

Cost Action: “Urban Allotments in European cities”

The representatives of the allotment gardeners, unified in the International Office du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux, took part over four years together with 170 individuals from 91 institutions, universities and research institutions as well as municipalities from 32 different countries in the above mentioned research.

The action was closed by a conference “Growing in the cities” held in Basel from 8th until 10th September, 2016.

During the 38th international congress of the Office, Runrid Fox-Kämper, chair of this action, presented her conclusions in a PowerPoint, which is joined as appendix.

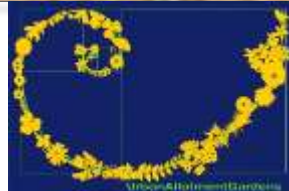


Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities.

Challenges and lessons learned in four years of COST Action

Runrid Fox-Kämper

**ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development,
Aachen**





Outline

1. **The COST-Action - an overview**
2. **Output of the Action**
3. **Urban Gardening – insights from all over Europe**
4. **Findings from four years of collaboration**

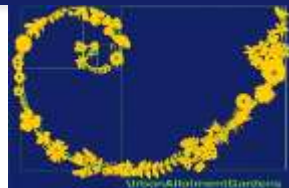
Internationaler Garten in Hannover; Photo: Martin Sondermann



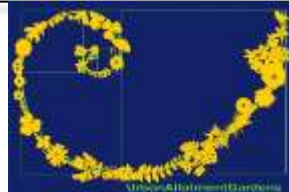


COST Action TU1201 Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities

UrbanAllotmentGardens



- COST is an intergovernmental framework for European **Cooperation in Science and Technology**
- It allows the coordination of nationally-funded research on a European level
- An **Action** is a science and technology network with duration of four years and a minimum participation of five COST Member Countries.
- The research itself is **not** funded by COST



Mission of COST Action TU1201 Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities...

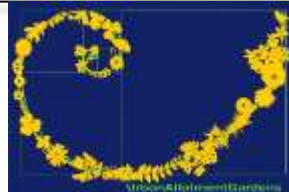
...is to fully comprehend **relevance of and challenges for urban (allotment) gardens in Europe** from four research perspectives:

1. Urban Development and Policies

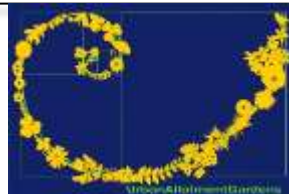
2. Sociology

3. Ecology

4. Urban Design



Urban Gardening - what are we talking about?



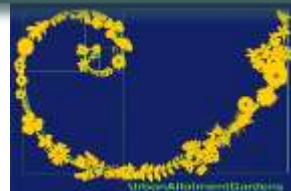
Plot in Aachen Hanbruch allotment,
Photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper



Chelas Valley urban
allotment park, Lissabon;
Photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper



Plot in Wasserwiese allotment, Wien;
Photo: Eva Schwab





Allmendekontor Tempelhofer Feld, Berlin;
Photo: ILS



Edible Eastside in Birmingham, UK;
Photo: Silvio Caputo





On the roof of a research institute
in Paris;
Foto: Runrid Fox-Kämper



Edible City Stadt
Andernach,
Photo: Runrid
Fox-Kämper

on r

or in public parks



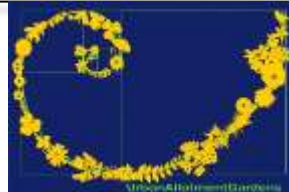
gardens'



What types of urban gardens were the focal point?

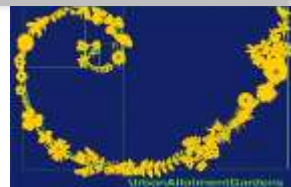
- Allotment gardens
- Community gardens
- Assisted garden plots
- Rooftop gardens
- Edible cities

- Rule for all: **diversity instead of simplicity**



Members of the COST-Action network

- 31 countries and New Zealand as international partner country
- 170 individuals from 91 institutions
- Different groups:
 - Universities and research institutions
 - Allotment garden groups
 - Municipalities from different countries
- Gender Balance:
 - 99 female, 71 male → 58 % female
- 30 Early stage researchers plus 20 PhD students



Motivations of different groups

Researchers

- Analysing and understanding different types of urban gardening comparatively
- Analysing the position in urban context (contributions and challenges)
- Comparison of different research perspectives

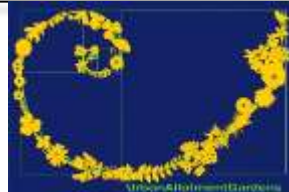
Stakeholder

- Learning from dealing with urban gardens in different contexts
- Suggestions for the own association work

Local authorities

- Identifying possible actions for communal work
- Learning from examples in other cities

