



## Community Learning and Sustainability Initiatives

Local communities have an indispensable role to play in supporting people's learning and development and in creating societies that are engaged, inclusive and sustainable.

Community-based learning strengthens bonds across generations, promotes agency and self-reliance, and fosters social cohesion, thus encouraging active citizenship and a sense of ownership of a community's future. Moreover, it enables the exchange of information and the development of skills necessary to tackle the challenges of today's rapidly changing world, ultimately contributing in a very significant way to sustainable development at a local level.

Check out these 9 great examples of Community Learning and Sustainability initiatives that are being carried out within our regions across Europe.

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# REDE MAPEAR – EDUCATIONAL NETWORK FOR A COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MAPPING OF AIR AND NOISE QUALITY

## CATEGORY

Community learning and sustainability initiatives

## LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE

Portugal

## PROBLEM THAT TACKLES

This network aims to promote socio-environmental literacy, in the educational community, on the impacts of air quality and its effects, above all on human health, and thus encourage active participation in the daily lives of the communities and cities in which they operate. It is the follow-up of a pilot project with the same title.

## VOLUNTEERING ASSOCIATION OR PERSONS INVOLVED



ASPEA - Portuguese Environmental Education Association, a non-profit Environmental Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), founded in June 1990.

Since 2020, 47 secondary schools became members of the network.

## DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE



The network MAPeAR is intended to introduce research activities and citizen science methodologies in secondary schools, in the area of air quality; to promote and raise awareness and socio-environmental literacy in secondary schools; to train teachers and students to become MAPeAR multiplier agents, through the use of digital tools and air quality measurement; to encourage teachers and students to actively participate in the development of public policies for the materialisation of smart, resilient and sustainable cities.



This programme began by offering teachers a training course/workshop of at least 25 hours to deepen the theoretical and practical contents in the area of air quality, public and human health, and public participation in public policies; and to produce a tutorial providing teachers and students with didactic sheets allowing them to explore the methodology of air quality contents, and not simply apply the protocol for measurement and use of the equipment provided. To this end, several face-to-face workshops and on-line meetings and webinars were organised throughout the country in 2020 and 2021.

The measurements in this project will focus on the continuous (fixed) and commuting (mobile) measurement of PM10 and PM2.5 particles in the air of ASPEA's associated schools and regional centres and respective commuting routes, given that this is considered one of the most critical pollutants in Portugal, exceeding in several urban areas the concentration limit values allowed by the legislation in force.

Several monitoring campaigns were organised in 2020 and 2021, and measurements were taken for emissions of particles into the atmosphere, noxious gases and excessive noise. The whole educational community, participates and the whole community around the school/in their city benefit from the activities of the MAPeAR network.

### Sharing & Learning

Joaquim Ramos Pinto, President of ASPEA, stated that the pilot project now underway includes a total of 15 actions.

***"The set of actions ... connects schools, their teachers and students, but also local communities, local authorities, civil protection, businesses, the scientific community and civil society in general". And he clarifies: "This strengthening of social links allows for a deepening of self-reflection, supporting inclusion and awareness of co-responsibility in the management of air quality".***

### Transferability of the Practice

As the network keeps expanding throughout the country, more schools are becoming associated parties. More teachers and students are involved in its activities and more monitoring campaigns are put in practice. There is a continued increase in air quality monitoring data, as well as an increase in awareness-raising in the local communities around the schools. Therefore, it is through example that the practice is being transferred to new locations.

The MAPeAR Network organised a Participatory Forum. It brought together ASPEA's delegations and its partners, universities, NGOs, political parties and decision-makers of the local and central public administration to discuss the best practices in the management of air quality in the urban areas of the associated schools. The network is successfully contributing to bringing young people closer to democratic institutions and participative democracy



## IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD (START/END DATE)

**Start Date:** 1/52020

**End Date:** Ongoing



## EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS (RESULTS ACHIEVED)



The main outcome of the MAPeAR network is the WebGIS (Geographical Information System), a space where all stakeholders can share, analyse and compare results collected. It includes three components:

- dashboards, allowing to present the project's quantitative results in an immediate way and in real time
- a geo-visualizer, allowing crossing the project's quantitative and qualitative information through several layers; and
- story maps, for communicating quantitative and qualitative data.

**10.ºCT3**

# CONHECE OS SENSORES INSTALADOS NA NOSSA ESCOLA

Na NOSSA ESCOLA temos instalado 5 SENSORES num único equipamento. Nesse equipamento, esses sensores medem as seguintes grandezas do AR:

- MATÉRIA PARTICULADA (PM 2,5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , PM 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ );
- TEMPERATURA ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ );
- HUMIDADE (%H);
- PRESSÃO ATMOSFÉRICA (hPa).

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IDENTIFICAÇÃO DO SENSOR  
ID **esp8266-2393578**

Semana da Cultura Científica  
22 a 26 de novembro

Logos for ASPEA and MAPeAR are at the bottom.

