Politics”.

Conference information: <http://www.tlu.ee/en/NGM2015/Conference-information>

- The XXVI Congress of the European Society of Rural Sociology (ESRS), in Aberdeen, Scotland, (18 – 21 August 2015) on the theme “Places of Possibility: Rural Societies in a Neoliberal World”.

Conference information: <http://www.esrs2015.eu/places-possibility-rural-societies-neoliberal-world>

- Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, in Chicago, Illinois, (21 – 25 April 2015).

Conference information: <http://www.aag.org/annualmeeting>

Furthermore, Johan Barstad mentioned the Trailing research methodology (Formative Dialogue Research) and whether that could be used in developing new, possible project applications. Literature was later circulated to the group via DropBox.

The WG2 two days’ meeting was concluded by presenting a summary of the discussions to members of the other WGs in the World Café. Presentations received a number of comments, which will be taken on board accordingly.

World Café notes:

- Review of functions
- Use of content analysis: media
- Photo book – good idea to reach wider public



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- Social media – Relevant? Extent? How many people? Relevant, in the context of movements of new types of urban gardens
- Overlaps of Chapter 12 with Chapter 5 – Will each be looked at from a different perspective?
- Can social media close the knowledge gap about UAG among non-users?
- Case studies – spread out, logically

THE CASE STUDY OF ESTONIA

Presented by Kadri Kasemets

Estonian members of WG 2 have two case studies about place-making in the former Soviet time summer cooperative areas (known as dachas). Tarmo Pikner focuses on allotment gardening practices in Narva. This presentation, in the context of urban sprawl, introduces a case study about place-making in former summer cooperative area, near Tallinn.

Historical context

Estonian case study concentrates on former gardening cooperative areas that were created in the 60s, 70s and 80s for seasonal living and gardening. These areas were built by big enterprises for their workers. Generally these settlements were located close to good public transport or in naturally attractive areas. To a lesser extent, similar dacha colonies were also established around other Estonian towns (Leetmaa et al 2012). Initially, the members of former gardening cooperative came from the same enterprise, shared a piece of land usually surrounded by a fence and everything inside that fence, i.e. roads, ditches, power lines etc. The plots were used to grow vegetables and erect small non-heated houses for summer residence. In the Soviet period, rebuilding activity of these houses was prohibited. So the landscape of summer cooperative areas was meant only for seasonal use. People started showing up in spring, stayed during the summer and disappeared again in autumn. Currently this seasonal agency rhythm is changing, because the former summer cooperatives are transforming into permanent living. There are political and planning reasons behind this process. After Estonian independence as a result of privatization, the land was distributed to the members of the cooperatives, who fenced off their pieces of land and often sold them. Some rebuilt their cottages into houses that allowed for year-round residence, then moved in or sold them. No restrictions regulated the rebuilding of summer homes for permanent living. The greatest increase in reconstruction was when Estonia experienced a housing boom in the end of 90s and in the 2000. Transformation of former summer cooperatives is also influenced by urban sprawl that is occupying besides agricultural land, natural grass land and forests also dacha areas (Samarüütel et al 2010). The main impulses to move into second-home areas and improve them were similar to the general causes of the suburbanization process, such as having one's own house outside the city and the attraction of nature. Former summer cooperatives were often preferred over new suburban settlements because in a summer-home area the



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price of a plot was cheaper and it had an existing socio-spatial structure. Currently many former cooperatives are complemented with physical infrastructure, central water and sewing system, which has raised the price of the plots. It has been argued that in the larger extent transformed homes belong to the middle-aged owners (Samarüütel et al 2010), but our case study showed that all plots were lived permanently by young families with children who did not have previous connection with the area.

Data taken from the research made by Leetmaa et al (2012) reveal that the number of dachas built during the Soviet years in the suburban ring of Tallinn was 26 000. In 2002, municipal experts estimated that approximately 60 per cent of all dacha plots could potentially be used for permanent living. The results of their 2007 field study indicated that 35 per cent of dachas had permanent residents. In 2008 the total number of summer-home plots with temporary living was approximately 28 000 in the greater region of Tallinn. The colleagues at the University of Tartu have published several articles, mainly from perspective of planning and demography about the transformation of former summer home areas (Leetmaa et al 2012; Kährik et al 2012; about home making process read Nuga et al 2014).

Case study

The aim of my case study is to research place-making in former summer cooperative Lille (flower – Est.) near Tallinn in Kiili municipality. Kiili is a small municipality right next to the southern boundary of Tallinn, uniting the territories of the former kolkhoz with the settlement of Luige, with its distinct landscape of summer cottages and attached kitchen gardens. Luige has some 30 of these former cooperatives, with more than 1000 inhabitants. After the turn of the millennium, the population of the municipality started to change, and the former marginal area has become a venue for rapid suburbanization. The municipality has declared that it wants to be a home for people who value education, culture, entrepreneurship, the environment and the rural lifestyle. The municipality wants to be integrated into the greater Tallinn urban area, but maintain its rural character and environmentally friendly appearance.

Former Lille cooperative has about twenty-four houses, with no empty plots. In 2010 young families who had no long-term connection to the place lived in thirteen plots permanently. The summer-home owners lived in smaller cottages. One plot was divided into two plots and sold. I study how new homeowners, who live permanently in the area adapt to their living environment, and to its material and social conditions; and how the former summer-home owners adapt with the new residents. This study is aimed to contribute to the chapter 11 Place-making: A place called allotment garden; to the sub-chapter 11.4 Urban Allotment Garden: a case for place-making. There are also connecting points with the chapter 11.5 Urban Allotment Garden: from space to place.



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Methods

For studying the place-making in the former Lille cooperative the “go-along” method was used. Five go-along interviews were conducted in autumn 2010 and 2012, and in spring 2013. Two informants were permanent residents with families. Both of them had moved to Lille without being previously connected to the neighbourhood. One respondent was the informal “village head” of Lille. Three other informants were summer-home owners, pensioners who had moved to the area at the beginning of the 1980s. They were active gardeners. All of the respondents mentioned each other in the fieldwork because of being active community members or next-door neighbours. I analysed respondents’ experiences according to their houses, gardening habits, social relations, histories and environmental issues.

First conclusions

The living patterns in Lille can be divided into that of summer residents and that of the new permanent residents, whose agencies in the cottage area differ because of political formation, social habitus, age and historical knowledge of the area. Most of the visible changes in Lille distinguishing summer-home residents from permanent residents were connected with the rebuilding of summer cottages and the use of gardens. The summer-home owners had their own agency pattern. They started gardening in spring and ended in the first days of October. They complained about expensive investments, but they understood and accepted these changes. Their somewhat passive attitude to the new agencies was connected with the ages of the summer-time residents. New residents needed to adapt to winter storms, bogginess, infertile soil and spring floods that did not concern summer-home residents. The social relations between new residents were strong because of the informal village head’s initiative, which provided a positive example for activity networks. Together most difficulties were solved connected with seasonality and the lack of central planning.

Butz and Eyles (1997) in their analysis of the place-making make a difference between different aspects of place making. Ecological sense of place means that “people’s interaction with place is rooted in numerous and on-going ecological encounters, contextualized by a variety of everyday practical purposes” (Butz and Eyles, 1997: 11). The social sense of place is based on social relations. This means that a place may be important only in terms of a good location, and nearness to nature, but the identity character is still based on social contacts, like jobs or friends (Butz and Eyles, 1997: 14). In terms of place-making in the former Lille cooperative a transformation takes place from an ecological sense of place to a social sense of place. The local history and direct natural attachment usually does not participate in the social identity creation. This conclusion supports also the argument of the perception of nature (see Soini et al., 2012) in which the sense of place of part-time residents (in our case, summer-home owners) is primarily related to environmental quality (gardening), while the permanent residents emphasize social relations in their sense of place. At the same time environmental and seasonal aspects had very significant impacts on the landscape transformation. Thus, I suggest the concept of a “ecological sense



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of place” as a useful concept for studying the landscape of gardening.

