



# EdiCitNet Awards winner:

## Best Overall Edible City Approach

### Gamle Oslo District Farmer

#### About the role

Natalie Keene is the first district farmer in Oslo (Norway). She's employed by the district administration of Gamle Oslo to undertake urban agriculture activities with young people in local parks, providing summer employment and vocational training. She also works with teachers and other staff in kindergardens, teaching practical skills in line with sustainability goals and creating greener outdoor play areas for the kids.

#### What makes this role innovative?

This is the first time a district in Oslo has hired a farmer to work full time on growing food for inhabitants. This is an innovative role because it involves working alongside different age groups, providing education and employment to youth, creating new and edible green spaces and enhancing community parks and kindergardens. As a public actor, the district farmer ensures that the edible city approach has a wide reach, both geographically and socially.

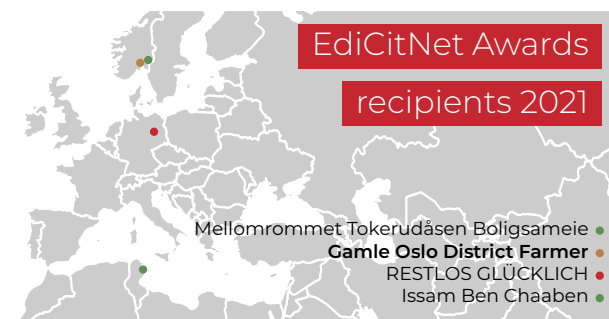
#### Find out more and get involved

[Visit our website](#)



Our young city farmers not only get to work outside and drive change in public spaces in their part of the city – they also get a bit of money in their pocket.

**Natalie Keene**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 776665.



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Photo credits: Ric Francis/Natalie Keene



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#### How does this role promote inclusivity?

Through social engagement, the district farmer teaches urban agriculture to varied groups of Oslo residents. She partners with diverse community groups, from religious organisations and libraries to mental health and addiction services. Her work benefits many people, including youths who gain employment and vocational skills, kindergarden children involved in planting activities, and the general public who enjoy enhanced public spaces.

#### What's the impact of this initiative?

The district farmer's helped dozens of teens, many with difficult economic backgrounds, to secure employment. For some, the summer jobs have influenced their study and career decisions. Young children also learn horticultural skills as teachers and parents pass on the skills learned from the district farmer.



#### How can other areas start this kind of project?

The Gamle Oslo team hopes to influence more municipalities to employ youth in urban agriculture with the help of its handbook. Based on real experiences, it's filled with learnings, pedagogic approaches and tips on what to do on a rainy day.



Some ideas to make your local area more edible



Herbs are easy to grow, have good yields but don't take up much space, and have lovely flowers for the pollinators



Worm farms help to eliminate food waste and produce soil improvements, plus they're fun for kids!



Small meadows can replace grass and contribute to increased biodiversity; more plant species are a big drawcard for more insects



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