### INFORMATION LINKS

<https://aspea.org/index.php/pt/o-que-fazemos/projetos-nacionais/redemapear>

### CONTACT

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### ORGANISATION

ASPEA – Associação Portuguesa de Educação Ambiental

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# FRIENDS OF THE NEW WATERFRONT

## CATEGORY

Community learning and sustainability initiatives

## LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE

Along “Megalou Alexandrou” Avenue, Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

## PROBLEM THAT TACKLES

Countless tonnes of solid waste are being disposed of every year on earth, and Greece is not an exception. Reusing subproducts after being treated, transformed and recycled for a different use, for example as clothes, is a common sustainability practice as the production of a substantial percentage of solid waste is avoided.

## VOLUNTEERING ASSOCIATION OR PERSONS INVOLVED



The catwalk is organised by the “Friends of New Waterfront” association. The association was founded once the “old” new waterfront’s renovation works were concluded in late 2013. Since, the “Friends of the New Waterfront” have implemented several art, music and raise awareness events on the site that have attracted thousands of residents.

## DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE



In September of each year since 2014 the “New Catwalk” is being scheduled on the New Waterfront of the city of Thessaloniki. The event attracts hundreds of spectators and has taken place in several locations along the new waterfront.



The fashion items presented in the catwalk are produced by recycled materials such as cloth, leather, carton, plastic etc. The main purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the good sustainability practices in society, recycling being prevalent amongst them.

### Sharing & Learning

In a recent section dedicated to the initiatives of the Friends of the New Waterfront of Thessaloniki, representatives of the association stated that:

*“Cultural Heritage is intertwined with something unexpected and subversive, making creative materials from garbage. Artists have learned how to use garbage and see it as a material where every new creation has its own identity and history.”*

### Transferability of the Practice

Events like these are very transferable in other coastal regions. Organising a public catwalk only requires a proper flat and long surface on a public space, preferably busy and with easy access. An alternative is to organise the event indoors, as long as the premises are free and popular with the public (with frequent public visits).

Fashion designers willing to participate by designing and creating clothes from recycling products need to be contacted, sponsorship for the minimum costs of the event must be guaranteed, the city council must give its permission for the use of the public space, the event must be advertised on social media and the local press.



## IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD (START/END DATE)

**Start Date:** September 2014

**End Date:** Ongoing (except in 2020 due to the pandemic)





## EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS (RESULTS ACHIEVED)



The participation of fashion designers and the interest of the public keep growing year after year. 2021's New Recycling Catwalk included 19 fashion designers' creations.



### INFORMATION LINKS

<https://www.ertnews.gr/roi-idiseon/prototypi-pasarela-drasi-gia-tin-anakyklosi-sti-neia-paralia-thessalonikis/>

<https://paraliazo.gr/draseis-2/>

<https://paraliazo.gr/pasarela/>

### CONTACT

Bernard Cuomo (deputy chair)

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"FRIENDS OF NEW WATERFRONT"

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*Photo Sources:* <https://www.protothema.gr/greece/article/822415/thessaloniki-pasarela-sti-neia-paralia-me-rouha-apo-anakuklosima-ulika/>  
<https://www.polismagazino.gr/%CE%B5%CF%80%CE%AF%CE%B4%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%BE%CE%B7-%CE%BC%CF%8C%CE%B4%CE%B1%CF%82-%CE%B1%CF%80%CF%8C-%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%82-%CF%86%CE%AF%CE%BB%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%82-%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%82-%CE%BD/>

# HORSE FOREST FIREWATCHERS PATROL

## CATEGORY

Community learning and sustainability initiatives

## LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE

Eastern Thessaloniki, City Forest “Şeyh Su”, Greece

## PROBLEM THAT TACKLES

The city pine forest of Thessaloniki named “Say Sooh” is pretty vulnerable to forest fires that occur almost entirely during the summertime, when temperatures are high, and the pine needles are dry and flammable. Volunteers’ patrols across the forest paths are thus vital. Moreover, the members of the Horse Forest Firewatchers Patrol develop their riding skills and learn to love both horses and the nature while simultaneously offering a great service to the community through their volunteers patrolling work.

## VOLUNTEERING ASSOCIATION OR PERSONS INVOLVED



The Horse Forest Firewatchers Patrol is under the Supervision National Park Department and all people involved are also members of the Civil Protection Elite Union of the Municipality of Thessaloniki. Participation is strictly voluntary and all volunteers have been undergoing various training programmes offered by the department.

## DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE



The Horse Forest Firewatchers Patrol, traditionally known as “Amazons” and “Horseriders” to the public, implement surveillance tours in the city forest of Thessaloniki that covers an extended area in the east and southeast sides of the city and is prone to forest fires during the summer period. About 20 volunteers and their horses patrol in turns inside the forest, as well as in other nature sights on the outskirts of Thessaloniki, such as the Thermi Dam Park and the Epanomi lagoon.





The concept of patrolling the city forest against fire stems from the fact that horses are able to approach surfaces in the forest that are impossible to be approached by car, motorcycle or other conventional means of transport. Riding on the back of the horse makes riders also be in a permanent state of readiness.