➤ **All: mutual exchange of knowledge**



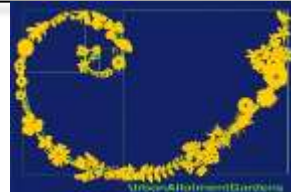
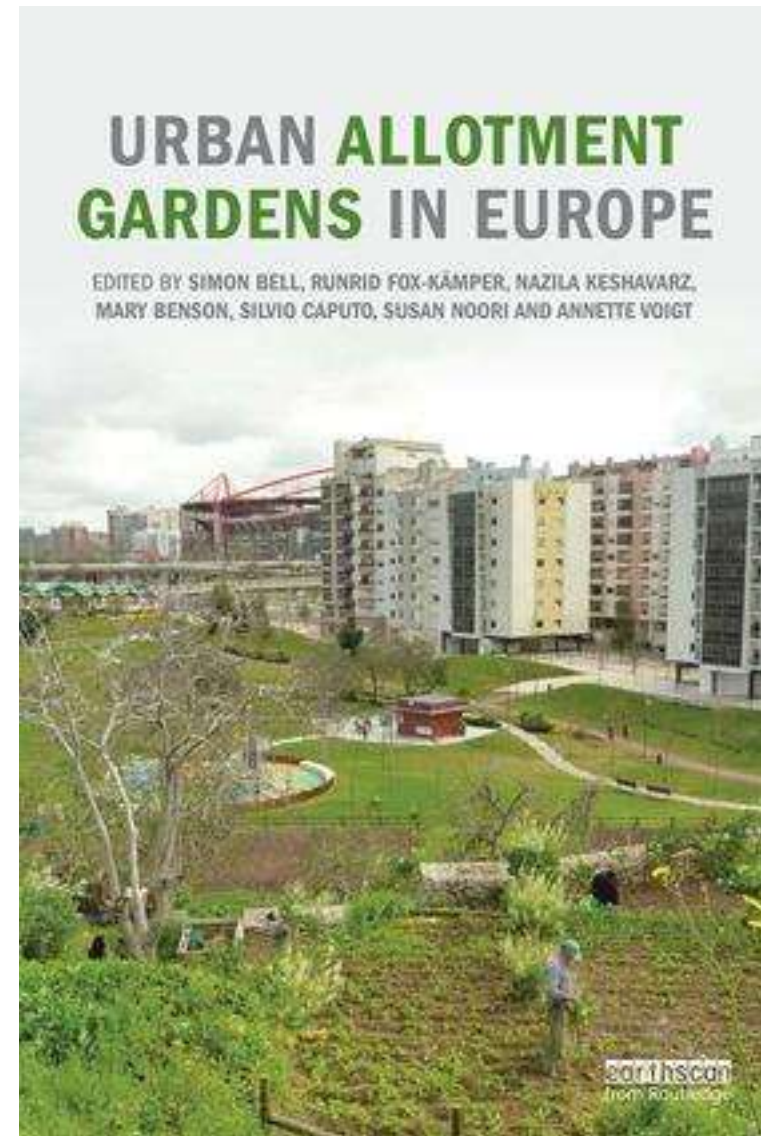
Scientific programme of COST Action

- Management Committee meetings
- Bi-annual meetings of all Working Groups
- Network of case studies in all participating countries
- Short Term Scientific Mission of early stage researchers (ESR) in other countries
- Training Schools for students and ESR
- Disseminating results via papers, publications, conferences



Output of Action (I)

- International book publication
URBAN ALLOTMENT GARDENS
IN EUROPE
- Special Issue in Landscape and
Urban Planning (submitted)
- Comprehensive scientific
publications
- Catalyst for additional national
research funding



Output of Action (II)

- 14 „Factsheets“ as brief information about present topics



Challenge

How can allotments be rebranded away from being sometimes seen as a low-value collection of small individual plots towards a high value complex performing a better socio-environmental role in order to help to reduce the risk of their loss?

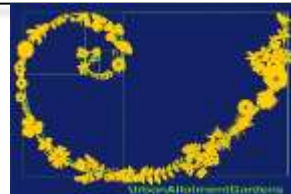
How can the wide range of functions and opportunities be promoted in order to convince policy makers and planners of the value of allotments and the need to protect existing areas and to establish new allotment sites?

Problem 1: Why are local green spaces lost to development and budgets reduced?

Problem 2: Why are allotment sites more prone to development and more of a target to developers or seen as more dispensable by local authorities than parks?

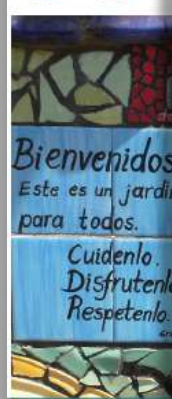
- Because the monetary value of the land is known but the (often non-market) benefits of the allotments has not been calculated in monetary terms?
- Because of their location? E.g. in marginal or city centre areas?
- Because gardeners and the public do not maximise the multifunctional potential of allotment sites?
- Because community groups do not share the site with the local people and do not sufficiently contribute to local urban policy development?

This factsheet addresses both gardeners and policy makers: Gardeners will find information on how to work effectively internally and externally so as to be an integral, positive part of society; Policy makers will find information on the contribution of allotments to society and nature.



01

UR
INFO



HOW TO ALLOTM

Challenge

How can allotments individual plots to help to reduce the ri

How can the wide ra and planners of the allotment sites?

Problem 1: Why are Problem 2: Why are seen as more disper

- Because the mon allotments has no
- Because of their l
- Because gardeners
- Because commun contribute to local

This factsheet addresses both gardeners and policy makers: Gardeners will find information on how to work effectively internally and externally so as to be an integral, positive part of society; Policy makers will find information on the contribution of allotments to society and nature.

02

UR
INFO



HOW TO OF URBA

Challenge

Allotment and commu and dynamics. Even t to maintain relevance Allotment Gardens (U

- The uncertainty re
- Uncertainty regard
- Risk of loss to urba
- Change in the com
- The lack of attract
- The lack of diversit

Question 1: How can the garden more rel

Question 2: Why should public authorities strengthen the validity of urban gardens in the city and can they do this?

