



**Karamarkos Kostas,
Lead Expert**

January 2022

Index

- Introduction ... page 4
- Chapter 1 - Transnational Exchange and Learning activities ... page 6
- Chapter 2 – The 1st extended project hybrid peer review ... page 14
- Chapter 3 – Algeciras Case Study Support! ... page 15
- Chapter 4 – Algeciras TNM Highlights in capacity building improvements and more achievements or RU:RBAN related news! ... page 16
- Chapter 5 – ULG needs in the policy topic ... page 25
- Chapter 6 – ULG as a critical working tool for the policy tool transfer ... page 26
- Chapter 7 – Lead partners' SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ... page 27
- Chapter 8 – Algeciras: A perfect host ... page 28



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>

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 continued by the end of 2022 its journey scheduled to visit 4 **newcomer** cities around Europe, as also 3 **lighthouse cities** showcasing their urban gardens' management good practises.

In December 2021, RU:RBAN travelled through **Algeciras, Spain** to meet the Spanish partner representatives and officers, as also the local stakeholders involved in the city ULG ...



This 2nd Quarter Report is to briefly present mostly some new highlights from the exchange of experience between the LP, the experts and the newcomer cities, to introduce more details of the good practice, as to UNDERSTAND the Rome's management model to be transferred during the projects' journey.

In RU:RBAN we are enlightened by a new slogan:



An Urban Garden Is a Social Innovation ...

Chapter 1 - Transnational Exchange and Learning activities



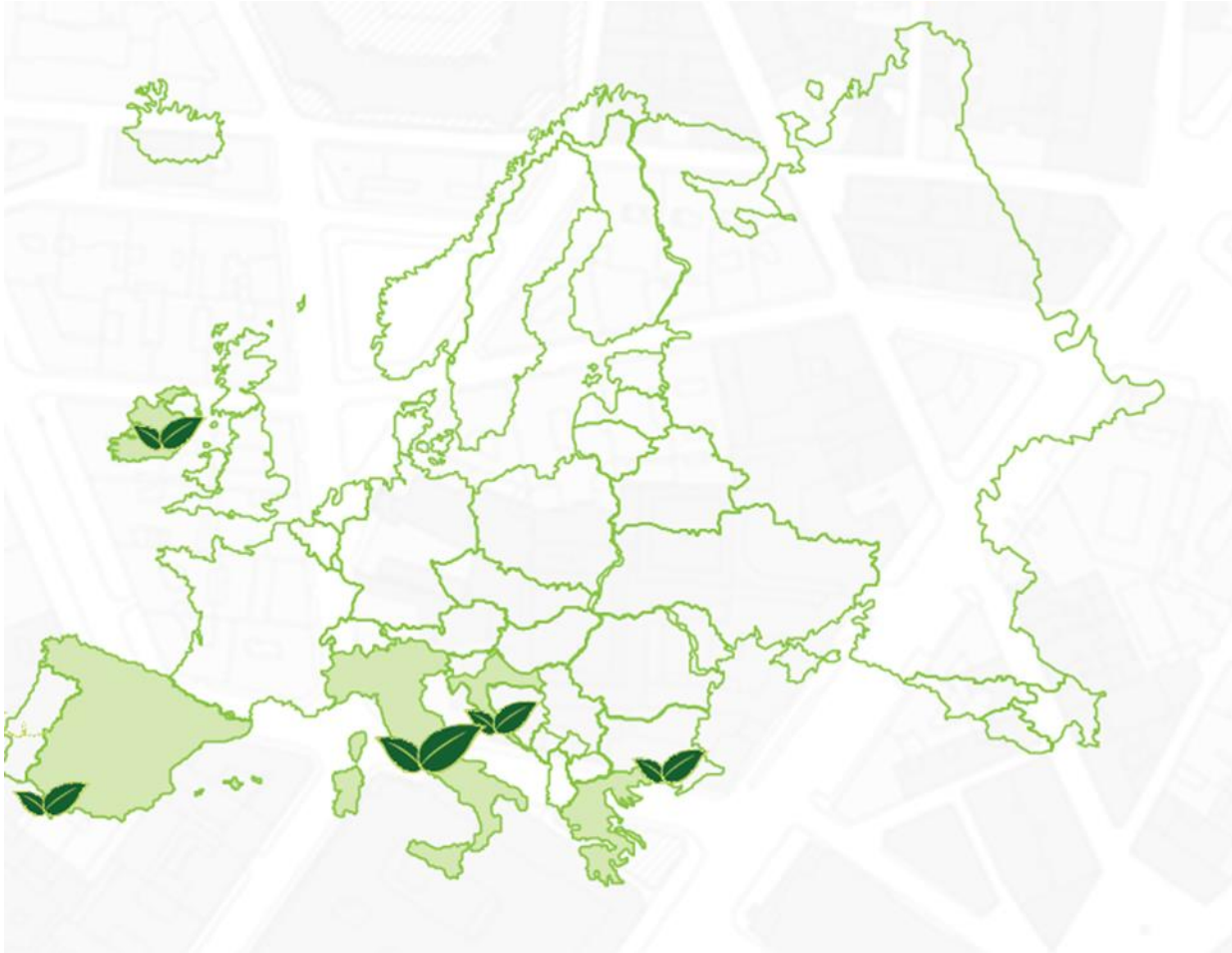
The stage of maturity of the Urban Gardens Movement in Rome ...