The Horse Forest Firewatchers Patrol members have fully experienced riders, many of whom frequently take part in horse riding races. The patrol horses are also trained beforehand, focusing in particular on their psychology, explaining correctly their reactions in case of fire and becoming familiar with the morphology of the terrain.

### Sharing & Learning

Chrisa Makri, a distinguished member of the team, states:

*“The whole idea was born in our minds while we were riding in the forest during our common trainings. Our love for horse riding and for the nature were met in the founding of the Horse Forest Firewatchers Patrol. When people see us appearing between the trees, first they lose it, then they respect our efforts and even take the chance for a photograph with us!”.*

### Transferability of the Practice

For the transferability of an initiative like this another region would require a horse-riding club with skilled riders who are committed to protecting nature and are happy to volunteer, plus any natural reserve, forest or park that is prone to fire and with a relevant proximity to the horse-riding club.



## IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD (START/END DATE)

**Start Date:** 2006

**End Date:** Ongoing (every May to September)



## EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS (RESULTS ACHIEVED)



The Horse Forest Firewatchers Patrol members have successfully informed the relevant authorities of forest fire incidents in the course of the years since 2006 and have been precious help to the Fire Brigade Department of Thessaloniki.

Various volunteers have been trained to horse riding and many more have discovered the beauty of nature and the fulfillment one feels when they serve the public for the common good.



### INFORMATION LINKS

<https://www.karfitsa.gr/koinonia/thessaloniki-sti-machi-tis-perifrourosis-tou-seich-sou-oi-ethelontes/>

<http://www.epomeathessalonikis.gr/index.php/activities-menu/246-8-39>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzrkdtDFsA>

### CONTACT

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### ORGANISATION

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## BE PROACTIVE - CHANGE THE WORLD

### CATEGORY

Community learning and sustainability initiatives

### LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE

Bulgaria, North East Region, Varna, 14 "Sava Radulov" str

### PROBLEM THAT TACKLES

It is believed that the citizens are not engaged enough in nature preservation. Protecting the environment for self-interested reasons is the message sent to the citizens. The slogan of the initiative is: "PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IS A PERSONAL INTEREST OF EVERYONE OF US". Yet to date, the dominant approach for promoting pro-environmental behaviour has focused on highlighting the benefits to others or nature, rather than appealing to self-interest.

### VOLUNTEERING ASSOCIATION OR PERSONS INVOLVED



The volunteers involved in the initiative are the students of the first established faculty of Ecology and Environmental preservation in Bulgaria, targeting a means of how to implement their expertise as active citizens. The initiative is orchestrated by the Public Environmental Center for Sustainable Development in Varna.

### DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE



The good practice demonstrates a number of activities and campaigns initiated by the Public Environmental Center for Sustainable Development targeted towards citizens and local authorities to raise awareness on climate change and nature protection.





The diversity of campaigns includes: (i) separate collection and recycling of paper waste from offices and educational institutions; (ii) support to schools and kindergartens in reducing energy consumption; (iii) promotion of vertical greening of buildings as a possible solution for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the city of Varna and others. The information is disseminated through organised outdoor events, and the distribution of information materials in schools and universities.

The activities and campaigns are seen as means and approach towards reducing pollution and repairing damages as well as prevailing eventual future harms on the environment.

To engage the citizens the Center is developing different titles for the campaigns for example: "Return a bottle - grab a book" for separate collection and recycling of paper and glass bottles, and "I prefer cups for multiple use" for replacing in the kindergartens the single-use plastic cups with multiple use metal ones. The Center confronts the implementation of GMO food and further promotes organic agriculture and composting. In the summer they organised the Eco camp „Ezerets“ aimed at promoting healthy living, passive buildings and clean food.

Beneficiaries of the practice are the entire population of the City of Varna.

### Sharing & Learning

Ilyian Iliev, one of the Center founders shared with us:

*"Up till now we managed to:*

- *Involve more than 300 company offices to participate in a programme for recycling;*
- *Promote more than 45 civil initiatives and practices;*
- *Train more than 1000 students;*
- *Provide dozens of juridical consults;*

- *Prevent the cutting of more than 800 trees;*
- *Run a common approach referendum."*

### Transferability of the Practice

The campaigns and initiatives are applicable in different areas. Addressing environmental issues requires that people do things differently. The approach is to embrace self-interest and to develop programmes and messages that appeal to the personal benefits of environmental protection, such as saving money or garnering the social approval of others.



## IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD (START/END DATE)

**Start Date:** 15/12/2009

**End Date:** Ongoing

## EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS (RESULTS ACHIEVED)



The campaign “I choose the cup for multiple usage” won the 2020 competition BEYOND PLASTIC AWARD;

The project “Rural ecology” of the Public Center for Sustainable development is one of the 15 chosen projects by the European body of solidarity that will be presented and included in the new vision of the programme.

