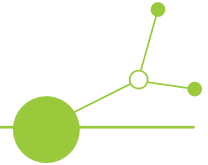


D.1.4.3.

Ljubljana Action Plan (LAP)



Version 1
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1. Introduction

This document provides how City of Ljubljana developed the general UFSLU (Urban Farming-based Sustainable Land Use) model into the city-specific Action Plan, the Ljubljana Action Plan (LAP).

A strategic and collaborative approach within sustainable principles has been performed to understand the unique challenges and opportunities the city faces to ensure that the LAP truly reflects the needs and aspiration of the community.

LAP was created as a group effort that involved city officials, partners from DOVES, local schools and experts in gardening, as well as NGO's and cooperation's that contributed to development of the programme during the duration of CoFarm4Cities project.

The LAP vision produces framework and guidance for further activities and guidelines for actionable policies, according to existing programmes and policies, maximizing the synergies for effective development of rural areas in the city and urban farming in general.

The implementation phase focus is on spread of the model to other similar stakeholders and enables city to upgrade its programmes of rural development and food self-sufficiency to all existing schools and kindergartens in the city and to become a part of horizontal approach to food topics in the city. The monitoring phase ensures to update the plan, incorporating feedback, assessing performance and adaptation to changing circumstances.

This document also assists in the adaptation of the main output of the Interreg CoFarm4Cities project, the Urban Farm-based Sustainable Land Use Model (hereinafter referred to as the UFSLU model) and the Ljubljana Mini Urban Educational Farm Scenario (D.1.3.3.).

Content of LAP was incorporated in to the Ljubljana 2045 Vision.

2. Ljubljana Action Plan (LAP): vision, implementation and monitoring

2.1. LAP vision

LAP is a result of collaborative work of Section for Rural development (City of Ljubljana, Department of Environmental Protection) and DOVES.

It is a technical tool necessary for drafting tender specifications for the development of activities within urban farming in the city and creation of educational programmes for children and adults on the field of food production and food self-sufficiency.



LAP is in depth definition of some activities already described in of Strategy for Rural development and urban farming in City of Ljubljana for programming period 2021-2027 and Ljubljana Vision 2045, regarding food self-sufficiency and creation of short food supply chains.

Activities described in LAP are already incorporated into the Ljubljana Vision 2045 (in preparation) and will substantially, when realised, increase the level of Ljubljana's resilience by being food self-sufficient up to 45%.

The activities defined in the Action Plan focus on long-term development of educational programmes for all school children in Ljubljana on the field of food production, up-grade and further development of Mini Urban Educational Farm Rakova Jelša and on activities that will enable permanent preservation of agricultural land in order to upgrade the level of food self-sufficiency in the city. All activities are interdisciplinary and provide activities that will upgrade the social, agricultural and behavioural changes in next 5 years i.e. the period from 2026 to the end of 2031, as follows:

- Establishment of school gardens on every Ljubljana elementary school
- Incorporation of educational programme of gardening in teaching curricula for elementary schools
- Education of mentors on the field of gardening and food production
- Mini Urban Educational Farm Rakova jelša as educational polygon for all elementary schools and a place for after school activities
- Mini Urban farm as a producer of ecological food for schools and a part of short supply chains
- Educational centre for farmers and citizens on the field of food production

The core goals achieved, accordingly with the UFSLU, are:

- Multi-functional land use: combine production, biodiversity, education
- Food security: prioritize crops and systems that supply local demand and reduce food miles;
- Resilience & adaptation: climate smart practices - seasonal food, local food, ecological production
- Equitable access - secure land tenure and inclusion of smallholders, youth, women and marginalized groups.



2.2. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of educational programmes for schools and Mini Urban Educational Farm are:

1. Social goals : creating a diverse and supportive place for interaction and learning
 - environmental education, attitude formation, knowledge transfer
 - intercultural and intergenerational programs
2. Environmental objectives
 - creating a climate and environmentally friendly urban farm and educational polygon
 - introducing environmentally friendly farming methods - crop rotation, mulching, composting, water collection
 - planting native plant species
3. Economic objectives: to create a non-profit, self-sustaining educational polygon available to all Ljubljana elementary schools.

2.3. LAP Scoping and diagnostics

During the CoFarm4Cities project, many training and consultation events have been organised by the City of Ljubljana and a Study of food production potentials was prepared for a smaller part of the city. The strategic issues regarding preservation of agricultural land were conducted with experts and farmers. Discussions with pilot schools enabled Ljubljana correct initial activities and make them more user friendly for schools and educational system,

Various aspects and disciplines (urban planning, environmental science, economics and sociology, health, education) were explored.

2.4. LAP Risk matrix and mitigation

Risk assessment and their mitigations help to get a clear picture about the feasibility of implementation and operation. These aspects were used for development of LAP.

On the base of other experience, risk refers to the potential for events or conditions that could negatively impact objectives or outcomes within the project implementation.

To address these uncertainties, mitigation measures are developed to minimize the likelihood or impact of potential risks. Implementing well-structured risk management and mitigation strategies not only enhances preparedness and resilience but also supports informed decision-making, ensuring that projects and organizations can achieve their goals even in the face of challenges.