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THE CASE STUDY OF GREECE

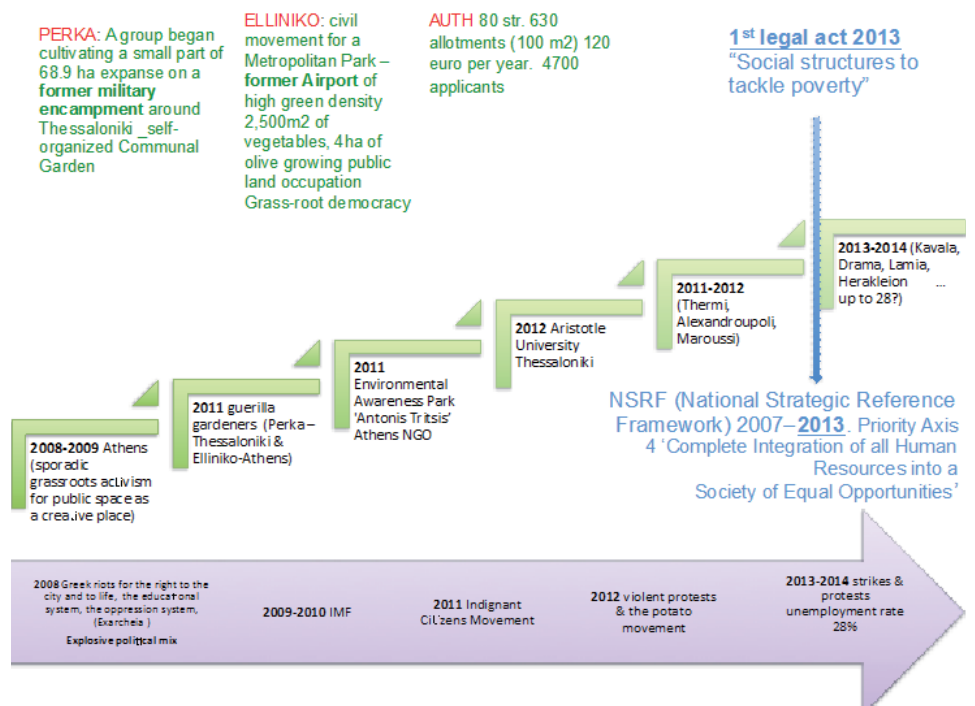
An overview on driving forces, perceived motives and lived experiences

Presented by Maria Partalidou

Urban allotment gardens are a very recent phenomenon in Greece but with dynamic development within the city limits or/and the peri-urban areas mainly associated to crisis impacts and general rethinking of consumption patterns in modern societies. We cannot yet have explicit answer to whether it responds more to the social demand for landscaping/keep some rare open/unurban spaces in cities rather than combating urban neo-poverty but we can identify different types, of urban gardens, all over Greece, during these past years within a framework of mixed societal changes and needs (Figure 1). It is rather clear that according to the different agents and different frameworks the urban gardens in Greece serve a set of aims such as: food re-localisation, economic crisis-tackle poverty, degradation of urban life, re-appropriation of public space, social integration-community cohesion and grassroots democracy.

There are those private driven in the form of “guerilla gardening” within political context of re-appropriation of public space for example in Athens- Agros Elliniko (<http://agroselliniko.blogspot.gr/>) and Thessaloniki-Perka (<http://perka.org/>). There are also the institutional ones aiming at a liveable city and re-establishing the lost connection to food. For example there is one from an environmental NGO in Parko Tritsi in Athens (<http://parkotritsi.gr/>) and the garden allotments of the School of Agriculture in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (http://eco.auth.gr/wordpress/?page_id=3425). The latter is considered as a

Figure 1: Timeline of urban garden allotments and community gardens in Greece, source: author



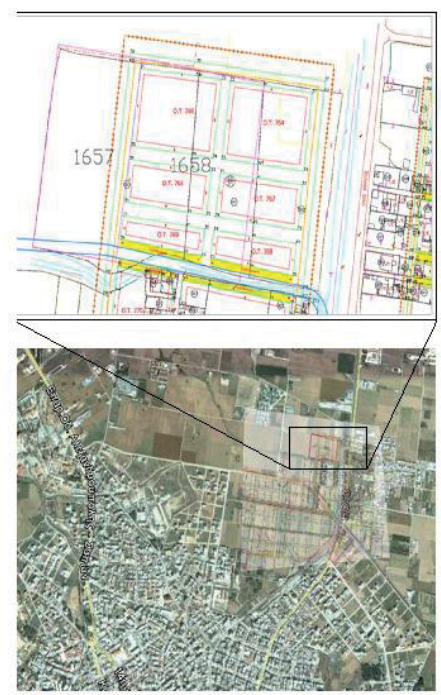


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very successful initiative covering a huge demand of urban dwellers in the big centre of Thessaloniki. It is worth noting that during the open call for a plot the registrations came up to 4700 applications. Finally, we have the municipal urban gardens emerged during 2011 and currently have been proposed to work under a mixed Public Private Partnership established by the Ministry of Development and Competitiveness within the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) 2007 -2013. This framework seems that has legitimized urban garden allotments adding them in a constellation of actions (social grocery, centre open daily host homeless, social pharmacy, vegetable garden, time exchange, mediation offices, etc.) that combat poverty and help towards the integration of human resources into a society of equal opportunities.

From our research several points can be raised in regards to the configuration of space and boundaries in the municipal urban garden allotments. In the two cases we investigated we can find allotments with public view to the gardens from the main road but with a locked gate. The vegetable plots are tightly next to each other, separated by fences or small dirt paths, some fixed elements (cabins for the municipality people and meeting point) and several types of cultivation.

In regards to the perceived motives of users we can only elaborate on results of field work in two municipal urban garden allotments in northern Greece (the city of Alexandroupolis and Thermi) using several methodological tools: key informants such as local stakeholders, public servants involved in the initiative, technical advisors etc., as well as personal interviews with people (structured questionnaire), focus group discussions after harvest [for lived experiences] and participant observation (see Anthopoulou et al, 2012 in Greek).





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The very first priority for asking a plot from the municipality in both cases was the need “to know what I am eating”, “to produce my own vegetables”. And then access to food in terms of food provisioning amidst the current economic downturn. The motivation of leisure and spending free time (either for the pensioners or the unemployed) was also of some importance. It is worth mentioning that socializing or educating the children or greening the city through the garden was not a highly valued motivation. The analysis of a set of variable including motives, personal characteristics and socioeconomic attributes from the data collected from the two gardens gave us a fertile ground for a new typology of gardeners (Figure 2).

Figure 2: source: author



However, after the 1st harvest the lived experiences provided our research with some different findings. The garden has served for some as a place of production/labour fitting to the aims of the municipality. [...] For me it is a way to have fresh vegetables now that the prices of food are getting higher and higher ...we don't know how to manage...the garden provides vegetables for my family and my relatives also. I even consider now agriculture as a job opportunity. But the majority of the users highlighted the use of the garden as a place for social interaction: [...] I am unemployed and for me the garden is something that keeps me going! Otherwise I would be all day in front of the TV. [...] For women it is easier when they retire, they still do many things...for me it was very difficult I did not know what to do all day! Where to go? Now –with the garden-I have my morning



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coffee with all the others at the garden and I am happy. Also in the garden people re- discover themselves, remember the past, dig up memories of their rural background of their next of kin [...] the allotment reminds me of my father... I remember him all day working with the land ...now i try to do everything like he used to do, with his hands ... no machinery, no chemicals... just love, water and the sun! Finally, the garden served as a place for exchange of knowledge and developing new skills. Overall the garden is constructed and imagined as lived place with elements of belonging and personal signifiers of identification.

