

## Title

**Urban Agriculture Initiatives' Network**

## Short description

The network of urban gardens of Madrid aims to create a meeting point for collectives that develop urban framing gardens and agroecological projects in the area of Madrid. It helps promote and create visibility for the practices, offer guidance and a forum for discussion for participants from collectives established in the area. It also helps them obtain the materials required for their practice and offers information to outsiders through their website. It also has an offer of workshops and formation activities open for participants and outsiders.

47 initiatives take part in this network spanning through most of the districts of the municipality, as well as in neighbouring cities. Initiatives within the network have different characteristics but share practices and aims. Their requirements for participant initiatives are ecological farming, openness and self-management.

## Topic

Consuming-Food

Living – Green spaces

## Characteristics (type, level)

Local coordination of neighbourhood initiatives

## Country/Countries of implementation

Spain

## Aims and Objectives

The Urban Garden Network of Madrid was created in order to generate consciousness around urban agriculture in Madrid, to promote common help among different orchards and in order to share inputs and materials as well as experiences and knowledge

As promoters explain, the network seeks to create a meeting point for community agroecological initiatives within the city, and to advance towards more humane urban models, which show interest over aspects such as environmental education, food security, food distribution channels, consumption groups or sustainable mobility

## Target Group

Citizens in Madrid working in community agriculture within the city of Madrid. Three requirements are defined for plantations: To be public, to adapt to ecological standards and to be self-managed

## Status

Ongoing

## Start and Completion dates

## Lifestyle and Behavior Change

It eases the work of those who chose to work in urban gardens and profit from them

### Effects on:

<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	Urban gardens can provide urban dwellers from healthy nutritional choices, promote active leisure and social interaction
<b>Vulnerable populations</b>	While it does not allow for alternative sources of income it has a potential for empowering low-income groups and dwellers of peripheral areas
<b>Environment</b>	Urban agriculture provides open seminatural spaces in densely populated areas. It reduces the use of pesticides and other potential negative impacts of intensive agriculture, and is a form of recycling domestic waste

### Initiated and/or implemented by

The implementation of the network activities is done by individuals taking part in community agricultural projects in the area of Madrid.

### Stakeholders and sectors involved

The initiative is formed by the gardens within the network (47 initiatives from Madrid and its surrounding cities), but other stakeholders involved include providers (of seeds, ecological insecticides or tools)

### Financial support

### Evidence-base

Several case-studies have been performed analysing the response of communities to initiatives of this type, though there are concerns on the impact of location choices over the nutritional impacts of edible outputs

### Main activities

The group organizes periodical meetings to discuss the main concerns of the members. Other activities implemented are the organization of workshops, festivals, encounters and different types of activities with the aim of sharing knowledge and experiences, and introducing urban agroecology to the general public

### Evaluation

None

### Main results

None

### Key success factors and barriers

The renewed interest on urban agriculture has an important impact over initiatives that put in common interests arising along different social sectors.

The lack of adequate spaces in urban areas is an important barrier for the development of these initiatives.

### INHERIT Perspective

Urban agriculture may provide a wide range of social benefits. Though quality of resulting produce is not ensured, there are different impacts to be taken into account from the behavioural and environmental points of view. Performing activities such as urban gardening and agriculture may help urban dwellers from different agroecological backgrounds become more aware of the role of agriculture within our society and economy. Environmentally, these initiatives may help in the “greening” of cities. Finally, these activities constitute a form of active leisure that is a goal itself, as it may help to mitigate the negative health effects of the constant stress of urban living.

### More information

<https://redhuertosurbanosmadrid.wordpress.com>

### Contact

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