

INNER NETWORK WEEK OF ECO-REGIONS AND BIO-DISTRICTS IN THE KIP PAVILION AT EXPO 2015

By Kim Assaël

The INNER week of Bio-districts and Eco-regions was held from 1 to 6 of September at the KIP Pavilion within the participation of 400.000 visitors of EXPO and a wide spread of initiatives and events to be followed up.

Active communities invited, with similar perspectives to live in attractive territories, brought inside the KIP Pavilion a reciprocal willingness of the partners. The Bio-districts' experiences presented themselves through their actors (local public administrators, citizens, producers, commercial and touristic enterprises), with expositions, exhibitions, tastings, videos and cultural events, all along the week with many sounded results.

Several Regions had their leading role during the days of international participation and sounding representation of Eco-regions: Bio-districts of Cilento (Campania), Val di Gresta and Valle dei Laghi (Trentino Alto Adige), Via Amerina e delle Forre (Lazio), Bio-Luc (Basilicata), international organic regions and Universities also from Tatra Eco-region in Slovakia, Valposchiavo in Switzerland, as winning examples of *attractive sustainable territories*.

Sharing the space with *Rincones del Atlantico*, the Canarias network to disseminate their natural and cultural heritage and know-how, concerning ancient architecture and valuable landscapes in the Spanish islands, was the occasion to outline possible future partnerships and agreements to disseminate experiences from territories, and to plan technical assistance in those territories that express a similar need of a change for a more attractive future.

Core event of the Expo week was the open annual general Assembly of INNER Association. During the meeting all eco-regions participating presented their strategies and the new territories and bio-districts who joined the INNER network as recent members have been welcomed. The President of Valposchiavo region in Switzerland (Cantone Grigioni) stressed how an integrated approach in valorization of cultural landscape, competences, use of resources, mobility, and governance can easily lead to have an entire valley 100% bio, as in their



short-term strategy. Valle dei Laghi Bio-district in Trentino Alto Adige region, presenting the whole chain of production and their collaboration with the bio-district Valle di Gresta, outlined the possibility to define a regional policy concerning the Park of Monte Baldo. The President of the Bio-district of Greve in Chianti underlined the complexity of the governance processes of the Bio-districts.

The whole week was also animated with cultural events, expositions of food products and exhibition of main cultural attractors of each territory, as a showcase for small farmers and agricultural producers of the territories. Tastings of all organic products from Basilicata, Slavacchia, Cilento, and Trentino Alto Adige regions contributed to show that even natural limits, as inside a mountain boundary area, can be efficiently transformed in a cultural value as it was for the rediscovering of the strength inside the ancient wheat, today used there to prepare the organic bread of Valle dei Laghi Bio-district.

Laboratories from Basilicata and Lazio regions have been organised sensitising children and adults about cultural traditions and ancient games in the bio-districts of Basilicata (Bio.luc) and Lazio regions (Via Amerina e delle Forre). The show-cooking of the Municipality of Centola (Cilento) presented the *dish of the centenarian woman* of the Mediterranean Diet and a taste of the wild asparagus valorised by the Municipality of Roscigno.

The exhibition of the Musical band of the Municipality of Gallese, in the Via Amerina Bio-district, *occupied* the Decumano of Expo, attracting hundreds of visitors by announcing the joyful perspectives of our attractive territories. Cultural events as the Musical Palinuro (Cilento's artists associated), with actors, classical and ethnic musicians and dancers took place to tell the story the ancient legend of Palinuro.

All visitors noted the rich exchange among the various experiences of the partners of the INNER week in the KIP Pavilion and after less than a week important concrete results had been achieved in terms of international networking. The RIMISP Network (Latin American centre for the rural development) made an agreement with INNER to jointly participate to the Third World Forum about

Local economic development in Torino next October. The students of the *Brera Academy* of Arts in Milano will give an artistic input and a practical support to the INNER association by creating international opportunities for the youngest. Collaboration for the open classes of the ITS High-level Course on *Wine and food training in Campania region* and with the Summer school organised by Milano Bicocca on Human Sustainable Development has also been explored.



Many Italian Municipalities (Ceraso, Centola, Gallese, Greve in Chianti, Valposchiavo) with their local governments and political representatives took part to the INNER week and a high institutional commitment was reached about enhancing an Italian legislation on organic bio-districts, to support the territories with financial and technical opportunities by accepting the common challenges of a sustainable development. The final Report of the project DIMECOBIO on the Italian Bio-districts experiences was presented for the first time on that occasion at the presence of the Authors, Institutions, local administrators and representatives of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Agriculture Committee. Funded by the Italian Agriculture Ministry; coordinated by ISMEA and realized with the collaboration of CIHEAM Bari, the study presents an integrated monitoring system of the social and economic results obtained by the Italian Bio-district of Cilento in view of transferring its methodology in other territories and in foreign countries.

To know more

<https://www.facebook.com/biodistretti>

IN.N.E.R. Network
www.ecoregions.eu .
www.biodistretto.net,

Bio-districtCilento
<http://www.biodistretto.it>

Bio-district Val di Gresta,
<http://www.biodistrettovaldigresta.it/>

Bio-district Valle dei Laghi,
<http://www.comunita.valledeilaghi.tn.it/>

Bio-district Via Amerina e delle Forre
www.biodistretto.net

Bio-Luc Basilicata,
www.facebook.com/bioluc

Tatry Slovakia Eco-region
<http://ekofarmavazec.sk/>

Valposchiavo
www.regione-valposchiavo.ch

RiMISP
<http://rimisp.org/sobre-rimisp/que-es-rimisp>

Cilento's artists associated,
<http://www.artisticilentani.com/>

Rincones del Atlántico,
<http://www.rinconesdelatlantico.es/index.php>

