



Rural-Urban Outlooks: Unlocking Synergies (ROBUST)

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Rural-Urban Governance Arrangements and Planning Instruments

Urban Food Planning

Ede, Netherlands

1. Overview

A repository of inspiring urban food planning initiatives, derived from various settings and with different backgrounds, may provide interesting info on long term rural-urban food governance potentials. Such a repository may combine 'external' material, as, for example, collected within Amsterdam-Metropolitan Solutions, with Living Lab Ede internal material, as represented by ongoing World Food Centre initiative (see www.worldfoodcenters.com).



2. Main Challenges

Urban Food Planning hinges on bringing people together from different disciplinary backgrounds, including planners, architects, health professionals, environmentalists, food businesses, and civil society activists, etc. Its central aspiration is to reflect upon how proactive and reflexive urban food planning may enhance sustainable regional development, quality of life or, what moral geographers call 'landscapes of desire'.

Urban Food Planning embraces a spectrum of imagination techniques and – more or less participatory- spatial planning approaches that address especially following questions:

- > How to engage the urban more actively and directly in sustainable food production and consumption?
- > How to create attractive, sustainable and socially-inclusive urban living environments?

3. Main Insights

3.1. Insights related to the broad area of “network governance”

Urban Food Planning might have different lead actors. Ede’s World Food Centre is an “infotainment” initiative started by a consortium of Food Valley actors, with prominent roles for Regional Knowledge Institutions, agro-industrial enterprises and government bodies. The initiative’s central ambition is to present the latest insights on sustainable food production and healthy food consumption, including promising manifestations of Urban Food Planning. The Centre is still in development but anticipates about 300,000 annual visitors and aims to become a key marker point for the Food Valley Region. Together with the recent publication “Flourishing Foodscapes: Designing City-Regions Food Systems” (editors Han Wiskerke and Saline Verhoeven), it provides a broad spectrum of inspiring examples of urban food planning features, challenges and barriers in different settings and with a broad range of leading actors.

3.2. Insights related to mechanisms of cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation

In multiple ways present in ongoing Urban Food Planning manifestations, albeit to different degrees with explicit attention for feasibility issues and /or characterized by the envisioning of utopian futures.

3.3. Insights related to the role of (actual, potential) social, organizational, institutional innovations

Urban Food Planning requires, by definition, combinations of technological, institutional- and organizational innovation. Depending on its disciplinary backgrounds and specific approaches, the attention for these different innovation fields varies significantly.

4. Effectiveness Indicators

As a new and emerging urban policy field, Urban Food Planning is in search for “harder” and “softer” effectiveness indicators to help assess its potential impacts. Key issues of ongoing Dutch debate in this respect are the identification of appropriate spatial levels and the delineation of relevant impact fields.

5. Illustration and further information

The following URL's provide, from different angles, info on urban food planning, by making references to closely interwoven ideas, like sustainable urban design, green urbanism, ecological urbanism, sustainable place making, etc.

www.ams-amsterdam.com/index.php

www.iucn.org/regions/europe/projects/cities-and-regions/urbes-project

www.sustainablecities.eu

www.urbact.eu

www.sustainable-everyday-project.net/urbact-sustainable-food/

www.smart-cities.eu

www.ruaf.org

www.cityregions.org

www.eukn.eu

www.eurbanlab.eu

www.epomm.eu/endurance/index.php?id=2795

www.eu-fusions.org

www.globalruralproject.wordpress.com/

www.sume.at

www.agendastad.nl

www.eu-advance.eu

www.glamurs.eu

www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu

www.urma-project.eu

www.turas-cities.org

www.suden.org

www.eea.europa.eu

www.eurocities.eu

www.ccre.org

www.land.copernicus.eu/local/urban-atlas

www.sustainableplaceshaping.net

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