WHERE CANNOT

Challenge

In many European c tend to privilege the demand.

- Is it possible to g
- Can you use con
- Are there other

Challenge 2: Provid their use?

This fact-sheet is m find inner city land v makers, providing them with reasons to facilitat unconventional spaces.

04

URBAN GARDENS IN EUROPE

INFO SERIES | ISSUE 1 V. ENGLISH | DATE OF ONLINE PUBLICATION: 20 JULY 2016



HOW TO S IT GOING

Challenge

In European cities many v garden project you may fa

- Permission to use the
- Neighbours' consent; a
- Access to funding

Challenge 2: Managing a clash with other activities

- Additional skills you do
- A team to share respon
- Local volunteers helpin

This factsheet addresses t addresses policy makers, type of projects.

05

URBAN GARDENS IN EUROPE

INFO SERIES | ISSUE 1 V. ENGLISH | DATE OF ONLINE PUBLICATION: 20 JULY 2016



HOW TO T MOTIVATI PLANNING

Challenge

In many European cou garden associations ha they can get a plot for to incorporate urban g architects and landsc

When considering dev wide set of expectation

Furthermore, consider planning can only be h and designing the gar potentially have for ur

Finally, some urban ga understanding of moti relation to gardeners' The challenge we want gardeners into the pla

06

URBAN GARDENS IN EUROPE

INFO



HOW TO YOUR O

Challenge

There is no other spa same degree as an ur they are also places fr personalisation of plot some, they become a

Challenge for garde or joining a gardening This creates a chall

Challenge for garde to engage gardeners the same time be res

This factsheet aims to

- How to make the g
- How to develop yo
- How can the garde belonging?

07

URBAN GARDENS IN EUROPE

INFO SERIES | ISSUE 1 V. ENGLISH | DATE OF ONLINE PUBLICATION: 20 JULY 2016



HOW TO DEVELOP URBAN GARDENS AS LEARNING SPACES?

Challenge

Urban gardens are important learning spaces, different types of skills and knowledge are created, both an individual and communal level. This applies to both allotment gardens and newer forms of gardening projects, such as community gardens.

On a communal level, gardens are spaces where people learn how to interact with other people, how to deal with internal conflicts and integrate newcomers, how to react to dislocation threats and how to become politically involved. Gardeners gain knowledge about sustainable and environmental issues and learn how to cultivate plants. In addition, gardens are great places to interact with different social groups and build friendships.

However, despite the potential for these various learning processes in urban gardens, the learning potential is not always fully realized. Skills and knowledge are not developed and disseminated as much as they could be.

This factsheet provides information for allotment and community gardeners about how to support learning processes and facilitate the dissemination of skills and knowledge between gardeners.

Output of Action (III)



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

GROWING IN CITIES

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON URBAN GARDENING

9-10 SEPTEMBER 2016
BASEL . SWITZERLAND

WWW.URBANALLOTMENTS.EU/FINAL-CONFERENCE.HTML

GROWING IN CITIES

BASEL 2016

COST ACTION 12011 URBAN

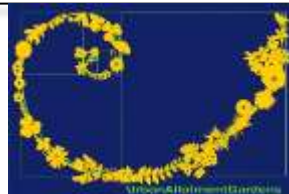
n|w University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland
School of Social Work

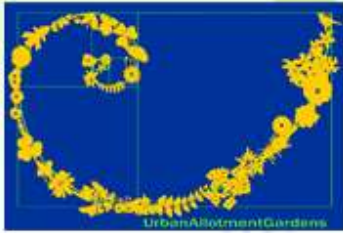
IS ILS - Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development

cost EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

EUROPEAN UNION COST IS SUPPORTED BY
THE EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
HORIZON 2020

- Attention far beyond Europe
- 4 internationally known keynote speakers
- Over 70 scientific lectures und posters from all over the world





URBAN ALLOTMENT GARDENS

Output of Action (IV)

website: www.urbanallotments.eu

HOME / CASE STUDIES / FRANCE

FINAL CONFERENCE

LOGIN

ACTION IN DETAIL

ACTION'S BOOK

LIST OF MEMBERS

CASE STUDIES

- ▶ Austria
- ▶ Belgium
- ▶ Croatia
- ▶ Cyprus
- ▶ Czech Republic
- ▶ Denmark
- ▶ Estonia
- ▶ Finland
- ▶ France
- ▶ Germany
- ▶ Greece
- ▶ Ireland

CASE STUDIES FRANCE

MANAGEMENT OF METALLIC SOIL POLLUTION IN THE URBAN ALLOTMENT GARDENS OF NANTES

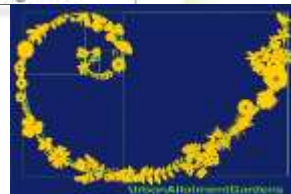
Researchers: Armelle BRAUD (LPGN), Beatrice BECHET (IFSTTAR), Cecile LE GUERN (BRGM), Lliiane JEAN SORO (IFSTTAR), Thierry LEBEAU (LPGN)

Institutes: BRGM - Pays de Loire Territorial Agency, IFSTTAR - Water and Environment Laboratory, University of Nantes - LPGN UMR 6112 CNRS

