Outputs from the 2nd wave transnational exchange & learning experience...

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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:rb:an 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.
WHAT IS IT AT THE END OF THE TRANSFER JOURNEY FOR THE PARTNERS COMMUNITY GARDENS?

Nothing
IN THE BEGINNING ...

IN TIMES OF OVERPOPULATION, URBANIZATION, LONG TRANSPORT ROUTES AND OVER USAGE OF PESTICIDES,

URBAN COMMUNITY GARDENS, MORE AND MORE, PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES ...
1st and 2nd Wave transfer partners:

A Coruna, Vilnius, Thessaloniki, Caen, Loures, Krakow, Carlow, Split, Alexandroupolis, Algeciras
URBAN COMMUNITY GARDENS BOOM AND MORE AND MORE PEOPLE BECOME ACTIVE GARDENERS.

THE GARDENER’S MOTIVES ARE AS DIFFERENT AS THE GARDENERS THEMSELVES, BUT SOME REASONS PREVAIL OVER OTHERS.
KRAKOW'S URBAN & COMMUNITY GARDENS

I highly recommend it, it's really worth it. It brings a lot of joy and satisfaction.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER CONDITIONS?
A. INTRODUCING THE GP AND THE NETWORK PARTNERS IN THEIR DIVERSITY ...
URBAN COMMUNITY GARDENS ARE NOT ONLY “BEAUTIFICATIONS” OF BROWNFIELDS; THEY ALSO INTEGRATE SOCALLY EXCLUDED PEOPLE, HELP TO REALIZE INDIVIDUAL IDEAS, COMPENSATE STRESS AND INCREASE THE WELL-BEING OF ALL GARDENERS.

ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS SOWING, HARVESTING, PROCESSING AND EATING VEGETABLES AND FRUITS, GARDENERS FEEL MORE CONNECTED THAN OTHER INHABITANTS TO NATURE AND THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.
There are several forms of urban community gardens: Neighbourhood Gardens, Guerrilla Gardening, Women’s Gardens, City Farms, Tenant’s Gardens, Window Gardens, Vertical Farms, Market Gardens, Cross generational Gardens, Student’s Gardens and Intercultural Gardens etc.
Upraising citizens awareness has charged existing actors with new purposes: municipal authorities, city councils, urban consumers & social movements have become engaged with the topic ...
During the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Wave we managed to meet and ‘promote’ the policy topic \textbf{to all transfer cities mayors!}
Why is this fact considered as **critical** for the policy tool improvement **after** the end of the project?
The mission of urban gardening

- Organic Agriculture - Organic Food
- Green Economy
- Sharing Economy
- Communing Community Social Enterprise

- Professional Integration
- Inclusion

- Needy People

- Personal Fulfilment
- Leisure Time

- Intercultural Dialogue
- Integration

- Intergenerational Dialogue
- Citizenship

- Socialization

- Sustainable Urban Development
- Sustainable Consumption
- Environmental Education

- Didactic

- Citizens « Watch »

- Security

- Resilience
- Mental Health
- Elderly Wellbeing

- URBAN GARDENING
- Local Development
- Circular Economy
- URBAN REGENERATION
- Reuse of Abandoned Land
- Environment Protection
- Mitigation of Real Estate Development

- Production
- Self-Consumption

- Educational

- URBAN ACT

Connecting cities Building successes
City of Rome - The widest urban agriculture municipality area in Europe (51,729 hectares)
Good Practice: “The Management model of Urban gardens in Rome”

There are a variety of citizens and associations’ initiatives related to urban gardening in the city, which started in the early 2000’s, and several steps have been followed in terms of governance, that successfully lead to the approval of the respective city Regulation.
The GP in both waves contributed to the “Improvement of the governance processes” by connecting different competencies and municipal offices such as social, environment, urban planning and innovation departments.
B. DEMONSTRATING THE ADDED VALUE OF WORKING IN AN URBACT NETWORK ...
Added value of working in a transnational URBACT network through RU:RBAN both waves:

