

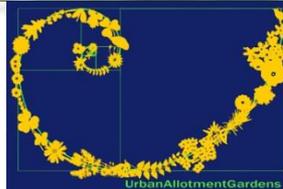
The Role of Urban Gardening for European's Ageing Societies

REAL CORP 2015

Ghent

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By Runrid Fox-Kämper



Introduction: Background of Topic

- Functions of existing and emerging forms of urban gardening in European cities in times of social, economic and climate change with special emphasis on ageing societies
- Two research backgrounds:

ILS - Research Institute for
Regional and Urban Development gGmbH

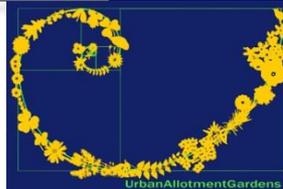


Research work about living preferences of aged persons and about the future of the existing housing stock

**COST Action TU1201 Urban
Allotment Gardens in
European Cities**

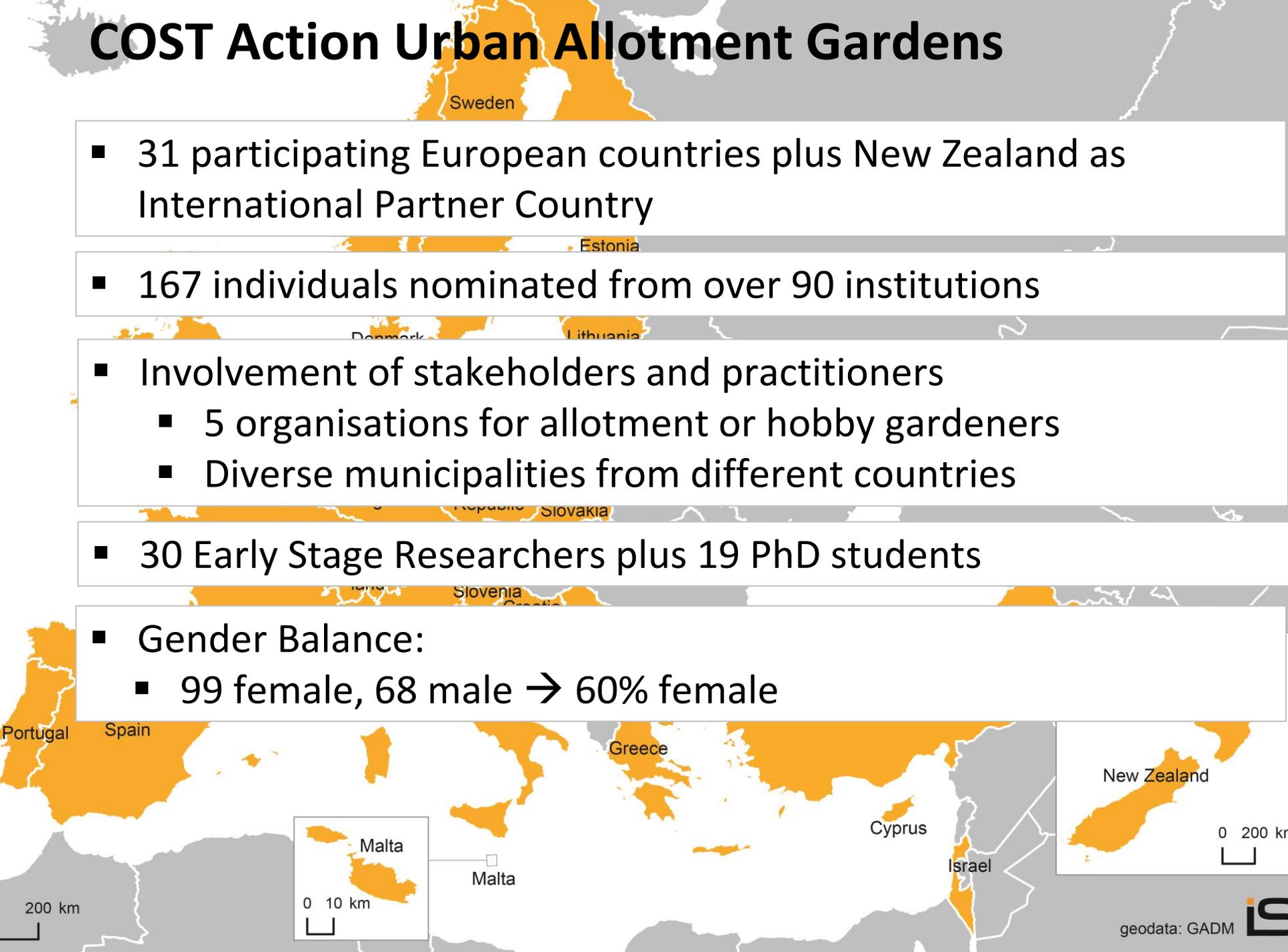
UrbanAllotmentGardens

European research network



COST Action Urban Allotment Gardens

- 31 participating European countries plus New Zealand as International Partner Country
- 167 individuals nominated from over 90 institutions
- Involvement of stakeholders and practitioners
 - 5 organisations for allotment or hobby gardeners
 - Diverse municipalities from different countries
- 30 Early Stage Researchers plus 19 PhD students
- Gender Balance:
 - 99 female, 68 male → 60% female



Mission of COST Action TU1201 Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities...

