

European Rural Sustainability Gathering 2014

18-21 sept. 2014- Beaufortain – France

REPORT



Report of the Field trip feed back and debate

FIELD TRIPS FEED BACK:



Field trip 1:

- Ferme du Praz : cow milk producers selling milk to Beaufort cooperative (where it is processed into Beaufort cheese DOP)
- Beaufort cheese cooperative and shop
- Association d'Animation du Beaufortain (AAB) (training, support to local associations, social and cultural services)

What would you like to keep as good practice?

- Vision of independence from banks/markets
- Reliance on personal networks as well as collective action
- Combination of pragmatism and strong personal values: e.g. Farmer we met makes same salary as his hired workers.
- Focus on quality/values and not just maximizing profits
- Sense that they have to do it themselves
- High level of solidarity; fought off McDonald's
- Cooperative model
- Persistence/faith in their approach (Emmental model seemed more profitable in 1970s, but Beaufort stuck to their approach and ultimately have been successful.
- Highly participatory/consultative/democratic process

What questions/doubts emerged?

- It is hard to relate to situation: here only 11 people unemployed, relatively high incomes, no conflicting visions for development, extremely high civic engagement, strong solidarity, no multinational corporations or major state projects invading them. There is also government funding for civil society.
- What do they do to manage price/quantity going forward: increase production and lower price? Reduce production to maintain high price?
- When does growth (in cheese production) stop?
- Can they balance agriculture and tourism?
- Land and housing access: how can younger farmers get farms?
- Long-term planning (what about big external issues: climate change? TTIP?)

What suggestions do you have?

- Explore new means of integrating agriculture and tourism?
- Are there other means of capturing more income from tourism?
- Forest: logging, wood processing (there are models in Tyrol of small-scale, mountain-adapted, sustainable forestry. Combines with agriculture as an additional income source)
- Non-timber forest products industry?
- Use of online marketing?
- Other places are experimenting with mechanisms to get land for younger farmers.



Field trip 2:

- Ferme du Bersend: sheep shepherd and cheese maker producing cheese on farm and selling to local shops
- Slaughterhouse and cutting plant (used by local shepherd to sell their meat directly to customers)
- Fondation FACIM (promoting local natural, cultural, agricultural and industrial heritage)

After we visits the group made a list of things that impressed and inspired us most. We summarized this list into 4 final points that captured all our the remarks of the group

1) Strength of the Community

For example:

- Young peasant farmers - being able to sell locally
- Financing of the buildings largely done with local funds
- Being able to work collectively
- Open, not closed for influences from outside

2) Courage to create your own job/ design your own life

- Young farmers choose to live the rural life as peasants.
- designing the slaughterhouse together!

3) Sense of Territory/proud on regional traditions

For example:

- Preserving of old/local races of sheep
- Producing local and traditional products, like the cheese!
- Proud on the region

4) Sense of (ecological) sustainability

For example

- Not going for the maximum, rather for an optimum
- Cow herds in the mountains: understanding the importance of protecting the quality grasslands by not to do overgrazing: max number of cows per area.
- Using the "waste", The whey leftovers from the cheesemaking was used for feeding the porks: Closing the cycles. Also in the slaughterhouse almost all that comes in (the whole animal) is used for something: almost nothing is thrown away.



Field trip 3:

- Ferme des Sapins: angora goat shepherd producing and selling wool, bread and apple juice on her farm and in farmers shops + meeting with a young farmer who returned to her father farm after studying.
- ski station : [SEM Arêches-Beaufort](#) (chart of sustainable tourism, source of season jobs for shepherds in winter, owned by local municipalities)
- Association d'Animation du Beaufortain (AAB) (training, support to local associations, social and cultural services)

The good practice we can learn is **self-initiative and strong cooperation** - working in committees and cooperatives of inhabitants, small-scale producers, farmers, municipalities, entrepreneurs and others that work or live in the area.

Despite of it during the trip a question about the possibilities of participation for local inhabitants appeared as the specialists could not give examples of **public participation outside the official forms** – committees and formal public meetings.

One of many successful local initiatives in the region: **farmers shop run by producers** who control production as well as sales.

Flexibility and possibilities to adapt to harsh circumstances of local activists not just to survive but to create a stories of success doing it on their own, creating a cooperation or with informative, financial or consultative support from municipality or external sources.

Courage, creativity and long-term effect on sustainable development - *Association d'Animation du Beaufortain (AAB)* is an great example of around 30 year experience of innovative solutions for local development, **connecting public and private sector**, informing and supporting local people and municipalities.

Participants of the trip were inspired by **targeted work of union of 4 municipalities** that was made to solve problems and rise development in environmental, economic, social and other fields, signing contracts for territorial cooperation, working on development plans, researches and planning documents activities as well as organizing common activities and realising projects.

Seasonality can be a great value if it's used smart! People can find their way to work different job each season and take it is an advantage while local tourism services and municipality could expand the vision of activities in the summer and other seasons out of skiing (8 month a year there are 80 000 cold beds that are rented just in the winter period and still it is higher demand than the supply).

Youth and young families live Beaufort and come back to live here – as the specialists say it is because of life quality, beautiful landscape and clean environment. Municipality provides support for building the houses for new families which is highly important, but **activities on creating environment for high qualified jobs (especially for women) outside the cities, remote working centres would be suggestible** (as the population is increasing, but birth rate decreasing).



Maintaining and developing ski stations (owned by local municipalities) and other tourism attractions is great example of finding **balance between human activities and nature**. Social and economic processes are taken into account in spatial planning which is something we all can learn from – sustainable making of artificial snow, measuring ecological footprint of one drive in cable drive and other activities.

