

## Integration Garden

*The Competition of the NGO “ Deutsche Umwelthilfe” continues –  
Five allotment garden associations among the winners in 2017*

Gardening promotes local attachment and "taking root". No other place is better suited for people to talk and socialize with each other. For this reason, allotment associations and community gardens, which open up their cultivable acreage to refugees, make an important contribution to the integration of those who seek protection against war and violence in Germany. Five of the projects that were awarded a prize in 2017 are managed by allotment garden associations.

### **The Querbeet project: Integration in two Osnabrück allotment garden associations**

The Querbeet project is stimulating the integration of refugee families in two Osnabrück allotment garden associations. Gardening creates opportunities for encounters and enables refugee families to participate in our society. The five gardens are managed by one family each. They already form an integral part of the life in the association. Two refugees have even made the leap into the job market through the garden project!



### **Eime Intercultural Garden (Lower Saxony)**

The intercultural garden is part of the local allotment garden site and is well equipped. All tools including the lawn mower have been donated, as well as the garden furniture and the barbecue. A wildflower meadow has been sown, there are fruit trees and a shared vegetable garden. The board of the allotment garden association supports the project developed on this plot and has taken on the lease.

### **Lüneburg Cultural Garden (Lower Saxony)**

This is the first "Integration garden" of the competition! The garden is located on an allotment site in a residential area on the outskirts of town. It is jointly managed. It comprises a large plot that is planted and harvested by all. There are also small fruit trees, berry bushes and a herb spiral. Various raised beds and mounds were built, as well as a greenhouse, created out of old windows. There is a hut with a large shelter attached. The garden is accessible to all at any time.

### **Dillingen City Garden (Saarland)**

The Saar Future Workshop (Zukunftswerkstatt - ZWS) is developing an integrative community and educational garden on a 200 m<sup>2</sup> plot of the North Dillingen allotment garden association. The offer to cooperate was directed primarily, although not exclusively, to refugee women, in order to provide them with freedom in their specific situation, to initiate contacts and to facilitate gardening together according to their wishes.

### **Intercultural Bielefeldt Gardens in Lübeck (Schleswig-Holstein)**

The intercultural garden in the Buntekuh district of Lübeck includes five plots of land at the allotment garden association Buntekuh. Highlights in the garden are a clay baking unit and a solar-powered water pump. The garden is managed organically. Gardeners can tend their own beds or garden in the common areas. There are many courses, activities and festivals for children and adults.

The competition will enter a new round in 2018. For all information please go to:

[www.duh.de/projekte/gaerten-der-integration/besondere-projekte-und-initiativen/](http://www.duh.de/projekte/gaerten-der-integration/besondere-projekte-und-initiativen/)

Thomas Wagner, BDG

Since its beginning the social function is a corner stone of the allotment movement throughout Europe.

You find some examples from Switzerland, the Netherlands and Sweden in the Hyphens no. 60 to 63.

Have a look at these inspiring projects.

Malou Weirich, Secretary general of the International Office du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux