

NEXT Conference

Unlocking the Potential
of Urban Agriculture
20-21 April, 2023
Sofia, Bulgaria



E|F|U|A

European
Forum
on Urban
Agriculture

A Vision for Better Cities

List of speakers



20 April
9:30 – 9:50

Opening addresses



Emilia Chengelova

Director of Institute of Philosophy and Sociology



Frank Lohrberg

Head of Institute of Landscape Architecture,
RWTH-Aachen, EFUA



Guido Santini

Coordinator of „Food for the Cities“ programme, FAO



Henry Gordon-Smith

Founder and CEO of "Agritecture"

20 April

9:50 - 10:20 **Setting the scene: The EFUA project and main concepts: UA types, benefits and what is “NEXT”**



Jan Eelco Jansma

Wageningen University & Research,
Founder of Dutch city network Urban Agriculture, EFUA partner



Enrico Gottero

Politecnico di Torino, Researcher and lecturer in
Landscape and Regional Planning, EFUA partner

10:20 - 13:00 **GOOD and NEXT practices of urban agriculture from Europe and beyond**

UA in community development, environmental protection and food policy



Claudio Bordi

Head of EU Unit at Risorse per Roma, Municipal Agency of the City of Rome, EFUA partner
Project manager in EU funded projects on multi-level governance, new urban economies, green economy, urban resilience and climate change, social inclusion.



Bozhidar Emanuilov

Founder of Root Foundation, member of Civil Initiative for Urban Agriculture, Sofia. Volunteer, coordinator and leader of numerous civic projects and initiatives supporting sustainable development and the rule of law.



Giampiero Mazzocchi

Researcher at the Council for Agricultural Research and the Analysis of Agricultural Economics, Italy. Promoter of the Food Policy for Rome, coordinator of the technical secretariat of the Italian Network on Local Food Policies.



Frank Lohrberg

Head of Institute of Landscape Architecture, RWTH-Aachen, EFUA partner
Landscape architect, Chair of the 2012-2016 Urban Agriculture COST Action, EFUA initiator

Nele Lauwers



Expert in urban farming at Boerenbond (Belgium), EFUA partner. She has set up and supports a network of farmers, in and around cities, to exchange knowledge about different strategies to cope with the urbanisation that affect most of Flanders.

Daniele Taffon



Biologist, researcher in biodiversity of agroecosystems. Multifunctionality expert at Campagna Amica Foundation, carrying out initiatives aimed at boosting the value of Italian agriculture, highlighting its key role for the protection of the environment, traditions and culture, health, food security, and social integration.

Denitsa Marinova



Project leader at ARC Foundation, coordinating CityZen Interreg Europe project to support regional policies for UA. CityZen looks at the benefits of UA for delivering ecosystem values and services to citizens and creating new sustainable business models.

Yolanda Gonzalez



UA Specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York City. She provides technical assistance and educational programming for commercial urban farmers across the five boroughs of New York City.

Zsolt Keresztúri



Innoskart Digital Cluster, Hungary
SUAVE Euroclusters project (Stimulating SMEs in the new Urban Agriculture Value Chain for sustainable growth in Europe), contributing to lever regional, national and European funding addressed to SMEs in the sector.

20 April

14:00 - 15:30 **NEXT urban agriculture development trajectories on local, regional and EU level**



Giancarlo Cotella

Politecnico di Torino, Researcher and lecturer in Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning Systems in Europe and beyond, EFUA partner



Trine Agervig Carstensen

Researcher and lecturer in Urban Planning and Everyday life at Copenhagen University, EFUA partner. She focuses on the relationship between people's everyday life and the built environment and its implications for urban planning and governance and urban liveability.



Henk Renting

AERES Univeristy of Aplied Science, Almere, EFUA partner
Researcher and lecturer in Urban food systems, Urban and peri-urban agriculture, City-region food systems, territorial development, short supply chains and governance issues



Daniela Lüth

Policy officer at the European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, Unit 'Bioeconomy & Food Systems', supporting R&I on food systems, urban priorities, data, technology and Artificial Intelligence



Nevin Cohen

Director of the Urban Food Policy Institute at City University of New York, with a focus on policies, governance systems, practices, and infrastructure to support just, healthy, ecologically resilient, and economically viable city-region food systems.



Guido Santini

Coordinator of „Food for the Cities“ programme, FAO, leading a global workstream on resilient agri-food systems in city regions, urban and periurban agriculture and short supply chains, by strengthening rural-urban linkages.

15:50 - 17:20 **NEXT Inspiration: Co-creating a vision for urban agriculture in Europe: Interactive session**

Zoe Heuschkel



Researcher in Food Urbanism, City Region Food System Approaches, Value Chain Management, Environmental Awareness, Organic Farming, and Project Management at University of Applied Sciences South Westfalia.

Henry Gordon-Smith



Founder and CEO of "Agritecture", an advisory services and technology firm focused on climate-smart agriculture, particularly urban and controlled environment agriculture (CEA).

21 April

9:30 - 12:00 **GOOD and NEXT practices of urban agriculture in city-level policies**

Elitsa Panayotova



Project coordinator of SofiaGreen, a project of Sofia Development Association, created by Sofia Municipality to streamline all of its policies related to sustainable development.

Aleksandar Petrov



Landscape architect at SofiaPlan, the strategic and spatial planning enterprise of Sofia Municipality, consultant and coordinator of the information system "Green Areas Registry and Tree Registry" of the Green System Directorate at Sofia Municipality.

Donka Mihaylova



Mayor of Troyan Municipality, deputy chairperson of the Board of the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria. Specialist in the field of social policy and civil society.

Katarzyna Przyjemaska-Grzesik



Manager of "Kraków in greenery" team at Krakow Municipality, stimulating citizen participation in green space governance. Running the "Krakow's Community Gardens" programme, which enables inhabitants to start their gardening adventure

**Francesco Tresso**

Council member and Councillor for green areas and public parks of the City of Turin

**Olga Voutsikaki**

Coordinator at FOOD TRAILS project, partner of the Municipality of Thessaloniki, working on the first Food Policy Council in Greece to create food strategies and synergies between actors and citizens and Urban Agriculture.

**Gorm Friberg**

Urban farmer and educator at the Copenhagen School Gardens programme. Teaches children about nature and technology, and guides educators and teachers in outdoor education and outdoor pedagogy, with a focus on sustainability and climate crisis.

