

Workshop Commons

“Towards a society of the commons: from the democracy of the earth to new institutionalities”

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Abstract paper

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In June 2011, Italian citizens voted through referendum against nuclear power, for a reform of the national energetical model recognising energy as a common good that should be democratically administrated. Not only energy is central in the industrial sector, it is essential for every human being life. In a context of multi crises (economical, financial, climatic, environmental, migratory, food) that stress every day more the need for reversing the dominant development model, it is fundamental to rethink completely the energetical system. There is a urging need for the development of local energy plan (EU's Covenant of Mayors and SEAPs) based on citizenship and social sectors participation and on distributed renewable energy and on energetical efficiency. This implies a global change and reconversion of the productive model that translate itself also onto the energetical system, passing from a centralised and gerarchical system of generation and distribution to a decentralised system based on intelligent networks. Changing model also implies the experimentation of new local and democratic decision making processes, aiming at the creation of new participative institutions starting from the local level for the development of alternatives measures and practices. Such processes represent a field of action to be explored and implemented through new spaces of dialogue and participative decision making involving both local government and social stakeholders.