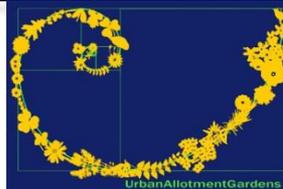
...is to fully comprehend **relevance of and challenges for urban (allotment) gardens in Europe** from four research perspectives:

1. Urban Development and Policy

2. Sociology

3. Ecology

4. Urban Design



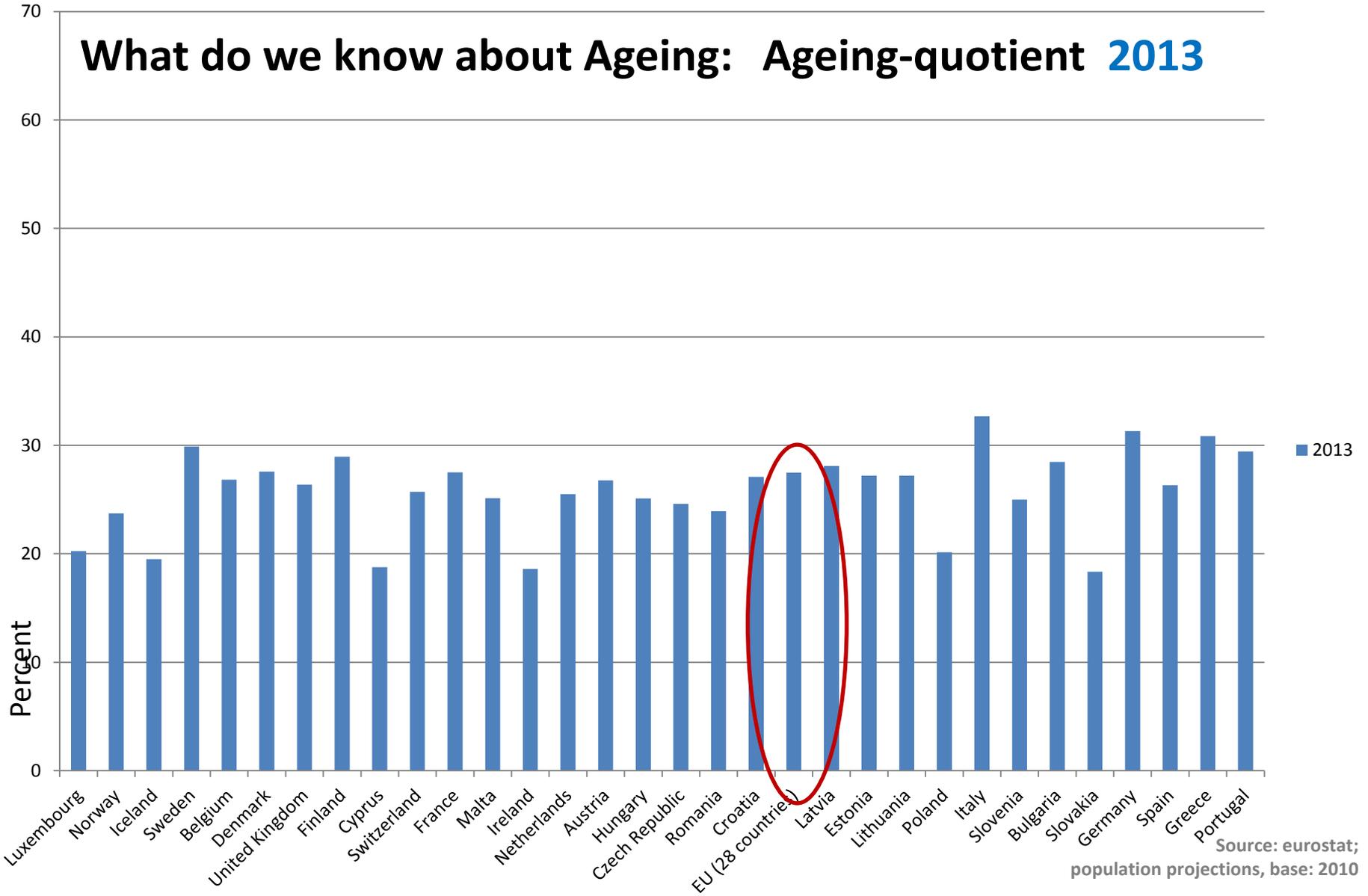
Outline

1. Introduction/Background
2. About ageing
3. Future Challenges and the Functions of Urban Gardening
4. Examples
5. Conclusion

