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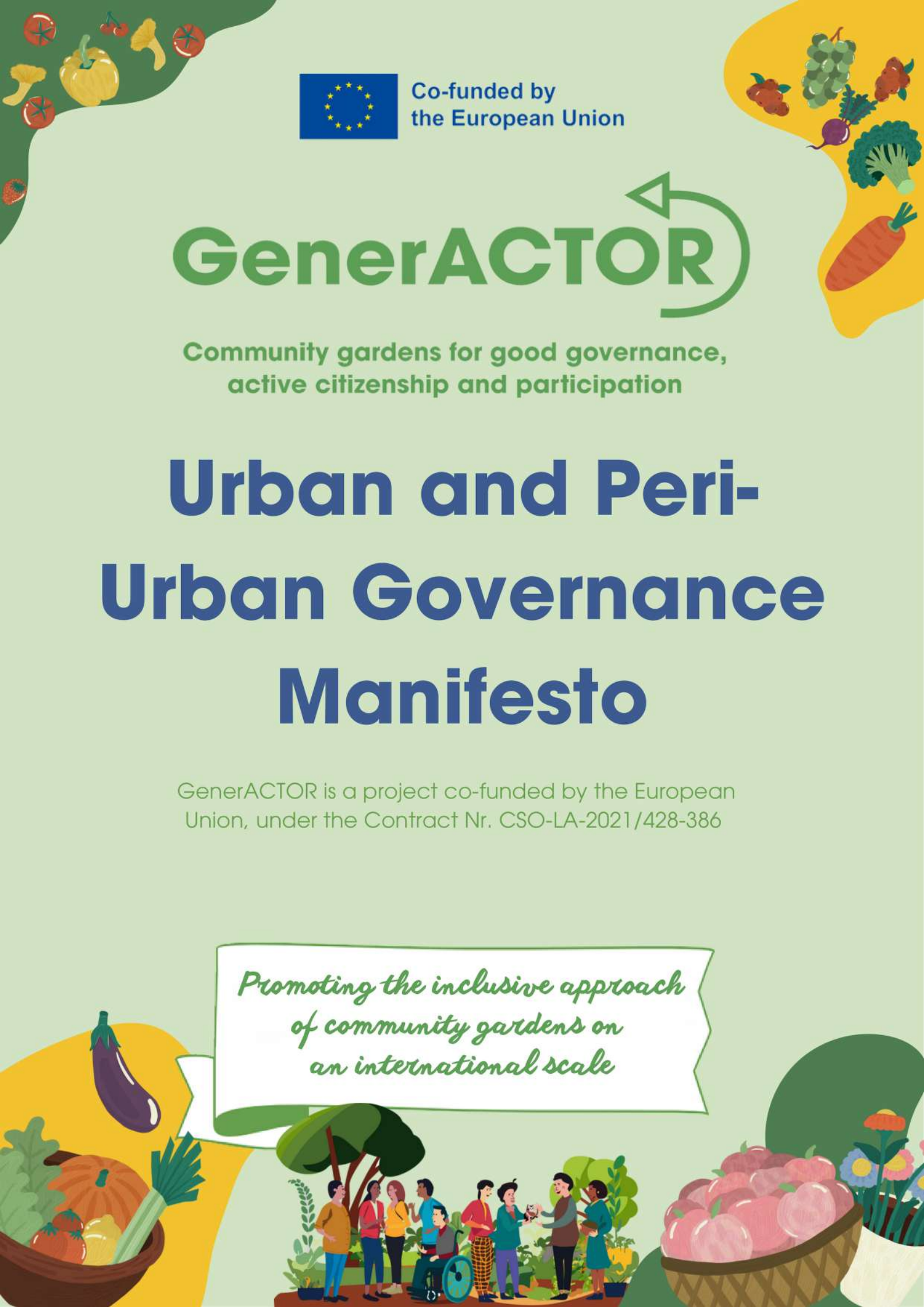
GenerACTOR

Community gardens for good governance,
active citizenship and participation

Urban and Peri-Urban Governance Manifesto

GenerACTOR is a project co-funded by the European Union, under the Contract Nr. CSO-LA-2021/428-386

Promoting the inclusive approach of community gardens on an international scale



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Community gardens for good governance, active citizenship and participation

