

Office International

du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux a.s.b.l.

Regroupement des fédérations européennes des jardins familiaux
association sans but lucratif



Information brochure

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Foreword



There are around three million members in the Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins

Familiaux a.s.b.l. We know that this corresponds to approximately ten million allotment users. This knowledge should be used to influence our decision-makers at both national and European level. The influence at a European level has become easier since the European Parliament has gained greater authority.

If we are to have greater influence, then our members must also become more actively involved in our organisation. We must encourage them to take ownership of the International

Federation first of all by increasing their knowledge and awareness of the allotment garden movement in different member countries.

I am therefore happy – on behalf of the International Federation – to present this publication containing basic information both on the national federations and on the numbers and structure of allotment gardens in different member countries. It shows that we have much more in common than what divides us and that we share the same ideals which is the ideal basis for further developing our mutual collaboration.

*Preben Jacobsen
President of the International Office*

Impressum

The information brochure is published by the Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins familiaux a.s.b.l.
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Foreword



Dear allotment gardeners,

I have the honour of presenting to you this new edition of the information brochure from the Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux.

It will allow you to discover new horizons above and beyond your national allotment garden organisation and learn about other national federations.

This is exactly one of the Office International's tasks: to make European allotment gardeners aware that there are other allotment garden movements in various European states.

In terms of figures, the Office International has – through the national federations – more than three million members. A very impressive figure, I'm sure you'll agree.

Although it's true that allotment gardens vary enormously by country, nevertheless they have a common goal: to enhance the Organisation and protect it for future generations.

It's for this reason that the Office International Congress, which for 2011 will take place in Copenhagen, will focus on the issue of knowing how allotment gardens and the allotment gardeners will be in the future, and what measures our Organisation should put in place to adapt well to the new circumstances.

It's a fact that an organisation that is active on an international front, like our Office, can make a difference. This is shown with the help of two useful examples:

Several years ago, the Polish federation came up against the problem of seeing their importance undermined by national politics. The politicians were going so far as to suggest the dissolution of the Polish allotment gardeners' federation. Thanks to a resolution signed by all member states of the Office and addressed to the Polish government at the time, we succeeded in showing that the Polish federation has large international support and making the Polish government abandon the disputed laws.

Another example involves the Swiss federation of allotment gardeners. Switzerland encountered the problem of having a large number of existing allotments threatened by various construction works. The Office, with the help of its members, strongly criticised these plans.

These two examples, along with many others, bear witness to the advantages of being part of an international organisation.

Another point that we shouldn't underestimate is the fact that we can learn a great deal from each other. Through the frequent and thorough exchange of ideas that characterises our meetings, seminars and congresses, everyone can take positive inspiration back to their own country and federation.

Needless to say, our meetings always stress mutual acceptance.

On this note, I hope you enjoy reading this information brochure and hope that you too will unearth one or two new facts.

*Wilhelm Wohatschek
President of the Executive board
of the International Office*

Historical survey

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century allotment gardens, based on social and human requirements, were created in Europe. They aimed to provide people with extra food and keeping families unified. Additionally, they gave people the chance to relax both physically and mentally after a monotonous day at work.



Soon allotment gardeners started to unify on a national level. Contacts were made between these national federations and in 1903 they started to meet regularly at national allotment garden congresses. Very

quickly the need was felt to create an international structure.

On October 3rd, 1926 under the direction of Abbé LEMIRE (F) the "Office International des Jardins Ouvriers" was founded in Luxembourg. Since then the general secretariat of the organisation has been in Luxembourg.

The founding members of the Office were the national organisations from Austria, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Luxemburg and Switzerland. The movement quickly developed. In 1931 the federations of Finland, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Sweden and Czechoslovakia had become members.

Due to its great social character governments quickly became aware of the movement's activities. On January 25th, 1931 the representatives of the Office, under the leadership of president Joseph GOEMARE (B), established contacts with the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

In the years of crisis from 1930-1934, as well as during the Second World War, allotment gardens remained pure kitchen gardens.

During WWII the Office as well as many national movements suspended their activities.

On September 20th, 1947, at the initiative of the Luxembourgish and French federations, the Office International restarted its activities. Its aims were adapted to the new needs.

The judicial protection of allotment gardens remained a main priority. To the topics of food security and family unity were added the rehabilitation of the sites and their adaptation to the environment. Following the drastic reduction of the working week, the idea of a meaningful leisure time occupation became more important.

The partition of Europe after the War meant that in 1959 the Polish federation took part for the last time in an international congress until it rejoined the International Office in 1974 at the occasion of the international congress in The Hague (NL).

In 1998, during the international congress in Dresden, the Slovakian and Czech federations also joined as members of the Office although the latter only for a short period.

The Office developed both its membership and its strategy so that the new needs of the population could be taken into consideration. Thus subjects like nature and environment protection, urban living quality, sustainable development, protection of biodiversity, healthy food were discussed. The specific rules relating to these topics are now put into practice throughout Europe.

At the occasion of the international congress in Luxembourg in 1988 first contacts were established with the representatives of the Council of Europe and the European Union. These contacts

were successful whereas the contacts established in the seventies with Unesco remained fruitless.

On September 16th 1990 the International Office acquired “consultative status” with the Council of Europe which was transformed in 2008 into a “participative status” after a general amendment of the rules applicable within the Council of Europe. The allotment gardens have since then been mentioned in different documents from the Council of Europe.

The European Union also recognized the positive commitment of allotment gardens in social and nature protection areas and it has provided financial support to the movement several times. After the treaty of Maastricht and its new rules of subsidiarity, allotment gardens were withdrawn from the remit of the European Union. Today only cooperation based on specific projects is possible.

It is not enough that allotment gardens are useful for allotment gardeners, society and towns. Its usefulness has to be widely seen and appreciated. Therefore, in 1989 a directive introducing the common celebration of a European Day of the Garden was adopted. In 1990 guidelines fixing the rules for the awarding of a diploma on ecological gardening were adopted. In 2010 a diploma for special social activities carried out by allotment gardeners was created and awarded for the first time.

The aim of these decisions was to show the usefulness of allotment gardens to the authorities and population and to underline the allotment gardeners’ contribution for nature and environment protection as well as in the social area. Additionally this should encourage allotment gardeners to continue and increase their efforts in these areas.

In 1994 the “Golden Rose” was created in order to emphasise and to recognise the merits of per-

sons and organisations who particularly support and help allotment gardens and to thank them for their commitment.

Good cooperation between authorities and the allotment gardeners at all levels is absolutely necessary.

Regulations of the Office had to be modified in order to create a judicial non-profit organisation and to give the Office its actual name: “Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux a.s.b.l.”. Moreover on June 17th, 2004 the rules had to be modified again in order to allow the conclusion of associative and cooperation agreements.

On March 16th, 2006 a cooperation agreement was signed with the Japanese allotment gardeners (Association for Japan Allotment Gardens).

In order to remain up-to-date and to prepare for the future the International Office is now discussing questions like: Who will be the future allotment gardener? How can the allotment gardens meet the requirements of future generations? How should allotment garden sites be laid out?

A survey of innovative projects has been started.

The International Office, together with the national federations, will as well in future continue to work in order to protect allotment gardens and help them keep up-to-date for future generations.

The quotation of the Austrian writer Peter ROSEGGER will always remain true: „Aus der Scholle sprießt Kraft für die ganze Welt, und Segen für den, der sie berührt“ (from earth springs strength for the whole world and happiness for those who touch it)

Malou WEIRICH
Secretary General of the International Office



Thoughts on the situation and development of the allotment garden movement in Europe

Preliminary note

Allotment gardens as we know them today arose in conjunction with the industrial development of Europe around the middle of the nineteenth century. Their establishment was the result of one of many efforts to improve the people's social situation during this period. The same applies to other times of hardship, in particular after the First World War, when the majority of existing allotment gardens and their respective associations were created.

The allotment garden movement in Europe underwent a similar development after the Second World War. Once the initial material need was satisfied, however, further reasons for maintaining and creating new allotment gardens arose. Urban development and not least ecological reasons now feature more and more at the forefront. The social function of the allotment garden movement, however, has not dropped in significance.

Right from the outset, the allotment garden movement has been based on democratic principles. This is reflected in its organisation which is structured through local associations interacting on regional, national and international levels.

The consolidation on an international level took place in 1926, when Luxembourg was chosen as the seat of the International Office. Today it boasts fourteen national federations with over three million members.

The International Office initiates common activities, for instance assembling contributions from allotment gardeners for Agenda 21; it coordinates the activities of the national federations

and represents their interests on an international level. Under its guidance, resolutions and petitions are prepared, which are then submitted to the EU and the Council of Europe. Since 1990, the International Office has been recognised as an INGO (non governmental organisation) with the Council of Europe and benefits from a participatory status. The Office's efforts in both social and ecological areas are supported by the EU.

Functions of the allotment garden movement in European countries

a) in a social context

Allotment gardens enable people - in the sense of Agenda 21 - to carry out a useful, creative and healthy leisure activity. This activity of ecological cultivation is not only a relief for the family budget but makes a contribution to a healthy diet and way of life. It allows people to leave behind the worries of their professional lives. The relaxation effect linked to gardening brings with it at the same time a real pleasure and appreciation of staying close to nature and seeing it grow and thrive. This helps both physical as well as mental recuperation.

