

Short explicatory note on the conduct of CO-ACT project at a local level

Facing the challenge that today puts humanity building a world fairer, being respectful of the planet, several initiatives and movements are developing alternatives in the field, from the local level. This is the case of several movements: Transition, Eco-village (GEN), Agenda 21, the territories that develop SPIRAL methodology, LEADER methodology, etc. All share implicitly or explicitly the idea that achieving this aim involves the collaboration and co-responsibility between all public and private actors, citizens of each local/territory to try, together, to ensure the well-being of all inhabitants while respecting the well-being of future generations and the planet in general.

However, despite these initiatives and movements earn strength on the ground, it will be very difficult or even impossible to achieve this goal on a global level without major changes in public policy and in national, european and worldwide legal frameworks. Policies and legislation are indeed very influenced by the lobbying of large multinational companies that have specific economic interests to defend, which are often contradictory to the need to review our ways of life and to preserve the planet.

Based on this statement, the TOGETHER network has launched the CO-ACT project to counterbalance the power of economic lobbies by radically using different methods. Considering that co-responsibility not only includes local actors but also public policy makers and legal frameworks at other levels, it is not exert to put the pressure with technical reports, to contact high-level contacts, etc. but to develop a bottom-up process dialogue involving the greatest amount of citizens at a local level and to invite policy makers to enter this process from the local to the European and global level.

First phase: Gathering opinions

Namely, in a first phase we will gather the opinions of citizens in the territories which already participated in this kind of initiative (territories in transition, Eco-village, territories developing SPIRAL, Agenda 21, LEADER areas, etc.) or other citizen groups through 4 issues:

- What does well-being mean to you?
- What is, for you, the ill-being?
- What do you do or could you do now for the well-being of all?
- If you were a decision maker, what would be the first measures you would take to achieve the co-responsibility for the well-being of all?

The first three questions are extracted from the SPIRAL methodology. It allows to define together what is the well-being to all and what we can do together at a local level. Thus everyone can express equally and without discrimination, we use post-its where everyone writes their ideas in a free way, with one idea per post-it. After, we make a short synthesis using the available grid. This exercise is essential to introduce the fourth issue that is focused on the objective of the project and is also treated individually (via post-it) and collectively (organizing, in a free way, the post-its on a large sheet).

Second phase: Synthesis and beginning of the political dialogue

To allow the construction of a global synthesis that takes into account the expression of each one, all the answers of all citizens will be posted on wikispiral's website that allows to summarize on various levels.

It is necessary to involve policy makers in this process as early as possible, starting with local decision makers.

More information about these stages and the following on the website: [https://wikispiral.org/tiki-index.php?page=CO-ACT%20communication%20\(English,%20En\)&no_bl=y](https://wikispiral.org/tiki-index.php?page=CO-ACT%20communication%20(English,%20En)&no_bl=y)