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Project website	www.generactor.info
Project Summary	The GenerACTOR project foresees an accompanying path up to the creation of 4 urban community gardens in the city of Barranquilla (Colombia) as a tool for good governance, active citizenship and participation, with a cross-cutting component of training and capacity building processes aimed at gardeners, trainers, educators, schools and public officials.
Delivery date	This Manifesto has been first released in January, 2024 under the project activity "WP3 - A3.1.2"

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Partners: Alcaldía de Barranquilla, Siembra+, Risorse per Roma, Relay Network

Lead Partner: ANCI Lazio

Associated partners: Fundación DEMUCA, Gobernación del Atlántico, Venezolanos, Vivere In...

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1. PREAMBLE

Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA) plays a fundamental role in food security, access to healthy and sustainable foods and promoting community resilience, both locally in Latin American cities and globally. This **Manifesto** represents a commitment to promote equitable, sustainable and participatory **governance** of urban and peri-urban agriculture in Latin America and world-wide. Its implementation requires the **collaboration** of local governments, non-governmental organizations, universities, practitioners, and citizens.

Together, we can build a future where urban agriculture and community gardens are a key resource to respond to the new challenges of the Green Deal and social cohesion.

We **invite** all organizations, municipalities and policy makers, institutions, universities, and citizens committed to the **promotion of urban and peri-urban agriculture**, as well as the construction of sustainable and connected communities, **to join this initiative.**

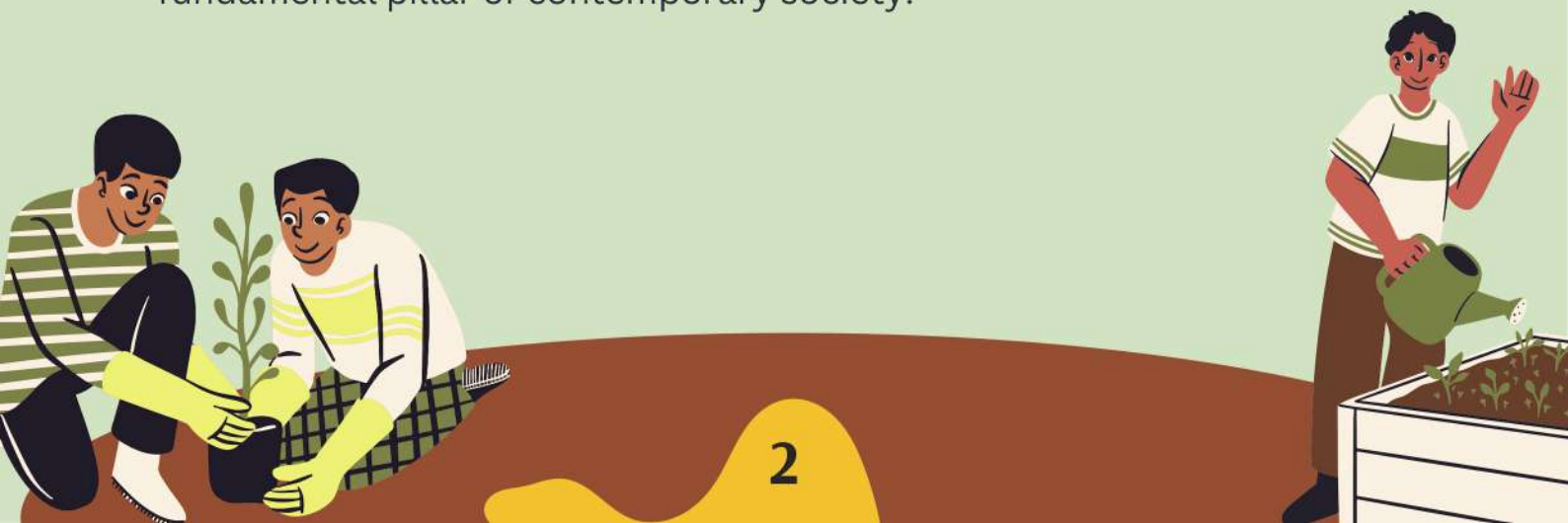
The **Manifesto** is born under the **GenerACTOR project** *(Funded by the European Union, Contract N. CSO-LA-2021/428-386)* and **it integrates its core activities and best practices focused on**: 1. Capacity building ; 2. The GARDENISER professional figure; 3. Multi-Governance & Regulation of Urban Community Gardens in Productive Parks in the city of Barranquilla.

