

**Submission form for the
"European Award for Ecological Gardening 2023"
Category 2: "Learning in the garden – nature experience gardens in
kindergartens, schools and educational institutions"**



Please fill in the form below for your project in the respective category.

If your submission might fit into all three categories, please select the category in which you see the focus of your project. If you wish to submit several projects in several categories, fill in the forms in accordance with the given categories. Please note that the same project can be submitted in one category only.

Please answer the questions below. Make sure that the length of your responses does not exceed the framework required. Upload supplementary materials (pictures, plans, graphics in high resolution (300dpi minimum), videos (length: 3-5 minutes, 30MB maximum), etc.), indicating the project name. **Please note that competition contributions submitted without the completely filled-in form cannot be considered.** All requested materials must be made available to the Awarding Authority in time before the session of the Jury.

Part I – BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SUBMISSION:

1.1 Organisation / Company / Individual person:	
Name of education institution/ institution/organisation/individual person or company:	
Address:	
Telephone number:	
E-mail:	
<i>Optional: Web:</i>	

1.2 Contact person: <i>Please indicate for queries relating to the submission.</i>	
Name of contact person:	
Telephone number:	
E-mail:	

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Part II – PROJECT DATA:

2.1 General information:	
Project title: <i>max. 75 characters</i>	
<i>Optional: Persons involved:</i>	
<i>Optional: Area size in m² or ha:</i>	
Implementation period of project: <i>from-to, please indicate year dates or "running since ...".</i>	
Address of project:	
Photographers <i>(Please indicate a note on image rights also on images/photographs/videos):</i>	

2.2 Compliance with the main criteria of "Natur im Garten"	YES	NO
Non-use of chemical-synthetic pesticides ("poison")* <i>*Pesticides that comply with the EU-organic regulations or the „Natur im Garten“ criteria are allowed.</i>		
Non-use of chemical-synthetic fertilizers ("artificial fertilizers")		
Non-use of peat		
Promotion of biodiversity		

2.3 The garden is used in the following pedagogical setting:	
You can select one category only. If your contribution touches on several categories, please select the one that applies primarily to your project. Alternatively, you can enter your own details under 'Miscellaneous'.	
Selection options:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elementary level (age group: from 2 to 6 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary level (age group: from 6 to 10 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary level (age group: from 10 to 14 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Post-secondary level and non-university tertiary level (age group: from 14 to 19 years)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tertiary level
<input type="checkbox"/>	Miscellaneous:

2.4 How is the garden used?
Please tick (multiple answers possible) or provide your own information under the heading 'Miscellaneous'.
Selection options:

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	Outdoor learning (which educational offers/school subjects; please indicate):
	Exercise & Play
	Recreation & Communication
	Cultivation & Harvest
	Afternoon care
	Festivities & Celebrations
	Research
	Miscellaneous:

2.5 Project summary:

A) Describe the project, taking into account the following items

(one A4 page, approx. 2000 characters):

- Outdoor learning
- Exercise & Play
- Recreation & Communication
- Nature adventure/experience
- Respect for nature and biodiversity
- Environmental awareness
- Realisation of innovative and sustainable ideas

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B) How is the nature experience garden integrated into the overall educational concept?

Describe the overall educational concept of the garden.
(year-round thematic school garden work, nature observations ...)
(max. 1000 characters)

C) What are the guiding principles and objectives of the project?

(Learning and working space, competence development, environmental awareness, upgrading of the outdoor area, taking into account regional and climatic conditions, fruit and/or vegetable growing, learning and working space, conservation of resources, etc.)
In your description, focus on pedagogy, closeness to nature, ecology and sustainability.
(approx. 5 lines, approx. 500 characters)

D) How is the project's specificity reflected in the pedagogical use?

Describe how the project supports your pedagogical practice (references to the education plan/curriculum, competence and potential development of learners,...). How do children, young people and learners benefit from the garden? Also describe what new forms of learning have been implemented in your garden/green space.
(approx. 2000 characters)

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E) How is the project integrated into the cultural and social environment of the region?
(parents, grandparents, associations, festivities and celebrations, ...)
(approx. 5 lines, approx. 500 characters)

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Part III – DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION – CHECKLIST:

3.1 Pedagogical use		
	YES	NO
Use of the garden/green space for leisure purposes/breaks		
Use of the garden/green space for educational programmes/teaching		
Weatherproof and mobile seating options that enable large and small groups to work outdoors		
Supplementary teaching materials (magnifying glass, landing net, magnetic board,...)		
Elements that promote balance and motor skills (balancing trunks, ropes, climbing nets, trampoline etc.)		
Niches and retreats for recreation and relaxation		
Near-natural, mobile play and building materials for free play		
Collective growing and tasting of vegetables, herbs, fruits, ...		
Discovering and exploring animals together		
Reasons/Supplements:		

