

## Press Release

### Promoting urban farming in Europe

#### International project "CityZen" has launched in five European regions

Promoting urban agriculture among political decision-makers as a motor for economic and social change - this is what the INTERREG project "CityZen" has set out to do. Non-governmental organisations, regional authorities, universities and research institutions from Bulgaria, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Greece will work together to develop, apply and improve public policies on urban farming. The aim is to sensitise politicians and citizens in their respective regions to green innovations and resource efficiency.

According to a study of the European Commission, 67% of the global population will reside in cities by 2050. Dealing with the challenges of food supply and reduction of food waste is therefore a key priority in the EU Action plan on the circular economy. An ever-growing number of cities in Europe comprehend the benefits of urban farming for better resource efficiency, launching new businesses and preserving nature in downtown areas. While in some places, urban farming is strongly supported both by the local authorities and citizens, in others it is an emerging movement triggered by local communities.

The CityZen project will study local urban farming initiatives, share good practices and propose policy measures and action plans for sustainable development of this new sector. The goal is to achieve a balance between good farming traditions, urban planning and innovative technologies, that could turn farming into a valuable resource for cities.

The project was launched in Sofia, Bulgaria, on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2019, hosted by the project Lead Partner *Applied Research and Communications Fund* (Bulgaria). The other organisations from five European countries are the *Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia* (Greece), *Municipality of Beja* and *Baixo Alentejo Intermunicipal Community* (CIMBAL) (Portugal), *Higher Technical School of Agrarian Engineering, University of Valladolid* and *Natural Heritage Foundation of Castilla y León* (Spain) and the *Institute for Rural Development Research* (Germany).

CityZen project is financed by the Programme for Interregional Cooperation INTERREG EUROPE 2014-2020 and will continue until July 2023.

For more information, please visit [the project website](#).