# SOCIAL ASPECTS OF URBAN GARDENING



Picture 1: Urban Vineyard (Thessaloniki)



Picture 2: Urban Gardening by a NGO (Athens)

Names: Giatsidou Vasiliki, Seitanidou Martha

### **URBAN GARDENS IN: GREECE**

#### **Garden types**

Not for profit:

- ❖ Urban Vegetable Gardens in public spaces → Municipality and NGOs in order to tackle poverty (EU funding)
- ❖ Guerilla Gardens → self-organized with many activities (website, articles, inspiring videos etc), conflicts with the authorities
- ❖Institutional Gardens (e.g University): open access to citizens without social and economical criteria
- Community Gardens in Ecological Parks (collective kitchen, seminars, festivals every Sunday)

#### For profit:

- ❖Social Co-operations → networks between citizens and producers (no intermediates)
- ❖Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in urban and periurban farms→ box schemes
- ❖Hospital Gardens → production is selling to the inner vegetable shop
- ❖NGO "PELITI" for the preservation and spread of the traditional varieties of the greek flora→ co-operation with many urban gardens and solidarity movements worldwide.



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### **URBAN GARDENS IN: GREECE**

Group PER.KA (2011)

- ➤1st self-organized Communal Garden in Northern Greece, not for profit but for self-comsumption and support of vulnerable social groups
- ➤ Operation: Former military camp
- ➤ Communal, in season cultivation of vegetables, flowers, herbs based on organic farming
- ➤ Alternative, cooperative economy of the region
- ➤ Goal: Escape economical, social crisis

#### **ACTIVITIES**

Daily presence → reduce instances of robberies, ransacking of the buildings, tree cutting → safe area for visitors

Preservation and promotion of the local flora

Social aspects:

Cooperative way to escape economical and social crisis Create a free and open space for the citizens

Seminars, Festivals, Synergies with other social groups worldwide





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Picture 1: General plan of the garden



Picture 2: Aspect of the "small fenced gardens"

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## Community vegetable garden in Xanthi

- •130 "small fenced gardens" about 30 m<sup>2</sup> each.
- •The study area is located near the city center, at a walking distance.
- •The operation of the garden is organized by the Municipality of Xanthi.
- •Local water company provides water supply to the gardeners for free.
- •The community garden has been operating since 2013 as a social structure for the relief of socially vulnerable groups of the region. Beneficiaries are elderly people, unemployed, single parents ect. according to financial and social criteria.
- •The gardeners do not pay any kind of "rent".
- •The social structure of Community garden is being supported by an agronomist and a social worker.
- •Gardeners are required to give 10% of their production to the Social Grocery another social structure.
- •In the Garden there are rights and obligations in order to ensure its proper operation.
- •Community vegetable garden is open to schools for educational purposes.

