

HOW URBAN AGRICULTURE LINKS TO URBAN ORIENTED CONCEPTS



Factsheets: UA and links with urban oriented concepts

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Foreword

Factsheets present a synthesis of how Urban Agriculture (UA) can benefit, contribute to and link with Urban Oriented Concepts (UOC). They are especially aimed at supporting decision making, and emphasize the relationships between UA, the three analysed concepts (urban metabolism, urban-rural linkages and urban food systems), the cities demands and Urban Agenda Policy themes. The concepts cover different aspects of UA and are therefore helpful to specify the objectives to related UA decision-making. The benefits in relation to the three concepts are also mentioned, which are clarified to European policy makers to help support mainstream EU agendas and programs.

Further related contents can be found as outputs of Task 4.2 "In-depth analysis of urban planning strategies towards UA" and WP5 "Towards EU policies and actions supporting UA".

The selected UA practices quoted in this document are purely illustrative and may also be valid examples of other concepts. Unless otherwise indicated, the text of the selected examples included in this document is based on information from the EFUA website and the photos are showcased on the EFUA website and they can credit to the projects responsible. The photo of the DAM was kindly provided by Giacomo Pettenati, while the photos of Oogstappel were kindly provided by farm itself.

This document presents an abstract of Task 3.2.2 "UA links to other urban oriented concepts" (Lead: Politecnico di Torino), and is intended as a working document for discussion and consultation within the EFUA project Forum. The full results will be illustrated in the Deliverable 3.3 " Report on links to other urban concepts " (a co-production of PoliTo and WR/WU). Authors: Gottero E., Dam van D., Cassatella C., Jansma J., Sovova L., Vaandrager L., October 2022. The text that describes components and definition of UOCs, as well as their connections with UA, is based on section 3 of D3.3. For any further details about it, as well as references, refer to this section. The UA benefits and the main Urban Agenda Policy themes included in these factsheets were identified in previous D3.2 on the benefits of UA (annex 1), Authors: Cassatella and Gottero, April 2022.



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FACTsheet – Urban Metabolism and Urban Agriculture

Urban policy themes related to UM and UA

 Sustainable Land	 Energy Transition	 Climate Adaption	 Circular Economy	 Air quality
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Urban Metabolism (UM)
 Understanding cities as living organisms by focussing on technical and socio-economic processes





Why UM?

- To analyse in- and output flows of human consumption and food and energy production.
- To understand the asymmetry of socio-economic and environmental relations in cities.

Connections to Urban Agriculture (UA)

- Connected through concepts of circular economy, recycling and use of resources
- Considering the nexus and trade-offs between water, energy and food
- Reducing the metabolic gap between human and nature
- Improving socioenvironmental living conditions of urban and peri-urban areas











Example of the Urban Metabolism approach in the field of UA

MicroFlavours is an urban farm in Brussels (Belgium) focussing in the production of microgreens and vegetable shoots. It is located in **vacant land and derelict spaces** within the city (cellars of a former brewery) and adopts hydroponic water systems in a **controlled environment**. In order to create a **sustainable and self-sufficient food chain**, MicroFlavours farm uses **fewer resources** and **energy-efficient production systems and techniques**.

Some possible benefits of implementing the UM concept through UA

	Reduction of emissions and improvement of air quality		Recycling and closing nutrient cycles, improving efficient use of resources		Decreasing agricultural pressure on the environment
	Prevention and/or reduction of land consumption		Reduction of agri-food products toxicity		Improvement of food quality

FACTsheet – Urban-Rural Linkages and Urban Agriculture

Urban policy themes related to URL and UA



Sustainable Land



Cultural Heritage



Jobs in the Local Economy



Circular Economy




Housing

Urban-Rural Linkages (URL)
 An urban-rural territorial continuum, hybrid- or a third space

Why URL?


- To better understand the concepts of urban, rural and their interface (e.g. rural activities in urban areas)
- To grasp several dimensions of conflicts and advantage in hybrid spaces from proximity to urban areas




Connections to Urban Agriculture (UA)
 Rural and urban areas are connected through different dimensions:

- Demographic flows
- Economic activities
- Public services
- Amenities and environmental goods
- Multi-level and multiactors governance

UA is thus also influenced by these dimensions.











Example of the Urban-Rural Linkages approach in the field of UA

Oogstappel (region Antwerpen, Belgium) is an **organic and community supported farm**. The vegetables and fruits are sold on a market in the city. Also, you can buy vegetable and fruit boxes with a rich selection of seasonal products. By selling the vegetables through an annual subscription (harvest share), they provide income guarantee for the farmers. The farm **connects people from the city with rural activities**.

Some possible benefits of implementing the URL concept through UA

 Maintenance of open spaces, landscape diversity and traditional landscape features	 Improvement of leisure, recreation activities and tourist attractions	 Prevention and/or reduction of land consumption
 Diversification of agricultural income and activities	 Creation of job opportunities	 Improved local economies

FACTsheet – Urban Food Systems and Urban Agriculture

Urban policy themes related to UFS and UA



Sustainable Land



Public Procurement



Urban Poverty



Circular Economy

Urban Food Systems (UFS)

Urban activities of people and institutions involved in the production, processing, marketing, consumption and disposal of goods that originate from agriculture.

Why UFS?

- To feed urban areas we need a deep understanding of the influence of its drivers and interactions, some of which are urbanization, population growth, technological innovations, agricultural intensification, food safety and health issues



Connections to Urban Agriculture (UA)

Urban food systems are connected to urban agriculture in different ways that involve not only the production of food, but also other steps in the entire food process that includes processing, distribution, consumption and waste management of food.



Example of the Urban Food System approach in the field of UA

The DAM consortium includes several farms placed in the peri-urban area of Milan (Italy), within the boundaries of the Milan Agricultural South Park (Parco Agricolo Sud di Milano). Urban farms of DAM consortium control 1.500 hectare of farmlands. They are characterized by mixed public and private ownership and different **local agri-food products** such as rice, vegetables, horticultural crops, milk, meat, eggs, honey, etc.. Agri-food products are **directly sold on-farm** or at retail. Some of these are sold to school canteens in the framework of **public procurements**.

Some possible benefits of implementing the UFS concept through UA



Reduction of food carbon footprint



Improvement of food security



Improvement of food quality



Reduction of food poverty



Enhancement of short supply chains and alternative food networks



Commercial advantages