The allotment garden is the ideal location for making social contacts. Family members get together to work the garden, contact is made with neighbours and friendships are made and valued. Lending a helping hand to neighbours is a common practice.

We have an increase in recent years of the number of foreign members of allotment garden associations. The presence of different cultures is an enriching experience for both locals and

foreigners. Integration of foreign people and enhanced tolerance of foreign co-citizens are encouraged.

During periods of extreme heat the effects of climate change particularly affect our urban climate. They especially increase health and mortality risks for elderly people. This is important when considering the demographic evolution. Green spaces as well as allotment garden sites improve this situation. They are an essential part in the efforts of the local authorities to maintain and improve the residential quality and the quality of life of their citizens. This is in accordance with the principles of the "Leipzig charter on a sustainable European town".

Allotment gardens allow children to experience nature in an active manner. The association's playgrounds are spaces where friendships are developed with other children; special occasions such as children's parties allow children to partake in the association's activities. This enables them to widen their social skills in a children's environment. The presence of allotment gardens as school gardens or gardens for children of all ages (for example kindergartens) gives rise to further educational possibilities.

Elderly allotment gardeners can experience the help of younger neighbours for the carrying out harder work. Integration within the community of the association helps them overcome the loneliness of old age. Many elderly people share their experience and knowledge as honorary members of the association and hence maintain their sense of self-worth and identity.

Over the past decades, many associations have created special gardens for handicapped people. Wheelchair accessible paths, raised plant and vegetable patches and tailor-made tools are all available. All this allows these people to partake in a social life via the garden. Some individual gardens have been created for blind people, to

allow them also to experience the joys of nature in a social surrounding.

b) in an economic context

For low-income families, garden produce will always make a valuable contribution towards their budget. This applies in particular during periods of high unemployment and early retirement. Garden produce also contributes towards a better diet with fruit and vegetables as basis for a healthy nutrition for economically disadvantaged social groups, such as single parents and the disabled. For those who can only rarely afford holiday trips, the allotment garden offers some form of replacement.

The contribution of allotment gardens to the national economy through the purchase of garden tools, seeds, etc. is also not to be underestimated.

c) in an ecological context

Allotment gardens form part of the local non built-up areas and green spaces. As such, they contribute largely towards an improved urban climate (temperature regulation, dust consolidation), noise control as well as water and soil protection (protection of natural resources).

Ecological garden management allows the development of natural ecological systems with their diverse plants and animals (biodiversity). Organic fertilisation and natural (integrated/ biological) plant protection enhances necessary soil and ground water protection and are important elements for the preservation of biodiversity. In this way allotment gardeners make their contribution to a sustainable use of public green spaces.

Efficient technical advice at all levels of the allotment garden organisations combines theory and practice to achieve an ecologically sustainable garden management. In this respect they particularly contribute towards heightening the

awareness of allotment gardeners to environmental issues and to realising the objectives of Agenda 21 in the local area.

The required environmental knowledge is distributed via nature protection and environment seminars, which are organised by the allotment garden federations at all organisational levels, and the realisation of the aims laid out in Agenda 21 are persistently reinforced.

By the opening of allotment garden sites to the public these activities have an important public relations effect.

What the allotment garden organisations demand from politics

a) legal policies and legislative measures

Many areas are still in need of legal policies or other legislative measures to secure the status of allotment gardens as part of the public green areas in the local communities. This can be achieved through identifying the allotment gardens in development plans or through other forms of securing the long-term use of garden plots. The presence of replacement allotment land in case of other use of garden land, for instance for housing or industrial areas or other infrastructure measures, is essential.

In many countries updating of allotment garden requirement plans, in particular in the neighbourhood of rented apartments, is nowadays just as necessary as before.

In many countries the limits on the rent charged for plots is a significant factor in securing the allotment garden movement. Only these can guarantee that lower-income earners can also rent an allotment garden in future. In addition there is also the danger that, in times of financial need, local authorities try and offload further financial burdens onto the allotment gardeners. The cooperation of allotment gardeners

in all relevant committees of their local authority is therefore urgently required and supports the concerns of Agenda 21.

b) ideal and material support

In times where the government is gradually pulling out of many areas of society increasing the public's appreciation on voluntary work is urgently required. This is the only way the quality of the public-social life can be upheld in the interest of all citizens. Perhaps tax concessions for voluntary work are the answer.

Financial support of allotment garden associations and federations to maintain and develop the facilities accessible to all citizens, such as meeting huts, playgrounds, public green areas and paths, is absolutely essential. This is the only way to secure the long-term presence of these facilities for the community.

Expert advice seminars on all organisational levels are particularly important, as well as primary projects such as learning gardens, school gardens, extensive soil analysis for harmful substances etc.

Final comment

Throughout the entire world gardens have always played a significant role in cultural development. Allotment gardens are part of a diverse range of gardens. They are the result of a deplorable social state of affairs during the industrial development of the nineteenth century. In addition to the currently necessary social functions they fulfil, allotment gardens represent a major factor in modern urban development as well as for their contribution towards a healthy environment. The allotment garden phenomenon assists in achieving the aims of Agenda 21 in an effective manner.



CONGRESSES OF THE OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES COINS DE TERRE ET DES JARDINS FAMILIAUX AND THEIR SUBJECTS.

Date	Congress	Subject
1927	1st Congress – Luxembourg	
1929	2nd Congress - Essen	
1931	3rd Congress - Brussels	
1933	4th Congress - Vienna	
1935	5th Congress - Posen	
1936	6th Congress - Paris	
1949	7th Congress - London	Reconstitution of the International Office.
1951	8th Congress- Luxembourg	The development of the allotment garden in the different countries.
1953	9th Congress – Amsterdam	The allotment gardens and their functions in the social, physical and psychological area.
1955	10th Congress – Vienna	The importance of the allotment garden in the political economy and in the modern civilisation.
1958	11th Congress – Brussels	The urban planning schemes and the allotment garden.
1959	12th Congress – Dortmund	The importance of the allotment garden in the modern times.
1961	13th Congress – Geneva	The free hours do they present liberty?
1963	14th Congress – Paris	The laying-out of the allotment garden sites.
1965	15th Congress – Copenhagen	The allotment gardens, a leisure garden in and near the urban centres
1967	16th Congress – Luxembourg	The allotment gardens and the right of leisure of the working people.
1970	17th Congress – Stockholm	The garden, factor of balance for the modern man.
1972	18th Congress – Vienna	The creation of allotment gardens as structural element of town planning.
1974	19th Congress – Amsterdam	The allotment garden and the town planning.
1976	20th Congress – Birmingham	The allotment garden and leisure.
1978	21st Congress - Bremen	The value of the allotment garden in a social policy.
1980	22nd Congress – Basel	The allotment gardens and the family.
1982	23rd Congress – Brussels	The allotment gardens and leisure.
1984	24th Congress – Kopenhagen	The legal protection of the allotment gardens and their integration in the urban planning schemes.
1986	25th Congress – Paris	The allotment gardens and ecology.
1988	26th Congress – Luxembourg	The contribution of the allotment garden to the human and natural environment in urban areas.
1990	27th Congress – Stockholm	The significance of the allotment garden for the future social evolution of our society.
1992	28th Congress – The Hague	Green without borders (environment).
1994	29th Congress – Vienna	The same right for everyone – the legal security for the allotment gardens and the allotment gardeners in Europe.
1996	30th Congress – Dresden	The allotment gardens indispensable for men, society, nature and environment.
1998	31st Congress – Brussels	The promotion of the allotment garden: social, economic and ecological aspects as well as the role of the authorities.
2000	32nd Congress – Lausanne	The allotment gardens in the 3rd millenary: social, ecological and urban planning aspects.
2002	33rd Congress- York	Agenda 21 and urban planning
2005	34th Congress – Lyon	The allotment and leisure gardens in the heart of the cities
2008	35th Congress – Cracow	The future of allotments in Europe
2011	36th Congress - Copenhagen	The allotment gardens of the future

Austria

Austrian federation of allotment gardeners
(Zentralverband der Kleingärtner und Siedler Österreichs)

Simon-Wiesenthal-Gasse 2, 1020 Wien,
www.kleingaertner.at

Structure

5 country (Länder) federations, 385 associations, 39,400 members

Allotment gardens

39,400 allotment gardens with an average size of 350 sq metres established on leased land and privately owned grounds

Administration

Voluntary work and paid employees by the central allotment garden federation

Ownership

75% communal land owners, 17% private land owners, 8% land owned by the allotment garden federation

The Zentralverband der Kleingärtner und Siedler Österreichs is based in A - 1020 Vienna, Simon-Wiesenthal-Gasse 2. It unites 5 independent federations at Länder level with 385 allotment garden associations. The organisation as a whole includes 39,400 allotment gardens. The average size of an allotment garden is 350 sq metres and the overall total of allotment gardens amounts to 824 ha. Each allotment garden is connected to a water supply and electricity is as well available. The average yearly rent is 1.02 € per sq metre. The annual contribution for the central federation amounts to 5.66 € per member.