The stage of maturity

From 2010:

- urban gardens become a concrete defense of the territory
- they take on all the characteristics of a strong tool to fight degradation and abusive use
- they become an opportunity for the transfer of know-how
- bottom-up participation develops and institutions begin to collaborate

In RU:RBAN we have already achieved to influence local communities in 4 cities to become as mature as possible in transferring this new policy instrument !



RU:RBAN new partners elaborated their Transfer Roadmaps (TR) , that were endorsed by each city ULG ! Here it is the audience of each TR:

The Transfer Roadmaps audience:

1. local stakeholders and decision-makers
2. wider transnational partnership
3. URBACT Secretariat and the wider URBACT community



In RU:RBAN:

WE ARE NOT
A  ONE!

Each Roadmap tracks the city's starting point and potential transfer including:

- City profile and policy context
- Details of the URBACT Good Practice
- Assessment of the city's starting point
- Description of the network transfer model and the partner's role
 - A forecast of potential achievements



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.



In RU:RBAN we are working on the following main topics,
depending on the specific city needs:

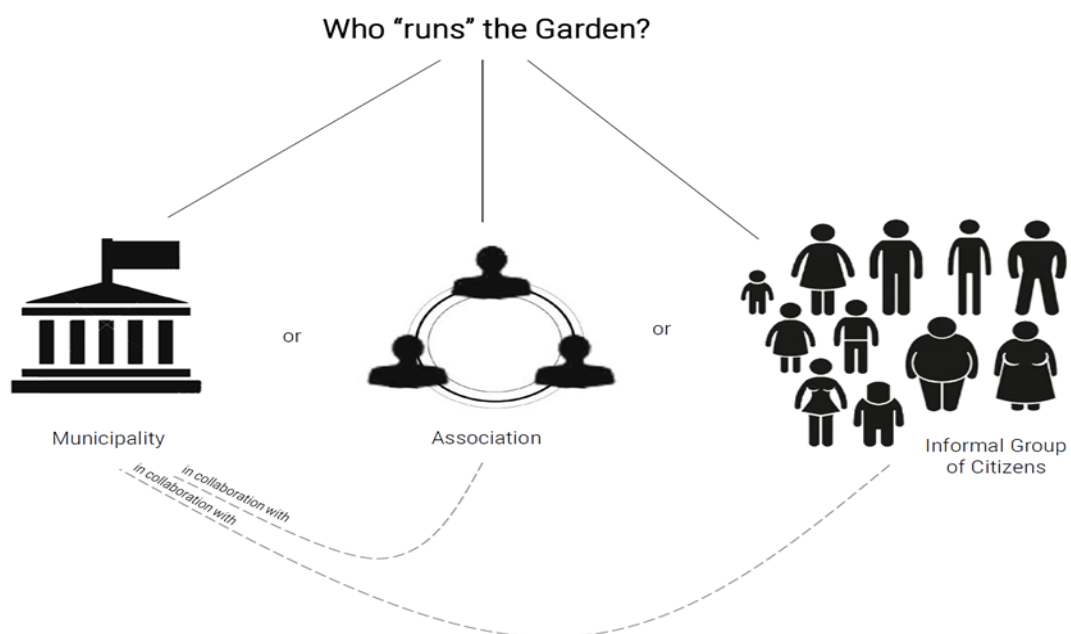
how to plan an urban garden establishment?

how to attract - influence citizens to participate
in the gardens plots?

how to organise or reorganize an urban garden?



