

Débattre du paysage. Enjeux didactiques, processus d'apprentissage, formations  
Session 8: Le paysage pour exprimer les sensibilités?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING TO CURE LANDSCAPE DISEASES



Raul Dal Santo, Edo Bricchetti  
Landscape ecomuseum of Parabiago - Lombardy ecomuseums network  
e-mail: [agenda21@comune.parabiago.mi.it](mailto:agenda21@comune.parabiago.mi.it)

DEBATTRE DU PAYSAGE / DEBATING THE LANDSCAPE - Geneve- 2017 October 27

## Landscape: a cultural concept and a living system



- Landscape is a cultural concept, but it's also a specific level of biological organization, a system of interacting ecosystems with proper functions, apparatus and diseases. Landscape is a historical system: the present is linked to the past, and the future is related to the present.



- According to Hugues de Varine, the humus, the breeding ground, and root of the future, is the cultural heritage. Everybody should take charge of it, through a voluntary process of governance of cultural, social and economic change, rooted in living heritage, with the prospect of sustainable local development

Un patrimonio costituito da alcuni edifici di pregio architettonico e storico e dal paesaggio agrario custodito con cura dagli agricoltori e preservato dall'urbanizzazione.



- Parabiago have some landscape problems: Biological diversity loss, unbalancing and physical separation between human and natural habitats, dysfunctions of landscape apparatus. These environmental disfunctions are symptoms of diseases of the "invisible landscape": social relationship, a consuetudinary use of places and resources, rules and procedures for cohabitation and reciprocity and last but not least the "placelessness" syndrome: inhabitants don't appreciate the "small scale" living heritage that characterize the city landscape.

1. What have to do?

- Cure landscape?
- Cure the cultural syndrom?
- What are symptoms and what deseases?

2. How can ecomuseums cure landscape deseases?



[Micky Aldridge](#)

- It is necessary to operate directly on diseases to intervene indirectly on symptoms.
- Since these are cultural diseases, the cure to adopt concerns the community.



Some suggestions from  
the Ecomuseum of Parabiago

## Landscape Ecomuseum



The ecomuseum was born to cure landscape diseases.

The landscape ecomuseum of Parabiago was born in 2007 to answer the diseases described above.

## Engolve Institutions

The ecomuseum of Parabiago is a cultural institution, managed by the City of Parabiago and recognized in 2007 by the Lombardy Region.



Ecomuseo



Regione Lombardia



It is a cultural institution established in the context of the local Agenda 21 project, a volunteering process started by the City of Parabiago in 2002, aimed at the sustainable local development and based upon the active participation of citizens. It is managed by the City of Parabiago and identified by Lombardy Region, according to the regional legislation.

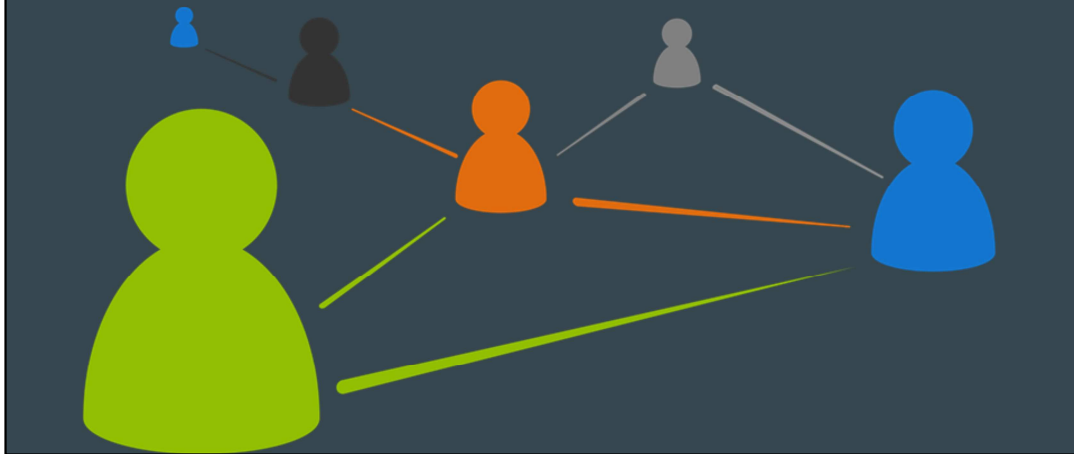
## Put landscape at the centre

The ecomuseum of Parabiago studies, conserves, enhances and shows the community heritage, especially the landscape.



## Plan and act with citizens

The ecomuseum of Parabiago plans and works not only “for” but also “with” the community; this is in accordance with the logic of active citizenship and the subsidiarity principle.



