



RU:RBAN Second Wave #1 Quarterly Network Report

Network Transfer Progress

Karamarkos Kostas,
Lead Expert

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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 &

Practitioners,

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.



ROME'S TIPS

Spontaneous intervention: COLTIVATORE



Social gardening, integration of mentally and physically disabled persons. These are all core values that Coltivatore hold. Coltivatore is a project on bio horticulture that is mainly managed by young disabled persons with a one to one ratio for every atypical person there is a typical person. Coltivatore social center began in 1987, its edible garden in the heart of the Arsenale Park next to the social center has been up and running since the very first year to current day. Every Sunday morning there is a scheduled time to work in the garden. In the past years, the association for social promotion which was born in 2003, has promoted a network with other, alike organizations like "Come un Albero" and "Asparger Pride". These other organizations share the passion for cultivating land and the aim for the integration of disabled persons. The association has hosted and promoted many local festivals such as the Soup Festival, the Fava Bean Festival and the Artichoke Festival. The growth of interest for this specific garden has led Coltivatore to hold activities during weekdays inviting any citizens who desires to take care of the land and practice gardening.

By Silvia Cioli, Aurora Austin, Luca D'Esposito - Zappata Romana. Credit image: Zappata Romana



ROME'S TIPS

Institutional intervention: EUT-ORTO GARDEN



Eutorto is a group of former workers from Eutelia Information Technology. Now, unemployed due to starting a community garden. This led to Eutelia becoming one of the first cases of fraudulent capitalism. After observing The Orti Urbani 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 communarian 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.

By Silvia Cioli, Aurora Austin, Luca D'Esposito - Zappata Romana. Credit image: Zappata Romana



ROME'S TIPS

Spontaneous intervention: ORTI URBANI GARBATELLA



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 the 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 lots left over by a big Circus to anchor the tent's for roads, 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 foreseen self-management would be necessarily based on a common project and agreed rules. Months of intense work follow, 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 making list "Orti Urbani Garbatella" they were able to prepare events, share knowledge and document the project's phases.

By Silvia Cioli, Aurora Austin, Luca D'Esposito - Zappata Romana. Credit image: Zappata Romana

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?

Ask the EXPERT

- 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!



Ortg Park Urban Garden of Rome, Casal Brunori is the main LP Case Study that partners were deeply informed about its succesful history in UGM! Ortg 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 ...



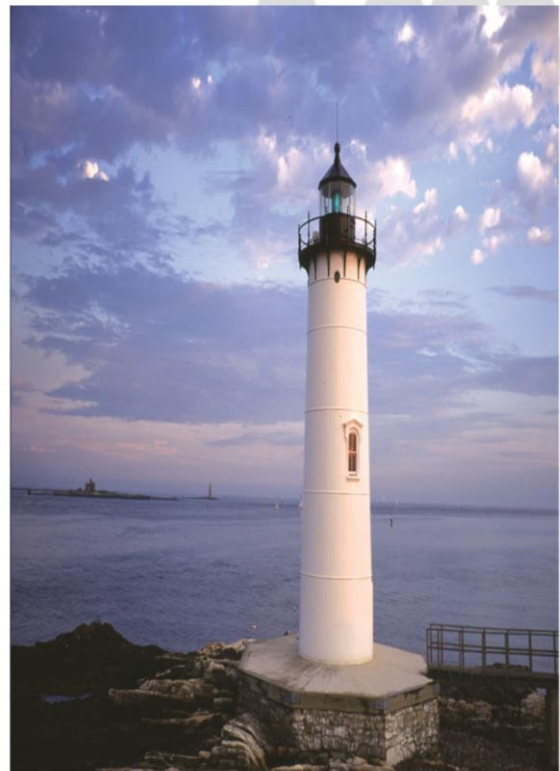
Chapter 2 – Introducing the Lighthouse City Model in RU:RBAN



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.