Location: NANTES

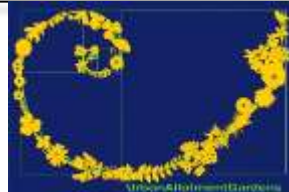


The emerging concept of sustainable city encourages the expansion of allotment urban gardens. However, gardens may have been developed on areas where soil quality was not taken into account in urban planning. Attentive to the potential health risks associated with consumption of vegetables growing on contaminated soils, the city of Nantes has launched a program to assess the soil quality of its 24 collective gardens (one thousand plots) towards organic



Urban gardening – insights from all over Europe

- The role of urban gardening for the society
- The role of urban gardening for the sustainable city
- The role of urban gardens for urban development
- The economic role of urban gardens



Example Les Jardins du Zephir, Aulnay-sous-Bois, Paris: Urban gardening as measure to improve neighbourhoods

- Urban gardening as a tool against advanced decay
- Cooperation of housing and allotment garden association
- 52 small gardens, 30 m² each
- Space for interaction



Photo: Ville de Aulnay



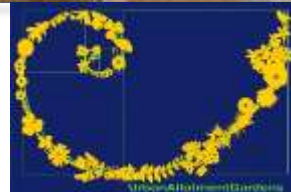
Example: Jardins Partagés

- Rethinking gardens as an answer to decreasing demand for classic allotment plots
- Gardens in new contexts
- Smaller plots (20 - 150 m² instead of up to 600 m²)
- Gardens for new users (elderly, disabled, groups,...)



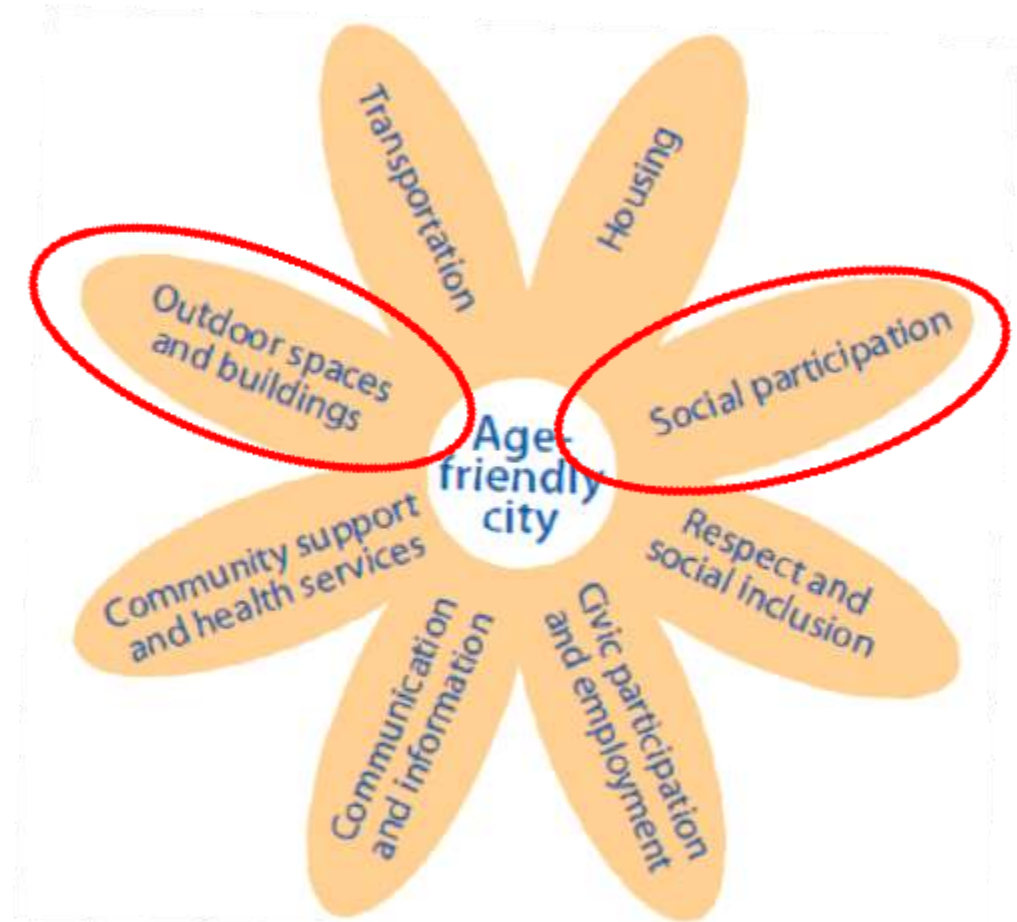
(above) Garden in the distance green of a residential building

(below) Special plots for wheelchair users in Quetigny, photos: Hervé Bonnavaud



The role of urban gardening in an ageing society

- The WHO identifies „**Access to safe open space and nearby located green**“ and „**social participation**“ as two of the most important issues of age-friendly cities
- Both can be found in urban gardens



Age-friendly city topic areas;
Source: WHO guide Global age-friendly cities



Example Barcelona: Xarxa D'hortos municipal

- Initiated by the city of Barcelona (1997)
- New construction of organic-maintained garden plots for residents over 65
- 14 gardens until 2014



Photo: Carolina Villar
Urban Allotment Area in Barcelona

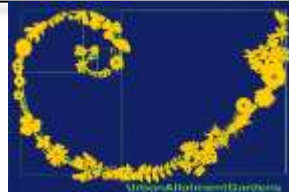
Interview statements from a survey within COST Action:

