



*Ryc. 1. Urban garden in Lisbon – the social work.*



*Ryc. 2. Transforming the landscape with people needs.*

## URBAN GARDENS IN: PORTUGAL

The city hall of Lisbon, Portugal, has responded to the crisis by betting that urban agriculture can have a social role. Some areas of green space, have become urban gardens and about 500 plots were distributed according to different social criteria. In 32ha of park, 7 become urban gardens. The large allotments are distributed in priority to unemployed people living in social housing. These gardens really have a social role, because they can complement insufficient income and improve the family diet quality. Until now, 500 families have their allotment to gardening, but the goal is to double that value until 2017.

### And if urban gardening can have a social role?

The implementation of this plan, also transformed the city face. Lawns, usually are turned into urban gardens, rich in biodiversity and the allotments are required to open corridors for walkers. Parks now have several functions: plus recreational, also have food production, where the presence of people creates a sense of security for all. Based on this success, the city is trying to increase the areas of parks, reducing maintenance costs. It is not needed lawns with very high water consumption in the summer, herbicides or syrup for irrigation. Now it is the citizens who care for the parks. There is also a training in organic farming that are offered to occupants of these urban gardens.