

Short Term Scientific Mission

Final Report

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN URBAN GARDENS OF SOUTHERN SPAIN AND SOUTHERN FRANCE



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INTRODUCTION

The main goal of present paper is to report on the short term scientific mission within COST action TU1201 taken place in Marseille from 17 November to 1 December 2013.

This report gives short description of allotments and community gardens of Marseille where the field survey took place, contains specification of methods used during the research, it gives overview on the results and provides with examples of questionnaire and illustrative material.

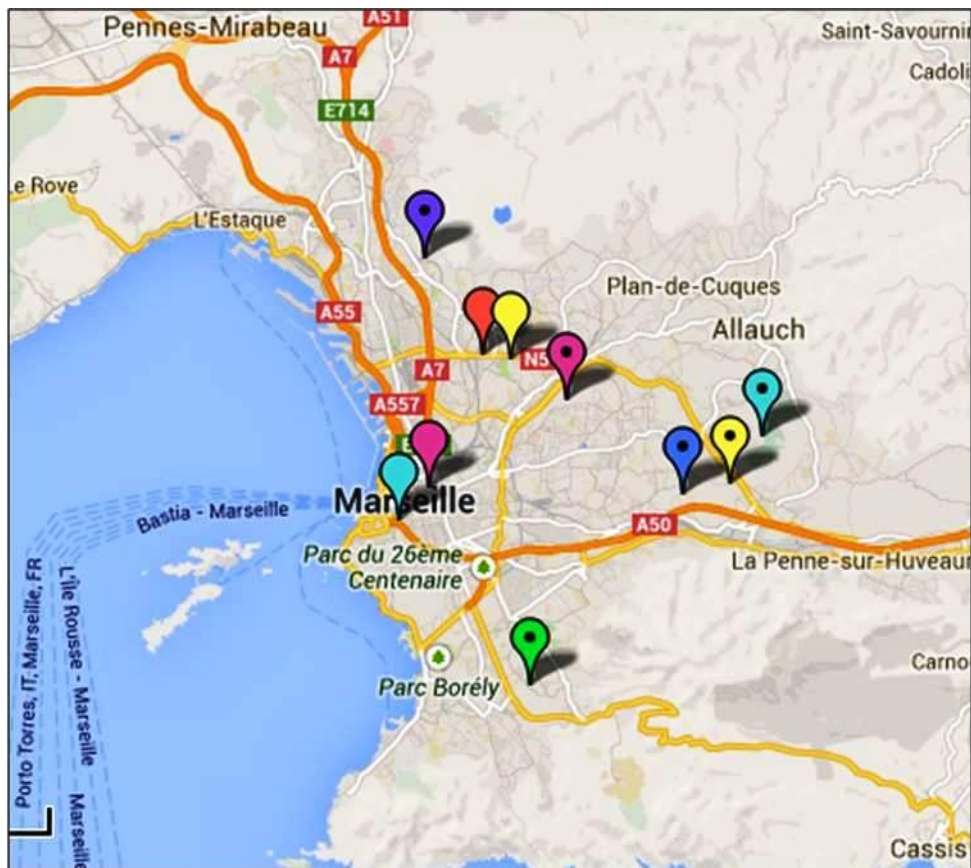
Urban gardens (allotments and community gardens) in southern Spain and southern France show some similarities and differences. Both areas have a deep-rooted Mediterranean culture, where urban agriculture is not new. However, in Marseille (southern France) there is a greater tradition of urban gardens from the industrial revolution. In southern Spain, from 2008, due to the economic crisis in Spain and the growth of unemployment (with numbers around 27%) an explosion of urban gardens has produced, going from 10 gardens throughout the region to over 100 at present.

METHODOLOGY

The stay at the University of Aix-Marseille has a combined qualitative and quantitative methodology that is specified in the following methodological phases:

- **1.- Previous work.**
Revision of bibliographic information.
- **2.- Development of case studies selection**
In several meetings with Professor Jean-Noël Consales, we defined urban gardens to work. The result has been to work with 10 urban gardens (6 allotments gardens and 4 community gardens).
- **3.- Fieldwork**
 - Visit all allotments and community gardens planned, doing a complex photographic report.
 - Several interviews with gardeners citizens have been using a template of 20 questions such as the origin, the management, the number of plots, the size of the plots, the social profile of the gardeners, water management, control organic farming, heritage values, etc.
 - I have also been of the outset of JASSUR Project (Jardins ASSociatifs URbains) in Marseille supported by ANR (Agence National de la Recherche) based on a consortium of 12 research partners and associations in seven French cities:
Lille, Grand Lyon, Marseille, Grand Nancy, Paris / Ile-de-France, Grand Toulouse.
- **4.- Information management**
 - Transcription of interviews.
 - Location maps designed.
 - Compilation of results and conclusions.





