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## CityZen News | #05 2022

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### Welcome to the fifth 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

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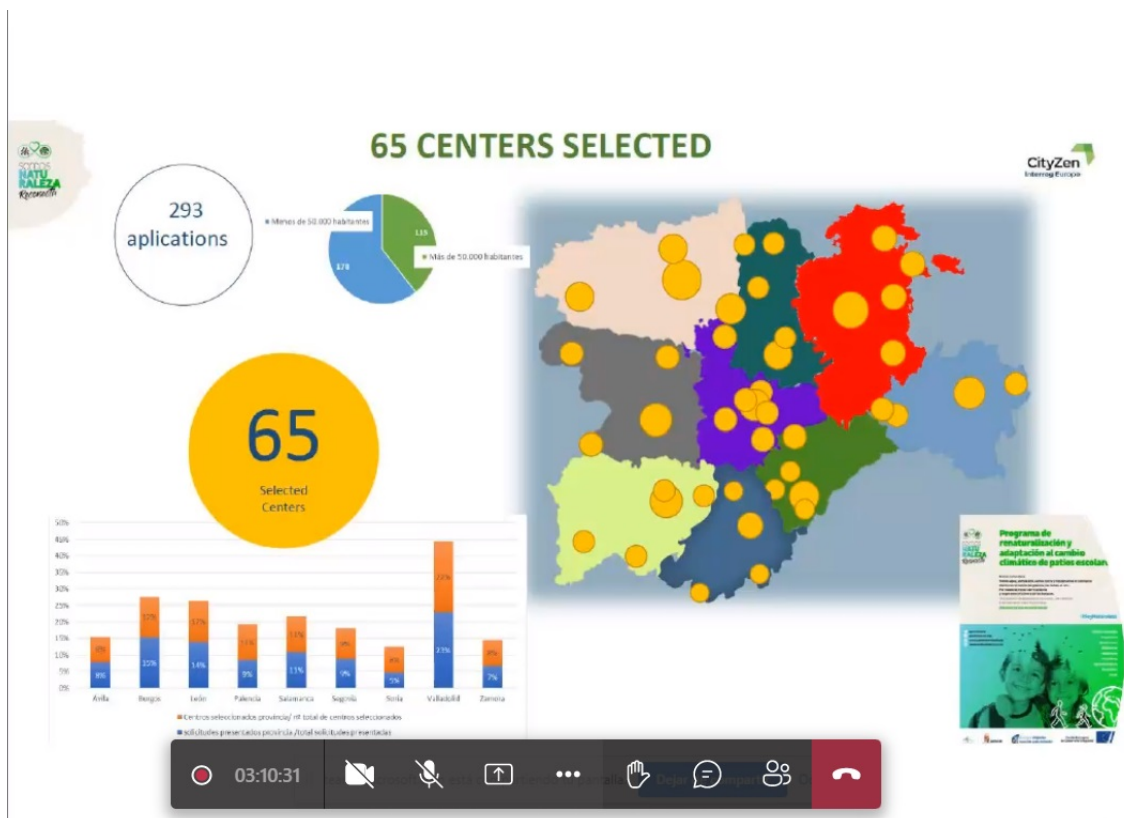
*CityZen is implemented by seven partners (see below):*

*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

### Action Camp #02

Discussions on Action Plans for an inclusive governance to foster Urban Farming



On 19 Jan 2022 the 2nd Action Camp was held online by the CityZen partners to present and discuss elaborated versions of their regional **Action Plans**. Partners discussed and exchanged experiences on key questions to strengthen urban farming and foster inclusion of stakeholders. The discussion also focused on the **impact of Covid-19 lockdowns** on urban farming. There is an increased demand of plots and opportunities to practice urban farming by citizens after the lockdowns. The top 5 votes for support measures to be launched by local regions and municipalities include:

- better access for households to urban farming plots in urban areas;
- small grants to launch urban gardens in neighborhoods;
- free access for urban growers to farmers markets;
- rental schemes for basic infrastructures to start urban gardens;
- tax reduction for commercial urban farmers.

