



## TERRITORIA European Award 2008

### Synthesis Form

Local authority : **CHEMNITZ, GERMANY**

Domain of innovative project : **CITIZENSHIP**

Title of the innovative project : **CITIZENS' GARDEN IN CHEMNITZ**

#### 1. The innovative idea

"Put down roots in a liveable/loveable city"

#### 2. The desired objective or goal

The citizens' garden in the riverbank park shall thematize the creativity of urban redevelopment. On the one hand, an association cares for a part of a public park; on the other hand, this can have a signal effect for positive impacts on the neighbouring area. As the basic idea of the project is the donation of the plants we hope for a long-term commitment of the donators to the garden.

#### 3. The methods and organization of the project (programming, partners)

The Office for green areas and parks of the City of Chemnitz plans and realizes the Riverbank Park (see below). 33 % of the budget is financed by the City of Chemnitz, large financial support comes from the "Social city" programme. With regard to the costs for the care for the park, it was necessary to find partners for the long-term use and maintenance of the new green area. The Office for green areas and parks of the City of Chemnitz as the developer signed a contract of cooperation with the association "For Chemnitz". On approval with the association, the City developed and built the citizens' garden in the total framework of the building measures and took care of finances and permissions. The association took the "building" over and cares for planting and maintenance.

#### 4. The content of the project

In the framework of urban renewal, the City of Chemnitz creates a riverbank park, a public green belt that connects the existing parks along the Chemnitz River like the Municipal Park, the Schlossteich area and the Kuechwald Park. The riverbank park is of great importance for the urban structure because it makes the river that gave the city its name and is now in a "backyard" position a creative element in the city. In particular, the interplay between the densely built up inner city and the open areas along the river banks revitalizes this quarter. The EU supports the "Riverbank Park" project in a considerable amount.

For the part of the "Citizens' garden" the task is the aerial integration of the former fairground, the creation of a green border, the connection with the path network, the amelioration of the quality of stay and the integration of a large rose/flower field.

The creation of a citizens' garden with rose plants was initiated by the citizens' association "For Chemnitz". The starting point was that parents plant roses for their new born children. This way, they show that families put down roots in Chemnitz. The parents choose and finance the roses themselves, plant them and care for them.

Planning and creation of building conditions were realized under the responsibility of the City and included: ground work, creation of paths, preparation of planting fields, planting of bordering green with trees, bushes and a surrounding lavender border, the placement of benches and the fencing of the area.

The success of the project consists in the valorisation of public areas through civic involvement and the symbolic documentation of the close connection with the City.

#### **5. The human skills (internal and external) and financial (budget total, costs for the collectivity, town)**

The project combined the professional building, creative, organizational and financial expert knowledge of the city administration with the organizational and civic expertise of the citizens' association. The association collected the wishes of the future users that could be realized in the development process.

The costs amounted to EURO 42,000, 2/3 of which were financed through the "Social city" programme. The same programme also supported the Konkordia Park project in Chemnitz. The citizens' garden optimally completes the focal subjects of playing and leisure.

#### **6. The thorough balance sheet of the project (evaluation, progress, project's evolution)**

The citizens' garden was accomplished on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008. Numerous inhabitants already made their donations for the plants and so permanently identified themselves with the new park.