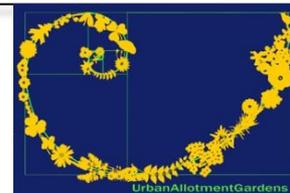


Photo: Martin Sondermann

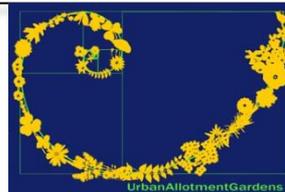
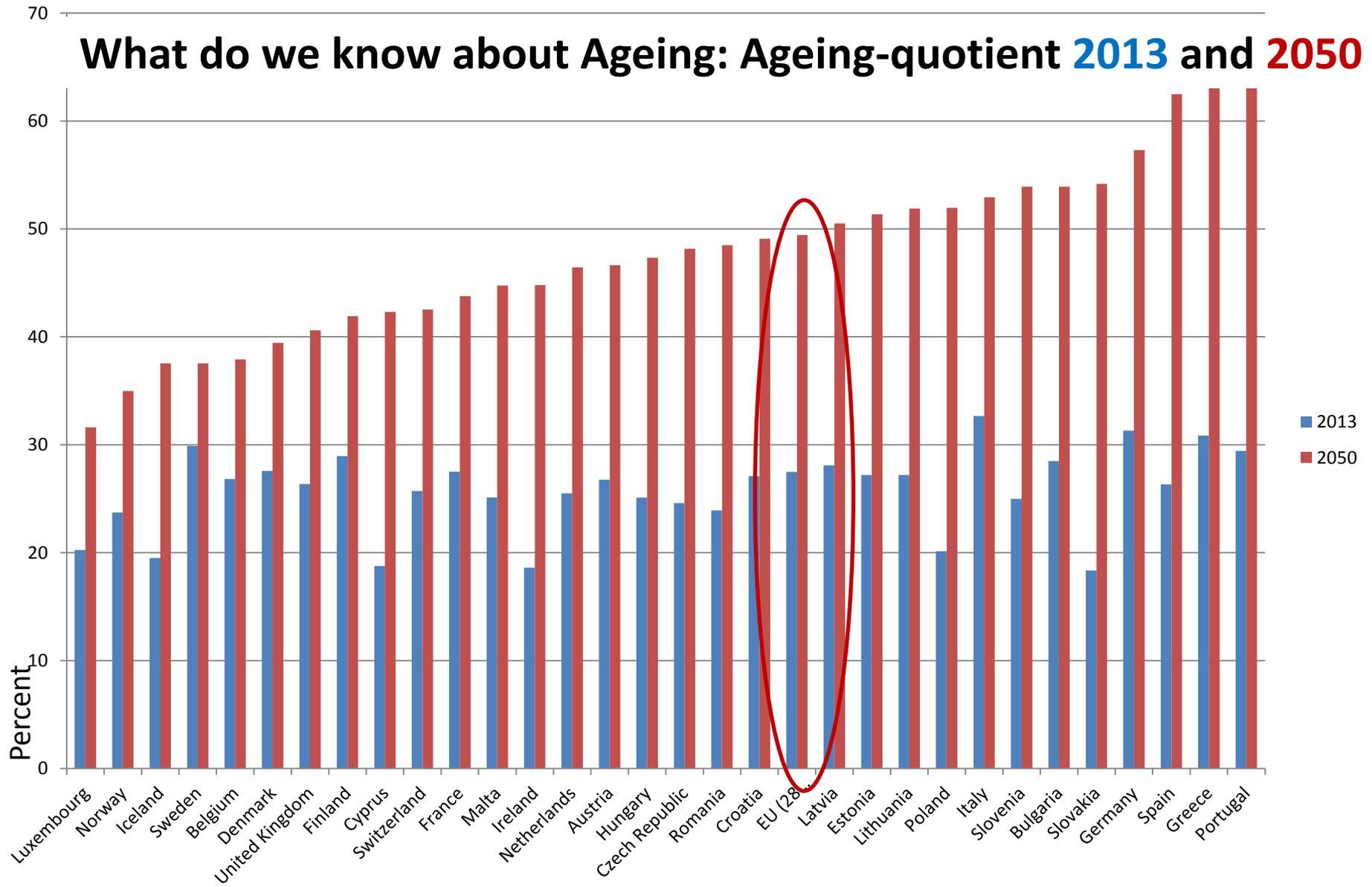
What do we know about Ageing: Ageing-quotient 2013



Source: eurostat; population projections, base: 2010



What do we know about Ageing: Ageing-quotient 2013 and 2050



What do we know about ageing:

Results of a survey of people aged 60 and over in four German Cities by ILS and IOER Research Institutes

...etzt nur an Ihre Wohnumgebung denken:
...eden oder unzufrieden sind Sie im Großen und Ganzen mit Ihr
...umfeld bzw. Wohngebiet?
...den zufrieden teils/teils unzufrieden seh
 θ_2 θ_3 θ_4 θ_5

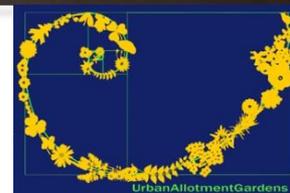
...en Sie in Ihrem Wohnumfeld bzw. Wohngebiet?
...treffende ankreuzen.

zentrum
in der Nähe

- θ_1

öffentliche Verkehrsmittel
n
Treffpunkte für Ältere
ng
e für Ältere

photo: ILS



What do we know about ageing: Results of a survey of people aged 60 and over in four German Cities by ILS and IOER Research Institutes

- Conducted in

- Dresden (apr. 500,000 inh.), Dortmund (apr. 580,000)
- Döbeln (apr. 22,000 inh.) , Arnsberg (78,000 inh.)

