

Webinar

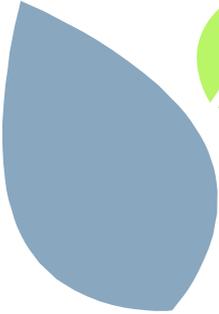


**How Biodistricts are empowering and
reembedding agroecological food systems
in local economies?**

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Principle of CONNECTIVITY

“Ensure proximity and confidence between producers and consumers through promotion of fair and short distribution networks and by re-embedding food systems into local economies.” (HLPF 2019)

- Linked to the element of “Circular and solidarity economy”, reinforces the relationship between sustainable (local) food systems and the circular economy and is also in line with reducing waste and recycling, and generally improving resource efficiency. Food security and nutrition aspects would also come in there.
- May contribute to improve local economies (higher share on revenues, effective response to the food needs of local consumer, increase of fairness through greater participation, etc.)
- Scale of application is foreseen on farm level; actually it should be wider → food system level





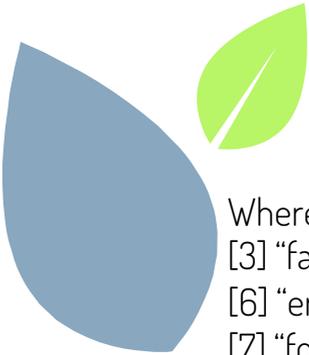
Some reflexions

Ensure **proximity** (→ place, time, social, cultural, values) and **confidence** (→ “the word is worth” + PGS)

between producers and consumers through promotion of **fair** (→ link to fairness principle, bargaining power, retribution of capital&labor...) and **short** (≠ local; take into account organisation aspects of the farm) distribution networks and by **re-embedding food systems into local economies** (→ models like biodistricts or other sustainable local food system approaches)

Others: new technologies, cooperativism, etc.





Regulation EU 2018/848

Whereas

[3] “fair return for complying with the organic production rules”

[6] “ensuring fair competition”

[7] “fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion”

[15] “consumer confidence is crucial in the market for organic food”

[17] “encouraging short distribution channels and local production”

[20] “use of external inputs should be restricted”

[42] Regarding livestock feed “preferably coming from the farmer’s own holding”

[67] “ensure consumer trust in this production method”

[87] Regarding group certification “criteria to determine the geographical proximity of their members”

[Art. 2] “applies to any operator involved, at any stage of production, preparation and distribution, in activities relating to the products referred to in paragraph 1”

[Art. 3.3] “Member States may apply national rules or, in the absence thereof, private standards, on the production, labelling and control of products originating from mass catering operations”

[Art 4. f)] “Encouraging short distribution channels and local production in the various areas of the Union”

Positive aspects included, but delimitation of the scope of application → it doesn't comprise the whole food system!





Examples Spain I

Local agroecological-based agri-food systems (SAlbA)

proposed by Alimentta www.alimentta.com

Consolidation of a new food regime, alternative to the dominant one (“corporate globalized food system”), seeking the synergies produced by cooperation to produce, distribute and consume locally. Its main objective is to expand local consumption (Mediterranean diet) grown organically in its own territory with fair remuneration for work.

Some key aspects: Connect and expand the scale of agroecological experiences through

- Improvement of local income and employment
- Self-centered local development, linked to the territory
- Two ways: downstream and upstream
- Based on cooperation and not on competition
- Horizontal networks and food sovereignty (autonomy) and independence from the globalized market.





Examples II

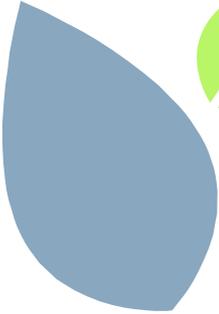
Red Terrae <https://www.tierrasagroecologicas.es/>

Born in 2010 as a partnership of different Spanish Municipalities, mainly rural. Since then, TERRAE has built on the previous experience, focusing on local connections with restaurants and retailers. It has developed more flexible contract conditions regarding time engagement, price and volume.

The TERRAE method and brand emerge as a system of contracts between local Municipalities, restaurants or other consumers, as well as landowners and unemployed people in order to custody both the territory and the agro-landscapes by enhancing agricultural biodiversity and self-employment.

They are engaged also in different projects, as “land bancs”, composting , seeds, etc. based on agroecology.





Examples III

Red de Ciudades por la Agroecología (Network of Cities for Agroecology) <https://www.ciudadesagroecologicas.eu/>

An association formed by local Spanish municipalities. Its objective is to generate a dynamic between local entities in order to build local food systems, respectful with the environment, sustainable, inclusive, resilient, safe and diversified that ensure healthy, sustainable and accessible food to the whole population, and that promote local employment, in line with the perspectives of agroecology and food sovereignty.

Currently there are 21 members, both big cities as Barcelona and Madrid, as well as small rural municipalities.





Examples IV

EcoRegió Catalunya (<https://ecoregio.cat/ecoregion/>)

Based on the German model Regionalwert AG, that offers citizens the practical opportunity to take responsibility for a sustainable and resilient agriculture and food industry through the purchase of regional shares and participation rights, supporting small and medium-sized organic businesses in the region

The desirable goal is to establish regional food sovereignty on the basis of a social contract between producer and consumer, 100% organic.

Started in Catalonia some years ago with the following objectives for 2021-2022:

- Gather 1 million EUR among 300 people to invest in 5 production, transformation, trade and service companies for organic farming
 - Create 20 jobs and transform 700 hectares to organic farming
 - Create 15 pilot micro EcoRegions to start the transition to 100% organic
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Examples V

Ad-hoc Agroecologic territories

Places where agroecologic initiatives arise, accumulate and develop further on its own within there scope.

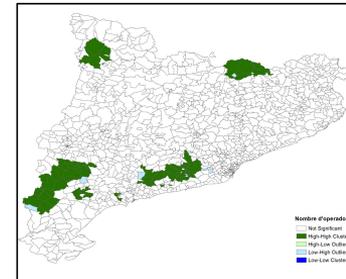
Organic food clusters

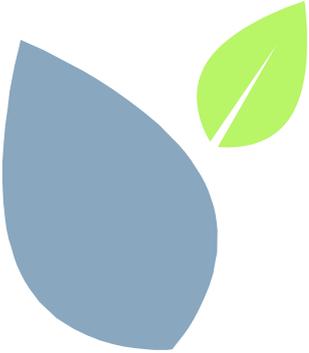
Areas where organic production takes an important part of the economic production of the area, including consciousness of workers, civil society and administration. This could be something like an industrial district based on organic production.



Clusters of organic production within an existing sectorial cluster

Areas specialised in a specific agrarian production that start to convert to organic production (examples: wine, cattle, olives)





Thank you very much!



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