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THE CASE STUDY OF UK

Researching Urban Allotment Gardens in the UK: The Story of Real Food Wythenshawe

Presented by Michael Hardman

Introduction

In the UK context, Real Food Wythenshawe, in Greater Manchester, is one of the largest and most ambitious urban food projects around, with the scheme receiving over £1,000,000 in initial funding and seeking more in follow-on funding. The scheme, which runs from 2013 – 2018, aims to transform Wythenshawe and enable the population to receive greater access to fresh produce: creating new allotments, community gardens, urban farms and more radical forms of urban food growing, such as a revolutionary 'geodome' growing system.

Real Food Wythenshawe is part of the Communities Living Sustainably (CLS) funding stream from the UK's National Lottery. The funding aims to tackle behaviours in the area, particularly eating habits and general diets, with the Real Food team aiming to create interventions to alleviate issues in the locale. There are numerous other CLS projects across the UK, but the Real Food Wythenshawe programme is the only one which tackles food security specifically, through adopting an approach with urban agriculture as the focal point.

Understanding the context: reconnecting with the landscape

Wythenshawe is characterized as a food desert and the residents of the area generally hold poor diets (Hardman and Larkham, 2014); ultimately, the aim of Real Food is to address this through a highly ambitious approach of creating new urban food sites and through education residents with regards to their diets. In doing so, the Real Food team hope to make a significant impact on the population and pave the way for a change of culture: ensuring that the locals rely more on fresh produce and not unhealthy takeaways or other foods.

The Wythenshawe area was once a garden city and, one of the core aims of



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the Real Food project is to retrace the history and embed this culture across the area once again. The project unconsciously follows Viljoen's (2005) concept of Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes (CPULs), in that areas are connected and opportunity spaces are viewed as not merely neglected sites, but also parks, gardens and existing greenspaces. The project's urban farm, for instance, is situated within the heart of Wythenshawe Park, one of the largest areas of greenery within the area. Figures 1 (a-d) demonstrates a range of activities which the Real Food team are pursuing in the area, from new UAGs to more radical forms of urban agriculture.



The ultimate aim of the project is to raise awareness of different UAG practices and educate the community about cooking and preparing fresh produce. In doing so, the Real Food team hope to set the groundwork for the expansion of UAG and similar activities in the area; this will not only lead to the transformation of neglected landscapes but also impact on the eating habits of those who reside in Wythenshawe.

Methodology

The University of Salford is working with the project for the next five years to conduct research around the impact of urban food on the locale using questionnaires, interviews, ethnography and other tools to assess the scheme (Figure 2). In terms of ethnography, in essence the 'detailed description of a particular culture primarily based on fieldwork' and a popular tool for those practising anthropology (Haviland et al., 2010: 12), Jackson (1990) states that, unlike other disciplines, the use of field notes means that anthropologists create their own evidence. In this case, large amounts of field data will be captured from an array of UAGs across Wythenshawe.



With the questionnaires, perhaps the centre piece of this data collection, researchers will track the diets and general health and wellbeing of residents, enabling a comparison over the years of the project's operation. Quota sampling will be used to justify the size to be collected, whilst researchers will also ensure that data is collected from a range of locations across Wythenshawe (cf. Silverman, 2010). Figure 3 shows a preview of the questionnaire, which is somewhat long in length, due to requirements from the funders regarding the data which needs to be collected.



Figures 1 (a-d): an overview of some of Real Food's activities in Wythenshawe, source: author

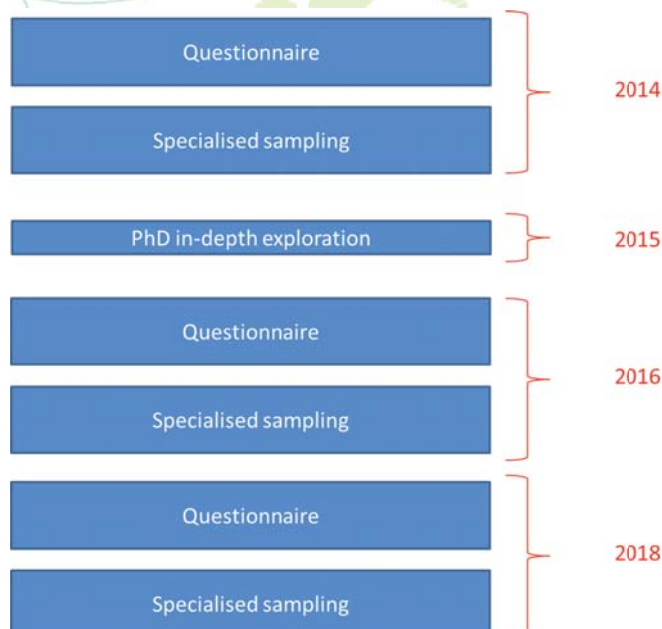
In addition to this work, Real Food Wythenshawe is funding a PhD student who will use focus groups, semi-structured interviews and informal interviewing to gather data on the perception of the practice: engaging with the community around their views on urban food and whether the project is benefiting them in any way. A typology of sites, based on scale and location, will be selected by the PhD student who will then undertake an in-depth exploration; delving deeper into the project and its impact.

Ultimately, this data aims to shed some light on the potential of urban food projects and their role within deprived communities. Whilst there is a nascent literature base on UAG within the UK (see for instance Milbourne, 2011; Welsh



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Figure 2: A basic visualisation of the research approach, source: author



Rural Observatory, 2012; Wiltshire and Geoghagan, 2012 and others), there is still an urgent need for research around the practice. The research conducted around the Real Food initiative hopes to go some way to filling this gap and providing more knowledge on UAGs.

Figure 3: A snapshot of the Real Food Wythenshawe questionnaire

Real Food, Wythenshawe.

Serial Date LOTTERY FUNDED Location

Real Food Wythenshawe Baseline Questionnaire

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed for the Real Food Wythenshawe Research Project. We are asking people across Wythenshawe to tell us about the foods they eat, their lifestyle and health, so that we can plan the right kind of activities to help people grow, cook and enjoy fresh, healthy foods and check the project is working

Please tick if you live in Wythenshawe ☐

Please tick if you have answered a RFW questionnaire before ☐

Food shopping

1) On average, where do you buy the following types of food? (Tick all that apply)

	Supermarket (Tesco, Asda, Morrison's, Sainsbury's) (1)	Value Supermarket (Aldi, Lidl, Nisa) (2)	Market stall or specialist shop (fruit and veg stall, butcher, baker) (3)	General shop (One shop, poundshop, B&M) (4)	Other (Foodbank, vegbox scheme, milkman) (5)	Don't buy/eat this (6)
Fruit and vegetables						
Meat						
Fish						
Eggs						
Milk and dairy						
Bread						
Dry goods (tins, rice, pasta)						

Growing your own

2) In the last 2 years have you grown your own fruit and vegetables at any of the following places? (Tick all that apply)

	Yes	Where (give name if applicable)
Allotment		
School		
Community Garden		
Own garden/windowsill		
Other, please specify		



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Concluding thoughts

Thus far, the research team has engaged hundreds of residents within the Wythenshawe area, with preliminary results showing that the general health and wellbeing of these individuals is poor. Furthermore, the results also demonstrate how many are not involved in UAGs, but would like to know more and receive training on how to grow their own produce. This desire to learn and be involved in UAGs fits well with the Real Food project's overarching aim, which is to engage residents about the benefits of growing their own vegetables and fruit.

Nevertheless, the Real Food programme is extremely ambitious and only in subsequent years will the impact of the project's action become known. Wythenshawe is an extremely difficult setting to work within, both due to its size and to the many challenges one faces with the population (i.e. existing eating habits). Whether UAGs can make an impact in such an area is still to be determined.

