



## **PARTNER SEARCH: Erasmus+ Programme**

### **Europe's Growing Ambassadors**

*Proposals for a project to get local communities active and engaged in food growing, cooking and eating led by Oldham Council, Greater Manchester, UK*

Oldham Council is a co-operative council, working to build a co-operative borough where citizens, partners and staff work together to improve the borough. We want all members of the community to play an active part in building our co-operative borough. This means everybody doing their bit. In order to make involvement in local activity and decision making simpler we are devolving power and resources to neighbourhood levels.

Oldham is one of the ten towns that combine to form the City Region of Greater Manchester in the North West of England. The City Region has a population of 2.2 million, Oldham has a population of around 220,000.

Oldham Council has launched this year a new initiative - [Get Oldham Growing](#) – to help address some key public health challenges faced by our communities. The initiative focuses on using food growing to improve people's health and wellbeing, to reduce isolation and to increase opportunities for skills and enterprise development. The vision for the programme is;

"To get communities in Oldham active and engaged in food growing, cooking and eating to improve public health, and develop opportunities for growth of new social businesses in Oldham's food economy".

The programme aims to:

- Develop employment opportunities through local food production and better establishment of the local food economy
- Increase skills, qualifications and entrepreneurship in food related initiatives
- Reduce barriers to participation in food growing activities through supported access to land, training and advice, materials and infrastructure development
- Increase community participation in food growing, cooking and eating projects for the improvement of the health and wellbeing of Oldham residents.

Local people will be recruited – "Growing Ambassadors" - to encourage local food growing activity at all levels in the community, providing a visible, 'on the ground' point of contact for

the Get Oldham Growing programme. They will be advocates of food related initiatives, removing barriers and raising the profile of the wider programme.

We are seeking ERASMUS + VET partnership support in order to support the development of the training programme that the Growing Ambassadors will undertake. It is hoped that the result will be an accredited qualification covering community development, horticulture and climate awareness.

Implementation of the training scheme will be possible in any of the partner cities and ultimately will be available to any public authority or educational establishment.

Oldham Council is seeking partners from other municipalities that are interested in the food growing scheme and also educational establishments that may want to develop a community training programme

**If interested in this please contact**

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