

Urban Agriculture between planning policies and tools. Identifying keys to success

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WP4: Collective practice and governance

- Task 4.2: In-depth analysis of **urban planning** strategies towards UA



Six types

- Urban Farm
- Community Park
- DIY Garden/Farm
- Zero Acreage Farm
- Social Farm
- Community Garden

Research questions

- What are the **benefits** of UA and its possible disservices (or unwanted effects)?
 - How UA can **benefit, contribute to and link** with other urban oriented concepts,
 - How are UA benefits perceived and “used” by urban planning?
(link with task 3.2)
 - How UA benefits can be alternatively/additionally/ differently used in order to be transferred towards **next practices**?
- What are the **main characteristics** of UA practices and their **governance models** that can help or hinder them in achieving the goals of **urban development strategies**?
 - What are the barriers limiting the development of AU?
 - What are **successful UA-related urban strategies**?
 - How to design **ad hoc policies**?



Methods

- Systematic review of literature and R&I projects: Scopus, CORDIS, etc.
- **Interviews** with 15 stakeholders (researchers, experts, city officials, associations, farmers, gardeners, etc.)
- Online questionnaires: UA initiatives (n.115), **planning for UA** (n. 58);
- **City workshop, focus group**, round-tables
- **Case study analysis** (city level): 35 developed countries, 5 developing countries, 4 Least developed countries (LDCs)

UA into urban policies



- **44 case studies**
- UA has been recently addressed by **many policies**, at the international and the local level, **worldwide**.
- **UA Policies' thematic domain:** urban-rural partnership, urban green development and management, climate adaptation and/or mitigation, urban nature protection, urban forestry, local community development, urban renewal, health and education policies, food strategies
- **Type of Public policy/policy instrument:** Strategy/vision, Programme, Project, Land-use zoning, Sectoral policy, Regulation, Incentive
- UA as **main focus** of a dedicated strategy (binding or not);
- UA as **component** of a comprehensive strategy which address a different urban issue, or many issues



EFUA

European Forum on Urban Agriculture

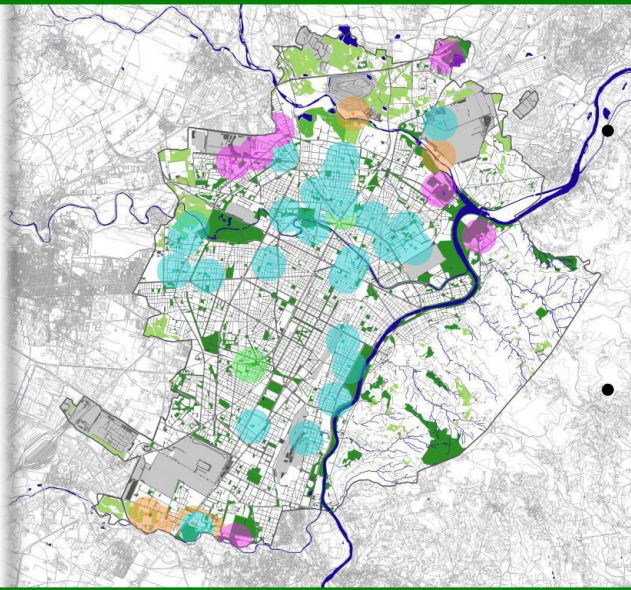
UA into urban policies

Urban gardens in the Turin Strategic plan for green infrastructure

36 orticoltura urbana



- legenda
- Viabilità
 - Aree verdi ricreative
 - Orti circoscrizionali
 - Orti associativi
 - Orti spontanei
 - Orti in fase di realizzazione
 - Accessibilità orti circoscrizionali (raggio 500 m)
 - Accessibilità orti associativi (raggio 500 m)
 - Accessibilità orti spontanei (raggio 500 m)
 - Accessibilità orti in fase di realizzazione (raggio 500 m)
 - Aree coltivate (pubbliche e private)
 - Area Basse di Stura
 - Aree cimiteriali, infrastrutturali e produttive industriali
 - Fiumi, laghi e corsi d'acqua

