

EU policy dimensions: Towards European policies for Urban Agriculture?

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Objectives

To *inform the development of EU Policies for UA* in ways that *optimally valorize the full potential and multiple functions of different types of UA*, both for the benefit of UA as well as for wider policy goals.

To *explore what are the most appropriate scale levels for different types of policy actions* and interventions supporting UA and how to facilitate better coordination between different decision making levels (city, region, national, EU).

Methodological steps



Task 5.1

EU Map of Relevant policies

- Selection of relevant policy areas
- Map instruments that currently address EU
- Describe goals and types of instruments



Task 5.2 / 5.3

Policy talks / expert groups

- 8 policy talks: unlock potential by linking ambitions and excellence
- Learning exchange and cooperation with non EU-countries



Task 5.4

Recommendations for policy and research

- Comprehensive vision on UA in EU policies
- Specific policy briefs

Results

Selection of the most relevant areas of EU action

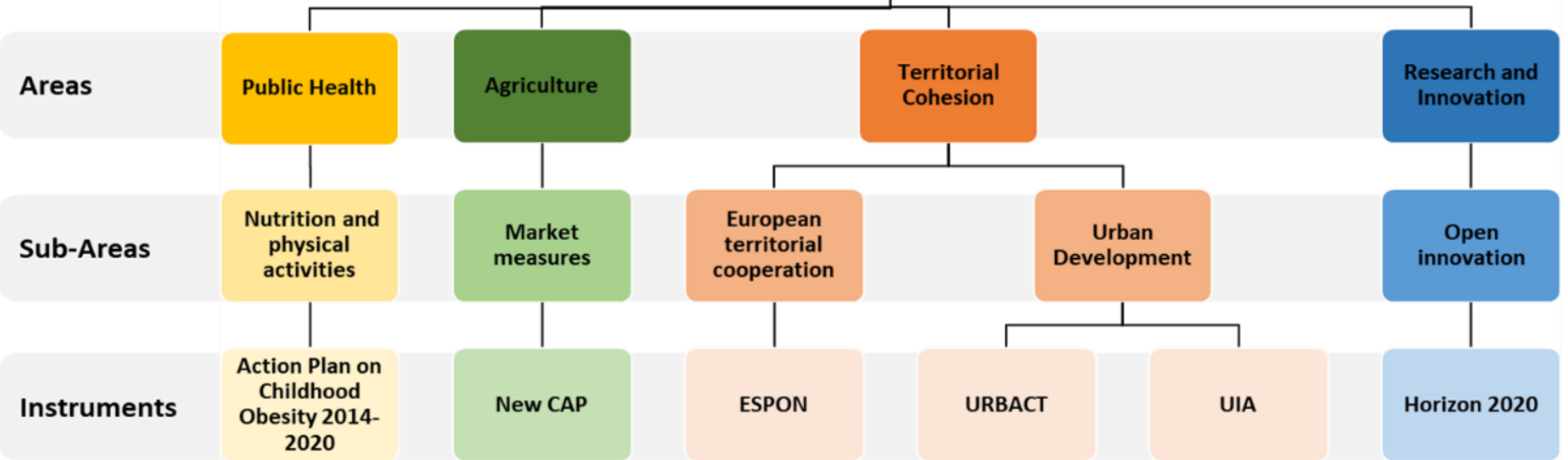


Results

Mapping policy instruments that address UA



Urban Agriculture



Results

Main characteristics of policy instruments



1. Type of instrument: 1 action plan, 4 funding programmes, 1 exchange and learning programmes (URBACT III)
2. All instruments have a wide range of stakeholders, ranging from EU commission services to local entities.
3. None of the instruments mention UA and UA-related activities explicitly within their main objectives. However, UA initiatives can be identified amongst funded projects or as a form of “suggestions” to promote better nutrition and increase awareness.