The EC presented the “Page by page” report on “Erasmus+” projects for the 2014-2020 period. “Ecocamp Ezerets” had been awarded the “Most influential volunteer initiative for 2019” by the Municipality of Varna. The competition was held within the “Youth activities 2019”



### INFORMATION LINKS

<https://ecovarna.info/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ecovarna>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbfeatfZgQrnmChR2KDYDkw>

<https://youtu.be/t9DaXPnzwcM>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbfeatfZgQrnmChR2KDYDkw>

### CONTACT

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## GLOBE BUDDY

### CATEGORY

Community learning and sustainability initiatives

### LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE

Denmark

### PROBLEM THAT TACKLES

Pet food leaves a considerable carbon footprint, e.g., the average dog in its lifetime is responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases equivalent to 13 flights from Berlin to Barcelona and back, mainly due to the use of traditional meat sources in the food.

Globe Buddy is a start-up with a mission to keep pets happy and healthy through planet-friendly pet food. Therefore, this project is tackling the environmental impact of pet food.

### VOLUNTEERING ASSOCIATION OR PERSONS INVOLVED



Globe Buddy - two co-founders who are working to get the business going. They share a passion for pets as well as sustainability.

### DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE



Globe Buddy is founded on the ideals of sustainability. They're not just another company here to sell you traditional pet food. Their purpose is to inspire a sustainable pet life.

They're committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, known as the 17 SDGs. Their efforts particularly focus on six of the SDGs.

Goal 17 is "Partnerships for the Goals". Put simply, it's a very important goal, which all of the other goals are dependent upon. They actively reach out to other companies, organisations, and the public sector, because we know partnerships are key to achieving the SDGs. We collaborate closely with our suppliers to drive sustainable development.





Sustainability is the keyword in everything Globe Buddy does. Their pet food is created in a planet-friendly way and therefore their carbon footprint is smaller. They use solar-powered production facilities and recyclable packaging. They also carefully evaluate suppliers as they want to make sure they share the same values. However, the organisation also values feedback from its customers, and then uses this feedback proactively in product development. Their tagline is “Pawsome together”, and it involves all aspects of the business, from working with relevant suppliers to implementing feedback from customers.

### Sharing & Learning

Globe Buddy has learned that working with climate action in business and product development can be quite complex. They want to do good and reach so many goals in a short amount of time, but they have learned that it’s better to keep it simple and take one step at a time. That means to focus, for example on ingredients, or packaging, and maybe not on all elements at once. By doing that, it’s easier to keep track and see the improvements coming.

### Transferability of the Practice

Others should also be aware of regulations, especially if they are working with different markets internationally. There are many regulations within the food and pet food production as well as in regard to packaging, and marketing claims. Again, take one step at a time and focus and be realistic. Their advice is that others should not expect that it is possible to develop a product or business that is 100% sustainable in a very short time. It’s good to have the 100% as a vision and aim for it, and then take the time and steps to get there. Customers will value you for the effort and every improvement you make on the journey.



## IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD (START/END DATE)

**Start Date:** 1/1/2020

**End Date:** Ongoing



## EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS (RESULTS ACHIEVED)



As mentioned already pet food manufacture, packaging, distribution and consumption leave a considerable carbon footprint, mainly due to the use of traditional meat sources in the food. The Globe Buddy brand's purpose is to inspire a sustainable pet life, and they do so by offering easy access to planet-friendly pet food, including transparency of carbon emissions and the climate impact of individual products accompanied by a commitment to reduce them. They focus their product development on climate-friendly solutions, e.g., with ingredients using plant-based sources or insects. Their company is small, yet they believe their activities contribute to the movement that is needed within the industry. They also think that they need to give consumers an opportunity to choose a sustainable solution as well as provide insight into the good environmental consequences of making a difference.



### INFORMATION LINKS

<https://globebuddy.dog/>

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## MILJØPUNKT NØRREBRO

### CATEGORY

Community learning and sustainability initiatives

### LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE

Nørrebro, Denmark

### PROBLEM THAT TACKLES

Miljøpunkt Nørrebro is a foundation that works for a better environment in Nørrebro. They do this by implementing tangible environmental and climate projects. But also, by challenging citizens and decision-makers' perceptions of what is possible.

### VOLUNTEERING ASSOCIATION OR PERSONS INVOLVED



Miljøpunkt Nørrebro - 4 main team members

### DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE



Miljøpunkt Nørrebro is a Nørrebro-based organisation that seeks to help Copenhagen achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 and accomplish Denmark's objective of reducing carbon emissions by 70% by 2030 under the terms of the Paris Climate Agreement.





The energy of environmental labour is captured, organised, coordinated, and, most importantly, maintained by Miljupunkt Nørrebro. They ensure that synergies and experiences are maintained in the district and assist in creating a common platform for the district's diverse professional knowledge and extensive experience. In the borough's environmental activity, Miljupunkt Nørrebro plays a variety of roles, including those of mediator, instigator, bridge-builder, networker, coordinator, front-runner, and citizen advocate. As an independent actor with many contacts across political organisations, administrative roles, and population categories, MPN has advantages. The role of the environmental points appears to be unchanged in the ongoing work of "adapting local committees" in the municipality of Copenhagen, MPN, which they believe indicates that there is their task. Some of the current projects they are working on include:

- **Impact Farm:** The farm uses the hydroponic diving system, which is known for marijuana production in containers and from NASA's preparations for a manned Mars mission. Hydroponic cultivation takes place completely without soil and with minimal water consumption. The crops even grow quickly and throughout the year.

