

Work package 7 / Deliverable 7.3

Second draft synthesis of project results
Summary of City region reports and draft recommendations

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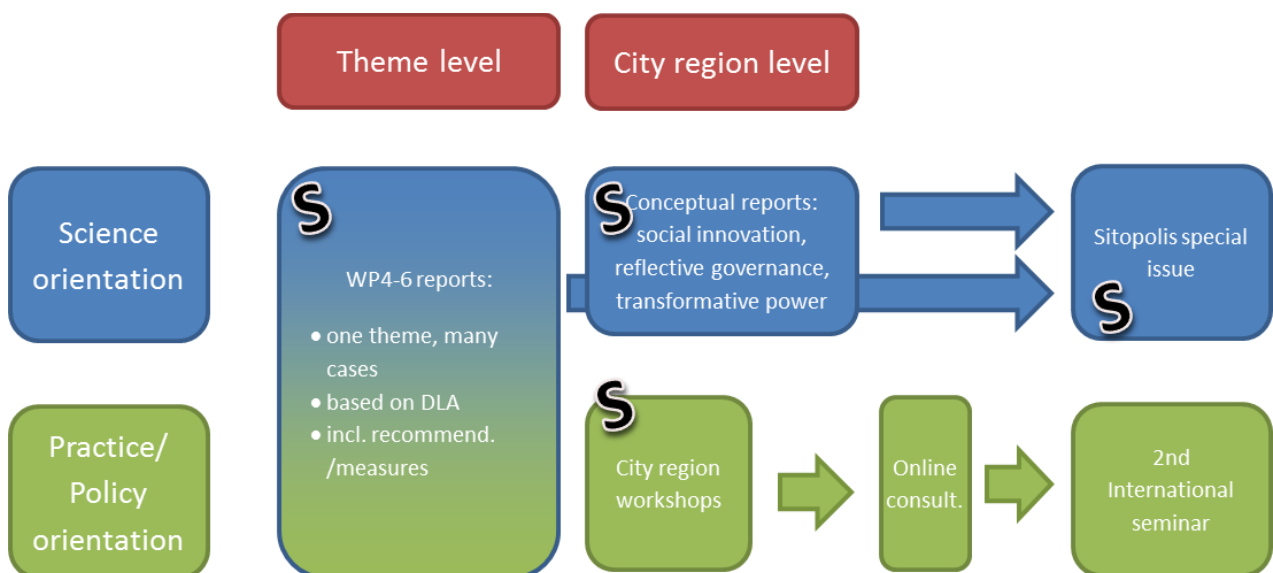
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1 Overall outline of the project synthesis

In the project there are different lines of synthesis, and different levels at which the synthesis happens. Figure 1 aims at illustrating this:

- We have two levels at which synthesis happens (red): themes; city region
- The synthesis is oriented towards two different audiences: scientific (blue); practice & policy (green)
- The synthesis process will finally lead to two major outputs of the project: the Sitopolis special issue; and the 2nd international seminar, at which results will be presented to a wide audience of policy makers
- There are four major lines of synthesis, indicated with a large S in the figure. These are described below.

Figure 1: The processes of synthesis in SUPURBFOOD



Please note that this figure does not list all dissemination activities, but should illustrate how certain synthesis processes interlink with dissemination.

This report sums up the synthesis steps that have been undertaken until June 2015; in particular it gives an overview of the second round of the city region workshops and the draft recommendations that we derived from the project work.

2 Synthesis steps concluded in June 2015

2.1 WP4-6 reports

The synthesis reports on the work packages 4-6 have been written by the WP leaders, in collaboration with all project partners involved in the respective thematic WPs. The findings have fed into the draft recommendations of the project (see below).

All the reports are available at the project's website www.supurbfood.eu.

2.2 Conceptual reports

The conceptual reports represent structured reflections of the researchers on topics that had been outlined in the conceptual framework of the project (D2.3). The synthesis of these reflections will be further elaborated in the final synthesis report; in particular one paper of the planned special issue in Sitopolis will build on the findings: "Transformative capacity and social practice in urban food systems" (working title).

