RU:RBAN Second Wave
#1 Quarterly Network Report

Network Transfer Progress

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A NEW TRANSFER JOURNEY HAS STARTED ...

RU:RBAN SECOND WAVE ...

The management model of Roman Urban Gardens is still travelling ...

From Rome to Algeciras, Alexandroupolis, Carlow & Split through Reykjavik, Oslo and Helsinki ...

For more info, visit https://urbact.eu/rurban
Introduction

The quarter report aim is to **capture** and **connect** learning for the network and share it with wider audience. For this purpose, it is uploaded in the networks’ webpage.

RU:RBAN Second Wave welcomes and continues its travel to 4 **newcomer** cities around Europe, as also to 3 **lighthouse cities** showcasing their urban gardens’ management good practises.

This 1st Quarter Report is mostly to present **some early lessons learnt**, some initial highlights from the exchange of experience between the LP, the experts and the newcomer cities to introduce the good practice, as to **UNDERSTAND** the Rome’s management model to be transferred during the projects’ journey.

**In RU:RBAN we have a mission:**

Working with **Citizens,**

With **Active** Community Members & **Practioners,**

To achieve the **Best possible** transfer results
Chapter 1 - Transnational Exchange and Learning activities

What’s better than to share some useful Tips with the newcomer cities?

Rome’s Tips (Shared material), by ad hoc expert Silvia Cioli.

It is a selection of several brief stories to share on Roman urban gardens, based on the encounters of Roman community gardens and the stories shared with the partners, based on the creation and updates of the Zappata Romana map. Each “Roman Tip” has an image and a text with the story of the urban garden. A slice of life on Roman community-run green areas like little urban gardens, play yards, edible gardens, urban farms and areas for walking, resting, or simply talking found in the city where citizens and associations have been acting together to reclaim abandoned areas and foster urban renewal. These interventions are mostly spontaneous and do not have a referred model. In the years more institutional interventions are starting. A common characteristic is the high social value of these urban sites offering a precious opportunity for people to get involved and play an active role in their own neighbourhood.

Examples of “Rome’s tips” shared on projects’ repository (in Google Drive). A brief introduction was also made by Silvia during the project kickoff meeting in Rome.
So, what is RU:RBAN TN all about?

- how to plant seeds?
- how to set the gardens’ infrastructures?
- how to plan an urban garden establishment?
- how to attract - influence citizens to participate in the gardens plots?
- how to organise or reorganize an urban garden?
- all the above?

RU:RBAN is about UG Management, but it also deals with the rest of the topics mentioned above, to raise the capacity building of people that would like to be involved in their cities Urban Gardens Movements …
RU:RBAN welcomed partners from both URBACT waves (kick off and farewell meeting in Rome) to mix experiences, challenges and expectations!

Ort9 Park Urban Garden of Rome, Casal Brunori is the main LP Case Study that partners were deeply informed about its successful history in UGM! Ort9 Park is a very well organised and active garden and as a case study is considered a useful initial experience for the new partners’ representatives.
During the 3 days kickoff meeting, all partners followed the whole schedule of introducing the GP, that included deep dives in then project methodology, the 3 transfer elements, the main transfer focus and most of all: meeting each other to discuss hardships and challenges, meeting the Romes’ gardeners and gardenisers in 3 project Urban Gardens …
Chapter 2 – Introducing the Lighthouse City Model in RU:RBAN

Lighthouse cities Tool

LP and experts will organise in between the project TNMs their focused study visits in each one of the 3 selected lighthouse cities, to meet the main representatives of the urban gardens’ movements, to visit the gardens and mostly each Lighthouse City Case Study.

Experiences collected from these lighthouse cities will be transferred to partners through the projects’ tasks.

This time around, RU:RBAN is also involving 3 Lighthouse Cities with 3 Cases Studies in Urban Gardens Management!
Chapter 3 – This Quarter Highlights!

(1) What was a topic of main interest between the partnership in the 1st Quarter?

Who “runs” the Garden?

- Municipality
- Association
- Informal Group of Citizens

By Eleftheria Gavriilidou, for the City of Thessaloniki – 1st Wave Regulation Graphic ...
(2) Four project experts are here to support partners to achieve best results following a very clear methodology.
(3) What is an allotment in Urban Gardening?

Allotment sites will have several allotment gardens/plots, which are rented by an individual for growing fruit and vegetables, for personal and family use. Traditionally they have been owned by the local authority, but allotment land can also be owned by other landowners, for example, private individuals, charitable trusts, commercial landowners, farmers or religious bodies.
(4) What is a Community Garden

A community garden is defined as being collectively managed and operated for the benefit of members and users for a variety of purposes including leisure, recreation, play, community activity (e.g. BBQs), wildlife, pleasure, education and sensory purposes. Food growing may be a feature of such a site, but may not be the primary or sole purpose. They come in all shapes and sizes, ranging from tiny wildlife gardens to fruit and vegetable plots on housing estates, to community polytunnels and community-managed market gardens.
(5) Our definition of Gardeniser

“The Gardeniser IS NOT a technician, NOT a landscape designer, NOT an expert, NOT a facilitator, NOT a trainer, NOT a counsellor, NOT a friend.

IT'S ALL THAT TOGETHER!
Chapter 4 – The partners expectations and main points of interest

The LP – The City of Rome

The model of governance in the GP of Rome concerns more policies: urban resilience, poverty, reuse of abandoned land, social inclusion and citizens’ engagement, as well as communing and management of urban heritage. The added value expected from the Transfer Network is to extend the Rome’s GP towards further integrated urban development scenarios that will be developed with the 4 new networking and transferring cities. The Network can take full advantage from the different backgrounds and expertise of all partner cities (including the lighthouse ones) in the matter of resilient urban gardening.