**A regulatory framework to be set by the local authorities** is the key condition to develop urban farmig activities.

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The pilot action on DIY vertical mini urban garden aims to promote urban agriculture among citizens and employees of business organizations, public institutions and living spaces – for a closer link with nature, anti-stress culture at the workplace, having fresh produce at your fingertips and more efficient use of resources in urban environment. The design plans and manuals for assembling the DIY kits will be available online and made open source for all citizens willing to engage in urban agriculture. Follow us on Social Media for updates!



[Watch video](#)



1st Action Camp to present the initial Action Plans of the partner regions both held as hybrid events in Thessaloniki, Greece (task leaders: [RDFCM](#) and [UVa](#)).

**The 2nd Accelerator event** was based on the design thinking methodology to conceptualize new support measures applicable to policy instruments and Action Plans by the CityZen partner regions. In addition, the workshop sessions and exercises were focused on how to better enhance social innovations and social entrepreneurship in Urban Farming as main crossing point for key municipal and regional policies.



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## News

### An action plan for the RhineMain Regional Park



CityZen - Enhancing scalable innovations and new business models based on urban farming ecosystem values

Aktionsplan  
"Kulturlandschaft entwickeln. Landwirtschaft stärken.  
Regionalpark erleben"  
20.01.2022 (Entwurf)

Institut für ländliche Strukturforchung/ Institute for Rural Development Research

On January 24, 2022, the **RhineMain Regional Park** presented its action plan **"Developing the cultural landscape. Strengthen agriculture. Experience the Regional Park"** for the promotion of rural agriculture in the metropolitan area to possible partners. Possible developments within the

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## Urban farming pilot projects in Castilla y León

The **Natural Heritage Foundation of Castilla y León** has implemented the 6 pilot projects included in the Cityzen Project as objective for the Regional Policy Instrument improvement.

The aim of these pilot projects is to integrate urban farming at degraded soils restoration projects, many of them old and small construction and demolition waste landfills. The six selected landfills were located at the Provinces of Segovia, León and Palencia, at the region of Castilla y León. A total of **176 volunteers** have participated during the months of November and December 2022 in various tree planting tasks in six sites.

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## Regional spotlight

### Regionalpark Farm Stations





The Regionalpark Farm Stations are about 20 farms along the Regionalpark circular route which cover and showcase a wide range of local farming methods.

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## On Social Media

**cityzeninterreg**  
@cityzeninterreg

#urbanfarming gains momentum throughout cities in Europe 🌱👨🌾 Article on examples from Hessen, Germany: interest in planting and harvesting in urban areas increased during the pandemic #civicengagement #sustainable 🙌



zeit.de  
Freizeit: Gärtnern in der Stadt boomt: Corona befeuert Urban Gardening  
Hier finden Sie Informationen zu dem Thema „Freizeit“. Lesen Sie jetzt „Gärtnern in der Stadt boomt: Corona befeuert Urban Gardening“.

**CityZen Interreg**  
vor etwa 4 Monaten

Explore new ideas and find inspiration in urban farming projects: That's the idea of the Commurban App 📱💡

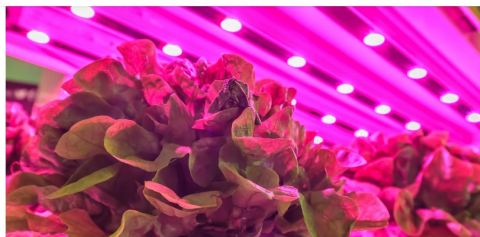
- 📱 It promotes urban and peri-urban eco-friendly farming techniques and strengthens EU-China collaboration 🤝
- 📱 It facilitates citizens' and community engagement and raises awareness about urban farming, urban resilience and resource efficiency 🌱👨🌾

Developed by the SIEU Green project - A European-Chinese cooperation. Have a look and find out more: <https://sieugreen.eu/Commurban>

**SIEUGREEN.EU**  
**Commurban Stats**  
Open up the road to creativity and start Commur...

👍 3 💬 Kommentar ➦ Teilen





## Urban Farming: A gateway to greater food security?

An [interesting read](#) on the Parc des Expositions in Paris. It hosts the largest rooftop farm in Europe, spreading across 14 000 square metres. This project is one of the many urban agriculture initiatives that have developed across the globe in recent years, in an attempt to provide a more sustainable, healthier, and circular alternative to modern food supply chains.

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## What's next?

2022

May 17.-19.2022 3rd Action Camp in Frankfurt/Main

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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:



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



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