The ecomuseum, as museum of community, is legitimate by the participation of the community. For this reason, the Landscape Ecomuseum of Parabiago was designed, and is working not only “for” but also “with” the community through permanent participation processes. The ecomuseum has realized educational activities and cooperative learning processes, aimed at knowing landscape, learning to see it, to be able to make a good use of it, respect landscape and transmit it to the future generations, involving people from different generations.

## Map the heritage

The parish map is a participatory mapping of a landscape, resulting from a shared reading of the tangible and intangible heritage.



- With the participations first of schools and then of a working group of adults from institutions, associations and simple citizens, a parish map was drawn in 2007 to realize the ecomuseum action plan and as a cooperative learning project aimed both at mapping the heritage and make citizens able to recover the sense of places and the social and environmental responsibility. The parish map is a participatory mapping of the landscape, resulting from a shared reading of the tangible and intangible heritage. This reading comes out from the participation of people (using interactive and multimedia tools as well) towards a process of registering past and present aspects of the everyday life with a special attention on the future. After the map publication some students have been designed a playing card game, based on parish map results and iconography. The parish map never stops as it continues registering landscape changes and new challenges and goals of sustainable development. A new parish map is now in progress, starting once again from the point of view of students.

## Education processes



- The ecomuseum implemented workshops and activities aimed at educating people about sustainable development, landscape and cultural heritage. The education processes are directed both to schools (from nursery school up to university) and to the local community. The educative projects directed to schools get involved both children, their parents and grandparents

“I hear and I forget ...



- We can describe education processes of the ecomuseum of Parabiago starting with a quote of Confucio: I hear and I forget

...I see and I remember...



- I see and I remember

...I do and I understand”.



●I do and I understand.



- Confucio ends here but we have to go on... I play and I learn

...We learn and do  
together  
and we change  
landscape...



- and again: «we learn and do together and we change landscape». The ecomuseum have created, fostered, and coordinated alliances between public and private sectors to reach the goals of the action plan shared in the permanent participatory process. The questions of the community, like “What is the ecomuseum?” “What is the ecomuseum doing?” were soon followed by the question “What can we do together?”. Thus the ecomuseums with the help of citizens activated some pilot activities for the care, management, and regeneration of the cultural heritage and landscape.

## Empower people to change landscape



And finally the empowerment. The ecomuseum is now helping the stakeholders network to trigger cooperation agreements, for the care, management, and regeneration of the cultural heritage and the landscape. In this way, the ecomuseum has become a facilitator that makes people able to release energies, and share resources inside the community itself aimed at the common interest. The agreements that were concluded until now were both formal and informal.

Cultivate landscape,  
by eating



●For example the ecomuseum has promoted a pact of collaboration with some farmers, artisans and traders for the promotion of local products with a short distribution chain. As a results, some Municipal Denomination of Origin (De.C.O. is the Italian acronym) labelled products were created. They are characterised by the tradition (how products were once grown and produced) and innovation (how to product both local food respecting the environment and, at the same time, ecosystem services i,e, the landscape).

Thanks to a new socialization between stakeholders some heritage elements got new life or new use.



●The reopening and reuse with cultural purposes of the Saint Ambrogio church, the cleaning and reuse with natural purposes of the Riale irrigation ditch, the fish restocking of the Olona river, the cleaning of its banks and the opening of views on the watercourse, the care and regeneration of the municipal lands, the numerous cultural initiatives to bring the people close to heritage, are further examples of the activities carried out with the community, through the pacts of collaboration. Thanks to a renewed socialisation between the parties concerned, some elements of heritage and landscape, have obtained a new life or a new use.

- The ecomuseums is implementing and inspiring cultural changes that in turn are contributing to increase the quality of landscape.



- The landscape ecomuseum of Parabiago, through the permanent participatory processes, the enhancement of skills, knowledges and resources of the territory, the extensive use or the principles of subsidiarity and co-responsibility, took over the role of facilitator to cure the invisible landscape diseases. It carried out this role within a complex network of actors: institutional, economic, nonprofit sector, and individual citizens with a wide convergence between stakeholders; the network has succeeded in knowing the community heritage, taking care of it, managing, and regenerating it, realizing cooperation agreements that were implemented with great human resources. The ecomuseums has tried not only to implement, but also to inspire changes, primarily in methodological, relational and social dimensions, that in turn have contributed to change the quality of landscape, even beyond the border of the ecomuseum.



more infos on:



<http://ecomuseo.comune.parabiago.mi.it/>

<https://sites.google.com/site/ecomuseidellalombardia/home>

Kingfisher - Martin pescatore by Roberto Repossini