We want from all local stakeholders to explore in details:



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





RU:RBAN experts and LP representatives visited in December 2021 Algeciras in Spain for 3 days, to directly exchange knowledge and Good Practice transferable aspects with the city officers and the ULG members –

The rest of the partners followed all activities via ZOOM connections and interactions ...




An extended peer review methodology description and discussion took place during the 1st day activities, as the LP would like all partners to clearly understand the selected transfer methodology for the cities new regulations in urban gardens.

A Network ad-hoc expert is leading the partners efforts in the governance level of the transfer journey !



- Fiammetta Curcio is **organising** the E3 transfer tasks and **moderates** the E3 TNM peer reviews following initial suggestions according to the **Transferability Study**



During the Algeciras meeting, all partners followed the whole schedule of getting into deep the GP 2 transfer elements (capacity building and governance)

and most of all:

The experts supported onsite the ULG members to start working on their Pilot Urban garden, to be established in 2022 ...

Chapter 2 – The 1st extended project hybrid peer review

Fiammetta Curcio introduced to all partners critical Qualifying Points of the upcoming City Regulations ...

Extended and fruitful discussions took place regarding the following topics:

- CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS
- MANAGEMENT
- ACTIVITIES



A variety of topics of interest were debated with all, like: **Green Areas, Sustainability, Cooperation between Associations and individual citizens, Professional figure of Gardener, Water supply and electricity, availability and costs, Products: self consumption or for sale too and more !**

Chapter 3 – Algeciras Case Study Support!

RU:RBAN Second Wave experts are directly supporting each newcomer city to improve an Urban Garden management and operation, considered as Case Study. The 1st one in Algeciras is called **IES LEVANTE** and is a **school garden**. It is considered as an educational resource of the first order to reinforce curricular content and to transmit to students the importance of productive techniques with food, in relation to natural cycles and respect for the environment. **The municipality acts as a facilitator in the operation of the Urban Garden.**



The experts visited the garden, met all the involved people, and took additional information and needs for improvements. **After the TNM** an extended report for this purpose sent to the ULG coordinator and the gardens' responsible teacher, while a discussion with the core ULG members also took place, **to use this report as an additional input for the pilot garden preparation (to be established in 2022).** Some main suggestions given are regarding the following topics:

- Bird invasions in the garden
- Future Plans (more people involvement)
- The role of the municipality as facilitator
- The role of RU:RBAN ULG members (capacity building)
- 7 critical Ideas for better management

The Network expert sent also to Algeciras ULG useful supporting material especially for school gardens, coming from the project's library.

Chapter 4 – Algeciras TNM Highlights in capacity building improvements and more achievements or RU:RBAN related news!

(1) Urban Gardens' solidarity issues ...

"Those who take responsibility for the care of a common good do so not to behave as substitutes, that remedy inefficiencies in the public administration, but as citizens, who reclaim what has always been theirs. They do so with enthusiasm, taking advantage of the opportunity to get together with friends and neighbours, thus overcoming distances and misunderstandings, through "doing" something together, which is the best thing to really share life pieces."

By Fiammetta Curcio ...



(2) Other non-EU cities interested in RU:RBAN ...

the **City of Barranquilla, Colombia** has studied the phenomenon and the results of the RU:RBAN First Wave Project and asked for more details about the implementation of urban gardens, the work needed to make an urban garden, the steps taken in the RU:RBAN cities to create and maintain them ...”

The City of Rome responded and is in close cooperation with Barranquilla representatives ...



(3) COVID 19 emergency time ...

An Increase of 30% of requests from of the citizens, regarding land to cultivate as **urban garden is reported recently ...**



Many new requests come from **young people**, aged between 20 and 30, driven perhaps by the search for new spaces for socializing or, simply, by the desire to re-tie the threads with a tradition that in Rome, **the largest agricultural municipality in Europe**, had skipped a generation.

(4) Building a community in an Urban Garden

KEY POINTS

FOR A NEW URBAN GARDEN, by Silvia Cioli ...



All partners were introduced in the policy topic and especially in key points to establish a new garden, by ad-hoc expert Silvia Cioli:

Some highlights from the introduction, as also from the discussion followed 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?



What will your garden be about?

- What activities do you envision taking place in your community garden?
- How do you think the space should be organized?

Build a common ground by sharing ideas for projects to examine and experiences from previous garden visits.