The allotment gardens exist both on leased land as well as on privately owned lands. 75 % are owned by the communal authorities, 17 % by private landlords and 8% are owned directly by the central allotment garden federation. At the end of the lease, the new tenant must pay his predecessor an average hand

over fee of 30,000 € in the Länder and 120,000 € in Vienna. The use of the land as allotment garden is obligatory. The allotment garden use has to cover 2/3 of the plot.

The work for the federation is done on voluntary basis. The central federation itself has however paid employees besides the people working on voluntary basis.

As far as the building restrictions on the plot are concerned, there are differences between Vienna and the other federal countries. In Vienna you can – according to the urban planning scheme – build allotment houses (35 sq metres with cellar and garret) or allotment garden residences (50 sq metres with cellar and garret). In the other federal countries (Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg and Styria) you can only build a shed covering between 10 and 35 sq



metres. In Vienna you can use your allotment garden as your main home if the category of the urban planning scheme regulating the land on which your plot is situated allows this use. In all the other federal countries you can only stay occasionally in the garden overnight. All allotment gardens have electricity, drinking water and have a private toilet. The effluent removal is done either by a connection to the public sewage system or to a septic tank.

On the common parts of the allotment garden sites more important buildings can be built if they are necessary for the functioning of the site. (community buildings, tool sheds, restaurant).

Since 1958 there has been a federal allotment garden law. It regulates the lease terms, its restrictions, the rent, the possibilities to terminate the rent and the compensation to be paid, the handover of allotment gardens as well as the form of the accounts. In Vienna and in Lower Austria there are also specific laws concerning the local allotment garden movement.

The central federation keeps its officials and members informed via its review „Kleingärtner“ (allotment gardener) which is published eleven times a year.

The central federation of allotment gardeners also organises different courses. We can quote for example courses for obtaining a certificate of aptitude, courses for technical advisers and courses for board members. The courses for technical advisers have been completely restructured in 2010 in order to guarantee in future an adequate and up-to-date supply of training.

Because the handover fee for allotment gardens is not precisely regulated by the allotment garden law, the allotment garden federation uses “taxation masters” or arbitrators who are trained by the central federation. In 2009 new taxation masters for all federal countries were trained in courses organised by the federation to ensure that they all got the necessary knowledge in order to make the correct valuation in cases of a plot transfer.

The central federation of allotment gardeners started a new project in the gardening year 2011. The central federation has created so-called ecological kitchen gardens. (Öko-Ernteland-Parzellen) These ecological kitchen gardens are no allotment gardens in the usual sense of the word. The federation divided land into plots of approximately 70 sq metres. These plots which are already planted with different types of vegetables are given for a seasonal rent of 105 € to interested persons. Because the first attempt was such a great success the Austrian Federation decided to offer more plots like this in the following years.



Belgium

Belgian federation of allotment gardeners

(National verbond van Volkstuinen/Ligue nationale du coin de terre et du foyer-Jardins populaires (de facto association since January 1st, 2010)

Serge DOCKIER, rue des Crênées, 49, 4210-OTEPPE – 0498/37.39.07-
serge.dockier@yahoo.fr

Structure

The national federation contains two regional federations, one Flemish and one Walloon federation. These two regional federations contain 9 provincial federations. The Flemish federation (including Bruxelles-Capital Dutch speaking) contains 240 associations and the Walloon federation contains 50 associations. They unify in total 35,000 members.

Allotment gardens

5,301 gardens with an average size of 250 sq metres.

Administration

Voluntary work

Ownership

60% communal landowners, 37% private owners, 3% others.

The Belgian allotment garden federation is based in 4210-OTEPPE for a period of three years ending on December 31st, 2012. The presidency of the federation is assumed alternatively by the Flemish and Walloon federation for a three years' term. The federation's domicile changes consequently at the end of each term.

The organisation as a whole contains 35,000 members of which 5,301 have an allotment garden. The average allotment garden size is 250 sq metres and the overall total of allotment gardens is 150 hectares. The annual affiliation fee amounts to 0.14 € per sq metre. There is no contribution paid to the national federation.

The allotment garden associations function in an autonomous way and are mostly not within the remit of any public authority.

Certain associations organise lectures that are financially supported by the Walloon and Flemish regions. Some provincial federations get a financial support from their provincial government.

The national federation neither gets financial support from the public authorities nor an affiliation fee from the regional federations. The national federation consequently supports by itself the obligations arising from its affiliation to the International Office. All work done for the national, regional, provincial



and local federations is done on a voluntary basis. Nearly all allotment gardens are equipped with a shed with an average size varying between 10 and 15 sq metres. The shed is used to store garden tools. They cannot be used as a dwelling.

Only 7% of the gardens are connected to electricity by a communal connection. 48% of the gardens have a collective connection to drinking water. You can find nearly no toilets in the gardens.

The main aim of the national federation is to support the creation of new allotment garden sites. In fact since its creation at the end the 19th century we consider that the allotment gardens have to comply

with three fundamental functions: a social, economic and environment function.

Today when a new attraction for nature and the need for a useful and healthy leisure time activity is sought, the importance for the preservation of our environment is highlighted.

Allotment gardens are an active green space cultivated in a communal spirit within the urban areas and their outskirts. Fellowship is a key-practice in the allotment garden sites. The local authorities and especially the towns and the communes have to be made aware of the importance of allotment gardens and for giving them moral and financial support.

Denmark

Danish Federation of Allotment Gardeners (Kolonihaveforbundet for Danmark)

Frederikssundsvej 304 A
DK- 2700 Brønshøj
www.kolonihave.dk

Structure

Central level, 34 districts, 410 associations, 40,000 members.

Allotment gardens

40,000 gardens, Average size 350 sq metres.

Administration

Volunteers. In some bigger garden associations board members are paid a yearly lump sum of up to a few thousand Euros.

Ownership

Approx. 6% of allotment gardens are situated on land belonging to municipalities, 15% on land belonging to the State, 8% belonging to associations and 10% are private.

The Danish Federation of Allotment Gardens, Kolonihaveforbundet for Danmark, is based in Copenhagen. Only the office in Copenhagen is staffed with employees. The main tasks of the central office are training of board members from local associations, administration of lease contracts, legal advice to associations and individual members, negotiations with relevant public authorities, advisory gardening service through a "green hotline" and through highly qualified local garden consultants, publication of a members' garden magazine 5 times a year and awarding prizes for best gardening etc. The Federation receives no public subsidies.

A high percentage of the land laid out for allotment gardens in Denmark is protected by legislation. The legislation only permits use of the land for other

(public) purposes under particular circumstances and only if other suitable land is offered as compensation. National legislation contains few other requirements mainly regarding construction of allotment garden houses. Accordingly allotment gardens are mainly regulated by local, municipal planning provisions and the individual lease contracts.

Most of the allotment garden land belonging to municipalities and all such land belonging to the State is rented by the Federation on long term leases and then re-leased to the individual associations on the same conditions. The conditions and level of rent per sq metre may vary considerably from one authority to the other. So do as well the conditions relating e.g. to the size and height of houses and building materials used, hedging, use of pesticides etc. Sizes

of houses vary from 10 up to 70 sq metres. The rent varies between 0.1 and 2.5 Euro per sq metre. Prices for allotment houses are regulated and maximized by rules binding all members of the Federation and maintained by the Federation at national level. Garden houses are the property of the tenant and may be traded according to the rules fixed by the associations' rules. Some associations allow the tenant to find a buyer or a new tenant, others have waiting lists that have to be observed by those selling.

The number of gardens in the associations varies from a few to nearly one thousand gardens. In 80 – 85 % of the 40,000 gardens the occupiers are allowed to stay overnight during the summer period April till September.

About 80% of garden houses are equipped with electricity and 95% with drinking water. The size of the



gardens varies between 150 and 400 sq metres – the average being around 350 sq metres.

Only a smaller percentage of the allotment garden associations have full scale systems for disposal of waste water and most gardens rely on individual solutions such as chemical or bio WC or collective toilet solutions.

It is foreseen that within a limited period of time most associations with permission to stay overnight will be obliged to establish full scale waste water disposal systems.

Finland

Finnish Federation of Allotment Gardeners (Suomen Siirtolapuutarhaliitto ry.)

Pengerkatu 9 B 39, FI - 00530 HELSINKI
www.siirtolapuutarhaliitto.fi

Structure

1 national federation, 38 local associations

Allotment gardens

4,400 allotment gardens with an average of 300 sq metres mainly on leased land

Administration

Voluntary work, one employee in the office

Ownership

95% communal landowners, 5% private

Suomen Siirtolapuutarhaliitto ry. (SSpl) was founded in 1930 and is based in Pengerkatu 9 B 39, 00530 HELSINKI. It has 38 local member associations representing a total of 4,400 allotment gardeners. There are several allotment garden associations in Finland that are not members in the national federation.

The average size of the plot is 300 sq metres. The total surface covered by allotment gardens is approximately 300 hectares.

Each allotment garden is connected to a water supply (for drinking and irrigation). Electricity is also available on each plot. The average rent is 0.70 €/ sq metres varying between 0.50 and 1.20 €. The annual contribution to the National Federation is 33 € per allotment garden.