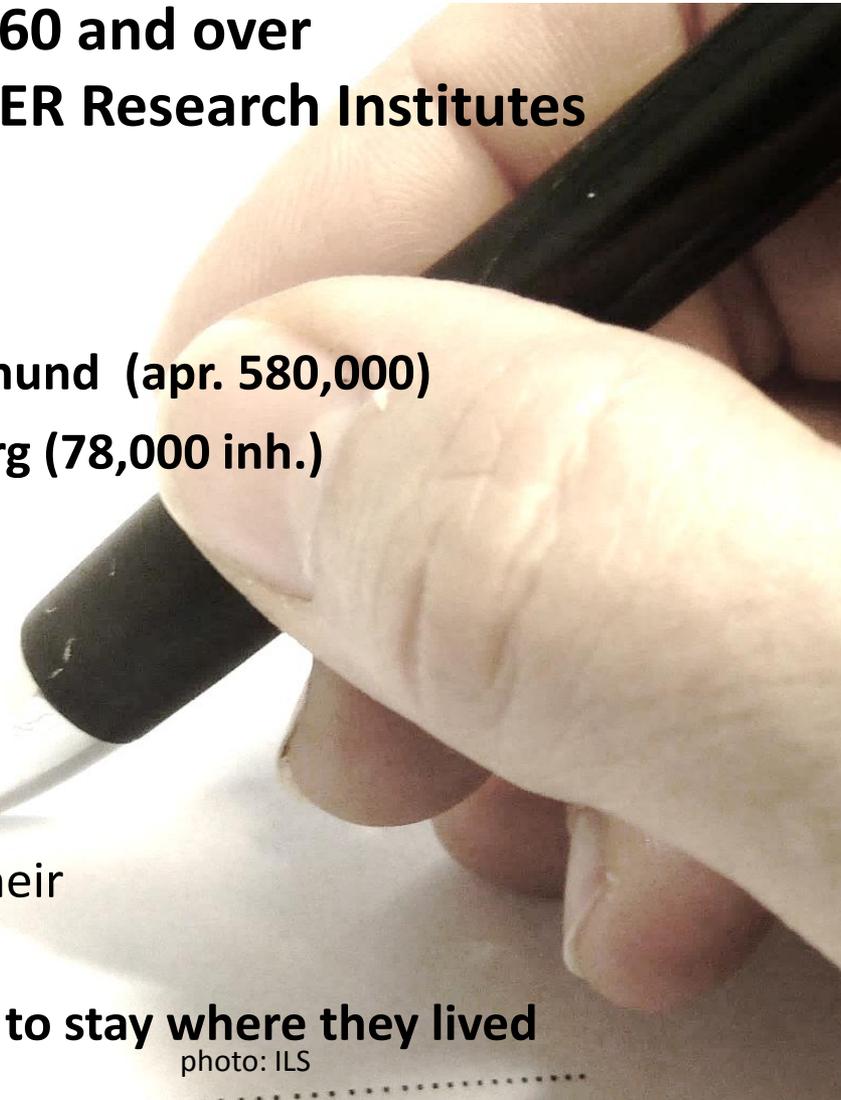
- Survey

- 15,550 participants aged 60 to 90
- 4,769 evaluable questionnaires

- Some results from Dortmund

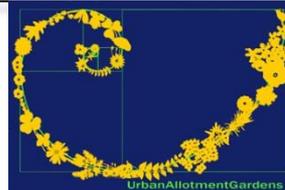
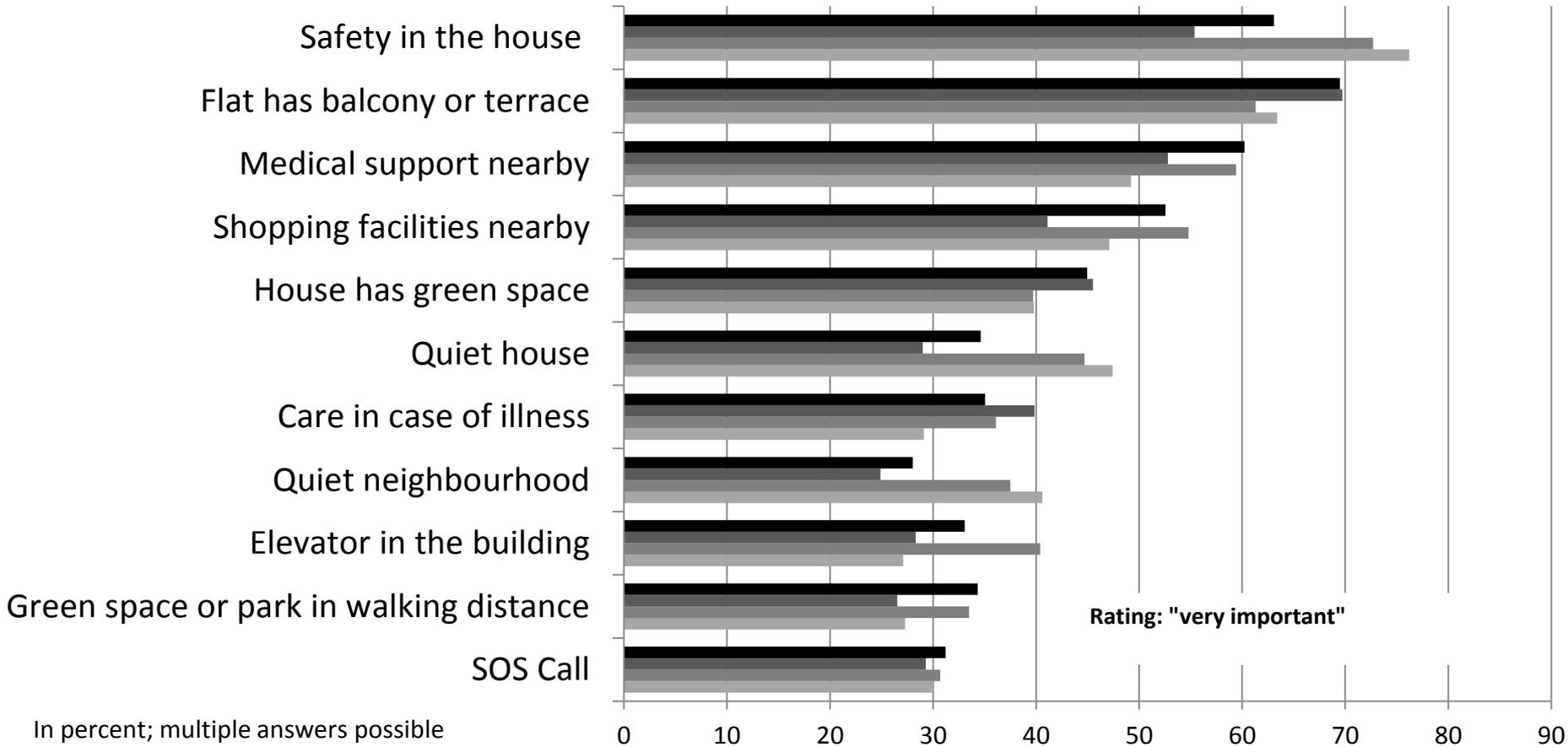
- On average interviewees lived in their flat since 29 years!