Key of sustainability is to find the balance. We met a farmer who is shepherd in summer and ski instructor in winter: he didn't need more money or cattle as he had enough work and money to maintain his family. The same was expressed by the head of municipality while talking about tourism. Here we met people who know the limits and **work for more quality not quantity**.

Debate and exchange with a panel of local stakeholders



- Emmanuel Huguet, mayor of Villard municipality mayor and vice-president of Communauté de Communes
- Leopold Viallet, president of Savoie Vivante
- Pascal Meunier, ex-elected representative and ex-worker of Communauté de communes
- Martine Viallet, Fondation FACIM
- Loic Perriault, Farmer (Ferme du Bersend)

· ANSWERS TO SOME COMMENTS OF THE FEED BACK FROM FIELD TRIPS

History of the territory and its link with the sense of community:

When the territory developed, inhabitants were mainly farmers, whose agriculture was based on auto-sufficiency and mutual aid. This has been an important element for the building of sense of community and solidarity.

It is also important to highlight the crisis the territory lived in the 60-70's when dams were built: farmers lost their pastures and had to find an alternative solution: it is when the milk cooperative was created. Thanks to financial compensation, municipalities could invest in ski stations (ski lift) and mountain tracks that favored mecanisation (and to bring milk back to the cooperative).

Access to Land

It is true that land prices are high but we are in a touristic territory. When tourists buy rural houses here, big farm buildings usually include some surrounding land (it is not possible to separate one farm in different plots). That explains why Access to land is difficult in property. However renting is possible as the owners don't have problem in renting lands to farmers.

Tourism: sustainability and diversification

The tourism sector has a complex organisation in Beaufortain. Four ski stations are owned by 4 municipalities and they maintained this competence. The federation of municipalities doesn't have any specific authority in tourism so it is difficult to develop a global touristic strategy in Beaufortain region. Ski stations have a vision on their own development but not on the whole territory. Some collective actions have been launched however, thanks to national contract (trekking routes, mountain bike), but they did not reach the ski stations. Even if they try to diversify, it is still difficult to implement a 4 season's tourism (they are quite dependent on the schools holidays).

Link between agriculture and other sectors / stakeholders (tourism, municipalities).

Farmers are good working together and municipalities do not intervene. The federation of municipalities only took action in the improvement of roads in mountains and in the slaughterhouse. However this local slaughterhouse was created and partly paid (50%) through Beaufortain cooperative by farmers.

When FACIM started its heritage project with farmers, it provided an impetus and now, FACIM is no more leading as farmers are now opening their farms, organise snacks etc.. This direct contact with tourists gives a human dimension to tourism and is a real added-value.

Agriculture situation and perspectives.

For farmers, the situation is not always as idyllic as seen: some farmers are becoming bigger, to the detriment of small farmers and land property is concentrated in fewer hands.

There are positive aspects anyway:

- the cooperative does not discriminate small farms to collect milk
- the fact that milk production per cow is limited and GMO's are prohibited in Beaufort cheese specifications helps limiting a development based only on economic grow. As the human size of farms will be a challenge in the future, some local farmers (like in Bersend) suggest to go deeper, introducing organic production for more added value.

· ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

What is the diversity of agriculture production?

Beaufort producers are a majority (140 members of the cheese cooperative – cow cattle and out of it, there are only 4 goat cattle and 1 sheep cattle making cheese or wool). This has limited the development of other productions (goat, sheep, vegetables...). Installing new farmers out of Beaufort production will be a real challenge in the future. There is space for all production but access to land is limited.

Where is the limit of tourism development, how to maintain the balance with agriculture?

In Arêches, complementarity between agriculture and tourism exists for some shepherds that work in the ski station when animal are not in pasture. However, higher incomes given by tourism may demotivate people from following in the agricultural sector. New housing competing with access to land for farmers will also be an issue.

What about international tourism? Are French speaking tourists the sole target?

The touristic infrastructure does not really fit some costumers' expectations (small flats etc). So they would need to invest in higher standards offer to reach foreign tourists.

What is the role of local association (Association d'Animation du Beaufortain) in the creation of community spirit?

AAB was created by visionary people and `layed a strong role in a sofet and sustainable development of the territory. It supported inhabitants and their projects, basing development on local heritage and respect of natural resources. AAB has a federative role in the local territory and brought together local actors around professional or cultural projects, in a participative way.

IN SUMMARY :

1. It's all about :

CONNECTING:

- own initiatives
- Training
- Educating
- Discovering
- Supporting
- Sensatizing
- Dialogue
- Sharing

COOPERATION

“the human size”

2. We accept our limits

- Our own feed for our animals
- Our water resources for energy
- Our own local animal races
- Limits to quantities of production
- Limits to what nature can carry

=> sufficiency economy

3. We want our Markets back

- Local food chains
 - Local services and training
 - Local processing
- => our added value

4. Yes We Do

- We take our own initiatives
 - We get ourselves organised
 - We reconnect though
- COOPERATION**

5. We take our time

- Slow change
- Slow feed
- Slow food
- Slow tourism

Longivity

Sustainability

Resilience



Report of the thematic workshop on HERBS & HEALTH

Participants

Helène(FR), Jeanine Sochas (FR), Catherine Marquot (FR), Fabian Baier (AT), Christophe Valaz (FR), Jean-Michel (FR), Elżbieta Strzelecka (PL), Sascha Gvozdic (KOS), Mihailo Jovanovic (SR), Leopold Viallet (FR), Jean-Paul Tranchant (FR)

Moderation: Philippe Barret, Simone Matouch

1) Idea & goals

- To learn about different situations, activities and problems to face related to the cultivation, gathering, processing and selling of herbs and aromatic plants
- To get an idea about the needs on different levels, in different countries: what kind of support would local actors need
- To get an idea about potential activities on a European level, to discuss the idea of a 2nd European Herb Gathering

2) Round of presentations

- Helène, Beaufort region: is carrying out workshops on medicinal plants, cooperation with AAB (Association d'Animation du Beaufortain).