FINDINGS



ALLOTMENT GARDENS

-  Mazargues
-  Montolivet
-  Castellans
-  La Rouguière
-  Magali-Aiguier (La Valentine)
-  Berre Pastour

COMMUNITY GARDENS

-  Font Obscure
-  Jardin d'Adam
-  Neuve Sainte-Catherine
-  Baignoir

DISCUSSION (ANALYSIS OF RESULTS)

The gardens are not new in southern France and southern Spain (Romans, Visigoths, Arabs, etc) In fact, history shows that the gardens were present in all cultures that have lived in these regions, which have enriched the historical, cultural and gastronomic heritage of its people.

However, in the s. XX and s. XXI had a unique evolution in urban agriculture. Due to increased industrialization in France many workers' gardens appeared. Today, organizations of workers gardens in France are numerous and powerful. The first was a traditional activity devoted to consumption. Urban agriculture, which has always been subsistence or small distance marketing, turned into a more leisure, recreational and educational type of agriculture at the end of the twentieth century in France.

Now, there is an strong evidence that there is a correlation between the appearance and disappearance of urban gardens in conjunction with the stages of economic crisis and prosperity as well as wars and periods of war. In this sense, there is a cyclic process of increasing urban gardens in need of extreme situations such as war or economic crisis.

In Spain, during the past 5 years in response to the economic crisis and high unemployment, citizens and municipalities have created many urban gardens, which are presented as a response to the food problems of the crisis. Families most affected by the economic crisis and the Spanish municipalities looking to create through urban gardens to fight against social problems, social degradation and impoverishment.

Some principal ideas in Marseille:

- There are different types of urban gardens today, some small gardens d'Adam or street Neuve Sainte Catherine and others, with many plots, very large and very famous in Marseille, as Mazargues Gardens, Castellás and Montolivet.
- These gardens mainly fulfill missions with nature, social relations and education for the youth and children.
- All gardens are dedicated to family consumption, and legal or illegal sale is not allowed.
- The management is done in three ways:
 - o directly by the municipality.
 - o self-managed way by gardeners or association.
 - o co-managed between the municipality and the gardener associations.
- The average profile found is usually an older retired man (70 %) but it can be also observed a growing increase of young people, workers and women.
- In Marseille, the permanence in the gardens is indefinite provided that the gardens are in good condition. In southern Spain dominates temporary stay in the gardens according to the municipal laws, but the reality is other, as laws are seldom applied and the permanence remains indefinite.
- All gardens say to be doing organic farming. However, it is also known the use of conventional and non-organic pesticides sporadically and therefore we can infer from this a flexible attitude to this issue. In this sense, there is no reference to an

unwillingness of gardeners to use this type of pesticides but to the need for greater ecological advice to correct bad habits.

- Water management is considered an important aspect. In most gardens drip irrigation is performed. In this sense, it is considered that gardeners generally make correct use of the water but some misuse the water in a great extent. Therefore, you can find gardeners who use drip irrigation and its traditional flood irrigation. It refers back to a lack of training as a cause and insists on having an ecological advisory remove that distrust and perform educational tasks for proper supply of water for each type of plant.

- In neighborhoods with social problems such as Rouguière (Marseille), it appears that social centers and neighborhood associations want to create an urban garden to integrate different immigrant communities and overcome the problem of unemployment. These gardens are also useful for urban regeneration of degraded or underused areas that have been bypassed by highways, roads, railroad tracks, etc.

CONCLUSION

In southern France the tradition of urban gardens is older than in southern Spain. Now, in Spain are developing many projects urban gardens as a direct result of the Economic Crisis. The people and governments create urban gardens to overcome unemployment and social inequalities.

In southern France there isn't the motivation of the economic crisis, there is a motivation related to the contact with nature, social relations and education for adults and children. However, it is observed that is occurring gradually a similar process to that of Spain, urban gardens begin to appear and failure to respond to the economic crisis in France. It is an emerging movement but it is coming. Future research will have to check this fact.

FORESEEN PUBLICATIONS

At least one publication will be prepared during the next months with Prof. Jean-Noël Consales. Academic paper comparing urban agriculture projects in southern Spain and southern France.