3 Summaries of 2nd city region workshops – Synthesis at city region level

3.1 Vigo (M.D. Domínguez García, X. Simón Fernández, P. Swagemakers)

Desk-top study on governance structures, the history of agricultural production, current resource allocation, land planning system, pre-dominant forms of food retailing, and recycling and resource protection in combination with discussions with different stakeholders during the workshop resulted in conclusions, lessons and recommendations for improving the agro-food dynamics in the Vigo city-region. In earlier stages, data analysis on the social and economic situation along with the identification, interpretation and evaluation of alternative development practice showed a gap between governance structures and the activities of key-actors in the SUPURBFOOD project themes closing nutrient and water cycles (WP4), shortening food chains (WP5), and multifunctional landuse (WP6).

The application of a multi-functionality framework in combination with short food chains can bring a wide range of valuable products directly to the consumers. In this respect, the identified grassroots initiatives in the city-region contribute to a more sustainable agro-food system. Hence, local policy support could be best directed towards the regeneration and restoration of the natural environment. The discussion in the second city-region workshop confirmed the need of developing coordination, social awareness, knowledge exchange and cooperation between grassroots practices and movements and the institutional level (public administration, university).

Although some advances have been made in general grassroots initiatives / business enterprises are so far poorly integrated within policy programs of local administrations. The intensification of early collaboration among projects in the city-region would create the necessary coherence and synergies that favour performance of the different initiatives (with different but interconnected goals), and spread knowledge on how activities can positively impact on the natural environment. Transparency and information exchange between institutions and practices, but also among practices and society would reinforce the future collaboration of public and private initiatives.

3.2 Ghent (Marlinde Koopmans, Evy Mettepenningen, Guido Van Huylenbroeck)

In the city region of Ghent, urban food is a very vibrant theme. With the development of the food strategy, the city government is very active in promoting and facilitating urban food developments in the city. Also among citizens the theme is very popular, looking at the many debates that are organized and the number of new initiatives that have started over the last few years. Although formerly, the city mostly hosted urban food initiatives with social objectives, since the launch of the food strategy many activities have been linked to waste and multifunctional land use. However, those developments are still in their infancy and need to be further developed and implemented. In others words, most actors are at the start of a learning process.

Nonetheless we have observed interesting innovative approaches within the three subthemes. In terms of multifunctional land use the city is well advanced with the development of a vision for (peri-) urban agriculture. It also takes pride in the stimulation of the use of temporal available spaces, and finally it is home to two very innovative cases of commercial enterprises that forage their natural

ingredients in the city. Waste in relation to food is a rather new theme in the city region. However, with the introduction of the pigs fed on urban waste, and by challenging citizens to rethink urban waste streams, the city took a big step forward. Finally in terms of short food chains the city region is well served with 'Voedselteams' (Food Teams), two vegetable box schemes and two CSAs. Finally, since the beginning of 2014, the city is also home to a vegetarian catering service that grows part of its ingredients on a rooftop.

It was interesting to observe that despite a supportive government, practitioners still seem to take up a rather defensive role. Trust and appreciation between the two actor groups (practitioners and the government) could still be improved, which would increase opportunities for good cooperation.

Furthermore we learned that actors in the city region alone have limited means to support a sustainable urban food system. In order to make a significant contribution, they have to cooperate with other sectors and communicate and lobby at higher political levels. Furthermore the city region has to deal with the tensions that exist between conventional farmers and 'new' urban farmers as the former ones fear for the occupation of their land.

Finally, it was recommended that in order for the city to increase its impact (influential power) on the food system, a network needs to be formed with other city regions. In terms of allowing more multifunctional land use, spatial planning needs to be more flexible and organized in cooperation with actors 'on the ground'.

3.3 Riga (Ilona Kunda, Tālis Tisenkopfs, Miķelis Grīviņš)

"Riga city region" is an awkward, somewhat metaphoric concept opening boundaries between urban and rural; there is the national planning region as a voluntary association of local authorities which lacks political power; there is the city with its separate budget and its complicated political governance situation; there is Riga functional region which has a different shape from the planning region, and there are small cities within the planning region many of which have functional ties with the capital, yet they may have little to do with providing their local food supply to Riga. Our analysis was more in terms of Riga City and its peri-urban area, with contrasting or supplementary examples from the other parts of Riga planning region.