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URBAN ALLOTMENT GARDENS



WG 3 ECOLOGY SUMMARY REPORT

Chairs: Andrzej Mizgajski, Annette Voigt

Attendees

Ligita Balezentienė, Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Lithuania

Béatrice Bechet, French Institute of Science & Technology for transport, development, networks, France

Avigail Heller, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Israel

Andrew Hursthouse, University of the West of Scotland, UK

Mart Külvik, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia

Johannes Langemeyer, University of Barcelona, Spain

Monika Latkowska, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

Teresa Leitão, National Laboratory for Civil Engineering (LNEC), Portugal

Andrzej Mizgajski, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Hanspeter Nimmerrichter, Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux, Luxembourg

Sarka Petrova, Institute of Experimental Botany, Czech Republic

Annette Voigt, University of Salzburg, Austria

Issues Discussed

Adoption of the agenda; short introduction; summary review of minutes of Lisbon meeting

Presentation and discussion of current projects

Andrzej Mizgajski; Johannes Langemeyer, Šárka Petrová

Presentation and discussion of current projects

Andrew Hursthouse

Presentations of publication proposals

Short overview on status of chapter information by the lead authors

Presentation and discussion of the 3 book chapters organized by the lead authors

General discussion about overlapping and gaps

Discussion of special tasks/problems divided in thematic groups

How to continue? (Writing process, next meeting)



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Presentation and discussion of case studies from WG 3 members

Ladislav Bakay: Methodology discussion. Survey of abandoned plots and the abundance of invasive species in Nitra

Avigail Heller: Picking plants for Allotment Gardens or Community Gardens

Monika J. Latkowska: Allotment gardens in Warsaw – methodology and results of the studies

Uche O. Chukwura: Evaluating hydrological controls on the migration of potentially toxic elements in soil and waste materials

General Discussion: Potential for cooperation

In search of opportunities for scientific cooperation within Working Group Ecology, every member presented his/her area of interests. It turned out that WG3 members are interested in 5 specific research fields, which have significant potential for cooperation:

- Contamination of the cascade systems: soils - water - plants: Teresa Leitão, Andrew Hursthouse, Béatrice Bechet, Uche Chukwura
- Botanical and geobotanical studies: Laco Bakay, Ligita Baležentiene, Avigail Heller, Ari Jokinen, Monika Latkowska,
- Position of AGs in urban structure: Mart Kulvik, Andrzej Mizgajski
- AGs as ecosystem services providers: Jürgen Breuste, Johannes Langemeyer, Annette Voigt
- AGs users ecological behaviour and practice: Annette Voigt, Jelena Ristić Trajković, Andrzej Mizgajski

The subgroups declared to develop cooperation programs. Discussion about: common approach to all 3 ecology chapters We agreed

Interesting discussions about what members of other WGs are expecting from our WG,

- Relation of AG's typology with ecology
- AGs as urban Ecosystems; AGs and biodiversity
- Recommendation for site selection
- Regulations, garden philosophies from an ecological perspective
- Knowledge about species selection for roof gardens
- Knowledge about species selection for food production and conditions for growing vegetables
- Sources of seeds /seedlings (local) for food production, (diseases, risks)
- Climate change from urban design and ecology perspective

(BUT: WG3 is not dealing with food production issues)



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Andrzej Mizgajski:

- Position of the AGs flora against the background of urban biodiversity – the case study of Poznań; (coordinated by Prof. Janina Borysiak)
- Ecosystem Services supply by AGs in Manchester and Poznan
- Material flows through AGs from ecological perspective – an input-output approach; (Dr. Lidia Poniży)

Johannes Langemeyer: The generation of ecosystem services in urban gardens from a socio-ecological systems perspective

Šárka Petrová: Remediation of urban brownfields using plants

Andrew Hursthouse:

- Metal uptake and variability
- STSM report

POSITION OF THE AGS FLORA AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF URBAN BIODIVERSITY – THE CASE STUDY OF POZNAŃ

Janina Borysiak, Andrzej Mizgajski, Andrew Speak

They presented:

- The general research procedure
- The described features analysed for every species
- The template used for investigation of individual AGs
- Part of the table with the list of 334 flora species identified during the field research in 12 AGs plots
- Some results according to phytosociological structure, synantropization level and Raunkiaer's life form spectrum

Ecosystem services supply by AGs in Manchester and Poznan

Andrew Speak, Andrzej Mizgajski, Janina Borysiak

The project performed together with Andy Speak during his STSM. It presented methodological aspects as well some results of comparative study between AGs in both cities

Material flows through AGs from ecological perspective – an input-output approach

Lidia Poniży, Andrzej Mizgajski

It presented the allotment gardens form which has been distributed among about 30 AGs users. The Gardeners notice every kind of matter flow (inputs and outputs) with the assistance of master students.

The content of the booklet includes the matter flow related to:



URBAN ALLOTMENT GARDENS

- o Facilities existed on the parcel
- o Wastes
- o Cultivation and crop
- o Fertilizer and pesticides usage

THE GENERATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN URBAN GARDENS FROM A SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE

Johannes Langemeyer

The presentation will report on the Short-Term Scientific Mission conducted as part of the COST TU1201 on allotment gardens at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden, between April 1 and June 30, 2014. Urban gardens provide manifold ecosystem services to gardeners and city inhabitants. In this study, urban gardens are approached as coupled social-ecological systems to examine both social and ecological garden characteristics favoring the production of ecosystem services. Along a case study of municipal and squatter gardens in Barcelona, Spain, social-ecological garden characteristics were assessed through qualitative research methods. In a second step, gardens were clustered with regard to the ecosystem services they provide. Results show clear differences between the types of ecosystem services provided in different gardens. For example, gardens run with an allotment structure of individually tendered plots are better apt for food supply. In contrast, collectively managed gardens stronger serve individual and social fulfillment and realization. Based on the results I discuss the interplay of social and ecological factors for the production of ecosystem services in urban gardens and generalize our findings. Exemplary, the provision of a wider bundle of property rights may increase the abundance and diversity of flowering plants and thereby enhance habitat and species diversity and pollination (again supporting the production of food). Integrating such holistic perspective of human-nature interrelations into urban green infrastructure policies may allow for an active enhancement of ecosystem services, e.g. through co-management structures. More flexible institutional frameworks might permit and encourage the spontaneous emergence of community-based garden initiatives and the broad bundle of ecosystem services it brings with it.

REMEDIATION OF URBAN BROWNFIELDS USING PLANTS

Petrová Šárka, Soudek Petr, Vaněk Tomáš

*Laboratory of Plant Biotechnologies, Institute of Experimental Botany AS CR
Rozvojová 263, 165 02 Prague 6, Czech Republic*

Environment contaminated with industrial waste is often hazardous for human health through its exposure via the food chain and other pathways. There are many technologies that deal with cleaning up of the contaminated sites and phytoremediation is one of them. The use of plants to remove contaminants from soil and water is an efficient cleanup technology for a variety of pollutants.



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Phytoremediation is usually carried out in situ contributes to its cost-effectiveness and may reduce an exposure of the polluted substrate to humans and the environment.

Plants can be used for phytoremediation in different ways. Method which uses plants to remove contaminants from soils, sediments or water into harvestable plant biomass is called phytoextraction. Generally this process has been used more often for extraction of heavy metals or radionuclides. Other method is called phytodegradation. It deals with degradation of pollutants in soil or in plant parts and it is suitable more for organic contaminants.

Our projects deal with ecological enhancement of urban brownfields by using of phytoremediation. In our country there are many places contaminated due to human activities. For example Holýšov had been contaminated by toxic metals such as Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb or Zn due to glass works, ammunition factory during WWII and machine industry. Example of radionuclide contaminated site is next to village Mydlovary (South Bohemia) and site contaminated with both organic (PAU) and inorganic (heavy metals) pollutants is area in city Kladno (old steel producing facility).

