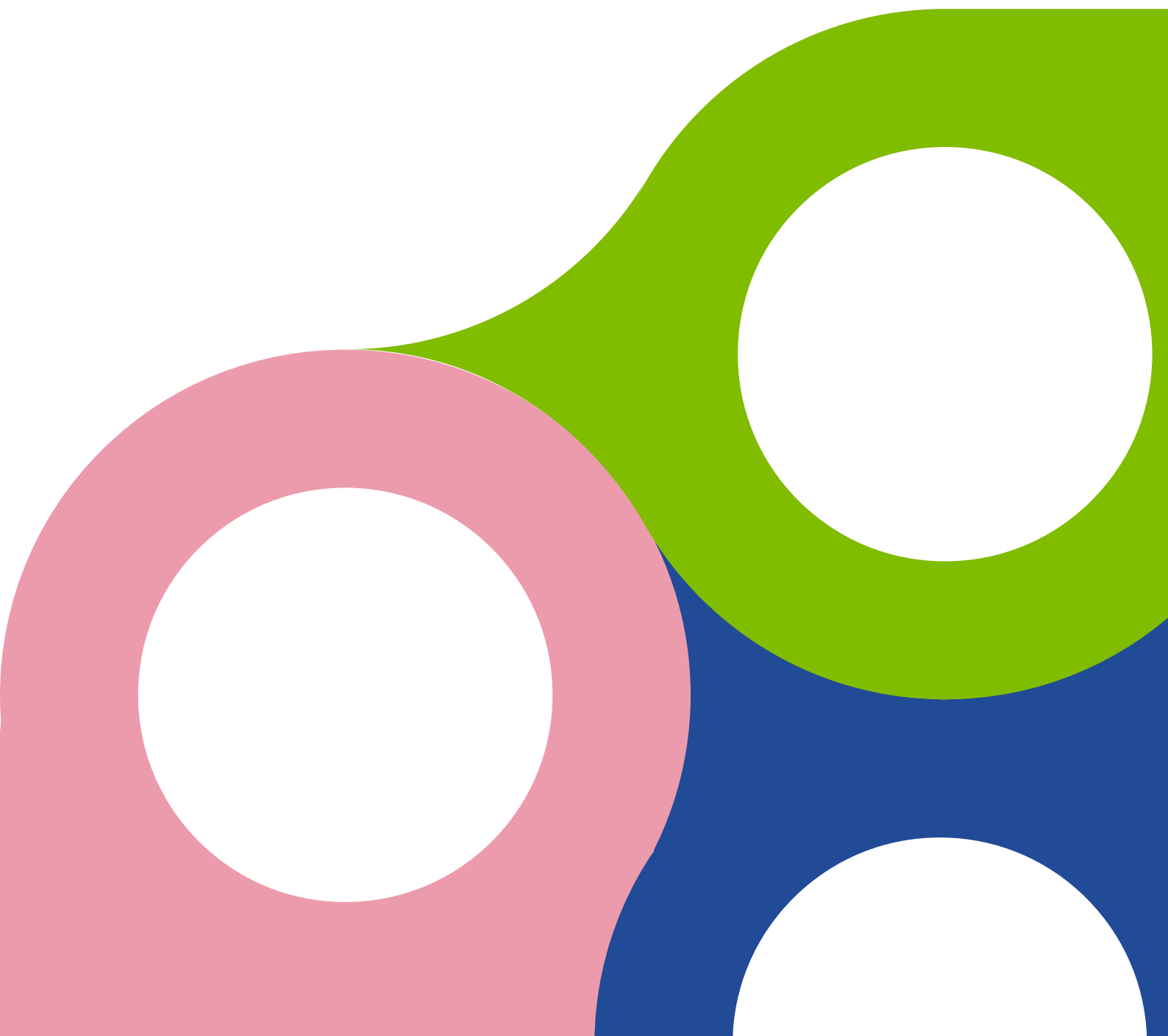


# Community Gardens

## in Katowice “Make Your Own Garden Beds”



Co-funded by  
the European Union



GREEN  
INDUSTRY  
FOUNDATION



The “ **Make Your Own Garden Beds** “ project is an initiative addressed to the inhabitants of Katowice, aimed at creating community gardens in various districts of the city. The idea of the project is based on the involvement of the local community in joint activities aimed at developing unused areas or urban spaces for plant cultivation and mutual meetings, thanks to which neighborly relations become even more significant for the local community.

