

Allotment garden development and spatial planning in Latvia's cities

**Urban
Allotment
Gardens in
European
Cities –
Future,
Challenges
and
Lessons
Learned**

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

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COST project partners

32 participating countries



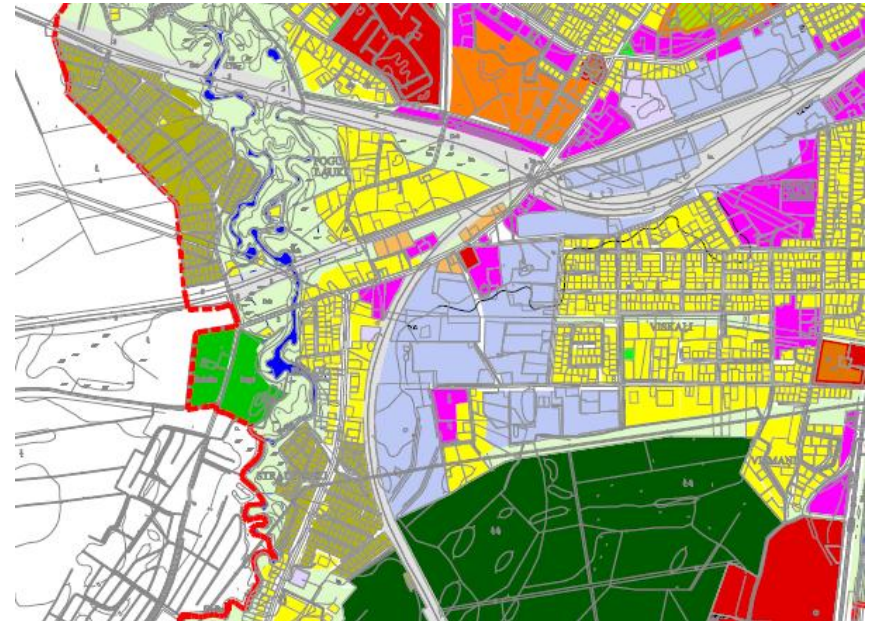
- Research of allotments regarding:
1. Policy and urban development
 2. Sociology
 3. Ecology
 4. Urban design

