

1. Date of proposal: 23 February 2015

2. Working title of talk:

**Allotment gardens, a place to meet, to walk and to learn  
Bergeonnerie case study in Tours (France)**

3. Speaker's name, affiliation, contact email and telephone number (include international dialling code):

**Amélie Robert** (amelie.robert@univ-tours.fr) and **Jean Louis Yengué** (yengue@univ-tours.fr - 00 33 2 47 36 10 88), **Tours University / UMR CNRS CITERES**

4. **Abstract**

Different kind of nature can be observed in urban settings: forest or semi-natural spaces, ornamental gardens and allotment gardens (community gardens). Our talk will focus on the last ones and will question some ecosystem services, which they offer. It comes in the framework of the research program SERVEUR, which is funded by the French region Centre and is interested in the services given by urban green spaces. Here we would like to present one case-study of the Bergeonnerie allotments in Tours (France). Allotments have more benefits for the population than expected but thus they also have fallouts for the municipalities.

To identify the services offered by this green space, we have conducted:

- *in situ* observations and surveys of users of Bergeonnerie allotments,
- interviews of municipal stakeholders (technicians and heads of Green Spaces departments) and decision-makers (elected representatives) of several cities of the region Centre.

The *in situ* study revealed that allotments offered not only provisioning services of according to the MEA (2005) ecosystem services list of, in this case food. They also provide cultural services, focus of our research program. Indeed, they are also a source of wellbeing, for the gardeners but not only. We could observe that some other people come in these green spaces, like in other ones, to walk. They are places of sociability and education. This point is underlined by municipal stakeholders and decision-makers: allotments are more than places used to cultivate vegetables. Thus the fallouts for the municipalities can be greater, at least in terms of image.

MEA (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment), 2005. *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*, Island Press, Washington DC