

SUPURBFOOD is a research project funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Program. It aims to contribute to the development of sustainable modes of urban and peri-urban food provisioning.

About the project

Until recent, short food supply chains and multifunctional agriculture were considered to be part of the rural development realm. However, this project looks at these topics from the perspective of urban rather than rural development. Short food supply chains have been advocated as a means to reduce the environmental impact of the agro-food system. However, to improve the ecological performance of the agro-food system other flows (e.g. nutrient, water, and urban waste) need to be considered as well. In the current context these aspects are usually treated separately. This project will treat them in an integrated manner.

Approach

Research will be carried out in seven European city-regions (Rotterdam (NL), Rome (IT), Ghent (BE), Vigo (ES), Bristol (UK), Zürich (CH) and Riga (LV)) in collaboration with a diverse group of SMEs to further innovate in urban and peri-urban food provisioning, nutrient, water and waste management, and multifunctional use of urban and peri-urban space. Finally the project will also establish links with researchers, policymakers and SMEs in these domains in developing countries. This will be organised through a process of dialogue, sharing of experiences, exchanging of best practices and joint learning.

More information

www.supurbfood.eu



Monte. Source: Wannes Degelin, Samenlevingsopbouw Ghent (Belgium)

What is CMVMC Vincios about?

In Galicia (northwest part of Spain) and northern Portugal 'Monte' is a multi-functional mountainous zone covered by trees, bushes and scrub. Over the past decades, the management of Monte has been characterised by top-down implemented mono-forestation. More recently, land use is characterised by the implementation of wind parks and mining activities. Often these activities hardly bring benefits to the residents living nearby these areas.

In Galicia, about one-third of Monte is managed by 'comuneiros': citizens who commonly own nearby Monte. As a neighbour of a parish one can access the Comunidades de Montes Veciñais en Man Común (CMVMCs, Neighbourhood Communities for the Common Management of Monte): democratic and autonomous governance authorities that increasingly explore alternative land-use models.

CMVMC Vincios is among the progressive communities applying multi-functional land use (geologically characterised as: Monte Isla or Inselberg). The management philosophy is inspired by the role this sort land had in peasant society. Nowadays Monte is turned again into an important resource for people in the area.

Who is involved?

Like elsewhere also in Vincios (2000 inhabitants) all neighbours have access to the CMVMC and can take part in decision-making on land-use of the Monte. The unique ownership structure of the CMVMC has the following characteristics: comuneiros can never sell their share, never lose their right to the land, have to decide together on how they manage the land, and cannot be personally held responsible for debts to the government or banks. Economic returns derived from CMVMCs' activities should be reinvested in the Monte and in social services in the parish of the comuneiros.

Which activities are carried out?

CMVMC Vincios combines forestry activities (chestnut, walnut and oak plantations) with mushroom production (on 15 years old pine trees and 10-20 years oak trees), extensive animal husbandry (cows, sheep and horses), land improvement (converting poor soils into fertile pastures), compost production (bushes and scrub are turned into compost), the maintenance of an attractive leisure landscape with possibilities for hiking, mountain biking and horse riding, provision of place for social meetings (fire places and tables are available), archaeological and biodiversity conservation (flora and fauna are registered in the Catalogue: Guía Multifuncional de Vincios), and important: fighting against eucalyptus invasion. Also, part of the lower land is rented out as a Business Park. Together with the revenues from wood production social activities (music band) and maintenance of the village school, the cultural house and other infrastructure in the village is paid, either by supplying a subsidy or an attractive loan. For example, when the communally owned water system (springs are situated in the commonly owned area) requires investments the CMVMC can decide to provide a loan. In the assembly the comeneiros of CMVMC Vincios have decided to rent land to private entrepreneurs like the cow and sheep breeder. Although this directly could be arranged between CMVMC Vincios and the entrepreneurs, the comeneiros have



chosen for a contract via the 'Banco de Terras de Galicia' (the land bank, created by the Ministry of Rural Affairs), which protects the rights and conditions of land-use both for the property owners and the land users (see www.bantegal.com).

Where is CMVMC Vincios located?

CMVMC Vincios is situated in Galicia, Spain. Its Monte is part of the Serra do Galiñeiro. Situated at few distance from Galician's largest town Vigo (300,000 inhabitants) and almost visible from all parts of the city, the Serra de Galiñeiro is an important natural area in use as leisure area for Vigo's citizens. Closer to Vigo, the CMVMC Teis is putting Monte into value: at 50 hectares of forest close to the city centre the objective is to rebuild and maintain an autochthonous forest, for which every year planting activities are organised. Also, schools can visit 'A Madroa' (the Monte in Teis) and hence children can learn about nature, biodiversity and the authentic character and colours of the forests in Galicia. Whilst CMVMC Teis focuses on the restoration of autochthonous forests, CMVMC Vincios applies a multi-functional management of Monte and combines different types of land-use with the recovery of the autochthonous forest.

Lessons from CMVMC Vincios for SUPURBFOOD

- ✓ Provision of environmental and social services
- ✓ Horizontal decision-making on land-use type and economic benefits to society
- ✓ Social-economic resistance against industrialisation of a vulnerable peri-urban areas
- ✓ Successful initiative without governmental support and/or guidance
- ✓ Powerful knowledge broker

Contact details of CMVMC Vincios

Alberto Covelo, president of the 'Mancomunidade de Vincios'

Piñeiro s/n, 36316 Gondomar, tel.: (0034) 986 46 96 92

Website: <http://vincios.org/en/>

Contact details of GIEEA – UVIGO

webs.uvigo.es/economiaecologica/

- Lola Domínguez García,
- Damian Copena Rodríguez
- Xavier Simón Fernández

Tel.: (0034) 986 81 35 19 (Lola) / 25 06 (Damian) / 25 12 (Xavier)

