



Results of the desk and good practices research

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39 examples of urban gardens were collected by partners in the Urban Gardening project.

The examples collected are characterized by their multifunctionality to responding to different types of aims: economic, food, recreational, educational, health and social integration.

I - Variable shapes

I - Variables shapes

I.1 - mini farms: parcels are exploited for members



Source: <http://www.dw.com/en/environment-urban-agriculture-community-gardens-greece-urban-heat-island-effect-sustainability/a-39277047>

I - Variables shapes

I.2 - Some gardens have a dimension of green spaces and leisure, to fight against a too invasive urbanization.

In agreement with local authorities, associations had the opportunity to acquire and develop these gardens.

The goal is to create an interaction between the city and nature: reconnection of city dwellers with the act of producing.

I - Variables shapes

Eg : "Poziomkowa Polana" (Wild Strawberry Glade): an informal group of mothers, Krakow's citizens started to fight for a green area, which was sold to the housing developer. It was in 2012. It has become a social garden



Source;
<https://pl-pl.facebook.com/poziomkowapolana/>

I - Variables shapes

I.3- Some of these gardens are tools for social integration; they contribute to the fight against exclusions



e.g. - Sicilia Integra: Sicilia Integra aims to support the socio-economic integration of migrants arriving in Sicily through sustainable community and agroecology capacity

Source: <https://gaaeducation.org/project-based-learning/siciliaintegra/>

II - Variable initial motivation

II.1 - Gardening:

The desire to do, to see grow its own vegetables - vegetables that have taste are elements put forward in the examples proposed

Eg: Urban garden in Palermo (IT) is created with the purpose to encourage sustainable lifestyles, providing fresh products.



Source: <http://www.codifas.it/>

The goal may be **food production**

Eg : Urban allotment garden (GR)



Source: <https://www.aftodioikisi.gr/ota/dimoi/dimotikoi-laxanokipoi-kontra-stin-krisi/>

Source: <http://www.dw.com/en/environment-urban-agriculture-community-gardens-greece-urban-heat-island-effect-sustainability/a-39277047>



Eg : *Elliniko community garden (GR)*
« Produce grown here will help some of the Athenians struggling to feed their families »

II.2 - Well being:

The notion of spending time, healing, search for serenity in a space of nature which design can meet aesthetic criteria.

Eg: Huerto de la Cuerna (Elche, SP): allows people to be involved in their lives and their quality of life through physical activity, which is very positive for their health.

Eg: The Social Garden at Siemaszki Street (PL) is divided into 4 parts: one is a silent / relax part.



Photo by: Maria Dolores Anton Bolaños

II.2 - Citizenship :

a) The garden is the pretext for participating in **the development of a more sustainable and supportive society.**

Eg: Botanical Garden of Petroupoli (GR) where neighbours decided to clean an area (garbage had accumulated)



Eg: Urban community garden "Hort Comunitari de Carolines (Alicante- SP)

Source: https://huertosurbanosbarcelona.wordpress.com/00_huertos-urbanos-cultivando-barcelona/huertos-urbanos-en-otras-ciudades/alicante/

II.2 - Citizenship :

b) User-friendly **relationships between users** are a source of motivation.

Eg: Huerto de la Alegria (Madrid) is an open space for everyone who wants to participate, no matter how much he/she can offer.

- c) Gardens are places for **meetings between different communities or intergenerational meetings**

Eg: Community Garden in Wrzeszcz (Gdansk): The garden hosts meetings of local community, workshops (for adults, seniors, children and youth), meetings with guests, outdoor cinema, social actions.





