

Parks and Gardens in Europe

Paths towards Environmental Education



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

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Table of contents

Introduction.....	2
Gartennetz Deutschland e.V.	3-4
Gartenakademie Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.	5-6
Anyksciai Education Assistance Authority.....	7-8
Carl Robert Jakobson's Farm Museum	9-10
Fundacja Dobro Kultury.....	11-12
Natur im Garten	13-15
Croatian Society of Captives of Serbian Concentration Camps of Osijek-Baranya County.....	16-18

Introduction

This brochure has been created during two years (2012-2014) of cooperation between seven organizations in the Grundtvig Partnership Project "Garden and Parks in Europe - Paths towards Environmental Education", funded with support from the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Program.

Each of the partner organizations will contribute its point of view, experience and knowledge from the different sectors regarding the development of gardens and parks: ecological technologies, cultural heritage, ecological leisure gardening, eco-urbanization, traditional gardening and healing by gardening.



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Gartennetz Deutschland e.V.

Federal Association

The initiative was founded 2007 by a group of 7 garden initiatives in Germany and now the net has 25 members who represent about 1.500 private and public garden owners with their gardens in Germany and beyond the frontiers.

Main aims

acting together to develop garden culture

The Gartennetz Deutschland e.V. combines the interests of garden initiatives for the preservation and the care of parks and gardens. To develop the garden culture is the main aim. The future of German gardens and parks should be sustainable secured by professionalization. They should reach in the awareness of a broad public as garden artificial attractive places with a high residence quality.

Parks and gardens will be developed for the use of the visitors. Gartennetz will sensitize and contribute to the security of the cultural heritage as well as to the sponsorship of contemporary garden art.

To achieve these goals, the Gartennetz use the following instruments

communicate, advertise, learn and organize
Gartennetz Deutschland e.V. offers an information and communication stage to regional garden initiatives – the market place for an exchange of experiences and a networked acting.

- assembly and development of cooperations and working structures – also with European partners
- regularly interdisciplinary exchange of
- experiences

- sponsorship of measures for the preservation, the reconstruction and development of parks and gardens
- support in the conception of garden tourism offers
- workshops and events with publicity effect
- communication work – press, PR-work, advertisement
- support in fundraising-measures

Cooperations

garden networking in Germany and Europe

The Gartennetz focuses on increasing quality, increasing number of visitors, on advancement of garden tourism, on image improvement, on the exchange of experiences through cooperation amongst each other and in a European context, as well as on the professionalization of services connected to parks and gardens. Networking and cooperation in regional, national and international contexts is an important task and the Gartennetz is already working with a lot of partners in Europe.

Projects

learning and working together for valorization of parks and gardens

The Gartennetz organizes different projects with its members and European partners. Subjects are always the parks and gardens with their variety of jobs and tasks around: Projects to develop parks and also people: From garden awareness and environmental protection to garden and environmental education.

Gartennetz Deutschland
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gARTenakademie Sachsen-Anhalt

“Nothing flourishes without care, and the most excellent things lose their value through inexpedient treatment.”

Peter Joseph Lenné (1789-1866)

The gARTenakademie Sachsen-Anhalt has worked to this guiding principle since 2011. It is dedicated to the transfer of lost gardening knowledge in various fields:

- Seeing, uncovering and capturing traces in overgrown, nearly forgotten gardens and parks,
- Planting and harvesting an organic kitchen garden
- Courses in pruning fruit trees,
- Presentations on gardens all over the world.

Workshops with children and teenagers and lifelong learning as a means of transferring knowledge between young and old represent the cornerstone of the gARTenakademie Sachsen-Anhalt's activities.

Opportunities offered by the activities

- Promoting art and culture by promoting the cultivation and preservation of cultural values,
- Promoting the protection and preservation of historical monuments, with particular focus on garden design, the protection of historic gardens, landscape conservation and the preservation of cultural landscapes,
- A forum for information, further training, advice and experience in gardening and garden design, in order to communicate the knowledge necessary for the upkeep and management of parks, gardens and cultural landscapes,
- Generating greater public awareness of parks and

gardens, improving their attractiveness, and enhancing the historic and current significance of parks and gardens with respect to their general and landscape design qualities for the benefit of the general public and the common good,

- Creating provisions for training, further education, exchange of experience and qualification for members and non-members,
- Establishing parks and gardens as places which enhance public quality of life by maintaining their cultural, social, design and health-related significance,
- Networking and co-operation with garden academies and universities in Germany,
- Support in the development of garden academies,
- Building and extending co-operation at the level of federal states and nationally, as well as co-operation with European and international project partners.

