

## TOWARD A NATIONAL STRATEGY OF BIO-DISTRICTS AND ECO-REGIONS IN ITALY

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On the 1st of December 2016, the Italian Ministry of Agriculture (MIPAAF) and the IN.N.E.R Network have organized a National workshop on the Bio-districts as a new model of rural development, inviting all actors involved, with the purpose to put all experiences developed into an organic system in the framework of the *National Strategic Organic Plan*, recently published.



Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and more than 80 representative of territorial Bio-Districts already officially constituted or on their way on, Regional and Local Governments, Universities, Associations, Enterprises, organic producers and environmental associations, NGOs, representatives of the KIP International School have attended the meeting.



The INNER network today includes in Italy 15 Bio-districts in 10 different Regions, confirming their effective function of integration between goods and services productions, culture, tradition, safeguard of natural resources and landscape in an overall strategy of territorial development. INNER is receiving many signs of interest by other territories in widening and sharing the resources of the network. The innovative territorial organisation of Bio-Districts relies in fact not only in the organic methods of cultivation that enrich the soils and preserve biodiversity, but especially through its overall system of values, it increases work opportunities, valorises traditional knowledge and local cultures that are disappearing and stimulates a growing attractiveness of territories for eco-tourism, thus representing a successful way to promote a sustainable and inclusive local development.



All participants contributed with ideas and proposals. They all expressed their points of view on the opportunity to build a local territorial governance for a socio-economic growth of the territories starting from organic agriculture. The participatory processes enhanced by the Bio-districts with the active and direct participation of citizens in a self-determination of a development territorial strategy represent a mayor social innovation which finally reconnects institutions, policies and the population.



At the end of the works IN.N.E.R shared with all territorial operators and institutional actors who attended the meeting a document, available in an online Forum for public consultation with partners, including [proposals of joint actions](#) of follow-up, in order to build a national strategy of territorial Bio-districts. The representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment have pledged their interest in continuing fruitful work to develop these innovative practices of territories.



**To know more**

[INNER Network Portal](#)

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