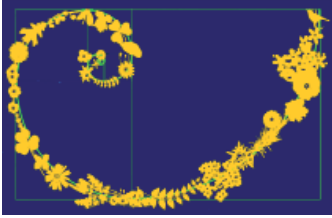


**COST Action TU1201**

***Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities  
Future, Challenges and Lessons Learned***

**Dortmund Joint MC and WG Meeting Report  
March 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> 2013**



## COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens

Dortmund Joint MC and WG Meeting Report

COST Action TU1201  
Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities  
Future, Challenges and Lessons Learned

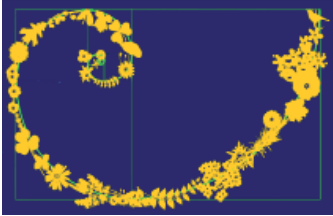
**Local Host:**

ILS Research Institute for Regional and Urban  
Development gGmbH

**Venue:**

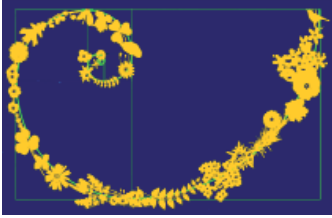
Thyssen Krupp Infocenter  
Dortmund  
Germany  
Date: March 7-9, 2013





COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens





## COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens

### **Editors:**

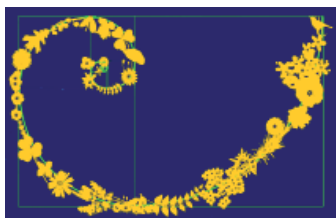
Nazila Keshavarz  
Simon Bell

**Date of Publish: April 2013**

### **Abbreviations:**

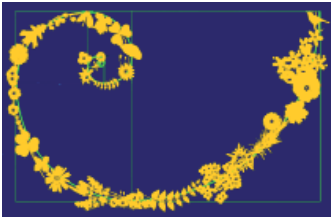
MC	Management Committee
WG	Working Group
AG	Allotment Garden





COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens

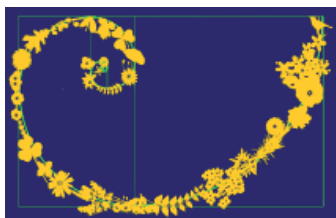




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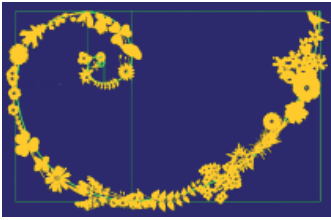
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## COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens

### Introduction

COST Action TU1201 – Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities - Future, Challenges and Lessons Learned launched its activities at the first Joint Management Committee and Working Group Meeting in Dortmund City, Germany, from 7 to 9 March, 2013 and brought together a wide spectrum of researchers, stakeholders, policy makers and students from 23 European signatory countries and 36 higher education institutions, municipalities and private sector organisations.

The aim of the three-day meeting was to bring network partners together and to kick off the work of the four Working Groups of the Action as well as to discuss important issues concerning the management and work plan of the Action such as:

1. Overview of status of the Action, involved parties, balance of Working Group participation
2. Review of Work & Budget Plan, agreement on rules for reimbursement for future meetings
3. Proposal for the appointment of an editorial board for the publication of a book on allotment gardening in Europe and selection of members
4. Agreement on Short Term Scientific Mission procedures and assessment criteria
5. Introducing Action's website [www.urbanallotments.eu](http://www.urbanallotments.eu)

The meet keynote speaker Mr Chris Zijdeveld the presidents of the International Office of Allotment Gardeners and the Dutch Association of Allotment Gardeners (AVVN) inspired audiences with his interesting speech - Allotment Gardening: Extremely Valuable, Grossly Underestimated, Shockingly Unknown. His speech revealed important facts about diversity of design and development of allotment gardens in different European countries and how social character, geography, planning and policy of each locality control, manage and develop allotment gardens and its practice.

Chairs and co-Chairs of the four Working Groups presented their program and plans and the importance of the research on allotment gardens in their specific research areas and how to achieve milestones of the Action and identify research

overlaps between four WGs.

During the event, the Plenary Session was divided into four Working Groups, Core Group and Management Committee meetings, presentation of national case studies as posters and field trip.

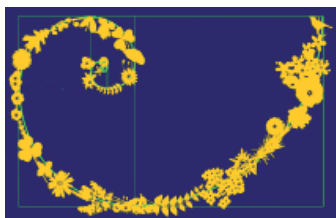
Dortmund event was a successful experience and a good start of a collaborative research work that succeeded to bring together experts and enthusiasts in area of urban allotment gardens with different research background and similar interests.

Hopefully by the next Joint Management Committee and Working Group Meeting which is planned to be held in Poznan/Poland in September 2013, the team will bring more experts and young researchers to the Action and meet milestones that were set out in Dortmund session to be achieved.

**Runrid Fox-Kämper**  
**Chair of the Action TU1201**

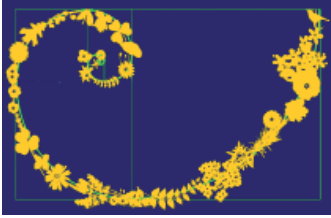






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## COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens

### Program of Dortmund Joint MC and WG Meetings

#### **Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

Welcome Address and Introduction by Mr Michael Paul, Managing Director of ILS and Ms Runrid Fox-Kämper, Chair of the Action

Keynote Presentations

Working Groups Meetings

WG1 Policy & Urban Development

WG2 Sociology

WG3 Ecology

WG4 Urban design

#### **Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Work in 4 parallel Working Group sessions

Closing Plenary Session

Reports from Working Groups

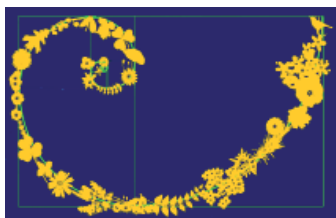
Conclusion and announcement of the next event

MC Meeting

#### **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Field Trip





## COST Action TU1201 Urban Allotment Gardens

### Keynote Presentations

**Mr Chris Zijdeveld - Allotment Gardening: Extremely Valuable, Grossly Underestimated, Shockingly Unknown**

**Prof. Matthias Drilling - How Urban Development and Policies Affect Urban Allotment Gardens**

**Dr Mary Benson – A Sociological Understanding of Allotment Gardens**

**Prof. Andrzej Mizgajsky, Dr. Annette Voigt - Green Paradises? – Challenges for the urban ecological research on allotment gardens**