Their vision with this effort is for Nørrebro to take the first step towards sustainable food production on a large scale. It will be fantastic if Nørrebro – despite the fact that they have the fewest green areas – shows the way in this important area. The project is an example of how the necessary green transition of our cities can create value and green jobs in the local community.

Impact Farm is created by Human Habitat (design and engineering) and MPN have helped with fundraising, local facilitation and project management. The project was first in the pilot phase on Jesper Brochmandsgade and has now been upgraded and put up at Copenhagen University College at Sigurdsgade 26, with support from Realdania's Wonders campaign. Here, the farm is included in both teaching about food and sustainability, canteen kitchen and as an extra 'stage' for events.

**Træbørsen:** The goal is to preserve the old trees in the city instead of them being felled. The method

is to create a wooden exchange where people can offer trees that stand for felling and people can demand large old trees. In addition, an agreement has been made with Metroselskabet that they must be alerted no later than 3 weeks before a tree is to be felled. The project has the largest wood removal machine in the Nordic region, which takes 4 tonnes of soil around the roots.

Trees for approx. 30,000 can be procured for interested recipients for the moving costs of approx. DKK 5,000. The results over the last 4 years have been that about 300 trees have been saved. Krinsen on Kongens Nytorv with 52 emperors has been saved from felling and the trees have been moved to schools (e.g. Anders Morgenthaler's small school), to private individuals (e.g. Merete Stageborn's farm in Slangerup with an avenue with 12 trees) and others. An Ørestad park with about 100 trees has been created on the windswept vestamager.

### Sharing & Learning

Miljupunkt Nørrebro emphasises that for environmental change to happen, a group of leaders, organisations, and governments must fight for and carry out projects that aim to be of assistance. According to *Anders Jørn Jensen, Director of Miljupunkt Nørrebro*,

*"My goal is to help Nørrebro's numerous worthwhile environmental initiatives. When I launched the Ladegårds project, I myself was a firebrand who used Miljupunkt Nørrebro. A reputable organisation like Miljupunkt Nørrebro is necessary for the excellent ideas to spread and have an impact at the district level."*

### Transferability of the Practice

The methods of Miljupunkt Nørrebro are very transferable. They make a strong case for engaging with authorities, organisations, and leaders to forge a community of actors who are all committed to taking action on climate change. Additionally, before beginning a project, they show the genuine need for the change, point out potential difficulties, and work backwards to figure out how their project may be effective and link it to the House Rules that Lersgrøftens follows.



## IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD (START/END DATE)

**Start Date:** 2011

**End Date:** Ongoing



Numerous ongoing projects of Miljpunkt Nørrebro have directly tackled climate change action in Denmark. Those initiatives, such as Traebrsen and Impact Farm, have helped to achieve the goal of lowering Denmark's carbon emissions. Additionally, their investigation on particle pollution found that the pollution from diesel automobiles was extremely high in Nørrebro and Bispebjerg. Miljpunkt Nørrebro is working on a project to modify the environmental zone regulation so that it best protects the population from diesel pollution. It is estimated that 100 residents die each year in Copenhagen N-NV, and there are also chronic non-fatal disorders like asthma, etc. Among other things, they have written a letter to the Environment Committee in the Danish Parliament, in which they estimated the annual cost at DKK 75 billion in Denmark. The case was taken up in the Danish Parliament and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency then adjusted the cost to DKK 80 billion. Several parties in the Danish Parliament have announced that they will tighten the environmental zone rules after they and others have argued that the pollution is much greater than the authorities had acknowledged



### INFORMATION LINKS

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## BIOTEKET

### CATEGORY

Community learning and sustainability initiatives

### LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE

Nørrebro, Denmark

### PROBLEM THAT TACKLES

The space - Created in 2016 in collaboration with Københavns Kultur og Fritidsforvaltning, Bioteket is a hidden gem in Nørrebro.

It is made of upcycled and refurbished shipping containers on two levels: workshop, laboratory, and growing space for MUSHROOMS on the ground level, and a greenhouse that accommodates the growth of PLANTS, MUSIC, ART, SOCIAL EVENTS, and SUSTAINABLE IDEAS on the first floor. Bioteket has also an open garden at GRO-SELV HAVEN, another hidden gem in Nordvest which counts several community gardens spread along the train rails in Lersøparken (Bispebjerg St).

The newly formed (2020) voluntary association behind bioteket is NÅFBE – Nørrebro's Åbne Fælleskab for Bæredygtige Eksperimenter (Nørrebro open community for sustainable experiments).



Bioteket is a volunteer-based green culture hub for sustainability, where science, culture, art and green activism flourishes together.

### DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE



Bioteket teach local people about the growing of plants, music, art, social events and sustainable ideas. They make sustainability more accessible for families and individuals who previously have no experience, and give them the skills and confidence to try to implement more green and sustainable practices, like gardening and growing food at home. They also embed the idea of culture and togetherness at Bioteket, which enables people to feel more involved and valued.





