

Third German federal allotment congress

Allotments now and in the future have an essential mission for society (Peter Paschke).

The European allotment gardeners share the same pleasure and the same worries. Together they discuss the future of allotments.

Therefore, Malou WEIRICH, Secretary General of the International Office du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux, took part in the third German federal allotment congress organized in Kassel on 22nd and 23rd May.

“The demographic change is transforming Germany and the allotment gardeners feel these changes.

On one hand, in regions with important agglomerations the waiting lists to get a plot are long. For example, in Berlin, 12.000 members are waiting to get a plot. However, instead of increasing the offer, the authorities often even reduce it. Construction grounds for lodgings and industrial zones seem to be more important than an allotment site.

On the other hand, many plots are vacant in other German regions”.

During the third federal allotment congress having had as subject: “The allotments: areas for nature, diversity and health” the requirement of an adequate development of the allotment movement was highlighted and supported by different lecturers.

In addition to strategies for sustainable allotment sites the importance and the social responsibility of the allotment movement were particularly underlined.

Allotments now and in the future have an essential mission for society (Peter Paschke). They are and must remain a keystone for a humane town. In order for this statement to remain true one can draw the following message from the discussions in Kassel for the allotment gardeners in Germany and Europe:

We must be successful in the management of the change of our allotments and be able to adapt them to today’s and future necessities.

We have to increase the integration of our allotment sites in their neighbourhood and share them with the population.

We must innovate and carry out new projects. We must develop visions.

We must underline the value of the allotments for everyone (for example contribution to nature, climate, community.....).

We must increase a regular PR work and lobbying as well as the use of the new communication methods.

You'll find an overview about the congress under:

<http://www.kleingaertnrkongress.de/kongress>