„Thanks to the garden I bow, stretch, pluck weed and move all morning.“

„Since I am gardening, I virtually stopped doing other sports.“

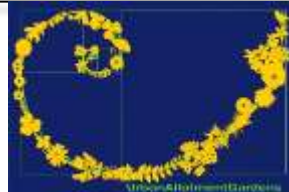
„I can't get sick during gardening season– who else would take care for the garden“

„The garden helps to solve the problem of personal isolation in the city.“



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The role of urban gardening for the sustainable city

- Micro-climate regulation
- Cleaning of air and carbon storage
- Water cycle regulation

Urban Gardening near London City;
Photo: www.capitalgrowth.org



Fresh air corridor Tempelhofer Feld, Berlin Photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper

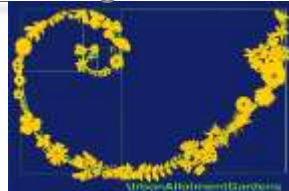


Preservation of habitats and biodiversity



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Kilometers

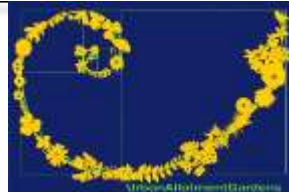
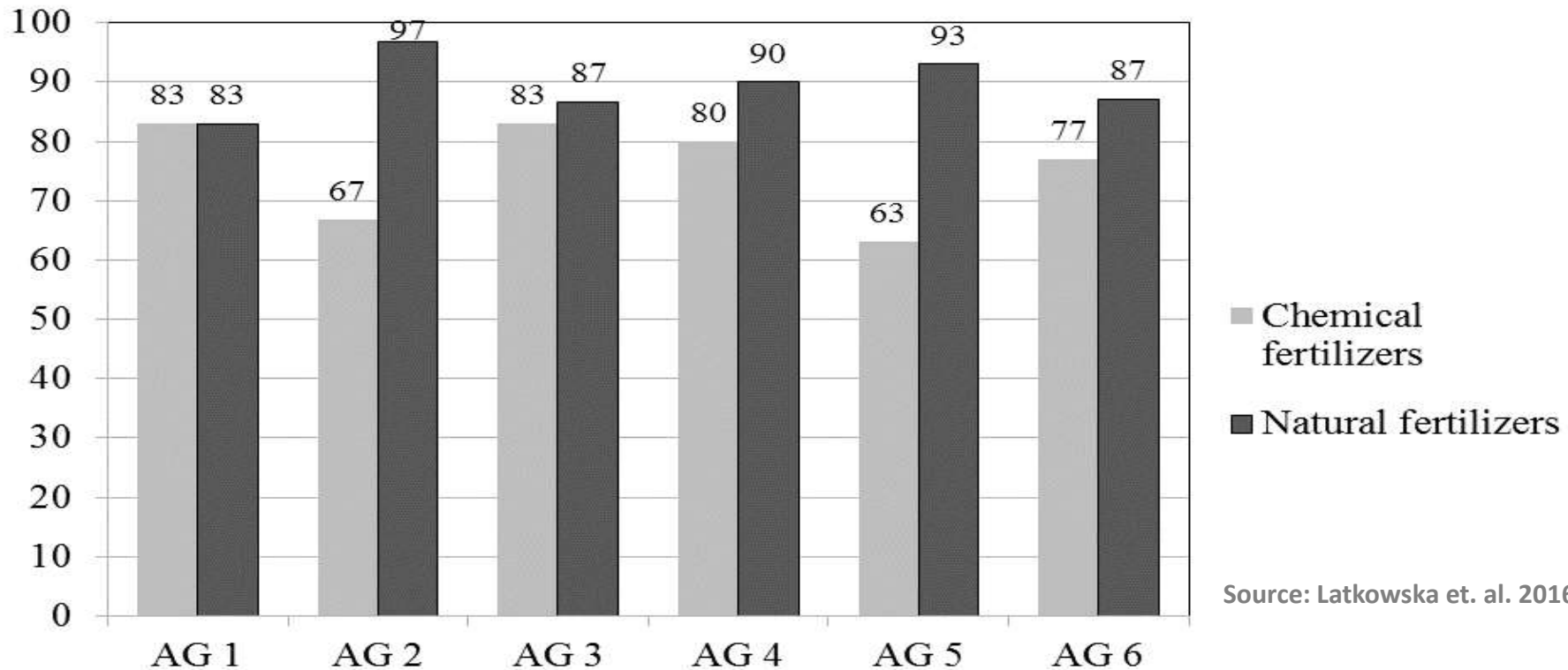
Range of bumble-bees originating from allotment gardens in inner Stockholms; Fig.: Colding et al. 2006



Sustainable cultivation in urban gardens

Results of a study within COST Action 2013 in 6 allotment gardens in Warszawa:

