

New experiences of re-generation of intensive farming terrains

LA PICA BOTANIC GARDEN



and

the *Urban Kitchen Gardens*

in the ancient town after earthquake devastation



Promoters , Designers and Managers: Patrizia Casari and Giorgio Cavazza

Mirandola, Emilia Region – 2007-2015



‘La Pica Giardino Botanico Association’ is a No-Profit Organization (NPO)born to promote the protection and enhancement of nature and the environment of the lowlands of Modena. Our mission is to plant a BOTANICAL GARDEN to develop education and public awareness on BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION.



A large collection of 2000 trees, bushes and flowers, have been planted by volunteers deeply linked to the culture, tradition and rural aspects of this territory , to contribute, beyond the original aim, also to overcome the great difficult of the reconstruction after the 2012 earthquake, to help people to regain interest in “beautiful things, such as plants, flowers and nature”.

All of our carried-out experiences demonstrate the wide impact on the local people of these environmental education activities initiatives.



Two Universities (Modena /Reggio Emilia and Parma) take part in our actions-researches, starting experimental cultivations and organizing educational activities concerning the most characteristic aspects of Emilia Region Territory, as part of the complex landscape and cultural mosaic that is the Italian territory.



A further project of *La Pica* has been the creation of *Social Kitchen- Gardens* promoted together with the authorities of the Municipality of Mirandola after the 2012 earthquake.



Recently the *La Pica* Garden has been developing a lot of intercultural and didactic activities together with scholar groups, teachers and social groups, also referred to mentioned **Urban Kitchen Gardens** cultivated within the historic small town Mirandola involving the groups in the project, construction and management of this selected **Kitchen Garden Area**.



All of these activities have been successfully carried out and now they are reaching a more intense and involving relationship towards the local public managers, just to **transform these voluntary proposals into effective continuous popular participation** in the public management through a very **micro revolution**, toward a concrete solidarity management of the **Public Common Goods** at any level (solidarity income taxes and services, mutual interaction of social works and cultural initiatives)





Young students attending workshop to learn how to volunteer at the botanic garden, activity recognized with college credits

- A group of teachers

The Pica Botanical Garden non-profit association also organizes meetings with teachers and Univesità of Modena and science teachers.

Here academics illustrate the richness of the botanical collection and possible school projects to be carried out at the Botanical Garden

The la Pica Botanic Garden Mirandola Emilia Region -

70 orti già realizzati. molto interessante perchè dall orto si vede da dove proviene l'ortolano: ci sono immigrati dal sud che fanno l'orto un po' interrato per conservare l'acqua, e provano la coltivazione del carciofo qui poco presente, cinesi con verdure sconosciute, un orto multi-etnico!



70 allotments already made. very interesting because from garden you see where the gardener comes from: there are immigrants from the south which make a deep garden to store the water, and try artichoke growing, or Chinese who plant unknown vegetables, it's a real a multiethnic vegetable garden!