They did some research on the knowledge about medicinal plants. The idea was to learn from the elders and to transmit the knowledge. Needs at the moment: an employee to take the project further

- Jeanine, AAB (Association d'Animation du Beaufortain): they wanted to start this project again. They took the opportunity of any event in order to present the results

AAB is running a solidarity project with a country near Tibet to train young doctors

A EU wide meeting on herbs should include different levels: professional and general public

- Catherine, Pyrenees: there is a tradition of a family based knowledge nowadays this knowledge moves from farmers to pharmacists. Nowadays there is an official list of 120 plants which are allowed to use - all the others are automatically forbidden to be sold

There is a special school at Lyon offering trainings to become a herb specialist.

Catherine could imagine to organise a meeting related to herbs & health in the SW of France.

- Christoph, Beaufortain: herb producer and seller. He produces and sells 25 plants. He's talking about 184 plants allowed (E.g. Calendula cannot be sold - the pharmaceutical industry wants to keep the monopoly). It's difficult to make the living out of that work. One has to explain again how to use the plants, it's a mental approach - we have to find our way going around the regulations

There is a collective dynamic between herb producers forming a kind of cooperative (collective work of N, S Savoie countries): once a year they visit a farm. This creates some kind of link throughout the year and creates strength.

going of an organic label doesn't make too much sense as it is very expensive

- Jean-Michel: trained as a botanist, retired now, acts completely informal today in order to promote the knowledge about herbs and their use. He uses only plants locally grown

There is an association in Albertville organising trainings around herbs (how to use, as food, ...), in winter they are offering aromatherapy. There is a high demand!

A young woman was running a school project where the children had to take care of their own garden, they also went to the market to sell their products

- Elżbieta, Euro Academy, there is a great knowledge on herbs in Eastern countries. There is a long tradition especially held by women. Many villages had their herb experts. The new generation doesn't use so much herbs anymore

There is a Grundtvig project running on how to use herbs in order to train women - educational aspects are very important!

Polish herb shops are under threat - the international pharmacy wants to stop the production. People normally cannot observe what's going on, what is happening and where threats might come from.

In Poland there is some kind of 2nd movement: many people want to use herbs themselves, want to know how to do it themselves, there is also quite a number of producers of cosmetics

European Landscape Convention: there is a movement of education - that might be of interest could we include the use of modern technology in order to encourage more young people in the topic?

- Sascha, Serbia: NGO carrying out projects. At the moment they are doing sthg. on fruit producers but would be interested to do sthg. on herbs: to plant and to initiate a seed bank. It's important to transfer the knowledge!
- Mihailo, Serbia: special interest in wild herbs. A lot of traditional recipes are using herbs, but they are not used any more.

It would be interesting to have a look on how herbs react to the climate

- Jean-Paul, FR: working as a free lance consultant for small scale companies in the food sector. He is especially interested in aromatic plants as part of local products.

He can give advice on what is important when you produce food using herbs

it is important to offer training on how to implement the hygiene rules

3) General goals

- Raise the awareness for cooking with herbs (this would have more impact on the surface: producers could raise their production)
- Safeguard the free access to herbs!
- organise a workshop on a strategy to face the bad image herbs might have

4) Before a next meeting

- we need more background information (on legal framework, situation in different countries) before a next meeting
- Safeguard the free access to herbs!

5) Next steps

- Identify in each country existing networks of actors
- Get a European overview on what are the rules for production and selling and what are the obstacles?
- Collection of trans-European knowledge on the use of herbs
- invite existing unions to share their knowledge

6) Possible contributions by participants

- Jeannine: propose a cooperation with the Regional for a next meeting; sharing information (act as a networker)
- Sascha: help with funding
- Christoph: help to spread the information
- Catherine: to work on regulations
- Elżbieta: provide contacts
- Jean-Michel: facilitate from a local point of view

Workshop Report on: CIVIC DIALOGUE

Participants: Aurélie, Catherine, Sasha, Magda, Lamir, Naser, Ela, Jeanine, Veztela, Slobodan, Ivina, Jim, Christine, Rostyslav, David, Philippe, Marina.

1. Objectives and steps of the workshop
2. Savoie Vivante and civic dialogue
3. Some elements on the French situation
4. Forum Synergies and civic dialogue
5. How do you see the civic dialogue- Your experience (photolanguage)
6. Your wishes – expectations- issues we should work on / Your offer – contribution – contacts

1. CIVIC DIALOGUE WORKSHOP: what do we talk about?

Local dimension - dialogue between different stakeholders (inhabitants, farmers, associations, industries, local authorities) : We consider that dialogue between different local stakeholders is a key element to solve issues or prepare sustainable development. The word used is Dialogue but behind, there is a broader dimension as we consider Democracy as a pillar for local and sustainable development.

Political dimension – dialogue between citizens and policy makers: Fs enhance dialogue between local stakeholders and decision maker on a local regional national and European level (ex: participation in www.arc2020.eu).

2. SAVOIE VIVANTE: 10 years of work in territorial dialogue and sustainable development processes

INTRO: Savoie Vivante started in the 2000 to work on territorial dialogue as conflicts raised, mainly around land use: agriculture and natural resource, urbanism and agriculture.