Due to soil contamination, underground water is polluted; therefore, the spread of the contamination can affect near inhabited areas. The objectives of our work are usually focused on cleanup mechanisms of contaminated water, and monitoring of pollutants in pioneer plants. We also deal with selection of plant species suitable for the polluted sites.

Acknowledgement: This work was supported by projects LD14106 and LD14107.

Variability in the transfer of potentially toxic elements in vegetables grown on urban allotment gardens

Alaba Joshua Agboola, Andrew Hursthouse, Roslyn McIntosh & Simon Cuthbert*

*Institute for Biomedical & Environmental Health Research, School of Science, University of the West of Scotland, Paisley PA1 2BE, UK. (*Andrew.hursthouse@uws.ac.uk)*

Soil acts as a sink for potentially toxic elements from human activity and in urban environments, there is a recognised potential risk to human health to those who live or eat crops grown on it. In addition there are questions about management of soil in urban allotments to protect yields and nutritional value of the produce. The aims of the research are: to evaluate the variability in mobility of toxic element in soil-plant and to examine the factors affecting their uptake, and to investigate the variability of total and bioavailability concentration of these PTEs (As, Cr, Cu, Pb, Ni, Co, Cd, Zn, Mn and V). Soil samples and vegetable samples were collected in allotment garden in Greenock, Scotland where contamination from lead has been identified as a major concern for human health. The soil samples were collected with coring devices at 0-20cm depth and W sampling styles were used to collect spot and composite sample. Soil sample were oven dried at 370c in accordance with ISO 11466:1995(E), diges-



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ted with aqua regia (HCl: HNO₃) 3:1 v/v) and analysed using ICP-MS in order to determine PTEs concentration. Vegetable samples (Spinach, lettuce, kale, leeks, turnip, fennel and beetroot) were collected from the same plots. Samples were carefully washed in distilled water and oven dried at 500c for a period of 48hrs, digested with nitric acid and analysed using ICP-MS. Data analysis showed that the soil pseudo-total concentration across the sampling sites ranged from 9.9-14.8mg/kg for As, 0.7- 3.5 mg/kg for Cd, 492- 1204mg/kg for Pb, 104-157mg/kg for Cu, 45-98mg/kg for Ni, 413 -845mg/kg for Zn, the average pH is 6.4 and LOI is 18.66%. On wet weight basis levels (mg/kg) in vegetables, Pb were in the range of 0.8- 8.62, Cu ranges between 2.92 -7.86, Cr ranges between 0.11- 2.24, As ranges between 0.76 - 1.3 and V ranges between 0.18-1.09. The result showed that the concentrations of PTEs in these vegetables were at low levels. Total (aqua regia) data for PTEs uptake and availability to plants (vegetables) was estimated by the EDTA extraction; both correlation analysis and stepwise regression were adopted to illustrate the extractable PTEs. There are wide variations in the correlation between parameters linked to both elemental behaviour and management of the individual plots.



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WG4 URBAN DESIGN SUMMARY REPORT

Chairs: Silvio Caputo, Sandra Costa

Attendees

Silvio Caputo, University of Portsmouth, UK

Sandra Costa, University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal

Runrid Fox-Kämper, ILS Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development, Germany

Russell Good, Birmingham City University, UK

Ina Suklje Erjavec, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia

Kostas Tsiambaos, National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Antoine Zammit, University of Malta, Faculty for the Built Environment, Malta

Corinna S. Clewing, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway

Ivana Blagojevic, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad, Switzerland

Sandra Treija, Riga Technical University, Latvia

Jasminka R. Atanasovska, University of Skopje, Faculty of Forestry, Macedonia

Eva Schwab, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria

Duarte Mata, Lisbon City Council, Portugal

Maridea Petrova, Center for Sustainable Values, Macedonia

Emanuele Sommariva, University of Genoa, Polytechnic School, Switzerland

Andrej Erjavec, INKABI, Slovenia

Gabriela Maksymiuk, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

Introduction

The agenda for the WG4 meeting in Riga included the following items:

- To further discuss within the work group current research from members on allotment gardens in each European country;
- To present and debate the latest draft of the three chapters of the forthcoming book, which will be developed within WG4;
- To discuss ways to gather more data enabling the drafting of chapters;
- To ensure participation and commitment of those who intend participating in the drafting of the chapters;
- To discuss future collaboration for articles and further academic outputs.



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The WG4 meeting started with the presentation of the agenda of the 2-day work sessions from the Chairs, followed by the welcome to the new members of the WG4 from Latvia, Poland, Macedonia and Italy.

Antoine Zammit (Malta) and Ina Suklje Erjavec (Slovenia) committed to present case studies and national reports in the next meeting in Nicosia. Hopefully, Emanuele Sommariva (Italy) will also be able to present.

Issues Discussed

The new members were asked to introduce themselves, outline their background and illustrate their research or interest in UAGs. This generated a lively debate regarding the emergence of the practice of gardening in some countries that did not have any tradition of such a practice and the socio-political context triggering this emergence. One of the major concern shared in these countries is related to the pressure for urban development that threatens urban land which could be used for gardening.

Macedonia – There are no formal allotments gardens. Possibly, this is because Macedonia still has strong cultural connections with rural areas, with some people commuting to the countryside during their spare time and growing their own food or gardening. Inevitably, as the urban population grows and with new generations ties with the countryside are weakened, new needs are arising that include urban gardening. There are already groups or individuals that claim land in public parks for this purpose.

Serbia – In some cities such as Novi Sad, the urbanisation process leads to the demolition of numerous single houses in order to build apartment blocks, which have no space for gardening attached. Likewise, unoccupied land in the city centre is being taken up for the same purposes, thus leaving no space for people that were practicing 'informal' gardening in those areas. Therefore, there is the need for new AUGs in high density residential areas.

Malta – Tourism and construction industry are the driving economical forces. Thus, there is strong pressure to develop on new land, where permission for construction is granted by the national planning authority on committed parcels. However, the policy system is changing and a more regulatory framework that will identify the potential of green areas is being developed. The challenge however is to have a system that is more open to participatory processes is being developed. Also, in Malta, the idea of UAGs is something new and there might be some cultural resistance to its acceptance and implementation.

Slovenia – The cultural context of Slovenia still has strong connections with the countryside and citizens still retain some traits typical of the rural mentality. People who own second houses out of the city, commute on a regular basis to do their own gardening. Gardens in second out-of-town houses cannot be considered UAGs, although they have the same function. Private vs public ownerships and mentalities are changing, and people have the need for spaces they can personalise and use as an extension of their homes. As a result of this trend, groups working on community gardens include also well educated people.

Vienna – The resurgence of urban gardening is also an effect of new trends and



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processes of globalisation. Gardening in community gardens is becoming an activity carried out also by academics and artists, who charge this practice with political and critical contents.

Summarising, there are some common trends emerging across Europe. In particular:

Urbanisation – urban development is encroaching on the countryside. In a way, the city is changing into a big conurbation where city and countryside are symbiotic.