Plan

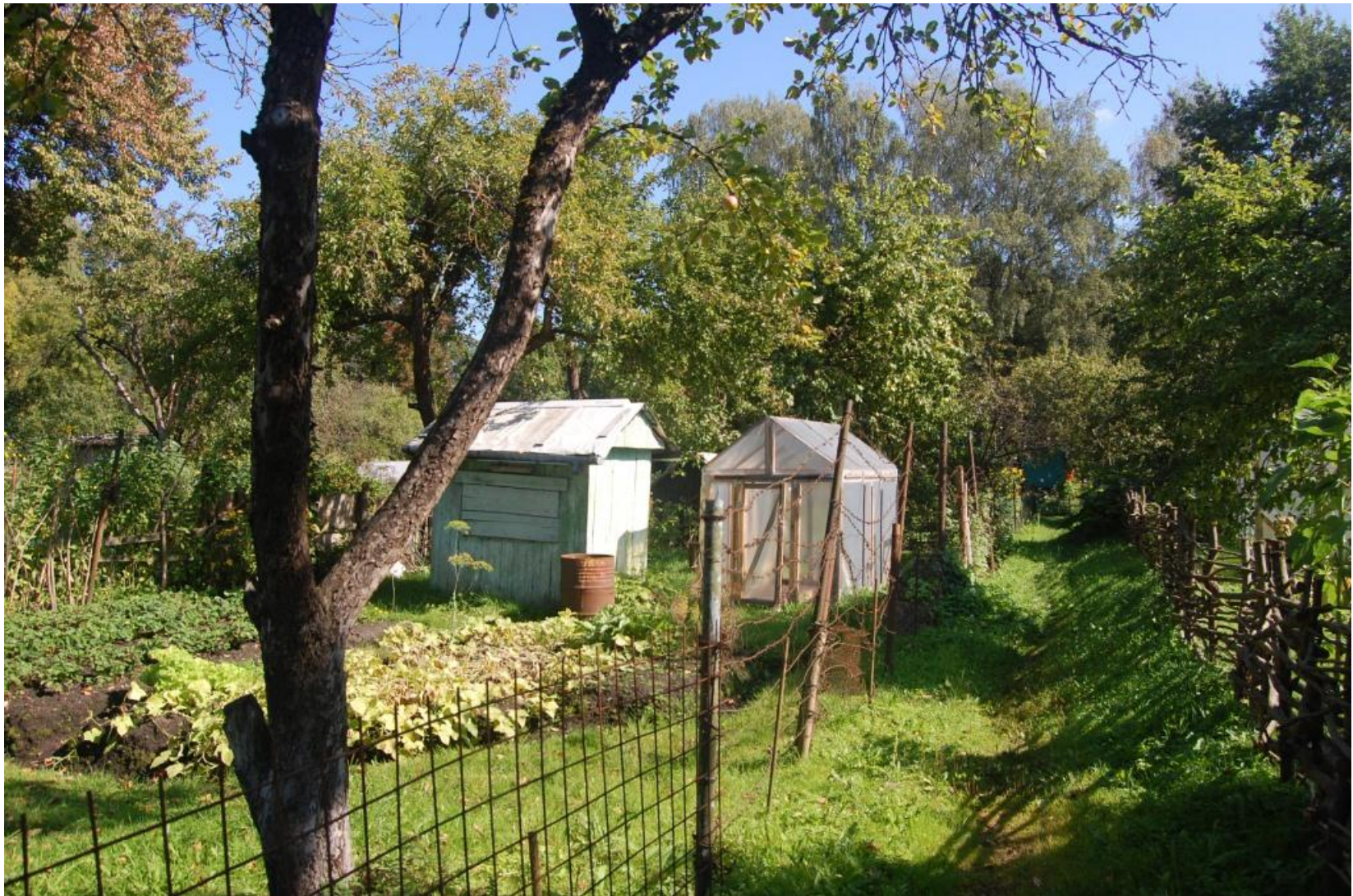
Human side



Spatial planning
perspective



Allotments = family gardens, small gardens



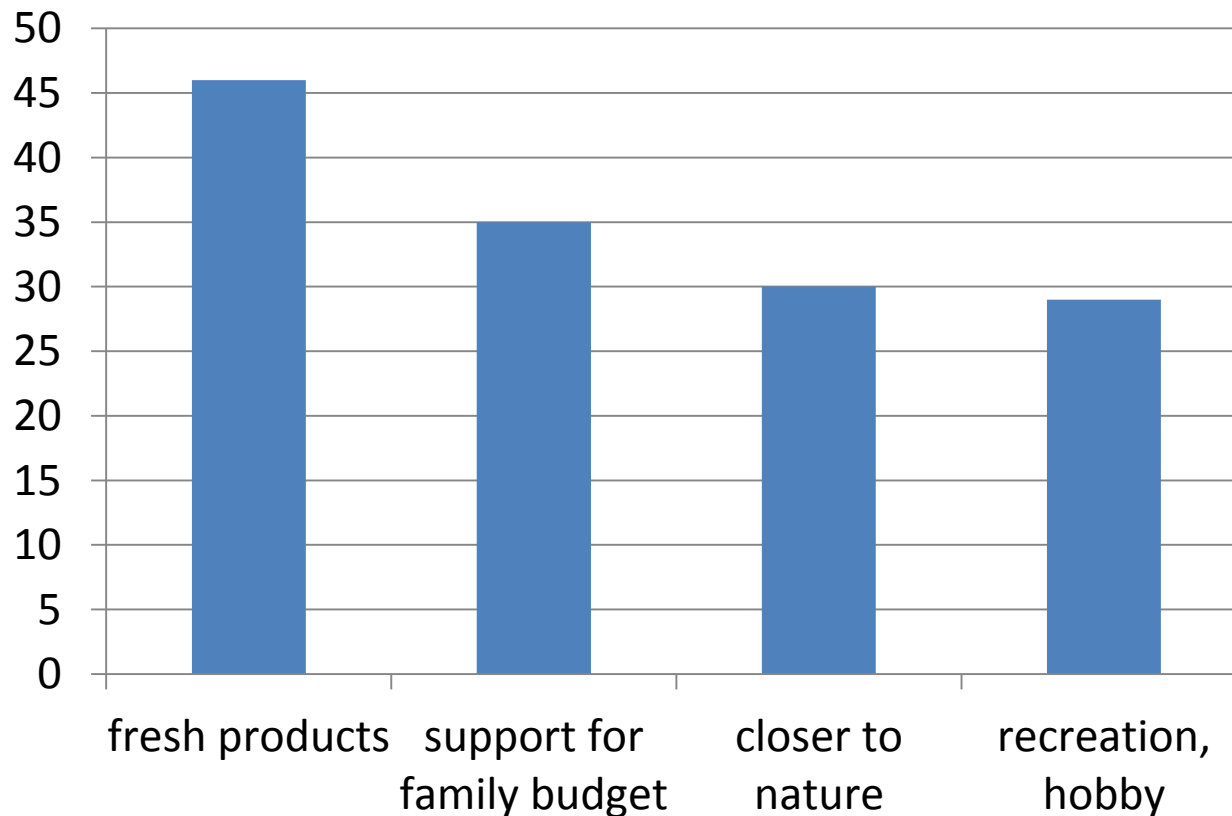
Historically and still actual – family garden; next to home
For resilience as «safety pillow», especially for individuals