To create a sustainable garden, you need some planning ...

Establish clear rules as they are essential for avoiding problems and conflicts.

The rules to form an association for the garden's management are:

- Denomination
- Objectives
- Memberships, rights and duties
- Assembly, council, ... other
- Finances and budget



Resources - Ask for help!

- How much time during the week can you dedicate (management and maintenance)?
- Which skills do you have or need?
- Will the garden host events to raise funds?
- Three different fund raising possibilities:
 - community's funds (individual fee, entrance ticket, markets, parties, events, ...)
 - private funds (foundations, shops, ...)
 - public funds (Region, Province, Municipality, ...)

Do not forget:

Contributions to the garden can be requested from inhabitants and public institutions.

Communication is a very critical aspect!

- Have a group in charge of communication and public relations, also responsible for updating documentation on all the implemented activities
- Take pictures and short videos about every activity done, for demonstrations and educational purposes
- Collect each press review, the letters of support you received, pictures taken before, during and after completion of the work done in the garden
- Collect samples of your garden's vegetation and documents of animals living there to testify biodiversity



Celebrate!

This is an opportunity to maintain the garden's social life and vitality in order to increase its external visibility. Celebration also strengthens community spirit and encourages raising funds for the garden.

Tie celebrations to the vital moments of the community garden's life (i.e. its cleaning, planting works, maintenance, seasons, relevant anniversaries) not to forget harvesting and moments of growth for all the vegetation previously planted.



(5) Urban Gardens positive impact & citizens capacities in the management of public space ...

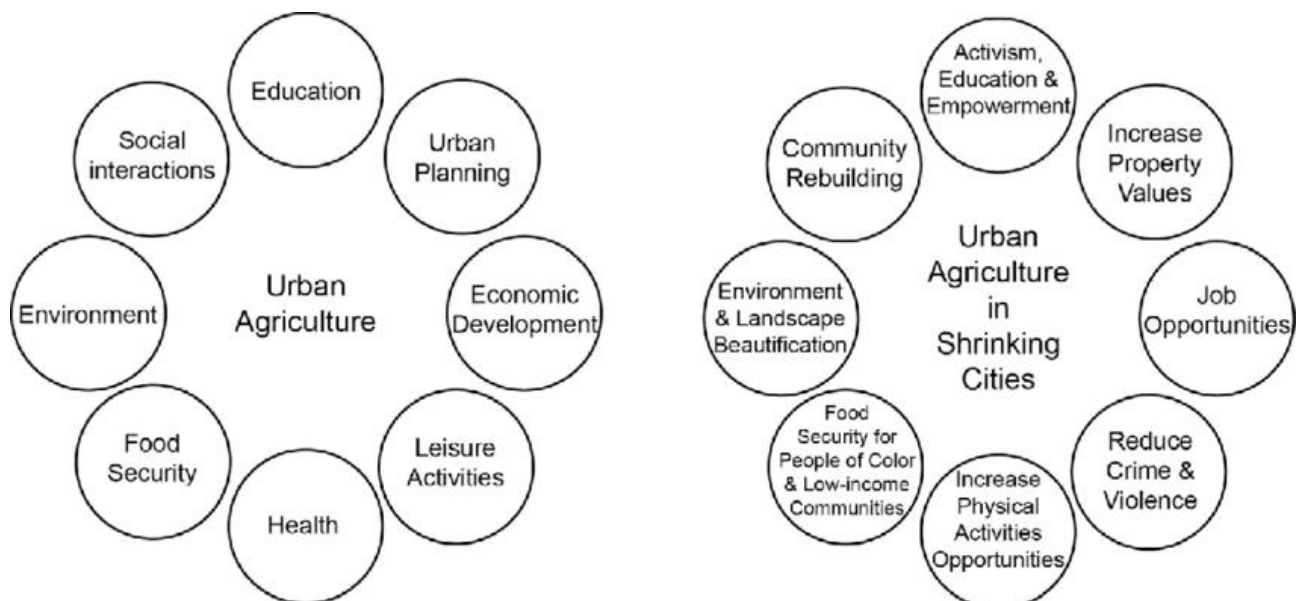
The positive impact of participation in **urban gardens** on other aspects not directly linked to dietary patterns, such as mental and social health (Tharrey & Darmon, 2021), frequency of physical activity (Van den Bert et al., 2010) or the development of skills and knowledge outcomes of youth (Laycock & Robinson, 2018) were mentioned during the latest 2022 project activities.