In Katowice, in four different districts, community gardens appeared as part of the “ **Make Your Own Garden Beds** “ campaign. These spaces, created on the initiative of the residents themselves, were built and planted by the local community, and will now be under their care. The Mayor of Katowice, Marcin Krupa, emphasized that residents had already been involved in activities for the city’s biodiversity. The “ **Make Your Own Garden Beds** “ project is in line with this sustainable development policy, recognizing the great potential of urban gardening in integrating local communities. Community gardens are not only spaces for growing plants, but also places for relaxation, meetings, education and cultural events. They are becoming more and more popular, which prompts the creation of more urban farms in different parts of the city. These initiatives promote a circular economy by using rainwater, the so-called rainwater, composting and growing edible plants. In Katowice, community gardens were created in selected areas that were selected in an open recruitment process for the project.



**Source** :<https://katoobywatel.katowice.eu/nasze-akcje/zrobmy-sobie-grzadki-w-katowicach/> (09.02.2024)

The process of creating community gardens was conducted by experts from the “Miastoogród” group from the Bobrowe Żeremia Foundation, who have experience in similar activities. As part of the project, plant boxes made of prefabricated elements were installed in selected locations. Residents, together with members of the Foundation, were involved in the construction of flower beds and acquired basic knowledge of gardening, learning about the proper selection of plants, creating breeding conditions for birds and insects, and effective water management. Each garden was also equipped with elements of small wooden architecture, such as benches, pergolas and composters. As part of the “starter package”, residents received materials for building flower beds, soil and seedlings of selected plants, including edible plants, herbs and flowering perennials. Additionally, they were provided with sets of basic garden tools. “Miastoogród” also plans to create a do-it-yourself guide to encourage Katowice residents to set up similar gardens on their own. The role of building neighborly relations and the readiness to provide advice and support in implementing green initiatives are also emphasized. The availability of financial support through mechanisms such as the Local Initiative or the Citizens’



Budget is also pointed out, as well as the importance of involving the local community in the process of creating a garden, because people are the heart of every project.

Recruitment of project participants began at the beginning of 2021, and work on subsequent gardens took place during the summer. To join the project, a minimum of five people were required to sign up and undertake not only to set up a garden, but also to take care of it regularly, including watering and caring for the plants in the following years. The area of the gardens could be up to 20 square meters, and an important condition was that the area intended for the garden was publicly available as urban land. The implementation of the project was financed by the prize obtained in the international Transformative Action Award 2020 competition, awarded to the city for the KATOobywatel project.

The “ **Make Your Own Garden Beds** ” project in Katowice is not only an innovative

social project, but also an inspiring example of effective involvement of residents in the creation of green urban spaces. By creating community gardens, residents not only transformed unused areas into friendly and aesthetic places, but also strengthened social bonds, integrating and cooperating within the local community. During the project, participants had the opportunity not only to engage in practical gardening work, but also to gain knowledge in the field of gardening and ecology. Thanks to this, the project has become an educational platform, contributing to raising ecological awareness among residents. As a result, community gardens not only decorate the urban space of Katowice, but above all serve the local community as places for meetings, exchange of experiences, recreational activities and education. The “ **Make Your Own Garden Beds** ” project is a clear example of effective social participation and sustainable development, which can be an inspiration for other cities and communities in Poland and around the world.

## Bibliography:

<https://www.teraz-srodowisko.pl/aktualnosci/Katowice-ogrody-spoleczne-zielen-miejska-10992.html>

<https://katoobywatel.katowice.eu/nasze-akcje/zrobmy-sobie-grzadki-w-katowicach/>