The **Consortium of GenerACTOR** involves *ANCI Lazio* as the **Lead Partner.** The **members** are the *Alcaldia de Barranquilla*, *Siembra Barranquilla*, *Risorse per Roma*, *Replay Network APS*. **Associated Partners** are DEMUCA Foundation, Departamento del Atlántico, Asociación Civil Venezolanos de Barranquilla, and the Social Promotion Association “Vivere in...”.
As first signatories of the **Manifesto**, the **Consortium of GenerACTOR** is on the front of ensuring the **continuous support** to the document over time to promote diffusion and effectiveness.

Together, let's create a meaningful change and lay the foundations for communities that are green, inclusive, and resilient.

1.1. WHAT ARE WE AIMING FOR?

The **Manifesto for UPA Governance** aims to **promote policies, incentives and financing** that support urban and peri-urban community agriculture and **promote a shared understanding** of what UPA is.
We encourage **the exchange of good practices and the implementation of projects** at a local and international level. The **Expression of Interest in this Manifesto** represents a **tangible commitment** to more effective and sustainable governance of community gardens globally.
Urban and peri-urban agriculture is crucial for ensuring food security, promoting access to healthy and sustainable food, and enhancing community resilience in Latin American cities and globally. This **Manifesto** outlines **7 fundamental principles** for governing this vital practice.
The **'Manifesto for Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Governance'** presents a significant opportunity to **advocate** for **sustainable and inclusive urban agricultural practices,** including **Urban Community Gardens,** with a **focus on Colombia and Latin America.** The initiative aims to extend its influence **globally**, embracing universally recognized values like **sustainability, food security, sovereignty, participation, resilience, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing**. Its application can positively impact international communities by fostering **sustainability, resilience, and better management of agricultural resources in urban and peri-urban areas.** Through **collaboration** with local governments, non-governmental organizations, and communities, the **Manifesto** seeks to transform cities into accessible hubs for urban agriculture, contributing to local economies and promoting environmental and social resilience. This **shared commitment** represents a vision for a better future, where **Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture as a Commons** stands as a fundamental pillar of contemporary society.



2. THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF THE MANIFESTO FOR UPA GOVERNANCE

*The Manifesto on UPA Governance is made of **seven principles** and related **concrete actions.***

PRINCIPLE 1 - UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Access to urban and peri-urban agriculture must be **universal** and **inclusive**, without discrimination based on gender, social class and diversity linked to cultural, religious and linguistic factors. Furthermore, **urban agriculture** is postulated as a fundamental tool to promote **social integration**, being especially relevant in communities with a significant presence of **migrants**. An inclusive approach not only contributes to **overcoming physical, cultural and linguistic barriers**, but also serves as a valuable tool for **intergenerational integration**. Involving people of **all ages**, from young to old. UPA not only promotes the exchange of knowledge relating to agriculture, but also contributes to building stronger and more cohesive **communities**, where the wisdom of **elders** is intertwined with the energy and the innovative spirit of the **youngest**.

Actions proposed:

➥ **Promote food education** through urban and peri-urban community gardens and in educational institutes at all levels, from primary to university education, **actively involving students** in understanding sustainable agricultural practices, to raise **awareness** about the importance of urban agriculture and the contribution of community gardens to sustainable and regenerative development.

➥ **Promote the creation of shared green spaces and urban and peri-urban community gardens**, whenever possible, **in all neighborhoods.**

THE MANIFESTO FOR UPA GOVERNANCE

PRINCIPLE 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION

Urban agriculture must be **sustainable**, promoting environmentally friendly agricultural practices, biodiversity and reducing the use of pesticides and the consumption of natural resources, with a particular focus on **soil regeneration.**

Actions proposed:

➥ **Support** the use of **sustainable and agroecological agricultural techniques**, the introduction of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), organic farming practices and the responsible use of water to contribute to soil regeneration covering both publicly owned soil inventories and soils/ abandoned plots.

