



A CORUÑA Urban Gardens Network

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Connecting Nature Project, City of A Coruña

Bringing
cities to life,
Bringing life
into cities.



Ayuntamiento de A Coruña
Concello da Coruña



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730222

A Coruña: local context



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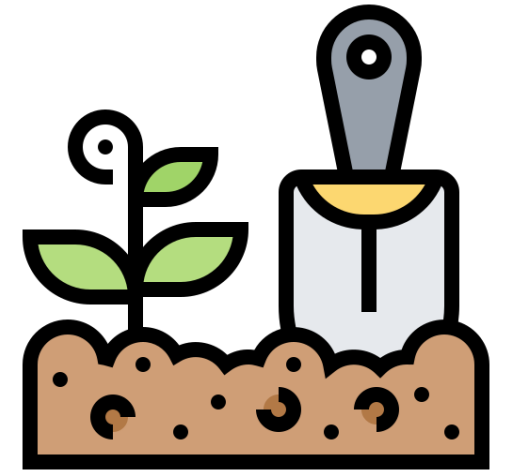
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Why Urban Gardens?

- **Cost-efficient way** to address many of the city's strategic goals
- **Small-scale projects** that can be then **up-scaled** to a city-wide level
- **Alignment** with UN Sustainable Development Goals, EU Urban agenda, Spanish Urban Agenda



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Benefits: multifunctional approach

BENEFITS

Increase **biodiversity** and boost ecology

Improve **resilience** against climate change challenges

Provide a sustainable public space offering **healthy recreational opportunities**

Protect and reinforce **ethnographic and cultural values** of environment

Increase **social cohesion** and **community engagement**

Provide a space for **environmental education**

Promote **new sustainable economic activities / entrepreneurship opportunities**



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First steps of the network

ecoHORTAS Project

Starting 2018

- Open **participatory process** to define the location
- New urban gardens

↓
Eirís, Novo Mesoiro, Agra

eño 
HORTAS



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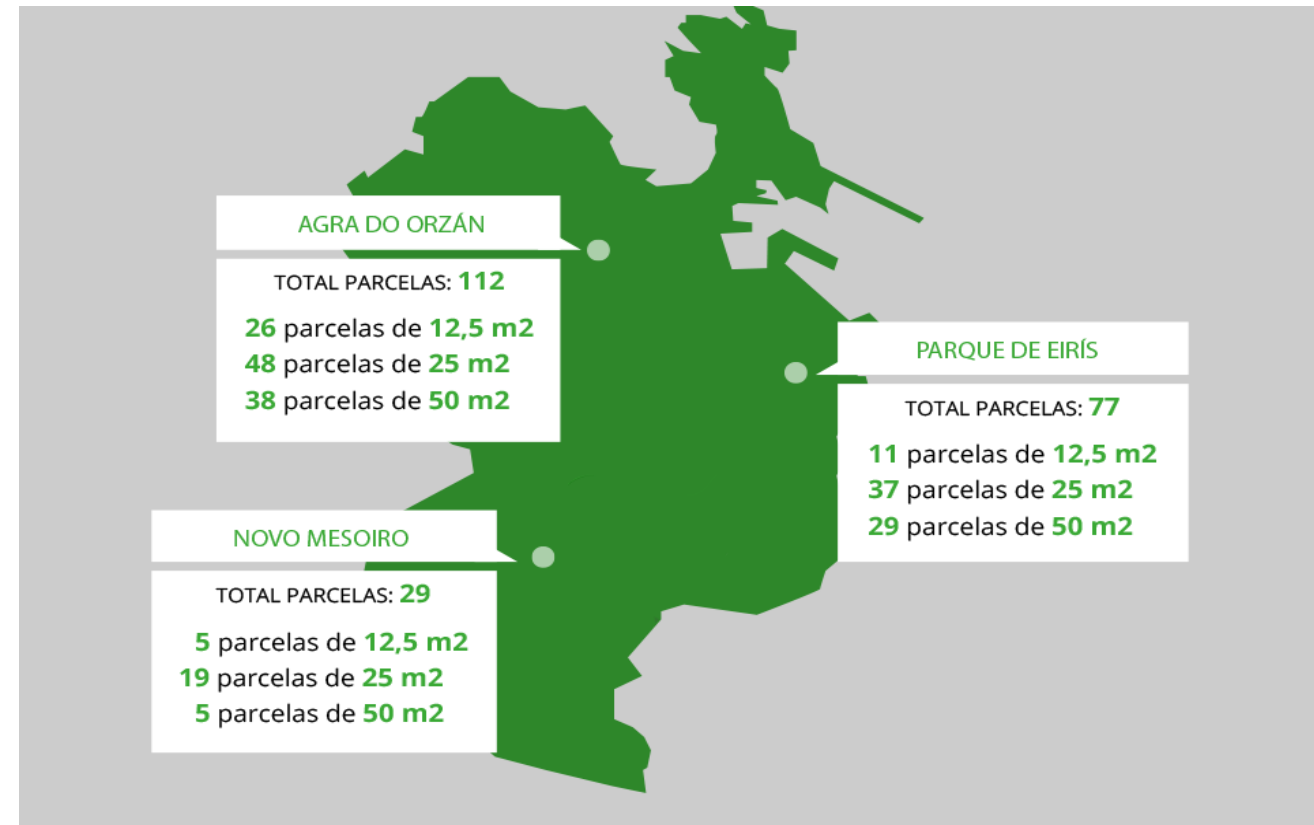