- Development of **priority themes** in the Urban Agenda for the EU
- **Re-use** of abandoned urban areas
- **Large number** of citizens and local associations involved in actions with a particular focus on excluded populations
- The GP **proved** its excellent potential for transfer due to the flexibility it offers as an integrated tool
1. All partners were newcomers cities in Urbact Transfer Networks
2. Strong exchanges in policy topic governance level
3. A number of core ULG members raised their capacity in managing U.G.
4. A big number of ULG members were introduced in the Gardeniser training
5. City officers deep dived into green spaces aspects
6. Strong involvement of local associations in TNMs and ULG meetings
IN RU:RBAN WE HAVE ANOTHER MISSION:
WORKING WITH CITIZENS, WITH ACTIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS & PRACTITIONERS

TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE TRANSFER RESULTS …
Round tables to **transfer** experiences ...
DURING THE KICK OFF MEETING WE TRIED TO CLARIFY & DEEP DIVE INTO THE TRANSFER PROCESS …

1. GP DESCRIPTION
2. TRANSFER METHODOLOGY
3. TRANSFER ROADMAPS
RU:RBAN IS MOSTLY ABOUT UG MANAGEMENT, BUT IT ALSO DEALS WITH THE REST OF THE UG POLICY TOPICS, TO RAISE THE CAPACITY BUILDING OF PEOPLE THAT WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR CITIES UG MOVEMENTS …
Who “runs” the Garden?

- Municipality
- Association
- Informal Group of Citizens
WE ALSO SHARED SOME GOOD PRACTISE “TIPS”:

A SELECTION OF SEVERAL BRIEF STORIES OF ROMAN URBAN GARDENS, BASED ON THE ENCOUNTERS OF ROMAN COMMUNITY GARDENS

AS ALSO STORIES SHARED WITH THE 1ST WAVE PARTNERS, BASED ON THE CREATION AND UPDATES OF THE ZAPPATA ROMANA MAP
Social gardening, integration of mentally and physically disabled persons. These are all core values that Cultivatorre hold. Cultivatorre is a project on bio horticulture that is mainly managed by disabled persons with a one to one ratio for every atypical person there is a typical person. Cultivatorre social center began in 1997. Its edible garden in the heart of the Aniene Park next to social center has been up and running since the very first year to current day. Every Sunday there is a scheduled time to work in the garden. In the past years, the association for social prom which was born in 2003, has promoted a network with other alike organizations like "Come un Albino" and "Asperger Pride". These other organizations share the passion for cultivating land and the aim of the integration of disabled persons. The association has hosted and promoted many local fest such as the Soup Festival, the Fava Bean Festival and the Artichoke Festival. The growth of this specific garden has led Cultivatorre to hold activities during weekdays inviting any citizens' desires to take care of the land and practice gardening.

By Silvia Cioli, Aurora Austin, Luca D'Eusebio – Zappata Romana. Credit image: Zappata Romana.

Eutoro is a group of former workers from Eutelia Information Technology. Now, unemployed due to starting a community garden. This lead to Eutelia becoming one of the first cases of fraudulent capitalism. After observing The Ori Urban Garbatella experience, on September 6th 2010 the garden began. Twenty computer technicians and managers with no experience in gardening at all, slowly discovered themselves urban farmers, with the goal of "staying together to better overcome the social, cultural and productive exclusion". The project was supported by the Province of Rome who established the land at the Agricultural School, "Istituto Tecnico Agrario Giuseppe Garibaldi". This garden represents the intersection of social justice and self food production issues. This garden represents the need for redemption. In time its organization has evolved from a more communitarian management to a more individual one. The garden would go on without compromising the spirit of inclusion and warmth towards all the newcomers that would arrive. Today the garden has moved from the school to Orti Tre Fontane.

The garden is located near the Via Cristoforo Colombo, a heavy traffic route that leads to the Eur district in direction of Ostia starting from the Aurelian walls, a perfect location for a new shopping mall or for offices. The two hectares of abandoned land since decades was being disputed by environmental associations and groups of citizens against the foreseen real estate investment. At a certain moment there seemed to be a fund for one million euro for a public park that disappeared. From this failed promise the citizens' and associations' concern grew and it was decided to permanently occupy the land and grow edible gardens. At the time the situation was desperate: a ground with gravel and scattered cement bits left over by a big Circus to anchor the tent's tie rods, no water only a small public fountain at 300 meters distance. Nevertheless a group of willing people sought the interest of the rest of the neighborhood, with the objective of giving everybody a chance to cultivate the land and take care of it. The forested self-management would be necessarily based on a common project and agreed rules. Months of intense work followed, with design meetings with agronomists and other self-managed sites. The decision is made for reclaiming 700 sqm for 15 plots of about 35 sqm each and an orchard. One of the plots was reserved for the neighborhood school children, the rest were assigned according to the established rules to the citizens who answered a public call.