Territorial Dialogue and Sustainable Development Processes

*"Humans and territories cooperating"
"Because change needs dialogue"*

Who we are

The task of Savoie Vivante is to develop local, social and environmental dynamics fostering dialogue and initiatives.

To fulfill this task the best we can, the association created a council for dialogue and sustainable development.

Local elected representatives (from villages, cities, and Savoy) are part of this council, together with heads of local public institutions in partnership with the Savoy Council, volunteers and employees from associations, heads of associations (working or retired)...

Those members come from the fields of development, prospect, tourism, protection of natural resources and spaces, mobility, agriculture, participation...

They are concerned with the future of the territories of Savoy, and think that governance is the very factor needed for an harmonious, shared, accepted and sustainable development of our territories.

This council is open to all : members of the association, partners, individuals.

Why we act

Our territories are changing very quickly, their management keeps getting more complex, use conflicts are increasing and the inhabitants want to participate actively to the evolution of their environment.

Dialogue :

- helps mutual comprehension*
- allows us to build a shared opinion of the raised problem*
- increases the quality and the relevance of the proposed solutions*
- helps the social acceptance and appropriation of the project*
- increases citizens' participation into public life*

We notice a need for culture, knowledge and skill in the fields of dialogue and concertation.

We act for better shared and lesser contested choices.

Our Public

→ Chief Projects and elected representatives

→ Professional organizers

→ Participative authorities

Our Objectives

- 1. To develop culture of dialogue, meetings and mediation and their practice in Savoy.*
- 2. To support elected representatives and territories within meeting and mediation process.*
- 3. To foresee and keep watch on the stakes which need dialogue.*

Our actions

Our rules : confidentiality, to respect other's opinions without judgement, neutrality

1/ To teach, to inform, to show

Teaching professionals

Mediation and Territorial Dialogue, Communication and Cooperation with groups and local governments, Mobilization and Animation

Teaching elected representatives

To initiate and animate a dialogue, to animate a public meeting, to create open commissions, build projects together, to raise the participation of the citizens...

Organizing events and round tables

"The elected representatives of the 21st Century, mediators into their territories ? How to go beyond conflicts and mobilize an efficient citizenship ?" (13th of May of 2014)

2/ To intervene after request

Advice to local governments, chief projects, participative authorities, elected representatives and professionals :

- *Methodological support : processes of dialogue*
- *Outsider's enlightenment, feedback*
- *Animation of dialogues, meetings, events...*
- *Putting you in touch with professionals of mediation*

3/ To foresee the stakes

- *Common approach of the stakes the members of the association and of the council raised.*
- *Elaboration of advice to initiate territorial dialogue process*

Stakes needing dialogue and already identified by the council :

1. *Economy and increasing of our resources for our development : how to install a local guidance of resources management ? How to save our land resources ?*
2. *To build our future with young people : what place is to be given to young people in territories development projects ?*
3. *To teach the 21st Century citizens : how to make the understading of the stakes easier, going from local to global ? What importance is to be given to participative democracy ?*
4. *To sustain services to populations : What is the level of acces in rural areas ? How to prevent the economic problem of the aging of population ? Which local coordination ?*
5. *To foresee a new tourism : What future for middle mountain economy with climate changes ? How to convert touristic economy towards a sustainable one ?*

Contact us ?

You would like advice, an intervention, or to ask questions : contact us !

Aurélie LE MEUR, director

David CHABANOL, representative

Some complementary words on SAVOIE VIVANTE work:

TRAINING ACTIVITIES TO PROFESSIONNALS: 100 participants received this training (technicians from local municipalities, associations etc.) in the last 10 years and they are now assessing which impact it had in their practice, if they managed to implement participative processes and which difficulties they faced.

The training focuses on the following topics: Added-value of territorial dialogue, steps of the process, tools and methods, role of mediator.

ADVICE: They proposed in 2014 to offer methodology for Local municipalities to build their territorial project with teachers and parents in the frame of the education reform on primary school rhythms.

They also organised meetings on plan climate-Energy on a territory with different stakeholders and inhabitants (60 people from professional, association, social professional from agriculture, tourism, environment, local mayors)

Results on dialogue with governments: as tension rose on the management of a town centre, and was identified by Savoie Vivante, they proposed a participative process to take into account inhabitants' vision and proposals (agreed with advisor office) that were then included in "plan climate".

