

Report Grundtvig exchange: Regional logistics meeting in Freiburg, 13-17 Juli 2014

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The Grundtvig meeting in Freiburg was the follow-up to the meetings in Lyon, Helsinki, Villarceaux and Leuven. It focused on the theme of regional logistic approaches:

How can we feed ourselves without losing the proximity between producers and „pro“sumers? How can we establish an (uncomplicated) and comprehensive short food supply chains that are not resource-, energy- and transport-intensive? In that context, what does the term “efficiency” mean? Which approaches / solutions can we find in Europe and Freiburg? And what are the strategies of our European project and beyond?

The first work day after arriving and settling was the 14th of July. It started with an introduction round and a short presentation of the project, the hosts DIE AGRONAUTEN and the city of Freiburg. The venue was the “Centre Culturel Francais” directly located at the centre of town, the Münsterplatz, with its bustling market.



After an introduction round where everybody presented themselves and their initiatives (see attachment “participants” and “notes”) Peter outlined the programme of the coming days and gave an introduction to the question of regional logistics and in particular to regional logistic models in and around Freiburg (see presentation “regional logistic solutions”). It became clear that there is quite a variety of models how “eaters” are supplied by regional food outside of conventional supermarket strategies.

This discussion was followed by the presentation of Isabelle Schummers from Luxemburg who is planning her Master in Environmental Governance at the University Freiburg on involvement of public authorities in local food systems: facilitation of regional logistics. The exchange after her presentation proved to be very helpful as it made her realize many of the practical problems such involvements can bring along.

After that, Dominique Bednarek (AGRONAUTEN) presented the results of his study “Can Freiburg Feed itself” (see attachment), where he analysed the potential of food production in and around

Freiburg. This can be seen as a basis for discussion of regional logistics. The discussion afterwards was interesting and showed the experience many in the room had on this issue.

Then, the group headed to the first excursion: the regional citizen shareholder company Regionalwert AG that uses citizen finance to create sustainable (organic) structures along the chain of added-value, from farm to fork. Special focus for this regional network was the issue of logistics. The visit started at the restaurant of Maria Mocellin who emphasized that she needs online solutions to increase her use of network ingredients. As it was midday the guests enjoyed her bio-food as well.

After Maria the group visited the Biohöfe Frischekiste, a box scheme in the Regionalwert AG network that delivers 320+ boxes to customers in Freiburg region.



For Angelika Hanser (the manager), the key to better regional logistic solutions lies in the creation of a network position whose job is to arrange planning, exchange and logistics. Her box scheme can play an integral part in this. The guests learned about the way she organizes the pick-up, storing and distribution of the food, including the use of a solar powered electro-car.

The next stop (moving back in the chain of added-value) was the visit of the Breitenweger Hof, where cheese is produced right at the farm from the milk provided by 25 cows. After testing the cheese and visiting the farm (including pigs and chicken in their mobile shed) the logistics were discussed: Apart from the direct marketing at the farm there was synergetic delivery with the neighboring vegetable farm to the network shops and a regular market stand.



In the same village, Eichstetten, with 20+ percent share of organic agriculture, the vegetable farm Queerbeet is located. This farm has a nutrient cooperation with the Breitenweger Hof as both are part of the Regionalwert AG network. We met one of the 2 managers, Jannis Zentler, who showed us around the farm and explained the challenges of regional logistics. He considers it an important topic in general and for the Regionalwert AG network in particular. In his view a lot of issues can be solved through better exchange and communication in the network. Through the box scheme, direct marketing (farm shop), a buyer's society and the Regionalwert AG shops already an elaborated



system of regional marketing exists.

Finally, the tour ended with a visit of the Regionalwert AG shop in Breisach. Here we could see a lot of the products from the producers we visited before as well as other network produce.

The day ended with an exchange with the consumption critical group Kaufrausch from Freiburg.

The next day we started with a review of the logistic practices of the French guests Alter Conso as well as Arbre legume (see "notes") with input from the respective other experiences (e.g. Thomas Snellmann from Finnland, see "notes"). We then discussed in 2 workshops two different themes:

Workshop 1 discussed Software for regional logistics (see "Software discussion workshop")

Workshop 2 discussed Efficiency (see "Efficiency Grundtvig paper" and "Efficiency board shot")

We then went to eco-quarter Freiburg-Vauban where we had lunch at the Kantine, a restaurant where they try to provide most food (with strong vegetarian and vegan focus) from organic and local sources. We discussed with Solveig (the manager) and tasted the amazing food. Then we proceeded to the Lebensgarten Dreisamtal – a CSA project next to Freiburg - where we were warmly welcomed by gardener Clara Stütze and where we discussed the current situation, dynamics and strategies. This, of course, included logistic approaches.



The logistic concept of the Lebensgarten can be seen amongst others in the “Regional logistic solution” ppt. The group was impressed by the beautiful landscape setting, the healthy vegetables and the enthusiasm of the initiative.

This stop was followed by the visit of the transport bike trailer developers at the CSA “Gartencoop” logistics point. This meant we returned to Freiburg to meet Mabe and his colleagues from “Carla Cargo” who work hard on open source hardware solutions for sustainable, regional logistics. Already with their bikes the harvest of the Gartencoop is being delivered in Freiburg (see “Regional logistic solution” ppt). Fabian Kern from the Gartencoop, who has been co-organising this Grundtvig meeting, outlined the advantages and challenges of the bike transportation. It proved to be good timing that the new trailer model was just ready for testing and the various guests could jump on bike or trailer to experience the power, stability and flexibility of the new version. A very important part of local, sustainable logistics indeed.



The evening was ended at the Waldsee restaurant with a dinner and a Jazz concert in a beautiful location.

The next morning was continued by hard work: We prepared the document "Training in Alternative Food Distribution Systems (AFDS): Regional logistics", which turned out to be a great group exercise.

In a Skype talk with project coordinator Jocelyn Parot (Urgenci) in Finland the concept and steps on working on this document were talked through. The result is available in the mail attachment.



The hard work was interrupted with a snack at the Münsterplatz with a (mainly) regional Tofu sausage. In the second half of the day the work on the training document was brought to a preliminary end and further responsibilities/deadlines were allocated.

Finally, the location was shifted to the Schlossberg beer-garden where an evaluation of the visit was done (see "evaluation overview") and future ideas for the next meetings were elaborated.