

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 recent, 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.

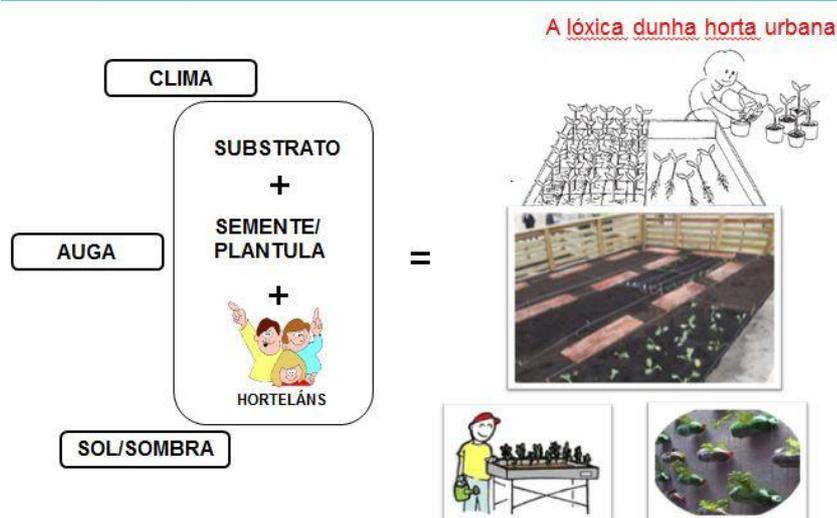
Approach

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

NOCIÓNS BÁSICAS DE HORTAS URBANAS



Camión a Camión 2013. Concellería de Medio Ambiente de Vigo

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Source: [http:// caminoacaminovigo.blogspot.com.es/p/hortas-urbanas-de-vigo.html](http://caminoacaminovigo.blogspot.com.es/p/hortas-urbanas-de-vigo.html)

What is Huertas urbanas about?

In 2012, the municipality of Vigo has initiated 'Huertas urbanas' (municipal allotment gardens). In these gardens the citizens of Vigo can crop vegetables on small plots of each 8 square metres. It is a service provided by the mayor Abel Cabellero and a special councillor of 'Medio Ambiente' (Environment), Chus Lago. At four places in Vigo in total 8,350 square metres are available. Next to the provision of land, the municipality provides courses in which people are made familiar with gardening. The main objective of the project is to provide people the opportunity to learn about gardening. The benefits for the participants are 'toma a terra' (the use of and in being touch with the land), obtaining a healthy life (physical and mental activity, healthy food), to enjoy leisure time, to learn about organic farming (and make use of indigenous varieties, make organic compost, increase biodiversity, and apply crop rotation) and last but not least civic education. The latter one could translate creatively into education on respecting the environment, which is very important in the area.

Who is involved?

The main actor is the administration, which provides the land and the courses. From this municipal service over 400 people benefit, including the elderly and disabled. Special adaptations have been developed: small seats make the work on the land easier, tables facilitate the nursery activities. A team of experts assists Huertas urbanas in the coordination and implementation of the activities.

Which activities are carried out?

The activities are preparing the soil, plant nursery and growing of vegetables on the individual, small-scaled plots. People participate in the courses that are provided for those starting into the project.



FONTÁNS (Ramón nieto): 3000 m²



NAVIA : 3500 m²



CAMELIAS: 50 m²



PEDRO ALVARADO (Teis): 2000 m²

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Where is Huertas urbanas located?

Huertas urbanas is organised in four parts of Vigo, Galicia's (north-western Spain) largest city (300,000 inhabitants). The gardens are located in Fontáns, Navia, Cameilias and Pedro Alvarado.



Furthermore in Vigo one finds private gardens and a few older structures of allotment gardens. These are located in neighbourhoods that have been absorbed by the city over the past decades but yet

remain without a thorough reconstruction like elsewhere in the city. Next, squatters temporarily crop vegetables in the gardens of an old monastery that will become a shopping mall.

Also in the small towns at short distance to Vigo (30 kilometres) allotments gardens are initiated. A nice example is Horta Agrelo in Bueu (30 minutes from Vigo). With plots of minimum 40 m² it allows for surplus production and people contributing to a boxe scheme. The participants in the initiative receive support from the 'Red Creativa de Educadores Ambientales' (ReCrEA: a regional environmental education network).

Lessons from Huertas urbana for SUPURBFOOD

- ✓ The council of Vigo responds to trends elsewhere in society
- ✓ The copy and implement the model of allotment gardens
- ✓ Knowledge on gardening is provided in courses to the potential users of municipal gardens
- ✓ Traditional gardens of citizens receive less attention and no formal support
- ✓ Grassroots initiatives and local governance structure seem to be poorly interrelated

Contact details of Huertas urbanas

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