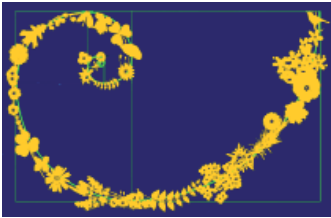
**Mr Silvio Caputo, Ms Sandra Costa - New emerging models of allotment gardens**

The first keynote speaker was Chris Zijdeveld who is the presidents of the International Office of Allotment Gardeners and the Dutch Association of Allotment Gardeners (AVVN). He presented his long term experience in allotment gardening management through his inspiring presentation - Allotment Gardening: Extremely Valuable, Grossly Underestimated, Shockingly Unknown - with good examples of allotment gardens around Europe. His speech revealed many important facts about allotment gardens in European cities that are relevant for this Action too such as diversity of design and development of urban allotment gardens in different parts of Europe and the effect of urban planning and policy on management and establishment of allotment gardens in different localities. From his presentation it was understood that there are different tools and systems that are dealing with establishment, management and control of allotments.

Working Group Chairs presented their main ideas and research focus according to their specific research area. Synopses of the four WG presentations and their focus are as follow:

WG1 Urban Development and Policy focused on the transformation of Urban Allotment Garden itself as well as the transition process from Urban Allotment Garden to different forms of Urban Gardening





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which this process is supervised by urban development theories, politics and policies in different dimensions such as planning philosophy; bio-power, actors and discourses; value theory, land and space; planning paradigms; governance; public space and location.

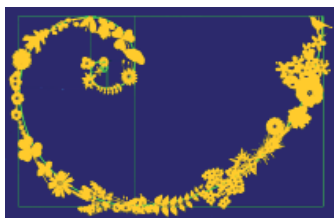
Main focus of WG2 Sociology was on terminology, boundaries, spatial access and spatial configuration of allotment gardens from a social point of view which in this respect there are overlaps with WG4 Urban Design. Also, understanding of the allotment gardens as public spaces that are privately utilized by individuals was another research focus of WG2. WG3 Ecology demonstrated a multidimensional approach that helps to bind case studies in different countries:

- Processes/cascade analyse: Drivers - Pressure – State – Impact – Response
- Valuation of services provided by AG Ecosystems for user and dwellers
- Matter fluxes analyse: Input - Output approach (AGs are seen as "black boxes")

The main focus of WG4 Urban Design was on debate on AGs as physical components of urban agriculture with the power to change the urban landscape such as industrial, residential and

neglected areas of the city. How allotment gardens are incorporated in new residential, institutional, educational buildings as well as urban parks as means of transformation of the built forms within the city.





## COST Action TU1201 Urban Allotment Gardens

### Summary Report of Working Group 1 - Policy and Urban Development

**Chairs: Nazila Keshavarz, Matthias Drilling**

#### Participants

Byron Ioannou, Cyprus  
Simon Bell, Estonia  
Nazila Keshavarz, Germany  
Martin Sondermann, Germany  
Efrat Eizenberg, Israel  
Kristina Abolina, Latvia  
Lauma Lidaka, Latvia  
Dita Trapenciere, Latvia  
Werner Heidemann, Luxemburg  
Renata Giedych, Poland  
Lidia Ponizy, Poland  
Matthias Drilling, Switzerland  
Simone Tappert, Switzerland

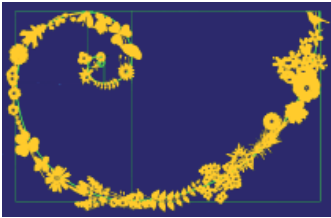
WG1 started off with the presentation of each participant together with their current and future research projects, case studies and the particular research interests related to urban allotment gardens within the context of policies and urban development. In the course of the presentations, the socio-historical background of allotment gardens in each country, the various typologies and characteristics, as well as policy frameworks and planning cultures affecting and governing the urban allotment gardens were highlighted in

order to provide an overview of the richness and diversity of allotment gardens in the different national contexts.

It was shown that the different urban areas participating in WG1 are either marked by scenarios of growth dealing with processes of urban densification and a competitive approach towards urban land use or by the phenomenon of urban shrinking linked to low urban density and unsustainable urban tissues with large areas of abandoned urban spaces. At the same time, new modes of land-use production and regulation by urban residents can be noticed and are strongly linked to current social changes such as demographic changes, pluralisation of lifestyles and changing values. In this context, transformation processes of more traditional forms of allotment gardens to new forms of urban gardening can be observed. The development of urban allotment gardens and the on-going transformation processes are strongly affected and influenced by existing policy frameworks, planning concepts and governance regimes. Hence, although differences between the countries in terms of the socio-historical background, definitions, structures, modes of production, regulation and utilisation of allotment gardens were found, the working group's focus on theories and practices of planning as well as governance regimes in the various national contexts build the common framework to explain existing differences and similarities in







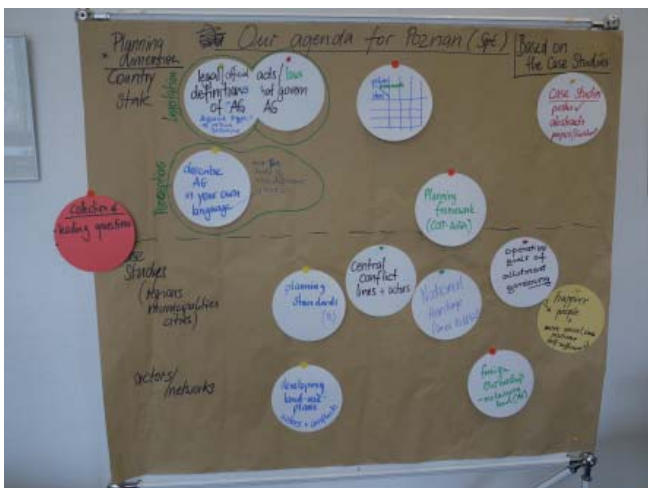
## COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens

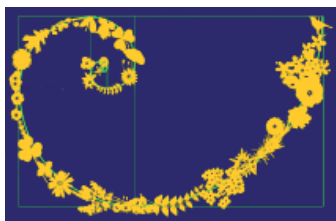
the emergence, development and transformation processes of allotment gardens and the different forms of urban gardening. The different research projects in WG1 share their common interest in the emergence and development of the various typologies of urban gardening and how they are regulated and governed by policy frameworks, planning concepts and governance regimes. Case studies at the local level will be carried out in the participating countries, mainly following qualitative methods, conducting interviews with the various actors in the field such as municipalities, NGOs, networks and gardeners.

