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## CityZen News | #06 2022

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### Welcome to the sixth 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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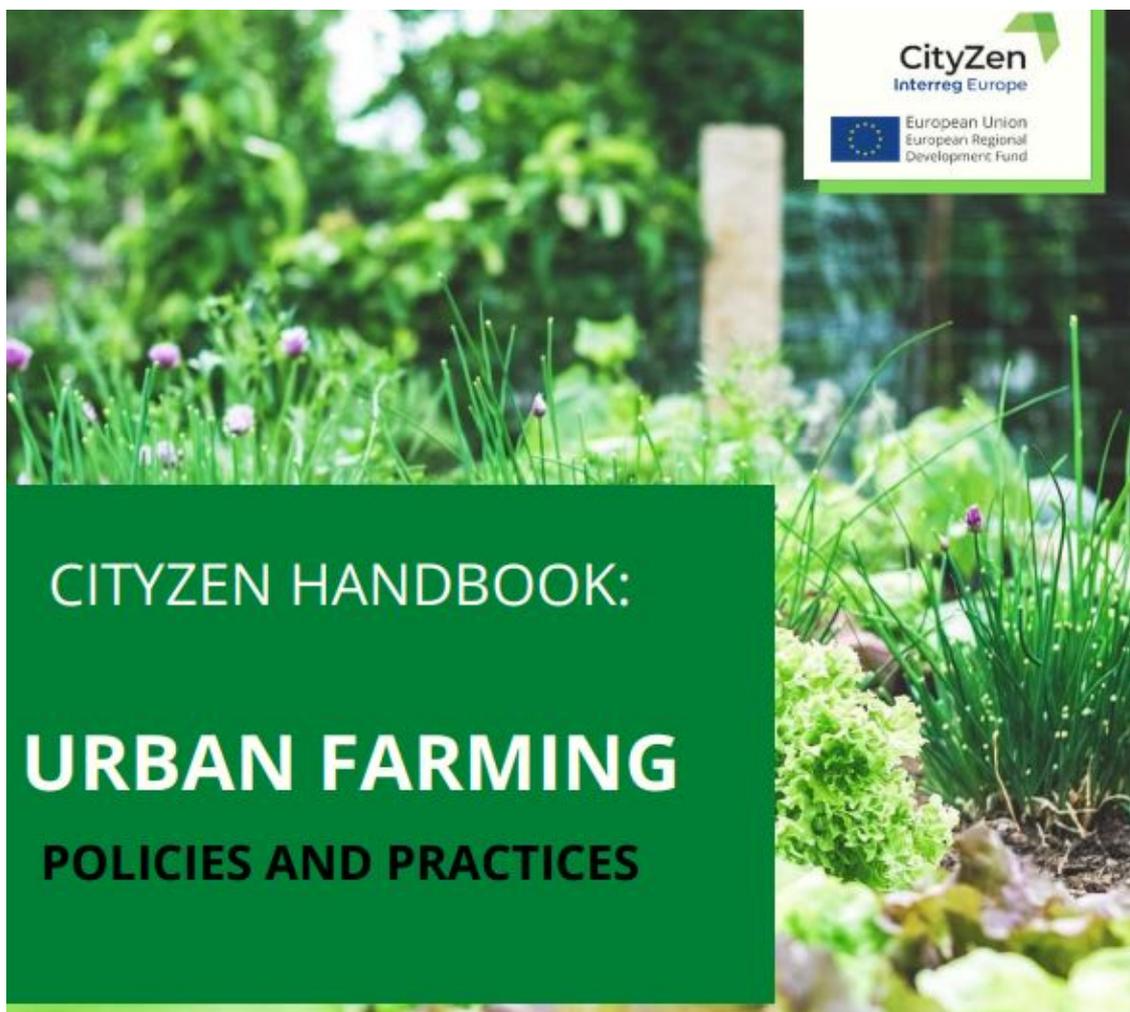
*CityZen is implemented by seven partners (see below):*

*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*

## Highlights

### CityZen e-Handbook

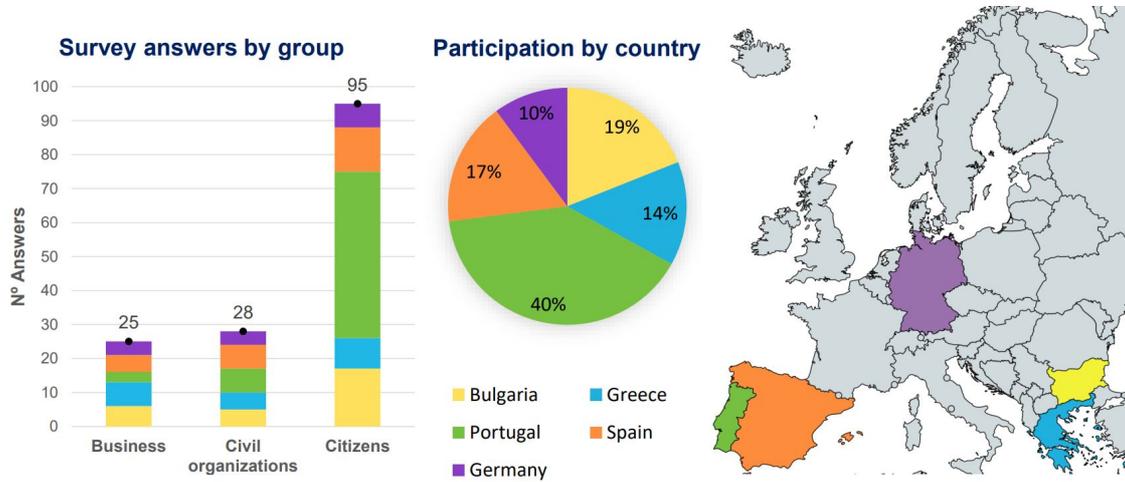
Final publication "Urban Farming: Policies & Practices" out now