An allotment garden is ideally a nice green oasis with a dense and varied vegetation for the enjoyment of both gardeners and neighbours alike.

In each allotment garden there is a small house. The average size is 30 sq metres. It can not be used as a permanent dwelling. Many gardeners stay in the house for most part of the summer (1st June – 15th August), many spend the night occasionally and some never stay there overnight. 100% of the houses are connected to electricity and there is a tap for running cold water on each plot. Landowners normally give regulations as to the size, colouring, building materials (wood), structure and shape of windows of the house.

Where there is communal sewage available, newest houses are provided with WC. Composting toilets are becoming more widely used, too. Normally there are common toilets on the site. Houses are traded like any other commodity. When you buy a house you become automatically a member of the association and you will have to comply with the rules of the association and terms of lease. There is no limit to the selling price of the houses.



On most sites there is a club house that is used for meetings, parties and other common events. Many associations run a common sauna where also the neighbours are welcome at certain hours and by paying an entrance fee.

Normally land must be used for cultivation, either useful plants (vegetables or fruits) or flowers. Small patches of lawn are allowed.

SSpl has no regular co-operation with any Finnish organisation. On rare occasions over the past few years it has co-operated with e.g. The Finnish Association of Landscape Industries, Finnish Environment Institute, Association of Useful Plants, Association of Finnish Herbal Heritage, Horticultural Federation of Finland and the Global Dry Toilet Club of Finland. At national government level, the allotment gardens fall within the remit of the Ministry for Environment. SSpl applies annually for a small financial subsidy.

Seminars and training sessions in gardening skills, waste handling, administrative and financial matters of an association, secretarial skills, how to organise various kinds of events, use of information technology, etc. are organised by SSpl for the members of the affiliated associations.

SSpl publishes a magazine (5 issues annually).

Financially the federation is dependent on the membership fees. The Ministry for Environment has so far granted a small subsidy annually. Fund raising is done by selling publications like an annual calendar,

printed forms of congratulations and condolences, Allotment Gardener's Manual, medals for prize winning allotment gardeners, banners etc.

According to the statutes of the federation its purpose is to develop and promote allotment gardening in Finland. To fulfil this purpose the federation prepares new projects for setting up any new allotment garden site. There are a few sites being built all the time, but processes are very slow mainly because communes are not very familiar with the idea of allotment garden and are reluctant to lease land for such a purpose. It takes years to convince decision makers and civil servants of the benefits of allotment gardening.

Allotment gardens and allotment gardening is represented by the federation and associations at garden fairs and other exhibitions nationwide, www-pages, brochures, press releases, articles and interviews in the media.

Member associations organise various kinds of social activities. They invite local elderly people and children for a visit in the gardens. Their club houses are available for neighbours too for weddings, birthday parties etc. They arrange midsummer festivals with bonfires and buffets, harvesting events, days of the Garden, open houses etc.

At the moment allotment gardening - and gardening as a whole - is a trendy pastime and people want to grow their own food environmentally friendly in the vicinity of their homes.



France

National federation for allotment and community gardens (Fédération Nationale des Jardins Familiaux et Collectifs)

12 rue Félix Faure, 75015 Paris,
www.jardins-familiaux.asso.fr

Structure

National federation, 200 independent associations, 50 local committees, 75 allotment garden sites in the Ile de France directly administered by the federation representing a total of 25,000 members

Allotment gardens

25,000 allotment gardens with an average size of 160 sq metres established on grounds:

- belonging to the federation or :
- belonging to the town authorities linked to the associations by a convention for a free of charge use of these grounds or:
- rented from private owners

Administration

Voluntary ; 10 paid employees

Ownership

65 % of the grounds belong to communal land owners, 20 % to the federation, 10 % to associations, 5 % to private landowners

The national federation for allotment and community gardens (Fédération Nationale des Jardins Familiaux et Collectifs) is based in 75015 Paris, 12 rue Félix Faure. It has 200 independent associations and 50 local committees. They represent a total of 25,000 allotment gardens. The average size of a plot is 160 sq metres and the overall total of allotment gardens is 500 hectares.

The allotments are not always connected to a water supply, but have access to a common water point. Electricity is partially available at least through a collective electricity point. The annual contribution to the national federation is 11.90 € per allotment garden.

The National Federation is a foundation member of the National Council of Community and Allotment gardens (Conseil National des Jardins Collectifs et Familiaux - CNJCF). It has concluded a partnership with the league for bird protection (LPO) and the Noé Conservation (association for the protection of biodiversity).

At governmental level the allotment gardens fall within the remit of the Minister of Agriculture. It has also close relations with the Minister for Environment Protection. The government supports the activities of the federation by a law adopted in



1976 guaranteeing on one hand a protection against expropriation and granting on the other hand fiscal advantages.

The federation proposes four training sessions per year to the board members of its affiliated associations. These courses concern the history of the federation and the different services provided for the members: statutes and internal regulation, insurance, bookkeeping, relations with local politicians.

65% of the grounds belong to the local authorities, 20% to the federation, 10% to the associations and 5% to private owners. The use of the land as allotment gardens is obligatory. The land is only to be used for the cultivation of vegetables and fruit for the gardeners' own consumption. So 2/3 of the allotment garden plot has to be used for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables.

The member associations and local committees are administered on a voluntary basis. Only the federation has 10 employees at its centre.

The allotment gardens can be equipped with a tool shed, with a maximum size of 4 sq metres. It is forbidden to use them as a permanent dwelling. Overnight stays are also forbidden. The individual sheds are neither connected to electricity nor to drinking water, but every site has several water points for watering the plants.

On the communal areas only the more important buildings which are necessary for the running of the allotment garden sites (meeting rooms, office rooms and common toilets) are allowed. Since 1976 the existing law in favour of the allotment gardens stipulates a protection against expropriation.

The payment of compensation and the provision of replacement is required when the existing allotment garden land becomes needed for another public use.

The federation adopted in 2007 a Charter on gardening and the environment, calling for gardening practices which are respectful of nature and biodiversity.

The federation has also published brochures on allotment gardens and social habitat, allotment gardens and urbanism, composting, etc. It invests largely and in an effective way in making the public aware of allotment gardening which has led to a positive change to its image.

The member associations organise many social projects. We can mention for example gardens aiming at the re-assimilation of young offenders into society, gardens for handicapped and elderly people, school gardens and learning gardens as well as places to educate and to meet for both allotment gardeners and hobby gardeners who are not member of the federation.

Germany

German federation of allotment gardeners (Bundesverband Deutscher Gartenfreunde)

Platanenallee 37, 14050 Berlin, www.kleingarten-bund.de

Structure

20 German country (Länder) federations approx. 350 regional federations, 15,000 associations, 1 million members

Allotment gardens

1 million allotment gardens, with an average size of 370 sq metres, exclusively on leased land

Administration

Mainly voluntary and a few paid employees

Ownership

77% communal landowners, 23% private

The Bundesverband Deutscher Gartenfreunde e.V. (BDG) is based in D - 14050 Berlin, Platanenallee 37. It has 20 independent federations at Länder level, with around 350 urban/ regional federations, which in turn represent 15,000 allotment garden associations. The organisation as a whole includes 1 million allotment gardens. The average allotment size is 370 sq metres, and the overall total of allotment gardens is some 46,000 hectares.

Each allotment is connected to a water supply, and electricity is partly available, usually through a communal supply. The average yearly rent is 17 cents per sq metre and can vary between 1 cent and 1 euro per sq metre. The annual contribution to the central federation is 1.20 € per allotment garden.

The Bundesverband is a member of the German national horticultural society (Deutsche Gartenbaugesellschaft), the environment committee of the central federation on horticulture (Zentralverband Garten-

bau ZVG) and the school gardens' federal group (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft „Schulgarten BAGS). It works closely with the German federation for the protection of nature (Naturschutzbund Deutschland – NABU) and the federation for the environment and the protection of nature (Bund für Umwelt- und Naturschutz BUND).

At federal government level, the allotment gardens fall within the remit of the Minister for Transport, Construction and Urban Development. They also have close ties with the Minister for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. The federal government encourages Bundesverband activities with the help of financial aid for certain projects (seminars, state competitions).

The Bundesverband holds 6 to 8 seminars a year for its members, on topics in the fields of law, technical consultations, society or social issues, the environment and public relations.

Allotment gardens are only found on leased land, with 77 % owned by local authorities and 23 % by private landlords. At the end of the lease itself, the new tenant must pay their predecessor an average handover fee of 1,900 Euros, which can be between 1,000 and 7,000 €.

The use of the land as allotment gardens is obligatory. The land is set aside for the cultivation of horticultural produce and recreational purposes, although the latter should never predominate. It follows that one third of the garden should be used to grow fruit and vegetables.

Any work for the federation is done on a voluntary basis. The Länder/urban/regional federations with many affiliated members also have offices with paid employees. The allotment gardens can be equipped with rustic cabins with a maximum surface area of 24 sq metres. They must not be used as a permanent dwelling, with the exception of occasional overnight stays. 72 % of the huts are connected to electricity, 37 % are connected to drinking water and 33 % have a toilet. 20% are connected to the sewage system; whilst the others place waste water into a communal soak way. In addition, there are biological toilets (25 %), chemical toilets (34 %) and communal toilets (8 %).