➥ **Promote** local food production to **reduce the ecological footprint** of transport and, at the same time, through composting practices and community participation, actively contribute to **soil regeneration**, as well as **safeguarding biodiversity,** supporting recovery and maintenance of **local ancestral cultures**.

THE MANIFESTO FOR UPA GOVERNANCE

PRINCIPLE 3: COMMUNITY PARTECIPATION AND CO-CREATION

Cities can play a vital role in **guiding** citizens towards a more **sustainable** world. The **governance** of urban and peri-urban agriculture is essential to actively **involve** local communities in the planning and implementation of agricultural policies, while ensuring **participation** in the public good. This governance should be geared towards actively supporting urban agriculture initiatives, promoting **participatory** and **inclusive** management. Where applicable, ensure the r**epresentation and active participation of indigenous communities** in decision-making processes related to urban and peri-urban agriculture initiatives to incorporate **culturally sensitive agricultural practices**, recognizing and preserving **the heritage of indigenous traditional agricultural knowledge,** fostering a rich exchange of expertise.

Actions proposed:

➥ **Create participatory governance processes** dedicated to the legislative framework of urban community gardens and their development, involving all stakeholders: consultations can be inspired by the **URBACT methodology** (European URBACT Programme), creating local active participation groups to ensure participation in the good public and promote supportive governance. In addition, the active inclusion of young people, recognized as leaders of change, and older people who are usually involved in urban and peri-urban gardens, is encouraged. These generations can play a key role as volunteers, offering valuable services to the user community and strengthening the intergenerational connection, thus highlighting key concepts such as active aging, youth and the generational mix.

➥ **Promote community training processes**, providing technical support to communities in developing and managing urban agriculture projects.This includes participatory digital tools and processes that encourage shared administration of the public good and actively contribute to supportive governance by the public administration in citizens urban and peri-urban agricultural initiatives.

THE MANIFESTO FOR UPA GOVERNANCE

PRINCIPLE 4: ACCESS TO RESOURCES

The **resources** needed for urban agriculture, such as soil, water, and seeds, must be **accessible** to local communities, while upholding the principle of **food sovereignty**. Municipal governments can promote **regulations** to support the growth of urban and peri-urban agriculture in their communities, with a particular emphasis on **reclaiming public lands for agricultural purposes**.

Actions proposed:

➥ **Promote laws and regulations** for urban agriculture that guarantee the rights of communities to **access land** suitable for urban agriculture in support of the **common good**, promoting the **food sovereignty** of the communities themselves and including specific initiatives for the **recovery** of public lands.

➥ **Create support programs** for the creation of seed banks and the purchase of low-cost equipment, with a focus on the recovery of public lands for urban agriculture initiatives, thus contributing to the **diversification** of agricultural resources and the promotion of **food sovereignty**, through **shared administration models** of said public spaces.

➥ **Promote public-private collaboration agreements** that allow the **transfer of resources**, **equipment and technical knowledge** to urban agriculture projects, thus **strengthening the capacity** of these initiatives to operate in a sustainable and effective manner.

THE MANIFESTO FOR UPA GOVERNANCE

PRINCIPLE 5: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Urban agriculture must be a key element of the **community resilience** strategy to **mitigate** food and environmental **crises**, thus helping to build **more resilient and sustainable communities.**

Actions proposed:

➥ **Develop food contingency plans** that include urban agriculture as a key resource, ensuring **continuity** of food supply during **emergency** situations.

➥ **Promote crop diversification** to increase **disaster resistance**, ensuring greater **stability** and **adaptability** of the urban and peri-urban agricultural system.

THE MANIFESTO FOR UPA GOVERNANCE

PRINCIPLE 6: LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

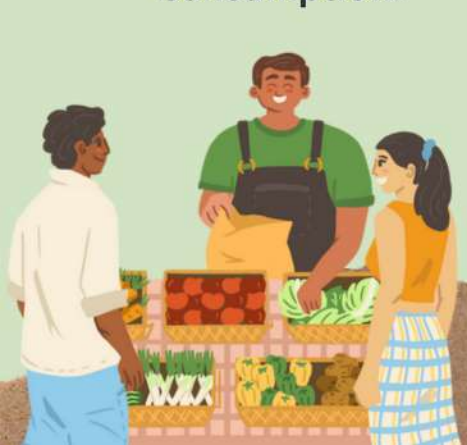
Urban agriculture can contribute to the **local economy**, creating job opportunities and promoting initiatives to enhance local products and the livelihood of community urban gardens through socialization activities and initiatives as well as through the promotion of cooperative business models. This contributes to the building of a **resilient** and **sustainable community**.