Fundraising was organized with potluck dinners and other self financed initiatives with the help of the local more friendly institutions. Finally gardening tools were acquired and the necessary machinery was rented to dig the hard soil and also the trucks to carry good soil. Even though every operation was completely illegal it was legitimized in the desire and determination of the hundreds of people who believed in the project. During the designing and preparation phase, expert groups of engineers, architects, agronomists, teachers and artists spontaneously formed and thanks to the garden's mailing list "Orti Urban Garbatella" they were able to prepare events, share knowledge and document the project's phases.

By Silvia Cioli, Aurora Austin, Luca D'Eusebio – Zappata Romana. Credit image: Zappata Romana.
DISCUSSIONS MADE ON:

(1) WHAT IS AN ALLOTMENT IN URBAN GARDENING?

(2) WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GARDEN?

(3) WHAT IS THE PROFILE OF GARDENISER?

(4) WHAT ARE THE PARTNERS EXPECTATIONS AND MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST?
STUDY VISITS ...
ORT9 PARK URBAN GARDEN OF ROME, CASAL BRUNORI IS THE MAIN LP CASE STUDY. PARTNERS WERE DEEPLY INFORMED ON ITS’ SUCCESSFUL (HI)STORY IN UGM!

THE PARK IS A VERY WELL ORGANISED & ACTIVE GARDEN AND AS A CASE STUDY WAS CONSIDERED AS 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 ROMAN GARDENERS AND GARDENISERS IN 3 URBAN GARDENS ...
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.
WE WANTED THE NETWORK TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE FROM THE DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDs AND EXPERTISE OF ALL PARTNER CITIES (INCLUDING THE LIGHTHOUSE ONES) IN THE MATTER OF RESILIENT URBAN GARDENING
MAIN POINT OF INTEREST:

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.
MAIN POINT OF INTEREST:

ALGECIRAS WOULD LIKE (AMONG OTHER ASPECTS) TO ESTABLISH A NEW GARDEN BASED ON RU:RBAN TRANSFER EXPERIENCE.
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.
MAIN POINT OF INTEREST:

SPLIT IS IMPLEMENTING A NEW 3D GEOINFORMATION SYSTEM FOR (AMONG OTHERS), GREEN AREAS IN THE CITY, 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.
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
COMMON ASSETS THAT THE 4 CITIES BRING TO THE TRANSFER PROCESS:

- PROMOTE URBAN AGRICULTURE ON A HOUSEHOLD LEVEL
- 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
SOME USEFUL NOTES ON EACH CITY STATE OF THE ART IN URBAN GARDENS!
In Carlow Town & County, there are no regulation of urban gardens and while the area has several gardens many of them do not have urban garden elements.

Although a good part of the population of Carlow Town & County is either of rural origin or has contacts with the rural hinterland, education on gardening is needed for future managers of urban gardens, and additional education related to management and marketing.
In the Municipality of Alexandroupolis, there is a local regulation for the urban garden of Bioagros that needs to be updated.

The city has numerous opportunities for the establishment of urban garden elements.
In Split, there are no urban gardens or regulation of urban gardens.

The public is interested in this topic and there is interest and numerous inquiries about their establishment.

Although a good part of the population of Split is either of rural origin or has contacts with the rural hinterland, education on gardening is needed for future managers of urban gardens, and additional education related to management and marketing.
In Algeciras, there are no public urban gardens and the city is working on the draft of a regulation for urban gardens nowadays. The public is interested in this topic, and there are received a numerous of inquiries about the establishment of urban gardens.

Training on gardening is needed for future managers of urban gardens, and additional education related to management and marketing.

The city proposes this project as social instrument for the inclusion of people under risk of exclusion and for the increase of community involvement.
RU:RBAN DISSEMINATION POSTERS DURING THE TRANSFER JOURNEY ...
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

A NEW TRANSFER JOURNEY HAS STARTED ...