On communal land, more important buildings for the allotment garden community (meeting rooms, offices, restaurants, communal toilets) can be built. Since 1983 there has been a federal law on allotment gardens (Bundeskleingartengesetz – BKleinG). This law is dedicated to the protection in the sense of



limiting lease prices, protection against breach of contracts, the conclusion of unlimited lease contracts, rules of compensation and the availability of replacement land in the case of any requisition of allotment garden land for public use.

The central federation invests large sums in an efficient manner into public awareness, which has contributed to a positive change in its brand image. It has created leaflets on the integration of immigrants, the diversity of species (bio-diversity) and ecological gardening in allotment gardens.

The federation members organise numerous social projects. These include, amongst others, gardens aimed at providing for those in need, school gardens, gardens for children, the disabled and the elderly, educational and learning gardens as well as training and meeting areas for the users of allotment gardens and non member amateur gardeners. An extensive insight (a publication) on these projects is currently being prepared.

Luxembourg

Luxembourgish federation of allotment gardeners
Ligue Luxembourgeoise du Coin de Terre et du Foyer

97, rue de Bonnevoie, L- 1260 Luxembourg
Luxembourg
www.ctf.lu

Structure

1 federation with 128 local sections unifying 25,397 member families

Allotment gardens

4,826 allotment gardens with an average size of 250 sq metres generally on leased land

Administration

Mainly voluntary and 2 paid employees

Ownership

90% communal land owners, 10% associations

The "Ligue Luxembourgeoise du Coin de Terre et du Foyer" is based in L – 1260 Luxembourg, 97, rue de Bonnevoie.

The first allotment garden associations were created in Luxemburg in 1886. But the Ligue Luxembourgeoise du Coin de Terre et du Foyer was only founded on December 30th, 1928 following the unification of these associations.

By January 2010, the federation unites 25,397 member families spread over 128 local sections.

The Luxembourg federation unifies both gardeners having an allotment garden plot in one of the 25 allotment garden sites and owners of private gardens. Approximately 80 % of the allotment gardeners in Luxembourg have their own private garden.

The allotment gardeners cultivate approximately 1,500 hectares of gardens.

The federation itself does not administer grounds taken on lease or put at its disposal. The local sections however administer approximately 40 hectares and put allotment garden plots with a size between 200 and 400 sq metres at the disposal of their members.

The allotment garden sites normally have a community building hosting the secretariat of the section and common toilets. Some sites have a common tool shed and a common water point.

The individual plots are often equipped with a tool shed or a shed without a connection to electricity. Sometimes however one can find sheds with a connection to drinking water and with individual toilets.

The aims of the federation are the following:

- Encouragement of gardening and of amateur bee-keeping;
- Support of the sections to buy grounds for the creation of allotment gardens;
- Encouragement to buy garden land and stimulation of the individual families;
- Enrichment of the family life and embellishment of the home;
- Creation and protection of green spaces as well as ornamental gardens in towns in order to improve the quality of life;
- Embellishment of the villages and protection of their lifestyle;
- Stimulation of the cultural life in the associations;
- Conservation of a healthy environment as well as stimulation for a better knowledge of nature and its interactions.



The annual affiliation fee to be paid by the members to their associations varies between 6 and 12 €. The associations continue 4 € to the federation to cover the administration costs and the subscription to the review "Gaart an Heem" (Garden and Home) published 9 times per year.

The yearly rent varies between 2 and 12 € per 100 sq metres.

In Luxembourg the allotment gardens are not protected by a specific allotment garden law. Some provisions of the law dated July 19th 2004 concern allotment gardens. There are some restrictions concerning the cancellation of leases.



The Luxembourg federation and its member associations were founded under the law of March 27th, 1900 relating to agricultural co-operative societies. Therefore they benefit from the advantages of this law regarding their leases.

The Government supports the federation financially by granting annual subsidies.

The federation offers formation courses to its members (i.e. courses on arboriculture and lectures on different subjects) and cooperates with other federations (i.e. nature protection associations, Natura, Union of poultry societies, federation of beekeepers' unions)



The Netherlands

Dutch federation of allotment gardeners
(Algemeen Verbond van Volkstuinders Verenigingen in Nederland - AVVN)

Vogelvlinderweg 50, 3544 NJ Utrecht
Netherlands
www.avvn.nl and www.pieperstek.nl

Structure

3 local federations, 187 local associations, representing 26,000 gardeners, approx. 235 allotments and leisure garden sites

Allotment gardens

27,500 allotment gardens, with an average size of 250 sq metres

Administration

Mainly voluntary. There are as well some paid employees in the central federation

Ownership

99% communal authorities, 1% private

The AVVN is based in Utrecht and has its own Activity and Information Centre for Garden and Nature. The centre is located on Vogelvlinderweg 50, 3544 NJ Utrecht.

It has 3 local federations and 187 local associations, representing 26,000 gardeners.

Allotment gardens are found on leased land as well as on privately owned land. Most allotment gardens are on communal grounds. The private owners are either private owners who lease the plots to associations or associations who own their own land or even members of associations who own their own garden.

The average allotment size is 250 sq metres, and the overall total area of allotment gardens

is approx. 1,000 hectares.

Some allotments are connected to a water supply, and few have electricity. However many gardeners use solar panels as their source of energy.

There is no unique yearly rent. The rent can vary between 0.05 € and 2.00 € per sq metre. The annual contribution to the AVVN is 24.10 € per member.

The AVVN is a member of the Association of Dutch Voluntary Effort Organisations (NOV) and the Society for the Protection of Birds.

At government level, the allotment gardens fall within the remit of the Minister for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. The AVVN also has close ties with the Minister for Infrastructure and the Environment.

The AVVN organizes 2 to 3 seminars a year for its members, on topics in the fields of law, society or social issues, the environment and public relations, 8 – 10 workshops a year on garden topics and several exhibitions related to gardening in Mea Vota (e.g. photo exhibition, sculptures of a local artist, animals in the garden).

A new tenant must pay their predecessor a handover fee between 200 and 15,000 €, depending on the size and quality of shed or chalet in the garden. The use of the land as allotment gardens is obligatory. The land is set aside for the cultivation of horticultural produce and recreational purposes.

Any work for the associations is done on a voluntary basis. Two local federations have paid employees.

The allotment gardens can be equipped with sheds or chalets with a maximum surface area varying



from 6 to 32 sq metres. They must not be used as a permanent dwelling. In approximately ten Dutch cities overnight stays are allowed from April till October.

All buildings on allotment sites (sheds, chalets, meeting rooms, offices, restaurants and communal toilets) must be authorised.

The members of the AVVN organise numerous social projects. These include, amongst others, providing homes for the elderly with flowers, providing food banks with vegetables, school gardens, gardens for children, the disabled and the elderly, educational and learning gardens as well as training and meeting areas for the users of both allotment gardens and non member amateur gardeners.

Norway

Norwegian federation of allotment gardeners
(Norsk Kolonihageforbund - NKHF)

Torggata 10, 0181 Oslo
forbundet@kolonihager.no – www.kolonihager.no

Structure

16 associations, 3,000 members (including 1,600 applicant members in line for an allotment)

Allotment gardens

1,400 allotment gardens, with an average size of 250 sq metres, exclusively on leased land.

Administration

Voluntary work, one part-time employee

Ownership

All land leased from local authority

The Norwegian federation of allotment gardeners has its offices in Torggata 10, 0181 in central Oslo in cooperation with the Oslo branch of the federation. It unites 16 associations in four Norwegian towns

with 3,000 members (including 1,600 applicants in line for an allotment garden). The average size of an allotment garden is 250 sq metres. The overall total of allotment gardens is 56 hectares.





Each allotment is connected to a water supply. Electricity is widely available. The yearly rent is up to 1 € per sq metre. The annual contribution to the federation is 1 €.

The federation employs a part-time office secretary, but the vast majority of the work in the organisation is done voluntarily by the elected members.

Norsk Kolonihageforbund is a small organisation with a modest number of members. Promotion for allotment gardens started in Norway early in the twentieth century but never managed to grow to a size similar to what we see in other Scandinavian and European countries.

Allotment gardens have never gained a natural place in Norwegian City planning and organizing.

This can be partly explained by the fact that the country has a small population, less than 5 million, settled in low density areas and in only a few cities with heavy industry and poor living conditions.

Still the Norwegian allotment gardeners claim that the gardens have an important mission for the welfare of the city population in a modern society. But no new allotment garden has been created for 60



years, with an exception for a rebuilding in Trondheim in 1988.

In general the Norwegian federation lacks the strength of heavy lobbying, but continues to pursue the promotion of allotment gardens as a main ideological and political aim.