The CityZen e-Handbook is our **final publication** that summarizes urban farming experiences, takeaways and lessons learnt by our project partnership that hopefully can serve as useful source for public authorities, practitioners, environmentalists, entrepreneurs, educational institutions and citizens.

The e-Handbook "Urban Farming: Policies and Practices" features insights by the CityZen partners on the **multiple benefits** that urban farming brings to the regions for greener and resilient cities, healthy, active and inclusive communities, innovation and knowledge. Each of those aspects are supported by **good practice examples** stemming from our CityZen regions and contributors. The handbook also gives an overview of the **Action Plans** that provide the next steps to be taken by the CityZen partners in order to enhance their **policy instruments and policy context** in support of Urban Farming.

## Survey results: Covid impacts on Urban Farming



The small scale survey (task leader: UVa) helped us to make a comparative analysis of needs, trends and potential solutions for UF within the CityZen partner regions that have been fostered by the pandemic. The most important results are that for most CityZen regions there is a **positive development after lockdown** in nearly all regions and there is an **increased demand** for fresh products. Quite remarkable is that in most regions businesses did **not receive any support** by local, regional or national government. The top three **recommendations** to policy makers and local authorities in order to improve the urban farming ecosystem are:

- Better access to plots in urban areas
- Small grants for urban gardens
- Rental schemes for basic infrastructure

[Read more](#)

## CityZen Action Plans finalized

CityZen Action Plans to improve policy instruments within our 5 partner regions are **finalized and successfully validated** towards their implementation in Phase 2 of the project. The plans include **key actions** to be taken by the managing authorities, so that changes in policy instruments are made and local urban farming initiatives raise up and expand by this policy support. CityZen Action Plans are **result-oriented** and will be implemented for 1 year by the active involvement of all partners and key stakeholders.



[See Action Plans](#)

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## News

### Staff exchanges

Staff exchanges are an important part of learning and growing in the CityZen urban farming partner network. In the last months there were five visits from CityZen partners in other project regions with fruitful discussions and experiences to bring back home.





[Read more about the staff exchange in Frankfurt](#)



[Read more about the staff exchange in Sofia](#)



[Read more about the staff exchange in Thessaloniki](#)



[Read more about the staff exchange in Baixo-Alentejo](#)

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## Good practices

We are excited to report of five good practices in Spain and Bulgaria. You find two examples below and more in the [good practice section of the CityZen website](#).



Community vegetable garden 1 is an example of how a site in Sofia that was contaminated by construction waste and used as unregulated parking space becomes a small urban oasis with a growing community of urban gardeners.

[Read More](#)



The aim of the initiative was to recover a degraded and illegally inhabited area near the river Tormes in Salamanca, and to create a large green area that mitigates climate change effects and provides citizens with open green spaces for leisure and urban agriculture practices with social, learning and research perspectives.

[Read More](#)

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## Mértola Food Network



The Mértola Food Network consists of a networking process that aims at implementing a locally based food system. It works upon a set of interconnected activities in which the production, transformation, distribution and consumption of food products is based on the sustainable use of the territory's environmental, economic, social and nutritional resources.

[Read More](#)

## On Social Media



Productive meeting hosted by Baixo Alentejo Intermunicipal Community (CIMBAL) with the intermunicipal network of schools to present, share and debate ideas on the #cityzen #pilotaction.

- 👉 Aims at developing pedagogical kits for 10 schools of the 1st cycle in Baixo Alentejo, covering a total of 20 classes and about 400 students
- 👉 Integrates extracurricular activities to increase contact between children and nature through experimental learning
- 👉 Addresses the #SDGs, #urban farming, food waste prevention, food production and scarcity, water and waste

Thank you to all participants for the lively discussions ❤️

cityzeninterreg @cityzeninterreg · Apr 28  
fascinating read on climate and the existing food system [theguardian.com/food/ng-intera...](https://theguardian.com/food/ng-intera...)  
#urbanagriculture #cityzen #foodsecurity



theguardian.com  
**Our food system isn't ready for the climate crisis**  
The world's farms produce only a handful of varieties of bananas, avocados, coffee and other foods – leaving them vulnerable to the ...



## What's next?

We are excited for phase II of the project: the implementation of the action plans!

# CityZen

Interreg Europe

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



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

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



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND OF  
CENTRAL MACEDONIA ON BEHALF OF  
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