Cofinanciado por la Unión Europea

GenerACTOR

Huertas comunitarias para el buen gobierno, la ciudadanía activa y la participación

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

EXTENSION

Topic: GARDENISER TEC-GOV

Opening date: 01.07.2024

New deadline: 31.07.2023 at 11.59 pm

RESUMEN

This call aims to identify individuals who could be selected to participate in the training course for **public officials from agencies in the District of Barranquilla, focusing on the topic of community gardens (Gardeniser TEC-GOV).**

The course is intended for a total of 15 officials from the Mayor's Office of Barranquilla. Priority will be given to officials assigned to departments directly involved in environmental and social development, such as urban and environmental development, food security, social development, economic development, risk management, public policy, and education.

The course spans 3 days in Barranquilla, consisting of 8 hours of in-person training per day (24 hours in total), and is part of Component 1 of the transnational cooperation project GENERACTOR, supported by the European program EuropeAid. This component is coordinated by the Italian association for social promotion REPLAY NETWORK aps, based in Rome on behalf of the project consortium, and is fully conducted in Barranquilla in Spanish.

Course specifications:
Dates: September 2, 3, and 4
Time: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Total hours: 24 hours
Participants: 15
Location: Hotel el Prado

CONTEXT

The GenerACTOR project – Community Gardens as GenerACTORs for good governance, active citizenship, and participation – is funded by the European Commission and implemented by a consortium consisting of Anci Lazio (IT), Replay Network aps (IT), Risorse per Roma spa (IT), the Municipality of Barranquilla (CO), and Siembra Mas (CO).

The overall objective is to support integrated and sustainable urban development through capacity building and service provision in urban agriculture aimed at local authorities and vulnerable communities. It promotes the goals of the Global Green Deal, social and economic inclusion through community empowerment, and fosters governance from multiple perspectives, acting as a catalyst for co-innovation.

Component 1 of GenerACTOR includes various training and capacity-building actions aimed at creating the conditions for grassroots management of the four community urban gardens initiated in 2024 in Barranquilla:

1. 8 two-day training courses (2022-2023) + 16 one-day courses (2024) on horticultural topics (Gardeners' trainings)
2. 1 training of trainers for Gardenisers/gardeners (Gardeniser HUB)
3. 2 trainings for Gardenisers, community urban garden coordinators (Gardeniser PRO)
4. 5+7 internships in Italy for participants of the Gardeniser PRO training course
5. 16+12 internships in other cities of Colombia for participants of the Gardeniser PRO training course
6. **1 training for public officials from city districts focused on community gardens (Gardeniser TEC-GOV)**
7. 1 training for school teachers on community gardens as learning spaces (Gardeniser EDU)
8. 2 social media channels (Facebook community and Instagram) in Spanish.

This call refers to point 6: the public officials training course on community gardens (Gardeniser TEC-GOV).

The Gardeniser TEC-GOV course aims primarily to familiarize public officials responsible for city development (especially in environmental and social aspects) with the potential of community urban gardens as spaces for participation, active citizenship, and education for sustainability in a broad sense. The community urban garden can serve as a HUB for public administration, facilitating the implementation of various public policies, making them simpler and more accessible to citizens, particularly because they are mediated by other citizens actively involved in the garden.

A community urban garden is collectively managed for the benefit of its members and the community, serving multiple purposes including leisure, education, social activities, well-being, inclusion, and integration. It is the product of citizens' sensitivity, intelligence, and energy, naturally dedicated to fostering and enhancing skills and sustainability (green skills). It serves as a permanent outdoor adult education laboratory that supports peer-to-peer transmission and the implementation of Green Deal objectives—developing knowledge, skills, and attitudes that promote empathetic, responsible, and environmentally conscious thinking, planning, and action.

While food cultivation may be a feature of such sites, it is often not the sole or primary purpose. The correlation between effects on the biological ecosystem, health, and well-being from an individual and social perspective remains a relatively under-researched topic (Sandifer et al., 2015) but holds significant relevance, especially for community urban gardens that meet needs not exclusively related to vegetable consumption, but also produce a range of positive social externalities.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

The "Gardeniser TEC-GOV" program will address the following topics:

- Introduction to community urban gardens
- Introduction to the role and functions of the Gardeniser
- Benefits, potentialities, needs, and didactic tools for working in the garden
- Support coordination
- The three dimensions of community urban gardens
- Social return on investment, sustainability, and impact on community well-being

PARTICIPANTS SELECTION CRITERIA

District officials wishing to occupy one of the 15 available slots in the GARDENISER TEC-GOV course should meet some or all of the following criteria:

- Be interested in training on the potential of a community urban garden to collaborate in the implementation of public policies towards citizens.
- Be available and authorized to utilize the support coordination method within their area of competence to facilitate the development of community urban gardens in Barranquilla. Support coordination by the Public Administration towards a community urban garden refers to the practice whereby the public entity provides assistance, resources, and guidance to community urban gardens to foster their development and success. This type of coordination involves a collaborative and participatory approach, where the Public Administration works closely with citizens involved in garden management. Support coordination activities may include providing suitable land for gardens, access to resources such as water and electricity, and financial support for the acquisition of necessary materials. Additionally, the Public Administration may offer technical and legal advice, facilitate local community participation, and promote the exchange of best practices among community urban gardens. In summary, public administration support coordination aims to create an enabling environment for the development and operation of community urban gardens, recognizing their value as important resources for the local community in terms of social well-being, environmental sustainability, and education.
- Priority will be given to officials assigned to departments directly involved in environmental and social development, such as urban and environmental development, food security, social development, economic development, risk management, public policy, and education.
- Hold a position in the public administration during the period from September 2024 to July 2025.

HOW TO APPLY

- ✓ Interested people have to fulfill the format online: https://forms.gle/EUYCRUfNcQ9muqHu9
- ✓ The expression of interest **must be received by 11:59 pm on July 31, 2024** (Colombia time).
- ✓ Selection **results** are expected to be communicated by email **on August 25, 2024**.
- ✓ Possible interviews will be conducted only for pre-selected participants.
- ✓ For any inquiries, please contact: generator@replaynet.eu

REFERENCES

- Institutional website: www.generactor.info (EN)
- Gardenisers platform: www.gardeniser.eu (EN, soon available in ES)
- Facebook: @generactor (EN) @generactor.co (ES)
- Instagram: generactor.co (ES)
- GenerActor project email: coordinator@generactor.info (EN, ES)
- Training email: generactor@replaynet.eu (EN, ES)