The aim for the next Working Group Meeting in Poznan 2013 is to collect about 10 to 15 main questions for the working group to clarify the main focus and research interests of WG1. By then, abstracts of the different research projects will be available on the COST Action website. Additionally, each group member will describe allotment gardens in his/her native language to further elicit the roots and meaning of the terms applied in each country in order to increase comparativeness between the various typologies. An official legal definition of allotment gardens will be provided and a matrix of policies will be developed. This will include information regarding different types of allotment gardens (legal definition, socio-historical origin, ownership/access, location, size,

functions, etc.) and the existing acts and laws governing them. The matrix will be sent out to all countries participating in the COST Action in order to deal with the data gap due to the imbalance of countries in the different working groups. In this context, it is also intended to create jointly a cross-national survey in order to elaborate the various forms of urban gardens in the different cities as well as the policies governing those gardens.

In general, WG1 aims to identify and present planning instruments and policy frameworks to open up and make urban spaces accessible for urban gardening as well as to enhance existing allotment gardens in the urban area.





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### Summary Report of Working Group 2 – Sociology Chairs: Mary Benson, Johan Barstad

#### Participants

Tarmo Pikner, Estonia  
Dominique Peteul, France  
Pia Steffenhagen, Germany  
Mary Benson, Ireland  
Peteris Skinkis, Latvia  
Helena Nordh, Norway  
Johan Barstad, Norway  
Nicole Bauer, Switzerland  
Anna Adevi, Switzerland  
Milica Milojevic, Serbia  
Natasa Jancovic, Serbia  
Laura Calvet Mir, Spain  
Susan Noori, UK

The participants introduced their case studies which were presented through posters in the event followed by discussion of the main elements and prioritizing them from a social point of view. Working on the definition/understanding of Allotment Gardens was a topic to debate. Through the brief presentations it was evident that there was a broad range of examples, understandings and definitions in use among the participants. Thus, it was felt that there is a need to spend some time to discuss and try to elaborate a common understanding of what are the core elements of allotment gardens in a European context.

The WG2 divided into three groups, each tasked

to discuss and write down the core elements of a definition or typology. This was presented in plenum, and used as a basis for further discussion/ elaboration.

The results of the three groups are shown below:

#### Group 1

Core elements of Allotment Gardens can be named as follows:

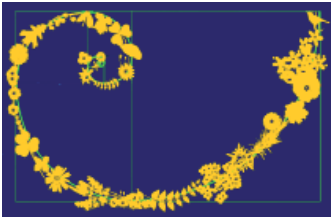
- Non-commercial/Own use
- Horticultural purposes
- For recreation
- Individual gardens
- Communal facilities
- Community cohesion/Social inclusion
- Personalization
- 'Feeling at home'
- Restoration
- Wellbeing & Health

#### Group 2

Main points of a definition that came up during the group session:

- An allotment garden is a plot of land divided or numbered into smaller patches within the boundaries of the city.
- The management can be individual or communal.





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- There are shared rules within the community.
- The land tenure can be private, municipal or squatted.
- There is a mix of objectives that go from food production to pedagogic, social cohesion and recreation.

### Group 3

Allotment garden is small land plot of fertile soil in urban and semi urban environment accessible for individual or group use to cultivate and personalize land. It is an organized strategy or informal tactics of place making which includes social interaction and engagement with nature.

Keywords:

- Organized strategy/Informal tactic
- National level/Transitions
- Habits of inhabitants/Willingness
- Reasons/Motivations
- Continuity/Generations
- Taking care of the place
- Personal responsibilities

From these three presentations WG2 tried to elaborate a short set of characteristics that were present in all. The Chairs had prepared a short list, proposing that common characteristics of allotment gardens were concentrated around three main aspects:

- Land or space. The allotment must be located somewhere
- Agriculture. There has to be some kind of

production activity connected to the plot

- Social. Some kind of relational dependency/obligation towards neighbours/local environment/society has to be evident.

The discussion of the proposed aspects was fruitful. They were weighed, turned around, renamed, rephrased and finally emerged at a consensus through the formulation of the 3C's:

Allotment gardens exist in a variety of shapes and settings. Still we find that there are three main concepts or keywords that always are present:

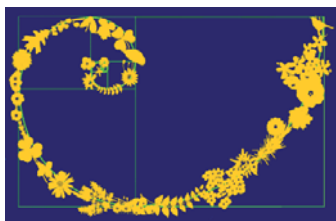
- Cultivation. Referring directly to the production function or the growing of vegetables, fruit, berries, flowers, greenery etc. Further it has connotations towards inter-person relationships and the two types of management present: at the same time individual and communal

- Community. Allotment gardens, as mentioned above, are individual plots in a common structure, where the management implies the need for common or shared rules. Further the core ideas behind the Allotment movements have ever stressed the development of community (cooperation) between the members

- City. Allotment gardens were introduced to help urban population grow food/connect to 'the rural idyll'. In suburban or rural settings the need for allotments generally is overshadowed by availability of individual space in private gardens or farmland. Thus, urban or peri-urban proximity is a necessity. Both regarding the allottees and the

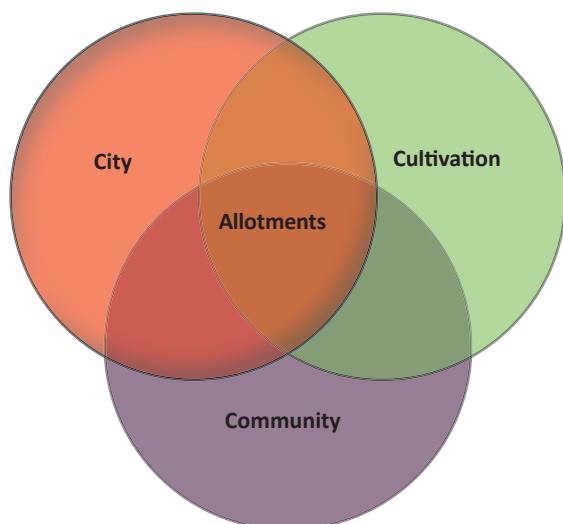






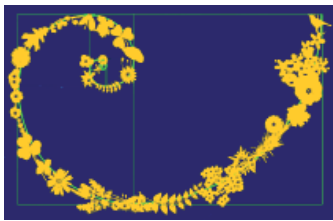
## COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens

allotments.