They want to democratise access to knowledge about nature and science, and how it relates to citizens' lives.

Bioteket welcome people of all ages and nationalities to join and co-create together, physically, and virtually. They cherish cross-community collaborations and stand for open citizen science.

Bioteket aims to facilitate knowledge acquisition and transfer and make it fun and beautiful. They learn about, play with and subsidize experiments on sustainable urban living in all its kaleidoscopic colours and forms.

Every Wednesday Bioteket invites everyone for an evening of community get-together and cosiness. From 15.30 'till 19.30 one can expect their friendly neighbourhood game masters: Ole and Jakob, to guide those present through both interesting, deep and exciting board games which can range from anywhere between 20 mins per game to a whole night depending on which board game that is chosen. Anything to the deep brow furrowing and intense mind games, to dexterity-I'm-quicker-than-you games are available from the treasure troves of our game collections. They encourage people to bring their friends or find new ones, where the mood and atmosphere is both cosy and free-spirited, full of laughter and intensity. It is a great space for newcomers to the area (especially a warm welcome to migrants and refugees) to meet new people and get to know about the city's culture and people.

Bioteket participates in events and develops workshops throughout the year on various topics that foster the ethos of sustainability, culture and inclusion.

The skills below can offer people new pathways to business creation in sustainably produced food and drinks, it can also inspire people to bring sustainability training to their own workplace. For instance:

### **[Car-free Sunday: Workshop] Strain Cultivation with fungal dowels**

They have made this Workshop in the desire to spread knowledge about how to grow mushrooms

most easily at home, in the garden, and elsewhere. Mushroom dowels are one of the easiest ways to grow mushrooms, but it is also one of the methods that takes the longest time. If you put the mycelium in here in the autumn, you can only expect to get fungi again in the spring.

### **48TIMER Festival**

Every year Bioteket partakes as creators of a festival called 48 TIMER, a staple highlight of participation and co-creation. The 48 TIMER Festival is a cultural festival for the area of Nørrebro. The aim is to strengthen the area to become an even better place, to live and visit for all Copenhageners. For a full weekend they celebrate the weird, the personal, the geeky and untraditional initiatives, you will find at Nørrebro. The festival content is created by local initiators, artists, organisations, local businesses and residents. The events are geographically scattered across all Nørrebro. Being a tradition that they often showcase their lovely little oasis to the public, we've chosen again to showcase a bit of what we're doing.

### **320colab x Nâfbe: Sound Garden**

This time they bring a whole afternoon and evening of sound to their beautiful garden in Lersøparken. Their friends 320colab, the experimental collective hidden on Refshaleøen island, will come to Nørrebro and collaborate in the curation of 9+ hours of music. Bioteket cherish a space where people can feel free to express themselves safely and openly in whatever practice may be. They create and expand their community with love and respect, and any behaviour that disagrees with this is not tolerated.

### **Sharing & Learning**

*"I think every city would value from having a "green and cultural hub" like Bioteket, if there is a need and a want to bring sustainability to the homes of families in regions across Europe, this organisation could showcase a lot of best practice in that realm."*



## IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD (START/END DATE)

**Start Date:** 2016

**End Date:** Ongoing



Bioteket's activities are mainly focused on sustainability and green culture is fostered to citizens across the region.

For example, on Saturdays, the volunteer driven Food sharing CPH distributes free surplus fruits and vegetables from Bioteket. Permanently located in a rebuilt container, Bioteket serves as a design- and culture house, focusing on organic gardening projects and communities for both children and adults. They run projects such as "Taste the waste", it was about enabling people to think about the incredible amount of edible food that gets wasted every day. The event aimed to help families e-imagine and understand food together in a community dinner with Taste The Waste!

The Sensory Garden was another initiative produced by Bioteket in collaboration with IT University of Copenhagen. The goal was to make the space outside Bioteket more inviting while creating awareness about Bioteket among locals by enticing them to participate in a playful activity in green surroundings. The final design is a plant bed placed outside Bioteket with a screen hanging above it. The screen invites passers-by to interact with the plants by touching them. Touch is registered by the MPR121 capacitance sensor which activates sound and the screen to display information about Bioteket.

### Transferability of the Practice

Bioteket's activities give people a space to develop and grow natural produce, work and think in sustainable and ecological ways than they previously would have done. It enables people to become more self-sufficient and contribute to a healthier and more sustainable local environment.

Their projects and practices are innovative and creative. By creating their space from recycled and upcycled materials, Bioteket is a fabulous example of an organisation that not only cares for the environment but who actively practices sustainable and climate-saving practices in their everyday life. Moreover, they highlight that the small things changing the small things are a great starting point to becoming a climate champion.



### INFORMATION LINKS

<https://bioteket.dk/about/>

### EMAIL

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## EDIBLE LANDSCAPE PROJECT

### CATEGORY

Community Learning and Sustainability Initiatives

### LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE

The Edible Landscape Project was started in Westport Co. Mayo, on Ireland's West Coast. Their primary 'food forest' is on the grounds of the Quay Community Centre but they engage with communities in the broader area to start their own edible landscape.

