

## **HIEDANRANTA EDIBLE COMMUNITY GARDEN OPERATING MODEL**

Tampere Region Martha Association  
Active Refugees in the Community project

Hiedanranta Edible Garden operating model was created in Active Refugees in the Community project (ARC) during years 2018 and 2019 in Tampere, Finland. In co-operation with City of Tampere and other stakeholders such as local associations and organizations, the model was planned and implemented.

The purpose of the community garden was to join people from different groups to work together with their hands, enhancing equality, consistence, opportunities to influence, positive health effects both body and mind and increased activity in life.

In Hiedanranta, 8 glasshouses were designed and built out of recycled materials to meet the needs of urban farmers and the city development. The glasshouses were built on a city property, which was constructed as a land of cultivation. Beside the glasshouse area, a fruit and vegetable garden were found to attract people to learn local food cultivation and home gardening. In addition, a small recycled tool shed was relocated to the area. The equipment was purchased by the ARC project and City of Tampere.

There were 4 target groups in the ARC project that all worked in developing the operational model in Hiedanranta. The main target group, immigrants with refugee backgrounds, was involved in the project activities since the beginning, starting from designing and building the glasshouses to becoming the end users of the cultivation areas with the local people. Other target groups (local public authorities, general public and NGOs and other organizations working with immigrants) participated regularly in the project planning, event organizing and cultivation activities.

During the summer time in, weekly gardening activities were organized in the glasshouse area and the vegetable garden. All the activities were public, open for everyone. No enrolling was needed. Altogether 941 persons participated in the project activities during the project life time. The participants were immigrants, local people interested in cultivation, members of the local associations, students and families. The operational coordinator was a professional horticulturist working as a project manager of the ARC project.

The activities consisted mainly on cultivation actions such as planting, seeding, fertilizing, maintenance work such as weeding and thinning, harvesting and substrate preparation for the next growing season.

The activities were advertised on social media channels: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Also, project website was used, emails were sent to stakeholders such as associations and their members, and posters were spread to local apartment building stairways and in Hiedanranta mansion notice board.

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Find more photos on Instagram @arcgardentampere and @syotavapuisto2019

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