

BIO-DISTRICTS AT THE KIP EXPO PAVILION

Intangible heritage, social harmony, bio-quality of contemporary living

by Kim Assaël

During the last week of May (25-31) the first act of the BIO-district Innovation was promoted by the INNER network at the KIP Expo Pavilion.

It has been a preview of a story-tale of success about the struggle against the abandon of territories of an ancient beauty, about the poverty of stubborn farmers, against the loss of bio-diversity, landscape and cultures, and traditional know-how.

The bio-districts of Campania and Lazio Regions were participating showing their concrete experiences of *Attractive Territories for a sustainable world*. A first echo of voices arising from the Bio-districts of Cilento and Via Amerina e delle Forre, already spread along other Italian, European, and International regions.

Organic products, network of citizens, grass roots organisation of local actors, the commitments of Mayors of many municipalities have been represented with pictures, video, music, research projects on innovations, workshops and testimonials of our material goods and intangible heritage, with lots of activities to express all the richness and diversity of the participating territories and to safeguard our cultural identities.

And a strategy of enhancement of human, natural and cultural resources, the only one which, is a common awareness of everybody, can guarantee a sustainable development even for those more remote and degraded areas, at risk of depopulation. Creativity, a sense of belonging, ethic of labour and social cohesion were the *leitmotiv* of the week of the Bio-districts.

Those are also the elements that will be enriched and widened during the second week of the INNER network participation to EXPO (1-6 of September), when all International bio-districts, and not only those participating to the INNER network, will present their experiences that integrate social inclusion, development of clean energies, soft mobility and responsible tourism, water saving and management, protection and enhancement of bio-diversity, food quality and safety, in compliance of the various life-styles of all different territories.



The strategy of the Bio-districts has been shared on a large scale and has received a widespread interest among the visitors, both young and less young, from all over the world, thanks to their role of headmasters of culture and of collective resources that, only if renewed and protected, represent concrete opportunities to open new cooperation scenarios of territorial and sustainable human development.

The context offered by the KIP Pavilion was so stimulant which is now open the global *competition* on how to deal with the challenges of the EXPO. The main actors of this engagement, in order to be successful, are the territories: local communities who decided that quality of food is an integral part with the quality of a social, environmental and economic development. Those communities are already part of stable International networks, as for INNER, the ILS LEDA (Local Economic development Agencies), RESINT (the international network of social economy), who have established an alliance, with a vision and common goals, in the perspective of a cooperation among local communities, to become a feasible and not only a desirable scenario.

To know more

INNER Network: www.ecoregions.eu

Bio-districts Network in Facebook:

www.facebook.com/biodistretti

ILS LEDA: www.ilsleda.org

SMILE project: <http://www.smile-network.eu/>

Social trekking: www.socialtrekking.it

RESINT: <http://www.impresaarete.org>

