



FEDENATUR DECLARATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERIURBAN AGRICULTURAL SPACES AS *LOCAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURES*

(Contributions to the new CAP 2013-2020)

Approved in Vitoria-Gasteiz, 21st June 2012

Adopted by the **INTERREGIVC** project **PERIURBAN Parks**, in Florence, 25th October 2012

In an environment where modern society is concentrated in cities, it is necessary to establish a model of environmental, economic and rational development coexistence between the urbanized system and the surrounding natural environment in order to face current major environmental challenges (climate change, biodiversity lost, food production).

Periurban natural and agricultural spaces provide cities with environmental services (and food) and contribute to its liveability and biodiversity preservation. However, because of their strategic localization in the outskirts, those spaces are under great pressure due to urban expansion and implantation of new infrastructures and so, are submitted to constant threats of degradation and disappearance.

In order to ensure the stability of periurban agricultural spaces it is essential they get legal recognition, protection, promotion and management. Only then, these rural spaces will contribute with food supply to European metropolises and will become true local food infrastructures forming part of the so-called local agro-food systems.

As stated in the European Charter on Territorial and Nutritional Governance signed in Barcelona in November 2011, local agro-food systems may contribute, among others , to:

- Ease access to a healthy and balanced nutrition.
- Promote a nutrition that leads to the creation of an environment with quality of life and cultural dissemination of the agricultural world.
- The overall reduction of the carbon footprint and improvement of the environmental state of affairs through developing local trade networks.
- The enhancement of a local socio-economic network through the production, processing and marketing of local products.
- Closer relationships (both social and solidarity) among people, through a shared living space.
- The emergence of a sense of "ownership" of a territory, for a society that integrates and recognises the role of food producers and consumers.

The General Assembly of FEDENATUR - European Federation of Natural & Rural Metropolitan & Periurban Spaces - held in Vitoria on 21 June 2012, urge local, regional, national and European authorities:

1. To **preserve** agriculture in metropolitan and periurban areas, with directives to ensure their **economic and environmental development**.
2. To **integrate** a Food Policy with other policies (territorial, environmental, health, social, cultural) in order to implement Local Agro-food Systems and to generate Local Food Strategies.
3. To promote **agreements** between **Governments** and **Local Agro-food System actors** – *Territorial Governance* - to ensure food production, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in periurban areas.
4. To foster measures in order to **equat rents between rural and urban society** and to **compensate for the inherent difficulties** in periurban areas.
5. To define EU legal instruments to safeguard high quality agricultural spaces located in periurban areas by setting a model similar to **Natura 2000**.
6. To promote legal instruments and appropriate resources in the framework of the **2013-2020 CAP reform**, in order to enhance **periurban rural development**.