- 65 % of the interviewees intended to stay where they lived

photo: ILS



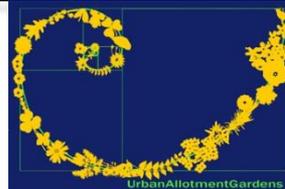
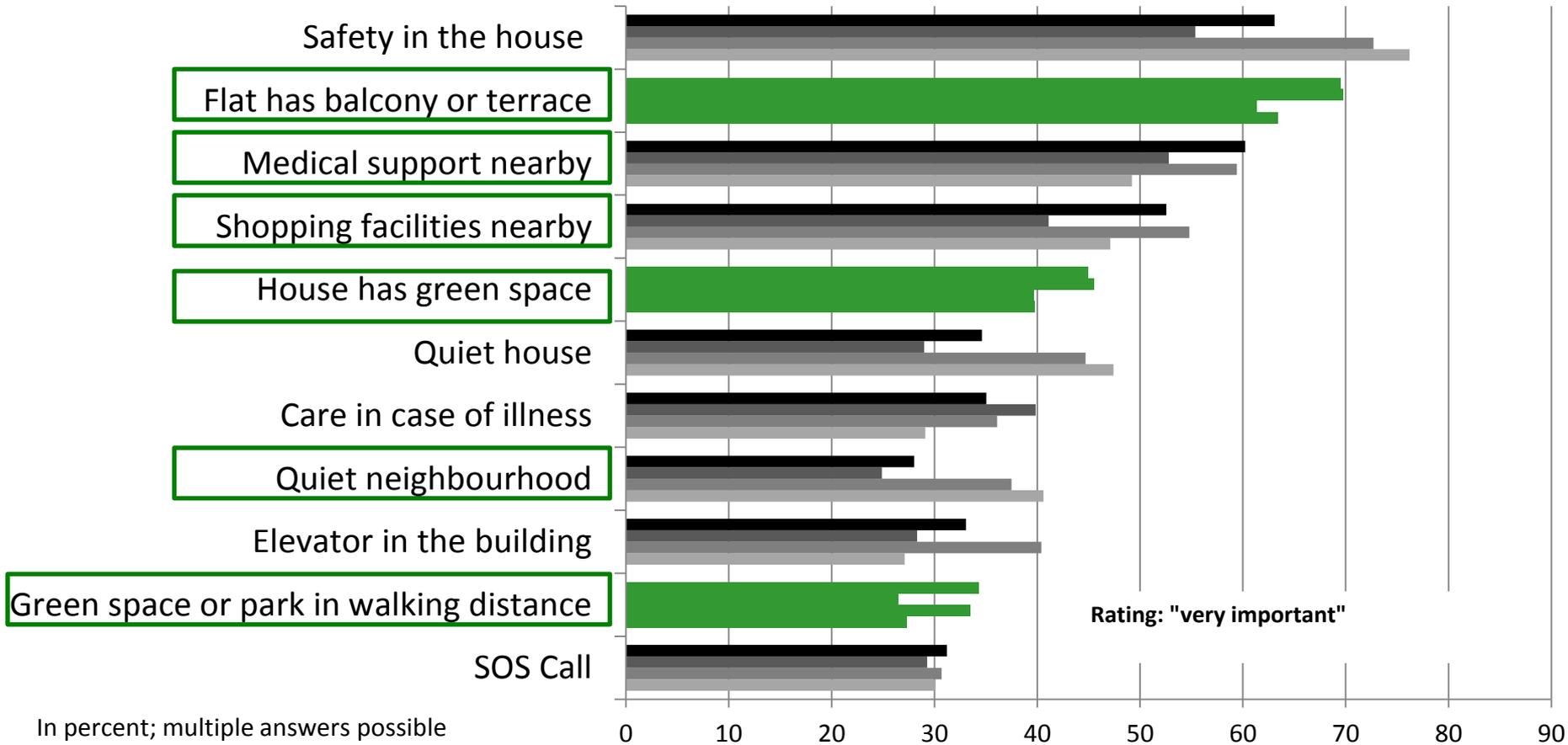
Results of survey by ILS : what characteristics of living situation are regarded as “very important”