3. French situation related to "CIVIC DIALOGUE" - Philippe Barret

A. We will explain that :

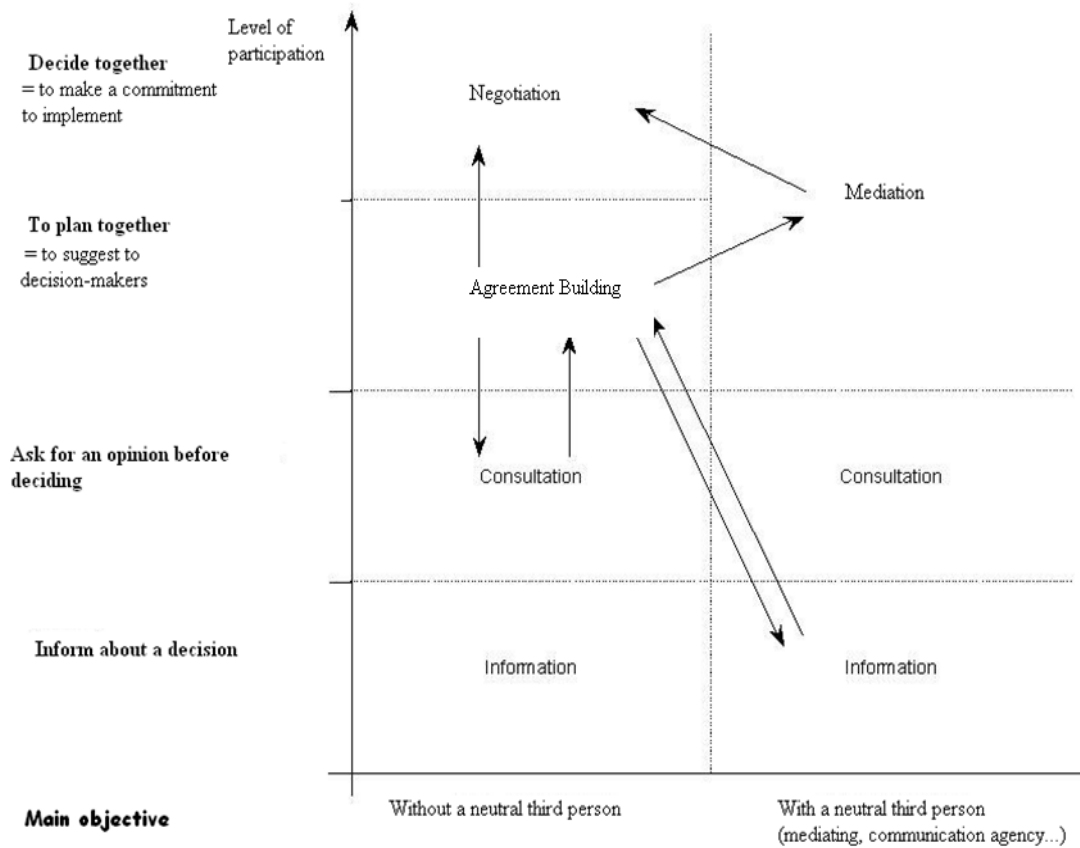
- Environnemental mediation is not commonly used in France, but participation and dialog processes similar to environmental mediation are more and more implemented
- We propose to define different kinds of processes depending on the participation level of the stakeholders
- The legal framework related to public participation changed a lot since the 90's
- Several national programs support the resolution of environmental issues by dialog, but there are still several limitations

B. Participation and dialog processes similar to environmental mediation are more and more implemented

- The purpose is not only to solve conflicts, but also to promote dialog between stakeholders whose interests are different
- In many cases, the dialog is facilitated by one of the stakeholders (no neutral person)
- Stakeholders are invited to build common proposals to be presented to decision-makers



C. Different levels of participation



D. Some changes in the legal framework

- The Aarhus European convention and then a change in the French constitution established the right of the population to be informed and to be involved in environmental decisions.

(Comments: the Aarhus convention is in favour of participative democracy : each country/ state MAY ensure citizens access to information and participation in decision making process in the field of environment.

In France, it was integrated in a law called "Democratie de proximite" and included in the French constitution in 2006.

E. Some fields related to territorial dialogue

- water management,
- biodiversity and nature conservation (farmers, hunters),
- land planning,
- hazards prevention,
- local development

Questions:

What is the context? Why is balance of power shifting from government to citizens ? Why citizens are interested in participating in local development and decision? Is it linked to a change in the political economy, linked to globalization?

Answer: high level of education of citizens, weakening of state (not only concept of public interest, but lack of capacity to impose strong regulations on nature conservation and biodiversity, so the way is to speak and find agreement. Higher availability of information.

4. Forum Synergies and Civic dialogue.

See website: <http://forum-synergies.eu/rubrique94.html>

Steps 1: Workshop organised in August 2013 with 25 participants

Asking to participants“ What is important to make democracy work? And also suggestions: what should be the issues/ methods to share and on which we could work on the next years : involvement of youth, minorities, links between participative and representative democracy, democracy in crisis time.

Steps 2: identification of success stories throughout Europe by Pierre-Yves Guiheneuf (Some examples are forum on mountain forest, participative budget, open Forum on food, panel of citizens, conflict mediation). It still needs some analysis (Which topics, processes, what are the needs and background behind ?)

We also map organisations that are active to promote, organise territorial dialogue in Europe.

You can also participate and send information contacting us our through our form :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14xG8RE-tVDkXX856QI5NJSqavNW9cBO1NW0lcfqkTG8/viewform>

Step 3: workshop in in ~~December 2014~~ – postponed to week-end of 12 April 2015

