

# Edible Cities Network Integrating Edible City Solutions for social, resilient & sustainably productive cities



**Social cohesion, environmental justice, human health & wellbeing**

## Our expertise to foster ECS

Municipality of Šempeter - Vrtojba is the local authority established under the Local Government Act. Municipality performs autonomously public matters of local concern, affecting residents of the municipality.

Municipality of Šempeter - Vrtojba manages urban planning and it has adopted the Municipal Spatial Plan, which regulates the conditions construction for the whole area of the municipality are written down. For some areas, the municipality also produces detailed implementation plans. Individual arrangements and constructions in terms of public infrastructure, green spaces and municipal public buildings are carried out in accordance with the adopted work plan and budget.

The Municipality of Šempeter - Vrtojba is located on the western edge of Slovenia, right next to the Italian border and only 150 km from Venice (Italy). Green woodlands, vineyards, fields and meadows lend an air of a richly colourful scene. The Vrtojba - Bilje knolls, along with a large part of the surrounding plain offer the best conditions for viticulture, fruit farming, horticulture, greengrocery and floristry. Hence, the area is also known as "The Garden of the Goriška Region".

Agriculture areas have been affected by drought in recent years despite being equipped with (worn out and unsustainable) irrigation systems.

Its position in the broader Goriška region provides excellent conditions for the economy's development. Due to its attractive location, its public areas provide a vision of strategic development in terms of logistics, tourism and other economic activities. The area is also interesting as regards landscape and climate.

The municipality, with a surface area of only 15 km<sup>2</sup>, is one of the smallest and ranks 204th in Slovenia. However, with approximately 6,300 inhabitants it is placed among the larger municipalities. It has strong economic indicators, a high percentage of well-educated residents, a high standard of living as well as a high expenditure for conservation and sustainable energy.

The local community is aware of the challenges and is taking action in order to improve the entrepreneurial culture and create an effective and completely supportive environment, to ensure the best infrastructure possible and to create an effective environment for development and innovation.



Občina  
Šempeter-Vrtojba

## Our Team

In our City team collaborate representatives of the municipal administration, mainly in the field of urban planning and agriculture, representatives of NGO's working in the field of sustainable, organic agriculture, representatives of vulnerable groups such as the elderly, single mothers and also representatives of agricultural producers.

Our main focus is improving the conditions for growing vegetables in the immediate vicinity of settlements Šempeter and Vrtojba. To raise awareness of the importance of healthy food, to maintain connection with natural resources (soil, water, clean environment) and also to the partial self-care of gardeners. It is important for cultivators to establish a relationship with the landscape and arable land, as well as to raise awareness of the value of water in order to understand that these are common goods that need to be protected and developed.



## Our best practice examples

**A city countryside** – cultivating their own fruit and vegetables is a way of life for the most part of the population.

**A local market** – where small farmers have the possibility of selling the crops and products.



The municipality every year publishes a **public call for co-financing programs and investments in agriculture** in the area of Šempeter – Vrtojba. Funds are allocated to farm holders for development of agricultural production and to development programs for NGO's active in the field of agriculture on the basis of applications.



**The central waste water treatment plant** cleans the waste water of the entire municipality Š – V and two neighboring municipalities. We want to examine the possibility of successful economically justified management of the irrigation system, including the option of using purified wastewater from the treatment plant.



The municipality is gradually equipping the residential areas with public green spaces: **a sports park** in Šempeter has been built recently. A sports park provides recreational facilities for children, young people and elderly visitors with playful sports surfaces, devices and outdoor playgrounds.

## Our Role in the Project

The Municipality Šempeter - Vrtojba is one of the Follower Cities of EdiCitNet. As such, Municipality Šempeter - Vrtojba is responsible for developing an innovative ECS solution in Šempeter - Vrtojba in collaboration and under mentoring of Front Run Cities and to find the possible way how to integrate specific ECS to urban life and masterplan. The Municipality Šempeter-Vrtojba is involved in WP1: Urban governance and network, WP2: Toolbox for enhancing ECS learning, WP4: Transition Pathway - Planning for Edible City Solutions in FC and WP6: Consultancy, Business Development & Market Uptake. Within the project we will participate in the knowledge transfer between Front Runner Cities and Follower Cities.

Contact: ...

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