First steps of the network

ecoHORTAS Project

- **218 new individual plots** available for citizens in three locations
- **UG as a social tool:** Priority for vulnerable collectives
- **Workshops:** Group facilitation
Organic agriculture

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First steps of the network

Other Urban Gardens:

- **School Urban Gardens:** five primary schools so far have installed an urban garden with support from the municipality
- **Community Gardens:** two municipal community gardens and a third being developed in urban parks, working with NGOs
- **Private Urban Gardens:** private initiatives, some non-profit (Hortas Val de Feáns), some commercial (Portiño)



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- **Ru:rbn project (URBACT)**

Transfer the good practices of Rome on urban agriculture

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European Union
European Regional Development Fund



Three elements:

- **Capacity building**
- **Regulation**
- **Gardeniser program**

Other relevant initiatives



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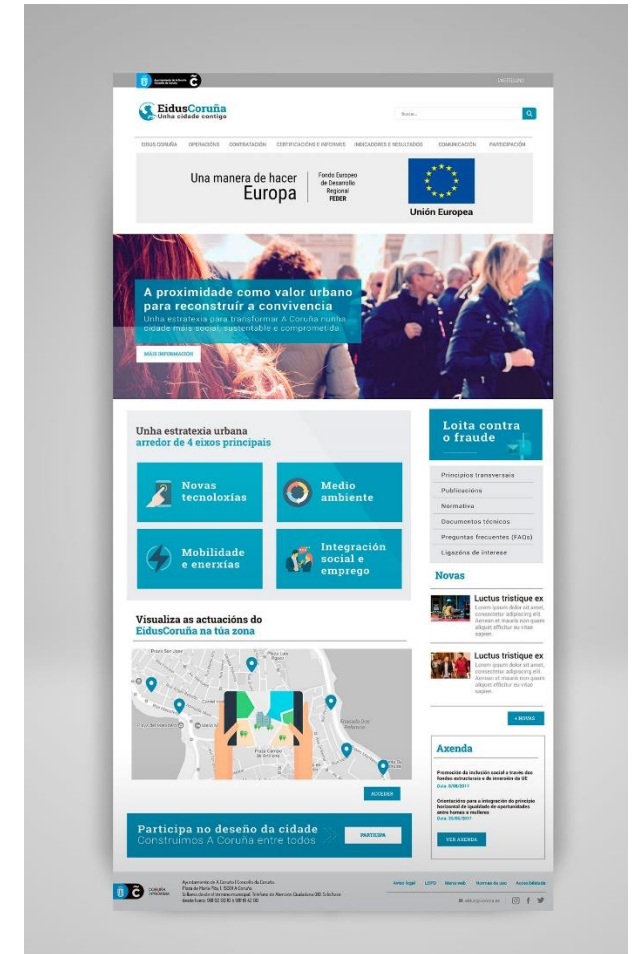


Embedding the project into CITY STRATEGIC GOALS

- **EIDUS Coruña: Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (2017)**

ERDF funds

Includes a specific line to enable the establishment of urban gardens



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Embedding the project into CITY STRATEGIC GOALS



