

Toolkit - Resources for trainers

Microproject - SDG Nr. 11

Urban gardening initiative

Learning Objectives

- Identify who you are targeting with this initiative in the local community
- Set up cooperation with the local community and local authorities
- Set up an information campaign and target to increase knowledge on sustainable strategies for cities and communities development

Description

A urban gardening (or social gardening) is a initiative to revitalize neglected areas, stands, etc. in cities, most often in large agglomerations.

The idea of urban gardening was born in the 1970s in New York. Due to budget cuts, the city was neglected and a lot of vacancies were created. No man's land attracted enthusiasts who began to create generally accessible flower beds. Today, urban gardens are growing, among others in Madrid, Berlin and Paris as an alternative to concrete squares. The most famous urban garden in Europe is Berlin's Prinzessinnengärten. A group of residents turned an empty square into a garden full of organic crops. There is also a pub where you can eat the plants grown on site and there are many cultural events.

The urban gardens are "living laboratories" where there are zones for plant and herb cultivation, but also places for recreation and meetings of the local community. Urban gardens integrate the local community. They serve as a forum for the exchange of knowledge about ecological crops, initiatives and attitudes, showing that each even the smallest action makes sense.

The idea for the urban garden is to provide a place where people can rediscover what it takes to produce food in an effort to combat the increasing challenges posed by climate change and to promote healthier lifestyles within an urban setting. It's enable close contact with nature, which is becoming a scarce commodity in the city. It's one of the form of fighting high temperatures.



Possible roles of the trainees and skills needed

- To motivate people (groups of residents) is to create such an initiative like urban gardens in their place of residence
- To facilitate the process of creating an urban garden from idea to implementation
- To discuss and allocate roles with the people involved in this initiative implementation.
- The skills needed: problem solving, team work, creativity.
- To encourage people to look for information on similar initiatives on the Internet for further inspirations.

Theoretical activity	<p>Make a list of which steps you need to fulfil in your context to implement this initiative of creating the urban garden.</p>
Creative activity	<p>Imagine a future where every available space in big cities is used to let new green spaces bloom. Green spaces that local residents create themselves and use to produce fresh and healthy food. The result would be increased biological diversity, less CO2 and a better microclimate. The spaces would promote a sense of community and the exchange of a wide variety of competencies and forms of knowledge, and would help people lead more sustainable lives. They would be a kind of miniature utopia, a place where a new style of urban living can emerge, where people can work together, relax, communicate and enjoy locally produced vegetables.</p> <p>How can you adopt this initiative to your context, your city, your place of living ?</p>



Innovation activity

Mobile gardening: This initiative to create urban (social) gardens can be adopted not only in open spaces, but also in office buildings, schools and kindergartens, etc. It can be used for temporarily transform unused spaces such as building sites, car parks and roofs into urban farmland and green meeting places.

Modular form: All elements of the urban garden are modules that can be moved from place to place.

Locally grown organic vegetables: Fresh, organic, locally produced herbs and vegetables in the urban gardens are grown in raised compost beds without using any pesticides or artificial fertilisers.

Sustainability

Sustainable living in urban space – a place of discovery where children, neighbours, experts and those curious about sustainable living can come together to about and explore alternative visions for our city.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



THE GLOBAL GOALS