

France : Active allotment gardeners!

IFS (Calvados)

This very young association, which celebrated its second anniversary last November signed an agreement with the association „La Passerelle verte“ in June 2010. This association tries to help people by providing them with an activity. Aim was to put a plot of 200 sq meters at the disposal of disabled workers. The autonomy that gardening provides these people with and the exchange of ideas with other gardeners really favours their insertion into society and their positive development.

Another agreement was signed with the “Relais d’Assistants Maternelles d’Ifs” in order to give them the use of a small part of ground of approximately 20 sq meters within which they could sensitize very small children to the pleasures of gardening.

French text

Dominique Thomas – President of the local allotment garden association from Ifs

Toulouse (Haute-Garonne)

Within the framework of their pedagogical projects, the local association has opened its gardens for schools.

On 21st September 2010, they welcomed on their site of Bourrasol 26 future gardeners of the primary school of Polygone, accompanied by their teacher Cathérine Duffaux and three mothers.

We showed them fruit, vegetables and the fishpond. These small children left happily their arms charged with baskets of flowers and aromatic plants.

French text

Patrick Courret – Member of the executive board of the local association of Toulouse

Bron (Rhône)

Since 2005, the allotment garden association from the Fort de Bron has on one hand created a space dedicated to people with reduced mobility and on the other hand has helped with the creation of an association supporting these people, while gardening.

So, les Cosmos du Fort, an association presided by Jacques Bernard, started its work four years ago. The association is member of the allotment garden association of the Fort de Bron and member of the national allotment garden federation.

After five years of experience we thought it necessary to modernize the equipment by getting more practical plant holders and welcoming a larger number of people. The new laying out of the plot and the arrival of the new plant holders allows us to receive: people with dorsal problems who garden on raised beds, people with reduced

mobility who can garden on specially adapted beds and people suffering from spatial and time disorientation who can work on different beds adapted to their specific situation.

In order to be able to realize this project we have answered to an appeal of the region Rhône-Alpes to present projects to be taken into consideration for the regional prize 2010:“Vivons Ensemble la Cité” (Living together in the city). The jury met in December 2010 and has decided to give the maximum possible financial support (96,26% of the investment), which means 6,800 €to our association. Jean-Jack Queyranne, president of the region, felt obliged to personally give the decree granting this subvention to the president of our association on 8th January, 2011 during the general assembly of the allotment garden association of the Fort de Bron.

French Text

Bernard Justet – Delegate of the French national federation for the region Rhône-Alpes