Edible Cities Network

Integrating **Edible City Solutions**
for **socially resilient** and **sustainably productive** cities

Press kit

April 2021

www.**edicitnet**.com

ABOUT EDICITNET

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research programme under grant agreement n°776665.

Project duration: 60 months
Overall budget: €11,921,624.75
EU contribution: €11,254,912.88
Number of partners: 32
Project coordinator: Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, IRI THESys

WHAT IS THE EDICITNET PROJECT?

EdiCitNet is a five-year project funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme exploring sustainable methods of urban food production, distribution and consumption (otherwise known as "Edible City Solutions") in order to foster environmental and social resilience in cities across Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Based on **a participatory and inclusive approach**, the EdiCitNet project involves an international team from different sectors of society and scientific disciplines, including local city administrations, civil society, NGOs, small- and medium-sized enterprises, universities and research institutes.

The EdiCitNet project is working to leverage the benefits that Edible City Solutions are already having at a local level, and facilitate their replication throughout the world by **launching the "Edible Cities Network", a fully open, sustainable and constantly growing network of cities**

- whose citizens are empowered to systematically explore the wealth and diversity of existing Edible City Solutions and build and share a knowledge base
- and whose city administrations are able to adapt, plan and implement successfully proven Edible City Solutions in their specific urban contexts.

WHAT ARE EDIBLE CITY SOLUTIONS (ECS)?

Edible City Solutions (ECS) are **activities, measures, products and services that support and facilitate sustainable urban food production, distribution and consumption**. Examples include urban farming, building-integrated agriculture, agroforestry, indoor and vertical farming, urban beekeeping, food surplus redistribution programmes, community kitchens, closed loop systems for sustainable resource management and urban food-related educational services.

As well as addressing food security in urban areas, ECS can boost the climate, social and economic resilience of cities by improving ecosystem services, generating opportunities in disadvantaged communities and creating dynamics for new green businesses and jobs.

Rooftop farming in Rotterdam

Photo credit: Djedj / Municipality of Rotterdam

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WHERE ARE THE EDIBLE CITIES?

As "Front Runner Cities" (FRCs) in the EdiCitNet project, **Andernach** (Germany), **Berlin** (Germany), **Havana** (Cuba), **Oslo** (Norway) and **Rotterdam** (The Netherlands), are demonstrating the co-development and co-implementation of innovative urban food activities and initiatives in order to generate local economic growth and foster social cohesion. These EdiCitNet FRCs represent different social, economic and ecological contexts, and all have years of experience in developing Edible City Solutions. These cities each have the unique opportunity of creating "Living Labs", which function as testing grounds for the co-creation of innovative Edible City Solutions under real-life conditions.

These Living Labs will strengthen and enhance the Edible City Solution landscape in the Front Runner Cities, and also serve as a knowledge and application base for the project's "Follower Cities" (FCs), **Berlin** (Germany), **Carthage** (Tunisia), **Lomé** (Togo), **Montevideo** (Uruguay), **Sant Feliu de Llobregat** (Spain),

Living Lab in Hellersdorf, Berlin

Šempeter pri Gorici (Slovenia), **Guangzhou** (China) and beyond. These Follower Cities will share and learn from and with the Front Runner Cities about how best to adapt different Edible City Solutions to the needs and situations of their own urban contexts.

HOW DOES EDICITNET WORK?

City Teams are the backbone of the project, connecting citizens, SMEs, NGOs, and other relevant organisations in each city to elaborate best solutions for everyone. The **City Teams in the Front Runner Cities** design and implement at least 5 ECS in their **Living Labs**, testing their effectiveness and feasibility under real-life conditions over a period of at least 2 years. Building on these learnings and on their own analyses, the **City Teams in the Follower Cities** will co-develop **ECS Master Plans** in order to successfully implement ECS in their own urban contexts and tackle specific societal challenges.

The **EdiCitNet Toolbox** is a multifunctional and interactive platform on the EdiCitNet website designed to promote ECS design, planning and knowledge sharing among citizens, urban planners and anyone else who either wants to create their own ECS or offer support to the Edible City approach in general. It contains an online collection of ECS as well as information on performance assessment, implementation and users' experiences with different ECS.
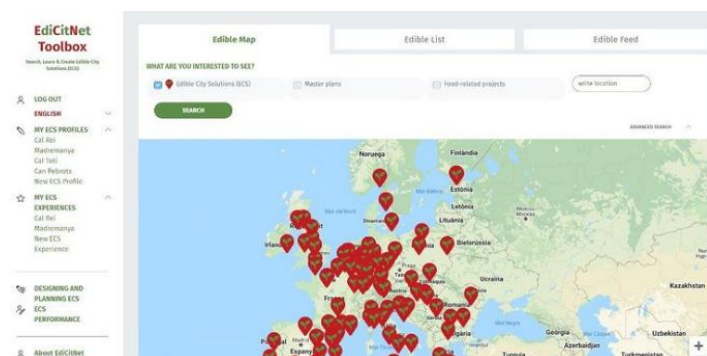
The **EdiCitNet Marketplace** is a multisided and constantly growing brokerage platform designed to connect ECS organisations and companies and to promote products, services and ideas. It supports the fast-track replication of ECS and offers access to a collaborative network, helping young entrepreneurs and start-ups to set up robust business models.

The **ECS Education** aspect of EdiCItNet develops specific university courses, as well as online and on-site training modules for ECS vocational training of city administrators, entrepreneurs and civil society. This will ensure that ECS are a key competence among future urban planners and city administrators.

Interdisciplinary **EdiCitNet Summer Schools** and the annual **EdiCitNet Conference** are opportunities to bring together a range of different key ECS stakeholders to unite state-of-the-art knowledge exchange with first-hand practical experience and to discuss new trends and findings in the field of ECS.

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WHO ARE THE PROJECT PARTNERS?

The EdiCitNet Consortium is made up of an **international team** of experts from different sectors of society and scientific disciplines related to Edible City Solutions.

The group comprises **32 partner organisations**, including city administrations, universities and research institutes, NGOs, small- and medium-sized enterprises and other Edible City initiatives from around the world.

Click **here** for the full list.

The EdiCitNet Consortium

STATEMENTS

"The perfect network can show what is possible with ECS. By presenting different examples from around the world and supporting further ECS, a network can help make ECS more popular, and perhaps a standard for future urban planning."

**- Felix Mollenhauer, Project Manager,
BuGG – German Association of
Green Roofs and Walls, Berlin, Germany**

"Our society is highly individualised, it's not collective. In this project we're going to have a chance to do something collectively, something that is for everyone, including social groups that are all too often overlooked."

**- Lourdes Borrell Moreno,
City of Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Spain**

LINKS & MULTIMEDIA

- Find photos from the project, the EdiCitNet logo, flyers to download in different languages and our press coverage on the **EdicitNet media page.**

- Watch **this short film** introducing EdiCitNet and our international network.

- Stay up to date with the latest **EdiCitNet News** and see what's coming up on the EdiCitNet **Events Calendar**.

JOIN THE NETWORK

Email
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https://toolbox.edicitnet.com

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