APPENDICES

Annex I. Methodological investigation form:

VILLE:	
Nom du Jardins:	
1	Adresse
2	Situation dans la municipalité (Dans le centre urbain, périphérie, etc)
3	Qualification juridique des terrains urbains
4	Type d'espace (surface, sur les balcons, les toits). Nombre de parcelles. Taille des parcelles
5	Propriété du sol
6	Origine des Jardins (développement de l'idée, précurseurs, date, etc)
7	Gestion (Mairie, entreprise, association de citoyens, privé ...)
8	Financement
9	Loi municipale, des règlements
10	Objectif principal des Jardins (loisirs, la consommation, pédagogiques...)
11	Division du travail (famille, associations, groupes d'amis, etc)
12	Age des jardiniers
13	Statut d'emploi des jardiniers
14	L'accès aux jardins (loterie, liste d'attente...)
15	Séjour dans les jardins (indéterminée, temporaire...)
16	Pratiques agricoles (agriculture conventionnelle, biologique, la permaculture ...)
17	But des produits (consommation, les ventes au détail, les dons ...)
18	Technique de culture (sol, coffrets, la culture hydroponique, sous plastique...)
19	Type de l'irrigation (tuyaux d'inondation, l'irrigation au goutte à goutte, des formules combinées...)
20	Valeur patrimoniale (ancienne infrastructure hydraulique, bâtiments historiques, cours d'eau...)

Annex II. Brief Summary of Case Studies

Jardins de Mazargues

Site: Federation Nationale des Jardins Familiaux et Collectifs

Site: Pine grove

Size: 38.000 m²

Starting date: 1906



Summary:

Joseph Aiguier donated the land in 1905. There are 120 cabins plus gardens over a 33.000 m². Citizens must first register with the association and have to wait some time within the association to use a vegetable garden. The gardeners pay an annual fee. The majority of gardeners are retired seniors. Are frequent acts of coexistence and collective work among gardeners and their families.

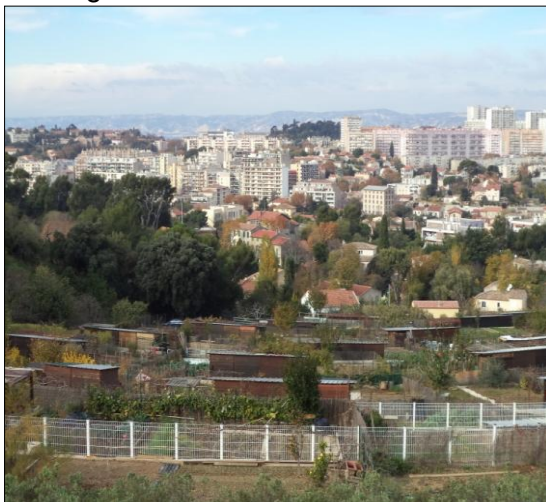
Jardins de Montolivet

Organization: Association des Jardins Ouvriers et Familiaux Marseille Sud.

Site: Private property

Size: 15000 m²

Starting date: 1990



Summary:

Old gardens Parette created in 1908, they moved in 1990 following the construction of the highway L2. They are located on the hillside. There are 100 sites with their cabins, public areas and meeting rooms, etc. Access is limited only to gardeners so you need to get an appointment with the president or any gardener. Are frequent acts of coexistence and collective work among gardeners and their families.

Jardins de Castellás

Organization: Jardins Ouvriers et Familiaux de Provence.

Site: Ownership of a company

Size: 14 ha

Starting date: 1941



Summary :

Les Jardins Ouvriers et Familiaux du Castellás were created in 1941 by Philippe Petain to supply prisoners of war. For a long time they were known as "The Gardens of Petain." The site is owned by Réseau Ferré de France, DDE and AGF. They include 243 gardens with tool shed, irrigated by the Canal de Marseille.

Jardins de la Rouguière

Organization: Social Center Rouguière.

Site: Occupied public facility

Size: 1.500 m²

Starting date: 2012



Summary :

The Rouguière is located north of the old village of St Marcel (11th arrondissement of Marseille) and adjoins the motorway A 55. It is a neighborhood with many social problems, so the Social Center Rouguiere has created a allotment garden project to improve relationships between neighbors. People of all ages coexist in these gardens became a meeting place. The majority of gardeners are young people at risk of social exclusion. Social center recently installed a composter in gardens available for the neighborhood.

Jardins de Magali Aiguier (La Valentine)

Organization: Federation Nationale des Jardins Familiaux et Collectifs

Site: Private property next to a flour factory.

