

THE NEW ECO-DISTRICT OF ALICANTE IN SPAIN FOR AGROECOLOGICAL MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGIES

By Kim Assaël

In November 2018 the Municipality of Alicante (Valencia Region, Spain) has started the process to enhance initiatives of organic production, agro-ecology and sustainable development adopting the Eco-region's methodologies.

The Promoter Committee of the *Alicante Eco-District* involved groups of organic producers, restaurants, associations and local-action groups, trainers and public administrators to implement a sustainable development of their territory.

The Municipality identified the [Group of Local Action \(GAL SUR Alicante\)](#) as a juridical entity in charge of the leadership of the Eco-District, aiming at including the coastal cities that are main consumers of the biological production. The Promoter Committee also includes the network of four agroecological municipalities (Hondón de los Frailes, Hondón de las Nieves, la Algueña, la Romana) established with the support of the GAL SUR of Alicante.

In February 2019 the Alicante Sur Promoter Committee of the Eco-District held a new operational meeting at ASIR (*Asociación para la Sostenibilidad e Innovación Rural*) in Alicante, with many public and private local actors, to sign the *Manifiesto fundacional de los Biodistritos Mediterraneos*, describing how to advance along the process of agro-ecological transition in support of the sustainable management of local resources and the reinforcement of local economy and identity through agroecology practices.

This partnership was born in September 2018, when representatives of the International Network of Bio-Districts and Eco-regions (IN.N.E.R) attended the Spanish [V Simposio de Agroecología, Municipalismo y Desarrollo Rural](#) held in Salinas and organized with the support of [Fundación Biodiversidad](#) of the [Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica \(MITECO\)](#) and the [Spanish Society of Agroecology SEAE](#) that presented its project [Adapta tu dieta, cuida tu clima](#) to enhance the consumption of organic, local and seasonal food, not only for the human but also for the planet health. During this event the SEAE and the GAL SUR of Alicante promoted the initiative to start the Eco-district constitution in the territory of Alicante, according to the methodologies proposed by INNER.

This decision also represents a result of the initiatives taken by the Portuguese Eco-region of Idanha-a-Nova already associated with the INNER Network and the nearby cross-border Municipality of Moraleja, between Portugal and Spain (Extremadura Region). In November 2018 the Municipality of

pobles
sobirania
alimentària
participació
drets
producció
sostenibilitat
respecte
responsabilitat
local
territori
decidir
desenvolupament
cultura
innovació
alimentació
terra

Mercat ECO-Distrit

PRODUCTES DE LA TERRA
ECOLÒGICS, ARTESANS I LOCALS

Fondó de les Neus - Hondón de los Frailes - Algueña - La Romana

PRÒXIMS MERCATS AL FEBRER:

3 de Febrer:	Fondó de les Neus
10:00 a 14:00	Carrer Juan Carlos I
10 de Febrer:	Hondón de los Frailes
10:00 a 14:00	Carrer Juan Carlos I
17 de Febrer:	Algueña
10:00 a 14:00	Plaça Juan Carlos I
24 de Febrer:	La Romana
10:00 a 14:00	Carrer Major

Taller Escenarios de Futuro
amícs de participaci6n

El plaza despierta como una tortuga se encoge y se extiende. Se esura y se arruga. M. calle se esura.

Peñas del barrio 6

Algueña

Moraleja presented at the [Rural Innovation World Forum \(FMIR\)](#) the Eco-region's territorial strategies and the challenges co-shared among interested countries as Italy, Spain and Portugal. During the event the Bio-districts have been identified as innovative solutions for a modern rural life, to reshape the agro-food systems of territories innovating, generating wealth, employment and fixing the population to the territory, valuing all human, cultural and historical endogenous resources to preserve the environmental balance.

In the framework of the *Manifiesto fundacional de los Biodistritos Mediterraneos*, signed in February 2019, a special focus was given by the Alicante experience to highlight how agroecological practices used within territories are also tools to adapt and reduce the consequences of climate change.

Meanwhile the proposals of the Alicante Sur Eco-District embrace a wider array of integrated strategies around an agroecological production concerned with improvement of the quality of life, landscape and touristic attractions. They include multiple actors and reinforced networks of consumers, agroecological local markets for over territorial agreements even in neighbouring areas, in Murcia, and Albacete territories.

These alliances to develop the Bio-Districts strategies among countries like Italy, Spain, Portugal and France, have all adopted an integrated territorial approach and incorporate proposals for economic development in balance with the environment to raise the quality of its inhabitants, but also to accelerate the transition towards agri-food sustainable systems in coherence with the 2030 Agenda.

To know more

[News in GAL sur de Alicante website](#)

[Manifiesto fundacional de los Biodistritos Mediterráneos](#)

[IV Foro Mundial de la Innovación Rural](#)

[Video Idanha-a-Nova](#)

[Brochure of the Salinas event](#)

[GAL Sur de Alicante website](#)

[Sociedad Española de Agroecología \(SEAE\)](#)

[Fundacion-biodiversidad](#)

[INNER Network website](#)

