Abstract title: Foraging, cultivation and use of medicinal plants in Brussels
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Abstract text:

The case study on cultivation, foraging and use of medicinal plants in the City of Brussels has been carried out through analyses of available literature, visits to the relevant sites, meetings with professionals working in the field, representatives from the competent authorities, following the activities of nature related organisations, creative artists and ecologists, as well as taking part in events related to medicinal plants presence and use in City of Brussels.

The study results showed that wild and cultivated medicinal plants are largely present in public green spaces and specifically designed private, collective, school, university, museum and library gardens as well as city farms. Medicinal plants are largely used in multidisciplinary urban greening projects. Besides well-known phyto-therapeutic use, medicinal plants contribute largely to the development of cultural ecosystem services and are often used for creation of spaces for mental relaxation or garden therapy, physical activity and social integration. School gardens rich in medicinal plants are used as outdoor spaces for the pupils to learn and play as well as tools for an integrated child centred education. Gardens of medicinal plants in museums, universities and libraries bring together history, folkloric traditions and state of the art scientific knowledge about medicinal plants.

Title of the related panel: Towards sustainable use of medicinal plants. Historical perspective on foraging, cultivation and use of medicinal plants in European countries.
Abstract number of the related panel: 62