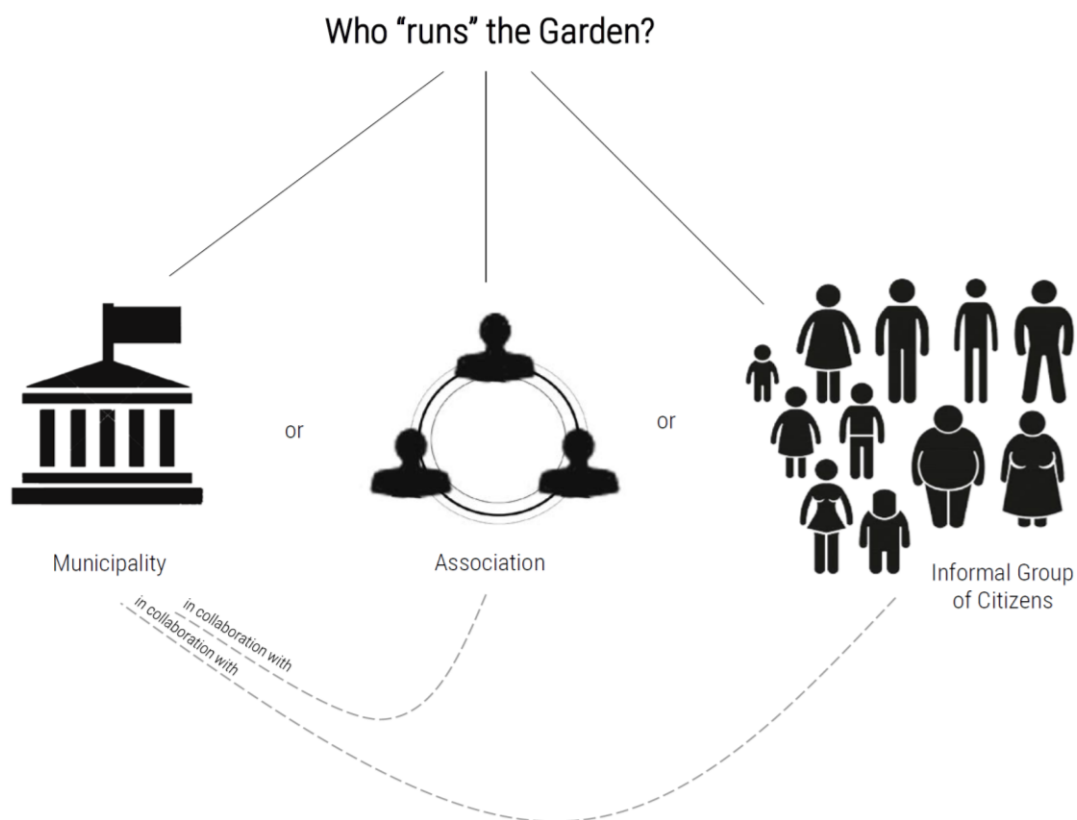
Experiences collected from these lighthouse cities will be transferred to partners through the projects' tasks.



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?



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.

Algeciras



Ayuntamiento
de Algeciras



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.

Carlow



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



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.

Split



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



The project is an **URBACT Transfer Network**
funded and supported by
the European Regional Development Fund & the URBACT Programme

URBACT Transfer Networks

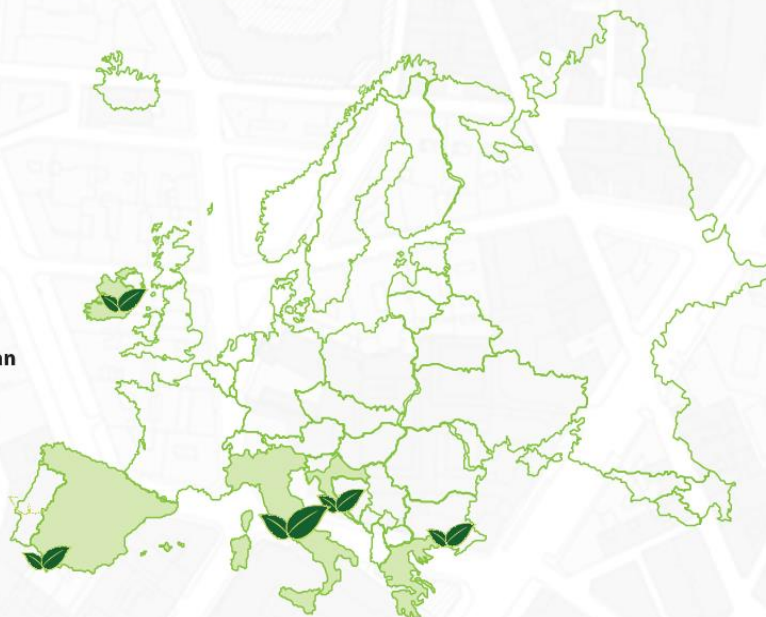
explore how the knowledge and experience of identified Good Practice Cities
can be shared with and implemented by other cities
across the European Union
to encourage a more integrated and sustainable urban development

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:urban

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

Lead Expert: Kostas Karamarkos, kostas@kkc.gr

Lead Partner Contact: Tamara Lucarelli, tamara.lucarelli@comune.roma.it

(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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