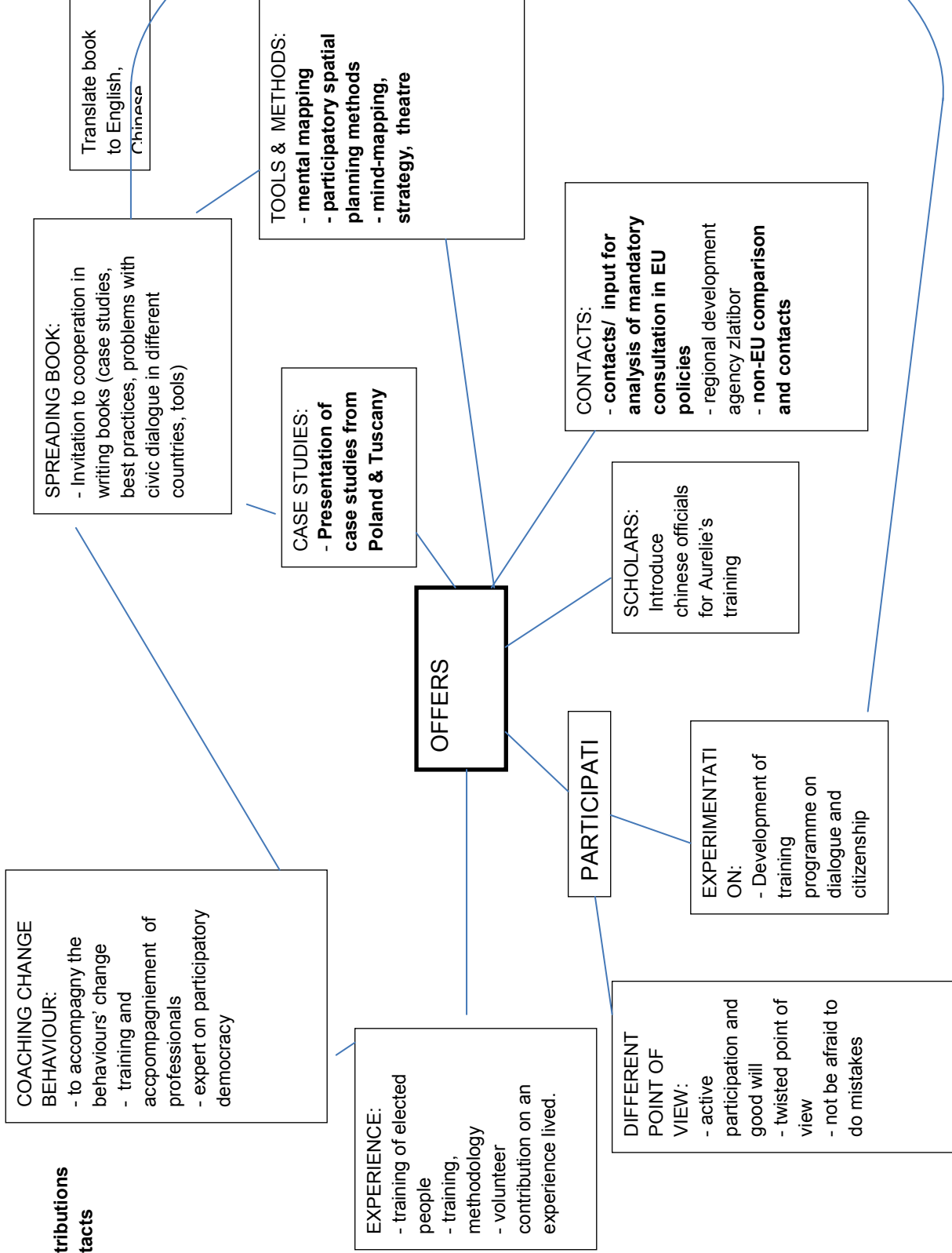
5. How do you see the civic dialogue- Your vision , your experience (photolanguage).

- Civil society feeding the government
- State avoiding civic dialogue
- Slow progress of civic dialogue
- Take care of the other when there is a conflict / Prendre soin de l'autre, donner (quand conflit d'intérêt)
- Calm situation to start dialogue / Etablir le calme pour dialoguer
- The thorns of the process
- Listening / L'ecoute
- Solidarity: importance of the group despite different needs / Solidarité: importance du collectif malgré besoins différents
- Gathering citizens around ideas
- Positive vision of the effect of civic dialogue: celebration at the end
- Linkage between citizens during the process
- Citizens should be like an eagle (watch and speak)
- Serenity after dialogue : to look in the same direction / La sérénité de l'après- dialogue, regarder dans la même direction
- Civic dialogue make emerging new ideas, light, it changes the landscape / Le “civic dialogue”fait jaillir de nouvelles idée, de la chaleur, de la lumière, change le paysage.
- Balance between business and community
- Need to have a guide

6. Wishes – expectations- issues we should work on

NETWORKING / EXAMPLES	TOPICS / ISSUES FOR THE EXCHANGE	ADVOCACY ON EU LEVEL	PRINCIPLES AND CONCERNS RELATED TO DIALOGUE	TRAINING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concertation in (IPA) RD programmes ??? - Models and methods - To learn more about new methods & good examples regarding 1) solving problems/conflicts 2) creating new strategy/ spatial local plans with local authorities - Exchange and analysis of best practice in Civic Dialogue - To share successful results of civic dialogues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support in policy understanding - To identify the different ways to practice civic dialogue in different countries - How to change mentality with education and information - Rural – Urban dialogue - Global dialogue about civic dialogue ??? - Survey: Legal framework on local level - Which financial tools to train Civic dialogue (FdF in France, what about other countries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International organisation must invest in civil society in a post-communist country - Advocacy (Portage politique) in favour of dialogue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dialogue of small community with governments about local development support (needs based) - Practicing the agreed (how can we ensure decision-makers practice the agreed) - Critical number ??? - Facing realistic changes ??? - Patience, repeating, pedagogy - Clarify problems of “representation” ??? - Legal framework to allow participation 	<p>TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - training of elected representatives - non-violent communication methods - bilateral training between France and another European country on “Territorial Dialogue” - citizen education programme

**7. Offers
Contributions
Contacts**



Report of the thematic workshop on RURAL YOUTH

I. Methodology and work of the group in the session

This session of the workshop was aimed to bring out possible initiatives, ideas, activities, that might be undertaken in the future with the focus on Rural and Youth in Europe with in FS work. Also it had aim to raise some kind of motivation and maybe enable kind of commitments for the future, among the participants.