In general, local food provision practices may be much better supported by their local authorities than these in Riga. Meanwhile, Riga may have more diversity in terms of bottom-up and private initiatives, some of them definitely spreading from the capital to other regions – direct purchasing groups and the know-how of viable local markets are two examples. Overall, the project seems to have contributed to capturing quite early stages of urban and peri-urban food provisioning in Riga city region, and so far the dynamics seems to be promising: while there do remain gaps and fragmentation, there is also an increasing repertoire of practices in all three Supurbfood sub-themes, and an increasing complexity of stakeholder configurations, with long-term city policies starting to use some of the language of a modern city (yet to be translated into action, but still).

3.4 Bristol (Matt Reed and Daniel Keech)

The second Bristol workshop focused specifically on the findings and lessons emerging from the wider SUPURBfood partnership. It also brought together some of the stakeholders who have been interested in SUPURBfood's local emphasis in the Bristol city-region since the start of the project.

Participants drew inspiration from experiences from other city-regions but also began to develop ideas for local collaboration. While several opportunities and ideas emerged, it is clear that strategic progress towards a more sustainable city-regional food system is still hampered by a combination of limited and somewhat piece-meal municipal engagement with food issues, and economic challenges which mean multi-functional urban food systems may struggle to balance their commercial and social/environmental innovations. More details of these are discussed in deliverable 6.4.

3.5 Zurich (Otto Schmid, Ingrid Jahrl, Heidrun Moschitz)

Based on the outcome of the city-regions workshops we hereby summarise some of the main recommendations that would help to improve the agri-food dynamics in the area, the establishment/implementation of new approaches regarding the three subthemes of the project, and the interaction between practices and institutions, as well as among practices.

Urban agriculture, shortening food supply chains and (biogenic) waste management will gain much more attention in the future. In the future a stronger interaction and cooperation between public and private actors is necessary. The awareness in the population and among policy makers on these issues should be raised. Information campaigns and exposition or larger public events on specific issues, like sustainable food and urban gardening, are good opportunities. This might be a first step to think about a more global vision and helpful policy frameworks for urban food and farming (including waste).

There is also a growing recognition in city administrations what role best practise initiatives can play, showing alternative ways to act. New ways of governance are needed for public-private partnerships. Bottom-up initiatives should be facilitated, e.g. also with little administrative burdens. New information platforms might be necessary, e.g. through social media, to reach also younger people.

With regard to (biogenic) waste, in particular food waste, this needs a broader view and reflections how the waste could be avoided or better re-used for human and animal consumption before being recycled and transformed by fermentation (biogas, composting) or in the last step even burned or deposited.

Concerning multifunctional land use, there is a need to look in a more societal and cultural perspective. It is necessary to include also new actor groups from civil society as they potentially fulfil other aspects of multifunctional land use than farmers. A more differentiated target portfolio is needed, as e.g. including allotment gardeners as addressees and for education and support in terms of nature conservation measures. The competing demands for land could be overcome through fostering cooperation between different actor groups. Possibilities might be the integration of urban gardening initiatives in allotment garden concepts or fostering the cooperation between farmers and consumers e.g. through Community Supported Agriculture or food co-ops. This holds the potential for farmers to gear their activities more towards the city instead of selling to food industry. Through

new co-operations, farming becomes an activity that potentially re-values and re-incorporates various elements of food provisioning in a wider social, political, cultural and environmental meaning (Renting et al 2012). And this has also the potential for highlighting the multiple functions of urban agriculture and finding new arguments for protection of agricultural land within the city.

3.6 Rome (Marta di Pierro, Stefano Grando, Livia Ortolani)

As policy administrators change more often than local stakeholders, there is a need to have a permanent table to discuss urban agriculture issue to guarantee the continuity of the dialogue between institutions and local stakeholders. The governance model proposed by local stakeholders in the second city region workshop could represent an interesting framework to create such table on food policies. The inclusion in such table of several actors from the public administration with different competencies, could allow to enhance the coordination within the public administration itself. There is a need to have a holistic vision of food policies and in particular to work on integration of different stakeholders interests coordination of municipality departments and relationships with private actors and main market channels of food provisioning.

