

PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE SLOW CITIES MOVEMENT AND THE BIODISTRICTS NETWORK

By Kim Assaël

The [Network of Slow Cities](#) at the end of the works of its General Assembly of June 2018 in Mirande, (France), has decided to adopt the Bio-districts methodologies in the interested Slow Cities members.

The Movement of Slow Cities was born in 1999 and its main goal is to enlarge the philosophy of [Slow Food](#) to local communities and to government of towns, applying the concepts of eco-gastronomy as a practice of everyday life. The [Network of Slow Cities today associates 236 Municipalities of 30 countries](#) across Europe, Asia, America, Africa and Oceania.

The President of the I.N.N.E.R. Network of Bio-districts and Eco-regions has been invited to present in the opening session of the General Assembly, the main characteristics of the bio-districts and the strategy of the international network, highlighting points of contact and common vision with the Slow Cities movement.

The Plan of Action proposed by the Mayors and approved by the General Assembly of Slow Cities in Mirande is detailed in 10 targeted strategies including sustainable/circular economy, natural and cultural capital, tourism, agro-ecology, community services: new welfare, politics and institutions, participated open governance, digital layer and multi-belonging. The Plan of Action highlights the common vision of the Mayors on the inextricable links between urban and rural environment based on agro-ecology and organic agriculture, where a dialogue between traditional rural know-hows and modern agricultural sciences is the core of sustainable agro-ecosystems and in which external inputs are substituted by natural processes.

The collaboration established by the Slow Cities movement and the INNER network is specifically focused on the development of initiatives of agro-ecology, that together with organic agriculture represent the foundation of Bio-districts and Eco-regions. In particular, the Mirande General Assembly has taken into consideration the inclusive model of territorial *governance* adopted by the Bio-districts through the formal pact subscribed by public administrators, farmers, citizens, economic stakeholders and representative of the civil society that is needed to provide food security and sovereignty and well-being to all members of a community.

Through the alliance Slow cities and Bio-districts shall collaborate to a common win-win strategy of sustainable integrated development with a continuum between urban, rural and natural aspects. The strategic common vision between Slow Cities and INNER comes to have a particular relevance for fair and sustainable well-being also representing an operational tool for the



European Commission and a commitment for the administrators of the Slow Cities and Bio-Districts, called to implement a territorial governance in coherence with international agreements like UN Agenda 2030 and COP21.

To know more

[Cittaslow.org website](http://Cittaslow.org)

[Ecoregion.info website](http://Ecoregion.info)

[Cittaslow General Assembly 2018 in Youtube](#)

[Slow Food Movement](#)

[Bio-districts brochure](#)