Actions proposed:

➥ **Provide tax incentives** or **funds** for local farmers, urban community gardens, and cooperative businesses that manage community gardens. In line with the "**Farm to Fork" vision of the European Union Green Deal**, these incentives seek to strengthen local agricultural practices and promote food sustainability in communities.

➥ **Promote the use of urban gardens as catalysts for entrepreneurship** through agreements and didactic lines of professional training. This would include the **creation of educational tools** that foster the understanding of urban agriculture as an activity supported by training programs that provide **business skills** necessary for success in this sector.

➥ **Support local markets and short circuits** to encourage the **sale** of urban agricultural products from local cooperative companies, thus **strengthening the economic and social sustainability** of urban and peri-urban agricultural initiatives. This action, in line with the principles of the Green Deal, seeks to **reduce dependence on long-distance supply chains,** promoting **more sustainable and local production as well as consumption.**



THE MANIFESTO FOR UPA GOVERNANCE

PRINCIPLE 7: KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The **sharing of knowledge and good practices** between urban and peri-urban gardens and urban farming communities is crucial for success, innovation and practices to foster the growth of urban agriculture.

Actions proposed:

➥ **Organize** conferences, workshops and networks for the **exchange** of experiences between urban farmers.
➥ **Create online platforms** to share resources and information such as the ***Gardeniser.co*** platform which enhances the professional figure of "Gardeniser" as a facilitator for the creation of community urban gardens. These platforms not only facilitate the dissemination of information and resources, but also **promote collaboration** among the various key actors that can make the establishment of new urban agriculture projects possible.
➥ **Support urban gardens as places of knowledge and dissemination of agroecological practices** and as an essential pillar of urban planning and community resilience.

3. Interested in finding out more?

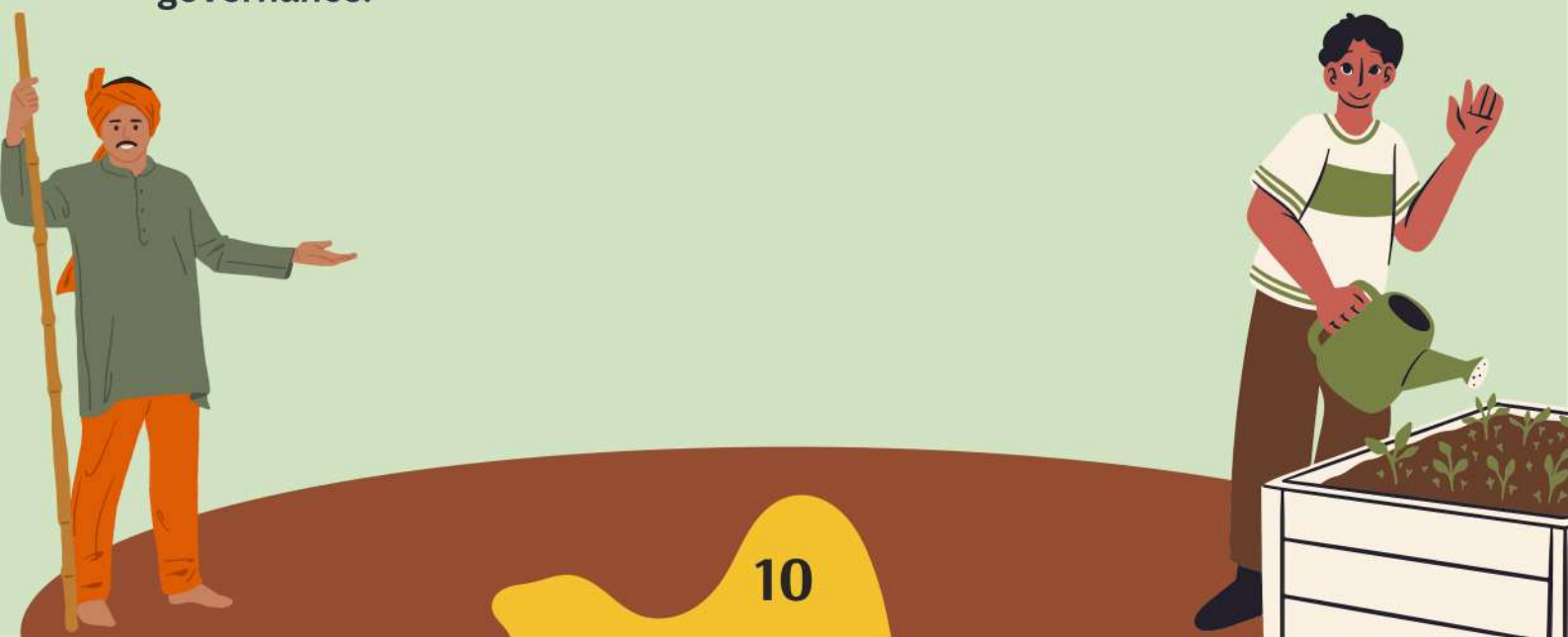
The **Manifesto for the Governance of Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture** stands as an essential document within **GenerACTOR**, a project co-funded by the European Union (Contract N. CSO-LA-2021/428-386) taking place from *January 2022 to December 2024*.