3.2 Design and use of plants		
	YES	NO
The use of diverse natural garden elements and structures for increasing the quality of habitats (wild shrubs, wild flowers, dry stone designs, dry and wet habitats, water areas, deciduous trees, deadwood, ...)		
Selection of environmentally friendly building materials (e.g. regional-specific, permeable, non-toxic, with short transport routes, upcycling)		
Use and collection of rainwater		
Wildlife-friendly design of buildings (e.g. in case of fencings)		
Diverse selection of plants according to the site conditions and adapted to the expected use of open spaces		
The use of domestic and ecologically valuable plants that are regionally produced wherever possible		
The planting selected takes into account climate change		
No plants are used that are toxic for children		
Selection of plants that stimulate the senses (scented plants, special colours, structures, haptics - petting garden,...)		
Terrain modelling or design that allows different ways of zoning (concentrated work, play & fun, rest and relaxation,...)		
Exercise and playing together is possible on the green space		
Places of retreat for both teachers and learners		
Reasons/Supplements:		

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3.3 Ecological plant protection including preventive and plant strengthening measures		
	YES	NO
Preventive plant protection (promotion of useful creatures, selection of sturdy plant species, ...)		
Strengthening of plants and organic fertilisation (compost, mulch, liquid manures, broths, teas and green manure)		
Use of physical aids (safety nets, glue traps, snail fence, ...)		
Use of organic plant protection products		
Reasons/Supplements:		

3.4 Model character and innovation value		
	YES	NO
The project ...		
... carries a clear ecological philosophy and attitude.		
... has an innovative overall approach.		
... makes ecological contexts perceptible and contributes significantly to the development of environmental awareness. Please describe. (max. 1000 characters)		
... addresses various target groups.		
Describe the regional model character/exemplary character as well as the degree of innovation of the project. To what extent is the project idea applicable to other projects as well (under similar framework conditions)? (max. 1000 characters)		
Reasons/Supplements:		

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3.5 Charisma and capacity to appeal		
	YES	NO
The project ...		
... is involved in the active life of the region.		
... is networked at a supra-regional level through multipliers and the media.		
... has an imitation character that radiates beyond the project itself.		
... has the potential to inspire people about the impact of nature adventures/experiences and learning in the garden. Please provide a more detailed description of the measures taken by you regarding information and public relations work.		
... has the potential to convince people of ecological gardening. Please provide a more detailed description of the measures taken by you regarding information and public relations work.		
Reasons/Supplements:		

3.6 Compliance with the criteria in the category "Learning in the garden – nature experience gardens in kindergartens, schools and educational institutions"
You have prepared your own educational materials for your nature experience garden. Which ones?
How are children, young people and learners involved in the planning, design, further development and maintenance of the garden? (max. 1000 characters)
What makes this garden a nature experience garden? What opportunities for action-oriented learning and nature experiences are offered here? Give some elements as examples.

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	YES	NO
A site manager or helping hands is/are available with horticultural qualifications.		
Was there any cooperation with extracurricular partners? (parents, grandparents, sponsors, associations,...) If so, with which ones and in what form? (max. 1000 characters)		
There is a garden care and conservation concept, also during closing times, for the sustainability of the project with clear responsibilities and competences with regard to the care of the garden (e.g. cooperation with allotment gardeners, sponsorships, parents...). Continuous care and maintenance builds up specialist expertise. The care concept must be presented to the Jury for inspection upon request.		
The natural experience garden has established itself and has an ecologically valuable diversity.		
The focus of the project is to serve as a role model.		
Are you planning any other garden learning projects? If yes, which ones? (max. 1000 characters)		

The submitters confirm that they are eligible to submit the project for the "European Award for Ecological Gardening 2023".

Furthermore, the submitters assure that they are entitled to dispose of the exploitation rights or copyrights to the materials handed over in connection with the submission (in particular uploaded photos, videos and other image material) and the consent of the persons shown in the images.

The submitters give their consent to the publication of the submitted competition entries at the exhibition and in the media (presentations, web, print and radio), as well as for other publications without any restrictions in terms of space or time, by naming the submitters, photographers and the location.

Submitted documents will remain with the awarding authority and will not be returned.

By submitting the competition entry, all participants accept all the conditions contained in the call for entries. The participants expressly acknowledge that the decisions of the Jury are final and unappealable in all technical and discretionary matters. There is no recourse to legal action.