Insight in Cēsis allotments

- 51 AG users surveyed

Why they use allotment garden?



Cēsis (cont.)

- **40 of 51 are in the garden daily**
- All respondents are preparing their products for winter

Planning perspective:

- Half of them aren't ready to start gardening in new place because of the age or because of lack of allotments in walking distance
- Only a bit more than half of them are ready to move to other allotment, if long-term lease guaranteed

Cēsis (cont.)



Respondents:
Age group 41-65
or over 65;
Living in flats
mainly in
multistory houses
Low income

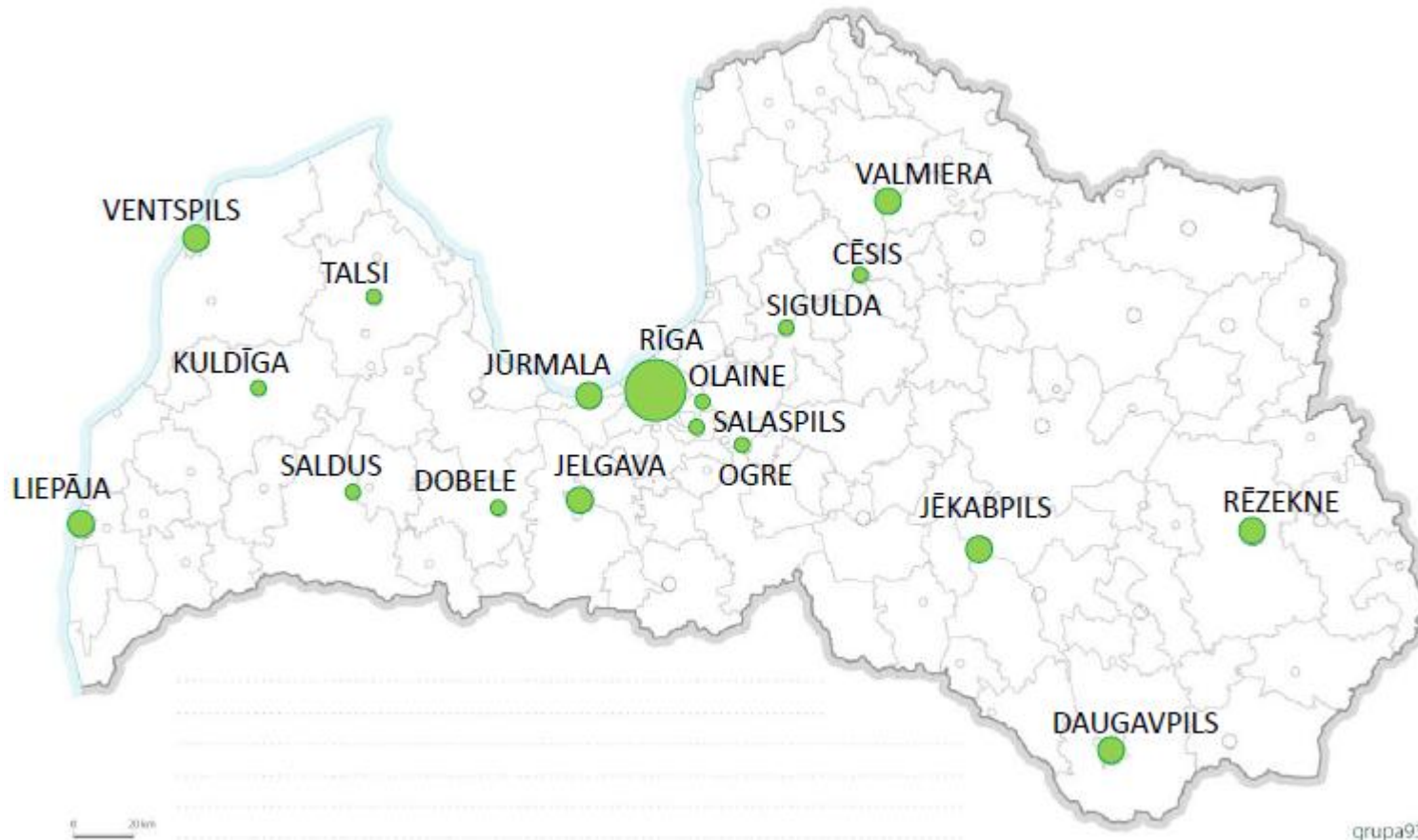
Needs of allotment users

- **Allotment garden friendly policy**
- Long-term land-use zoning
- Minimum of infrastructure provided by municipality, e.g. water, fence, toilet, shed for tools
- Walking distance from home (or good access by public transportation)
- Reasonable rental fee (?)

Allotments = family gardens, small gardens



Spatial policy regarding allotments in 17 cities (>10 000 inh.) of Latvia

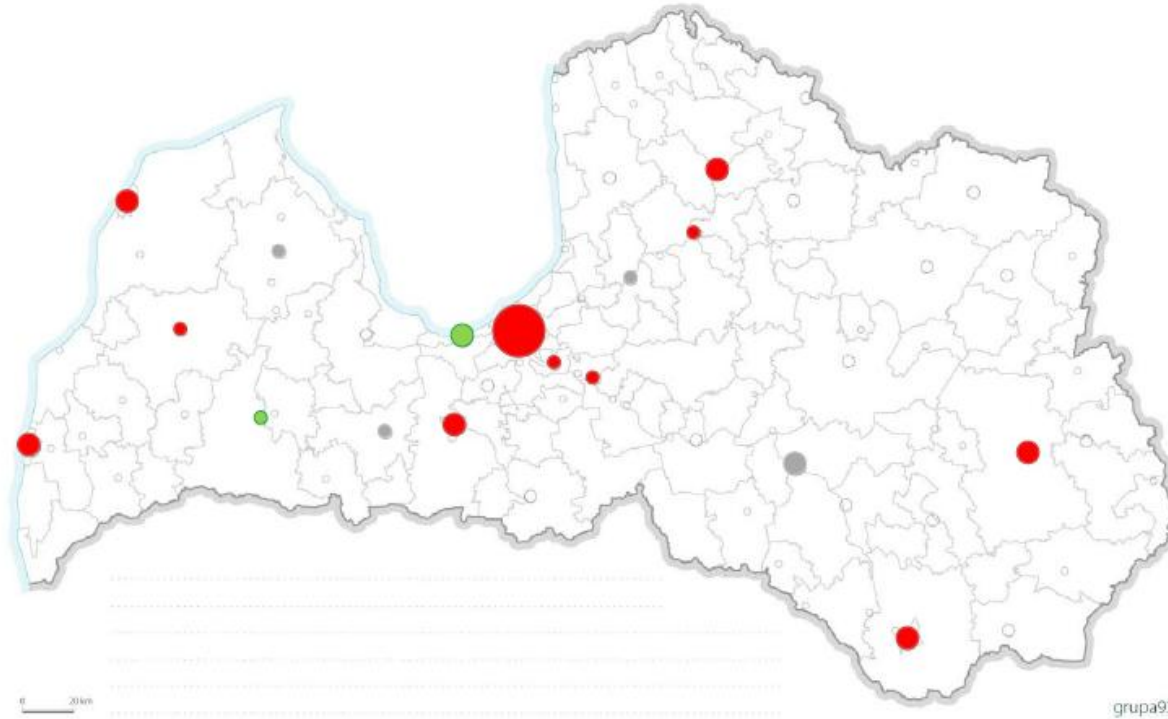


From interviews with planners: (13 cities)

