

## EU GO- EUROPEAN URBAN GARDENS OTESHA

### IDENTIFICATION OF A GOOD EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE OR TOOL

Name of the community garden				Possible short title for the practice				
COMMUNITY GARDENS OF CAN MASDEU				Social and Intergenerational ecology				
Type of tool				Contact person	Name and role			Claudio cattaneo, dinamizador
Activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Training			Phone			
Methodology		Document			E-mail			<a href="mailto:Claudio.cattaneo@liuc.it">Claudio.cattaneo@liuc.it</a>
Other (specify):					Other contacts			Laura Ciudad: <a href="mailto:lciedad2002@yahoo.es">lciedad2002@yahoo.es</a>
It can be addressed to...				It deals with the following topics...				
All		School	<input type="checkbox"/>	Intercultural dialogue		Intergenerational dialogue	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Institution	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Equality		Fight against poverty		
Youngsters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social service	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Consumption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education to sustainable development		
Adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Job service		Sustainable Urbanisation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Socio-professional training		
Women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Migrants service	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health promotion		Social cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Elderly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neighbourhood	<input type="checkbox"/>	Horticultural therapy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leisure activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (specify)				Other (specify) Producing food				
DESCRIPTION Please describe the practice you have developed.								
<p>The group that squatted the farm of Can Masdeu (between Barcelona and the outskirts), we opened some gardens for our own consumption, in which people of the house as well as anyone who wants to learn and help can participate every Thursday. Apart from the gardens of “the house” we have a project of community gardens and a project for a total of 40 individual and shared plots and a community plot opened for all participants of the community gardens.</p> <p>Both in the gardens of “the house” and in the community gardens the functioning is assembly-based and counts with work commissions. For example, in the house assembly, there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a commission of gardens that administer the gardens of the house and they work on Thursdays</li> <li>- an environmental education commission that coordinates the fortnightly school and youth club visits and they administer their own plot.</li> <li>- a commission of community gardens that deals with the project of community gardens assigned to inhabitants of the neighborhood, young adults, elderly, men, women, and their families.</li> </ul> <p>In the project of community gardens there is a monthly assembly and they work in commissions, since the administrations of water, fertilizer and social events are community-based.</p> <p>The social aspects takes a lot of importance both in the formal part (organization and participation in social events such as meals in the surrounding valley, traditional folk music and dance celebrations in the neighborhood) and in the informal part (generation of a support network between the participants, intergenerational transmission of knowledge, etc).</p>								



**AIMS AND OUTCOMES** Which are the main purposes tackled in a community garden with this tool? Which concrete results have been observed at short and long term?

Through the agriculture activity in the gardens of the house, a community of 20 people stocks up to a large extent on their own vegetables. In addition to this, they can often offer them in elaborated dishes to the social center – another aspect of project not directly connected to the gardens – that opens on Sundays. Besides, the people that come around on Thursdays learn something from the gardens and sometimes get some vegetables.

The agro ecological education activity has received feedbacks from children amazed by the visit. Many schools repeat the visit every year or several times per year.

The project of community gardens set a precedent in the city, since many other squatting projects have come out, and it contributes to the development of the imaginary of the importance of urban agriculture and its practice. It has contributed to create a network of urban gardens in Barcelona. It is a referent in the neighborhood and the whole city, for the social value of the project – elevated need to offer cultivation plots and to promote mutualistic and assembly-based practices, also important for the rapprochement that squatting is having with the “common people”.

Between the participants, the Project itself has reinforced an intergenerational rapprochement, the Exchange of knowledge (there are also adults teaching computer science to the elderly) and the implication in the assembly methodology.

**WHAT MAKES IT A GOOD PRACTICE OR TOOL?** Identify which elements make this action a good practice, for ex. Innovation, coherence, link with other projects or people, favours social mixing, simplify work, earn time or money, etc.

See aims and outcomes.

**STEP BY STEP** Please, describe how to put in practice, guiding with clear instruction and materials needed someone that would like to experiment your tool in a local community garden around Europe

### **Project of community gardens**

1. **FIND A SPACE.** A group of activists would squatt an open space (and if possible with a building) and would get connected to this space (in our case for example, the squatted building is our living place). As a possible alternative to squatting, the group needs to get the administration of a space. It requires more time but it is more secure. After several intents of squatting, the group might decide to get closer to the owner of the space and find a common agreement. It is also recommended in the case of squatting in order to avoid eviction.
2. **OPEN THE SPACE.** Promote social participation among the inhabitants of the neighborhood. In spite of our “community” ideals, we have decided to subdivide part of the land and assign it to individual persons, little groups or collectives of people. As a second step, it can be decided to administer some land on community basis.
3. **ORGANIZE THE SPACE.** Create an assembly, define some rules (organic agriculture, 1 €/month contribution for the community expenses, define commissions, create group dynamics, mark a minimum of implication, define selection criteria to assign the plots, etc.
4. **ACTIVATE THE SPACE.** Bring water, fertilizer, organize tools, greenhouse, etc.
5. **OPEN UP TO THE EXTERIOR.** Make the project known in the neighborhood, participating in local events, take advantage that the participants are already integrated in the neighborhood.
6. **CREATE FUNCTIONS.** In this case, it can be considered to dedicate one plot to agro-ecological education if somebody is interested in it. (In the case of Can Masdeu, the educative project came out from the assembly of the house, using one plot of the house garden). Other functions can be decided according to the local and social characteristics and needs.



<b>COMPETENCES</b> Which are the previous knowledge and skills required to put in practice this tool?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity of assembly-based organization</li> <li>- Some knowledge to squatt and to créate the necessary infrastructure</li> <li>- But the most important is: a lot of motivation and capacity to resist.</li> </ul>		
<b>EVALUATION</b> How do you normally evaluate the outcomes of this tool?		
Very positively. The achievement of the results was excelent. The dissemination of the results reached a world level. We appeared in a one-hour report on the Spanish TV, on the German TV, in the 2008 “State of the World” and in many local newspapers. Moreover we are influencing the urban public policies.		
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I authorize Pistes Solidaires and its partners participating to the EU'GO project to publish my contacts on the dedicated website, giving my availability for supporting with information people interested in experimenting an testing the tool that has been described in this document		<b>X</b>
<b>Putting an X in the previous boxes means that you are agreeing with the cited statements</b>		