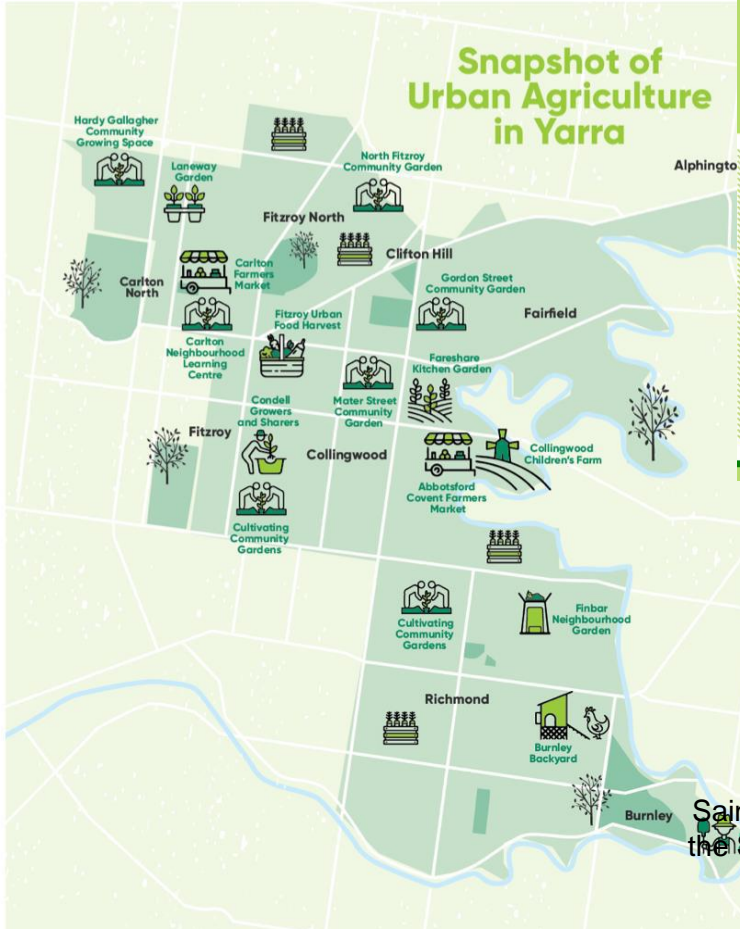


Orti urbani circoscrizionali: 7
superficie totale circa 69.500 m²

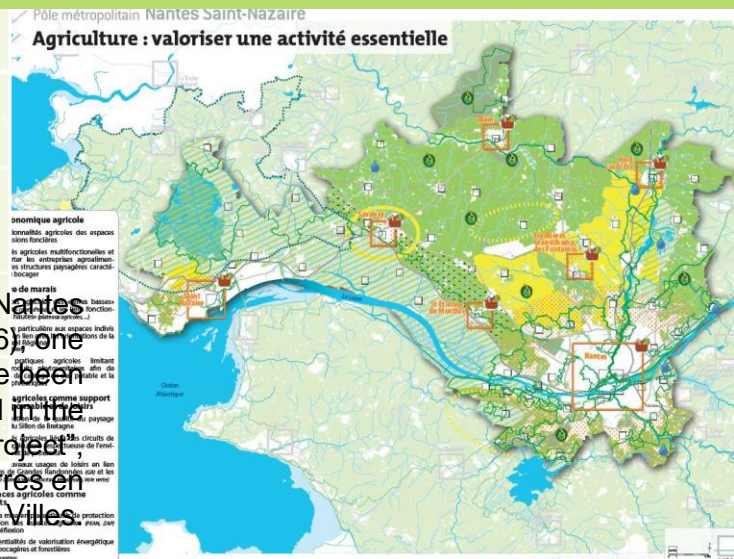
Orti associativi: 26

Orti spontanei: 7

Orti in fase di realizzazione 3



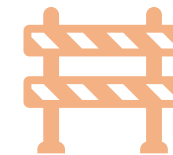
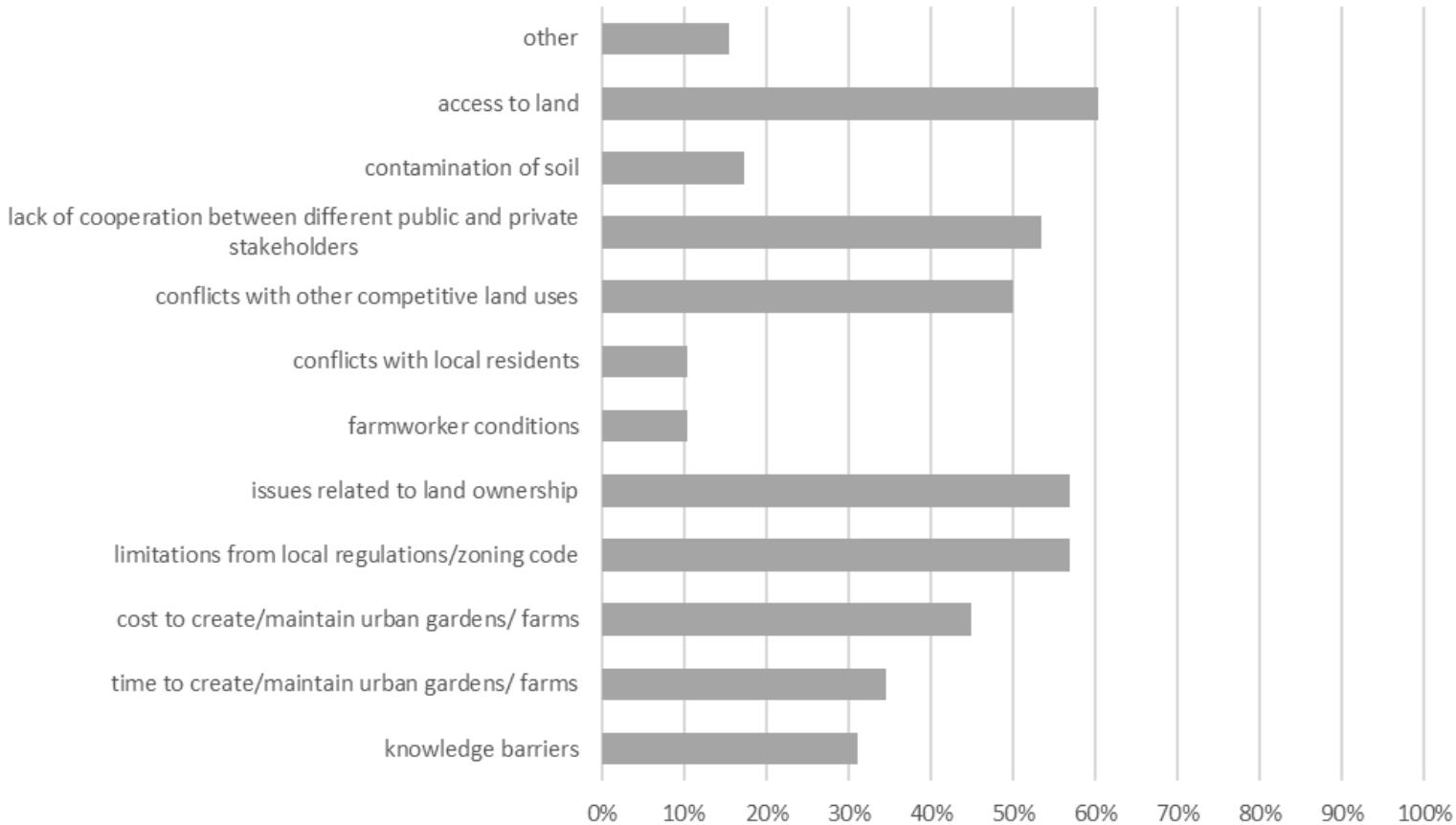
Yarra's Urban Agriculture Strategy – Australia (City of Yarra, 2019)



The SCoT of Nantes Saint-Nazaire (2016), one of the SCoTs that have been analysed in the "AgriSCoT project promoted by Terres en Villes

- Only a minority of existing practices take their first step from an **intentional public policy**.
- **municipal level and comprehensive national strategies** (for instance Norway, France, etc.)
- UA-related public policy:
 - **food security** and self provisioning → LDCs
 - food **quality** and sustainability → Global North
 - UA as an instrument to reinforce and maintain **urban green spaces and green infrastructures**