■ Dortmund ■ Arnsberg ■ Dresden ■ Döbeln



Results of survey by ILS : what characteristics of living situation are regarded as “very important”

■ Dortmund ■ Arnsberg ■ Dresden ■ Döbeln



What do we know about ageing: Topics to be addressed

- Results of a survey amongst residents of single family homes
- Research conducted by ILS together with IREUS and HFT, Stuttgart on behalf of Wüstenrot Stiftung

What older residents of single family homes missed:

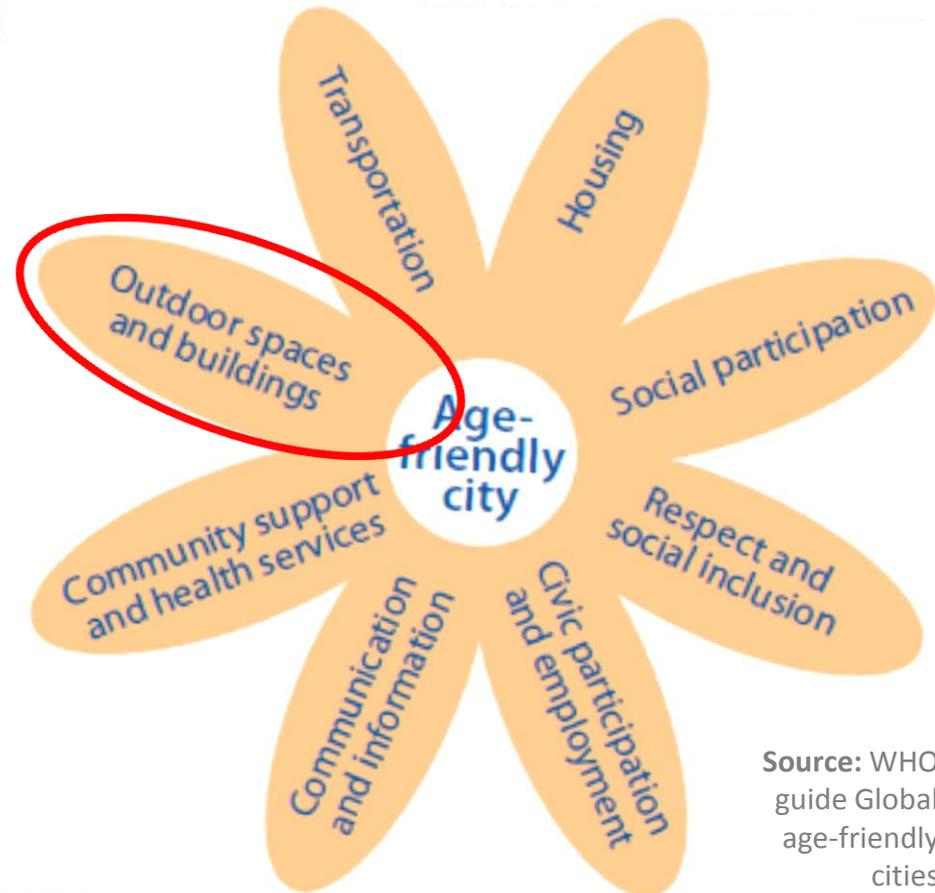
- public transport facilities
- shopping opportunities
- public areas for leisure in the neighbourhood



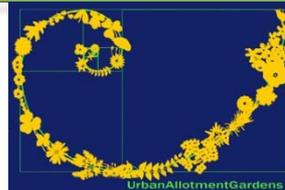
Photo: ILS

What do we know about ageing: Age-friendly city topic areas

“The outside environment and public buildings have a major impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older people and affect their ability to ‘age in place’.”
(WHO guide Global age-friendly cities)



“Having green spaces is one of the most commonly mentioned age-friendly features. However, in many cities there are barriers that prevent older people from using green spaces.” (WHO guide global age-friendly cities)



Age-friendly cities? Liveable Cities for everyone!