It was agreed that until the next meeting in Poznan, the participants should focus on the visual and spatial understanding of the case sites, building upon the methodology presented in the presentation the Chair gave in the Opening Session.





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### Summary Report of Working Group 3 – Ecology Chairs: Annette Voigt, Andrzej Mizgajski

#### Participants

Mart Kulvik, Estonia  
Ari Jokinen, Finland  
Mara Urtane, Latvia  
Ligita Balezentiene, Lithuania  
Monika Latkowska, Poland  
Andrzej Mizgajski, Poland  
Teresa Leitao, Portugal  
Anna Adevi, Switzerland

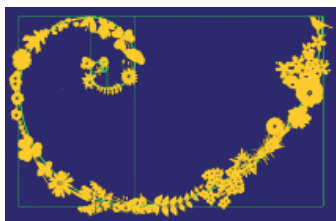
The workshop had the following agenda:

- a. Start-up announcements by the WG co-Chair in the absence of its Chair
- b. Self-introduction of all participants, with emphasis on scientific interests, including allotment gardens
- c. Introductory presentation on Urban ecological approach to Allotment Garden research – challenges and possibilities for cooperation – prepared by Working Group Leaders: Annette Voigt and Andrzej Mizgajski;
- d. General discussion – comments, statements, ideas;
- e. Concepts for cooperation recommended by participants followed by discussion;
- f. Definition the work and its sharing for the period till the next Plenary Session and Working Group Meeting– September, 15-17th in Poznań

2. Participants represent a very wide range of interests and competences that could be clustered as follows:

- a. Integrated soil and ground water protection –Teresa Leitao, Ari Jokinen;
  - b. Shape and internal land cover structure of allotment gardens with regard on adaptation to climate change – Mara Urtane;
  - c. Vegetation mapping including ornamental and spontaneous species divided into native and foreign origin – Ligita Balezentiene, Monika Latkowska;
  - d. Allotment gardens distribution within urban areas including relation to urban green infrastructure – Mart Külvik, Ari Jokinen, Andrzej Mizgajski.
3. Discussion allowed to reach some common understandings:
- a. The urban ecological research on allotment gardens should be seen on two level:
    - i. Ecological aspects of allotment gardens (impact on and of allotment gardens) and
    - ii. Allotment gardens position in urban ecological structure.
  - b. Our research could combine Ecosystem Services approach and Driving forces-Pressure-State-Impact-Response approach, however the ecological issue is to concentrate on pressure and state
4. The participants agreed that the common work should base on their former experiences and





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interests.

5. The participants shared among themselves the elaboration of comparative study methods for every proposed aim:

a. Ligita and Monika: guidelines for vegetation mapping – a unified method to set and to compare the portion of ornamental plants with native plants; Ligita would like to present an ecological ethic index as a possible base for our common work.

b. Teresa: a proposal of common research procedure on soil features.

c. Mara: a proposal for a comparative investigation of allotment gardens design regarding climate change adaptation (hedgerows, surface water, neighbourhood).

d. Annette: a proposal of a questionnaire checking allotment gardens user's knowledge, skills, motivation and practice related to ecology and environmental behaviour.

e. Mart and Ari: a proposal for the research on the allotment gardens position in the spatial-ecological urban structure (i.e. regarding urban green infrastructure).

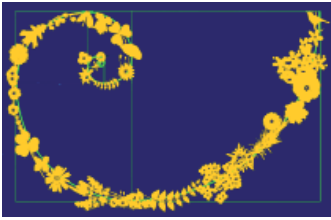
f. Andrzej declared active collaboration in every issue.

6. The proposed methods and procedures will be distributed among WG3-Members and discussed by e-mails.

7. Taking into account Runrid's recommendation the work should go forward fast enough that it is possible to present and discuss

first results of pilot studies during the next meeting in Poznań in September 2013.





## Summary Report of Working Group 4 - Urban Design

**Chairs: Silvio Caputo and Sandra Costa**

### Participants

Eva Schwab, Austria  
 Olve verner pihl, Denmark  
 Merle Karro-Kalberg, Estonia  
 Minttu Kervinen, Finland  
 Runrid Fox-Kämper , Germany  
 Kostas Tsiambaos, Greece  
 Andrea Mangiatordi, Italy  
 Peteris Skinkis, Latvia  
 Sandra Treija, Latvia  
 Maridea Petrovna, Macedonia  
 Corinna S Clewing, Norway  
 Sandra L C Costa B, Portugal  
 Frederico M A Rodrigues, Portugal  
 Branko Pavic, Serbia  
 Verica Medjo, Serbia  
 Lone Severin, Switzerland  
 Russell Good, UK  
 Silvio Caputo, UK

### Day 1

Due to the high number of participants in WG4, it was decided to ask all members to skip the presentation of case studies, introduce themselves, and outline individual interests in participating to the WG4, the contribution of each one could bring expected outcome/s.



Chairs also mentioned that objectives of this first meeting were:

- To reach an agreement on the research/work agenda of this Working Group, bearing in mind that chairs proposed an investigation focused on existing and new/innovative forms of AGs and their classification, as illustrated in the presentation given during the plenary session;
- To agree work to be developed by the WG4 before the next general meeting in Poznan/June 2013;
- To finalise the name/theme of the WG4.

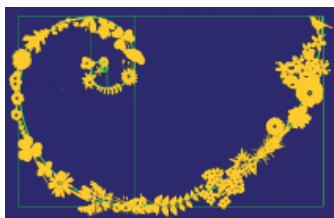
What follows is a brief summary of the individual interventions of WG members.

