CityZen News | #04 2021

Welcome to the fourth CityZen newsletter,

covering hot topics on urban farming, our project progress and updates from our partner regions! We invite you to look back at the last six months with us, full of workshops and sharing practical experiences and knowledge - as always, feel free to share your experiences on urban farming and any feedback with us.

Enjoy reading, stay safe and keep in touch via our social media channels!
The CityZen team

CityZen is implemented by seven partners (see below):

Applied Research and Communications Fund (Lead Partner) - Bulgaria, Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia - Greece, Municipality of Beja - Portugal, Higher Technical School of Agrarian Engineering & University of Valladolid - Spain, Institute for Rural Development Research at Goethe University Frankfurt/Main - Germany, Baixo Alentejo Intermunicipal Community (CIMBAL) - Portugal, Natural Heritage Foundation of Castilla y León - Spain.

Highlights

Impact Workshop #02

Inclusive governance to foster Urban Farming. Dealing with land and space scarcity in cities

On April 19 and 20, the second CityZen Impact Workshop **Inclusive governance to foster Urban Farming. Dealing with land and space scarcity in cities** was held online. It brought together various European stakeholders outside the consortium with practical experience in urban farming. Participants (representatives of the European Commission, startup companies, NGOs, regional and local authorities or international organizations) shared their experience and set the stage for potential partnerships in the future.

The focus was on improving the dialogue between decision-makers and bottom-up demands; practical cases on inclusive governance and multi-stakeholder engagement; dealing with land and space scarcity in cities and teaming up with other networks and projects - all in the field of urban farming.

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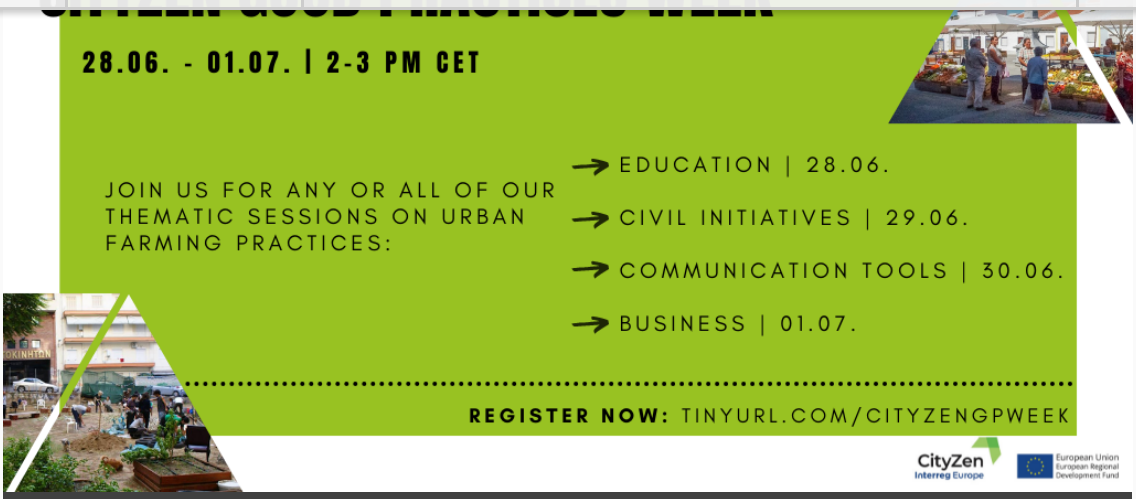
Good Practices Week



From June 28 to July 01st, we held our workshops on Good Practices. Since we still had to rely on online meetings, we decided to go for a slightly different arrangement and had four short sessions, one hour each, on different topics, making it a “CityZen Good Practices Week” - read and watch more online!

Accelerator for policy makers #01

On 19 July (11:00 - 14:00 CET) the CityZen 1st Accelerator for Policy Makers took place digitally under the hosting and facilitation by the Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia (RDFCM) partner.

The event was based on the *Scenario Exploration Systems Urban Farming 2030* tool, which is a serious game to explore possible future UF scenarios and design actions from the prospective of 5 key actor roles and they visions. The tool aimed to foster future-oriented and strategic thinking on UF issues by also promoting spirit of collaboration.

