

Report

Learning towards Solidarity-based Food Systems

Malmö workshop 21st-24th May 2015

The 20th of May 2015 I and Enrica have landed in Copenhagen, a short tour in this amazing city and the day after we took the train to Malmö.



The 21st we had the first meeting in the Sofielund Folket Hus, a cultural center of Malmö. Here we presented ourselves and we made some icebreaker games. In this experience we were a group of people from Italy, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Sweden, Czech Republic. Helen, the coordinator of the program in Malmö, introduced herself and organized some practicalities for the next days. Then, we had dinner together.

The day after, we went to the office of the environment department of Malmö. Here we went in depth concerning the aim of our journey and what the Municipality of Malmö is doing on this topic.



The first contribution was made by Helen, she explained the Environmental Program of the city and their project concerning agriculture and sustainable development. Helen introduced some projects that we were supposed to visit lately, like Rosengården, Odlå I Stan and Stadsbruk. The most important aspect was understanding **a strong connection between public institutions and civil society**, and how the

institutions help new ideas to grow and to spread through the local community.

Then, we had the presentation on Urban Agriculture and then role of the administration in the promotion of agricultural use of public allotments for local food production.

Finally, two representatives of Vastra Götaland Region showed how the County supports interaction between local farmers and consumers, promoting Communities Supported Agriculture, education and information of citizens. In Gothenburg, the city is promoting the CSA as a business model and urban agriculture for a sustainable urban development.



We had an interesting workshop and the opportunity to share questions and ideas about the role of public administration in the promotion of CSAs and urban agriculture. At last, we've got a marvelous lunch thanks to the project "Rude Food", a group of people that organize **food waste catering**.

The sessions continued with the research of Jenny on the CSA experiences in Sweden and the opportunities of growth through the information and the communication. Was stressed the importance for farmers to improve their communication skills to be more in contact with consumers.

Going more in depth on CSAs experiences, we had the presentations of the **Community Supported Fishery** of Malmö, promoted by the Marine Science Center, their goal is to build "a sustainable future for the coastal small-scale fishery, both economically as well as socially and ecologically", supporting a relationship between fishermen and local society and the ocean by providing high-quality, locally caught seafood.

Hemmaodlat is an aquaponic project: a system that combines conventional aquaculture with hydroponics for food production. In this way is possible cultivate high quality products in house. A km 0 production and consumption

that can be experimented in schools and at home, in order to consume own vegetables

In the afternoon **we biked** and visited a community gardening and **Stadsbruk**: a big program that involves Municipality, University and associations. The aim is to promote peri-urban agriculture and increase farming innovation in Malmö.



Lately we went to Rosengård, a multicultural neighborhood, here we had dinner and we tasted spices made by the women of Rosengård.



The 22th we took the bus and we went to Harberga, where **we planted maize, cabbages and onions**. In this way, we had the opportunity to be part of a starting CSA project!

After lunch we moved to Kristianstad for a journey in **Marcello's farm**, a huge biodynamic farm. Inge (Marcello's girlfriend) guided us to a silent tour and then we had an interesting discussion on biodynamic agriculture and the development of their CSA.

During the afternoon we shared our ideas and our reflection on CSA and what we experienced in these two days. For all of us was common the impression that this kind of experiences should be increased and the CSA network (like URGENCI) can have an important role in promoting exchanges and communication among different countries.

The last day we had the chance to meet a group of nice girls and to know an interesting project on social inclusion and urban gardening: **Odla I Stan**. The goal is to connect people through urban agriculture, what they have done in the last couple of years, through community gardens and agriculture is amazing in this difficult neighborhood. This last (for us) meeting was very expiring because we've seen a young grassroots movement willing to take care of the environment and of the community.



Three days of sharing knowledge and experiences about Communities Supported Agriculture and Urban Gardening, stimulated us to improve our activities in Italy in our organization. It's awesome watching what is going on in Sweden, but also in the other countries involved in the program and the best part is put in place new ideas and project in your country.

Adelaide & Enrica

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