



EIT Climate-KIC SATURN

Project newsletter

#2



Our Saturn project is looking at sustainable landscape solutions for places and communities that looks to address both the climate and ecological emergencies. What we are devising is a framework approach that can be replicated elsewhere once we have proved its effectiveness.

For more informations and to read the full interviews with SATURN stakeholders go to: <https://eventi.fmach.it/saturn/News-and-events/Newsletter>



GOTHENBURG CONFERENCE

What happened?

The annual SATURN conference was held in Gothenburg **22nd-23rd of September 2020** and included a field trip day and a full day conference/workshop day. Due to Covid-19 the conference was scaled down to national, regional and local participants. We also managed to arrange for international participants to **follow the conference online through live videos on Instagram during the field trip and through the zoom platform** on the second day.



The field trip

The aim of the field trip was to visualize the farming ecosystem of Gothenburg and how property management administration coherently works with creating opportunities for farming, from farmbox to hectares. During the day we visited:



- **Angereds Gård** where Naturbruksförvaltningen VGR (Agricultural schools of Västtagötaland region) started up a new educational centre, the first in a peri-urban context. Head of the unit, Jan Andersson, told us briefly about the importance of being active in an urban context.

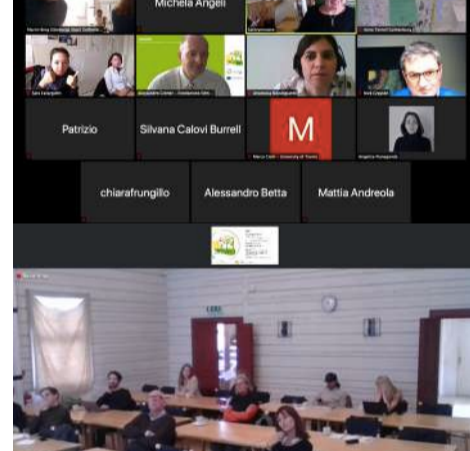
- The **Testbed in Angered** where new farmers can try out how to farm commercially on a small plot of land. Martin Bae Pedersen, operationally in charge of the testbeds talked us through the leases, what and how much the municipality have invested when it comes to infrastructure on the site
- **Alzoubi farm**, a family driven farming company whom quite recently came to Sweden from Syria. Their family has long history of farming in Syria. When they arrived in Sweden they wanted somewhere to farm and lease a plot at the testbed. They are a good example of how there is opportunities for farming career on the municipal farmland in Gothenburg.
- **Lilla Jordbruket** represents how Gothenburg transforms slumbering farm leases into farming hubs with new entrepreneurs and new business models. Olle at Lilla Jordbruket guided us through their journey and the first four years of their CSA-model. Lilla Jordbruket is also certified organic.
- **Model Farm** is situated at the centre of Angereds Gård. The Model Farm is a highly productive small scale farm unit, providing food and education. Ebba Wilhelmsson, who is the head farmer at the model farm (substitute for Klara Hansson who is on parental leave) talked us through how the farm is set up.



A CONFERENCE IN PANDEMIC TIMES

Gothenburg

The impact of Covid-19 on the conference were immensely noticeable, most of the presumed participants, international, national and regional were not able to come. We had quite a lot of late cancellations. It was also a **big challenge to coordinate zoom and audience simultaneous**. Having that said, the conference were executed and the participants' **feedback were very positive**.



Birmingham

It has been a year of online meetings, virtual conferences and digital talks and our 2nd annual SATURN conference would follow that trajectory...until **we decided to go for a Hybrid!** The 2020 was held in person in the city of Gothenburg, but all the partners and stakeholders based outside of Sweden attended the event virtually. Birmingham was no different as we were part of the online team who would present and facilitate the sessions virtually, but we were also coordinating with the Swedish team and delegates who were in a real room!

Organising and preparing a hybrid conference had not been an easy thing to do, however, we think that **with a good team everything is possible**. The Birmingham Hub leads on the Visioning, Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building work areas of SATURN and therefore we had to change our way of working and mindset to deliver such sessions online. But the interest and the engagement from the participants was worth it. **It was a new experience for us to brief and guide attendees from a distance and not being able to see exactly how they work in their teams**, however one of the KPIs for SATURN has been exchange of knowledge and cross country collaboration, and our feeling is that this hybrid conference has proven it right!

VISIONING THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORIES

The **Visioning approach used for the EIT Climate-KIC SATURN project, aims to envision cities and regions in the future, imagine alternative future scenarios that will inspire others to act and think differently and ask 'how would you like your city to be in 30/50 years?'**

The concept of this approach is to move beyond what we know and feel secure with and instead imagine what could be possible. Asking the participants to do something that, not so often comes natural.....to keep things abstract (!); the series of Visioning exercises is **designed to challenge our preconceptions and dream about what we might achieve if we work together!**

While encouraging the stakeholders to think about ideas and not technical details, the activity focuses on ways to reimagine the future on a regional scale before we move into local actions. The stakeholders must look and examine the current worldwide status, learn about the UN 2030 SDG goals and discuss about post COVID-19 and green recovery scenarios before they start **engaging with their region and pin down solutions and ways to achieve their ideas**.

Overall, this activity takes us all to our future selves, with an interesting twist of explaining to our grandchildren what we did to stop climate change! If you want a challenge, join SATURN!



The **Trentino Hub team has organized a session of "visioning exercises" as training activity** prior to engage with local stakeholders. During the discussion, the need to adopt a more systemic, coordinated and cross-scalar approach in territorial development emerged. The stakeholders' activity has been set to be as multidisciplinary and multi-actors as possible. It has been set up in presence to encourage the dialogue between the stakeholders. After a five-minute ice-breaking exercise, mapping of territorial challenges and opportunities took place. **Finally, a set of key actions to address the identified opportunities identified in the earlier phases has been produced.** Sustainable mobility has been the most cited argument in the stakeholders' exercise. This has been quite unexpected and different from our team's vision.

The exercise has been extremely useful for the team to better understand and cast challenges and needs for the future development of the territory. The results strengthened initial ideas about adopting more systemic and cross-scalar approaches. Landscape issues have a high grade of complexity, more than expected, and are strictly interrelated. Yet, our perception of the connections between stakeholders has proven to be different. **We had evidence of a lack of dialogue between many of the stakeholders at different levels.**

ONLINE WORKSHOP

The online workshop "A resilient community for a welcoming territory" was held on **20th November 2020**.

A reflection was carried out on **4 themes: agriculture, sustainable mobility, circular economy and landscape**.

About Agriculture, a critical perspective emerged on the intensive conventional paradigm and on the poor consumer awareness. The solutions identified demanded more support from public administrations in favour of more sustainable initiatives, education and innovation.

The group on Mobility identified as a main objective the reduction of air and noise pollution. This must be pursued through sustainable — but also inclusive — mobility, taking into account the needs of all citizens, with investments in both public transport and slow mobility.

The group on Circular Economy highlighted the need to reduce waste and encourage reparability, the reuse of materials, product re-circulation, and the recovery of abandoned areas to support the reduction of land consumption.

The Landscape group also highlighted the importance of knowledge and education to enhance the local landscape wealth. It is necessary to learn to recognise the characteristics and qualities of the territory in order to protect and promote it.

UNA COMUNITÀ RESILIENTE PER UN TERRITORIO ACCOGLIENTE

WORKSHOP ONLINE
20 NOVEMBRE 2020



PAST AND UPCOMING EVENTS