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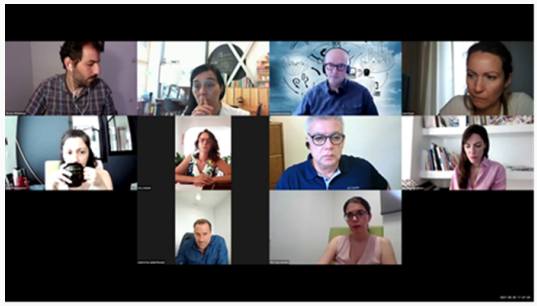
Regional spotlight

Urban farming in Thessaloniki

Resilient Urban Agriculture and Landscapes



On 25th of May 2021, the Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Common Benefit Enterprise of Thessaloniki Municipality (KEDITH), organized the final event of the project URBACT III RU:RBAN «Resilient Urban Agriculture and Landscapes». Experiences, ideas, knowledge, initiatives and achievements were shared during the final event through the participation of local authorities, ULG members, URBACT representatives and experts, project coordinators and stakeholders. CityZen was presented by the Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia (RDFCM) on behalf of the Region of Central Macedonia.

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Recovering biodiversity in historic urban orchards

The project **Sociological management of urban historical gardens in Segovia** is a pilot project for the development of new productive green areas rich in biodiversity.

t recovers and enhances the historical urban gardens of the Eresma Valley in the city of Segovia.

Latest CityZen News

Bulgaria: CityZen joined public discussion on Program of Sofia

How could urban farming and community gardening help turn Sofia into a more diverse and comfortable urban living environment, improve its air & soil quality as well as increase options for physical activities and fun?

ARC Fund took part in public discussions for the launch of the new Program of Sofia 2021-2027, the main strategic plan for integrated development of Bulgaria's capital. They shared experiences and good practices from the 5 CityZen partner regions which can address some of the specific goals.

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Hydroponics and its role in urban agriculture

Hydroponics can contribute to enhance urban farming activities in areas where access of citizens to land is limited, or where climate conditions are not favourable for farming outside of greenhouses. It is a farming alternative to some crops with many advantages.

Picture credit: marslaw, pixabay.com

Read more

On Social Media

The #Urban Vegetable Gardens at #Thessaloniki's Aristotle University unite the scientific & local community & reconnect people to growing organic food.🌽450 gardens are distributed to civilians every year, who can attend seminars & ask students for advise: bit.ly/3y5DDhW

10:22 AM · May 17, 2021 · Twitter Web App

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Santo Amaro's Market in Beja (Portugal) is a weekly street market where urban farmers sell regional fruits, vegetables, cheese or baked goods. It was installed by the Municipality of Beja without bureaucracy, so that as many (small) farmers as possible have access.🤝

Since 1965, it has been connecting consumers with producers, raising awareness about agriculture & adding to local value chains - especially important during #COVID19: https://bit.ly/3tEB5nJ

#CityZen #goodpractice #urbanfarming

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Recommended Content

Urban agriculture: an enabler for community involvement and development

The **demand for healthy and locally sourced food** expressed by the Anttilanmäki-Kittelä community is not an isolated case. It is indeed part of a **growing trend** that invests all Europe and urban agriculture. As the CityZen project is clearly beginning to show, it can play central role in responding to this demand, while also creating new business models and local sustainable development opportunities.

The **Municipality of Beja** (Alentejo, Portugal), with its **Mercado de Santo Amaro**, is demonstrating that it is possible to give a market venue to local farmers and their products resulting from urban agriculture without having to comply with burdensome bureaucratic procedures and without intermediaries. The Municipality is actively supporting **urban farming** not only through this local market but also by **allocating small plots of land** to disadvantaged households in the community, with the view to increase organic food production, support incomes and create social bonds.

But local growth and consumption of vegetables and fruits is not a prerogative of small communities and middle-sized cities. It is becoming increasingly important also in large metropolitan areas and the case of **Sofia** (Bulgaria) is really telling in this respect. The Bulgarian Capital City has in fact decided to integrate urban agriculture into its sustainable development strategy and vision for 2050.

Citizens involvement for sustainable food systems

A great read on how citizens can and need to be involved to build sustainable food systems! One aspect: urban farming as an enabler of community involvement and development, including some of our CityZen goodpractices!

Read more here, including examples from CityZen.

Creative Sustainability - By Antonio Carlos Ruiz Soria

There is a positive correlation between access to green spaces in the neighbourhood & creativity in the workplaces. Discover the gifts of nature - for our health & wellbeing, but also to improve our creativity and productivity.

Read the article online, and look for CityZen as an example of integrated approaches to sustainability at the regional and city level!

CityZen
Interreg Europe

European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

CityZen is a four-year long project supported by the INTERREG EUROPE 2014-2020 programme.

If you want to know more about each partner, follow the links below:

ARC FUND

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA ON BEHALF OF THE REGION OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA

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