



THEME COMMONS

SUB-THEME:

Common Goods

TITLE OF WORKSHOP

The fight against criminal powers for a new way
of living and producing



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BANKS AND LEGALITY



Riccardo Milano (Responsible for cultural relations Banca Popolare Etica) and Simone Grillo

Paper Abstract

The current financial crisis, beyond the dramatic implications that it brings, is also an opportunity to discuss the challenges our civilization faces and to understand how these challenges couldn't be addressed without changing the political-social-economic thought that produced the crisis itself. According to this approach, the study has the task of addressing specifically a topic that today links the production of energy from renewable sources, the legality, the role of banks and, ultimately, the possibility for single communities to be energy independent.

The problems regarding financing the activities for the production of renewable energies (particularly wind and photovoltaic), are essentially those normally found in the financial system, but unfortunately today we are witnessing a phenomenon whose dimensions are larger and larger: the infiltration of organized crime and mafias, either by the recycling or through "clean" channels, but under their control.

This once more emphasizes how the mafias are "far sighted", since they have identified in the major environmental issues their own territory for "business", from waste management and recycling to "clean" energy. The research work about banks and legality done by "Banca Etica" seeks to highlight some aspects of lenders behaviors, either for good and for bad, and it try also to make some proposals on possible behaviors that should be inclusive of activities for the common good. In fact, the renewable energies topic, and its possible funding, is part of that social/economic area which is the heritage of all citizens, and their good use may involve not only a contribution to the environment and nature, but it will also cooperate to a true and solid economy, that will no more create dependencies on Energy and organic materials which, among other things, are very rare in Italy (and whose presence also creates pollution to detriment of our beautiful nature). So we are faced with a truly hot and important problem, that will impact, positively or negatively — in relation to the current behavior — the Italian way of life. In this context it is strategic importance the role of ethically oriented and cooperative



banks with strong local roots, a sit not only encourages and helps cooperation among networks that animate the territory, but it also allows people to control and manage the behaviors (loans and deposits) , in order to prevent crimes by which mafias try to infiltrate in particularly interesting sectors from the profitability (and grants) point of view: historically laws where they can and individuals behaviors often are not always ethically immaculate. So it's quite a problem and solving it in an ethical and legal way will only be possible if citizens will feel they're the "first defenders" of themselves and their territory, using common sense and legality.

THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIMINAL POWERS FOR A NEW WAY OF LIVING AND PRODUCING

Alessandro Cobiانchi (ARCI)



TACKLED ISSUES:

- Intersection between legal and illegal powers
- Criminal powers vs. commons
- Important topic but not in the agenda
- Legality: instruments of social justice
- Speculation is immoral but not illegal



- Ethic bank to promote ethic business
- Mafia infiltration in renewable energy source (money laundering)
- Safeguard through common criteria at international level
- Strong social (and lobbying) networks vs criminal practices
- Change in presence of illegal powers after earthquake in Umbria/Abruzzo Cib. Heroin and cocaine in Umbria (Perugia is the European city with more heroine)

GIVEN ANSWERS:

- Mafia acts in every dimension of economy (even in legal ones)
- Mafia is like a ...
- In a corrupted context also good economic actors must deal with mafia to survive



- Use of credit card and electronic transactions can reduce illegal practices (but not at the mafia level)
- Omertà is a problem even in the north Italy
- Concept of “ scientific citizenship” (people have the right to know)
- Actions against the privatization of living (biotechnologies / OGM...)
- Global governance and participative democracy to deal with waste, technology, OGM, (people must decide on their life)
- Multinational on biotechnologies and OGM act like Mafia

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS MESSAGES AND COMMENTS:

- We have to follow the flux of money to find mafia and do mafia “move” values?
- P. Impastato “ L’etica libera la bellezza” Three open questions and projects to discuss



- Bring the problem to the attention of civil society
- To spread the experiences of confiscation “dei beni Mafiosi” (mafia goods+ property confiscation) and their use as commons
- Best practices to spread awareness and exchange to promote knowledge
- We have to deal with the economic, social, cultural structures and values on which mafia relies (cut the grassroots of mafia)