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THE **RU:R**BAN PROJECT NEWSLETTER

#urbanagricultureforresilientcities

February/March 2019



"(...) February is a very cold month, there are not many vegetables that can challenge the intense frost of this month and be placed directly at home. Garlic, shallot and onion are resistant, for other vegetables care must be taken because the frosts can give problems and ruin the whole work. As far as potatoes are concerned, it is expected in March, but there are early varieties that can be buried in February in areas that are not too cold." (<https://www.ortodacoltivare.it/calendario/semine-febbraio.html>)

And yet, in the mild climate of Rome, we just started to sow the **Phase 2 of the RU:RBAN project**... and we are confident that soon the first buds will bloom.

The RU:RBAN project

In the second phase of the URBACT Program, Rome exports good practices of urban regeneration and proposes

models of redevelopment and social inclusion to France (**city of Caen**), Greece (**city of Thessaloniki**), Lithuania (**city of Vilnius**), Poland (**city of Kraków**), Portugal (**city of Loures**) and Spain (**city of A Coruña**). This is the mission of the **RU:RBAN** project, which has been awarded funding of € 600,000 by the European Territorial Cooperation framework for sustainable and integrated urban development.

The good practice to be transferred consists not only of raising the capacity of citizens to organise and manage urban gardens, but also of helping local governments to draft their own Regulation of Urban Gardens.

The First Trans National Meeting in Phase 2

The delegations of the 6 partner cities have come to Rome for the first multi-event meeting which took place on February 19-21. The aim of this kick-off meeting was to identify, together with stakeholders and other actors involved in the project, the actions to export integrated redevelopment models.

At the international venue of the Casa della Città (City House), 25 people participated in the sessions of **Day 1**, dedicated to the **RU:RBAN** Roadmap and to the Transfer Travel of Phase 2.

The partners presented their ULG formulation and ULG meeting results while the NE **Konstantinos Karamarkos** showed the Methodology Outline & Outputs.

A Fine-tuning on Management aspects and on Communication & Dissemination issues and tools closed the first day.

According to **Claudio Bordi**, Rome URBACT Local Group Coordinator, *"The challenge is to succeed, by the end of the URBACT journey, to make the dialogue between the members of the URBACT Local Groups of the different countries sustainable and to encourage the exchange of experiences and knowledge in order to improve the governance of the processes related to urban gardens in all the cities involved in the project"*.

Day 2, dedicated mostly to project elements E1 - Capacity Building and E3 - Governance, had 42 people attending.

The highlights of the day were a very successful Capacity building workshop conducted by **Silvia Cioli** (Urbact Ad hoc Expert), which resulted in an extremely interesting exchange of experiences between Rome ULG

members and the representatives from the partner cities, and the Peer Review Methodology session conducted by the **Konstantinos Karamarkos** (Urbact Lead Expert) and **Fiammetta Curcio** (Urbact Ad hoc Expert).

A detailed overview of the Rome Regulation of Urban Gardens by **Paola Marzi** (City of Rome Officer, Head of Urban Gardens Office) concluded the workshop while keeping in mind that *"Working in a Community Garden is a starting point, not a point of arrival..."* (**Filippo Cioffi**, Rome ULG member).



On **Day 3** ULG members and partner cities representatives moved to the venue of Sala Libera at the Risorse per Roma headquarters for the session dedicated to project element E2 (Vocational Training).

The Training Expert **Andrea Messori** led many complex and challenging workshop activities targeted to provide training in the profession of "gardeniser" through a learning by doing process. 25 people participated in the very demanding session.

What is a 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!" Andrea Messori (Training Expert).



The Welcome from Rome

It appeared clear to all that Rome's local stakeholders and urban gardens practitioners are extremely motivated, skilled and dedicated to the topic, in compliance with

the Rome Regulations of Urban Gardens. The update of the Rome Regulation of Urban Gardens, for over a year at the center of the debate between associations and City Administration, is one of the most important aspects that Rome intends to look into with **RU:RBAN**, in order to further improve its good practice and make its model more fitted to the dynamism of a scenario that sees a continuous emergence of new groups and initiatives.

A warm welcome from the city government was addressed by **Carlo Cafarotti**, Councillor for Economic Development, Tourism and Labour of Roma Capitale:

"For the second time Europe nominates us 'resilient urban agriculture city'.

We are proud to export abroad our good practices of ecology, social inclusion and territorial development.

Rome 'European capital of urban gardens': it is an excellent result, reached through work with enthusiasm for the revitalization of green spaces on uncultivated, abandoned or confiscated land from the mafia, where vulnerable people, associations and citizens manage together agricultural practices for the development of the territory and for self-consumption.

A political challenge against overbuilding and urban poverty.

Moreover: the transfer of our urban gardens to other geographical and socio-cultural contexts will be an excellent opportunity to improve them with new ideas, also in terms of the development of legislation regarding the use of common goods and benefits relating to health".

We are keen in receiving your feedback on this first newsletter (as **Konstatinos Karamarkos** said, no transfer - no success!)

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RU:RBAN Communication Team

Press Review

<https://www.italiasera.it/news/36239/roma-capitale-europea-orti-urbani>

<https://www.lavocedellazio.it/attualita/14650-roma-capitale-europea-degli-orti-urbani-al-via-il-progetto-ru-rban.html>

<https://www.lavorolazio.com/roma-capitale-europea-degli-orti-urbani-al-via-il-progetto-rurban-cafarotti-sfida-politica-contro-cementificazione-e-poverta-urbana/>

<https://theparallelvision.com/2019/02/28/roma-capitale-europea-degli-orti-urbani-al-via-il-progetto-rurban/>

<https://urbact.eu/gli-orti-urbani-che-mettono-al-centro-le-persone-roma-viaggio-tra-le-esperienze-di-rurban>

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