

# Organizing for urban farming


## Knowledge sharing in cross-sectorial networks

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# Organizing urban sustainability initiatives

- Sustainability – *normatively* needs a wide range of actors , cross-sectoral; cross-disciplinary
- ‘Siloed’ organizations (and academic disciplines) are ‘not up to the task’ – and are widely regarded to be ‘part of the problem’
- “Governance”
- SDG #17 – “partnerships” with “shared vision” and “shared goals”
- Nevertheless – “The public sector needs to set a clear direction”



# Urban farming

- ▶ Urban farming is widely regarded as a category of initiatives within urban sustainability
- ▶ Purpose: Local & ecological food production; ecological literacy; well-being; social cohesion; 'the right to the city' etc.
- ▶ However, urban farming can take on many organizational forms and logics
- ▶ In most contexts, the public sector plays a central role and are responsible for regulation
- ▶ Initiatives in which civil society organizations, citizens, researchers etc. are included in different ways
- ▶ Can be categorized in terms of different strategies:
  - ▶ Planning strategy
  - ▶ Activation strategy
  - ▶ Networking strategy

# Ideal types

	Planning strategy	Activation strategy	Networking strategy
Objectives	Goal oriented	Goal seeking (empowerment/ civic participation)	Co-creation, sharing knowledge and experiences
Actor	Formal organizations	Citizens	Individuals, organizations
Org. characteristics	Within permanent org. (projects)	CSO, project or process	Network
Legitimacy	Formal	Mobilization	Experience, knowledge, practice
Governance	Hierarchical	Grassroots	Horizontal

Based on Svensson & Von Otter (2001)



# Discussion points

- Can be applied to several institutional fields within the larger sustainability paradigm
- Competing discourses – relating to different institutional logics
- Risk of ending up in conflicting logics
- In Scandinavia, with powerful public administration, – is there any escape from "the shadow of bureaucracy"?
- Projects as organizational format – obscures institutional boundaries
- How to make horizontal governance approaches permanent?
- The role of knowledge / and it's different manifestations / in these strategies