RU:RBAN SECOND WAVE ...

The management model of Roman Urban Gardens travelled through Algeciras, Spain, Dec 2021 ...

An Urban garden is a social innovation!

For more info, visit https://urbact.eu/rurban
RU:RBAN SECOND WAVE ...

The management model of Roman Urban Gardens travelled through Paris, France, Mar 2022, as a midterm stop with JS officers ...

COVID19 pandemic is slowly behind us ...

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

RU:RBAN transfer efforts in full steam ...

The management model of Roman Urban Gardens travelled through Carlow, Ireland and Alexandroupolis, Greece ...

For more info, visit https://urbact.eu/rurban
THE TRANSFER JOURNEY IS ABOUT TO BE FINISHED......

RU:RBAN SECOND WAVE ......

The management model of Roman Urban Gardens travelled through Split, Croatia and ...

RU:RBAN is entering the Finale Phase ......

For more info, visit https://urbact.eu/rurban
C. PRESENTING THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY AND THE MAIN LEARNINGS FROM PARTNERS ...
AN URBAN GARDEN IS A SOCIAL INNOVATION
The Transfer Roadmaps based on a template and the Updated Transferability Study, both by the LE, are not only highlights of the network, but also the most useful tools for a successful transfer journey ...
The Transfer Roadmaps audience:

1. local stakeholders and decision-makers
2. wider transnational partnership
3. URBACT Secretariat and the wider URBACT community
The 84 pages Transferability Study chapters:

- Introduction
- Good practice updated description
- General strategic framework, relevant policy priorities & key indicators relating to the GP
- Scope for sustainability
- Expert’s transfer assessment
- Good Practice Transfer Potential
Each city worked with the LE on:

- A summary of the city with key relevant metrics
- A description of the GP challenge in the city – and how the city has tried to address this in the past.
  - Identified needs of each city that were relevant to the GP
  - The city stakeholders who should be involved in the URBACT Local Group (ULG)
  - The assets the city brings to the transfer process
  - How the GP transfer could have a positive impact on the city’s relevant policy
    - Challenges linked to transfer of the GP
    - Transfer Risks
  - What barriers might be faced in trying to adapt and transfer the GP
- How does the city demonstrate a clear motivation to re-use the GP following the principles outlined in the URBACT Method
The 3 Elements:

• E1 about capacity building

• E2 about Gardenisers introduction, popular between the ULG members

• E3 about the new Urban Gardens Regulation (hopefully) adopted by each city Council
WE ARE NOT A ONE
The 3 Ad hoc experts ...
The LP core team ...
The Carlow Experience ...
The Carlow County Cathaoirleach ...
The 4 cities ULGs ...
Successful tools also used:

• coordination meetings, including transnational workshops/seminars & field visits

• **customised introduction** in vocational training of Gardenisers

• peer reviews

• mid term reflection

• lighthouse cities case studies & capitalisation reports
We managed to improve the capacity building in all 3 topics:

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?
In person meeting by the experts and the LP ...
Algeciras Case Study Support ...
Algeciras: Building a community in an Urban Garden, by Silvia Cioli

Some highlights from the introduction during the Algeciras TNM are:

• Share a dream with others
• Gather a group of people who share your concerns
• Combine and document everyone’s ideas
• Make a list of interested participants
• Record each meeting
• Who may potentially benefit from your community garden? Who will use it? Who is welcomed in it?
• Who can you co-operate with during the development of your garden project?
• Who can provide substantial assistance to carry out your plan?
• How will you co-ordinate the involvement of all these people?
Benefits of urban gardening

It is not clear of course that the benefits of UG are stable for different socio-demographic, various cultural and spatial characteristics of the population in different locations.

In RU:RBAN we tried to match different cultures and experiences to work in a real effective management model for UG, fully in lined with each city local governance restrictions.
Support by the project experts is considered as a continuous ULG help desk to get more deep – dives in all transfer elements.
In March 2022, RU:RBAN travelled through Paris to meet the partners, the URBACT JS officers and other Transfer and UTM Networks …
The partnership worked also on the Mid-Term Reflection and the next steps until the end of the 2nd Wave Transfer Journey ...
During the TNMs, we had not only fruitful exchanges between officers & ULG members, but also between mayors!
Carlow had an amazing dissemination team!
The youngest member of all RU:RBAN ULG is a Greek high school student, aged only 16!
The Alexandroupolis Case Study: BIOAGROS is considered as a very interesting and successful UG model …
During the project TNMs RU:RBAN continued the use of very useful dissemination tool of vox pops ...
Various and really **inspiring** UG approaches in Alexandroupolis area are explored!
Lighthouse Cities Highlights!
The partners are introduced in different UGM approaches of Helsinki, Oslo & Reykjavik ...
The city of Oslo contribution ...