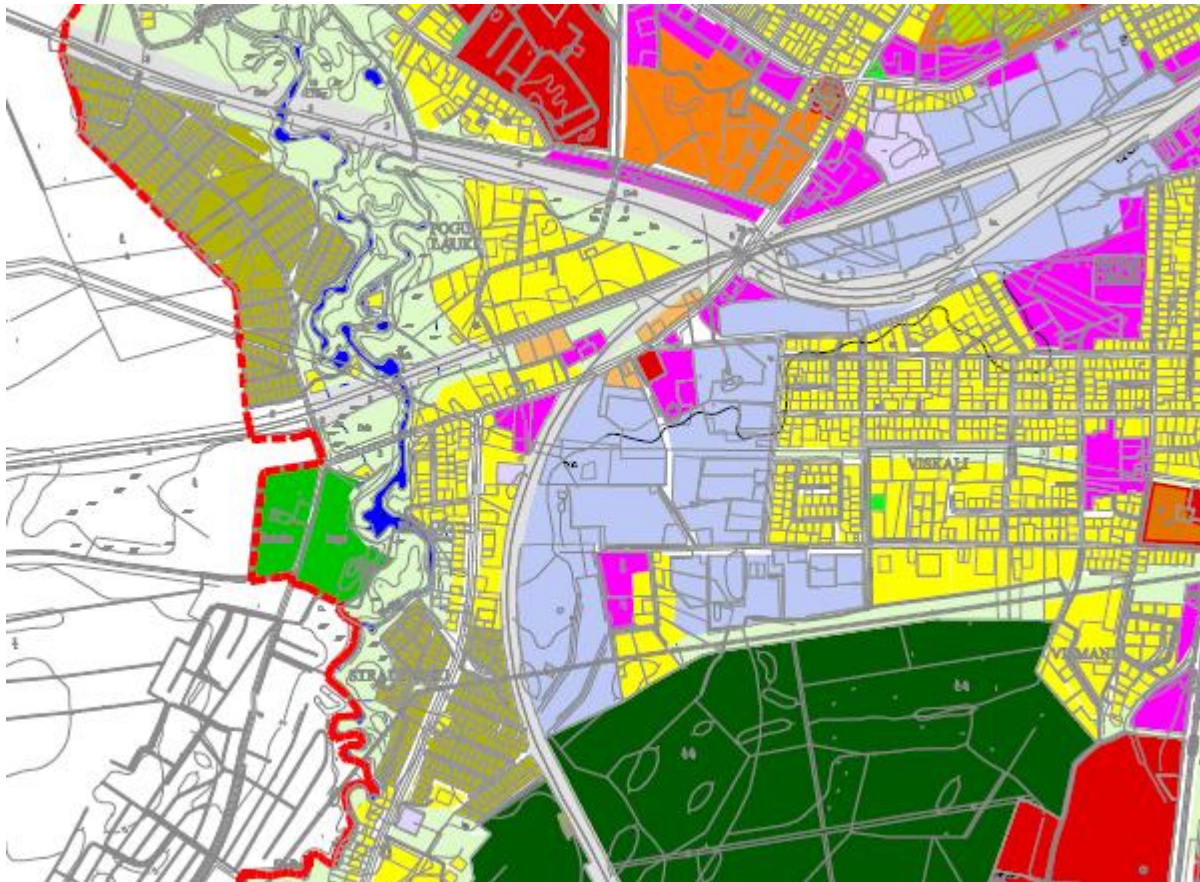
'PLANNING TO:

- EXTEND
- SHRINK
- N/A

What is planned regarding allotment territories?