Eg: Graine de Monlong (FR) at the heart of a neighborhood considered as a difficult quarter

Moussa: « *In the garden, we are so far from the tours... The idea is also to share knowledge. There are many nationalities represented here, it allows to have very rich exchanges on gardening techniques or cooking recipes* »

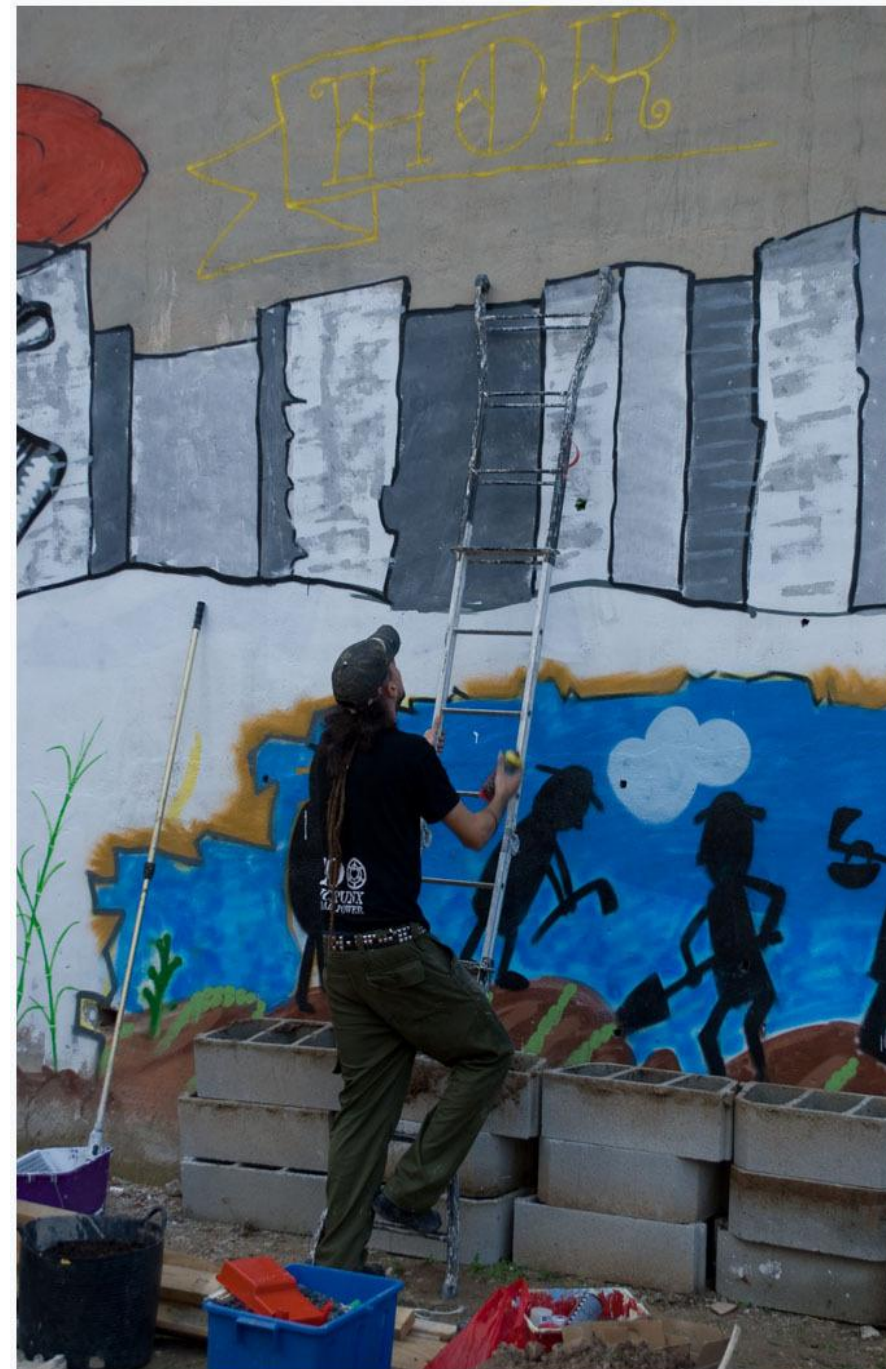


Eg: P'orto di Lampedusa(it)

Through the creation of community gardens, the project P'orto di Lampedusa aims also promote the social inclusion and development of disadvantaged people, offering a place for intercultural exchange, interaction and expression between people with disabilities, farmers, producers and citizens of the island of Lampedusa.

