

# Multi-cities, Hyper-Foods, Agro-Landscapes

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afterword

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## ABSTRACT

*The growth of the "informal and informational city" in the last decades calls necessarily to the systemic articulation of "infrastructural" resilient landscapes where the agriculture can be interpreted as a fundamental element in the core of a new sustainable form of dis-dense (discontinuously-dense) multi-urban contexts (Guallart, Gausa 2003).*

*From traditional land-use policies towards new geo-urban strategies –able to integrate different territorial layers, challenges and their future planning developments– the new "multi-city" approach requires new synergic strategies dedicated to primary and tertiary activities; agricultural production and technological evolution, environmental sensitivity and touristic attraction, private states and public spaces, etc. The importance of understanding the agricultural spaces not only as productive food-landscapes, but also as multi-productive supra-food-landscapes, convenes a new urban-rural vision for the much more complex contemporary city-mosaic (natural and artificial at time). In parallel, also the concept of "food production" needs new re-evaluations associated to the new possibilities emerged of our informational time, opened to combine food, creativity and technology in new processes capable of "multiply" the old food issues beyond their traditional definitions opening innovative fields and new creative scenarios associated to new social behaviours processes.*

## I- MULTI-CITIES, AGRO-LANDSCAPES

The growth of the "informal and informational city" in the last decades calls necessarily to the systemic articulation of "infrastructural" resilient landscapes where the agriculture can be interpreted as a fundamental element in the core of a new sustainable form of dis-dense (discontinuously-dense) multi-urban contexts (Guallart, Gausa 2003). In this sense, the new multi-functional and plural character of the agricultural (and semi-natural) landscapes should play a new structuring and articulating principle which is needed to be encouraged through different skills, disciplines, methodologies and public policies.

The old oppositional reading between city and countryside has been substituted by a much more holistic and integrated vision, in which the *suburban* and *rururban* areas can play a vital and active role combining diverse number of productive functions and dimensions in new structures with complex values. From traditional land-use policies towards new *geo-urban* strategies –able to integrate different territorial layers, challenges and their future planning developments– the new "multi-city" approach requires new synergic strategies dedicated to primary and tertiary activities; agricultural production and technological evolution, environmental sensitivity and touristic attraction, private states and public spaces, etc.

In this theoretical framework, the role of agriculture is thus important as one the most predominant land use characterization – resulting in its specific identity expression (and esthetic), maybe the most decisive and transcendental – and strictly related to guarantee the efficiency of our urban and regional *multi-matrix*, as well as our socio-economic and cultural realities. The importance of understanding the agricultural spaces not only as productive

food-landscapes, but also as multi-productive supra-food-landscapes, convenes a new *urban-rural* vision for the much more complex contemporary city-mosaic (natural and artificial at the same time).

The new multi-functional and multi-programmatic condition of the agricultural areas should no longer be conceived with the old gazes associated to a primary space, but with a more complex and plural recognition able to cross green infrastructures, ecological corridors, natural matrix, eco-systemic services, and multi-productive scenarios: "*eco-systems for multi-systems, in plural interaction*".

In parallel, also the concept of "productive food" needs new reevaluations associated to the new possibilities emerged of our informational time, opened to combine food, creativity and technology in new processes capable of "multiply" the old food issues beyond their traditional definitions: *second-life-food, re-food, recycled-food, bio-food, techno-food, ener-food, n-matter-food, 3D food*, are the voices that are talking today about new hybrid performances, where food is interpreted as a virtual and multi-relational "hyper-food" link, between advanced innovative fields and creative socio-territorial scenarios.

## II- FOOD-PRINTS

The proposal *CFC / CREATIVE FOOD CYCLE* wants to impulse in fact an innovative approach able to integrate participative public spaces and social agro-landscapes, digital fabrication, cooking creative production, experimentation of co-designed social arts (expressed in shared and participatory manifestations) oriented to favour convivial urban settings associated with a new social interaction and a new sustainable sensibility.

With the direct neologism *FOOD-PRINT* (derived from the definition of ecological *FOOT-PRINT*) the project wants trace a transnational food life cycle involving diverse multi-urban contexts and realities in different parts of Europe with specific partner cities (Hannover, Genova and Barcelona) combining new logics, new materials and new rituals associated with food heritage and an operational advanced knowledge.

