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Intergenerational solidarity and environment protection: reconfiguration of public gardens

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The European Union (EU) links people and states all around Europe. This large amount of different people walk hand in hand with all sorts of cultures and habits. The EU has a difficult task trying to bring solidarity amongst EU citizens and states. This problem should be addressed and ultimately resolved in order to make people feel more connected and thus willing to help each other. In addition to this, the EU is facing acute climate change and the problem of environment conservation. Scientist around the EU are trying to find the solution to this major problem. Traditionally the target group if youngsters and children when it comes to initiatives on how to protect the environment, yet elderly is often and unfortunately left out. Hence, how could we connect all generations in order to protect our environment and at the same time create solidarity?

The EU should create and foster solidarity all around its territory, but first people should know what solidarity is about.

Solidarity means people offering help to each other and not expecting anything in return. Solidarity is bringing different people together in order to create something good. It also means that people have more understanding of each other. If they understand each other, they contribute to a better society, and better society creates a better world with less fighting and less anger. A very important role of solidarity is also compassion. If people are compassionate, they have the ability to help. Therefore, in order to have solidarity amongst EU citizens and EU Member States, the EU should promote the above-mentioned qualities.

Solidarity should be created amongst all generations, since intergenerational solidarity could help the EU in important policy areas. There is one area where intergenerational solidarity is very important, not only for the present time, but for the future as well. Climate change and protection of the environment are major problems facing the EU. In order to

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protect the environment, all generations should be connected. More people tackling this problem means better chances of securing a clean environment.

A possible solution to this problem could be the **reconfiguration of public gardens**. With the creation of public gardens, the EU would create intergenerational solidarity, protection of the environment and fight against climate change. This would bring many benefits, not only to the environment, but also to all generations involved. If cities all around the EU implement public gardens, this would make a great impact on many levels.

By opening public gardens, the EU could connect different generations creating intergenerational solidarity. Elderly people often know more about gardening and they could teach younger generations about it. With this concept, we can tackle many issues. For instance, elderly is often isolated, lonely and feel left behind. With this project, they can teach someone a new lesson and therefore they will feel more useful to society. Moreover, by participating in a common activity together, they get to know each other better and do not feel so different. If they understand other generations, they feel more compassionate to them.

Gardens would not be beneficial only for elderly people but also for young generations. Young generations often do not have the skills of gardening like elderly generations. Therefore, they can acquire new skills and later pass them on to the next generation. In addition, young

generations would find out that fruits and vegetables do not always come in perfect conditions and shapes like the ones in the store. This could help to reduce the amount of fruit and vegetables thrown away in stores because people do not want to buy them due to their imperfect shape. They could also get to know different types of fruits and vegetables and different techniques of gardening.

Gardens could also be used just for sitting and observing different people gardening. They could be used as a meeting point for exchanging ideas and tips for different gardening techniques. Cities could also organize different lectures about gardening.

By creating public gardens following this system throughout the EU, different generations will be connected, social groups that in other circumstances would not have crossed their paths. In this way, letting them work together creates an understanding towards each other and this understanding leads to solidarity.

Creating gardens in the cities can have a large impact on the environment as well. Firstly, cities are often heavily polluted because of the dense urbanization and the intense traffic of vehicles. Therefore, air quality is very poor and dangerous for citizens' health. If the EU would build public gardens and plant trees, they would help cities get better air quality. Trees in gardens create cleaner air and provide a living environment to different animals, like bees. Bees have an important role in our ecosystem but are sadly facing extinction. That would have terrible

consequences in our ecosystem. Because of the lack of green space in the cities, there is not much animal life in them. Gardens can also improve the look of the city. People often miss something green in large cities and gardens can be perfect for that.

Gardens would work on the principle of solidarity. A place where different generations meet and exchange knowledge of gardening. In addition, different generations would learn about maintaining a clean environment and the impact that people have. Something as simple as gardening can have an impact on the whole society and on the environment.

To sum up, creating public gardens would have many positive effects: air pollution levels would diminish, people would acquire new gardening skills and learn that vegetables and fruits are not perfect in shape like they appear in stores (this would help reducing food waste). Also, creating green areas would have an impact on animals like bees. Moreover, reconfiguration of public gardens would create intergenerational solidarity: people from different generations could teach one another gardening techniques learning new things or just chatting and becoming friends, thus creating understanding about different generations. Understanding and knowledge leads to solidarity and solidarity is a key to a better society all over the world.



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