

**STSM Applicant:** Ms Nerea Moran, Technical University of Madrid - UPM, Madrid (Spain)

**STSM Topic:** The new community gardens in Southern Europe

**Host Institute:** National Technical University of Athens, Athens (Greece)

### **Work Plan Summary**

Greece and Spain share a lack of tradition on allotment and community gardens (AG and CG) programs; therefore there isn't a regulatory framework for these activities. But from some years now the CG in both countries are beginning to grow linked to community, root-based dynamics. Are these CG playing subsistence roles? Are they playing other social, ecological and educational functions? Are they included within an inclusive urban planning framework or in the margin of it? Are they developing new ways of commons management?

These questions can contribute to a better understanding on AG and CG functions in an economic, political and ecological crisis, especially in countries of Southern Europe. The final aim of this STSM is to compare the recent arising of AG and CG in Spain and Greece, in the economic crisis context, their functions, their opportunities and their threats. The objectives are:

- Characterizing 3 case studies in Greek cities.
- Interviewing gardeners in order to understand their motivations, expectations, and how they value these processes.
- Documenting the main features of the case studies.
- Comparing Greek and Spanish development of AG and CG

These STSM will help the applicant to widen a research line on Spanish AG and CG, whose outcomes can be seen in several articles, conferences and communications. Direct contact with other experiences would be very helpful in order to find similarities between Southern Europe countries that share several characteristics.

The host institution will be the *School of Architecture at the Technical University of Athens*, where teaches dr. Stavros Stavrides, a researcher on spatial practices, whose more recent studies are focused on new ways of public space occupation, crisis context and emerging social movements, or reinvention of commoning. Consequently his intellectual vision and knowledge of Greek situation and community practices will be especially valuable in order to develop an appropriate methodology, and to identify case studies.

## METHODOLOGY

### DESIGN

- Review of literature and projects. To identify key concepts and characterization topics for the analysis
- Development of analysis methodology. In order to define interview's guideline and data collection

### FIELD WORK

- Schedule appointments with gardeners.
- Case studies in Athens. Visit research, interviews and data collection.
- Case study in Thessaloniki. Visit research, interview and data collection.

### ANALYSIS

- Systematization of results. Descriptive sheet for each case study.

### CONCLUSION

- Organization of outcomes and research materials.
- Comparison with Spanish situation on AG and CG.

	week1	week 2	week 3	
METHODOLOGY DESIGN	■			
FIELD WORK		■	■	
ANALYSIS		■	■	
CONCLUSION				■