A - There are differences among countries with regard to allotment gardens but also common issues emerging.

- The importance of AGs is growing in many EU countries, possibly because of changing economic conditions;
- Many traditional allotments are being lost (to housing and other developments) with consequent loss of heritage;
- There is some concern among members with regard to developing new forms of AGs without losing the traditional ones (public or private). And can the classic/traditional forms of







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AG coexist with the new emerging forms and meet at the same time the society current needs? In some cases such as in Switzerland people are very fond of to the old typologies of AGs.

- Offer for AGs can increase in some nations, although often with no strategy behind.
- Due to the lack of urban land, in some cases parts of public spaces such as parks are turned into allotments, thus blurring the line between public and (semi)private spaces;
- In some deprived areas the need for food is very strong;
- AGs are emerging as a driver for urban regeneration with innovative forms and typologies;
- Professionals or practitioners are in some cases unaware of the importance of AGs

B - Participants highlighted individual interests and expected outcomes from this working group such as:

- Knowledge transfer;
- To create guidelines for planning;
- To learn from each other's case studies;
- Recommendations to help integrate AGs into the planning process and balance off urban development and the loss of heritage;
- Planning tools for public and private gardening;
- Scenarios and ideas to help decision



makers;

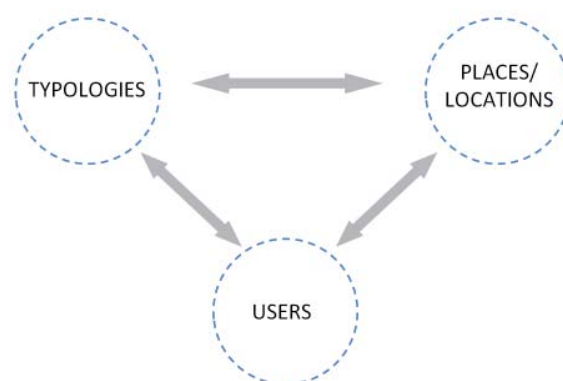
- Practical insights

C – The issue was posed of a title for the WG4 that could distinguish it from WG1 (Planning) and still capture the nature of the work this group will develop over the next four years. 'Urban design and planning' was proposed, although no clear agreement was reached.

### Day 2

The session started with Johannes from the Dortmund planning department proposing a diagram/template for classification of AGs, which was considered a good contribution from all members. The diagram/template is outlined below:

Chairs communicated to all members the Core



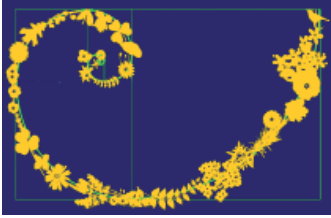
Group's proposal of a book as one of the final outcomes of the COST Action. Members should therefore bear this in mind when finalising the WG4 research scope.

Two break-up groups were formed to discuss the three points outlined at the beginning of yesterday's session.

The two groups reconvened, presented results of their discussions, and reached some common conclusions.

All members agreed on the broad research agenda initially proposed by the Chairs. A classification of the existing and emerging forms of AGs would help promote the provision of allotments with new, innovative solutions as well as help retain and





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enhance existing ones. Such a classification could also facilitate comparisons between European countries and diverse case studies, since it would be developed using the case studies from all countries participating to the COST action.

It was stressed by some members that the work developed by the WG4 should aim at providing evidence of the advantages that AGs can bring to cities, which can be perceived as such by decision-makers.

An alternative template to the one proposed by Johannes was also elaborated, based on the following categories:

PROCESS (actions and functionalities);

IMAGE (perception – users and professionals);

STRUCTURE (form, patterns)

Finally, it was proposed to add a fourth category to Johannes' template. Together with Typologies, Places, and Users, the category "Benefits" would allow a broader classification of AGs that could capture the advantages of providing different configurations of allotments.

Other sub-categories were identified that could fall under the initial categorisation. These include:

- Objectives, functions and uses
- Location /Urban context
- Pattern/ Structure
- Image (cultural image and perception)
- What image is connected to AG's –Aesthetic judgement by designers and non-designers.
- Scale
- Use/ Benefits
- Types of users
- Climate
- Temporary and permanent / Private and Public
- Legislative framework/ Rules of regulation (internal and external)
- Rent/lease/contract
- Illegal /Legal

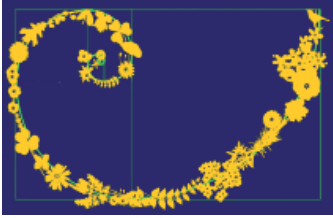
The following table attempts to cluster sub-categories under the main four ones:

TYPOLOGIES	PLACES	USERS	BENEFITS
Conventional/ Pop-up	Urban fringes	Individual households	Healthy lifestyle
Private/Public	Neglected spaces in central areas	Community	Community building
Temporary Permanent	Rooftops	Special interest groups	Urban regeneration
Allotment site/Individual temporary garden	High density urban environments	Guerrilla gardening	Compatibility with legislative framework

Following this categorisation, template for the catalogue could be composed as follows:

TYPOLOGIES	PLACES	USERS	BENEFITS
Conventional/ Permanent	Urban fringes	Individual households	Healthy lifestyle
Pop-up gardens/Temporary	Central areas unoccupied	Community	Community building





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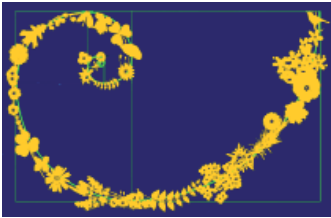
In order to help develop research, the definition of an overall aim for the WG4 was attempted:

‘To provide planning and design tools to make new urban spaces accessible to urban gardening and enhance existing ones’.

### Next step

The two working group chairs will design a tentative template for the catalogue and circulate it amongst members. These are asked to finalise it with a collective effort. Subsequently the template will be used to catalogue some case studies. This initially attempt will be presented and further discussed at the next general meeting in Poznan.





## COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens

### Posters of National Case Studies

All research partners were asked to submit posters for the plenary session as a showcase of the history and current status of allotment gardens in their country. The idea was to make all participants familiar with each other research work and find out similarities and differences in allotment gardening in different locations during the session.