Conclusion

UA is still *highly neglected at the European policy level*: UA and UA-related activities are *never explicitly mentioned* in the instrument's objectives. Rather, UA is often *addressed indirectly* through UA-related activities implemented among specific funded projects

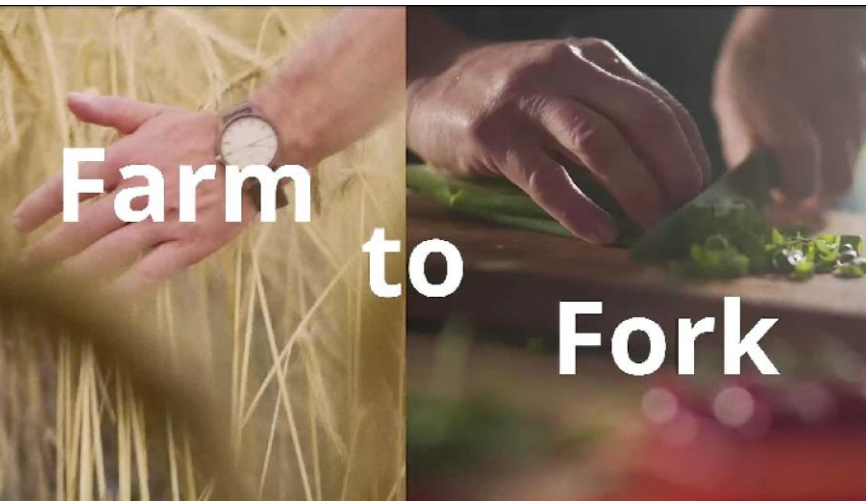


Policy instruments related to UA are still highly *isolated and fragmented*: There is no clear, overarching integrated vision of UA that gives direction to policy instruments relevant to UA in different areas.

