

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

Andernach's journey as an Edible City started in 2010 when it was initiated by the City Administration. Citizens are able to harvest fruits and vegetables for free and enjoy the edible green spaces. Crops are cultivated in unfenced public green spaces, which are accessible to everyone. As part of the city's Green Strategy, Andernach focuses on opening up urban spaces to include more (edible) greenery and fostering citizen engagement.



Andernach also has several beehives which function not only as pollinator and honey producers, but also as a reminder of the legend of the baker boys that are said to have saved Andernach by using beehives as protection.



The city administration is in close cooperation with the non-profit organisation "Perspektive gGmbH", where long-term unemployed people work under the supervision of professional gardeners in order to maintain the Edible City. The Perspektive GmbH also implements other activities, such as construction workshops, and a community kitchen, as well as supporting the Edible Cities Network and tending the community garden.



Our Team

The core team of the Edible City of Andernach consists of representatives from the municipality (**planning department, the social department**), the **Perspektive gGmbH** (non-profit organization performing amongst others gardening work with long-term unemployed people) and recently the **City Team** (SMEs, NGOs and citizens engaged in the EdiCitNet Project).



Our Role in the Project

Andernach, with more than 10 years of experience in urban gardening, is one of the Front-Runner Cities in EdiCitNet. With the new approach from a bottom-up perspective, we aim for a stronger collaboration within the city, for citizens, SMEs and NGOs.

The Living Lab of Andernach exists as a network in the region, but also as a community garden near the youth centre. We offer a space for joint gardening and also for initiatives to try out their ideas and projects.

The Living Lab of Andernach focuses on inclusion and on social issues, i.e. education of children and integration of different social groups.

Our best practice examples

The Edible City of Andernach is organized into three key areas:

The **city centre**, where edible trees, bushes and vegetable beds are located around the historical city walls.



The **permaculture area** (about 14 ha) in the outskirts of Andernach. The area is organically farmed by the Perspektive gGmbH and the products are sold at a shop in the city centre.



The **community garden** is situated in a recreational area, near the youth centre. Citizens are invited to get involved in the work in the garden and to experiment with new ideas.

