



Fédération Internationale des Jardins Familiaux a.s.b.l.

association sans but lucratif

Regroupement des fédérations européennes des jardins familiaux
Statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe
Statut d'observateur auprès de l'UNEA

1926-2021
95 ans

Dear allotment gardeners

„You don't have to die first to get to paradise as long as you have a garden“
(Persian proverb).

During the pandemic, allotment gardeners have more than ever appreciated their little paradise and more and more city dwellers have (re) discovered allotments.

So, are allotments an element to alleviate crises?

More and more scientists underline the correlation between the reduction of biodiversity and the emergence of pandemics. Everyone is becoming aware more and more that environmental protection is health protection.



So, are allotments an indispensable element for a sustainable future?

Considering the development of our movement and the future strategies of our federations, both hypotheses are probably true.

In order to meet these goals and to support the federations in the best possible way, our international grouping has changed its statutes. The name has been modernised and is now: Fédération Internationale des Jardins Familiaux (International allotment federation).

The International Federation has applied for accreditation with the United Nations Environment Program in order to acquire new knowledge as well as to promote our interests and to raise awareness for the benefits of allotments (in whatever form). The observer status with the United Nations Environment Assembly was granted to the International Federation on 6th July 2021.

We are active in the Council of Europe on issues such as, for example, environmental protection and climate change. This year the International

Federation was invited to take part in the activities of the European Landscape Convention and it is considering asking for the observer status with the Committee for Culture, Cultural Heritage and Landscape at the Council of Europe. This is also a means to both gather knowledge and to lobby.

On invitation of the EU Commission, our federation took part in a meeting of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health.

In the Hyphen, we have started a new series with the presentation of the federations' strategies for the future, in order to give suggestions so that we can all position ourselves in the best possible way for the future.

Currently, we are also considering how to improve the structure of the general secretariat in order to be able to work even more efficiently in the future.

Despite the pandemic, meaningful work could and will continue to be done for all allotment gardeners.

Also, in your federation and associations, the upcoming challenges have to be addressed now, and not in a few years, in order to be well prepared for the future according to the proverb: "In failing to prepare, you will prepare to fail".

Therefore, work out a multi-year strategic plan. Together with your members define your vision for your federation/association. Consider the opportunities that are available to you and choose the best ones according to your financial and material resources. Set accents and priorities, which you then put into practice with determination in order to carry out pioneering work. Don't forget in your actions to push forward the digitalisation of your associations. The digital divide is the new face of inequality, also in the associations.

Let us continue to learn from each other in 2022 and join forces in the associations, as well as in the national and international federations.

In this spirit, I wish you a happy and peaceful holiday season, a good health as well as courage, strength and foresight to continue developing our movement together on all levels.

Malou Weirich

Secretary General

Fédération Internationale des Jardins Familiaux