The level of participation was expressive with twenty four posters from Seventeen signatory countries which are alphabetically summarised in this section and will be published on the Action's website:

#### Austria

Allotment Gardens in Vienna in the context of urban growth and social diversification  
DI Eva Schwab, Bakk. techn. Julia Rode  
Institute of Landscape Architecture, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria (BOKU Wien)

Ecology of Allotment Gardens in Salzburg  
A. Voigt, J. Breuste  
University of Salzburg, Austria

#### Belgium

Allotment Gardens in Belgium  
Bruno Notteboom, Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent University

#### Cyprus

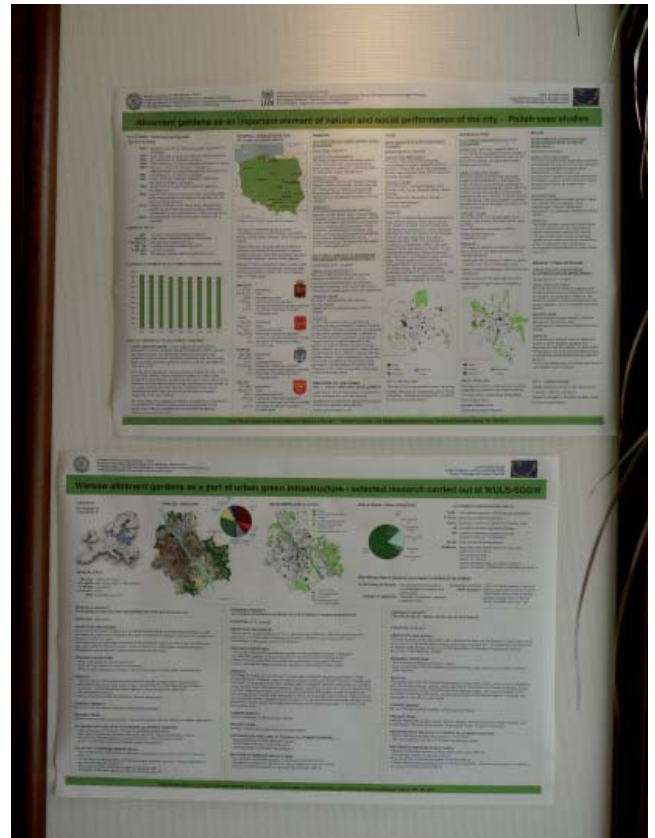
Informal Urban Agriculture in Cyprus: the potential for setting up a policy framework  
Byron I. Ioannou, Department of Architecture, Frederick University

#### Denmark

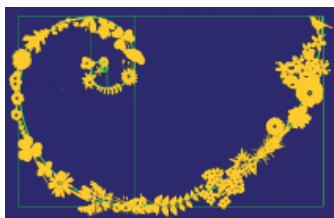
Allotment Gardening in the Danish Society  
Ole Pihl, Department of Architecture, Design & Media Technology, Aalborg University Denmark

#### Estonia

The Allotment Gardens in Estonia  
Simon Bell, Mart Külvik, Merle Karro-Kalberg,







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Estonian University of Life Sciences  
Tarmo Pikner, Kadri Semm, Tallinn University

### Finland

Gardening Under the Northern Sun in Finland  
Ari Jokinen, School of Management, University of Tampere, Finland  
Minttu Kervinen, School of Architecture, Tampere University of Technology, Finland

### Germany

Urban Allotment Gardens in European Cities—Future, Challenges and Lessons Learned, Case Study Hannover  
Pia Steffenhagen, Martin Sondermann, Institute of Environmental Planning, Leibniz University of Hanover

### Greece

Rethinking Green Greek Urbanity  
Kostas Tsiambaos, National Technical University of Athens, Greece

### Israel

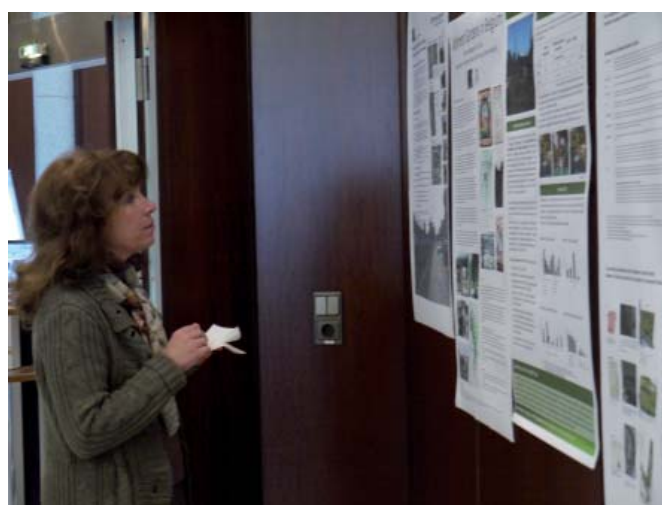
Contested, Controlled and Neo-liberalized Community Gardens  
Efrat Eizenberg, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, The Technion, Israel

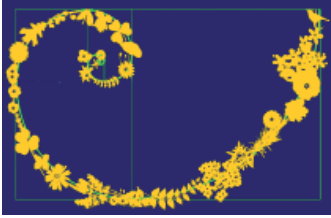
### Italy

Historical Overview of Allotment Gardens (1915-2013)  
Wittfrida Mitterer, Andrea Mangiatordi, BIOARCHITETTURA® Bolzano, Italy

### Latvia

Strengthening the Role of Allotment Gardens in the Provision of Ecological and Social Services in Latvia. The Case Study is focused on allotment gardens in Riga, Jelgava and Cesis cities.  
Kristīne Āboliņa, Jevgēnijs Duboks, Lauma Līdaka, Dita Trapenciēre, Sandra Treija, Andis Zīlāns  
University of Latvia, Faculty of Geography And Earth Sciences, Riga, Latvia  
The Planning Departments of the City of Riga,





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Jelgava and Cesis

### Norway

Allotment Gardens in Oslo the Capital of Norway  
Corinna Clewing, Helena Nordh, Departement  
of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning,  
Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Business, Pleasure or Welfare? A private Allotment  
garden in Stavanger Area

Johan Barstad

Norwegian University College for Agriculture and  
Rural developmen, Stavanger, Norway

### Poland

Warsaw Allotment Gardens as a Part of Urban  
Green Infrastructure

Allotment gardens as an important element of  
natural and social performance of the city -Polish  
case studies

