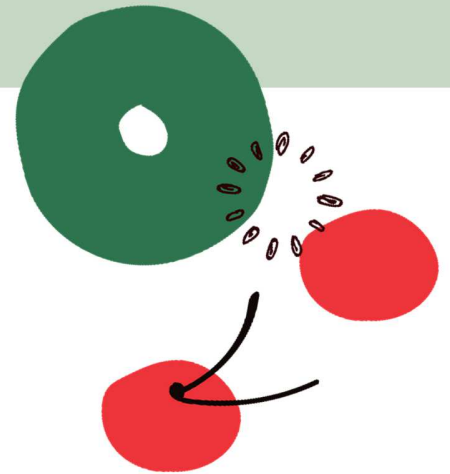


## F2F Web#1 FAL OSTEND

### Citizens' involvement

#### Main objective of the initiative

The Gardens of Stene becomes a dynamic agricultural park for citizens and visitors of Ostend, bringing people closer to locally grown food (vegetables, fruit, meat), celebrate sustainable food systems and provide an outdoors space for recreation and education.



STADSDIALOG

## TUINEN VAN STENE

Ben je zelf bezig met voedsel voor de stad?  
Speel je met ideeën om een stadslandbouwinitiatief op te starten?  
Heb je interesse in het thema?

Tedereen van harte welkom  
Deelname gratis

- 19.00 uur Verwelkoming schepen Vandecasteele
- 19.15 uur Inspirerende stadslandbouwvoorbeelden door Jan Willem van der Schans
- 20.00 uur Pilotprojecten Productief Landschap door Elke Vorenspelen
- 20.15 uur – Pauze
- 20.25 uur Voedsel voor Oostende en de Tuinen van Stene ontwerpteam Maat-Ontwerpers & Technum
- 20.45 uur Stadslandbouw in Oostende door Guido Vandenbrauke (Eigen Kweek vzw)
- 21.00 uur Receptie en netwerkmoment







WOENSDAG  
2 MAART 2016  
om 19.00 uur

VRUJSTAAT O.  
(Zeedijk 10)






© 2016 Stad Oostende, in samenwerking met de Vlaamse Gemeenschap voor Landbouw, Natuur en Milieu



## Levels of citizen's involvement

- Citizen dialogues (4) during the planning phase of the garden: informing- consulting – collaborating – empowering
- Community supported agriculture (CSA – membership based system, where member pay an annual fee in return for fresh organic vegetables all year): collaborating – the member are actively involved in the farming activities (voluntary), there is a yearly evaluation, member can give input in the type of vegetables which are grown and can participate in activities (cooking, preserving, etc).



## Starting point of the citizens' involvement

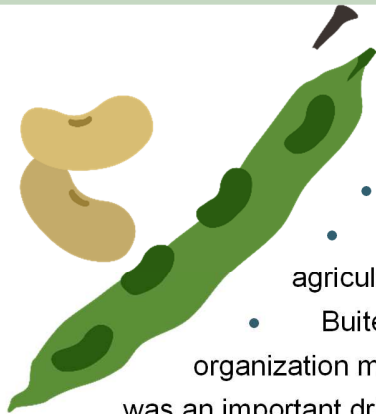
4 city dialogues: inspiration, discussion, discussing plans, presenting the plans.

Invited: citizens (focus on Stene), owners, users, farmers.

- Farmers: sceptic, still today
- Users: interested, want to be actively involved
- Owners: some changed over the years

## Economic rationale

- Public funding for the rent of the land and for investments in infrastructure, CSA membership for veg & eggs (+ a lot of volunteering hours), selling meat.
- New concepts: fruit & flowers, guided tours, workshops (tourists, education), food related events.
- Collaboration with other farmers/organizations (ex VELT = organization managing the allotment gardens).



## Challenges at the beginning: getting human and technical resources

- Going from concept to concrete plan
- Involving the owners of the land in the perimeter of the agricultural park, the farmers in the city and the users of the land.
- Buitengoed Oostende vzw (the organization managing the Gardens of Stene) was an important driver.

## Current challenges: Income

- Develop new collaborations (making each other stronger).
- Make the Gardens a lively space for food related activities, involving citizens and visitors.



## Key-points relevant for my LAB Lessons learnt

### Good practices: City dialogues powerful to:

- Raise awareness on new developments (wide communication needed!) and create dialogue (pro & con)
- Inspire people & create a positive vibe
- Start with thinking out of the box
- Involve politicians – owners – users
- Don't stop with one moment, but come back with changed plans and communicate the final plans.

### Mistakes and Bottlenecks Hard to link with every stakeholders who are needed for long term success



## Q&A - Solutions designs

Great opportunity for "new farmers" and employment, to collaborate with the city if the city buys land itself, and contract "new farmers"

- If the city owns land, and want to recruit new farmers, there is as well a challenge to select the "right one"
- Other cities have same experience: we could share the call for recruiting and selection process

The Non-Profit organization (NPO) is in charge and this may hinder a bit the involvement of third parties like farmers around

- Direct involvement of farmers may be a difficult way to manage from the part of City Council
- Coordination of the Edible Garden - City Council + 1 non-profit organization in charge of management (contract with City Council)

Private farmers, even involved in CSA are not keen when city authorities are involved in farming activities - The NPO wants to have everything organic, and there is only 1 organic farmer in the city

- Teach at school is mostly led by the vision of autonomous farmer: there is a need to change that
- 1 dairy farmer turned organic will work closer to Edible Garden

SAFER and Terre de Liens in France seem to have other solutions, that could be interesting to investigate

In Greece, the farmers are skeptical about the time/duration of the collaboration with the city, and the cities have no land to farm

### **Participatory budgeting to make local food strategy more citizen-driven. How?**

- Citizens can turn in projects related to strategic or operational goals.
- Citizens can vote for which project should be implemented
- Citizens can allocate predefined municipal budget to projects
- Participatory Budgeting: necessary to predefine themes under which actions can be developed and predefine budget that can be allocated to these different actions.

