



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

### URBAN FOOD FORUM

# H4 Small and medium enterprises in urban food systems development

## Urban Food Forum: Panel discussion

**Date:** Wednesday, 10 May 2015

**Time:** 14:00-15:30

**Rooms:** S29-32

**Language:** English

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**Organized by:** RUAF Foundation, supported by the SUPURBFOOD Program

### OBJECTIVE

This session explored how small and medium enterprises (SMEs) active in the field of urban and peri-urban food provisioning contribute to the development of more sustainable city region food systems. This was illustrated by four different food SMEs – from Rotterdam (the Netherlands), Vigo (Spain), Bristol (United Kingdom) and Riga (Latvia) – who briefly explained their business approach and activities and reflected on their role in and contribution to sustainable food systems in their city region.

The session also reflected on future opportunities and threats for sustainable development of food SMEs in city regions.

Finally this session discussed which forms of public and civic support food SMEs are in need of for future development.

### OUTCOMES

Participants gained a better understanding of:

- The diversity of business models of SMEs involved in sustainable city region food provisioning;
- The opportunities and threats for sustainable business development; and
- The kind of public and civic support city region food SMEs are in need of to contribute to more sustainable city region food systems

### METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator opened the session with a short introduction of himself and each speaker. **(5 minutes)**
- Each speaker described the business model of his/her SME; explained which activities they undertake and how they aim to more sustainable city region food systems. The speakers also elaborated on future opportunities and threats for sustainable business development. **(4 x 10 minutes = 40 minutes)**



- Each speaker briefly reflected on the opportunities and threats mentioned by the other three speakers. **(10 minutes)**
- The facilitator introduced several policy recommendations, based upon results of the SUPURBFOOD project, about supporting food SMEs. The panellists will comment on these recommendations **(10 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers from the audience. **(20 minutes)**
- The facilitator concluded with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

### Guiding questions:

1. Which kind of business models for food SMEs in urbanised settings exist and have proven to work and be effective in contributing to sustainable city region food systems?
2. What kind of opportunities and threats do these food SMEs experience and / or expect?
3. What kind of public and/or civic support are these food SMEs in need of?

### CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Jan Willem van der Schans, Researcher, Agricultural Economics Institute Wageningen UR, The Netherlands*

Panellist *Huibert de Leede, Director Uit je Eigen Stad, Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Panellist *Manuel López, Teis Association of Commons, Vigo, Spain*

Panellist *Una Meiberga, Kalnciema Quarter, Riga, Latvia*

Panellist *Alison Belshaw, The Community Farm, Bristol, United Kingdom*

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### **Further recommended reading**

Documents of the SUPURBFOOD project:

<http://www.supurbfood.eu/>

The Urban Agriculture Magazine on City Region Food Systems and other topics :

<http://www.ruaf.org/publications/magazines>

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