Working group was divided in three groups according to previously structured areas and fields of their interest noted on the flip chart in previous session on presentation and identification of topics of interest:

1. Staying rural has a "BAD IMAGE"
2. How to get the young back after they finished higher education (1 vote)
3. How to motivate people to work on the topic? (8 votes)
4. How to make them feel that they are part of community (5 votes)
5. Bring together with different stakeholders (4 votes – merged with number 3)
6. How to prepare rural areas for young coming back (6 votes)
7. Access to land, access to capital (8 votes)
8. New links and ways to consumers (0 votes- merged to number 12)
9. Create a place where to interact (1 vote)
10. How to keep local traditional food (1 vote)
11. Finding new income combinations with farming (e.g. renewable energies) (4 votes)
12. Create community funds to attract young families, housing (merged to number 6)
13. Provide education in rural places (4 votes)
14. Education and rural areas (6 votes)

The topics that were selected with most votes in the voting were:

1. How to motivate people to work on youth topic together/ with different stakeholders
2. Access to land and capital for youth
3. Preparation of areas for youth coming back to live in them
4. Education in rural areas
5. Youth as part of community

As a result of the voting system the four working groups were formed:

1. Networking (Ref to topic1: How to motivate people to work on youth topic together/ with different stakeholders)
2. Access to land and capital (Ref. to topic 2)
3. Rural Community and youth(Ref. to topic 3: Preparation of areas for youth coming back to live in them; Topic 5: Youth as part of community)
4. How to link education and rural areas(Ref. to topic 5)

Each working group had a task to answer three questions:

- What they would like or can do?
- How they can do it?
- Which resources they might contribute with or what is necessary to get the things going as support that might be received from FS?

All the groups have produced the expected outcomes depending on the group's dynamics. Due to the time limit (extended time limit of the first presenter) the possibility for presentation in working group plenary and coming with concrete group conclusion was not possible. Therefore the possibility for presentation and discussion with the other groups was open on the general plenary session. That was better option which was used to acknowledge the whole plenary what were the outcomes, ideas and initiatives from the WG Youth.

II. Outcomes as reported on plenary from the working groups

WG1: Networking

(The group was constituted of the Macedonian NEA representatives, RDN Macedonia Representative as rapporteur, and the host speaker from Beaufortain.)

This group has indicated the need to open the issue of involvement of youth as part of already existing cooperatives. Their proposal is to try to engage the educated rural youth into the ongoing cooperatives' functions as managers, engineers, etc. The offered resources they want or can put in are the funds of the rural development programmes (applicable for/in Macedonia only). The group would need support in networking and linking to exchange experiences in cooperatives functioning in Europe and the issue of youth involvement in them.

Here is the group presentation:

Focus on: Agricultural cooperatives

Actions: -To include youth managers and agricultural engineers in the cooperatives
-Creating networks of the cooperatives in the Europe to share experiences and improve markets

Resources: Rural development programs funds in Macedonia

Possibilities for provision of education and training to rural youth

FS to support with links on cooperatives topic on European level, facilitate programs and working groups on cooperatives linkages.

WG2: Access to Land and Capital

(Participants: Jorgen, Gordana, Daniel, etc)

This group has concrete proposals on future work related to the issue of access to land and capital in order to improve the existing networks, deliver knowledge and advocacy. The participants offer their knowledge and networks. They need support in guidance, some money and more networking.

Group presentation:

1. How?

PLATFORM FOR INSPIRATION, INFORMATION, INTERACTION

- Documenting and sharing the successful stories
- Advocacy for newcomers
- Education about the importance for local organic and health food to all community members by
- Motivation

2. With whom?

- Governmental organisations
- Private sector
- NGOs
- Schools
- Successful farmers
- NGOs local and wider

3. Resources:

What we need?

- Broadening network
- Seed money
- Sharing experiences
- Guidance

What we offer?

- Existing network across Europe
- Network of young sustainable farmers
- Supporting organizations
- Group of motivated young people

WG3: Rural Community and youth

(Participants and presenters: Malena (Hela sverige ska leva), Anneli (Kodukant Estonia); Anita (LRF Latvia), Milosh Slovakia, Magda Poland/ Germany)

This group has ideas on enable positive change of youth in the rural communities through exchanges of experiences and positive case studies. The focus is enabling youth leadership and youth entrepreneurship supported by the rural communities. The aim is to interlink youth with positive cases from different realities in Europe. This is their action plan structure:

YOUTH – POSITIVE POWER

(for communities and villages below 2500 people)

- Focus: **Youth leaders.** (Youth understood as aged 23 and older)
- INSPIRE: Share and exchange events of good examples or solutions or experiences in different countries related to the youth and youth leaders.
- GIVE: Tools and practical suggestions about the position of youth in the communities
- EXCHANGES: Looking at each region with helicopter perspective and the one that come should be involved in the development of the regions. Sharing and making real casestudies.
- GOAL: Youth to be able to live, work and contribute to communities!!! Raise the number and community structures with young people and increase the companies owned by young people (not just agriculture)
- RESOURCES:
- The group indicated possibility to provide their local experiences and possibilities to exchange the ideas with the others in the group and the whole gathering.
 - The action will need support in structuring, networking and giving European dimensions to this idea.

WG4: How to link education and rural areas

This group has comes with some conclusions and proposals on possible changes and adaptation of the education in rural areas. The group has provided basis for the tangible issues that need attention or actions in rural areas. Later during the discussions Kodukant representative came out with ideas on how to contribute to the improvement of the non- formal education.

Key points of group action plan/needs assessment presentation:

- The rural education should be different and adapted to the rural realities and needs apart from the vocational education nowadays.
- It has to be close to the jobs in rural areas.
- Decentralized schools and educations for rural areas, people and their needs.
- “really understand what you are doing” Choice must be open, level of education equality should be different form the education in general – the new curriculums should be developed for rural education that is crucial for the rural needs: to learn and understand (biology and linked sciences, biochemistry, food, farming practices etc.)