Spatial development plans (17 cities)

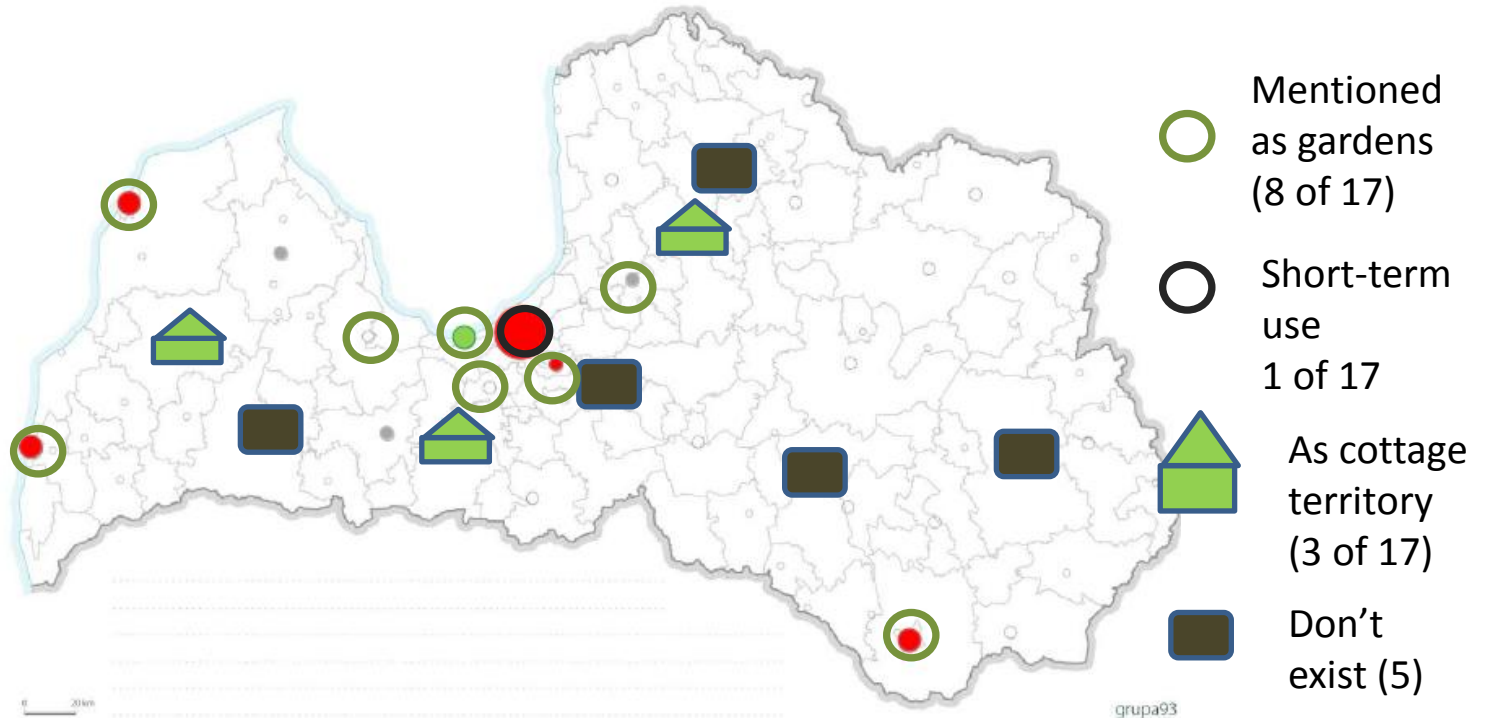


From interviews with planners: (13 cities)

'PLANNING TO:

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What is planned regarding allotment territories?



From spatial plans: (17 cities)

Allowed functions in plans in all territories: no gardens or greenspace as main use



When two sides meet:

- Community approach is used by city in top-down manner
- Community of gardeners is not taken seriously



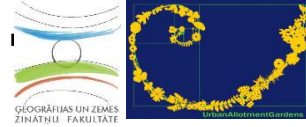
Birmingham: horticulture teraphy



conclusions

- (greenspace preservation conflict with neoliberal approach that cities must earn money)
- The green light in plans is often for building in green spaces
- Plans are not protecting the needs of part of inhabitants
- the rezoning of allotments deprive inhabitants who already have not so qualitative living conditions
- Imbalance of priorities for spatial development regarding building and greenspace

Is there a universal solution environmental and spatial challenges?



- Do we need universal solution?
- How to keep human aspect in planning theories, instruments, techniques etc?
- what can come instead of land use?

Thank you for your attention!

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