### PROBLEM THAT TACKLES

Activities in our food system are massive contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss; from producing food, transporting it, packing it, and discarding it in landfills, reducing inefficiencies in our food system can have massive gains in our fight against climate change. In fact, 8 of the top 20 solutions to climate change relate to food.

The Edible Landscape Project encourages behavioural change in how and what we eat, by giving communities the power to make food consumption and purchasing choices that promote our own health, the health of our communities and the health of the planet.

### VOLUNTEERING ASSOCIATION OR PERSONS INVOLVED



The Edible Landscape Project is a social enterprise run by community volunteers and a board of directors. They come from a variety of backgrounds from horticulture and teaching to engineering and medicine. This amalgamation of skills allows the Edible Landscape Project to take a holistic approach to everything they do.

Their community-focused projects influence people of all ages, from primary school children with their food forest education project to women in their 70s and 80s through their community garden volunteers.

### DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE



The Edible Landscape Project encourages behavioural change in how and what we eat, by giving communities the power to make food consumption and purchasing choices that promote our health, the health of our communities and the health of the planet.



## DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRACTICE



The Edible Landscape Project was founded in 2012 and was started as a community-growing initiative along the western greenway in Co. Mayo. The project aimed to create an edible landscape along the route through the hosting of edible planting workshops with local community groups.

The original food forest is located at the Quay Community Centre where volunteers and participants learn the skills of growing food in a climate-smart way.

### Forest Garden

They are advocates of the forest garden method of growing foods which relates to the hunter-gatherer days. A forest garden, or food forest, contains clusters of plants that work together to produce a landscape where everything planted has a purpose whether it be something we can eat, something the birds can eat, or contributes towards the climate and biodiversity.

A decade since its founding and the edible landscape project remains rooted in community action but has continued to grow its sphere of influence. They educate through their workshops and other projects with a strong focus on climate and climate-smart food systems.

### Mission

The Edible Landscape Project encourages behavioural change in how and what we eat, by giving communities the power to make food consumption and purchasing choices that promote our own health, the health of our communities and the health of the planet.

### Vision

Their vision is to empower local communities to engage positively with climate change through education. They want to foster ethical decision-making regarding food choices and have integrity in everything they do.

### Techniques

Using a wide range of techniques, from the art of storytelling to tree planting, the Edible Landscape Project aims to mobilise consumers to transform the marketplace into a global, sustainable food system.

### Values

Inspiring people to make food choices that protect their own health, the health of our communities and the health of our planet.



## IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD (START/END DATE)

**Start Date:** 2012

**End Date:** Ongoing

The Edible Landscape project has been in existence over a decade, starting first as an initiative for planting fruit and nut trees, shrubs, root and leaf vegetables, wild herbs and mushrooms along the newly opened great western greenway in Co. Mayo. From this beginning, they began to run workshops for local community groups and started a community garden, and now they place a strong emphasis on the link between food and climate and aim to educate the broader community through their various projects.



## Food Forest Climate Education Programme

ELP has devised a novel Education Program for Irish Primary Schools to encourage more schoolchildren to grow and consume food in an environmentally sustainable, climate smart way.

This solution-focused, Food Forest - Climate Education Programme was developed by teachers, for teachers, and in November 2021 was launched in primary schools in Co. Mayo

### How does it work?

Participating primary school teachers receive a pack containing a set of Lesson Plans which are directly curriculum linked. The resources provided are intended to teach students how our food choices can have both a positive and negative impact on climate change.

### 2° Podcast

The Edible Landscape 2° Podcast is a podcast that is hosted by Edible Landscapes Program Manager Dave Whelan who speaks with ordinary people doing extraordinary things, from the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan, to world travelling Wildlife documentary maker Colin Stafford Johnson about all things climate change, biodiversity and our food systems.

[Link to Podcast](#)

### Story of Food Videos

The Story of Food Series consists of a series of 14 short videos made with local Westport Food Producers, Cafes and Foodies, exploring how climate change has and is impacting their businesses. These videos spotlight some of the local actors in our food system and emphasise how we can all have a positive impact on climate change by making small changes to how we source and produce our food.

### Climate Conversations

Climate conversations are a series of talks held by the Edible Landscapes project across a number of venues throughout Westport, Co. Mayo exploring topics such as how we can take advantage of our

marine environment when creating more sustainable food systems, food sovereignty and the effect food is having on our climate to name a few topics.



## INFORMATION LINKS

<https://ediblelandscape.ie/>

## EMAIL

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# FARMING RATHCROGHAN EIP - SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN THE RATHCROGHAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE, EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

## CATEGORY

Community learning and sustainability initiatives

## LOCATION OF THE PRACTICE

Rathcroghan, Tulsk, Co. Roscommon

## PROBLEM THAT TACKLES

Farmers in the area are struggling to cope within a production-focused framework, whilst they are open to preserving Rathcroghan but they are under economic and bureaucratic pressure to increase production. They need guidance and support to develop a partnership between themselves, agricultural experts, heritage and archaeological experts, the local community tourism social enterprise, and the local community to maintain and enhance the archaeological landscape, while providing co-benefits for a range of services – including biodiversity, carbon sequestration and water quality.