Size: 8000 m²

Starting date: 1926



Summary:

Small plots of 50 m², where families came to oxygenate, rest, gain strength ... out of town. The tradition has remained, these plots still exist and are often former gardeners who come here to relax. Are frequent acts of coexistence and collective work among gardeners and their families.

Jardins de Berre Pastour

Organization: Federation Nationale des Jardins Familiaux et Collectifs

Site: Private property

Size: 5000 m²

Starting date: 1967



Summary:

These gardens are situated on the hillside between flour factory and a residential area. The majority of gardeners are retired seniors. The church has donated the land to Magali Aiguier, the daughter of Joseph Aiguier and she has created the gardens. The gardeners have much relationship to the gardens of Magali Aiguier and usually do joint activities.

Community Gardens

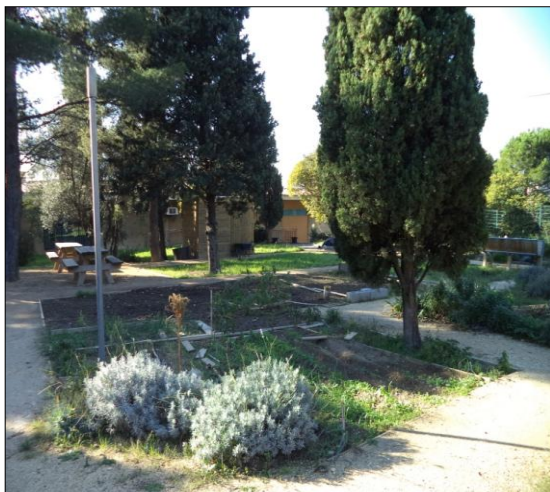
Jardins de Font Obscure

Organization: Social centre Font Obscure.

Site: Occupied public facility

Size: 4000 m²

Starting date: 2008



Summary:

30-40 plots located next to the entertainment center Font Obscure. A study was conducted by four students in vocational license "Landscaping" in partnership with the University of Provence under the aegis of JN Consales: these plots are both gardens and green spaces for relaxation and meetings, including shadows and light and flowers.

The plots of the community garden will be available to the local community network with access to disabled persons.

Jardin d'Adam

Organization: Community group.

Site: Green zone. Managed by community group, allowed by the municipality.

Size: 1000 m²

Starting date: 2008



Summary :

Born in 2008 to meet a group of "Women in Action" and the artist collective SAFI (Sense, Audacity, Fantasy and Imagination), the garden grew on the ruins of the old gymnasium Busserine and hosts local women, children and youth.

Jardins de Neuve Sainte Catherine

Organization: Restaurant La Passerelle

Site: Private, rented.

Size: 800 m²

Starting date: 2006



Summary :

This garden is located in a small street. There is a restaurant on the same street that uses the garden to place their tables. Although the garden is cared for by the restaurant, it is open all day and the neighbors usually come to their children. It is a good example of public and private use.

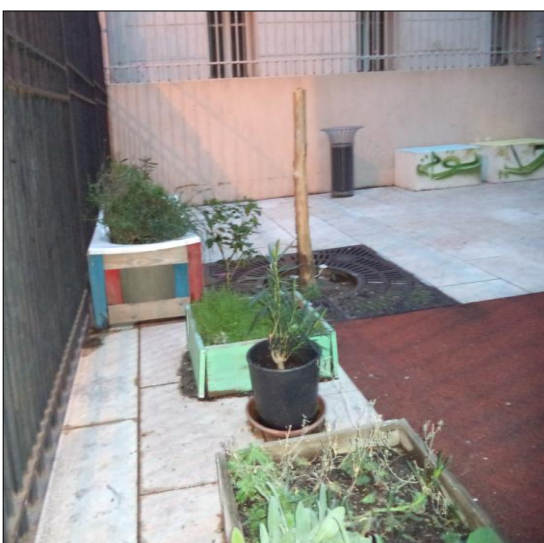
Jardins du Baignoir

Organization: Citizens and Council.

Site: Neighborhood project in a public space.

Size: 40-50 m²

Starting date: 2011



Summary:

It is an initiative of the type "Guerrilla Gardening". This is the smallest and most central but still hyper-labeled shared garden Marseille. Powered by the association "Un jardin dans ma Baignoire", this initiative represents an appropriation of the neighbors of a central streets of Marseille. Currently the council is also involved in the project.

Annex III. Project JASSUR