Poland

**Polish federation of allotment gardeners
(Polski Związek Działkowców)**

**ul. Bobrowiecka 1
00728 Warszawa
www.pzd.pl**

Structure

26 district federations, 4,960 allotment garden sites, more than 1,000,000 members

Allotment gardens

966,960 allotment gardens with a size between 300 and 500 sq metres

Administration

Voluntary work and paid employees

Ownership

The ground belongs to the communal respectively state authorities

The Polish allotment garden federation is based in Warsaw, ul. Bobrowiecka 1. It has 26 district federations with 4,960 allotment garden sites containing 966,960 allotment gardens. The average allotment size is 350 sq metres, and the overall total of allotment gardens is 43,522.67 ha. The yearly affiliation fee amounts to 0.04 € per sq metre i.e. 14 € per allotment garden. From this amount 65 % (9.1 €) remain at the disposal of the site, 3.26 € are paid to the district federation and 1.63 € to the central federation.

The district federations and the central federation have paid employees. At all levels of the allotment garden federation the work is done on a voluntary basis.

At federal government level the allotment gardens fall within the remit of the Minister of Infrastructure. Neither the federation nor its sub-organisations get

financial support from the government.

The way of functioning, the use of allotment gardens and the functioning of the federation are regulated by the allotment garden law from July 8th, 2005.

The land, on which the sites have been created belong to the local authorities. This land is used free of cost.

All equipment and crops belong to the individual gardener, the infrastructure of the site (water pipes, electricity network, association buildings etc) belongs to the federation. When the garden changes hands, the new allotment gardener has to pay his predecessor the value of all crops and equipment.

The allotment gardens must neither be used as a permanent dwelling nor to exercise a professional



activity. The allotment garden is set aside for the cultivation of horticultural products and for the recreation of the allotment gardener and his family.

The plot can be equipped with a shed of a maximum surface of 24 sq metres (in town) and up to 35 sq metres (outside the town)

Every garden is connected to water. The water supply to allotment gardens can vary very much. Some allotments have their own water points or a common well if they are connected to the urban water system. Some allotment garden plots have their own well. Most allotment garden sites are connected to electricity so that the individual gardeners can have a connection to the electricity net. Water and electricity costs are billed to the allotment garden site. Each individual gardener has his own metre for the payment.

Urban allotment garden sites have communal toilets. Outside the towns however you find only communal toilets in those sites that have an association building. Individual toilets can only be installed within the garden houses. In urban gardens you find mainly chemical toilets. In those sites situated outside the towns the toilets are linked to septic tanks. More and more often these toilets are linked to a purification station built on the site. Some allotment gardens are connected to the urban sewage system.

According to the regions community buildings hosting the allotment garden administration can be found in 20 – 50 % of the allotment garden sites.

The federation was created in 1981 on basis of the allotment garden law from May 6th 1981. Today the legal basis is the family garden law from July 8th 2005. The federation is registered with the national register for NGOs.

The federation has at every organisational level its own control authorities and an internal arbitration process for all disputes between garden user and administration.

In 2010 an important programme to help allotment garden sites and allotment gardeners, who are victims of the flooding was started.

An education programme was developed. A long lasting programme for the development and modernisation of the family garden sites has been developed and applied.

The executive board of the federation issues a free of charge information leaflet for associations. It publishes an allotment gardener information newsletter which is published on the notice boards in allotment garden sites. The federation also issues information posters, brochures relating to different subjects. A complete information service can be found on the websites of the central federation, the district federations and the individual allotment garden sites.



Slovakia

Slovakian Federation of Allotment gardeners (Slovenský Zväz Záhradkárov)

Havlíčková 34, 817 02 Bratislava
www.zvazzahradkarov.sk

Structure

40 county committees, 1800 associations, 88,000 members

Allotment gardens

88,000 allotment gardens, with a general size between 250 and 400 sq metres

Administration

Voluntary work and paid employees

The Slovakian Federation was founded on 15th October 1957 and is based in 817 02 Bratislava, Havlíčková 34. It unites 40 county committees and 1,800 associations. The organisation as a whole includes 88,000 allotment gardens.

The size of an allotment garden varies between 250 and 400 sq metres and the overall total of allotment gardens amounts to 5,700 ha. Each allotment garden is connected to a used water supply system and electricity is as well available. The annual contribution for the central federation amounts to 4 € per member.

The work for the federation is done both on voluntary basis and by paid employees.

When transferring an allotment garden, the new tenant does not have to pay a handover fee to his predecessor. The allotments are used as fruit and vegetable gardens as well as recreation and flower gardens. There are no regulations stipulating that a minimum of the plot must be used for fruit and vegetables.

There are building restrictions on the plot. Buildings can have a maximum size of 40 sq metres and a cellar. There are no limitations regarding the building's height.

There are many different types of buildings, ranging from simple garden sheds up to summer cottages where the gardeners can live during the summer months. 50% of the allotment gardens have a private toilet, 50% use common toilets in the community buildings.

In 1997 an allotment garden law (no 64/1997) was released which gave the option to the allotment gardeners to gain ownership of their allotments. The government supports the allotment garden movement.

The Slovakian Federation offers many different courses to its members.



Sweden

The Swedish Federation of Allotment Gardeners (Koloniträdgårdsförbundet)

Åsögatan 149, 116 32 Stockholm
www.koloni.org

Structure

16 regions, 255 associations, 25.250 members

Allotment gardens

25,000 allotment gardens with an average size of 350 sq metres established on leased land

Administration

voluntary work and paid employees

Ownership

90 % communal land owners, 7 % private land owners, 3 % State property

The office of Koloniträdgårdsförbundet is based in SE - 116 32 Stockholm, Åsögatan 149. The federation is divided into 16 regions spread through the whole country. Associations founded in the same town or village, or having concluded a lease with the same landlord can join in a regional association.

The organisation as a whole includes 25,000 allotment gardens. The average size of an allotment garden is 350 sq metres and the overall total of allotment gardens amounts to 1,350 ha. 99 % of the allotment gardens are connected to a water supply and 45 % have electricity. The yearly rent varies normally between 0.00 € and 1.50 € per sq metre. The annual contribution for the central federation varies between 10 € and 30 € per member.

The allotment gardens exist on leased land. 90 % are owned by the communal authorities, 7 % by private landlords and 3 % are owned by the state. At the end of the lease, the new tenant has not to pay a hand-

over fee to his predecessor. The use of the land as an allotment garden is obligatory.

The work for the federation is done on a voluntary basis. The central federation itself has however also some paid employees as well as the people working on a voluntary basis.

As far as the building restrictions on the plot are concerned, they are based on the stipulations in the contract. The size of an allotment garden house can be between 6 and 45 sq metres. 45 % of the members use their allotment garden house for staying there in summer. 45 % of the houses have electricity and 95 % are equipped with drinking water. 65 % of the sites have common toilets.

Sweden does not have a federal allotment garden law. All leisure gardens are ruled by the ordinary state laws as for example laws concerning the leases, environmental questions, the protection of plants



and fiscal laws. In addition to this the culture in the garden is regulated by municipal decrees: for example on the use of the grounds, canalisation, the protection of environment and health.

The “Koloniträdgården” (allotment garden) is one of Sweden’s most widely read garden magazines. It is published 4 to 5 times a year with a run of 26,000 copies. Every member gets the magazine because the cost of it is included in the annual contribution. Those who do not have an allotment garden do have the option to take out a subscription.

The Swedish federation organises several different innovative projects.



Switzerland

Swiss federation of allotment gardeners
(Schweizer Familiengärtnerverband - Fédération suisse des jardins familiaux)

Sturzeneggstrasse 23 CH 9015 St. Gallen,
www.familiengaertner.ch

Structure

4 languages, 2 country regions, with associations in the French and German part,
8 regional associations, 70 sections and 230 associations with 24,800 members

Allotment gardens

Size of the plots 100 sq metres, 150 sq metres, 200 sq metres, exclusively on leased land

Administration

Voluntary work, no secretariat and no official bureau with employees

Ownership

90 % communal land owners, 10 % private land owners

The Swiss allotment garden federation (SFGV FSJF) has an executive board of six members, a federal committee composed by 2 members per region and an editing commission formed by a German and French speaking writer dealing with the issue of the federation's review. The overall total area of allotment gardens is 640 ha. The allotment garden sites are connected to a water supply. In some sites electricity is available in the community building which are also equipped with toilets.

Maintenance is partly done either by the commune or town (urban gardening department) or by the associations themselves. The allotment gardeners get no financial support by the State or the commune. The yearly rent differs from region to region as well as the annual affiliation fees to be paid to the local associations. The rent varies between 75 and 120 €. The annual affiliation fee to the federation amounts to 20 Fr. - including the review of the federation.

The Swiss allotment garden federation has no federal law but has to comply with the planning laws of the cantons. This is the reason why numerous sites have a limited existence. In Switzerland there are special zones for sport and play as well as a green zone A. The green zones as well as the agricultural zones are protected and they can only be changed following a popular referendum. So allotments situated in these zones are more or less protected. The aim is to create a specific zone for allotment gardens.

The leased land has to be cultivated with garden products. The allotment plots can also be used for recreational purposes. There is no laid down minimum area that has to be used for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. As far as the construction of the sheds is concerned there are rules fixed by the cantons, the communes or the towns. Sheds must not be equipped as a permanent residence. There is no water and electricity supply on the plots. Solar



panels are allowed. It is obligatory to collect rain water and to make compost. At the end of the lease the new tenant has to pay his predecessor a hand-over fee for his personal belongings varying between 2,000 and 5,000 €.