Renata Giedych, Gabriela Maksymiuk, Monika  
Latkowska,

Warsaw University of Life Sciences -SGGW Faculty  
of Horticulture, Biotechnology and Landscape  
Architecture

### Portugal

Urban Allotment Gardens In Portugal: Review,  
Inventory and Case Studies

Teresa E Leitão, Frederico M Rodrigues, Sandra  
Costa, Bianca Silva, Lina Fernandes, Maria I Sousa,  
Mariana Silva, Maria R Carneira, Sara Tedesco

UTAD-CIFAP - Department of Forestry and  
Landscape Architecture of the

University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro

LNEC - National Laboratory for Civil Engineering

### Serbia

Urban Allotment gardens: From Vision to Plans

Vladan Djokic

Faculty of Architecture University of Belgrade,  
Serbia

### Switzerland

Allotment Gardens in Switzerland – a review of the

current situation and developments

Allotment Gardens in Basel - Greenfield  
Development between Entrepreneurial City and  
Community Governance

Matthias Drilling, Patrick Oehler, Nicola Thomas,  
Patricia Frei

Institute for Social Planning and Urban  
Development, University of Applied Sciences  
Northwestern Switzerland

Allotment Garden - Organic Garden: Approaches to  
Encouraging Environmentally Friendly Gardening  
Practices

Ingrid Jahrl, Robert Home

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Socio-  
economics Division, FiBL Switzerland

Urban Gardening: Effects on Well-Being, Mental  
and Social Health

Nicole Bauer, Maria Mondini

Economics and Social Sciences, Social Sciences  
in Landscape Research, Swiss Federal Institute  
for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research,  
Birmensdorf, Switzerland

Putting Tools into Practice: Urban Allotment  
Gardens in Zürich

Lone Severin, Green Planning, Office of Parks &  
Open Spaces, Zurich City Municipality, Switzerland

### United Kingdom

Exploring Opportunity Spaces: Creatng Allotments  
within UK Cities

Richard Coles

Russell Good

Michael Hardman

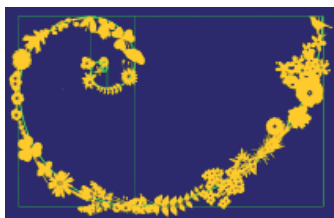
Susan Noori

Faculty of Architecture, Birmingham City University

Silvio Caputo

Faculty of Architecture, Coventry University





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### Closing Session and Discussions

The closing session highlight the results of the discussions in four Working Groups presented by their Chairs as described in above sections.

Four members of WGs were asked to describe their impressions of the meeting:

📌 WG1 Policy and Urban development – Mr Byron Ioannou from Cyprus: It was a creative, productive and well-organised event. In WG1 there were lively discussions about the meaning of allotment gardens and different interpretations of the planning culture were raised. The meaning of allotment gardens in different countries is important to be considered as a language tool connecting all case studies. The discussions in WG1 were fruitful and interesting.

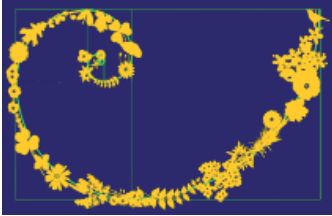
📌 WG2 Sociology - Dr Laura Calvet-Mir: Well-organised event. Splitting in small groups was useful although there is a language issue that should not prevent people from asking questions. Some people speak more than others. It was a nice workshop in the sociology WG.

📌 WG3 Ecology – Dr Teresa Leitaó: My first impression: interesting and successful meetings with very different background but with a common interest which is allotment gardens. All disciplines with common interest on urban allotment gardens can come together. Allotment gardens can be more easily destroyed than built. We should be together and decide what is good what is not good and put all our minds together to build something interesting and useful for different audiences. Common questions unite us together. Information from different partner countries can be collected, combined, digested and used. A very good plenary session with good brainstorming that enriched the lively discussions.

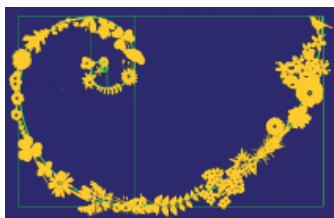
📌 WG4 Urban Design - Dr Andrea Mangiatordi: Well-organised Working groups in a good location. The work was enjoyable. There is a lot of work to do per partner country. It is necessary to have more than one representative from each country in each working group. It is a very nice academic atmosphere.

The next Joint MC and WG Meeting was announced to be held in Poznań/Poland in September 2013, starting with field trip on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> then will be followed by two days plenary sessions and various meetings on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>. The host will be Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.









## COST Action TU1201 UrbanAllotmentGardens

**Field Trip - Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

### A Brief Background of Dortmund Allotment Gardens

Since the beginning of the industrial age, gardens and parks in the Ruhr area have been an important element of urban culture and have significant importance with regard to urban development.

The development of family-friendly gardens and parks is one distinctive feature within the scope of the Initiative Dortmund Parks and points out their urban, social, ecological and recreational importance.

The city of Dortmund has 118 allotment sites (some of them are so called garden parks) with approximately 8,200 individual gardens. All sites and parks are in good condition respecting their age. They are maintained according to the regulations of the general lease contracts. The number of publicly usable (accessible) areas is different. All sites - green open spaces in general - are important spatial factors for the city of Dortmund. The part of public areas within the garden parks becomes more and more usable with regards to their function as recreational spaces and connecting structural elements of the city. The quality of the garden parks is very crucial in order to preserve their attractiveness for nature lovers and public.