Different socio-political regions in which the practice of gardening is influenced by cultural attitudes towards the physical and mental division between the urban and the rural context;

Rising land values;

The general prolonged economic crisis increasing the number of households close to the line of poverty

Generalised need for a closer relationship with green spaces, influenced by the high density of the urban environment and the lack of private spaces that can be personalised;

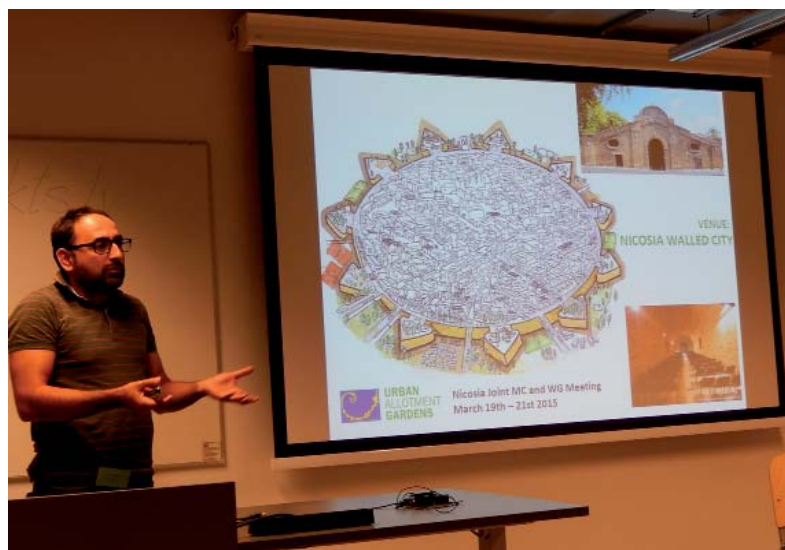
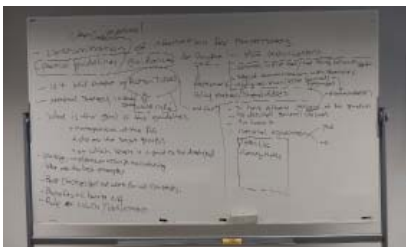
Spatial aspects – Scale, structure, appearance of UAGs, personalization of space; How the context influences spatial configuration (e.g. size of plot, regulations)

Some ideas for other publications were discussed, One of the themes that emerge is the cross-European comparison of regions with very different profiles, with connected reasons that influenced peoples' views and needs for UAGs.

A large part of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the drafts with ensuing discussion.

A photograph of a classroom or meeting room. A man in a light-colored shirt and dark trousers stands at the front, gesturing towards a large screen displaying a blue slide. Several people are seated at tables, some looking at the screen and others at their laptops. A woman in a blue shirt is in the foreground, facing away from the camera. The room has a whiteboard and a flipchart on the left.

- Send ^{title} suggestion to <u>WZL</u>	
- title series	--- notes
-	--- notes
-	--- notes





URBAN ALLOTMENT GARDENS



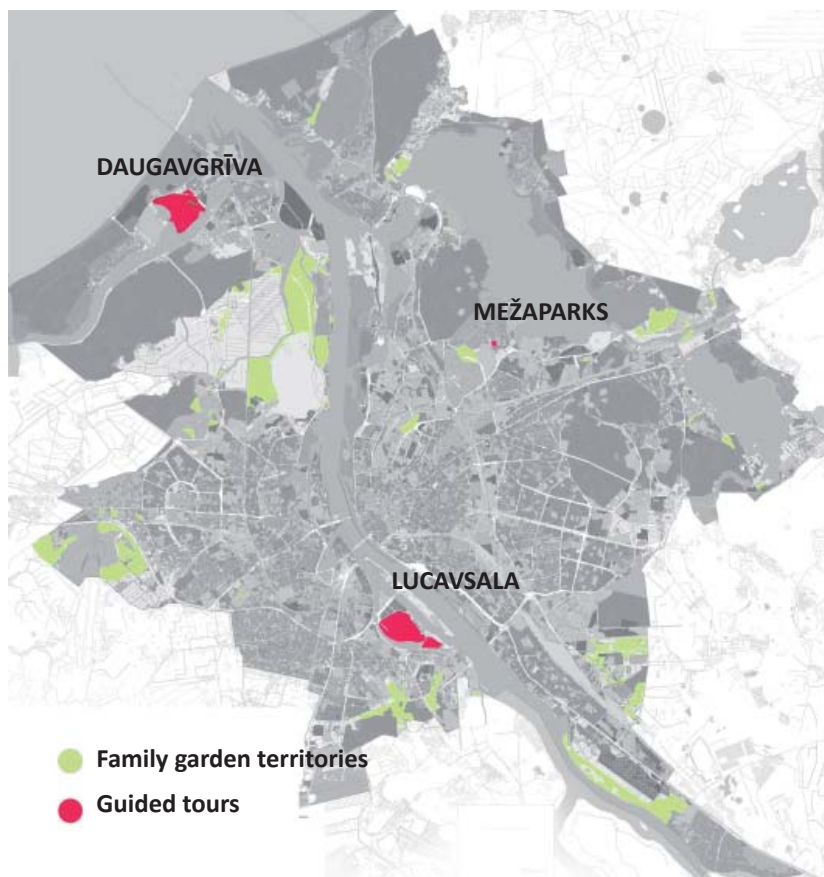
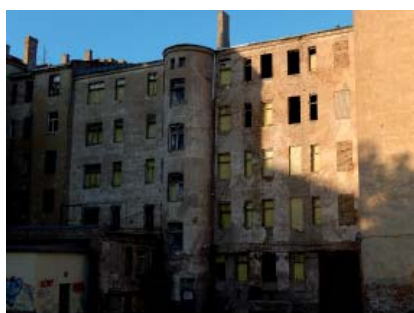
Field Trip Saturday September 7, 2014

Field trip was organised in two parts:

- A local trip to allotment gardens in Riga included following allotment sites which in native Latvian language is addressed as Family Gardens:

1. **Daugavgrīva Family Gardens**
2. **Mežaparks Family Gardens**
3. **Lucavsala Family Gardens**

- A short trip to allotment gardens in Cesis which is a historical town about 90km to northeast of Riga city.



Map of Riga City and spots of visited allotment sites
Maps of field trip courtesy of Kristine Abolina

photos: Nazila Keshavarz



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Family Gardens in Daugavgrīva

Family gardens are situated on the left bank of the River Bulupe, only a few hundred metres away from the beach on the Gulf of Riga. There are remnants of residential tower blocks from Soviet era located on the east side of the site and a waste water treatment plant on the western side of the gardens which these two physical boundaries making garden territory a green oasis between these two land uses. For this reason the city authorities do not intend to eliminate the gardens for development purposes.



Family gardens in Daugavgrīva were created in 70s. Now there are more than 2000 gardens in the territory and they are managed by three associations of gardeners. As rules and management principles vary from association to association, there are differences in the lease prices of the plots and the service level that is available for gardeners in different parts of the garden site. The site is serviced with electricity, water is available through individual wells and one of the associations ensures security services in its garden site.



Since the municipality wishes to retain these gardens, it is possible to sign a long-term lease agreement and as a result all gardens are occupied with few gardeners who comes from nearby towns.

The main problems are similar to those of other family garden territories of Riga – thefts, vandals, seasonal flooding and illegal construction.

photos: Nazila Keshavarz





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Family Gardens in Mežaparks

The family gardens in Mežaparks were established immediately prior to the World War II. Mežaparks (Forest Park) is a neighbourhood of Riga that is home to Riga Zoo and a 400 ha forested recreational area and is famous for its residential neighbourhood consisting of approximately 500 single family homes, many of which are designated national and local level architectural monuments. The entire residential neighbourhood was designed and built as a prototype "garden city" at the beginning of the 20th century and is designated as a national level heritage monument of urban planning. Family gardens are located between the historical part of neighbourhood and Soviet era residential tower blocks. Garden users are local residents as well from other neighbourhoods of Riga. The allotment gardens are managed by the Mežaparks Neighbourhood Association, a local NGO.



Compared to other family garden territories in Riga the Mežaparks allotment garden territory is compact consisting of approximately 60 gardens on 2.5 ha. The size of plots is smaller than typical garden plots in Riga that is only 200sqm. Gardens are not used for overnight stays, but small sheds are constructed and used for storing gardening tools. There is a waiting list of people wanting to use the gardens. The Mežaparks family gardens regularly organize cooperative clean-up and associated social events.