Work for the federation as well as work for the boards of the associations and sections is done on a voluntary basis. The regional representatives work for the region and are the spokespersons for the associations and the sections as well as for the authorities.

The federation has edited a brochure called "The allotment garden in harmony with nature" and is available for all members; a new edition is in preparation. Every year an information leaflet is published for all members. In 2009 a folder was also created for all boards of the associations. This folder contains all essential information on the federation as well as model statutes etc.

The Swiss allotment garden federation is a member of the consultative board of the nature congress of Basel. It cooperates as well with associations pursuing similar aims. The federation supports the associations in their efforts to protect by long-term leases the land on which the allotment gardens sites are created or supports them financially when defending their cause in popular votes.

We aim to enable the federation to provide courses for the members itself or in cooperation with parent associations. In some towns courses are already organised for new allotment gardeners in order to make sure that they are informed both on how to work with nature and in an ecological manner. The federation also offers courses for gardening advisers. The aim is that the individual allotment gardeners have an expert near their site, who can give them the requested advice.

There are many innovative projects with a social content. Among them are allotment garden plots for disabled persons, educational gardens in order to make young people aware of nature and the creation of plots in high density housing areas for the residents.



United Kingdom

National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd
O'Dell House
Hunters Rd, Corby, Northants England NN17 5JE
www.nsalg.org.uk

Structure

Head Office - approx. 60 County bodies, Regional panels and federations,
2,500 associations, 120,000 members

Allotment gardens

Approx 400,000 allotment gardens, with an average size of 250 sq metres majority
of which are statutory allotments

Administration

Mainly voluntary and a few paid employees

Ownership

89 % local authorities, 11 % private

As the leading authority on allotments for the past 100 years, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) actively encourages the formation of Allotment Associations in partnership with Local Authorities.

We are a not-for-profit organisation representing over one third of all allotments in the UK. The average size of an allotment is 250 sq metres. Some allotments are connected to a water supply. The average rent is approx £ 25-£50 per year. For membership, individuals not in societies pay £ 20 per year; members of societies pay £ 2 each per year with a minimum total payment of £20 per society.

The majority of allotments are council owned as they have a statutory obligation to provide them under the 1908 Small Holdings and Allotments Act. The remaining 11 % are privately owned allotment sites. Allotment land is used wholly for the cultivation of

fruit and vegetables, but some tenants keep hens/ rabbits on their allotments. This however is subject to local authority rules. Sheds/greenhouses and polytunnels are allowed on allotments, these are temporary structures and are not to be used as a permanent or temporary dwellings.

How the NSALG are organised:

- NSALG are a nationwide body responsible for the promotion, protection, preservation and creation of all allotments.
- NSALG are the only full time professional organisation specifically representing the interests of allotment gardening, operating from a permanently staffed Head Office.
- NSALG are a registered Industrial Provident Society.
- We have a National Management Committee who create the general policy, both nationally and locally via the regions. All work undertaken by

our Regional Representatives is carried out on a voluntary basis.

- The network of ten Regional and County Representatives work with local groups and councils.
- NSALG have in-house Legal Advice covering all aspects of allotment, contract, tort, environmental and consumer law.
- We have 247 Local Authority members, 2,386 Association members, 1,335 Individual members, 951 Life members and 33 School members
- The National Allotments Trust has been established to operate as a charity. The prime objective is educational, to create awareness, to spread knowledge

What the NSALG achieve at present:

- NSALG is the advisor to the government on the disposal of Statutory Allotments, is part of the official consultation process relating to the disposal of statutory allotment land, resulting in many saved sites.
- NSALG are recognised by other government bodies and major non-governmental associations, organisations and the media as the voice of the allotment movement. This gives us many opportunities to represent all members' interests and concerns both on official and unofficial levels.
- NSALG assist with leases, management procedures, allotment legislation, planning applications and liaison with local government.
- We offer our members a discounted seed scheme and also an allotment insurance scheme.
- NSALG provide a wide range of publications, with information on a variety of topic areas including self management schemes, rents and leases, landlord and tenant issues.
- Our Regional Representatives work with local private landowners to encourage the release of land for allotment use, either by selling land or leasing to Councils or directly to Associations. They also work closely with councils and Tenants on Devolved Management Schemes, updating constitutions, leases and tenancies.
- Our Regional Management Committee offer support to local Associations and Councils concerning all matters related to allotment gardens.

- NSALG produce a quarterly magazine.
- In the Eastern Region NSALG have been trialling a programme of workshops in association with the Society of Legal Council Clerks (SLCC) on how to implement the allotment legislation.

NSALG aims and objectives for the future

- To provide a continuous programme of workshops throughout the country, for tenants, associations and councils, to enable them to work together to improve facilities and to actively encourage more of the general public, to benefit from their association with allotments.
- To liaise further with community projects in schools and including specific projects for the deaf and disabled.
- To be able to provide further sites countrywide, at zero cost to the community.
- To have Regional Secretaries throughout the UK who could take the administrative burden off the Regional Committee members.
- To provide courses on fruit and vegetable growing throughout the UK.



Japan

Association for Japan allotment garden

4-27-10 Honcho-higashi,
Chuo-ku, Saitama city,
Saitama Prefecture 338-0003
<http://homepage3.nifty.com/jkg/>

Structure

1 central federation, 4 associations, 38 allotment garden sites representing a total of 1,780 gardeners

Allotment gardens

1,780 allotment gardens with an average size of 40 sq metres exclusively on leased land

Administration

Voluntary work

Ownership

100 % private landowners

The association for Japan allotment garden was founded in April 1989 and is based in 4-27-10 Honcho-higashi, Chuo-ku, Saitama city, Saitama Prefecture 338-0003. It unites 4 associations with 38 allotment garden sites totalizing 1,780 individual allotment gardens.

The average size of a plot is 40 sq metres and the overall total of allotment gardens is 7.12 ha. On the allotments water and electricity are usually available through a communal supply. The average yearly rent is 2.63 € per sq metres. The annual contribution to the central federation is 10.39 € per allotment garden.

There are also 3,249 unorganised allotment garden sites situated on land, the use of which is only put at their disposal for a maximum of five years.

Any work for the federation is done on a voluntary basis. The federation is as well supported by its local associations.

At national level the allotment garden movement is not financially supported by the government. Recently the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries requested the cooperation in matters concerning the creation and the management of allotment gardens.

The national federation offers seminars and information possibilities concerning the creation and management of allotment gardens, the importance of creating an allotment garden network, the importance of the allotment gardens for urban development as well as on the subject of community and allotment gardens.

All allotment gardens are created on leased land. They are used to cultivate vegetables as well for flowers and shrubs.

Three laws from 1952 to 1990 concern allotment gardens. The laws dated June 1989 and June 1990 promote the creation of allotment gardens. The other law on farmland regulates the use of this land. These laws do not contain any protecting rules for allotment gardens. The laws regulating the use of farmland forbid on principal the building of constructions on this farmland. Therefore no shed or hut can be built on the allotment garden plots and so there is no possibility to stay overnight in the garden.

An association building can be built on the common parts of the allotment garden sites and is equipped with common toilets. Machine sheds can be built on these common parts as well.



You also find there a communal supply of electricity and water for gardening use. From these communal connections all the plots are supplied with water. Electricity is used in common facilities.

When a gardener leaves his plot the successor does not have to pay him any lump-sum for personal belongings.

The association for Japan allotment garden is not affiliated to another federation on national level and has no cooperation with other federations or organisations.

The federation and associations don't yet organise innovative projects in the social, ecological and pedagogical areas. They do however organise forums and other activities to raise awareness of food related and environment issues. Much effort is invested in projects in order to raise people's awareness of allotment gardens and to stabilize and develop the movement.

Questions	Austria	Belgium	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany
1) Organisations						
* Federation						
Sub-organisations	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Number of associations	385	210 in Flandria 50 Wallonia Total > 260	410	38	300	14.306
* Executive board						
Work on a voluntary basis	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Employees	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
2) Surface - members						
Number of members	39.353	35.000	40.000	4.400	25.000	990.000
Number of gardens	37.473	5.301	40.000	4.400	25.000	990.000
Total Surface	824 ha	150 ha	1.200 ha	300 ha	± 500 ha	46.000 ha
Plot: average size	350 m ²	250 m ²	300 m ²	300 m ²	150 m ²	370 m ²
3) Ownership						
* Exploitation						
- Lease	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
- For disposal					yes	
* Owner						
Communal authorities	75 %	60 %	67 %	95 %	65 %	77 %
Private owner	17 %	37 %	10 %	5 %	5 %	23 %
Federation	8 %				20 %	
Association			8 %		10 %	
Gardener						
Others / Ministry of Agriculture		3 %	15 %			
4) Leasing price						
* Rent per sqm	1,02 €	0,14 € m ²	0,3 - 0,75 €	0,70 €		0,01 - 1,00 €
* Fee to federation	5,66 €	0,00 €	28 €	33 €	11,90 €	1,20 €
* Lump sum for the successor	yes ± 30.000 Federal States ± 120.000 Vienna	no	no	no	no	yes 1.000 - 7.000 €
5) Equipment for the plot						
* Common equipment						
Head office / secretariat			not available			yes
Associative home	yes	yes	not available	yes	yes	75 %
Common toilets	0 %	9 %	50 %	yes	15 %	8 %
Restaurant / Bar	a few		no			yes
* Other equipments	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Playground	a few	a few	not available	a few	on new sites	49 %
Tool and machine shed	some	yes	not available	a few	yes	11 %
Energy and water supply	100 %	10 %	not available	yes	yes	95 %