(in annexe: Savoie Vivante initiatives on Youth)

Workshop Report on: FLEXIBILITY IN HYGIENE RULES FOR LOCAL PRODUCERS

Hygiene rules for local and small scale producers: Jean Paul Tranchant, quality and product development consultant (*presentation in annexe*)

- Hygiene is carefully controlled in mass production, as well as in local production.
- Cases like BSE or dioxin in chicken occur in mass production and become viral in media, however, small scale production struggles with problems of hygiene, too.
- The trend is that regulations are getting more complicated and that they globalize
- The more complex is our product, the least flexibility regarding legislation. Factors:
 - processing (i.e. heating),
 - product safety (i.e. packaging),
 - allergenes,
 - meat (veterinary control)
- Local markets -> shorter shelf life -> less risk
- Requirements for small producers to cope with EU regulations and win some flexibility in legislation are: expertise and human resources.
- Possible solutions: training, local producers associations, cooperatives
- Discussion:
 - [?] What about traditional practices/recipes that don't fit the standards in terms of equipment? Experience from Macedonia, Serbia, Poland: the law is not flexible, authorities very strict.
 - [.] If the process is not automatic, the producer must prove, that there's a person responsible for quality control in the company
 - [.] One can provide additional analyses to confirm the quality
 - [.] It's good to be proactive and creative in convincing authorities that the process is under our control

Direct marketing and organic production: Xavier Tornier, pear and apple producer

He has 11ha (7 ha apples, 4 of pears) in Albertville area. Almost all is sold as fresh fruit (95%), 5% as juices. He started in conventional production but costs were too high : he always needed more and more inputs (pesticides). So he switched to organic starting in 2000. He's proud of it, also regarding the health impact on his neighbours.

He produces 150-200 tons of fruit/year:

- 30% are sold through local food chain in direct selling: his costumers can buy directly on the farm 3 days a week between September and June ; he also sells directly in local markets an in 2 farmers shops (Maurinne and Bauges). He also sells through AMAP (CSA).

- 70% are sold indirectly (through organic chains) : it stays in South and East of France but he has no control over the price of fruit that go through these networks.

Regulations for processed fruit are so strict that they outsource apple juice production to a certified plant. But traceability is ensured: is now the juice he sells is made with his fruits. For him, it seems there are more and more regulations; organic regulation in France is much stricter than in other EU countries. For him “flexibility” in other countries = unfair competition, since he has to comply with much stricter regulations. It leads to differences in prices and makes the market less understandable for consumers. Compliance is a financial burden, approval takes a long time and a lot of money (certification costs are too high for small producers).

Questions on hygiene rules and certification:

- even if producers comply rules, they are the final responsible for their product at the end.
- until 1992, there were no formal legal regulations for organic: it was all guaranteed by farmers. AMAP association also provides audits (different than formal certification) for organic producers. Sometimes standards are higher than in formal certification. It also based on trust which is useful for local systems but has some limits when networks are growing.

School catering : Regis Bouton, head cook at Beaufort secondary school.

They serve 500 meals a day, providing food to the schools of 4 municipalities. They must comply with HACCP and food safety regulations.

In 2007, an environmental directive required 20% of organic food in public institutions (schools) in France. In Beaufortain, it was developed by AAB and local government.

Cereals (flour, bread, pasta), fruits (pear, apples) and cheese make up a 12% in organic. Also seasoning vegetables.

They worked with other schools to jointly purchase organic foods, launching a joint procurement. They developed two activities:

- . providing good food - delivered fresh, and then processed in the school canteen
- . educating - activities with students and their parents, rediscovering the flavour of the region, round tables, a newspaper. *“We rediscovered taste.”*

Difficulties to buy local:

- To get around strict rules related to „local providers“ they developed “roundtables”. Students can meet the farmer who’s supplying the school, learn about what they are eating. (Q: How does this help you get around strict rules? A: Roundtables were a way to attract **local** producers so the school could comply with the local environmental directive to buy local organic foods.). It seems that the law will now allow to buy a small percentage to local producers.

- Buying directly cheese to coop: *“We have a partnership with cheese co-op, but EU food safety rules say that to use cheese in schools it must be in a particular type of plastic wrapping, so cheese from Beaufortain had to be sent to a different city, 50 km away, wrapped in plastic and shipped back, at a much higher price. So I spoke to my headmistress and she agreed that it was environmentally irresponsible to do it that way. We invited a departmental food safety official and*

someone from the co-op to sit down and discuss it. The official agreed that they should make an exception. There is a rule that if cheese is being sold to a private individual, it doesn't have to be wrapped in plastic, so to make it "legal," they officially designated the school as an individual!"

Growing and selling locally organic vegetables: Vincent Koupfrsmitt , organic farmer from the municipality.

He lives in small village, works in municipal government but also rents land and farms as a side line. His goal is to demonstrate organic agriculture. People here are close to nature but there doesn't seem a strong attachment to organic agriculture: they hide behind" their beautiful environment, tell themselves they are natural without really understanding it.

He now has 2 000 m² certified organic. Paying for organic certification uses up to 20% of his earnings. Is it worth it? He decided to do it as a way to demonstrate to others that organic production is possible.

He tried to do direct marketing (sort of CSA model), but most people around here have their own gardens, so they were not very much demand. So instead he joined Roundtable in school, and last year he sold 400KG potatoes, also salad greens, vegetables. It is very small compared to full needs of canteens but it is a good way to educate kids. He also started a cooperation with the local butcher (adding herbs to some sausage) and with restaurants.