Causes for failure and barriers

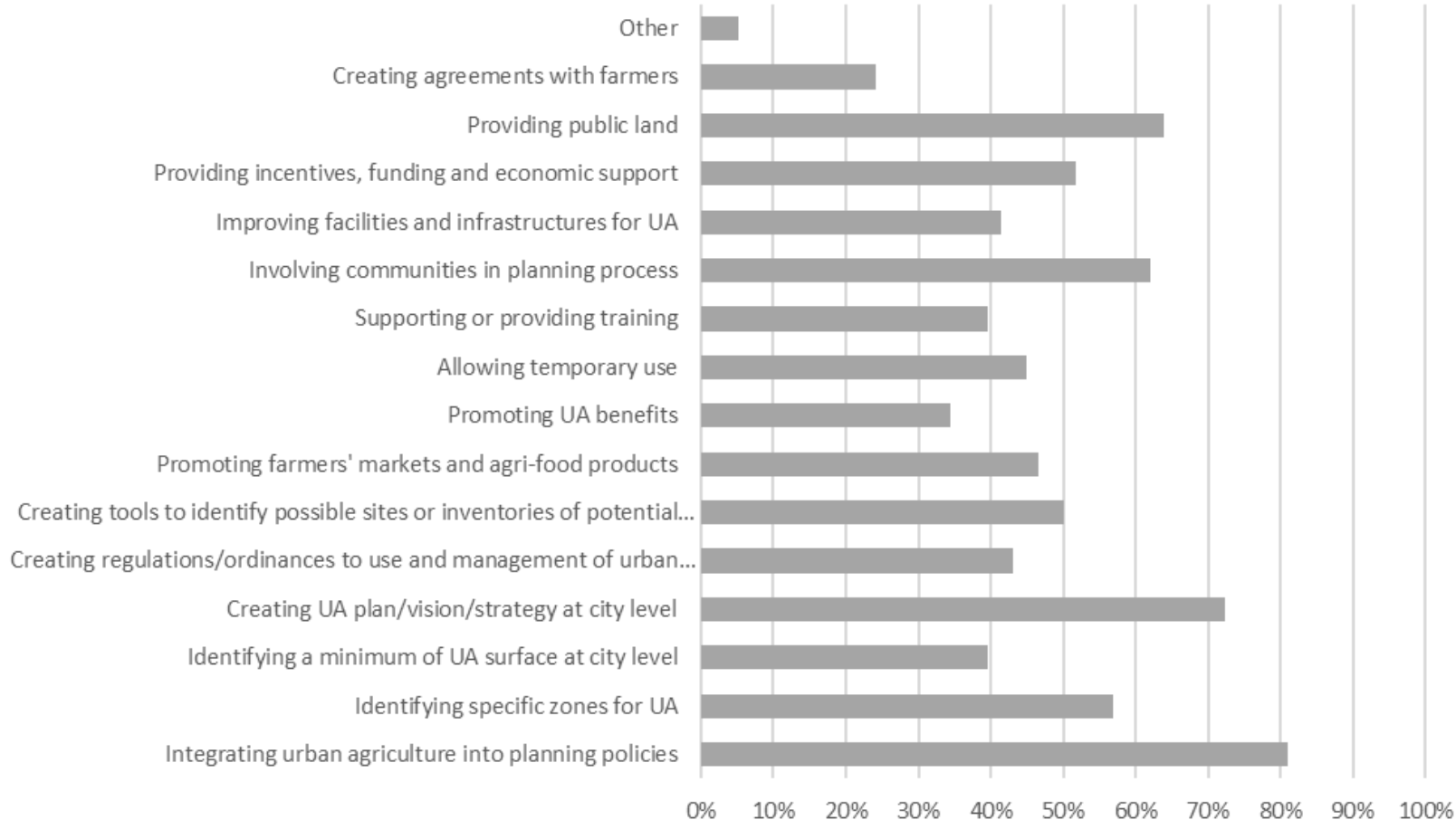


- **resources** and space
- **competitiveness** of agricultural products
- **public management**
- **water** requirements
- costs of **soil rehabilitation**
- lack of **participation**
- land use **conflicts**
- lack of support for **local policies**

- **Land ownership**
- **Limitations** from local regulations/zoning code
- **Access to land**

The main barriers to maintain and expand UA according to respondents (multiple answer allowed)

What public policies should do to integrate and improve UA



- Providing **land**
- **Participation**
- Creating a **strategy/plan**
- **Integrating UA** into urban policies

What public policies should do to improve urban and peri-urban agriculture according to respondents (multiple answer allowed)

UA-related planning and management tools

Category	Sub-category	Description
Inventories	Existing UA areas	Inventories of existing plots and urban farms
	Vacant or underutilised land/roofs	Inventories of available, public and private land with potential for UA, including abandoned, marginal and degraded lands, brownfield sites, available roofs
Plans	Comprehensive strategies or plans	A broad framework of spatial strategies that also include UA
	Specific strategies, plans or programs	Ad hoc strategies, plans or programs for UA
	Master Plans	Statutory and binding plans that identifies specific zones and land use rules for UA
Regulations	Ordinances	Measures or resolutions that introduce specific rules for UA and the agricultural use in zoning
	Territorial agreements	Agreements between different actors to establish protection and management rules of urban and peri-urban agricultural areas
	Regulations on UA management	Sectoral regulations on the management of allotment gardens, community gardens, livestock and animal upkeep
	Temporary use	Rules to support and promote the temporary use of vacant lands for UA
Incentives	Financial incentives	Funds, subsidies, property tax reductions, tax abatements and exemptions to promote the development and the maintenance of UA
	Technical assistance	Activities promoted by public or private organizations in order to innovate UA practices and technically support urban farmers and gardeners.
	Education and training	Educational and training activities promoted by public or private organizations in order to encourage UA practices
Assessment	Evaluation frameworks	Indicators to evaluate different social, economic and environmental impacts and results of UA policies/practices



