

SUPURBFOOD is a research project funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Program. It aims to contribute to the development of sustainable modes of urban and peri-urban food provisioning.

About the project

Until recently, short food supply chains and multifunctional agriculture were considered to be part of the rural development realm. However, this project looks at these topics from the perspective of urban rather than rural development. Short food supply chains have been advocated as a means to reduce the environmental impact of the agro-food system. However, to improve the ecological performance of the agro-food system, other flows (e.g. nutrient, water, and urban waste) need to be considered as well. In the current context these aspects are usually treated separately. This project will treat them in an integrated manner.

Approach

Research will be carried out in seven European city-regions (Rotterdam (NL), Rome (IT), Ghent (BE), Vigo (ES), Bristol (UK), Zürich (CH) and Riga (LV)) in collaboration with a diverse group of SMEs to further innovate in urban and peri-urban food provisioning, nutrient, water and waste management, and multifunctional use of urban and peri-urban space. Finally the project will also establish links with researchers, policymakers and SMEs in these domains in developing countries. This will be organised through a process of dialogue, sharing of experiences, exchanging of best practices and joint learning.

More information

www.supurbfood.eu



What is Kalnciema Quarter?

Kalnciema Quarter in Riga is an urban quarter engaged with market fairs, farmers markets, cultural and creative economy activities. The quarter is an ensemble of buildings representing 18th / 19th century wooden architecture. The complex is unique on the European level, as the wooden buildings of this period in other countries, have not survived in such concentration. Kalnciema Street significantly influences the perception of Riga City centre - the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Kalnciema Quarter is an example of new multifunctional urban space which provides a platform for diverse economic and cultural activities. Bi-weekly farmers markets bring producers and consumers together in a festive environment and atmosphere. The originality of the farmers' market concept and nature of innovation builds on associating short chain delivery with other cultural and economic activities and new urban social movements.

What activities Kalnciema Quarter is involved in?

While other initiatives that have tried to establish farmers markets in Riga have mainly failed, the Kalnciema Quarter market remains the only stable farmers market that has survived and has become a home of several spin-off initiatives. Over years it has developed and has become more recognised. The location and the unique multifunctional business concept have provided an additional opportunity for effective awareness-raising about the relationship between consumers and farmers, the importance of sustainable food provision. Slow Food Riga also became involved in the organisation of bi-weekly markets. The Kalnciema Quarter hosts a series of cultural and business activities – festivals, concerts, cinema, exhibitions, design shops, a restaurant, an architect's

studio, farmers and artisan markets and is becoming increasingly popular among city dwellers. Kalnciema Quarter is constantly expanding the scope of organized activities searching for new ways of attracting a bigger segment of the public and securing their position within overall market.

Who is involved?

Kalnciema Quarter is a private enterprise that in order to raise awareness of wooden architecture and use premises in an optimal way has grown and undertaken new projects.

The main directions of Kalnciema Quarters business:

- Market fairs, farmers and artisan markets
- Cultural activities, events and exhibitions
- Woodworks and renovation of historic buildings

Lessons learned from Kalnciema Quarter:

- Kalnciema Quarter is an example of diversification of undertaken activities as an efficient business model.

- Awareness building, quality control, a festive atmosphere, a willingness to collaborate can be elements that allow building and maintaining a farmers market.

- Successful social initiatives may come from the private sector and they can be profitable.

For more information on Kalnciema Quarter

<http://kalnciemaiela.lv/>

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