



THEME WORK

SUB-THEME:

Territory, Population and migrations

TITLE OF WORKSHOP

**Bioregion a model for socio-economic and
environmental self-sustainability**



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THE TRANSITION TOWARDS A BIOREGIONAL MODEL: THE CASE OF FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

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Paper Abstract

Studies on the possibility to provide food for populations through local production and consumption circuits are spreading to different parts of the world even in the "developed" countries. The main obstacle to food system localization is the adaptability of intensive commodity agriculture towards a local development model. There are multiple approaches to food system localization, bioregionalism is one. Berg (1978) considered the bioregion (in an ecological sense) as a particular set of environmental features located in an area. Later on, disciplines such as planning and economics contributed to the discussion.

In particular this research focuses on local food systems, mainly discussing problems concerning the transition away from intensive commodity agriculture territory. The re-localization of food systems is a process that reverses the trend of globalization in favor of food sovereignty. Many studies and practical experiences related to this are being developing in different areas of the world in response to the economic crisis.

This paper examines the possibility for practical implementation (theory of reality) of a transition phase towards a bio-region in Friuli Venezia Giulia.



AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN ECOLOGY: THE VALUE OF THE TERRITORY

Carlo Modonesi, Monica Oldani, Celestino Panizza

ITALY

The standard methods of such a large-scale agriculture stem from a “Fordist” model of production and rely on an intensive use of pesticides. It is very important to emphasize that these dangerous chemicals are not by-products of industrial processes and do not depend on waste emissions. In fact they are deliberately projected and released just for their toxicity. In other words, toxicity, in our economic system based on the growth myth, is the basic property of the products of an entire industrial sector.

The ideal pesticide should be designed to be toxic only for a “target species”, in other terms for a pest (or for a group of similar pests); meanwhile it should be safe for all other living beings, humans included. However a topical point is that just a few chemicals produce their effects in such a selective manner, and the majority of them perform a toxic action on a broad range of living beings.

We aim to underline the chemical aggression of the economic growth myth by focusing on the carcinogenic burden produced by pesticides. Ecological and epidemiological literature show that pesticides undermine public health by increasing risks of leukemia, non Hodgkin’s lymphoma, Parkinson’s disease, autoimmune disorders, and so forth



THE SMALL NGOs AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Author: Roberto Pellerrey

Paper Abstract

The intervention presents exemplary cases and operating principles in NGOs acting in impoverished countries. Their activity has already created small local independent economic autonomies, structured according to the degrowth principles. For the diffuseness of their experiences and for really testing innovative economic forms in impoverished social communities this work deserves attention: interventions in the field of small NGOs have reversed the methods of the forced industrializing campaigns from the 70s to the 90s. Nowadays NGOs only operate at request of those communities where they act through methods, purposes and programs expressly approved in detail by the community assembly, following forms of intervention compatible with local culture and social organization, and able to restore the effectiveness of knowledge and know how in material, environmental and natural real condition. In such way they have created concrete examples of independent economic areas where living conditions of communities are increasing in a stable and long lasting way outside of social, economic and cultural external patterns, exactly as degrowth movements intend to do.



TACKLED ISSUES:

During the discussion we focused on the agriculture theme. Regarding relations between the territories considering the community as the place where to build relations the standard methods of industrial agriculture stem from a “fordist” model of production and rely on an intensive use of pesticides. Pesticides are designed to be toxic only for a “target species” (or a group of similar species)

We must safeguard food, biodiversity and health by protecting the territory and our relationship with it. Bioregion (or ecoregion) based on self- perception alimentary habits: an ecoregion is the one within people eat the same things or in the same way or by following the same practices.

Action: what goods can be kept in collective common deposits in this bioregion.

GIVEN ANSWERS:

Your idea of bioregion including or excludes industrial activities?

No agricultural point of view.

From public explanation of the difference between bioregion and ecoregion

From the economical point of view the small farm closed due to profit?

To implement transition we should focus on rural areas and farmers. Small size farms are a key element

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS, MESSAGES AND COMMENTS:

The communication to discourage use of pesticides

Traditional high quality food can strength a bio region or is a limit to diversify the production?

For the transition to bioregion how useful would be an interdisciplinary collaboration?

Over the sustainability regenerative agriculture brief explanation of existent methodology: keyline design and permaculture,

Shared personal experiences for NGO's and Mexico city