In co-operation with “Natur im Garten” in Lower Austria, the organic gardening programme “Nature starts at your door” will kick off in autumn 2013 with a comprehensive programme of seminars titled Learning – Experiencing – Understanding. The gARTenakademie Sachsen-Anhalt supports garden owners in sustainable garden design and care - without chemicals, artificial fertilisers or peat. Gardens in Zichtau form the basis of the Living Gardens Catalogue in the Altmark region “Land of Gardens”.

*“I hear and I forget.
I see and I remember.
I do and I understand”.*

(Confucius 551-479 BC)



Further information

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Anyksciai Education Assistance Authority

Anykščių švietimo pagalbos tarnyba (Anyksciai Education Assistance Authority) was founded in 2004. It is a newly established institution in the region providing informal adult education.

Anyksciai is a rural district in the East part of Lithuania with a relatively slow economic and social development. A new concern on the occupation situation has come up within the last few years since the economic situation changed after the declaration of independence and accession to the EU.

In today's world of information and ICT there is a need of new competences and skills that our centre is aiming at developing.

The main objectives of Anyksciai Education Assistance Authority are: to organize the qualification improvement work of the members of educational institutions and other communities, to initiate active participation in the educational reform and to help teachers who work with pupils having special needs: to provide information, consultation and recommendations.

The spheres of the activities are:

- the advancement of teachers' qualification
- informal adult education
- helping pupils, schools, teachers

The Authority

The Authority has been organizing all kind of activities: seminars (about 100 every year), courses (computer literacy and foreign languages, art workshops), exhibitions, projects, educational trips.

The Education Assistance Authority

Education Assistance Authority has been organizing all kind of courses and seminars for various people: teachers, unemployed, volunteers from Community Centres of the region, seniors, people with disabilities or for everyone who is interested in acquiring new skills.

The Authority is co-operating with all educational institutions in the district. Education Assistance Authority has lots of experiences organizing the international workshops and lots of skills in managing local and international projects.

The Authority aims at providing the possibility for adults to continue learning all their life, be flexible and be ready to adapt in the changing world. Learning on the background of the competences is the main purpose of informal education.

Participants not only have to learn on theoretical level, but also they have to use the tools and skills which are offered in the practical part of the program. It is impossible to define the number of adult learners since the number is changing constantly as some courses and seminars are not long term learning activities. During one year more than 2.000 participants attend the activities of the Authority.

There are only 6 employees working constantly in the Education Assistance Authority. The central values of institution is need of clients, human-centred; freedom to choose our own way; know-how, development; balance between financial resources and needs; responsible workforce.



Further information

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C. R. Jakobson's

Farm Museum in Kurgja

C. R. Jakobson's Farm Museum was established in 1948. It is a national museum that works as active farm. It involves 85 ha land where are farm established in 1874—the dwelling house, cattle barn, mill, storehouse, beehive house, sauna, threshing barn and arable lands, grasslands and almost 30 hectares of forest.

All the buildings of Kurgja Linnutaja farm have been completed according to the project of C. R. Jakobson and therefore they are unique.

The main house of the museum includes an exhibition which introduces the life and activities of C. R. Jakobson who was the first Estonian well-informed farmer, politician, enlightener, journalist and one of the Estonian most beloved leaders in the Age of Awakening.

As he wished to be a role model and a teacher, he intended to build a sample farm to Kurgja.

The museum is special due to an active farm with cattle-breeding and land cultivation. Estonian country breed cows, white headed sheep, Estonian horses, rabbits, roosters, hens and turkeys are a true feast for the eye. One aim is encourage people to be engaged in agriculture – to take care of animals and grow their everyday food by them self. We are having orchard and vegetable garden. We also practise ten-field system.

The purpose of our museum is to conserve and give out knowledge of the 19th century farm culture and the heritage of C. R. Jakobson.



To achieve goals...

