

The Future of Urban Agriculture

WHY?

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Why does Urban Agriculture matter?

- The challenge of feeding a growing population worldwide, the large supply food chains and unsustainable agricultural practices that our food systems rely on, emphasises the urgent need for transformation
 - Most of the Nordic and Baltic countries are dependent on exports to feed their population
 - The agricultural sector makes use:
 - of 70% of freshwater
 - accounts for 1/3 of the greenhouse emissions
 - is responsible for biodiversity loss and soil degradation
- Urban agriculture has **multiple impact areas**:
 - reinforcing food security
 - improved health outcomes
 - enhanced wellbeing and social inclusion
 - including culture
 - relating to SDGs
- Urban agriculture is also considered as an important tool for urban regeneration and as promoting social innovation at city level

Why the Future of Urban Agriculture?



Urbanization



Culture

Growing cultural acceptance of urban agriculture as a sustainable and community-centric food production method. Emphasis on preserving local food traditions also within urban settings.



Rise of urban farming festivals and events celebrating diverse culinary traditions within city limits. Integration of cultural heritage into urban agriculture practices, fostering a sense of community through food diversity.

Agriculture



Emerging policies recognizing and supporting urban agriculture as a vital component of sustainable urban development. Legal frameworks addressing land use and zoning for urban farming

Implementation of zoning ordinances specifically tailored to accommodate and encourage urban farming initiatives. Introduction of incentives for businesses adopting sustainable agricultural practices in urban areas.



Why this project?

- The project serves as a platform for stakeholders to exchange experiences to engage in urban agriculture and food systems, discuss their
 potentials and barriers, and draw lessons from their practices
- The project unites expertise of multiple Nordic institutions, with a core team of Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia, Nordregio and NordForsk
 - (but also NordGen and Nordic Energy Resarch have been involved in the process)
- The analysis of **eight cases** across four Nordic-Baltic countries will provide a factual basis to identify challenges and opportunities different UA governance constellations face to engage in local food systems
- <u>3 webinars</u> + the final conference (happening now):
 - Innovation and Legislation
 - Education and Science
 - Culture
- Developing a research consortium for urban agriculture in the future & working with the ideas for future in terms of the urban agriculture

Future Urban Agriculture





Thank you & let us keep in touch!

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