



ΔΗΜΟΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥΠΟΛΗΣ



Developing community gardens and sharing ideas across Alexandroupolis and the EU

The 4th Transfer Network Meeting of RU:RBAN took place on June 30th and July 1st in Alexandroupolis, Greece. Partners from Italy and Ireland along with the local ULG members from Greece as well as the Municipality of Alexandroupolis that hosted the whole event, came together to discuss and give their ideas for Community gardens in a 2-day international best practice sharing event.

Community gardens attract a wide cross-section of people across the entire socio-economic spectrum and include individuals who have little gardening experience, as well as those who've been gardening for years, making them a great place to learn outside in a natural environment.

Mr Ioannis Zampoukis, the Mayor of Alexandroupolis, along with the Municipality' Team welcomed the partners in the Mayor's Office the day before for a brief discussion, in order to kickstart the following 2-day event.

This two-day session included visits to various community gardens, around and within the city, along with peer review and learning, case study presentations, training and guidance from international expert groups which explored and shared best practice around governance, management and development of Community Garden spaces. The partners also presented, discussed, shared training and workshop ideas in order to help develop our community gardens across the county of Alexandroupolis.

The partners had plenty of time during the visits to get informed about our community gardens and the people working there, share insights with them and talk about the similarities and differences between such gardens in different countries.

The programme included training sessions and presentations from International best practice experts, presentations from each partner country to share ideas, workshops to examine current and new ideas, and a chance for the Alexandroupolis Urbact Local Group (ULG) to meet our European partners in a face-to-face environment, strengthening our network and inspiring and motivating local community groups to engage in and develop the many community gardens.

Speaking about the RU:RBAN Community Garden Project, the Mayor Ioannis Zampoukis said: "I'm delighted that we are part of the RU:RBAN project. It's great to welcome people and cities from the EU working on urban gardens. We aim to have an inclusive approach that is open and is embracing the different stakeholders. What is important for us is the opportunity to get people together to be part of this huge network and fantastic learning process. So we are here to share all our learning, the best practices, the lessons learned from all cities, their experiences, ideas, methodologies across European Union."

The transnational exchange was part of an EU Programme called RU:RBAN which is funded under the Urbact Programme. RU:RBAN's Good Practice is the management model of Urban Gardens in Rome to be transferred to newcomer cities that are geographically, historically, and socio-culturally distant from each other, to ensure sharing of experiences to enhance the capacities of local governance. Transfer efforts will be ensured on the three well known and successful components that the GP is divided into: 1. Capacity building, 2. Inspiring and training people to manage urban gardens (Gardenisers), 3. Governance & Regulations.



Meeting of Ioannis Zampoukis, Mayor of Alexandroupolis with Fintan Phelan, Cathaoirleach, Carlow County Council



Group photo of the partners, the Greek ULG members with the cultivators of 'Bioagros' while visiting a community garden.



Workshop at the Ethnological Museum of Thrace



“Joining forces” in a co-creating session at the Ethnological Museum of Thrace



Discussions and presentations at the Library of Alexandroupolis



The partners at the Library of Alexandroupolis