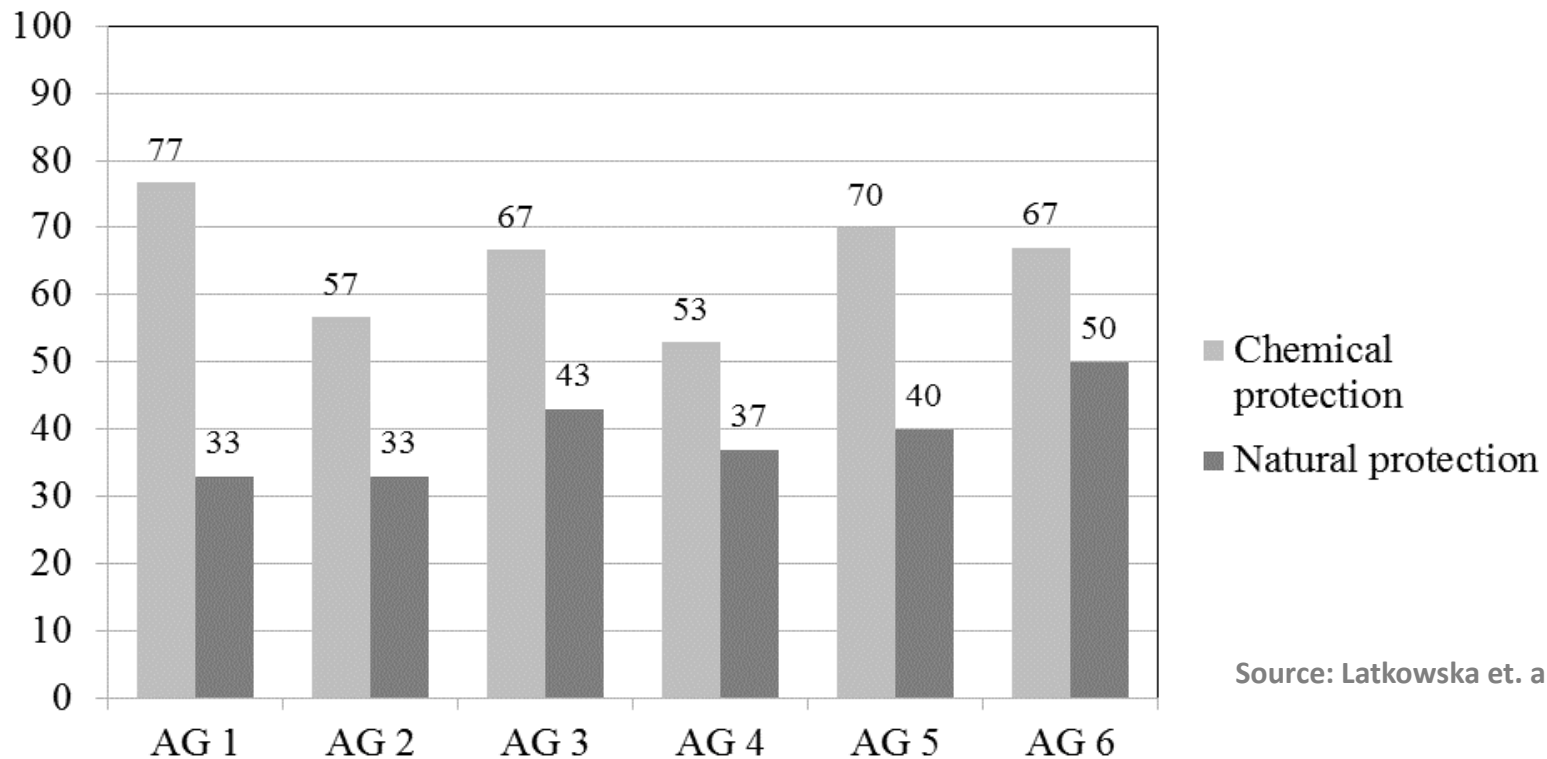
- Usage of synthetic and natural fertilizers



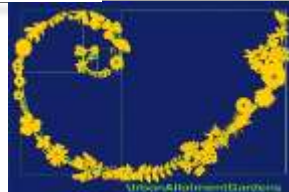
Sustainable cultivation in urban gardens

Results of a study within COST Action 2013 in 6 allotment gardens in Warszawa:

- Usage of chemical and natural pesticides



Source: Latkowska et. al. 2016



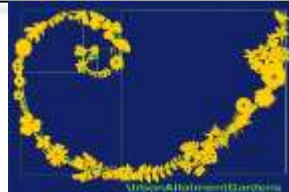
Urban gardens for a sustainable lifestyle

Example Eco-Viiki, Helsinki (2.000 residents)

- 129 allotment gardens as green fingers
- Plant mix of crop and wild plants
- Studies confirmed an extreme biodiversity

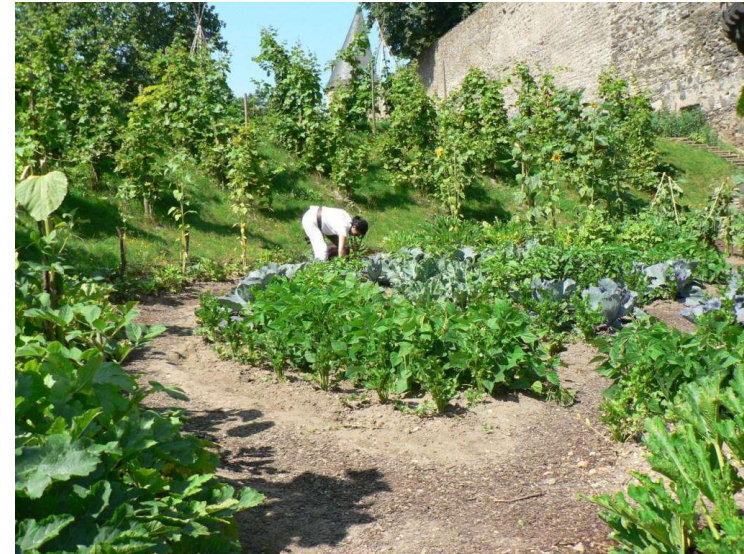


Allotment gardens in Eco-Viikki, Helsinki; Photo: Minttu Kervinen



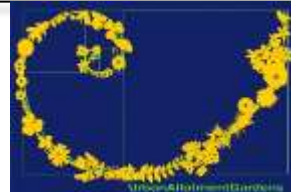
Example Andernach: Die „Essbare Stadt“ (Edible City)

