In Bologna, the state of play of metropolitan Agriculture in the Mediterranean area

The partners of MADRE met in Bologna to discuss the European project about urban and peri-urban agriculture which is seen as a driving force for the development of a sustainable, innovative and responsible economy.

With over 2,700 urban vegetable gardens, the first city in Italy for sheer number of them, and with the commitment undertaken during last June’s G7 Environment to double the urban green areas by 2030, Bologna needs to implement new models using urban and peri-urban agriculture as a pivot for polices not only of an economic nature, but also about environmental sustainability and welfare. These are the numbers presented by Giuseppe de Biasi, chief of cabinet for the Metropolitan City of Bologna, during the opening speech for the meeting of last 4th of July.

It is during this meeting that representatives for MADRE project, coming from the five concerned Countries, presented the results of their first researches and highlighted possible strong and weak points to the application of a concrete model of urban and peri-urban agriculture in each territory, so laying the foundation to identify best practices and shared work methodologies.

Stefano Spillare, local scientific responsible and researcher for Ces.Co.Com (Centro Studi sulla Comunicazione e i Consumi of Bologna University) presented the various initiatives active in our territory, many of which born from bottom-up projects and on a voluntary basis.

The Metropolitan City of Bologna also presented the graphic layout and the communication strategy that will be used to spread the information about MADRE project, both online and on the social media and via traditional ways.
At the end of the workshop, the visit to the Serre dei Giardini Margherita, to see a local best practice in action. In this space, situated inside the green lung of the city, the Kilowatt association brought to live, through the participation of many, a community garden, a hub of citizens united by the will to experiment an inclusive and sustainable model of urban agriculture and public green management, where the traditional competences integrate innovation, where ages and cultures contaminate each other to achieve a common project.

In the next months the partners are going to continue to work independently, waiting to meet again in autumn, for six thematic workshops about innovations for: farmers; consumers; academic research; territories, society and transnational cooperation. The goal of the meetings will be to redact a catalogue of best practices and concrete proposals, to increase awareness in the social actors about the advantages that the diffusion of urban and peri-urban agriculture can bring.

MADRE project

Started in February 2017, the project MADRE – Metropolitan Agriculture for Developing an innovative, sustainable and Responsible Economy, aims to promote metropolitan agriculture as a way to develop a sustainable, innovative and responsible economy. In the next months and until July 2018, the partners of the initiative will identify and activate policies and best practices useful to spread this kind of agriculture.

Co-funded by Interreg MED Programme and by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), project MADRE involves six big metropolitan areas – Bologna, Barcelona, Marseille, Montpellier, Thessaloniki and Tirana - of the Mediterranean area (France, Italy, Greece, Spain and Albania). The partners are: AViTeM - Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Cities and Territories, head of the project; ANIMA Investment Network; CHEAM-MAIM - International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies – Agronomic Institute of Montpellier; MedCities - Mediterranean Network for Urban Sustainable Development; Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; Agricultural University of Tirana.

In addition to those there is, as the only Italian reality, the Metropolitan City of Bologna, which on the last 4th of July hosted the MADRE project partners at Palazzo Malvezzi.

Metropolitan City of Bologna
Valeria Stacchini
MADRE Communication manager
valeria.stacchini@cittametropolitana.bo.it
tel. 051 659 9626

MADRE project Press Office
Absolut eventi&comunicazione
Mariagrazia Lioce – Sara Telaro
ufficiostampa@absolutgroup.it
tel. 051 272523