

# 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

Urban farming is booming in Oslo, with projects initiated both by private and public stakeholders. This is something that the city is very proud of and encourages, supports, communicates and develops further under the umbrella of Sprouting Oslo. Sprouting Oslo, the municipality's strategy on urban farming, is about cultivation and animal keeping in the city, about taking care of our insect pollinators, about creating green public spaces and seeing opportunities where others see weeds and wasteland. All these projects have one thing in common: They make Oslo a greener, more welcoming and more creative city.



*A sprouting Oslo, Illustration GrowLab*

The City of Oslo has worked for many years with ECS through running municipal visitors' farms and school gardens, before establishing an annual funding scheme in 2017 to support housing associations, local residents, volunteer groups, NGO's, entrepreneurs, start-ups and public institutions as well as innovative projects of ECS. In 2018 the municipality introduced a funding scheme to support municipal institutions to use ECS as a tool for solving municipal tasks - whether working with children, the elderly, integration, work training or social housing.

Additionally, the city has worked strategically across sectors to establish wild flower meadows and traditional threshing of grass throughout the city to actively increase biodiversity and habitats for pollinating insects, connection ECS with natural resource management tasks.

Our expertise lies within our strategic work to include ECS in all aspects of urban development and anchor this work in the city's over arching strategy documents. In 2019 the city has adopted its own strategy on urban farming focusing on the sectors of public health, social inclusion, environmental education, job creation and innovation; and thereby securing future commitment to supporting ECS.



## Oslo

#### Our Team

The City of Oslo is dedicated to a green urban development and has been awarded the title of the European Green Capital 2019. As part of the celebration as green capital the city has increased its communication efforts about ECS by campaigning for urban farming and creating a platform where every citizen is encouraged to take part in.

ECS are mainly organized by the Agency for Urban Environment. Our team works with strategic directions of ECS, funding schemes, biodiversity, communication and research projects.

#### Our Role in the Project

The City of Oslo is one of the Front-Runner Cities of EdiCitNet. As such, Oslo is responsible for running an innovative ECS as a Living Lab and share those experiences with Follower Cities and the wider EdiCitNet community.

The living lab forsee to combine our ongoing effort to support local initiatives with a long term perspective of creating economical and socially sustainable ECS.



*Co-creation meeting for the Oslo Living Lab, Linderud gård, Oslo  
Photo Økologisk Norge*

#### Our best practice examples

The City is involved in numerous best practice projects such as

a) placemaking in the form of pop-up urban gardening activities to transform a public park in a troubled neighbourhood into a thriving community project with summer jobs for local youth



*Urban gardening project «Summer in Vaterland» in Grønland, Oslo  
Photo Svein Gunnar Kjåde*

b) placemaking in the form of a permanent community farm in the city center co-created by artists, volunteers, local residents, NGO's and urban developers, where the city employs a city farmer to run the farm and coordinate activities.



*Losæter community garden in Bjørnvika, Oslo  
Photo Clare Keogh*

c) funding of innovative ECS through research and development grants as well as public and private urban gardening projects to support public health, integration and entrepreneurship.



*Hydroponic systems as innovative educational measures, Hersleb High School, Oslo . Photo Iselin Kristiansen*