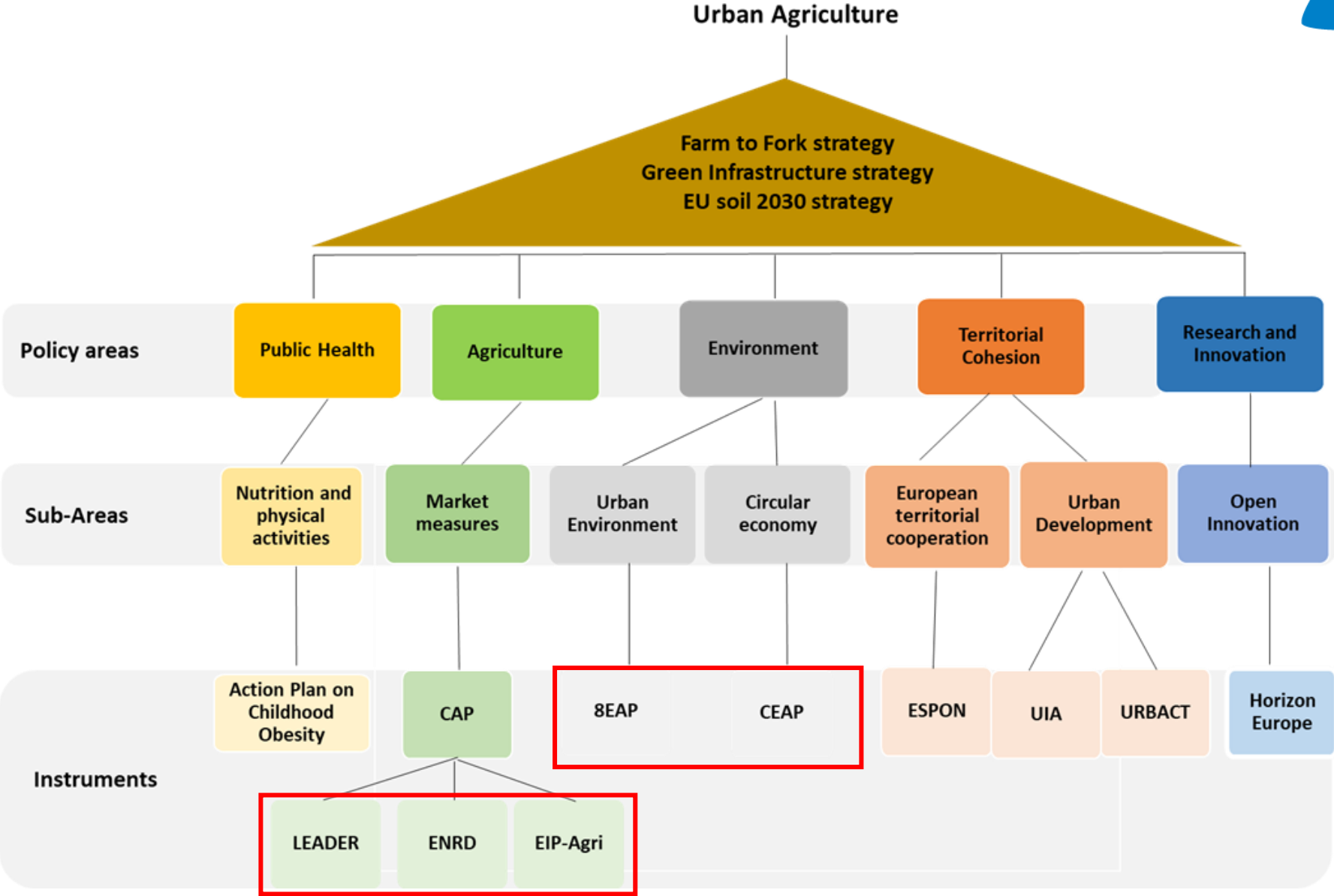


This illustrates the *existing gap between European policies and everyday experiences of producers and citizens with UA*; if, on the one hand, UA is already a predominantly local and urban driven reality; on the other hand, it is *not yet adequately recognized* at higher policy levels.

(In) visibility of Urban Agriculture in European food and agriculture policy



However, there are many entry points



➔ Further explored and developed in policy talks

Policy talks

1. Farm to Fork strategy and Urban Agriculture
2. Better policies for Urban farming
3. Urban Agriculture in relation to the CAP
4. GAP und Urbane Landwirtschaft
5. Urban Agriculture and Urban Agenda
6. Transdisciplinary approaches to building sustainable City-region food systems
7. Potential Health Benefits of Urban Agriculture
8. Relevant policy areas for Urban Agriculture



Lessons and insight from EFUA policy talks



- Clear agreement: Urban Agriculture is an important part of European future sustainable and resilient food systems
- UA responds to current trends and societal challenges and (partly) fulfils different ambitions and objectives of EU policy
- UA covers a wide range of activities and multifunctional benefits: food security, green infrastructure, social cohesion, health, etc
- UA is innovative, promotes new entrepreneurship and attracts new entrants into farming and food production
- UA contributes to more resilient and sustainable European agriculture and re-connects production and consumption
- Different challenges for UA in/on/at buildings compared, UA on urban land, and UA in peri-urban areas

Lessons and questions arising from the policy talks



- Need for more (better tailored) policy integration - between different policy areas and different policy levels
- Lack of food system approach in EU policy making. Interesting starting points in Farm2Fork, but need for concrete policy measures
- Do we need an “urban pillar” within EU agricultural policy?
- Issues of eligibility of UA for CAP support: certain urban areas and small, landless farms are excluded, UA is mostly not addressed in national strategic plans
- Important possibilities for UA besides CAP: regional and cohesion funds, research and innovation
- Exchange programmes and territorial policy schemes (LEADER, URBACT, INTERREG, H2020) can potentially strengthen up bottom-up urban policies
- How to create synergies and complementarity between “bottom-up” dynamics of UA (urban food policies, entrepreneurs, communities) and “top-down” policies?