

EFUA “NEXT” CONFERENCE

19-21 April 2023, Sofia



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101000681

EFUA “NEXT” Conference:

Join us in Sofia for the European Forum for Urban Agriculture to co-design a vision for better, more innovative and sustainable cities! Whether you are a farmer, a community gardener, a chef stocking local produce, an environmental NGO, a teacher using a school vegetable patch to teach science, an urban planner, a researcher, or just passionate about urban communities, environment and food, we need your experience and ideas to help us define the shared social, economic and environmental goals of urban agriculture in European cities.

Our speakers include academics, practitioners, city authorities and civil society representatives. They will share their experiences and knowledge on the links between urban agriculture and improved urban environment and quality of life. Our aim is to use this frame of the debate to establish a thriving community of all types of stakeholders that are willing to engage in concerted and coordinated efforts to bring a more comprehensive vision of urban agriculture development and support in Europe.

The event is hosted by the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy as part of the [EFUA project](#), funded by the EC's Horizon 2020 programme. The conference is open to the public on 20 and 21 April.

The ISSK Team, on behalf of EFUA.

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Conference Background and Main Themes:

The “NEXT” conference is one of three key milestones within the EFUA portfolio; it will build upon the themes investigated during our highly successful FACTS Conference (from Rome last year), review recent EFUA research/policy outcomes and also determine the trajectory for future work in urban agriculture. The conference will focus upon 3 specific aspects during the 2 days of the public event, which are as follows:

- Presentation of findings from EFUA, including work on urban agricultural typologies and the diverse benefits that Urban Agriculture can provide.
- Examination of the practicalities and experiences of engaging communities, businesses and NGOs to collaboratively develop a European UA future that is inclusive, sustainable and innovative.
- Challenging municipalities to collectively consider how they can deliver positive outcomes for citizens and urban environments through UA strategies, policies and support measures. This also includes the ambition to create an EU network of cities which support and develop UA initiative.

In addition to the more formal presentations, workshops and discussions, we also intend to make the conference an enjoyable experience and one which offers the chance for ample informal networking with colleagues; old and new alike. With this in mind, our local partner, the ISSK (the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to develop an innovative and inspiring programme; incorporating farm visits, local cultural experiences and, of course, the finest Bulgarian cuisine on offer (featuring locally farmed produce, sourced from short supply chains).

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EFUA Consortium Meeting – 19th April 2023

What's NEXT in the EFUA project consortium

12:00 – 14:00	Welcome refreshments
14:00 – 16:00	EFUA General Assembly
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30 – 18:00	EFUA discussions
	EFUA common discussions
	Break-out discussions on publication plans
	Break-out discussion on online type-benefit portfolio
19:00 – 22:00	Dinner

Please note: events on the 19th of April are intended for members of the EFUA H2020 Consortium. The public conference will take place on the 20th/21st April.

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EFUA “NEXT” Conference Day 1 – 20th April 2023

NEXT visions for UA by practitioners, researchers and supporters

8:30 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 9:50	Opening speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prof. Emilia Chengelova, ISSK- Prof. Frank Lohrberg, RWTH-Aachen- Henry Gordon-Smith, Agriculture
9:50 – 10:20	Setting the scene: The EFUA project and main concepts: types, benefits and what is “NEXT”
10:20 – 12:40	GOOD and NEXT practices of urban agriculture from Europe and beyond
	UA in community development, environmental protection, and food policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transferring good practices: RU:RBAN- Civil initiative for the development of UA, Bulgaria- The role of food policy networks for urban food- Examples from the USA- Q&A
	11:20 – 11:40 Coffee break
	UA in business models <ul style="list-style-type: none">- EFUA Business barometer- Campagna Amica, Italy- Project CityZen- Q&A
12:40 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 15:00	NEXT urban agriculture development trajectories on local, regional and EU level
	Findings from EFUA research <ul style="list-style-type: none">- UA between public policies and planning tools. Identifying keys to success- Harnessing EU policies to achieve greater impact on city-level UA development- EU policy dimensions
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee break
15:20 – 16:50	NEXT inspiration
	Looking into the future of Urban agriculture together: Interactive session
17:00 – 19:00	Field trip
19:00 – 22:00	Dinner

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EFUA “NEXT” Conference Day 2 - 21st April 2023

NEXT visions for UA in Europe: city-level policies

8:30 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 12:00 (Including coffee break)	GOOD and NEXT practices of urban agriculture in city-level policies (City presentation topics to be announced)
	Sofia, Bulgaria Troyan, Bulgaria Krakow, Poland Turin, Italy Thessaloniki, Greece Copenhagen, Denmark
12:00-13:15	World café concluding session and closing speeches
13:15-14:15	Lunch
14:30 – 17:30	Field trip

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Venue Details and Practicalities:

Join the Conference:

[Here is the link](#) to the registration form:



Venue:

Our team is happy to announce that we have secured the venue for our NEXT conference, so you can start looking into your accommodation options. Below is some practical information that might be useful to you when booking your hotel. **All mentioned locations are marked on [this map](#).** We will hold the 3-day event at the [Military Academy "G. S. Rakovski"](#), which is located in the centre of Sofia. Please, be aware that the Academy is located in a park, which is fenced off, and the entrance is on the West side of the main building.

Accommodation:

Here's a couple of accommodation options that we are able to recommend in Sofia:

- **Crystal Palace**, [Crystal Palace](#) is within a convenient distance from the venue. Send an email to reservations@crystalpalace-sofia.com with your booking request (the dates you are staying) and quote "EFUA" to get the reduced rate, which is 118.56€ for single occupancy and 138.56€ for two people sharing a room. This price includes breakfast and all relevant taxes, as well as high speed internet access. This price is subject to availability at the time of booking.
- **Hotel Kapri**, recommended highly by previous guests of the Academy, advantages are lower prices and good breakfast included. Email: book@kapisofia.eu, [Bulgarian website](#), and [Page in Booking.com](#)

Of course, if you prefer, you could look for other accommodations options online, including AirBnB etc., if your institution accepts payment documents for private rentals.

If you need any assistance, please, let us know, we will be happy to help!

Contact for Further Information: dona.pickard@gmail.com