Risk management requires identifying, controlling, and recording risks, highlighting the related consequences, and managing mitigation actions. Risk assessment methods are applied to minimise deviations from the expected results and schedule.

Table below shows an overview of the critical risks and potential mitigation measures:

- **Risk:** Problem of maintenance. **Mitigation:** City ensured keeper of Educational Polygon and expert surveillance during the whole year and ensured also sufficient budget for all activities.
- **Risk:** Vandalism. **Mitigation:** Mini Urban Educational farm is within the area of allotment gardens, that is surrounded with fence;
- **Risk:** Water scarcity. **Mitigation:** collection of rain water and use water from public water supply system.
- **Risk:** Lack of interest for usage of Educational Polygon. **Mitigation:** Regular educational activities organised by the City.
- **Risk:** Unsuccessful preservation of agricultural land in the rural areas of the City of Ljubljana. **Mitigation:** regular promotion of local food and raising requirement for locally produced food through awareness raising events and activities based on resilience and environment protection.

2.5. Stakeholders mapping and co-design

Ljubljana has **826 farms**, which provide the city with 30% of its food needs, mainly vegetables. Due to increasing urbanization and a large population increase, it decided to also enable mixed-race people to grow food and rent gardens, which will improve their psychosocial skills. In 2010, it began to systematically arrange areas with landscaped gardens. Initially, these were intended for people over 65 from the social margins.

The gardens were intended to improve their economic situation, as they helped some people survive. Over time, it became increasingly clear that people in settlements need contact with the land and space to spend their free time. Ljubljana decided to set up garden areas in all 17 neighborhood communities. Today, there are 9 garden areas in the city area with a total of **1,200 gardens**. In addition to the gardens, the areas are also equipped with public orchards.

The city has begun to pay increasing attention to local food production and the connection of local producers with city public facilities such as **primary schools and kindergartens**. With the help of various activities from education, workshops, courses for chefs and food organizers and by working with farmers, short food chains have begun to emerge.



The city has also begun to pay increasing attention to children. As part of the project, we have developed an implementation plan and the establishment of school gardens and an educational polygon for them. Educational polygon became also a place for intergenerational cooperation - gardeners teach children about gardening.

With the help of all the listed stakeholders LAP provides answers and programmes that allow those involved to qualitatively upgrade their knowledge, widen their selling possibilities and establishes a space that enables networking and cooperation, as well as a space for testing new good practices within the framework of urban agriculture.

2.6. LAP Policy recommendations and integration

LAP provides guidelines and good practices for a sustainable agricultural use of public land. It is perfectly integrated with the ongoing programmes, projects, local policies and national policies into planning framework, It promotes synergies among different levels of government and various sectors (agriculture, urban, greening, urban planning, social inclusion)

LAP comply with relevant laws and regulations:

- Strategy of Urban Rural Development and Urban Framing for programming period 2021-2027 and The Environmental Protection Program - City of Ljubljana has outlined guidelines for the development of urban agriculture as well as guidelines for the placement of urban gardens in all parts of the City of Ljubljana, with an emphasis on providing such areas near dense urban settlements.
- City Urban plan enables the City to create allotment garden areas and educational gardens within the city.
- City of Ljubljana 2045 Vision, ensuring food self-sufficiency is one of the four pillars of the city's development.

3. LAP Implementation

The aim of the LAP is to:

1. raise awareness among individuals that locally produced food is of strategic importance. Without agricultural land and the farmers who cultivate these lands, the city loses its independence, which is even more important in times of major climate change. Only aware citizens can help include locally produced food in their diet and thus ensure that agriculture remains one of the main development areas of the city of Ljubljana.



2. Introduce learning and education about food and food production in kindergartens and schools. In the long term, we are raising citizens who will be aware of the importance of locally produced food, will learn through their own involvement how difficult it is to produce food, and will develop a respectful attitude towards food. Slovenia and Ljubljana have a long tradition of school gardens (since the school reform introduced by Empress Maria Theresa), which, however, completely ceased to exist with the modernization of society in the 1980s. The goal of the project is to reintroduce school gardens to all primary schools and actively integrate content related to food production and processing into the learning process.
3. Develop a polygon where every individual in Ljubljana would be able to get basic knowledge about food production or upgrade it's own knowledge in order to become as much food self-sufficient as possibly.

3.1. Activities, budget, schedule

3.1.1. Mini Urban Educaiona Farm Rakova jelša - phase II

- a. Arrangement of additional field for crop production (area: 1 hectar) for potato, pumpkins, corn nad beans production in order to supply schools in Ljubljana with ecological food for school meals.

The investment includes the change o meadow to arable land on the area of 1 hectar, ground work and cultivation in order to get fruitful land for food production, maintainance and cultivationa of the field. To awoind vandalism the whole area will be surrounded by fecne and additional water will also be suplled form the nearby alotment garden area. Arrangement of 31 new gardenn beds with wooden framework.

Schedule: 2nd half of 2026 - 1st half of 2028

Budget: 2026: 7.000 EUR - city budget; 2027: 15.000 EUR - city budget, 2028: 35.000 EUR - city budget

Preparatory activities: removal of uper grass debris, application of excess soill, setting up 31 frames for garden beds, cultivatin and crop production, crop supply to schools.

