

# URBAN GARDENING

## The Urban Gardening Role in Improving of Adults' Skills and Community Growth

Krakowskie Centrum Zarzadzania i Administracji Sp. z o.o.

HELLAS FOR US

PRISM

Iniciativi za grajdansko obshtestvo

EPLFPA

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ACD LA HOYA



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## The Urban Gardening Role in Improving of Adults' Skills and Community Growth



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C H A P T E R 1

# INTRODUCTION

*Urban gardens are expanding around the world to encourage local production and consumption, social inclusion, dialogue and the adoption of a sustainable way of life. Indeed, whatever its shape, its size, each of them seeks the achievement of common objectives: social, educational, ecological, aesthetic, fun...*

*Thus, they implement participative practices in their design, management and mode of operation.*

*This toolkit targeted at any people or organization eager to use urban gardening as an educational tool.*

*7 European countries have designed this toolkit in which are presented useful keys to develop transversal skills by taking urban garden as a support. Because you learn by gardening, creating a composter, exchanging with your neighbor, getting rich reading technical documents...*

*The tools offer help, ways of doing things that will enrich the garden and its users.*

*This is not an exhaustive guide but a proposal for a process that everyone will have to adapt to their environment and to the public for whom the garden is intended. Indeed, each garden is unique because it responds to particular requests. This toolkit aims to propose an approach that will allow different actors to create an urban garden, revitalize it, taking into account the diversity of individuals, groups and gardens.*

## METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES

Using a garden as an educational space regardless of formal or informal teaching environments involves the use of multiple teaching methods. These must promote interdisciplinary and complementary approaches. Thus, the implementation of the different sessions requires from the trainers some technical skills but also skills related to animation and pedagogy: knowledge of participants and group dynamics.

### A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

The urban garden must promote active participation of the garden as soon as possible. To promote the state of mind that animates a shared garden, the teaching method is mainly based on the active participation and learning of participants through non formal activities. The participants are learning by doing not only on gardening techniques, but also in the participative mode of decision-making, negotiation, taking into account interpersonal relations etc. Even this teaching takes place in formal settings such as in school eco-gardens, it's not like teaching a course but a participation an active learning about communication skills through garden, and this is not only for particular students who work in garden but for all students, teachers, parents and local people around. Some theoretical sessions provided by the toolkit are implemented in an interactive way. Active participation, which encourages everyone to get involved, to take responsibility, to build together, in the dialogue, is the main ingredient of a shared garden. This will allow everyone to get involved to build together, in the dialogue.

### PROJECT PEDAGOGY

It does not matter the size of the urban garden: joining the project to create or revitalize the garden is more important because it will allow the ownership and involvement of stakeholders. The goal is also to make participants more

- autonomous in their choices by letting them
- imagine the methodology to implement to
- achieve their objectives.

### A DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

- It is very important that trainers adapt
- their practices to the trainees' personal
- characteristics and expectations (e.g. different
- language abilities, learning styles, interests,
- values, etc.). The trainer's activity plan is
- drawn up with those various skills and interests
- in mind. Activities are varied and they alternate
- between sometimes technical, scientific and
- social approaches.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- The creation of an urban garden requires
- stages, from conception to realization and
- animation. Each of these steps is the subject
- of a module itself cut into different sessions.
- You can choose the modules and sessions
- according to your needs, objectives and skills
- sought. Modules are developed on the same
- template: a short description, the aim, the skills
- acquired. Each session presents activities,
- methods, exercises, and timing.

## CHAPTER 1

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