

## **The winners of the allotment competition have been determined**

On Saturday, November 22nd 2014, the highly expected day had arrived: The winners of the 23rd federal competition “Gardens in the town planning” were elected in Berlin. Thirty allotment garden associations took part in the final competition. Gold, silver and bronze medals honoured the special efforts of the associations in the social, ecological and town planning area.

Since 1951, the federal ministry for environment, nature protection, construction and nuclear security and the federal allotment garden federation invite every four years the allotment gardeners to participate in this competition. The subject chosen for this year was “Gardening together – growing together”.

Some associations gained points due to their social engagement in giving vegetables to food banks, in cooperating with children gardens and schools or in offering special allotment gardens for elderly people. Other associations increased their ecological gardening. With educational paths explaining nature, beekeeping or the cultivation of old fruit species they do not at all match the negative idea some people have of old fashioned gardeners. To get good marks it was also important that the allotment garden sites were well integrated in the neighbourhood: Can the site be easily reached by the allotment gardeners? Is the common green part accessible for people who are not allotment gardeners? Are the local authorities involved in the associative life by taking, for example, part in celebrations? At the occasion of the granting of the medals on November 22nd the many folded engagement of the allotment gardeners was honoured.

Politicians, representatives from the authorities, the secretary general from the Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux, partners and representatives from the media celebrated this event together with more than 900 allotment gardeners.

The list of the winner can be found under [www.kleingarten-bunde.de](http://www.kleingarten-bunde.de)