The city of Oslo is supporting the project operational expenses, by the municipality financial sources, coming mostly form the city taxes.
How the CITY OF HELSINKI supports urban gardening and farming:

Associations and communities can lease land areas from the City for small-scale urban farming. There, plants are grown in growing containers, in growing beds, in growing bags or on small patches.

Individual city residents can directly contact farming associations or establish their own community for urban farming.
The Kópavogur community garden management system is considered as the most well organised one in all lighthouse cities case studies ...
Meeting with city mayors adds value and makes things easier!
A great success in all TNMs with more than 40 participants every time and sometimes more than 60 (Carlow)!
Successes and hardships of the 4 transferring partners …
Algeciras: Successes and hardships

1. The approval of UG Regulation by the Plenary of the City Council
2. Community engagement is the most added value result of the full transfer journey and experience.

1. Changes in the personnel involved or somehow responsible for the project implementation
2. English as a working language for the team has been a really big barrier
3. The understanding of working in a network of cities with roles, responsibilities and duties, framework and deadlines
Alexandroupolis: Successes and hardships

1. The main transfer success was to raise awareness and networking all stakeholders. No silo-working spirit, but team working for the city and individual goals.

1. Long bureaucratic processes did not allow the city to activate the local ecosystem during the first months, as well as

2. the approx. short timeframe of the project.
Carlow: Successes and hardships

1. Success was a result of the meeting of minds for a common goal for all and the completion of our first URBACT Project.

1. One of the greatest hardships was that until 2022, the Irish ULG members didn’t get to travel to the project and really engage in the international activities of it.
Split: Successes and hardships

1. The significant increase in capacity for the establishment and management of urban gardens and the connection of a broad coalition of partners who can support and encourage the city administration to successfully realize urban gardens in the coming period.

2. The lack of suitable land for the establishment of UG, the related legal problem of land ownership and the inability of the city administration to deal with issues with which it has no experience, which creates bureaucratic obstacles to the realization of project goals.

2. In certain moments, also inconsistent project management and unclear roles of persons performing different project tasks.
D. NEXT STEPS FOR THE NETWORK PARTNERS ...
GP cities can share their experience of adapting it with other cities, underlining how it has been adapted and reused. They can also explain what they have learnt from the peer review experience, and showcase any improvements they have made to the practice as a consequence.

Each local event will be promoted by the NUPs.
The next step is to confirm the selected land and create a conceptual solution for the space of the urban garden. After the completion and adoption of the regulation, there will be a public tender for the selection of users of the urban garden, as well as the development of rules for the use of the garden and a sustainability study.

During the entire process, we will try to support interested associations and further promote the idea of urban gardens through support for interested groups of citizens and their self-organization.
Carlow ...

... is now focused on the achievement of 10 objectives as a result of this project:

Policy 1: Ensure sufficient provision of allotments & Community Gardens
Policy 2: Ensure good administration
Policy 3: Provide high quality allotments
Policy 4: Ensure environmentally sustainable allotments
Policy 5: Secure resources
The City Council participated in August 2022 in a “Next Generation” call for funds aiming the rehabilitation of a River Park called El Pícaro. The project proposal includes among other actions the implementation of the 1st municipal urban garden by the riverside.

It is expected to get the results by the end of 2022, so this would enable to put into practice the knowledge acquired, as well as the Urban Gardens Local Regulation.
Alexandroupolis ...

The city will support municipal gardens as well as additional initiatives deriving from schools. The aim is to support the new generation and youth as well as all citizens and vulnerable.

Maintaining the network of ULG is also something to be done. The city will restart the local urban garden based on the participatory approach of the new regulation urban garden.
All cities will warmly join another URBACT Network, while Algeciras has some other thoughts on it ...