

International study conference in Tulln

From 21 to 24 August 2025, the study conference of the *Fédération Internationale des Jardins Familiaux* took place in Tulln an der Donau. Representatives from ten European nations met for an exchange at the seminar centre of the Landesgartenschau "Die Garten Tulln" (Tulln Garden Show).



The theme of this year's study conference, organised by the Austrian association, was: "We are prepared – How we allotment gardeners can respond to today's crises."

Allotment gardeners are an important building block when it comes to climate protection (biodiversity, cooling cities, etc.). They have a broad knowledge of how sustainability not only protects the environment and resources, but also how they can be self-sufficient. All these skills are valuable when it comes to responding to today's crises.

The aim of the study conference was to exchange experiences with international organisations in order to learn from their findings and implement exemplary projects in their own countries.

In addition to intensive exchanges between participants, lectures by specialists from various organisations were also offered in German and English.

Of course, the supporting programme included a special guided tour of "Die Garten Tulln" with its 70 model gardens, so that participants could gain not only theoretical but also practical experience. An invitation to the Krems an der Donau allotment garden association was also on the programme. During this visit, at which the international allotment garden family received an exceptionally warm welcome, several Austrian associations were delighted to receive international certificates of honour.

Thursday, 21 August – Arrival day

The guests were accommodated in a hotel located 15 minutes' walk from the venue. First, the *Fédération Internationale* held a board meeting and general assembly in the hotel's conference room. This was followed by a leisurely walk through the picturesque Au to a barbecue evening at the Gaumenweide restaurant in the "Garten Tulln".

Friday, 22 August – Study conference day 1

The study conference opened at 9 a.m. on Friday. The participants were warmly welcomed by the host of Garten Tulln, Managing Director Franz Gruber, MSc. (www.diegartentulln.at)

The first items on the agenda began immediately afterwards. During the "speed date," the nations exchanged views on the challenges and measures in their associations.

Furthermore, the head of the seed archive at "Arche Noah", *Mag.a Michaela Arndorfer*, presented her lecture "Plant Kingdom in a Small Area". (www.arche-noah.at)

After lunch together, the series of presentations, held in both German and English, continued.

The director of CITY FARM Vienna, Dipl. Ing. Wolfgang Palme, impressed with his presentation "4-Season Gardening" on the possibilities of year-round garden use. (www.cityfarm.wien)



Florian Binder, biodiversity officer at the Austrian Central Association, gave the audience an understanding of the "climate-friendly garden" through implementation ideas.

The final item on the agenda was a guided tour of "Die Garten Tulln". In Europe's first exclusively ecologically maintained and designed garden show, interested visitors can find practical suggestions, ideas and inspiration for designing their own gardens in the 70 model gardens.

A successful first day of the study conference ended with a joint dinner at the Gaumenweide restaurant. (www.gaumenweide.at)



Saturday, 23 August – Study conference day 2

The second day began at 9 a.m. with further presentations and subsequent discussions among the international guests.

Ms *Margit Benes-Oeller* from the Lower Austrian state association "Natur im Garten" gave a very informative presentation on "water management" in the garden. (www.naturimgarten.at)

Guido Beneke, managing director of the Lower Saxony Association of Gardeners, focused his presentation on allotment gardens as a meeting place for different generations, as well as the resulting challenges and solutions. (www.deutsche-schreberjugend.de)

After lunch together, *Marius Monen* from Avans University of Applied Sciences concluded the series of presentations with his analysis of "How allotment gardeners can contribute to innovative solutions for resilient urban green spaces."

Next on the agenda was a visit to the "Krems an der Donau" allotment garden site (www.kgv-krems.at). The international guests were warmly welcomed and invited to take a tour of the site. They were divided into two groups and were able to explore the gardens. This resulted in numerous personal conversations and insights into the lovingly designed plots.

The convivial setting at the clubhouse was also used to present the Fédération Internationale des Jardins Familiaux's certificates of honour to deserving clubs. From Linz, the "*Eisenbahner Kleingartenverein*" association received the certificate of honour for nature-friendly gardening and the "*Auwiesen I*" association for social activities. Both honours were accepted by the president of the Upper Austrian Allotment Gardeners' Association, *Josef Reisinger*.



The "*Groß Jedlersdorf*" association was delighted to receive the international award for innovative projects. The award was presented directly to *Ernest Kern*, chairman of the association from Vienna Floridsdorf.

Last but not least, the ladies of the "*Frauenfachgruppe Floridsdorf*" (Floridsdorf Women's Group) were also awarded a certificate of honour for social activities. For many years, their commitment to good causes has made them an important part of the allotment garden family. The award was accepted by the visibly moved new chairwoman of the women's group, *Gerda Grach*.

On the way back from Krems to Tulln, the conference guests stopped at a typical wine tavern and were able to enjoy a cosy end to their last evening. (www.weinschenke-korntheuer.at)

Sunday, 24 August – Departure day

After breakfast and a general meeting at the hotel, it was time to say goodbye to Tulln. The visibly satisfied participants took many impressions and experiences back to their national associations with them to strengthen the international allotment garden family.