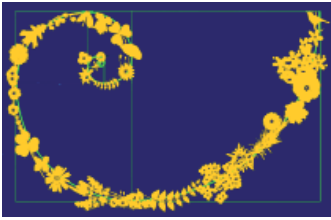
Some Facts and Figures:

Dortmund Allotment Gardens	Figures (October 2012)
Number of allotment gardens	118
Total area	416,85 ha
of this containing allotments	298,04 ha
of this public green/paths	100,29 ha
Rent	0,30 €/sqm
Average size of individual gardens	350-500 sqm
Average size of senior gardens	230-270 sqm
Number of Leaseholders of allotments	8,156 (average age 55 years)
Number of fruit-bearing trees	20,000-25,000 (berry bushes not included)
Garden parks	"Am Segen" since 1959, "Brackel" since 2009, "Innenstadt-West" since 2012
Educational gardens	Dortmund-Nord, Westerholz, Am Externberg, Lütgendortmund-Nord, Wilhelm Hansmann, Voran, Haberlandstraße, Lenteninsel
Gastronomy and pubs	existing in 36 garden parks
Playgrounds	existing in 80 garden parks (publicly accessible)
Regulated waste disposal	1,950 individual gardens

During the half day excursion the following sites were visited:

- Urban district park Alte Körne
- Garden Park Brackel
- Phoenix Sea
- Allotment Garden Site Zum Gildenberg





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### Urban District Park Alte Körne

The urban district park Alte Körne was built with ecological considerations within the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park scheme (1986-1996). It includes the name giving allotment garden site Alte Körne and a large playground. Affiliated in the north are two other urban allotment garden sites which were built in the 60's and 70's, and in the south the park adjoins to the protected natural reserves and connects to the urban forests.

The landscaped Alte Körne Park is connected to a large housing settlement by a footpath network and offers recreation and nature experience for the local residents. It connects different subareas and unites them which by doing so it generates a network of recreation fields with total area of 64 hectares. The park has significant importance not only for the district but also for the region.

At the allotment garden site of Alte Körne the special design principles developed for projects within the theme of International Building Exhibition with the

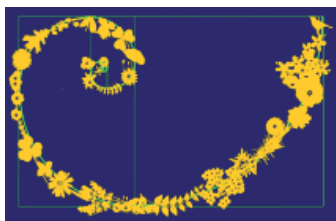


Groundplan of Allotment Garden Site Alte Körne.  
Source: City of Dortmund

Urban District Park Alte Körne, Photos by N  
Keshavarz







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following considerations:

The allotment parcels are 300 m<sup>2</sup>. Tool-sheds with green-roof and a maximum area of 16 m<sup>2</sup> are permitted on each parcel. To meet the demands of the nearby housing settlements a total number of 64 individual gardens were offered in three different groups.

The gardens are arranged in horseshoe-shape and are accessible by a ring system of turf paved footpaths. The surface water runs towards the middle of the cluster of gardens through topographic depressions and finally merges with the overflow of the nearby protected landscape.



Urban District Park Alte Körne, Photos by N Keshavarz

### Garden Park Brackel

Three gardens are united as one with components such as fruit orchards, footpaths, playgrounds and resting places. The gardens in Brackel are an attractive park for everyone. In cooperation with the Initiative Dortmund Parks the former affiliated but very different garden clubs Brackel 1921, Am Funkturm and Konrad Glockner have become one united park. The result is a network of expanded green open spaces and park instead of isolated green spots. The recreational activities meet the demands of the outside leisure activists as there are places for practicing Tai-Chi and Chi Gong, with elements such as fruit orchards, broad pedestrian paths, a barefoot-path and a ropeway.

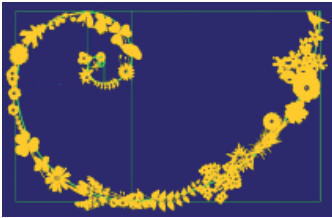
The site for this prestigious project was not chosen by chance and it is comparable to a splendid flowerbed within the urban park of Dortmund. This park also has its importance beyond the city limits and will be presented in future competitions as an evidence for the sustainability of urban gardening in Dortmund.



Groundplan of Garden Park Brackel. Source: City of Dortmund







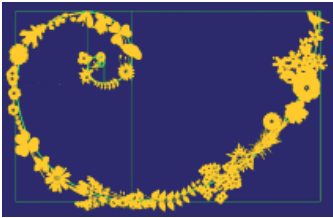
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Different views of Garden Park Brackel, Photos by N Keshavarz







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New urban neighbourhood with modern concept of life and work exist in a distance of 5 kilometre to the Dortmund City Centre. Phoenix is a former brownfield and mining site as big as 300 football fields, with an outstanding accessibility to the city through the highways and proximity to the airport. A few years ago, life and work in this area was influenced by heavy industries such as blast furnaces and steelworks and with new developments many new jobs for key industries and new have been created with attractive spaces with high recreational value.

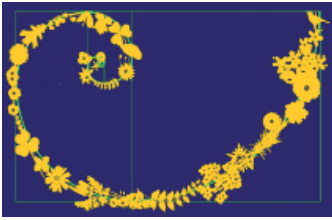
Phoenix has become the main attraction of the new Dortmund because of its new water reservoir, the Phoenix Lake, which is the focal point of the Phoenix area. The total size of the Phoenix recreation site is 99 hectares while the lake has a length of 1200 meters from east to west and width of 320 meters from north to south. The water body covers 24 hectares.

A new development in the area offers economic growth, with high quality working and living spaces which are implemented in a concept of short access and sustainable development. The impressive urban development project is supported by the Federal State of North Rhine Westphalia and European Union.



Phoenix Sea landscape, Photos by N Keshavarz





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### Urban Allotment Garden Zum Gildenspark

The Gildenspark site was established in 1923 and played a major role as the most attractive green oasis within that time span of urban growth. Today it involves 70 gardens, has a size of 24000 m<sup>2</sup> and 71 active members. This allotment site is one of the most popular allotment sites in Dortmund with long waiting lists. In worst case you have to wait 15 years to get a piece of allotment.

In 1978/79 the gardens which had water supply were equipped with electrical power. During the 80s, the footpath network was completely renewed with support of the city council and the municipal associations. Moreover, a larger playground for children was added to the site and the clubhouse was renovated.

The site's landmark is a Maibaum (maypole) with a height of 8 meters including 6 symbols each resembles:

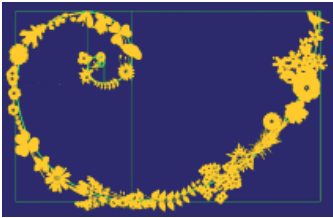
- a brewer for the city of beer
- a miner for the mining site
- an iron worker for the iron and steel industries
- a gardener for the urban green
- a newspaper delivery man for the Tremonia (former regional newspaper, today Ruhr Nachrichten) for the media city
- and a so-called „Pohl“ representing the citizen of Dortmund



Gildenspark, Photos by N Keshavarz







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