- Use of public parks and green areas for urban agriculture since 2010
 - Vegetable cultivation (rare breeds)
 - Fruit growing (climate adapted)
 - Low maintenance shrubs
 - Flower fields
- Everyone can participate and harvest
- Improved image of the city



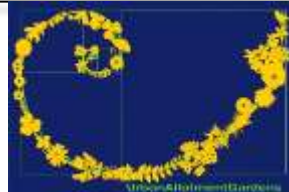
Above: Beans in public park in Andernach

Below: Harvesting citizen in park in Andernach; Fotos: Fox-Kämper



Urban gardening – insights from all over Europe

- The role of urban gardening for the society
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Example Lisbon: transformation of the urban landscape

- Enormous population loss since decades
- Insufficient quality of open space
- 2008: Green masterplan as a strategic concept for more quality of life within the city



Aerial view on Lisbon; Photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper



Example Lisbon: **New urban agrarian parks in the city**

- Public-private-partnership for infrastructure projects
- Linked concepts with 60 km bike paths
- New use of urban brownfields
- Urban agrarian parks as multifunctional spaces (gardens *and* public parks)

Green Masterplan Lisbon; Source: Stadt Lissabon

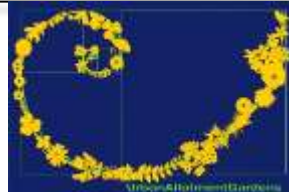


Example Lisbon: New urban agrarian parks in the city



- Realized
- ◌ In Implementation
- Planned

Location of urban agrarian parks in the city;
Source: City Council Lissabon, modified

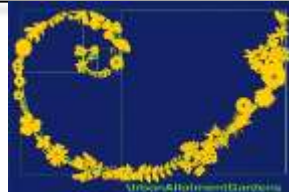


Example Lisbon: New urban agrarian parks in the city



Foto: Duarte da Mata

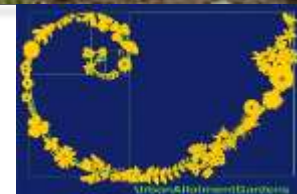
- Before: illegal urban agriculture and brownfields





■ Now: designed agrarian park with public areas

Quinta da Granja, Lissabon;
Photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper





Gardener in Quinta da Granja, Lissabon;
Photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper



Dealing with land-use pressure : Urban gardens only on remaining areas?



Google earth
Allotment gardens in Salzburg



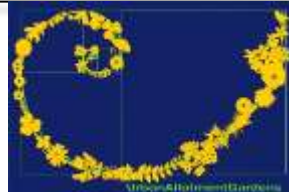
Legal status of urban gardens

Allotment gardens:

- Secured by law and/or legally regulated in many European countries
- Importance as a part of green infrastructure often not reflected in land use plans
- Relocation under growth pressure (to the urban fringe)

Community gardens:

- Not secured by law
- Often interim use on wasteland (building law!)
- Normally limited contracts

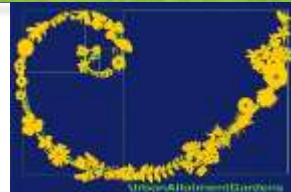


Example Basel: Dealing with growth pressure

- 2009 plans to turn down 3 of 33 allotment garden areas for construction (= 40% of the total area within the city of Basel)
- Subsequently massive protests
- 2011 Referendum with 3 options (40%, 20% und 0%)
- Conclusion: majority for a compromise and an initiative to secure remaining family gardens

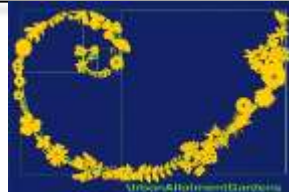


Source: <http://io3.ch/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=familiengarteinitiative-unterschriftenbogen.pdf>



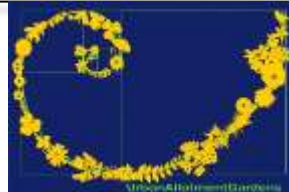
Example Basel: Dealing with growth pressure

- New allotment garden law since 2013
- Saving 80% of present allotment garden areas
- Changed perception of allotment gardens due to a pluralizing society
 - Increasing importance of public access
 - New patterns of usage in public space such as catering, playgrounds and sport areas,...
 - New user groups
- Changed image towards „leisure and weekend gardens“
- Intensification of use



Urban gardening – insights from all over Europe

- The role of urban gardening for the society
- The role of urban gardening for the sustainable city
- The role of urban gardens for urban development
- The economic role of urban gardens



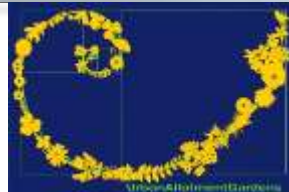
The economic role of urban gardens

- Can urban gardens provide a significant contribution to family income?
- Do they contribute to strengthening local economies?
- Are they important for the labour market?