- Increasing differentiation of lifestyles of aged persons
- Facilities in the neighbourhood and access to green space are important issues to age in place
- Cities have to be attractive for other groups also (e.g. young families with children)

Thesis:

- **Age-friendly cities are liveable cities for everyone**
- **Need for an integral approach which can be supported by urban gardening**

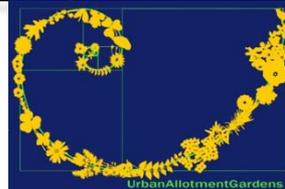
Photo: ILS



Urban gardening - what are we talking about?

- **Focus** not exclusively on **food production** but also on the **experience of horticultural activities and recreation**
- **Different types of urban gardening** according to objectives, function, spatial context, user groups, legal status, location, accessibility,...

Photo: ILS



Urban gardening - what are we talking about?

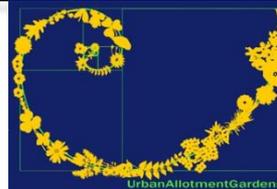
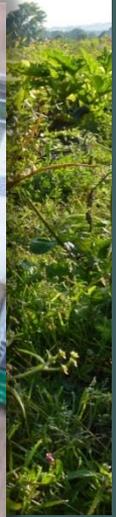
- Allotment gardening
- Community gardening
- Assisted gardening
- Rooftop gardening
- Edible cities

Allotment Park in Lisbon;
photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper

Allmendekontor Tempelhofer Feld
Berlin; photo: ILS

Meine Ernte in Aachen, Germany;
photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper

Rooftop Gardening in Camden, UK;
photo provided by Silvio Caputo
Urban Gardening in a public
park in Andernach, Germany;
photo: Runrid Fox-Kämper



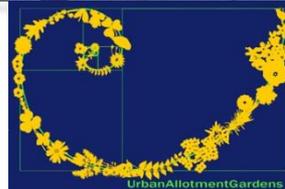
4. Trends and Challenges in European Cities

- Societal Change
- Climate Change
- Economic Change

High Line Park NY; photo: Martin Sondermann



„The emerging trends have an impact on the city, and on the public perception of the meaning of urban gardening. Concerns about the environment, uncertainties related to economy and the society in general trigger a new interest in gardening.”
(Silvio Caputo, Chair of WG 4 in COST Action TU1201)



Functions of Urban Gardening: Societal Change

- Recreation for different life-styles in the direct neighborhood
- Physical and mental health, especially for aged persons
- Communication and integration of minority groups
- **A place to be**

Leisure in Quinta da Granja Allotment Park, Lissabon; Photo: Fox-Kämper



Community Garden Tempelhofer Feld, Berlin; photo: ILS



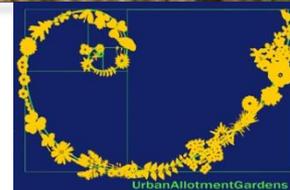
Functions of Urban Gardening: Economic Change

- Creating **local identity** and place-making
- Transformation of **abandoned urban spaces**
- Reduction of direct costs (**subsistence, health**)

Allotment plots on vacant land in the dense urban fabric of Porto, Portugal, photo by: Sandra Costa



Maroussi Allotments, Greece; photo by Nera Moran



Functions of Urban Gardening: Climate Change

- **Microclimate regulation**
- Cleaning of air and **carbon storage**
- **Water cycle** regulation
- Enrichment of **habitat and biodiversity**

Urban gardening near London City; photo: www.capitalgrowth.org



Network of allotments in Stockholm; Figure by Colding et al. 2006



4. Example: Jardins Partagés, Paris

French Federation of Allotment and Community Gardens (FNJFC)

- Number of allotment plots decreased from 500,000 in 1940 to 150,000 in 1970
- New approaches to urban gardening to address new user groups, explicitly
 - Aged persons, disabled, groups
 - Smaller plots (20 – 150 m² instead of 500 - 600 m²)
 - Gardens in the unused open space between densely built flat blocks



Raised beds for persons in wheelchairs in an allotment garden in Quetigny, France;
New allotments „Au pied d´immeubles“ , Bobigny, photos: Hervé Bonnavaud

