



### Fellow's Individual Project

Fellow	Host Institution	PhD enrolment	Start Date	Duration
ESR 10	FUB	Y	Month 9	36 months

**Project title and related WP(s):** The politics of food in urban southern Europe (WP3, WP7).

**Objectives:** Food scandals, environmental degradation and debates about genetically modified organisms have prompted a surge of interest in issues of food safety, sustainability, biodiversity and, thus, in realising localised food systems in Europe. There have been many initiatives that create new food practices in order to improve community livelihoods such as urban community gardening initiatives in urban areas throughout Europe. The ESR will focus on the particularly vivid community gardening scene in the cities of Berlin, Germany and Barcelona, Spain run by migrant communities from the Middle East and North Africa in marginalised neighbourhoods. These gardens are not only considered as spaces of ecological interaction and food justice, but also as sites of inclusion and empowerment. The ESR will examine how community food security is realised through every day practices of shaping and changing local food systems as they engage in politics of food, practices of food preparation, communal eating and social provisioning. The study will look at how community gardening has the potential to produce a sense of belonging and social inclusion and to empower inhabitants from marginalised neighbourhoods. It will look at these practices as sound and economically viable livelihoods that are creating new forms of “food citizenship” and how gender relations and practices of social reproduction are renegotiated in these communities.

**Expected results:** Studies in Berlin and Barcelona will look at gardening projects by migrants from the Middle East and North Africa in order to understand how these community gardens are spaces of change and forms of counter hegemonic democratic processes in which different actors and diverse communities are involved and that produce alternative visions of food security, socio-economic stability and sustainability.

**Planned secondments:** WUR (3 months) to work on community economies and UPAS (3 months) to do comparative studies on urban community organising around food production.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 764908-WEGO 2018-2021