Solidarity market in Athens; Photo: Theodosia Anthopoulou



Gardener on her way to the market in Ljubljana; Photo: Ina Suklje

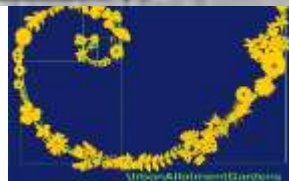


Exkursus: Urban gardening in times of crisis

- ...have a long tradition
- 19th Century: „Schreber-“garden movement as result of increasing industrialisation



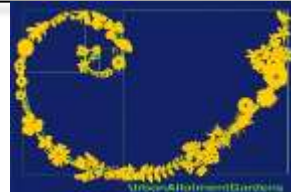
Historic „Schrebergärten“ in Leipzig Source: kleingartenverein.at



Word War I and II: War or Victory gardens



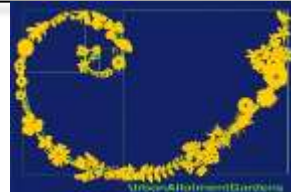
Sources: (l.) Library of congress; (r.) victorygardens.green



Establishment of most allotment garden associations in Western Europe as result of Great Depression in 1920s



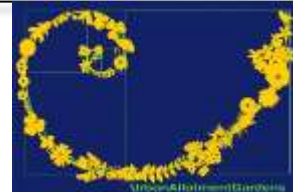
Main Entrance n
Hanbruch Allotment
Garden Aachen;
Photo:
Runrid Fox-Kämper



...in Eastern Europe after World War II for food supply („Dacha“-culture)



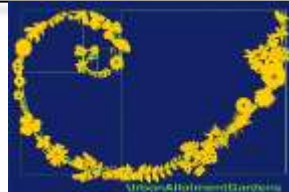
Abandoned garden plot
in Riga; Photo: Runrid
Fox-Kämper



Community gardens in New York City since the 1970s as a result of the oil and financial crisis

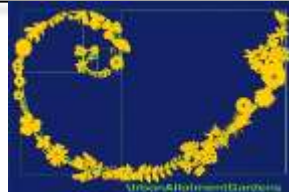


Liz Christie Garden, one of the first community gardens in New York
Source: http://www.lizchristygarden.us/lcbh_files/LCBH%20Wide.JPG



Summary: The role of urban gardens in times of crisis

- The emergence of urban gardening is linked to economic crises or critical transformations of the city.
- Today to be experienced in European countries without an urban gardening tradition: Greece, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Cyprus



2014: Thessaloniki, Greece
Kipos3 Garden

Photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper



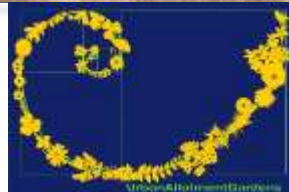
2009: Porto, Portugal
Horta à Porta Programme by LIPOR

Photo: Maria Sousa



2012: Nicosia, Cyprus
Community garden in a public park

Photo: Byron Ioannou



Results of a field survey about the economic impact of urban gardening

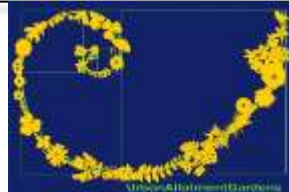
- In a allotment garden area newly founded in 2012 in Agios Dimitrios, a municipality at the fringe Athens in Greece
- Over two thirds of all gardeners unemployed

Allotment Garden area Agios Dimitrios near Athens; Photo: Theodosia Anthopoulos



Results of a field survey about the economic impact of urban gardening

- Reasons and motivations of the gardeners (sorted by quantity of answers):
 - Developing a local identity
 - Doing something useful
 - Eating healthier and more conscious
 - Healthier living due to outside activity
 - **Contribution to household income**
 - Ways out of isolation
- **Mainly motives addressing physical and mental health of gardeners**



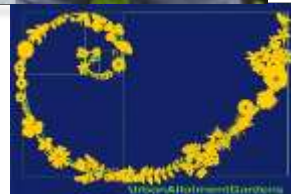
Example Martineau Gardens, Birmingham, UK

On the way to professionalization

- Founded as non-profit organisation in 1997
- Therapeutical gardening
- Some permanently employed and many volunteers, amongst them many with handicaps
- Open house days
- Sale of products

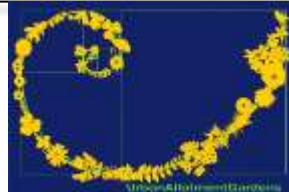


Martineau Gardens, Birmingham;
Photos: Runrid Fox-Kämper



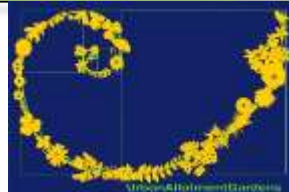
Findings from COST Action (I)

- Clear evidence for the social value of urban gardening.
- Ecological contribution especially regarding biodiversity and raising awareness for a sustainable lifestyle.
- Urban gardens can be an important part of municipal green infrastructure and for urban development. Embedding them in green planning concepts is helpful to make them attractive also for residents and visitors.
- Crises are motors for the emergence of urban gardens. The economical role for fighting poverty in Europe is of minor importance, while there are chances for local economies.



Findings from COST Action (II)

- The collaboration within the network and the motivation to contribute to the success of the Action were outstanding.
- The gained knowledge is rated extremely high by all participants.
- The analyzed case studies as well as the bi-annual meetings with field trips were a valuable foundation for the collaborative work.
- All participants from 32 countries met on eye level and benefitted from knowledge of others.
- The inclusion garden associations was viewed essential for the success of the action.





Thanks for your attention!