Source:
<http://www.terraonlus.it/progetti/porto-l-orto-a-lampedusa/item/379-porto-l-orto-a-lampedusa>

Hort Comunitari de Carolines (SP)



II.2 - Citizenship :

- d) The gardens make it possible to **give meaning to a place**, to assert oneself as an inhabitant. It is the appropriation of a public space.

E.g.: Roof vegetable garden kitchen – Farm cultural park (Italy)

II.2 - Citizenship :

e) **Learning/ training:** The garden can be the support for initiation of gardening practices through the exchange of practices, classes

Eg : - Community garden, Huerto El Cruce (ES): many workshops

- Narköy Ecological and Educational Center (TR)

- Integra Sicila (IT): the project aims to foster the professionalisation of migrants and unemployed youth, create new job opportunities in regenerative agriculture, while contributing to the development of a circular economy in Sicily.

Urban garden in Palermo(IT)



Source: <http://www.codifas.it/>

II.2 - Citizenship :

f) **Commitment:** Gardens are often areas of great autonomy, under the responsibility of the members. They can develop their own themes, their creativity. Some gardens are positioned on ecological themes and stand out by practicing permaculture or organic gardening.

The garden is then an **implementation of values and ideas**. The participants of the garden put their practice in a perspective of change of society, in particular concerning the modes of production and consumption of food

Eg: People's Potato Community Garden Volunteers (Montreal) grow and distribute organic produce to the surrounding community and distribute **vegan meals** through a food bank.

Eg: Mandala garden: The aim is to create a free abundance of food to share for all, in a process of local food self-reliance, healthy, sustainable, committed and inclusive.



Source:
<https://www.ladepeche.fr/article/2016/05/10/2341136-les-incroyables-comestibles.html>

The Incredible Edibles is a global citizen movement to make food self-sufficiency of territories possible through solidarity cooperation. By transforming the public space of their city into gardens, citizens create an art of living through sharing.

II-3-The origin of the garden can also be an **economic cause**, in connection with the geographical context, political

Eg: Elliniko community garden (GR): Volunteers planted a variety of fruit and vegetables

Eg: Integration of a migrant population for initiation into professional acts (Integra Sicilia)

III - Variable types

III – 1. The gardens are of variable size:

it depends mainly on the available space (eg: rooftop or mandala garden: 150m² or 2-acre for Three Part Harmony Farm-US) and the time available for maintenance



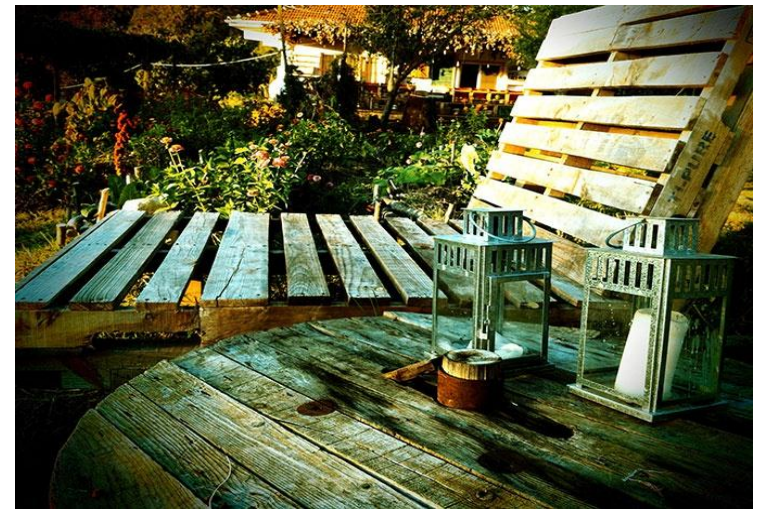
III – 2. Most gardens are of a vegetable nature.