We are also working on the development of **citizen's capacities** in the management of public space, improving their understanding of the relevance of sustainable urban development, strengthening the associative fabric and local stakeholders' networks.

(6) Benefits of urban gardening ...

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

In **RU:RBAN** we are trying to match different cultures and experiences to work in a real effective management model for urban gardens, **fully inlined with each city local governance restrictions.**



Paddeu, 2016.

Chapter 5 – ULG needs in the policy topic ...

We in RU:RBAN have set a **critical priority**: The identification of the needs of the partners stakeholders and other social groups, in relation to the provision of ecosystem and social services, the definition of current or potential problems and the description of opportunities that the local socio-political frameworks can provide for the promotion of urban gardens as a key component of sustainable urban development.

Extended discussions on the above are also expected during the 4 newcomer cities ULG operations, with the support of 2 ad-hoc experts by the LP are expected in 2022. This support is considered as a continuous **ULG help desk** to get more into deep in all transfer elements ...



Chapter 6 – ULG as a critical working tool for the policy tool transfer ...

The ULG meetings are already providing a **clear and appropriate background** to discuss all possible intervention priorities, within the guidelines set by the policy tool framework and will represent a continuous space, **an open lab** for dialogue between the different stakeholders that want to participate in the design (and co-design) of each city urban gardens' management model.

The project methodology also foresees collaborative implementation of **training** to the ULG members in educational days by a very experienced ad-hoc expert ...



Chapter 7 – Lead partners' SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ...

LP starts early 2022 the elaboration of the **Sustainability Plan** for the Good Practice.

This Plan will **be tailored to the city's needs and priorities** and the Lead Partner City will determine its own set of activities:

- Enhancing the city's profile as a **lead player** in the particular policy area of the good practice
- Gathering suggestions for **improvement to their GP model** from the network's peer review activities including the lighthouse cities study visits – GPs– case studies



Chapter 8 – Algeciras: A perfect host ...



This was the 2nd main networking experience for the new partners, that have already finalised their Transfer Roadmap and also started their Transfer Journey after the Understand Phase that had the chance to be informed by the 1st Wave achievements, by the GP details, by the Updated Transferability Study and by the transfer methodology for the 2 transfer elements.

The Mayor of the City of Algeciras, the city officers, the ULG coordinator and members followed all Transfer Meeting activities very warmly ...

Their will to learn and exchange, as also their kindness and hospitality are considered as remarkable ...

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

URBACT Transfer Networks

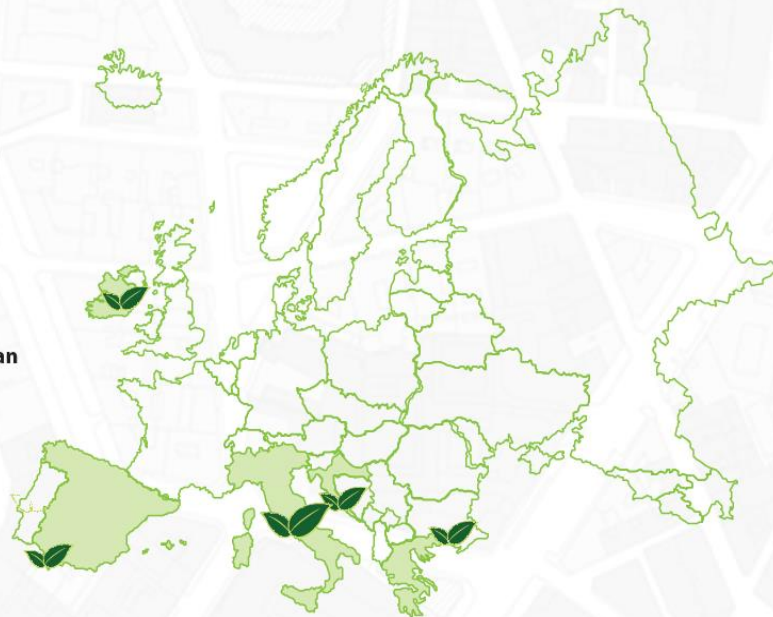
explore how the knowledge and experience of identified Good Practice Cities
can be shared with and implemented by other cities
across the European Union
to encourage a more integrated and sustainable urban development

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 #2 Quarterly Network Report also by the ad hoc experts: Silvia Cioli and Fiammetta Curcio)



To be continued !

January 2022