- **In the case of Barcelona – IAAC (Production to Distribution)** the long work of the institute on the concepts of Permaculture or Advanced landscapes, developed at the Green Fab-Labs in Valldaura, is combined here with an operational approach which innovates food production and its “design” processes. The idea is to combine creativity and new technologies in order to promote a participatory production of food in new urban environments through the creation of proof of concepts and prototypes: experiments associated with parametric design, digital manufacturing and bio-processes and bio-materials, capable of responding to local environmental, social and economic conditions.

- **In the case of Hannover – LUH (Distribution to Consumption)** the food streams are essential to understand where the productions come from, how they are processed and by whom: citizens will learn how to combine pleasure and responsibility in daily choices and appreciate the cultural and social importance of food, bringing comparative knowledge to/between consumers, stimulating their curiosity and promoting responsible choices in daily actions.

- **In the case of Genova–UNIGE (Consumption to Disposition)** the initiative

wants to favour a series of performative actions associated to social design, based on the reuse of abandoned spaces (central markets in the city and/or industrial spaces), reuse of waste (at all levels, from second-life-food to food-packaging) for the manufacture of different designs and scenarios. The goal is to link a new social awareness with young gastronomic creation (local Schools of Hospitality), ephemeral installations (artistic scenographies) and pop events in artistic settings (social and creative coexistence) with the metaphorical idea of the Banquet as a sign of identity in the Italian artistic tradition (Leonardo, Tiepolo, Caravaggio, etc.).

### III- ADVANCED URBANISM: AGRO-LANDSCAPES FOR ACRO-LANDSCAPES

The innovative input that sustains this interactive network of sharing experiences and events –some of them have already been experimented in the KAAU platform, Knowledge Alliance for Advanced Urbanism, connected with the Erasmus+ Programme– parts of a new methodological and advanced urban approach based on 3 lines of action, which define new paradigms and new theoretical frameworks as well as new tools implementation and experimental outputs:

**A** – A first set of actions based on the impact of the new digital and innovative technologies (n-processes & multi-records), linked with the impact of ICT and dynamic open-processes (digital software or multilayer & informational processes). The optimisation of the digital production linked with the development of the advanced bio-experimentation affects the real-time open-data processes and open-data-applications and the increase of the actual capacity to explore and create new simulated (virtual or real) prototypes.

**B** – A second set of actions based on environmental and eco-innovations (*net-works & eco-systems*) that want to deepen the transfers experimented from land-use planning to new land-networked strategies. New complex structures and integrative networked-systems, related to productive landscapes and ecological spaces, in which the role of human interactions become crucial. Informational processes, in a new relational responsive dimension associated to operational systems linked with the agro-spaces in our city-regions.

**C** – A third set of social-dimension actions related to operational innovation (*inter-actions and co-imaginaries*) that are translating a change of paradigms from old participation topics to new co-production devices. Social sharing dynamics and new collective behaviours which claim new type of relational structures: interactive experiences in active public spaces (and scenarios) connected with differential use(r)s; collective actions, new interactive interfaces, relational programs and co-imaginaries linked with bottom-up and spontaneous sharing situations.

All of these actions contribute to facilitate new *co-city models* –defined by creators, designers, stakeholders and citizens– in contexts of urban transformation and new socio-cultural behaviours. Experimenting, gaming, enjoying or sharing interaction, the new CFC creative methodologies can also collect raw data and responses to spatial needs, fostering the engagement of local communities in these new interactive *opera(c)tions*, with a series of events, installations and shared experiences able to define new participatory processes for new spatial, environmental, economic and socio-cultural *geo-urban* developments.

We are talking about new concepts for our food (new understood as a *hyper-food*); for our cities (now understood as multi-cities); for our citizens (now understood as co-citizens); and for our landscapes, now understood as trans-landscapes (transversal and transferring landscapes) able to be defined, in some strategic contexts, as *agro-landscapes* but also as *acro-landscapes*. Understanding the etymology of the term ACRO as “height” and as “extreme” or “extremity) that is to say: landscapes of limit and inter-limits that rehearse today not only their conventional definitions and attributes, but also their authentic potentials of strength, support and multiple capacities at the same time.

# Profiles

Team and contributors

## CREATIVE FOOD CYCLES

**Creative Food Cycles** (CFC) is a project co-funded by the **Creative Europe Programme of European Union** with the aim of developing a cultural and holistic approach, joining all the aspects of Food Cycle: from production to distribution (phase 1), from distribution to consumption (phase 2) and from consumption to disposition (phase 3).

This means also to stimulate with an open and inclusive approach a deeper interconnection among cultural creators, cultural professionals, institutional stakeholders and active urban society.