Municipality has reserved this territory for building a new school, but garden users and the Mežaparks Neighbourhood Association are actively lobbying to preserve the existing allotment garden use and have identified several alternative locations in Mežaparks suitable for the construction of a new school.

photos: Nazila Keshavarz





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Family Gardens in Lucavsala

One of the biggest family garden territories is located on Lucavsala Island on the Daugava River – only 2km from historical centre of Riga. These family gardens date back to the beginning of 20th century. The first historical records of gardening activity on Lucavsala can be found from 1906. Presently, almost 2500 family gardens are present on the island and they are managed both by the municipality and garden associations.



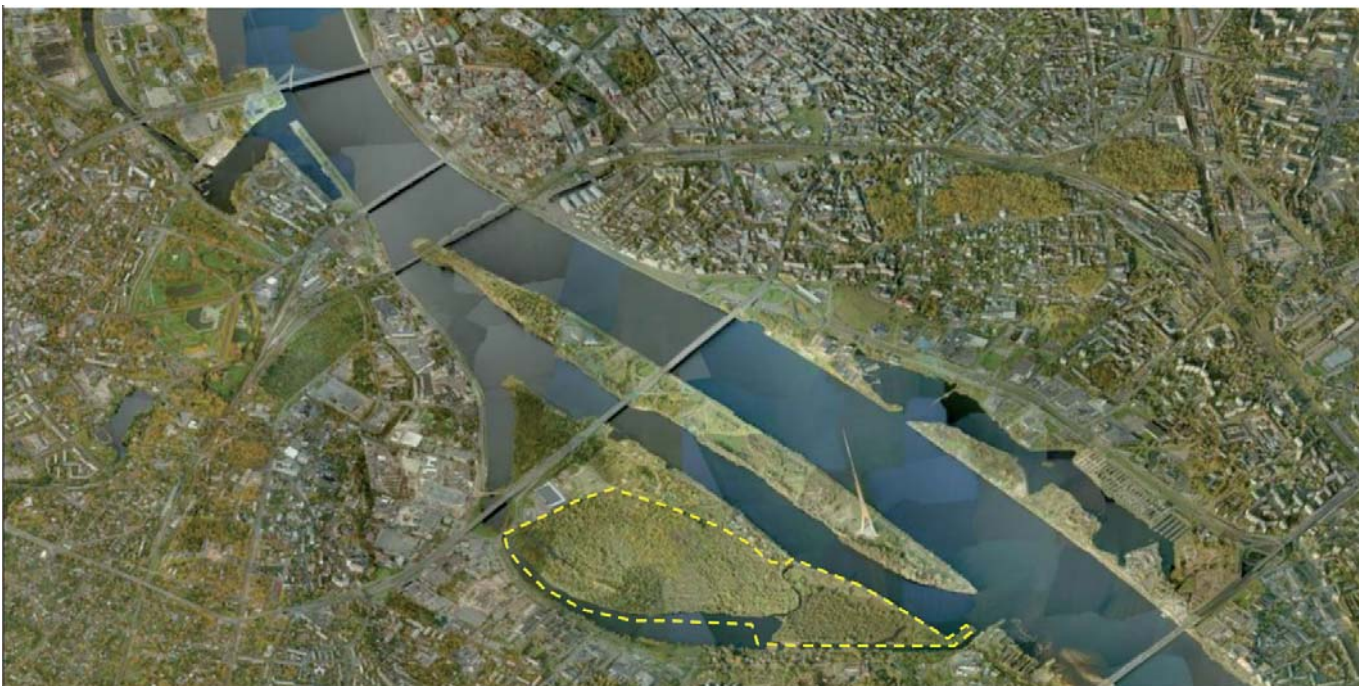
Despite being one of the oldest family gardens in Riga these gardens are a much contested amongst the municipality, gardeners and private owners of the land. The issue is whether to preserve the family garden use or whether to develop the site. Already some of gardens have been eliminated and a public park has been created on the northern part of island.

Family gardens on Lucavsala are subject to a high level of theft and vandalism and during spring snowmelt and the breakup of ice on the Daugava River low-lying areas of the island are subject to flooding. All of these factors (pressure to develop, natural factors and crime) contribute to a decrease in garden use leaving almost one half of the gardens empty.



However, with an increase in alternative lifestyles, including a growing awareness of healthy urban living a new generation of gardeners is coming to Lucavsala and developing a community that grows their own food in a sustainable manner.

photos: Nazila Keshavarz





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Field Trip to Allotment Gardens in Cesis



photos: Bonnavaud Hervé

Cesis has a history for more than 800 years with medieval architecture that was established in 1206 and it is the oldest cities in Latvia. It is the venue of seasonal festival of art and modern art expositions such as fights of knights during the medieval festival and warm summer evening concerts on bandstand in Castle Park. Cesis is the most popular skiing centre in Baltic, which surprises with multiplicity of tracks and longest runs in the region. Starting from 19th century Cesis is known as centre of art, culture and rest and it continues to hold this title. Cultural environment is being influenced by cultural and historical heritage which is made by Cesis: Medieval castle, newest in Latvija modern concerthall, Old city with its street network and wooden, stone and brick buildings, mansions near Gauja river and old manors.

Allotment garden areas started to develop in Cēsis in the 1960's. A total of 2560 allotments were registered in 1992 compared to 348 in 2014. During the last four years, the number of registered allotments has remained unchanged. The largest allotment areas have emerged in close proximity to apartment buildings.

With the land reform coming into force, the number of allotments decreased significantly because many were located on previously privately owned land lots. When the previous owners or their heirs renewed their rights to the land, allotment contracts were ended.

There are currently 348 allotment contracts in force. The areas of allotments vary from 100 m² to 600 m². Allotment contracts usually have a 1-3 year term. Each individual inhabitant signs a separate contract. Allotment leasers are mostly 50-70 years old. Young families have lately started leasing allotment gardens, but are still a minority. The allotments are mostly used for growing vegetables and flowers as well as for recreational and exercise purposes. During the fieldtrip, it was possible to visit two territories of allotments with both, well maintained and unkempt gardens.

Allotments on Viestura Str. – 66 gardens

The allotments are located on the right side of Viestura str. opposite apartment buildings in a picturesque valley. Cēsis municipality is the owner of the land.

Allotments on Birzes Str. – 49 gardens

The allotments are located on the right side of Birzes street opposite to the apartment buildings. This territory may be allocated as a permanent community garden area in the new land-use plan for Cēsis.



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Our presence in Cēsis made headline news in the local newspaper DRUVA on 9/11/2014.

Laikraksts Vidzemes novadiem

Druva

AMATA
CĒSIS
JAUNPIEBALGA
LĪGATNE
PĀRGALĻA
PRIEKUĻI
RAUNA
VECPIEBALGA

Ceturtdiena, 2014. gada 11. septembris

Nr. 139 (11790)

7. lpp.

0,50 eiro

Nešaubīties par sevi

Pirms dažām nedēļām ar koncertu kafetēriņā "Mēla" uz savas pastāvības 20 gadu atskatījās Cēsu grupa "Pisang Ambon". Viens no tās līderiem un izvedotājiem ir tālrunis Matīss Jansons.



Ārzemnieki apbrīno mazdārziņus



■ VIESTURKALNĀ. Cēsnieces Maruta Valaine uzņemta fotogrāfija, stāvēt savā dārzā pie Viesturietas un ilgāku laiku runājoties ar kuplu skaitu ārzemnieku, kuriem no sirds interesē, kā latvieši Cēsīs kopj mazdārziņus.

Cēsis ir to nedaudzo Latvijas pilsētu vidū, kuru pašvaldības aktīvi iesaistījušās ģimenes dārziņu apsaimniekošanas izpētē. Latvija ir to 30 Eiropas valstu vidū, kurai interesē mazdārziņu nākotne pilsētās, arī zinātnisks pamatojums, balstīts praktiskos novērojumos.

