

Community-Led Culture Economies of Food

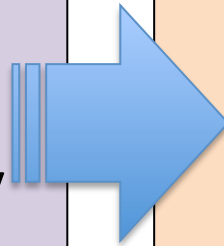


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Introduction

RICHES research questions

- How can cultural heritage be a force in the new EU economy?
- How can EU citizens play a co-creative role in their cultural heritage?



Aim of presentation

- Examine how community led food projects are providing answers to these questions.
- Draws on research from Task 4.3 of the RICHES project, which examines the **social** structures for community and territorial cohesion.

Policy Context

- **Cohesion Policy 2014-2020** renewed emphasis on Community-Led Local Development
 - Local action groups
 - Local development strategies
 - Community ownership
 - Multi-level governance
- **Committee on Culture and Education** report, 18th Feb 2014: emphasis on multi-faceted importance of European gastronomic heritage
- **European Parliament Resolution**, 15th Sept 2015 ‘Towards an Integrated Approach to Cultural Heritage for Europe’
 - 58: stresses the importance of gastronomic heritage, which must be protected and supported; considers that the resources allocated to this area can be optimised through interaction with other EU policies, such as the common agricultural policy and consumer protection policy

Community-led food cultures

Growing, Farming, Sharing, Trading, Preparing, Cooking, Eating, Not Wasting....using old and new knowledge...renewal, innovation and change

Do it Ourselves, Do it Together



Community Food Growers Network | connect, cooperate, support, defend, campaign and celebrate

ABOUT US ▾ EVENTS MANIFESTO MAP HOW TO JOIN SOCIAL MEDIA ▾ NEWSLETTER MAIL



Source:<http://www.cfgn.org.uk/2015/10/cfgn-autumn-gathering-15-11-15-may-project-gardens/>

Building on the past

- Builds on the heritage of food growing across EU, in urban and rural places...
- Domestic gardens and public shared spaces (e.g. allotments)
- Can deliver health, well-being and social cohesion (e.g. Firth et al 2011; Milbourne 2012)
- **Increase** of domestic food production from 9.6% in 15 MS in 2003, to **15.5%** in 2007
 - Often a response to economic hardship (Church *et al* 2015)



Post-war gardening in Berlin's Tiergarten.
Source: Lemo, DHM. Accessed at
<http://www.foodmetres-kp.eu/page.1.2.php>

Looking forward

- Community Supported Agriculture
- Solidarity Purchasing Groups
- And other 'civic' food networks



Figure: In Bauerngarten Havelmatten at the fringe of Berlin, Source: www.bauerngarten.net



Urban community gardens like Himmelbeet are spreading across Berlin. Source: A Piorr, ZALF. Both photos accessed at

<http://www.foodmetres-kp.eu/page.1.2.php>

New economic forms

- Experimental spaces
- Community economics and 'diverse economies' (Gibson-Graham 2008)
- Co-operative and collaborative forms
- **Example: StroudCO Food Hub, UK**



- Brings local artisan food and drinks to the door
- Community Interest Company
- They want to be copied

Principles

- Provide affordable, locally-produced food to people in Stroud
- Give producer members access to a local market at higher than wholesale prices.
- Build supportive and understanding links between producers and consumers
- Develop food **culture and community strength**

See: <http://www.stroudco.org.uk/>

Strengthening Social Ties

Example:

- Urban vegetable gardens, Pisa
- Since 1995
- A response to loneliness amongst the elderly
- Run by a committee, includes representatives from the local authority and the gardeners
- Increasingly important for unemployed immigrants
- Transforming conflictual relationships into positive ones

Source: Food and Cultural Heritage in the Digital Age: A Report from the RICHES workshop, Peccioli, June 2015. Compiled by Promoter: Italy



Urban vegetable garden (CEP-Pisa, Italy)
<http://www.comune.pisa.it/en/ufficio-scheda/8599/Il-Progetto-Orti-Urbani.html#!prettyPhoto>

Challenges

- Lack of access to land for growing
- Younger generations leaving farming
- Lack of access to start-up finance
- Challenges in becoming financially viable
- Short termism of public funding
- De-prioritisation of food and growing cultures



Conclusions: renewal, innovation and change

- Community-led food projects show how culture can be a force for change and how citizens can co-create cultural heritage
 - Creating new culture economies of food
 - Maintaining and developing food skills and knowledge
 - Remembering, and reviving food heritage
 - Creating social cohesion
- But they can be fragile – what policies can help to support them?



References

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- Milbourne, P., 2012. Everyday (in)justices and ordinary environmentalisms: community gardening in disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods. *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, 17 (9), 943-957

Thanks and any questions?

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