## VOLUNTEERING ASSOCIATION OR PERSONS INVOLVED



Farming Rathcroghan is a well-facilitated and genuine partnership between farmers, agricultural experts, heritage and archaeological experts, the local community tourism social enterprise, and the local community more generally. It is a locally led project and community group developed by local landowners and stakeholders in 2019, successfully working with 45 local farmers to protect and maintain Rathcroghan archaeology in an agricultural landscape.





## DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICE



Farming Rathcroghan provides guidance and economic support for farmers to maintain and enhance the archaeological landscape, while providing co-benefits for a range of services – including biodiversity, carbon sequestration and water quality.

### The objectives are to:

- Manage the landscape in order to sustain a viable and vibrant livelihood for its farming community.
- Promote, preserve and conserve the archaeological, cultural and ecological heritage of the area.
- Improve water quality and biodiversity.
- Promote best practice in relation to carbon sequestration initiatives.
- Devise a system of dynamic pedestrian route-ways to provide public access to the landscape.
- Increase awareness and recognition amongst the general public of the significance of Rathcroghan as a farmed archaeological landscape and of the central role of its farming community in its care and conservation.

### The activities implemented are:

- Test and develop a management regime with farmers linked to the National Monument Service, State agencies and other relevant national bodies.
- Test and develop innovative management solutions to sustain a viable farming economy in harmony with the cultural and ecological assets of the landscape.
- Test, develop and implement best farming and archaeological practice to proactively monitor, manage, and enhance the cultural landscape in an environmentally-friendly way.
- Make available, through engagement with key stakeholders, the archaeology expertise to the

local farming community necessary to support the care and management of the cultural landscape.

### Sharing & Learning:

Joe Fenwick, Archaeological Field Officer from the School of Geography and Archaeology at NUI Galway, said:

***“The ‘Farming Rathcroghan’ project is an exciting new initiative with enormous potential for the future. Its objectives are to manage, care for and conserve this important archaeological landscape by implementing a programme of economically sustainable and ecologically sound farming practices, while also facilitating visitor access to the area.”***



## IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD (START/END DATE)

**Start Date:** 1/12/2018

**End Date:** Ongoing

## EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS (RESULTS ACHIEVED)



The buy-in to the project has been substantial, with 59 applications in its inception year. From this, 31 full project places were agreed, with an additional 14 training farmers included in the scheme.

In terms of project participation, **over 75% of the core area of the Rathcroghan plateau (6.5km<sup>2</sup> area) is directly managed by Farming Rathcroghan farmers**, meaning that the vast majority of the Rathcroghan core area is now being managed with best practice standards in order to preserve and conserve the built heritage, as well as improved water quality and biodiversity.

- Average result-based score increased from 6.88 to 8.37 (out of 10) from 2020 to 2021 on our farms.
- 15 archaeological monuments are currently undergoing passive repair by farmers (2021)
- A range of bespoke project equipment has been developed and used in archaeological repair and precision grazing
- 21 resting frames currently in use
- 2 monuments have been fully repaired and cattle are being reintroduced in 2022
- 2 characteristic and prominent Rathcroghan monuments, which present with significant need of innovative repair actions, have been incorporated into a unique experiment trailing approaches to conservation and enhancement to archaeology which has not been undertaken in Ireland to date.
- 206 project actions have been successfully completed by farmers in 2021, incl. poaching repair/prevention around 114 gates and water troughs, and cattle restriction of 35 water bodies (ie. ponds, streams and swallow holes),

- 2,600 m (2.6 km) of grassy field margins have been introduced and 2 km of traditional dry-stone walls have been preserved.

Aside from this, Farming Rathcroghan is central to a series of ongoing projects and initiatives that are tied to the sustainable future of Rathcroghan, being a key voice in the ongoing Fáilte Ireland and **Rathcroghan Visitor Centre initiative known as the 'Rathcroghan Place Partnership'**, one of the drivers behind the project to deliver several archaeologically-conscious waymarked looped walking trails through the Rathcroghan Archaeological Landscape, as well as encouraging the re-establishment of the Roscommon Sheep Association and Roscommon Sheep breed, and linking in with the Roscommon LEADER Partnership Traditional Skills Training Courses.

Moreover, the project is informing best practice archaeological preservation, at a community level, on earthwork monuments nationally, and has charged itself with increasing and bolstering the pride and identity of the Rathcroghan community, tasking them with recognising and lauding the value of the heritage resource that they have been custodians of for several generations, sustainably using it to ensure a vibrant community in rural mid-Roscommon for generations to come.



### INFORMATION LINKS

<https://farmingrathcroghan.ie/>

<https://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie/eip-agri/eip-agri-case-studies/farming-rathcroghan-project-sustainable-farming-in-the-rathcroghan-archaeological-landscape/>

### CONTACT

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