



Urban gardens as a source of self-grown food in Czech towns and cities

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10th IALE World Congress – Nature and society facing the Anthropocene Milano, June 2nd, 2019





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Introduction

- Focus of this paper: the extent of urban productive gardening in Czechia and volumes of food produced
- Gardening in the Global North
 - Relatively widespread activity (up to 54 % of population) in many EU countries, Russia, US and Canada (Alber and Kohler 2008; Schupp and Sharp 2012; Sharashkin 2008; Smith and Jehlička 2013; Teitelbaum and Beckeley 2006; Vávra et al. 2018a)
- Positive outcomes of gardening
 - Ecosystem services, GHGs reduction, urban resilience, well-being, social bonds (Barthel et al. 2015; Cameron et al. 2012; Jehlička and Daněk 2017; Van den Berg et al. 2010; Vávra et al. 2018b)

Methods

- Quantitative representative survey among Czech population in 2015
 - Quota sampling, non-farming respondents
 - N = 1718 (settlements > 2,000 citizens)
 - Questions focused on gardening, food production, processing and sharing, motivations and socio-demographics

Core questions

- Does your household have access to garden/orchard/field for food production?
- What proportion of the food consumption of your household is selfproduced (vegetables, fruit, potatoes, meat, honey, eggs).
- Two project (both funded by the Czech Science Foundation)
 - Forms and norms of alternative economic practices in the Czech Republic (No. 14-33094S; 2014–2016) – data collection
 - Spaces of quiet sustainability: self-provisioning and sharing (No. 19-10694S; 2019–2021) – data analysis

Results – Types of gardens

- Home gardens incl. relatives' (70 %)
- Cottage/weekend house (15 %)
- Allotment gardens (14 %)
- Others incl. community gardens (1 %)









Results – Proportion of gardeners and rate of self-sufficiency

	Rural town (2-5 K)	Mid-size town (5-20 K)	Сіty (20-100 К)	Metropolis (>100 K)	Mean
Percentage of gardeners in population	47	34.5	29.2	24.6	33.6
Rate of gardeners' self-sufficiency (in % of veg.+fruit+pot. consumed)	35	28.5	34	24.4	31.2

Note: Overal differences significant (p < 0.00).



Note: Overall differences significant (p < 0.01), except distribution of fruit self-sufficiency.

Discussion & Conclusions

- Food production mostly takes place in home gardens in urban areas, including relatives' (70 %), but weekend houses (15 %), allotment gardens (14 %) are also important; community gardens not (others: 1 %)
- Urban food production is less frequent than rural (34 % of urban vs. 58 % of rural population) but those who produce food are similarly self-sufficient (urban 31 %, rural 36 % of all vegetables, fruit and potatoes consumed is self-produced)
- Housing type/availability of garden is stronger predictor of gardening than municipality size (family house > apartments)
- High rates of self-sufficiency reported also by households with allotment gardens or weekend house gardens
- Importance for various ecosystem services (not only cultural or regulating, but provisioning as well) and urban resilience

Papers and project

- Jehlička, P., Daněk, P., Vávra, J. (in press). A change engaging resilience: Home gardening, food sharing and everyday resistance. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/02255189.2018.1498325.
- Vávra, J., Megyesi, B., Duží, B., Craig, T., Klufová, R., Lapka, M., Cudlínová, E. (2018a). Food self-provisioning in Europe: An exploration of socio-demographic factors in five regions. *Rural Sociology* 83(2): 431–461.
- Vávra, J., Daněk, P., Jehlička, P. (2018b). What is the contribution of food self-provisioning towards environmental sustainability? A case study of active gardeners. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 185: 1015– 1023.
- Tóth, A., Duží, B., Vávra, J., Supuka, J., Bihuňová, M., Halajová, D., Martinát, S., Nováková, E. (2018). Changing patterns of allotment gardening in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. *Nature and Culture* 13(1): 162–188.
- Jehlička, P., Daněk, P. (2017) Rendering the actually existing sharing economy visible: Home grown food and the pleasure of sharing. *Sociologia Ruralis* 57(3): 274–296.

Spaces of quiet sustainability: self-provisioning and sharing

- Czech Science Foundation Standard Grant No. 19-10694S (2019–2021).
- Project website (coming soon): <u>http://quietsustainability.geogr.muni.cz</u>
- Project Twitter hashtags: #quietsustainability #FSP
- This presentation online: <u>http://www.ecoology.org/wp-content/uploads/urban-gardens-IALE-2019.pdf</u>

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Thank you for your attention

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PS – Motivations for gardening



Note: Respondents were asked to highlight 3 most important motives: 3 most important; 2 important; 1 - somehow important; 0 - not mentioned.

Environmental motivation is not important at all – interpretation as nonintentional 'quiet sustainability' (Smith and Jehlička 2013) leading to proenvironmental outcomes.