- We offer excursions to a farm.
- We offer Estonian national food, most of which we cook from our own farm's raw material and bread we bake in an old mill stove.
- We offer educational programmes, such as "Autumn in the farm", "Christmas in the farm", "St. Catherine's Day and St. Martin's Day programmes", "Carnival Tuesday in a farm", "Easter programme", "Farm Child Chores" and "Annual Food Circle in the Farm" which describes the old-time Estonian farm food.
- Traditional events such as Farm Day, where we present works performed in a farm;
- Handicraft Day, running and camping on the Sakala road, Midsummer Day, Sheep Day, handing over the C. R. Jakobson awards to the best agricultural, educational and cultural figure in Pärnu county, the Day of the Estonian native Cattle and Estonian native horse.
- Since 2010, our museum has been housing a farm culture school which provides various courses for adults. The first two years focused on old skills and handicrafts. The previous year's programme taught making local folk costumes and this year focuses on gardening, with the related skills and activities. We consider it important to provide adults with self-education possibilities and new skills which are learned in an environment as authentic as possible.



Further information

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Fundacja Dobro Kultury

Cultural Heritage Foundation

DOBRO KULTURY, founded in 2003, is one of the few non-governmental organizations dedicated to preservation of the cultural heritage in Poland and the first foundation of this profile in the border region. Our duty is to encourage residents of the Polish-German border area to become involved in the care of local cultural heritage, which leads to strengthening of interpersonal relationships and to the development of civil society.

The Founders of the Foundation of DOBRO KULTURY is a group of persons of Polish, German and Dutch nationality. This is evidence that supports the thesis that the protection of European cultural heritage knows no borders.

Principles and Objectives

- Preservation of cultural and natural heritage, especially in the Polish-German border area;
- Awareness raising in the area of cultural heritage among the local communities;
- Protection and preservation of local traditions, customs and of other intangible cultural heritage;
- Strengthening the society's sense of identity and its emotional ties to the cultural heritage;
- Promoting cultural tourism;
- Promoting understanding between peoples;
- Strengthening intercultural exchanges and promoting the development of civil society;
- Stimulating growth and creating new jobs in the sector of cultural heritage preservation;
- study and diagnosis of social awareness regarding the preservation of monuments and the diversity of cultural heritage;
- Promoting international understanding;
- Professional education, continuing education and training.

Instruments

The DOBRO KULTURY Foundation pursues its objectives by developing, coordinating and supporting projects, mainly in the following areas: in

- Educational activities, working with children, youth and adults;
- Raising public awareness, cooperation with the media;
- Organization of exhibitions, seminars, international meetings, conferences and other scientific and cultural events.

Volunteering

One of the statutory goals of the DOBRO KULTURY Foundation's is to develop awareness regarding the preservation of cultural heritage and youth work.

Volunteering in the area of the preservation of monuments is not a very popular form of social engagement among the Polish youth.

Our Foundation would like to change it and in cooperation with foreign organizations to encourage young people to taking part in this type of activity.

In addition, our organization would like to assist partners in Germany in the coordination of projects taking place on the Polish territory.

So far, we have established a partnership with German institutions such as the Internationale Jugendbauhütte Gartendenkmalpflege.




DOBRO KULTURY

Further information

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Natur im Garten

Nature in the Garden

“Natur im Garten” (Nature in the Garden) is an initiative of the province of Lower Austria that aims to make gardens and green spaces more ecological by encouraging people to create and cultivate natural gardens with a rich diversity of plants. “Natur im Garten” offers a home to environmentally-conscious gardeners and also uses this appealing topic to raise environmental awareness in general. The initiative was founded in 1999 by Deputy Governor Wolfgang Sobotka.

Three key criteria for nature gardening:

- no pesticides
- no chemical, synthetic fertilizers
- no peat

Principles and Objectives

- Rich variety of indigenous, regionally typical and ecologically-valuable plants.
- Encouragement of beneficial insects and ecologically-valuable garden elements.
- Recycling by means of composting, mulching and the use of rainwater.
- Use of robust varieties which are resistant to diseases and pests.
- Rich variety of plants in locations to which they are best suited.
- Home-grown herbs, fruit and vegetables.