Great-Britain	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Slovakia	Sweden	Switzerland	Japan
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
2.500	128	187	16	4.960	1.800	260	230	38
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
yes	yes (2)	yes	yes (1)	yes	yes	yes	no	no
400.000	25.397	26.000	3.000	> 1.000.000	88.000	25,000	24.800	3.432
	4.826	27.500	1.400	4.960 Allotment garden sites	88.000	25,000	24.800	3.432
	12,067 ha	1.000 ha	56 ha	43.517,87 ha	57.000 ha	700 ha	580 ha	7,12 ha
250 m ²	250 m ²	250 m ²	250m ²	300 - 500 m ²	250 - 400 m ²	100 - 300 m ²	150 - 200 m ²	40 m ²
yes	partially	yes	yes	63% perpetual hereditary usufruct	no	yes	yes	yes
	partially			36% hereditary usufruct				
89 %	90 %	99 %	100 %	99,80 %		90 %	100 %	
10 %						9 %		100 %
1 %	10 %	1 %						
				0,20 %				
30,00 €	2 - 12 € for 100 sqm	0,05 - 2,00 €	<1 €	0,04 per qm		0,5 per qm	75 - 120 €	2,63 €
2,00 €	4,00 €	22,90 €	1 €	35 % of this sum to the federation	4,00 €	10-28 €	30 €	10,39 €
yes depends on what is left on the plot	yes depends on what is left on the plot	yes		no	no	no	yes 2.000 - 5.000 €	no
						yes/no		
yes	yes	yes	yes	60 % of sites		yes		
	yes	yes	yes	60 % of sites		yes	yes	yes
2 %	yes	yes	yes	yes	50 %	yes	80 %	yes
				no				
yes	yes	yes				yes		yes
	no	yes some	yes	31 % of the sites			yes	
yes	yes	yes some		no			yes	yes
	partially	yes some	yes	yes				yes

Questions	Austria	Belgium	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany
6) Laying out of the plot						
* Infrastructure	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
* Type of infrastructure						
Shed for gardening tools		yes		yes	yes	a few
Plain garden shed without electricity		yes	15 - 20 %	yes		2 %
Gardening house for occasional staying overnight	yes			yes		yes
Holiday house for staying over summer	yes	yes	80 - 85 %	yes		
Other constructions	yes			yes	greenhouse	greenhouse
* Limitative prescriptions	35 m ² 50 m ² Vienna	Communal regulation	Contract / public regulations Height / materials Size 30-60 sqm.	size / colour / windows / materials	yes depending on the communal regulation height, materials, etc	24 m ²
Equipment of a plot						
Electricity	yes	7 %	80 %	yes	rarely	74 %
Water for gardening use		5 %	95 %	yes	yes	
Drinking water	yes	48 %	95 %	yes	yes	88 %
Electricity						
Common connecting		yes	yes		yes	yes
Individual connecting	yes			yes		yes
Used water						
Common connecting		yes	yes		yes	yes
Individual connecting			yes	yes		yes
Drinking water						
Common connecting		yes	yes		yes	yes
Individual connecting	yes			yes		yes
7) Equipment shed/house				house		
Electricity	yes	no	80 %	yes		72 %
Drinking water	yes	a few	95 %	depends on site	yes	37 %
Used water	yes	no	not available	depends on site		20 %
WC and types						
Individual BIO WC		no	10 %	yes		25 %
Individual chemical WC		no	60 %			34 %
Individual WC	100 %	no	10 %	yes		33 %

Great-Britain	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Slovakia	Sweden	Switzerland	Japan
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes/no	yes	no
yes	yes	yes			yes	yes	yes	no
yes	yes	yes	2 sites of 16		yes	yes	yes	no
	no	yes		yes	yes	yes		no
	no	yes	14 sites of 16		yes	yes		no
greenhouse		yes			yes	yes	yes	no
size / hight materials		size / hight materials, colour	Yes depending on the communal regulations hight, materials, etc	25 m ² in the town 35 m ² in the surroundings	40 m ² materials	varies a lot	varies according to region	no
on some sites	on some sites	some	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
sometimes	partially	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes
on some sites	partially	some	yes	30 %		yes	yes	no
	no	some		yes		yes	yes	yes
	no	rarely	yes	rarely	yes			no
yes	partially	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes	no
	no	yes	yes	very rarely				no
	yes	some	yes			yes	yes	no
		some	yes					no
	no	some	yes	yes	yes	very often	solar yes	
	partially	some	some	30 %		varies		
	no	some		very rarely		varies		
		yes	some	rarely				
			some	sometimes	50 %			
	partially	yes	some	no			20 %	

Questions	Austria	Belgium	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany
8) Gardening use						
Vegetable cultivation without judicial protection	yes					
Orchard and kitchen garden	yes			yes		yes
Garden for pleasure (flowers, shrubs)	yes			yes		yes
Recreational garden	yes			yes		yes
Mixture of several garden forms	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Minimum surface for the cultivation of fruit and vegetable		yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Minimum	2/3 allotment garden use	83 % rules in the internal regulation of the local associations 16 % of the sites: ecological cultivation	no	depends on towns 2/3 gardening culture half of it can be lawn	75 % culture of vegetables	1/3 fruit and vegetable
9) Support and cooperation						
* Allotment garden law	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes
Date	16.12.1958		2001		1976	1.4.1983
* Protection						
Limitation for the rent price		no				yes
Protection against resiliation of the lease	yes	no			yes	yes
Compensation measures	yes	no			yes	yes
Other protective measures	only Vienna		unlimited lease		specific advantages for fees and taxes	yes
* Formation possibilities						
Formations offered	yes	yes Revue / Courses	yes	yes	yes	yes
* Cooperation with other federations	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes
* Government support						
Form of support		1) no support in Wallonia 2) financial support in Flanders	no	yes	yes	yes
				financial support	creation of gardens	Support of education
10) Innovative Projects						
Areas		for example School gardens	Waste water handling, movable sheds (containers)	for example Waste handling	for example School gardens; Gardens for disabled people; Gardens for elderly people Gardens for social insertion Environment	for example: Biodiversity disabled people; elderly people

Great-Britain	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Slovakia	Sweden	Switzerland	Japan
yes	yes	yes	some			yes		
yes	yes	yes	some			yes	yes	yes
	yes	yes	yes			yes		yes
	yes	yes	yes			yes	yes	
	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
no	no	no		no	no	no	no	
Aim of allotment gardens: cultivation of fruit and vegetables, occasionally flowers	no							
yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes
Laws from 1908 to 1950	19.07.2004			8.7.2005	Law 64/1997			1952, 1989, 1990
								no
yes		no		free				no
yes	partially	general legislation		yes				no
	no	yes	no	yes				no
Government authorisation before disposal of plots/ replacement plots	no	zoning plan local policy plan		yes				stimulation of allotments
yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
yes	yes	yes		yes	no	yes	yes	no
no	yes	no		no	yes	yes	no	no
	financial support							
for example: specialized garden for disabled garden for young people and those with special needs	for example: School gardens; Gardens for disabled people for elderly people Environment	for example: Internet site for children, cultivation of vegetables for unfavored people				for example environment protection	Gardens for disabled people	Promotion and sensitising for allotments

COUNTRY	FEDERATION	ADDRESS	TEL / FAX / EMAIL
Austria	Zentralverband der Kleingärtner und Siedler Österreichs	Simon-Wiesenthal-Gasse 2 A- 1020 WIEN	Tél. 0043/1-587 07 85 Fax. 0043/1-587 07 85 30 émail: zvwien@kleingaertner.at Internet. www.kleingaertner.at
Belgium	National Verbond van Volkstuinen vzw/Ligue Nationale du Coin de Terre et du Foyer - Jardins Populaires	Sekr. c/o Serge Dockier rue des Crénées 49 B-4210 Oteppe	Tél. 0032 498 37 39 07 émail . Serge.dockier@yahoo.fr
Denmark	Kolonihaveforbundet for Danmark	Frederikssundsvej 304 A DK - 2700 BRONSHOJ	Tél. 0045/3 828 8750 Fax. 0045/3 828 8350 émail: info@kolonihave.dk Internet: www.kolonihave.dk
Finland	Suomen Siirtolapuutarhaliitto ry	Pengerkatu 9 B 39 FI - 00530 HELSINKI	Tél. 00358/ 9-763 155 Fax. 00358/ 9-763 125 émail: sgarden@siirtolapuutarhaliitto.fi Internet:www.siirtolapuutarhaliitto.fi
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Great-Britain	The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd.	O'Dell House/Hunters Road GB - CORBY Northants NN17 5JE	Tél. 0044/ 1536 266 576 Fax. 0044/1536 264 509 émail: natsoc@nsalg.org.uk Internet: www.nsalg.org.uk
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