



pic. 1. all registered community gardens and similar projects in Austria, by gartenpolylog.org



pic. 2. community garden Roda-Roda, Vienna, Rita Mayrhofer

URBAN GARDENS: Austria

Historically, gardening was an integral part of urban households in Europe. Industrialization led to a separation of house and garden as a production unit. To compensate, allotment gardens arose in city outskirts. With rising capitalism and prosperity, allotment gardens lost their importance and were transformed to residential areas. Gardening was regarded as a hobby and access to gardens became a privilege of the affluent. Today, the new urban gardening movement reestablishes urban gardening and highlights the importance of local communities. Around 170 gardening initiatives in Austria now.

Community Gardening in Vienna

- 1.73 million inhabitants, growing fast (8.000 persons per year)
- A green and productive city (12.000 ha forest, 22.000 ha agriculture within the city) ¹
- 50 gardening initiatives, therefrom 34 gardens ²
- 2/3 of them bottom-up, ap. 1/3 hybrid and two top-down
- Financial and organisational support since 2011
- Strong influence from policy and governance as Vienna has a long tradition of socio-democratic influenced administration³
- Projects in social housing complexes are rare despite the large potential of these estates ⁴

¹ Statistisches Jahrbuch der Stadt Wien 2014

² <https://gartenpolylog.org/gardens>

³ Urbanes Gärtnern in Wien – Bestandsaufnahme im Licht urbaner Governance, Stefan Karkulik, 2012

⁴ Stoik/Emprechtinger/Förster/Gruber/Mayrhofer/Staller/Studer, Wissenschaftliche Begleitforschung zur Einführung von Nachbarschaftsgärten im Wiener Gemeindebau (2010)