

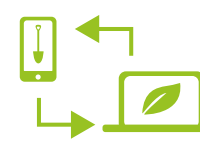


# Urban Farming in Europe – Key Issues and How to Solve Them

CityZen is a cooperation project funded by INTERREG Europe. It aims to create a knowledge pool of urban farming policies, social initiatives and business models for better resource efficiency and well-being in cities. CityZen promotes urban farming as a driving force for social and economic change in five European partner regions!



European Union  
European Regional  
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## 1. Inclusive governance, policy change, legislation

Initiators of urban farming activities are often civil groups and citizens. They have limited access to policy makers who, in turn, rarely see urban farming as a top priority.

- ▶ Empower urban farmers in talking to public and managing authorities.
- ▶ Enhance public authorities' knowledge and interest in urban farming so they can offer adequate support services (land access, new technologies, funding, good practices).
- ▶ In cooperation with a variety of stakeholders introduce or review legislation for the use of land for urban farming, consumption and sale of local urban farming products.
- ▶ Improve integrated land planning to avoid conflicts among urban land users – professional farmers, construction companies, private initiatives, non-commercial enthusiasts.

## 2. New business models

Urban farming has untapped potential as a contributor to local economies. It can spark new jobs and start-ups, trigger policy change, raise social inclusion and engage young people.

- ▶ Capacity building on new business models for policy makers and funding entities with good practices of urban farming models, key technologies, methods and promotional tools.
- ▶ Scale up green construction and infrastructures which include urban gardens/farms.
- ▶ Engage with design and construction companies so they can include outdoor and indoor urban farming spaces while developing new buildings and public places.

## 3. Technology and innovation

New digital services and tools offer many opportunities to increase and promote urban farming activities in regions.

- ▶ Design and diffusion of new digital services in marketing, training, knowledge exchange and administration of urban farms.
- ▶ Better funding opportunities for pilot innovation projects in urban farming.
- ▶ Better links between regional value chains and R&D to improve the role of local knowledge providers to sustain city resources.

## 4. Support and sustainability

There is room for improvement and design of new support measures to foster urban farming activities in our regions.

- ▶ Show how urban farming contributes to resource efficiency and sustainable cities to gain political support.
- ▶ Offer steady financial and administrative support for urban farming projects to foster new businesses, stakeholder partnerships, knowledge exchange and management skills.
- ▶ Apply responsive design for support measures by taking on board all actors and meeting real life challenges of the urban farming community.

## 5. Communication with stakeholders

Effective communication with multiple actors (citizens of all ages and backgrounds, businesses and authorities) is needed to create successful, long-lasting urban farming projects.

- ▶ Organise meetings with specific groups (e.g. policy makers/researchers/farmers/young people) to identify challenges and find solutions, share experiences and knowledge.
- ▶ Create multi-actor networks, working groups and new initiatives on common interests.
- ▶ Support cooperation with local knowledge providers to present new technologies and trends to urban farming practitioners and decision makers.

Key Issues