RU:RBAN will transfer an inclusive, flexible and friendly methodology to ULGs’ of the networking cities in order to support them in the topic of management of urban gardens of the EU Urban Agenda and the related Sustainable Development Goals. It will do so through an adaptive approach for a variety of types of European networking cities, fostering the inclusion and activation of local stakeholders and the collaboration among civic society, knowledge, public actors and associations for the cooperative management of urban resources.
Alexandroupolis

The City of Alexandroupolis identified urban agriculture as an important tool towards the transition to a more sustainable low-carbon future. In parallel, urban agriculture has been identified as a means towards social integration, strengthening community feeling and participation of citizens.

Main Needs – expectations of the transfer city relevant to the Good Practice

- Capacity building raise of inhabitants that are already users of urban gardens, or that would like to be involved more in them under more organised management
- Needs of the city officers and the local politicians to adapt and adopt a city regulation for the management of urban gardens
- Specific plans for urban agriculture activities
- Raise skills of Gardenisers
- Promote citizen’s involvement in public participation

Main point of interest

The City of Alexandroupolis would like (among other aspects) to improve the daily operation of the city main urban garden, Bioagros, following the management model of the city of Rome.
Currently, the following urban agriculture initiatives are active in and around the city:

- LA YESERA, working under the management of the Regional Government of Andalusia.
- LA JULIANA. There is a city hall’s property with aptitude to be destined to grow vegetables.
- LOS PINOS. Other municipal property which will be destined to urban vegetables garden according to municipal government plans.

**Main Needs – expectations of the transfer city relevant to the Good Practice**

- Put in use lots and lands that are actually points of garbage or lack of activities.
- Needs of citizens that would like to be trained as Gardenisers.
- Stablish new relations between natural medio and human activities by promoting leisure character of gardens.
- Generate a change of human healthier habits and deeper knowledge and respect for environment.

**Main point of interest**

The City of Algeciras would like (among other aspects) to establish a new garden based on RU:RBAN transfer experience.
Currently, 12 urban gardens are active in and around the Town.

**Main Needs – expectations of the transfer city relevant to the Good Practice**

Carlow Town has a project called “Project Carlow 2040” and wishes to develop its capacity in the greening of our vacant sites in terms of social and tourism potential. Capacity Development is a significant issue, and the city needs of train citizens as Gardeners and Garden Management. As a local authority, it needs the Council Executive and the local politicians to adapt and adopt a Town Regulation for the management of urban gardens.

**Main point of interest**

Carlow would like (among other aspects) to deep dive into the LP City Regulation and elaborate it, as the town’s own governance tool to support the policy topic of urban agriculture.

Carlow has the support by the Municipality Administration towards Urban Agriculture Projects and Urban Regeneration. The Town has a small, but highly motivated and successful community of Urban Gardeners. Urban Regeneration has high political support at all levels of Local Government and Carlow has a strong track record of bottom-up participation processes. This support is enabled by an Elected Member participating in the activities of the project.
Main Needs – expectations of the transfer city relevant to the Good Practice

- Best choice bio culture model for Split
- Defining the green zones for urban gardening within GUP Split
- Workshops for interested citizens
- Specific plans for urban agriculture activities
- Marketing and promotional activities
- Citizens’ resilience raising

Main point of interest

The City of Split is implementing a new 3d geoinformation system for, among other, green areas in Split, so financing one pilot garden within RU:RBAN transfer period in Split will serve as a paradigm for all the future urban gardens in the city. This would be very important since there is no active urban gardens currently and by implementing a pilot project, the city would be able to demonstrate the benefits of such model. A clean unused green area is available in the zone of “Youth Park Split” that can be used for a construction of pilot garden RU:RBAN where all the lessons learnt within project RU:RBAN can be used first hand in this garden, and serve as a visible example of best practices used by the City Of Rome and other international partners.
Chapter 5 – Positive impact of the Good Practice to 4 Cities relevant policies

- Promote Urban Agriculture on a Household Level
- Develop and support small community gardens
  - Better organise the green spaces
  - Promote social integration
- Raise capacity building in Urban Gardens management of its ULG participants
  - Raise skills of Gardenisers
- To approve a local regulation for urban gardens
- Make policy makers to realize the benefits of UG
  - Establish new urban gardens
- Bring project results to a long-lasting local intervention
Chapter 6 – Common assets that the 4 cities bring to the transfer process

- High political support
- A small, but highly motivated & successful community of Urban Gardeners
- A strong feeling about positive effects of outdoors activities in quality of life
- Strong track record of bottom-up participation processes
- Citizens engagement and interest
The project is an **URBACT Transfer Network** funded and supported by the European Regional Development Fund & the URBACT Programme.

**URBACT Transfer Networks** explore how the knowledge and experience of identified Good Practice Cities can be shared with and implemented by other cities across the European Union to encourage a more integrated and sustainable urban development.

The transfer components (TC) of the Good Practice are the **Capacity building** in organizing urban gardens, the **Training** of people in managing urban gardens, the **Governance** of urban gardens.

**Ru:rban** is led by Rome, Good Practice City for the Network.

The Good Practice is the management model of urban gardens in Rome to be transferred to Alexandroupolis, Algeciras, Carlow and Split to ensure sharing of experience and to enhance the capacities of local governance.
URBACT Transfer Network: RU:RBAN Second Wave

Lead Partner: City Of Rome

Transfer Cities: Alexandroupolis, Algeciras, Carlow and Split

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(inputs in the #1 Quarterly Network Report also by the ad hoc experts: Silvia Cioli, Andrea Messori and Fiammetta Curcio)

To be continued!

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