This form has been designed to guide community gardens' coordinators or practitioners to describe activities developed to inform, to raise awareness, to involve, to train, to increase quality, to increase impact, to enlarge or differentiate the target group of their community garden. EU'Go project considers all these practices as educational tools to be shared at international level.

Name of the community garden	Contact person		
IL MIO ORTO NATURALE (MY NATURAL GARDEN)	Name and surname	Telephone	**3895162698**
Possible short title for the tool (to be filled in at the end of the editing process)	**ANGELITA PAPA**	E-mail	**angelita.papa@gmail.com**
		Blog	**http://zolleurbane.blogspot.it/**
		Facebook	**http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100002036114738**
		Skype	

It can be addressed to...				It deals with the following themes... Please, put one or more X			
All		School	X	Intercultural dialogue		Intergenerational dialogue	
Children	X	Institution		Gender Equality		Fight against poverty	
Youngsters		Social service		Sustainable Consumption	X	Environmental education	X
Adults	X	Job service		Sustainable Urbanisation		Socio-professional training	
Women		Migrants service		Health promotion	X	Social cohesion	X
Elderly		Health service		Horticultural therapy	X	Leisure activity	X
Other (specify) :				Other (specify) :			

BACKGROUND A good practice is a concrete action, successfully experienced at local level with a defined target group, leading to effective results. Please describe the practice you have developed.

The recreational and educational work-shops inside the synergistic garden were born from the desire of sharing our love for nature, art and teaching. Our intention was to promote the respect for nature and to support the knowledge of traditional natural practices through creative activities that facilitate a true and complex discovery of nature. This is why we use an experiential methodology, combining traditional knowledge and practices with modern digital technologies and art.

The work-shops are designed as **laboratories where different themes are treated**:
- '**Germogli**' ('**Sprouts**') - teaches about the natural processes and the lifecycle of the plants. The participants can discover the old pleasure of planting, adopt a plant and follow the growth of its sprout. They have also the chance to learn and try traditional rural practices in taking care of their plants.
- '**In what 'sense'?**' – discovery of plants through games that encourage the use of all the 5 senses: touch (exploring the various surfaces of the garden and plants); sight (noticing the many shapes of the garden); smell (using absorbing paper the participants play catch of the various scents of the garden) and hearing (using rolled paper the children explore the sounds of the garden).
- '**Lillac Flowers**' – teaches about the principle characteristics of the synergistic garden and promotes the respect for the nature. Discussion about the bees and their ecological role in agriculture.
- '**Artistic creations using natural colours and recycle materials**' – the nature is explored as an artistic tool. The work-shop develops participants' creativity in using natural elements (branches, leafs, little stones, etc.) for different purposes. The participants are taught to create different objects for decoration using the natural elements and to prepare natural colours for painting them.
- '**Herbarium**' – it aims to reestablish the natural connection between earth, gardens and food. The work-shop includes laboratories of vegetal colours; natural cosmetics; herbal tea; medicinal herbs.
- '**Recycling**' - generate awareness regarding the recycling process and its impact on the environment. The work-shop implies the construction of a compost using recycled materials.

- '**Resources**' – introduction on the use and importance of the natural resources using games and experiments. Uses the creation of tools for meteorological reading: thermometer, rain gauge, hygrometer.
- '**Growing with the rhythm of the earth**' – paths designed for each season to teach basic agricultural techniques, experiment the use of the agricultural tools, learn about the seasonal and daily rhythms of plants
- '**Theatre Forum'** – gives children the possibility to represent their expectations and desires about the sustainable use of urban green spaces

MISSION Which is the main mission of the practice you have developed? Please, put one or more X

Inform	x	Raise awareness	x	Involve	x	Train	x	Increase quality	x	Increase impact	x	Enlarge/differentiate target group	

AIM Why do you consider it a good practice? Which is the main purpose tackled in a community garden?

- defines an original and effective educational context to promote the respect for nature
- uses an experiential methodology in teaching: it focuses on the direct experience (contact) of plants through the discovery of different scents, flavours, colours and forms (one can follow a plant from the state of seed till being a mature plant with flowers or fruits)
- uses non-formal education (games, wise sayings, stories, art, theatre, traditional practices) to teach about the characteristics, natural processes and the lifecycle of plants; about recycle, natural resources and healthy food
- facilitates the experience of traditional rural agricultural practices combining it with the knowledge supported by the digital technologies

OUTCOMES Which are the concrete results that can be considered transferable out of the context where the tool has been developed and experimented?

- Echological literacy
- Qualitative learning about the life cycle and the characteristics of plants (scents, flavours, colours, forms, use); about the use and protection of natural resources; about traditional rural practices or the qualities of the synergistic garden
- Building different skills: plant growing; building and taking care of a garden; preparing natural colours and cosmetics from plants; creative use of recycle materials; use of medicinal plants; herbal tea preparation; theatre skills
- Development of participants' creativity and teamwork skills
- Development of a systemic and complex perspective regarding the importance of nature and the processes that influence it

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

The **general steps** we followed in building our **project 'Il mio orto naturale'** are:
1) Specific training on synergistic agriculture
2) Creation of a garden using the synergistic technique
3) Educational content planning
4) Communication and promotion of the work-shops near the schools
5) Documentation
6) Join the network of the local urban gardens

Putting in practice the work-shops:

The work-shops use **Ortolino** – as a special **character-guide** that accompanies them in their learning experiences. Another special character that encourages the learning adventure is **the Genie of the Garden** who can ask the participants to perform different tasks.

The work-shops follow a **general plan**:
- **Presentation**: when the purpose of the work-shop is introduced in the form of a game or a story

- **Discovery**: learning about the theme and exploring the garden
- **Laboratory work**: realization of the various tasks
- **Exhibit**: sharing of the creations, discoveries or reflections made

Resources and materials needed: a map of the garden, paper, absorbing paper, the gardening toolkit, materials to build natural colours (eggs, oil, vinegar, soap, natural soils and oxides).

EVALUATION Which are the elements that you normally use to evaluate the outcomes of this tool?		
☺	☺	☹
The evaluation of the workshops as useful and challenging experiences, as recreational qualitative time spent inside the gardens. Knowledge and skills developed by the participants Concrete and measurable changes Positive changes in participants' attitude and behaviour towards the environment		Organisational lacks and difficulties Difficulties in getting the schools to participate in the project.

COMPETENCES Which are the previous knowledge and skills required to put in practice this tool?

- Knowledge of synergistic agriculture
- Knowledge of environmental education
- Knowledge of botany
- Gardening skills
- Artistic skills: painting; creation of objects made of recycled materials

DISCLAIMING AND DECLARATION OF HONOUR	yes	no
I'm aware that this intellectual product will be used for the aims and objectives of EU'GO project, including sharing and free publication on internet. I authorize Pistes Solidaires and all its partners to consider this document free from rights and royalties.	x	
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	x	
Putting an X in the previous boxes means that you are agreeing with the cited statements		