The management of public farms is one of the key issue to be discussed in a table on food policies, as it is important for the Municipality to become an actor able to manage public lands with the aim to address the whole society goals, maintaining the efficiency in the management model and avoiding the excessive bureaucracy on processes that block rather than support the development of economic activities.

The first city region workshop underlined the need to find innovative models of farmers' aggregation with practical objectives. The second city region seminar propose the "organic district" as governance model that involve farmers and public administrators, but also local stakeholders in the process of defining local food policies. Local farmers propose to find a solution to formalize the aggregation of farmers to manage the Azienda Agricola Castel di Guido, with the guarantee that society welfare will be addressed. In this sense the VGGT (Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure) published by FAO could be an interesting tool to define the model of public land management.

4 Draft recommendations

On the basis of the second city region reports, the conceptual reports and the WP4-6 reports, draft recommendations were developed. They have been presented at the 2nd international dissemination seminar, which took place in Bonn on June 10 2015. About 70 participants from all over the world participated in this seminar, mainly coming from city administrations.

The recommendations will further be tested through an online consultation of experts from administration, civil society and small and medium enterprises (app. 50 experts per partner country). Finally, they will not only feed into the overall final project synthesis, but also into the policy briefs (WP8).

The following is a summary of the draft recommendations.

A. Closing the cycles of nutrient, water, and urban waste

1. National governments should collaborate with the private sector and consumer organizations to reform policies and regulations related to quality grading standards of food to minimize food waste.
2. National governments should collaborate with the private sector and consumer organizations to develop policies and regulations related to expiry dates of food to minimize food waste.
3. City-regional and local governments should support grassroots, community, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and other initiatives dealing with sustainable waste management and food waste reduction through targeted events, awareness raising campaigns, funding support and promoting examples of good practice.
4. Policy makers should co-finance innovative technologies in sorting and processing of biogenic waste (such as biogas units or improved composting facilities) to enhance compost quality and biogenic waste recycling.
5. Local governments, private sector companies (including housing management and corporations) and civil society organizations (CSOs) should allocate space for biogenic waste storage and recycling (such as small composting sites) in current and new housing units and projects.

B. Short food supply chains (SFSC)

1. EU, national and local policies should support independent, local specialist food retailers to sustain short food
2. Local governments should support the development of innovative short food chains.
3. National and local governments should support farm-to-school programs and promote local public food procurement through public kitchens (schools, council offices, prisons, old peoples' homes and those contracted to the local government) so that they serve local, healthy and seasonal food.
4. Local governments should support, improve and expand local food markets and food hubs, both physical (facilities, spaces, basic infrastructure) and on-line.
5. Local governments should have delegated responsibility for food provision planning in a similar and allied way to their responsibilities for spatial planning.

C. Developing multifunctional urban and peri-urban agriculture and land use

1. Local governments should support SMEs and CSOs in developing innovations and experimenting with new practices which deliver multifunctionality through food production.
2. Local governments should protect and enable access to, and tenure of, land for food production in urban and peri-urban areas, e.g. by limiting building projects on agricultural urban and peri-urban land and renting public areas to farmers, including cooperatives.
3. National and local governments should develop regulations to make (commercial or non-commercial) food growing areas mandatory in new or renovated housing settlements and building projects, e.g. rooftop farming, community gardens, allotment gardens.
4. Local governments together with gardeners should develop new ways of managing urban and allotment gardens, aiming at wider societal functions in those gardens (e.g. community building, social inclusion, education, nature conservation?)
5. CSOs should enhance and facilitate cooperation between all types of urban food producers and gardeners at city-regional level in order to strengthen their collective influence on local legislation through a dialogue with policy makers and other involved stakeholders (incl. SMEs).
6. Local governments should set up an integrated food department to ensure greater coherence and alignment, increase efficiency of the policies and programs that have an impact on the food system (such as agricultural land use, green space management, food transport and marketing, waste management, environmental health and food standards etc.).
7. Municipal governments should work together to strengthen capacities, align urban food policies and influence relevant regulations (i.e. land use policies, biogenic waste recycling and short food chains) at national and European level.