To achieve these goals, the initiative uses the following instruments:

- Information and advice over a telephone hotline, on-site advice, the “Natur im Garten” magazine, brochures, specialist literature and a TV show.

- Training and Advanced Training by the “Natur im Garten Akademie” (Nature in the Garden Academy)
- Subsidies for reference projects and ecological gardening projects in public green spaces.
- Demonstration objects and exhibitions in the form of ecologically designed and cultivated show gardens and model projects in public green spaces.
- Partner companies and the Green Market through a network of companies with ecological products and services.
- Awards for natural gardens and partners in the form of plaques, signs and certificates.
- Festivities and events to encourage fun, games and entertainment in natural gardens.

The garden plaque

At the request of the garden owner, gardens that fulfil the most important natural gardening criteria will be awarded “Natur im Garten” Garden Plaque in recognition of sustainable garden management and ecological design.

“Natur im Garten Akademie”

The training and advanced training courses offered at the “Natur im Garten” Akademie (Nature in the Garden Academy) bring together 10 years of experience in natural gardening. Irrespective of age and previous knowledge, participants will find suitable courses that combine both theory and practice. Practical training in natural gardening, seminars, themed guided tours, workshops and courses – there’s something for everyone!

Further information

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Die GARTEN TULLN

DIE GARTEN TULLN has been "Natur im Garten" most multi-faceted show garden since 2008. The show garden is the first ecological horticultural show in Europe and has already attracted more than one million visitors. With more than 50 show and themed gardens, the 10-hectare site opens up a fascinating world of natural gardening culture.

Croatian Society of Captives of Serbian Concentration Camps of Osijek-Baranya County

Our activities represented within the Grundtvig project "Parks and Gardens in Europe" encompass activities related to landscape architecture that are called: Be healthy by working in gardens and parks. The project started in 2010 and refers to two entities:

- Operations in terms of setting out green areas
- Permanent education of the Society members on possibilities of setting out green areas in the nearest vicinity of their residence; cherishing and using them aiming at healthier life

Activities having been organized since 2010:

- Weekly held presentations entitled : Parks and gardens of Europe, Be healthy by working in gardens and parks
- Development of the project documentation for two parks: locations – Nemetin and Ovčara (Vukovar)
- Setting out of the park in Nemetin

Permanent education of the members includes topics as follows:

Getting acquainted with plant material

- Garden technical elements
- Irrigation systems
- Project tasks
- Small eco-systems as clarifiers of the place we live in
- Importance of green areas in the urban space
- Practical performance of all activities related to setting out and cherishing gardens and parks

OVČARA

Memorial museum SPOMENDOM and monument were erected to the memory of the victims on the place where 255 civilians and soldiers of Croatian army were executed by the Serbian aggressors in 1991. Today a project for the desired future park was built near the Museum. It will, in the forthcoming time, represent a place where war sufferers from all over the world will meet and warn worldwide people to war caused horrors. The Park is designed as a copy of Croatia i.e. shape Croatia has when air viewed. The Park is divided into as many parts as counties in Croatia. Each county is supposed to put its tree characterized by its climate. Each county arranges its space within the Park. Guests from other countries also contribute to the Park image by bringing their gifts in the form of plant species as a sign of their countries (e.g. a guest from Canada will donate a maple tree). Apart from the practical activities, daily presentations on green areas importance in all human activities spheres are also planned.

Regardless the monument, Nemetin memorial on the surface of 200 m², also has a small park representing realization of the part of activities within the Society. It is initial promotion and efforts of active Society members to make their space more beautiful and rich in plants. The Park itself will be available for conducting diverse activities from spring to late autumn:

- seasonal flowers planting
- park cherishing (grass mowing, pruning trees and shrubs, disease and pests plant protection) as well as presentations able to be conducted in the open air

Work and maintenance of this small park will enable members of the Society to socialize whereas active work in the garden and dealing with plants will make them mentally stabile. This will bring about forgetting troubles they experienced in the past. By choosing native plant species and independent cultivation of a part of the plant production, these activities are extended to a small-scale crop production. In this way a park maintaining cycle is closed by the ones who designed, set out, cherished and used it. The completed activities in the Park are followed by socializing with domestic food and drinks. Every year members of the Society are visited by students, citizens, even the Osijek mayor himself –holding the broom in the photo.



Further information

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