



Ensuring a society for all ages:  
Promoting quality of life and active ageing  
UNECE 2012 Ministerial Conference, Vienna, Austria

## Project Title: „Green Garden” Project

### The Project description:

The project aimed at providing opportunities to people aged 55 and over to continue their active, honorable, healthy of socially active live as well as to help their families with their own agricultural products and to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills in landscaping and in using digital applications. As a result, 60 unemployed persons acquired professional knowledge and skills to build green gardens. After the completion of the landscaping program, the participants are able to perform competently and independently activities in the area of landscaping and vegetables production.

### Why is it considered a good practice

On one side, as a result of the acquired digital competences, the participants received the opportunity to communicate, discuss, socialize and integrate with the help of electronic applications and products. On the other side, they acquired knowledge in the good practice of landscaping, creating green gardens at a micro-regional level and regarding the social habits for recycling of waste in a natural way by way of composting and creating better living environments.

With the help of this project, the participants implemented activities in the sphere of horticulture as both art and science of combining plants in a way that helps to build synergy, creating a garden ecosystem. Fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs and other useful plants can be grown in a manner that duplicates the natural ecosystems and allows the creation of beautiful, diverse, highly productive and self-sustaining gardens in urban environments. These newly developed skills correspond to latest insights and are adequate to the green ideas and lifestyles, which are gaining more and more followers. The adequate practical training in computer technologies allows the trainees to continue their development in the area of horticulture even after completing the course.

### Timeline/duration of the project

3 months (May-July 2012)

### Lessons learnt

Gardening is an art and science of combining plants in such a way that assists the establishment of favorable interrelations, by creating a garden ecosystem that is more than the sum of its parts. Fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs and other useful plants were grown in such a way that was doubling the natural ecosystems and gave the possibility to create a beautiful, varied, highly productive and self-sustaining garden in urban conditions.

### Relevance for the UNECE region

The project Green Garden has met the challenges set in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing namely to promote an active and independent live of the aged persons and has contributed to their socialization.

### Location of the project

Center for Human Resource Development and Regional Initiatives, Sofia

**Contact information** - Center for Human Resource Development and Regional Initiatives, Sofia -  
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