

BUILDING THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BIO-DISTRICTS

By Kim Assaël

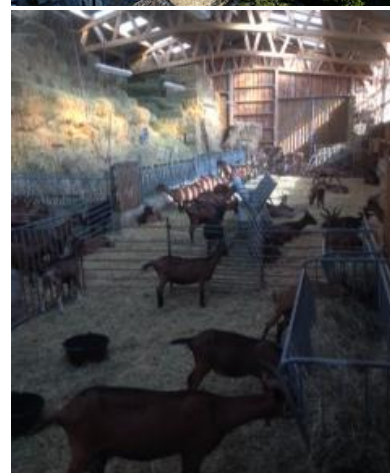
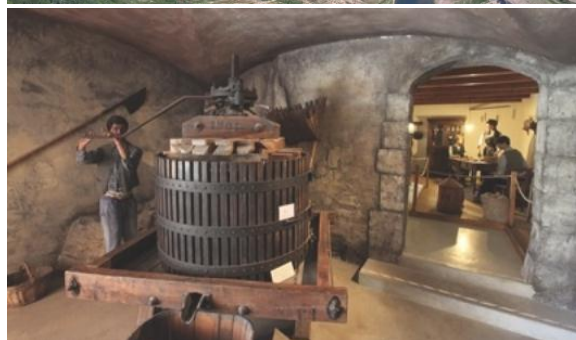
During the visit of the actors of [Bio-district Cilento](#) (Italy) to the protagonists of the [Bio-Vallée, Val de Drome et Diois](#) (France), October 10, 2013 was signed a cooperation agreement between the two territories-school on replicable practices in the field of sustainable local development. This agreement is a first step towards the construction of the Bio-districts international network.

In this framework, joint initiatives have been planned to involve in the network other experiences, particularly in Austria and Germany, which have already adopted the methods of sustainable local development of bio-districts and are interested in working together to promote their European and International recognition. The network, which could be created as a Foundation, will be in charge of the dissemination of work methods, marketing and distribution of eco-friendly biological products, innovation and R & D, technical assistance and support to the Bio-districts implementation.

Initiatives have been planned to realize in the spring of 2014 an international event to promote Bio-districts as opportunity for discussion, exchange and dissemination. This event could involve the countries and territories concerned to adopt innovative methodologies that characterize them and to participate in the establishment of the network internationally. Also in view of this event, the Bio-district and the Bio-Vallée reiterated their willingness to participate in the initiatives that the IDEASS Program and [AIAB \(Italian Association of Organic Producers\)](#) realize to promote bio-districts in Albania, Tunisia and Senegal.

The method of creating and managing Bio-districts are based on decisions and strategies on territorial, economic, social and cultural development assumed through the active participation of local public administration, agricultural enterprises, producers associations and catering facilities of the territory. In the experiences of the two territories, the organic agricultural food production is accompanied by policies and interventions in the fields of eco-tourism, green building, recovery of architectural and cultural heritage, renewable energy, waste management, social inclusion. The integrated management of these aspects of sustainable territorial development has enabled the two experiences to generate an important economic and cultural impact in the territories and to collect the international interest.

In the agreement specific initiatives were also programmed in order to enhance and distribute baskets of organic agricultural food representing the two territories. The platform *AIAB Space Bio* at the City of the Other Economy in of Rome and the platform of the cooperative *Le Carline* of Die city in the Drôme department will be



utilized to realize these activities.

J.Serret, Chairman of the Bio-Vallée Steering Committee and S. Basile, Secretary of the Ssociation Bio-distretto Cilento, with the signing of the agreement are finally committed to turn a steering group with the task of developing projects and initiatives in different sectors of activity, to be presented to potential European, national, regional and local financiers.



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