MAIRITA KANEPE

Zinātniskā darbība, kuru atvēlēts četrus gadu periodus, lai Eiropas valstu pašvaldībām sniegtu prestīžu idejumu dotu virzījumu par mazdārziņu nozīmi pilsētās, pašlaik ir pusē. Nesin Cēsis viesojās trīs desmiti pētnieku, tuju skaitā no Lielbritānijas, Vācijas un Portugāles. Tie bija Eiropas Komisijas projekta „Ģimenes dārziņi Eiropas pilsētās – iespējas un izaicinājumi” starptautiskās konferences „Latvija daļiņā. Tiesiskais sarunu nodoklis” Latvijas Universitātē, bet iespējams un novērojums Eiropas valstu pilsētās devās gūt āpus auditorijām, lai skatītos Cēsu novada domes atbalsta daļa no konferences delegācijas varēja apskatīt Cēsu mazdārziņus Birzes un Viestura ielās apkaimē.

Pētniekiem, kas pūta Cēsīs,

Rīgā un Iecavā, interesēja mazdārziņu veidošana pilsētā, ieguvumi un zaudējumi no tā kā pašvaldībai, tā iedzīvotājiem. Laima Vīgante, zemes ierīcības inženieris, un Ina Adamsona, pašvaldības projekta un vides speciāliste, ārzemniekiem nerādīja tas vietas, kur dārziņi stāv pamesti, bet tie, kur tie ļoti apsaistīti, kur dārziņu kaimiņu labas attiecības runā labu pašu par sevi. „Birzes ielā apkārtnē dārziņiem nav žogu, Viestura ielā ir – to atšķirība arī grūtiņām pilsētā,” sūta L. Adamsona. Dārziņus nejauc sastāpīti cēnieki pret negaidītajiem viesiem, kas bija krītnī pulk, pilsēvērti izturējies ļoti laipni. Nopūlītais pūks, izrauti no dobes burkāni, salāti tomāti, lai apdavinātu cēniekus. Cēnieki stāstīja par labām kaimiņattiecībām, bet Rietumēnropas valstu pilsētās visvairāk pārnēģuļi ne tikai ar to, ka nedzēti akasīti dārzi, kas ielīkmo kopēja sirdis, bet to, ka lielākā daļa dārziņu satīnīti un krītnī gados un dārziņi vīpus, pilsētā drīvojoj, veidzē ne tikai piederība zemei, bet arī visai liela nepieciešamība pēc pilsē izaudzēt, ko par randu ocmprīks.

Sevišķi ārzemniekiem iepriecināja nejaucē tīksandis dārzi ar cēnieci Marutu Valaini, kura, izrādās, ļoti pilsēvērti angļu valodu. Pētnieki veselī pilsētādu neatstājis no cēnieces, viņu izvai-cējot par tradīcijām dārza kop-sinā, par kaimiņattiecībām, kā arī

par pašvaldības attieksmi pret mazdārziņu kopjējiem. Te nu cēnieci bija, ko pastāstīt, jo Maruta Valaine, būdama nevalstiskas organizācijas „Latvijas Kaulu, locī-tavu un saistādu slimieku bied-rības Cēsu nodaļas vadītāja, pand-kusi, ka pašvaldība tieši un netie-sā veidā atbalsta cēniekus. Soreiz mazdārziņu apsaimniekotājus, īpaši tos, kam kaitības, tuju skaitā aktīvi strādājoš dārzi, ir veselības jautājums. Vēlāk intervijā „Dru-va” Maruta Valaine paststēja, ka izrādījusi apgrūbību arī rakstiski iesniegt sūstījumu par to, kāpēc viņa un viņas vadītās organizā-cijas biedri kopj mazdārziņus un nado, apbrīnojot tos ir pašval-dības piešķirtu autobusu, cīeno-jas viens pie otru, tādējādi svin ruzas svētkus. „Man šķiet, ka pē-niekiem tāda informācija no-dērtu. To universitātē man aplie-cināja arī docente Kristīne Abo-liņa,” sūta Maruta Valaine.

Izrāva no dobes burkānus, salasiņa tomātus, lai apdavinātu cēniekus.

„Zinātnieki gatavo publikā-cijas īpaši rokagrāmatai, kuru lecerēs izdot nācējamā,” „Dru-va” sacīja Latvijas Universitātes docente Kristīne Abo-liņa. „No tas pašvaldības varēs uzzināt, kā rē-košies, lai mazdārziņos neapmetas bezpajumtnieki – šī problēma ir kopēja Eiropas valstīs. Noderēs arī piemēri par īdēns apūdes veidošanu, savākot un īstenojot lietus ūdeņu vai dārziņiem pie-velkot ūdeni. Daudzās valstīs ir svarīgi, lai dārziņos būtu dārzkopības vajadzībām, nevis vasarnīcu celšanai. Tas ir aktuāli visā Eiropā, piemēram, Vācijā tiepēc stingri regulēti.”

Pētnieki no dažādām valstīm ir vienīgi pētnieki, kas dārzkopība pil-sētās ir ļoti vajadzīga. Tā server sociālo pusi – cilvēki dārziņā pa-vada laiku un atpūšas, kā pašiem patīk. Dārziņi ir iemesls sarunām, to īpašnieku vidi veidojas di-aļogs, tāpēc Vācijā dārziņus lahrāt piešķir arī imigrantiem. Mazdārziņi pilsētā ir svarīgi ekoloģiskā līdzsvara uzturēšanai. Pētnieki no Lisabonas to izvērē-ruši, stāstot, ka tādējādi iedzīvo-tāji pilsētā uztur zālo zonu un paš-valdībai tas jāatbalsta.”

„Ārzemnieki pētnieki, ap 30 cil-vēkiem, par redzēto Cēsu mazdār-ziņos bija sajūsmā. Cilvēki prot nodarboties ar dārzkopību. Āug burkāni un kabači, cilvēki ļoti rēpjas par svaigiem dārzeniem ģime-nes galām un ļoti zina svaiga, paša audzēta produkta vērtību,” uzsēvni docente.

IZSINAS

■ **IEPAZĪST MODERNO KŪTI.** Viena no modernākajām liellopa novietnēm bijušajā Cēsu rajonā, Stalbes pagasta saimniecībā SIA „Stalbes Ag-ro”, slaucamo govju fermā otr-dien viesojās zemkopības min-istrs Jānis Dīklavs, Lauku at-balta diemsta direktore Anna Vītola-Helviņa, Lauksaimnieku organizāciju sadarbības pad-omes valdes priekšsēdētājs Ed-gars Treilbergs un viņa vietnieks Armands Krauze, kā arī citi ar lauksaimniecības nozari saistīti eksperti. Vieni iepazīta ar ne-sen pabeigto, moderno kūti, kā arī pārrunāja aktualitātes picn-saimniecības nozarē.

■ **VIDES KONKURSI SKO-LĒNIEM.** SIA „ZAAO” šajā mēneša gadā aicina skolas un pirmsskolas izglītības iestādes iesaistīties radošos, izglītojošos un praktiskos konkursos par vides tēmu. Tāpat reģionālajā apkritumā apsaimniekošanas centrā „Dabie” turpināsies mā-cību programmas īstenošana, padziļināti nodrošinot zināta-nas par dabas sistēmām un pro-cesiem, kā arī cilvēku un vides mijiedarbību. Projektam „Cī-lveks vide” šīs būs četrpadsmit-ais norises gads. Skolu au-dzēkņiem ir iespēja darboties pie-cien konkursos: „ZAAO pastkarte”, „ZAAO mēneša jautājums”, utt. Izveidojot materiālu vākšanas akciju „Vides spēles” un jauns – skeču konkursu vidusskolām „Es esmu šis” bez atkritumiem” kustība”. Vidus-skolas klasēm projektu nodēlā tiks piedāvātas tēmas pē-tnieciskām darbēm.

NOKAVĒJI?

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