Les Jardins du Zéphyr, Aulny-sous-Bois

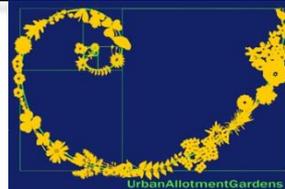
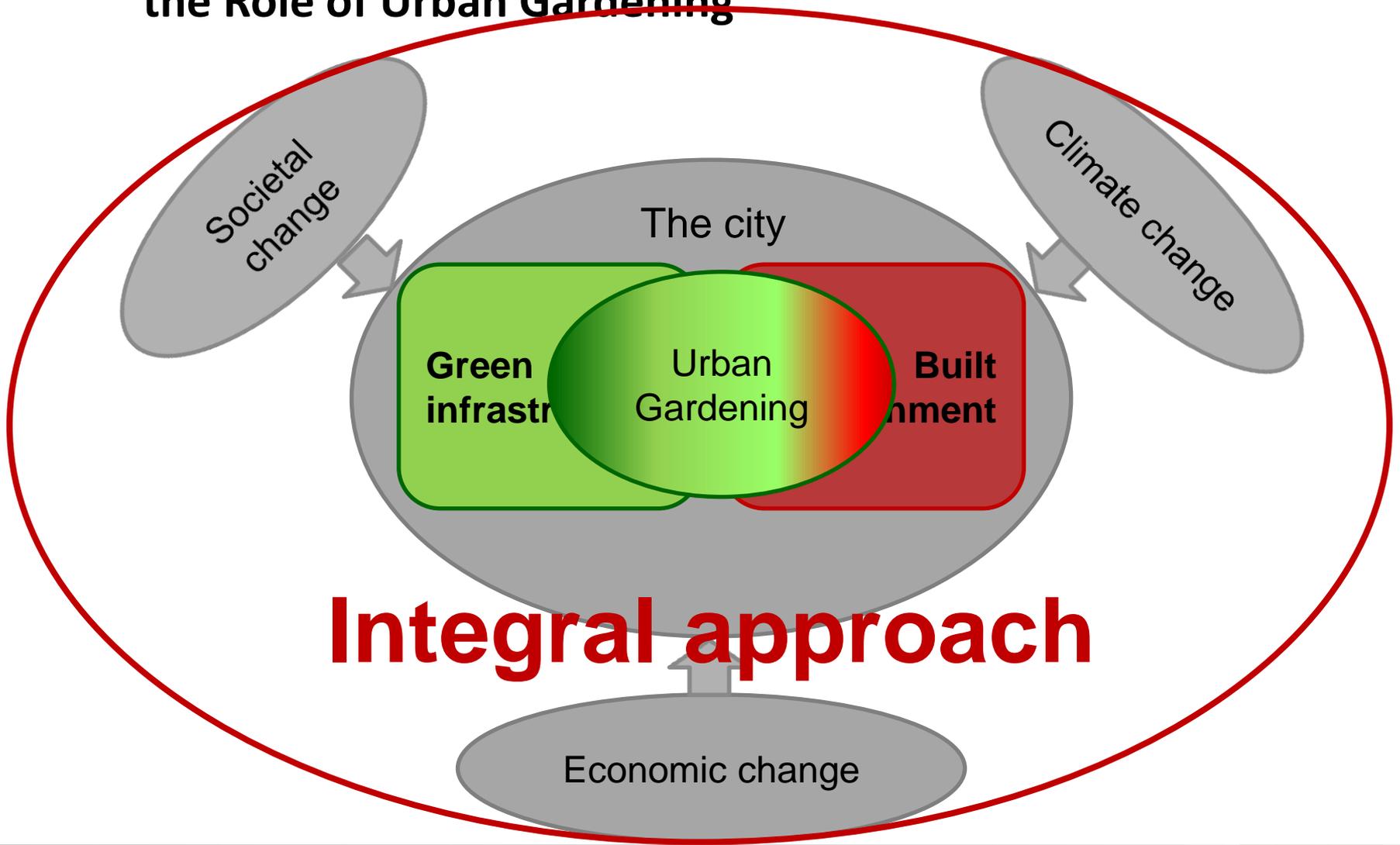
Urban Gardening between blocks of flats

- Small town 10 km NE of Paris
- Deprived neighbourhood with extremely bad image
- Creation of allotments as means for requalification
- Cooperation of housing association and French allotments federation
- 52 allotment plots of 30 m²
- Semipublic paths useable for neighbours
- Place for interaction

Photos: Ville de Aulny

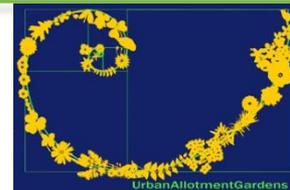


Future Trends and Challenges for European Cities and the Role of Urban Gardening



5. Summary and Conclusion

- **Facilities in the neighbourhood and access to green space** are important features for liveable cities and for staying active as aged persons
- The **ecological, economical and social benefits** of urban gardening have been described manifold
- **Especially in deprived neighbourhoods** urban gardening has the potential to improve local climate, enrich habitat, help to transform abandoned sites and support local identity, but long-term effects need further research.
- Public authorities should recognize which **important impact** the integration of urban gardening – besides other facilities - in the urban neighbourhood – **can have for ageing in place.**





Andernach, Germany;
photo: Runrid Fox

Thank You For Your Attention