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SDGs and Urban Gardens



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SDGs and Urban Gardens



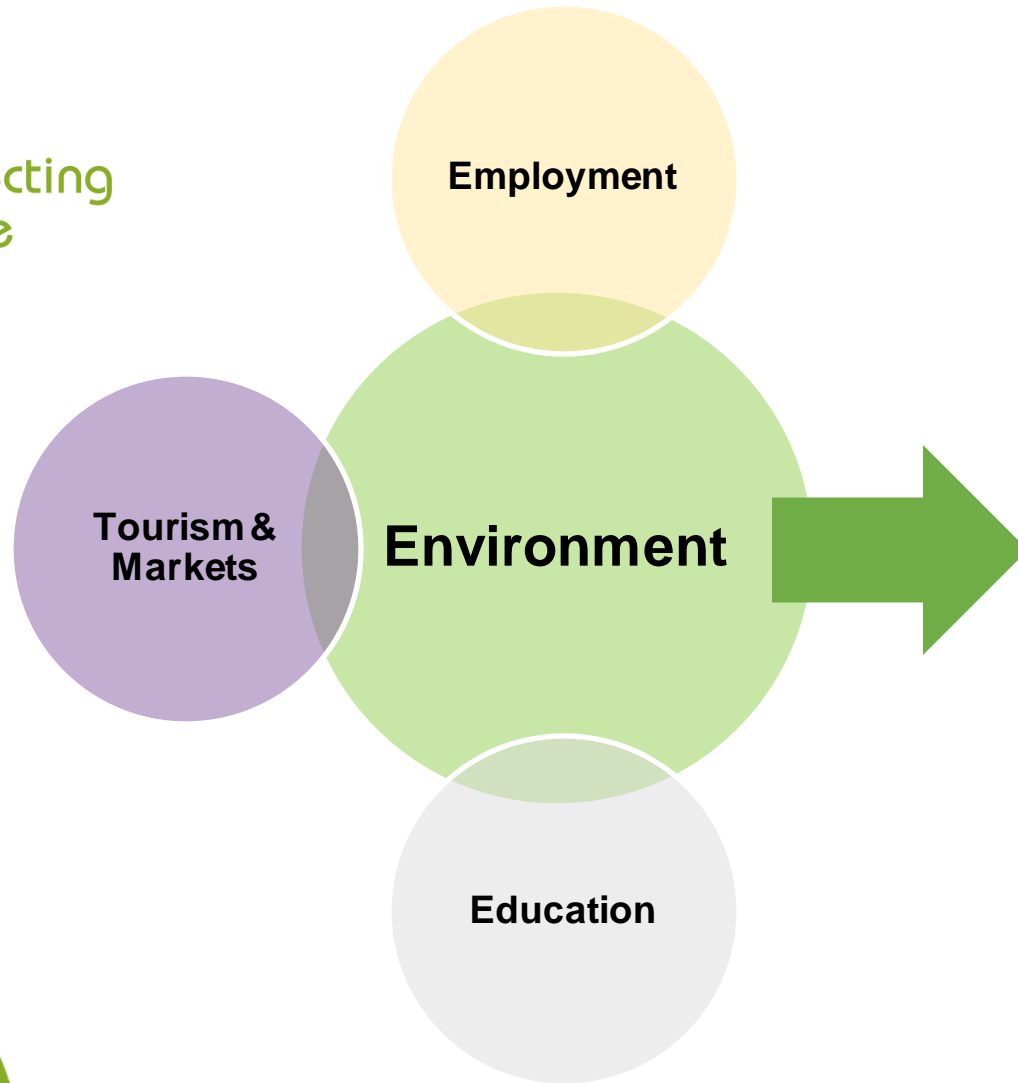
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Breaking the silos



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Both levels are equally important!

Some barriers:

Engaging all relevant departments
Finding the right people to contact

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LOCAL GROUP ON URBAN AGRICULTURE

Presence of relevant groups:

NGOs, urban gardeners associations, neighbourhood associations, teachers and school community, professional gardeners and SMEs, university...

Regular meetings:

Co-designing the urban gardens network and designing the next steps to take



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THANK YOU!

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