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## CityZen News | #01 2020

### Welcome to CityZen,

an Interreg Europe project that fosters regional policies and practices for farming in cities and joins the growing number of cities and regions that recognize the benefits of urban farming for living sustainably and emerging businesses.

Stepping further, we now explore resource-efficiency and implications for business models of urban farming to promote the concept to policy makers as a new tool for social, environmental and economic change.

Various regional policies on green innovation and resource efficiency, like low-carbon food, waste management, urban revitalization, as well as adaptation of cities to climate change, are to be enhanced by CityZen.

We are looking forward to sharing with you our outcomes and learning about your experiences through the CityZen social channels. Stay in touch!

Best regards,  
The CityZen team

CityZen is implemented by seven partners (see below):

Applied Research and Communications Fund (Lead Partner) - Bulgaria, Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia - Greece, Municipality of Beja - Portugal, Higher Technical School of Agrarian Engineering & University of Valladolid - Spain, Institute for Rural Development Research at Goethe University Frankfurt/Main - Germany, Baixo Alentejo Intermunicipal Community (CIMBAL) - Portugal, Natural Heritage Foundation of Castilla y León - Spain.

### Highlights

#### Kick-off in Sofia



The first meeting of our CityZen partnership took place on September 12-13, 2019 in Sofia (Bulgaria). We got to know each other and our regional policy settings in Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Germany.

It became clear which benefits urban farming offers and key issues we might face in our projects were discussed.

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### Regional spotlight

#### Urban farming in Bulgaria

Regional Innovation Centers as policy tool to bring urban resource efficiency down to regions.



Applied Research and Communications Fund  
Urban farming is a recent phenomenon in Bulgaria that has only gained momentum over the past few years, mainly in the capital Sofia. It is mostly undertaken by NGOs and citizens, organised through social media or by residence. Researchers have also shown interest in the subject for socio-economic studies, publications and conferences. Several urban farmers have already commercialised their activities to local restaurants and hotels and meet the growing popularity of healthy eating and low-carbon diets. Some Bulgarians living and working abroad in greening cities, return to the country and bring back experiences and knowledge that can transform their native places.

Picture: Urban Gardening - Sofia

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### Concept for RhineMain regional park in Germany



Institute for Rural Development Research  
Frankfurt, Germany, where the Institute for Rural Development Research (IfLS) is located, might be most known for its skyscrapers and business. But the region is also home to over 37 % of agricultural areas which play an important role in providing environmental and social benefits. That is what both IfLS and the RhineMain Regionalpark want to address and develop further by designing an action plan for 'Urban Agriculture in the RhineMain Regionalpark'.  
It is meant to improve resource efficiency, ecosystem services, multifunctionality and the preservation of green and cultural landscapes in conurbations by securing sustainable income opportunities for urban farmers. Concretely, it addresses the growing demand for traditional production of herbs within the city boundaries for the local speciality of Green Sauce (Grüne Soße), and traditional orchards supplying apples for the production of Hessian apple wine (Äpfel).

Picture: Gary Fisher (Pixabay)

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### Latest CityZen News



#### Spain: Regional Stakeholder Meeting

The first regional stakeholder meeting in Palencia, Spain, was held on November 14th, 2019 with an overall focus on urban agriculture and degraded land. Speakers and participants represented a wide range of backgrounds and institutions, from local government to farmers, which lead to great insights and discussions.

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### Recommended Content



This in-depth analysis provides an overview of urban agriculture as a concept and practice in the EU. With concrete examples, it shows how versatile urban farming can be and how it contributes to food security and sustainable development. It also addresses challenges and limits on the policy and practice level.

[Find more information here](#)

### What's next?

- January 2020**  
First regional stakeholder meetings in Greece, Portugal and Germany
- March 2020**  
31 to April 2: First peer-to-peer meeting in Frankfurt, Germany

CityZen is a four-year long project supported by the INTERREG EUROPE 2014-2020 programme.

If you want to know more about each partner, follow the links below:



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