How Biodistricts are empowering and re-embedding agroecological food systems in local economies?

Introduction to Biodistrics at International and European level

Jostein Hertwig
International level - the Global Alliance for Organic Districts (GAOD) [https://gaod.online/](https://gaod.online/)

Co- create a global network able to support:

- the local development of Organic Districts in different territorial contexts and

- scaling up examples of practical solutions and to

- facilitate the transformation of global food and farming systems as key towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general and Sustainable Food Systems in particular.
Signing the GAOD MoU in Ministry of Agriculture, Rome February 2020
GAOD Founding Partners
Co- Presidents

- **Lee Cha Young**, Mayor of Goesan County and President of ALGOA
- **Salvatore Basile**, president of IN.N.E.R
Partners in all continents
(ref interactive map on the GAOD homepage)
Bio districts in Europe
(ref interactive map on GAOD homepage)
The European Green Deal

25% organic land in Europe by 2030

“The coronavirus crisis has shown how vulnerable we all are. At the heart of the Green Deal the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies point to a new and better balance of nature, food systems and biodiversity. These strategies are a crucial part of the great transition we are embarking upon”

Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-president of the European Commission

LANDMARK MOMENT: EU SETS “25% ORGANIC BY 2030” TARGET
The EU Commission – supporting strategies

• “Farm to Fork”

• “Bringing nature back into our lives”

• “Sustainable blue economy”

• “Action Plan Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil”

• “New European Bauhaus: new actions and funding to link sustainability to style and inclusion”,

EU – ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Brussels, 25.3.2021
COM(2021) 141 final


ON AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

{SWD(2021) 65 final}
2.4. Reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuit

Organic production can help stimulate new business models. ‘Bio districts’ have proven successful in integrating organic farming and other local activities to enhance tourist appeal also in areas that are off the mainstream tourist track. A ‘Bio district’ is a geographical area where farmers, the public, tourist operators, associations and public authorities enter into an agreement for the sustainable management of local resources, based on organic principles and practices. The aim is to maximise the economic and sociocultural potential of the territory. Each Bio district includes lifestyle, nutrition, human relations and nature considerations. This results in local agricultural production that is appreciated by consumers and hence has a higher market value.
Action 14: The Commission will, starting in 2023:

- Encourage Member States to support the development and implementation of "Bio districts".
Promoting consumption

European Committee of the Regions

9th Commission meeting, 27 September 2021

DRAFT OPINION

Commission for Natural Resources

EU action plan for organic farming
Promoting consumption

22. welcomes the recognition of Bio districts as successful tools for rural development and praises the Commission's intention to support their development and implementation within the Member States;

23. recommends that the Commission involve LRAs in the implementation of this initiative;

24. points out that Bio districts are a great opportunity for LRAs to support the development of sustainable food systems, relying on collaboration between farmers, citizens/consumers, local public administrations, associations and commercial, tourist and cultural enterprises acting according to the principles and methods of organic production and consumption;

25. stresses that the integrated and multifunctional approach of Bio districts also brings great benefits in terms of environmental, economic and social sustainability;
26. calls therefore on LRAs to get involved in the creation of Bio districts, supporting the development of bottom-up initiatives which can contribute to developing rural areas and increasing consumption of local organic products;

27. recommends that the European Commission adopt a common framework and guidelines at EU level to guarantee harmonised implementation of Bio districts at Member State level, taking care to preserve their integrated and multifunctional nature as well as their specific features, in order to assure successful take up;

28. recommends that the European Commission set up a network of Bio districts at EU level, to provide support and common services to all Bio districts;
... time for sharing
Thank you for your attention

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