Some gardeners, however, give their garden an important ornamental and aesthetic dimension (flowers, trees or ornamental shrubs)

A pocket park (butterfly garden (Krakow-PL) is a project for positive change of the city's image.

III – 3. The artistic aspect is very often developed with notably the use of recycled materials

*Eg: Narkoi ecological and educational center (TR)
Source: <http://www.narkoy.com/galeri/>*



Roof vegetable kitchen garden (SP)

III – 4. The space of the garden becomes a space of leisures, a place arranged for the relaxation and the convivial meetings to take the aperitif, the meals... A skate park can be arranged, hammocks, barbecues.

Ex: The Pousse Cailloux Garden (FR) where the harvests are consumed on the spot, cooked in the garden.

III – 5. Fee

Although these gardens can be fenced and have opening hours they have free access, except for some gardens where a monthly rent or annual membership (eg Mini M: € 10) is requested to cultivate their plot.

IV - Variable actors



Source: <https://gaiaeducation.org/project-based-learning/siciliaintegra/>

IV -1. The examples of gardens collected are at the initiative of any type of public (young people, elderly people, group of women ...).

They involve different types of actors mobilized around their creation and management, local authorities, public or private companies, associations, city dwellers.

It is interesting to note the mix of actors that allows more creativity.

Ex "Roof vegetable-garden kitchen" (Favara - Palermo)

IV - 2. Many gardens are initiated by individuals who have organized themselves in association. Sometimes different associations come together to manage the garden and develop different activities.

IV – 3. The role of the city

The creation of a partnership city and association allows most of the time to maintain and develop the garden.

Some gardens have been created (or redeveloped) at the initiative of the municipality because it is aware of the importance of the issues.

Eg: Street Factory Eclettica (IT)
Eg : Graine de Molong (FR)

Some municipalities even launch competitions to encourage the creation of gardens

eg: in Krakow, the Nowa Huta District competition encourages people to be creative in establishing their own garden

Eg: “Poziomkowa Polana” (PL) : in 2018, because of construction works and the agreements between the city and the developer, the garden will be re-designed by the developer.

V - organization of gardens



Gardens whose plots are cultivated collectively, are based on values of **solidarity**, **conviviality**, and **sharing** between generations and cultures, places conducive to the organization of feasts and workshops around **gardening**, around **cultural** or **artistic** themes.

Some gardens have a **charter** signed by gardeners indicating, for example, the regulations in force concerning the use of phytosanitary products.

The practices are diverse but there is a regular mention of practices **respecting the ecosystem**.

Eg: Huertos Urbanos of Benimaclet: many rules to get a member; the member has to express the willingness to use the plots.

eg: Three Part Harmony Farm (Washington DC): They are using sustainable practices, without chemical pesticides or herbicides.

Interventions by local authorities can help maintain the garden. It is sometimes difficult to maintain the gardens in a correct state.

Eg: animators are employed by the city (Mini M)

VI- RESOURCES

4 main themes stand out.

They can be an aid to constitute the manual of good practices.

1- How to start and develop an urban agricultural activity,

2 - The garden as a learning tool

environmental apprenticeship

health education

communication between members

development of knowledge and skills

3 - The garden as a support for social interactions and therapeutic support

4- Gardening techniques

CONCLUSION

The analysis of these 39 examples confirmed the idea that the typology of gardens is determined by the economic and social context of the place in which it is situated.

It expresses social trends.

It indicates a new relationship between city and nature which is taken into consideration by local authorities: many societal issues are played out around gardens, which are zones of autonomy for members.

Urban garden / human garden

What about Botanical gardens ?

Their aim is to present plant species and support researches.

So, even if they are a place of meetings and exchanges, they do not fall within the definition of urban gardens.

For example, BigPicnic team involves nineteen Partner organisations for a collaborative **approach**: the aim is to give a voice to adults and young people on Responsible Research and Innovation, communicating their views to policy-makers, sharing ideas, and encouraging debate on the future of our food. It's not yet a «to do approach» by gardening.



Univrsy Botanical garden (Varna- BG-)