

Monday 15/02/10 starting around 11AM, finishing around 19PM:

This part of the report includes the « decisions » made in the afternoon. These “decisions” or “decisions proposals” are to be rediscussed at the next assembly which will take place in Germany from the 21st to 23st May.

Information about spanish networks close to RTF:

PODEM:

<http://www.podem.cat/>

Open platform (which strives to be aimed more people and groups) formed by people and groups related to the decrease that promotes alternatives to capitalism through the campaign "We can live without capitalism."

Meeting of various “alternative” spanish networks from the 1st to the 4th of April:

www.redesenred.net

Discussions in the afternoon focused on 8 topics:

- 1) Draw our vision of
- 2) How to use the name « Reclaim the fields »
- 3) Newspaper (Bulletin)/ website
- 4) Working groups, thematic groups
- 5) steering committee, organisation process
- 6) Days of action
- 7) Camp (european, decentralised)
- 8) Rythm of encounters/camps/assemblies

Three small groups divided to discuss all these 8 points during 2 hours. Then we shared our results. Finally, the 8 points were debated all together.

- Make a drawing about our vision of RTF

Reclaim The Fields is a dynamic constellation and thus de facto a network, We agreed to give RTF an original status. There is such a great diversity that we can not create an organization or a movement with clear limits. We chose the concept of dynamic constellation through the different drawings made by the 3 groups.

- How to use the name RTF

The name « Reclaim the Fields » (for its European dimension) can be used for camps, the newspaper, the website and coordinated actions (at the European level or more local).

But the name RTF can't be used for just any action. It's not possible to prevent local groups to use it for a decentalized action. Yet it has been decided that if actions with RTF name are made without discussions at the European level, they should respect the « who are we » text.

The use of the name is something sensitive so it's important to be cautious when we use it.

- Newspaper (Bulletin)/ website

A newspaper (internal) of RTF will be created. The first edition will be published for May. It will be available on internet and printable by local groups. It will be translated into english, french and spanish. If other people want to translate it to other languages, it's also possible.

The newspaper will include articles about:

- report from last meeting,
- call for the next meeting,
- document to prepare the next meeting,
- a calendar of actions and coming events,
- reports from passed actions and/or events,
- texts of debates from personal or collective point of view,
- drawings and things less intellectual,
- articles about initiatives of the network (local, national, european),
- other kind of articles!

A group will gather to deal with this newspaper. Right now, a group is working, but others can join it (bulletin@potager.org). The articles are written by people active in RTF, according to who wants to do what.

The website is working but it has not been updated for a long time. So it is not so much used and we should make it more accessible. Another group has been created to deal with this, other people can join it. (website@lists.reclaimthefields.org).

- Working groups/ Thematic groups

On this group, there was discussion but no final decision.

Here are the proposals:

Working groups can be created according to the needs of the constellation, on specific topics. The idea to create « collegiums » is to overcome the local level for wider topics. But it will depend on the initiatives of people or groups who want to implement this idea. It would be a topic to debate at the next assembly.

- Steering group, process and coordination

There was a lot of polemical discussions on this topic.

Up to now, there was a coordination group. In Barcelona, only two people from this group attended. It is made of 11 people. A lot of them wish that other people get involved.

Different positions were expressed:

–RTF is an horizontal dynamic constellation, there is no need for a steering group, initiatives should be taken by the people who take part to the network, the power (information, decision-making,...) should be equal for all.

–RTF is still building up, in order to strengthen it, a coordination group should be maintained. It does not exclude initiatives from specific people or groups, but we still need a kind of coordination.

In case we keep a coordination group, it should be « turning », in order to allow as many people as possible to get involved and to diversify this group. It will be necessary to think about how to share knowledges for the network to keep working.

This group will have a purely technical and logistical task (preparation, assemblies,...). It will not make political decisions.

- Principles for the days of action

We could organize decentralized action days. It is not necessary to have a precise date, but the 17th of April, International Day of peasant struggles, could be used.

Two actions will be supported by RTF:

- action in Dijon on 28th March,
- International seeds gathering (« Let's Liberate Diversity! ») from 25th to 27th March in Graz (Austria), for more information see <http://www.liberate-diversity-graz2010.org>

- Principles for camps (european, decentralized)

There will be no European camp in 2010. It's hard to organize a European camp every year because it takes a lot of energy.

The organization of camps in the future could be:

- year 1 decentralized camps
- year 2 European camp (2011?)

- Rhythm of encounters/ camps/assemblies

The rhythm of European meetings (meaning meeting that aim at gathering people from different countries in order to move the network forward at the European level) should be twice a year.

Year 1: a meeting on one of the decentralized camp during summer, a winter meeting.

Year 2: a meeting at the European camp (ex:Cravirola), a meeting in winter.

Local meeting/encounter can also take place whenever. They depend on local initiative and the information about them can be shared with the website and/or the newspaper.

Finally, there are some proposals for the next assembly:

- It would be nice to have different part in the assembly, for example: exchange of experience, political discussions, discussions on how we organize within RTF, a space for decision-making.
- Many people who don't know yet RTF or very little join the assemblies. It's important to create a space to welcome them before the assembly start, to inform them about how RTF works. A kind of information « box » (text on the history of RTF, decisions that have been made, meetings...) could be given to new people who want to take part to the meeting, so that we all have more or less the same level of information. This could make discussions easier, as we experienced in barcelona that the differences of information between the people who attended the meeting made it difficult to make decisions.
- We should finalise the discussion on the text of base (« who we are ») in order to agree on some basic fundamental points. For example, we discussed in barcelona to remove the word « non-violence ». There was also a lot of discussions on the word « food sovereignty ».
- There should be further discussion on the coordinating group. Should it be maintained or not?