inventories



plans



regulations



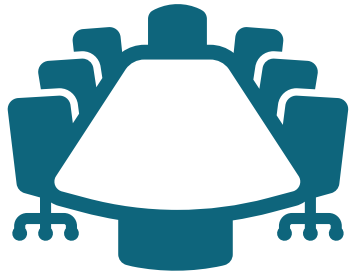
incentives



assessment instruments

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Developing a participatory process and establishing a UA committee

- engaging different **stakeholders**
- defining a **UA committee** / identifying specific **governmental responsibility** concerning UA at city level
- **UA committee**: should aim to **support policy makers** and promote tools to adapt public policies to **new developments and practices**

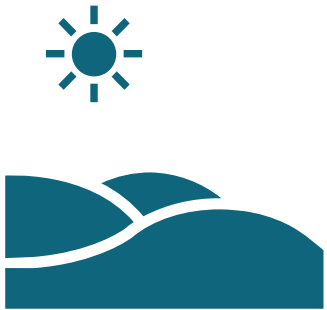
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Ensuring availability and access to public land for UA

- acquiring **private properties**
- definition of **long-term concessions**
- developing various forms of land acquisition such as **taxpayer bonds**, the integration of **UA into public parks**, etc.

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Identifying existing and potential land for UA

- **existing** plots and urban farms,
- available **public and private land** with potential use for implementing professional UA and urban gardening (underutilised, abandoned, marginal and degraded lands, brownfield sites, rooftops, etc.)
- **baseline data** on agricultural activities
- development of **land database, land bank**, etc.

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Creating a specific plan for UA

- in accordance with regulations on farmland protection at the **supra-local scale**
- integrating into **landscape and urban design**, other sectoral policies and more comprehensive **strategies and plans at city level**
- **UA plan should:**
 - identify different UA types (professional and not professional)
 - define strategies for UA development
 - define zoning restrictions → recognizing UA as a specific (existing or new) zone in the land use designation system

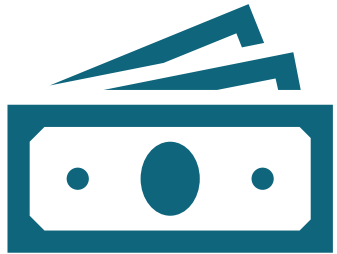
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Defining regulations for UA

- Defining what is permitted and what is not
- guidelines and requirements to:
 - implement and management of **urban gardens** (e.g. allotment gardens, community gardens, etc.),
 - **allocation mechanisms** for urban gardens
 - rules for agricultural **temporary use** of public vacant or underused plots
 - by-laws on **animal and livestock management**
 - **sale activities** (direct sales on farms, location of farmer markets, including stocking and accessibility)
 - restrictions on the **use of resources** such as water and energy

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Developing financial or incentive tools

- subsidies or block grant funds for **maintaining and developing** existing UA initiatives
- fees, tax rebates and reductions, abatements and exemptions for landowners, specific tax regulations for urban land, credit and loans, as well as incentives for innovative agricultural activities

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Developing facilities and infrastructures for UA

- **accessibility** to specific sites
- **normal functioning** of UA plots (e.g. irrigation systems, roads, small facilities, plot layout, fencing, etc.),
- **farmer market** structures
- decontamination and **soil rehabilitation** work

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Supporting UA initiatives and urban farmers

- **promotion** of short chains, local agri-food products, sustainable farming practices, and UA-related recreation activities
- managing potential social and **land use conflicts** between UA practitioners, citizens and the private sector
- supporting and facilitating the establishment of **agreements** with farmers or associations, landowners for land allocation
- technical advice and assistance, **training and educational activities** concerning UA

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Evaluating and monitoring public policies for UA

- evaluation of the **effectiveness and outcome** of UA-related policies (projects and plans)
- specific **monitoring**, evaluation and research activities (including the application of a set of indicators) and **periodic reports** established by the UA committee

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Discussion:

1. Do the proposed recommendations make sense?
2. Which recommendations should be prioritised?
3. Is there anything missing/overlooked?

Thanks!

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