GenerACTOR's core objective is to **promote sustainable urban development through community urban agriculture**, aligning with the Global Green Deal's aims and fostering social and economic inclusion. The project's focal points are **multi-governance and co-innovation:** by addressing the amplified challenges of poverty and food insecurity post-COVID, the initiative prioritizes **social inclusion for vulnerable groups** in pilot areas of Barranquilla, Colombia.

Aiming to enhance the city's **resilience** and **environmental sustainability**, the project will implement **four new pilot areas** of community gardening. The scope also extends to **promoting** circular economy practices, **encouraging** community engagement, and **facilitating** digital solutions for improved interaction between local authorities and communities.

Targeting local government representatives, community associations, and international organizations, the project seeks to benefit approximately **30,000 individuals in vulnerable communities**, including migrants, women, youth, children, local authorities, professionals, and indirectly, the entirety of Barranquilla's residents.

The **Manifesto** aims to influence regional and national action and enable local authorities to play an **active role** in the promotion of a **shared governance.**



4. THANK YOU FOR READING!

The Manifesto for Urban and Periurban Agriculture Governance: an ever-improving document, enriched through the ongoing contributions and experiences of its participants and community garden experts.

Understanding **community urban agriculture** as a '**Commons**', one significant aim of GenerACTOR is to **empower** communities. In the spirit of **open collaboration and co-creation of GenerACTOR,** this Manifesto is intended as a **living document that welcomes and values the perspectives** of different stakeholders. As part of our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and continual improvement, **we warmly welcome your feedback on this Manifesto.**

All inputs received will be thoughtfully considered and synthesized into a **finalised** version scheduled for release in the **Fall of 2024**.

Feel free to reach out to us through any of our channels::

WEBSITE:
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Join the Manifesto at : www.generactor.info

5.ANNEXES

7 UPA GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

START

1
UNIVERSAL ACCESS

2
ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION

3
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CO-CREATION

4
ACCESS TO RESOURCES

5
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

7
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

6
LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

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7 UPA GOVERNANCE PROPOSED ACTIONS

START

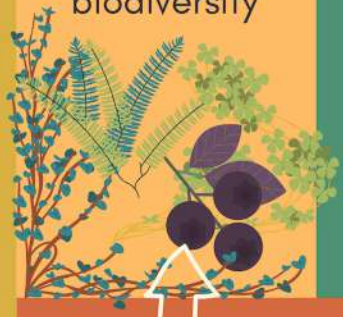
1 Encourage food literacy through community gardens in urban and peri-urban areas.

2 Promote sustainable and agroecological farming methods

3 Create participatory governance process

4 Support legislation for Urban Agriculture, ensuring community access to suitable land for the common good.

5 Encourage agricultural biodiversity



6 Use of urban gardens as catalysts for entrepreneurship

7 Exchange experiences between urban farmers.

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