Responsible: Section for Rural Development (City of Ljubljana)

Sub-activities:

- Contract with area maintainer
- Construction of an internal fence to ensure adequate protection against vandalism and theft.



- Crop rotationa plan.
- Workshops with schools - preparation of planting plan based on demand from the schools.
- Procurement of agricultural equipment for the new agricultural area.
- Public procurement for maintainance,

3.1.2. School gardens in publick schools in Ljubljana

In order to raise awareness about the importance of local food self-sufficiency, we will each children from first grade of elementary school how to grow vegetable and hove to take care of the garden. School garden in 8 pilot schools became a centre of different education from gardening to all other subjects - Slovene and English language, mathematics, physics etc. It became clear that it has to be introduced as early as possible and it has to be a constant part of educational process through all 9 years of elementary education. Every school in the city will get its own garden - 47 of them and provide also education for mentors by using all educational tools that have been developed by DOVES. We tend to prepare content to list gardening as a curriculum for mentors and continue to organise group activities for children twice a year.

Schedule: school year 2026/2027 - school year 2030/2031

Budget: 30.000 EUR per school year

Preparatory activities: questionnaire for schools and open call for new schools; analysis of school activities regarding food and gardening.

Responsible: Section for Rural Development (City of Ljubljana), External experts, DOVES,

Sub-activities:

- Purchase of material for raised beds, tools and seeds and seedlings
- Procurement for educational programme
- Organisation of two group activities per year (more than 1000 children per event)

3.1.3. Centre for education

The aim of the activity is to provide the Municipality with a place for all educational activities regarding food production, food waste, ecological gardening, urban gardening etc. Special focus will be on short food supply chains and healthy meals for school children. Additional focus will be on educational programmes for cooks and food organisers in order to include more locally produced food in children meals in Ljubljana school and kindergartens. Through changing of eating habits of children we will reach also



toward their parents. Centre will be a meeting point for all citizens within the field of food.

Schedule: 2026 - 2031

Budget: 2026: 2.5000.000 EUR - HORIZON project

Responsible: Section for Rural Development, Office for EU projects, External experts, DOVES, NGO's - together more than 50 partners

At the moment we are preparing the application for HORIZON project.

3.1.4. Implementation of modules (DOVES) in school organisational structure

By 2031 we will implement all 6 modules that were developed by DOVES from food production to energy and mobility issues connected to food and specifically also reduction of food waste in schools.

Schedule: from school year 2026/2027 to school year 2030/2031.

Budget: 15.000 EUR per school year for mentors and tutors and programme coordinator - city budget

Responsible: Section for Rural Development, DOVES,

Preparatory activities:

- Lectures and workshops for mentors on every module
- Close collaboration with Department for education and preschool activities.
- Analysis of existing activities connected to all modules.

3.1.5. Expansion of the City Farm Phase III

Enlargement of educational garden plots on Mini Urban Education Farm Rakova jeřša - from 16 to 47 plots (each school will have their own plot)

The aim of the activity is to expand the Mini Educational Urban Farm Rakova jeřša, so that it will be able to accommodate all schools that will have their own gardens - 47 of them.
Mini Farm

Schedule: 2027-2028

Budget: 40.000 EUR - city budget

Responsible: Section for Rural Development

Preparatory activities:



- Public procurement for material and work
- Public call for maintainer of this area in whole

3.1.6. Internationa dissemination of Educational programe Grow /Rasti

The aim of the activity is to disseminate educational programme that was developed by DOVES. It will be presented first within the international network of ECO-schools in Slovenia and then wider in Europe. Ljubljana will host participants and will serve as an educational hub.

Schedule: 2027 - 2029

Budget: 40.000 for three years - EU funds (HORIZON) and city budget

Responsible: DOVES, Section for Rural Development, External experts

Sub-activities:

- Preparation of educational programme for EKO school mentors
- Workshops for mentors
- Booth-camp for mentors (yearly) in Ljubljana

3.2. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure that the initial idea continually provides the city and citizens with the benefits that have been key in planning of the intervention, it is necessary to follow up on the activities in order to make the initiatives durable.

Mini City Urban Educational Farm use a system of measuring and monitoring ecological determinants - water, air and soil samples. Only ecological farming is allowed and crop rotation enables enrichment of the soil and prevention of diseases. The whole educational programme brings a soft quality to the already existing system, which will be measured less by numbers and more by testimonies. However, in order to monitor the change brought by the project, the number of schools, children, mentors, gardeners etc. will be conducted within different activities from workshops, educational programmes etc.

City of Ljubljana will monitor also the international impact of all activities within the dissemination of educational programme together with DOVES - number of participating schools, mentors, number of executed booth-camps in Ljubljana.

Within the educational centre number of activities will reflect the interest of citizens, number of events that will enable local producers to present and sell their production.



Besides all already listed monitoring perspectives, we will also monitor environmental aspects of activities from biodiversity, quality of soil and quantity of produced food, and especially public perception and satisfaction through using of all listed activities.