



Urban - Rural network: **GE**nerating **N**ew forms of exchange between **CI**tizens  
Réseau **U**rbain-**R**ural : **G**énérer des **E**ngagements **N**ouveaux entre **CI**toyens

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Aubagne-Paris, 10.12.2011

URGENCI is a member of the CSM and, during 2011, participated to the official activities and meetings of the CSM in Cordoba and in Rome, during last CFS.

URGENCI is a world association that brings together local, regional and national networks and associations of the so called "Local Solidarity-based Partnerships between Producers and Consumers" (LSPPC).

The acronym LSPPC refers to the **various forms of community supported agriculture (CSA)** that are diffused all over the world and **that represent the organized connection with small scale organic farmers and consumers** (Teikei in Japan, CSA in anglophone contexts, AMAP in francophone contexts, ASC in Canada, GASP in Belgium, GAS in Italy, etc.).

CSA groups and networks have different forms and names and Urgenci is born to facilitate the relationships between consumers and producers within local food systems:

- to provide sufficient quantities of healthy and quality local food,
- to preserve local agricultural biodiversity,
- to exchange organic seeds
- to protect farmers and consumers rights.

Moreover, each town and community, and the surrounding food production area can develop and empower these partnerships, in order to promote *Local Food Sovereignty*.

After the International Symposium of Kobe (Japan 2010), **Urgenci began to be organized also in continental associations** (Urgenci Europe, Urgenci America, etc.) to be closer to the different contexts, taking care of the differences of each culture.

In this perspective Urgenci participates to the activities of networks, association and institution at local, national and international level creating connections and supporting the ideas and the actions that can improve the links between producers and consumers.

With this approach **Urgenci does not overlap with other organizations and networks concerned with local food issues, but communicates and acts with them through this perspective.**

Below you'll find a short report of the most important networking activities done by Urgenci in recent months.

Because of his specific mission, the International Committee of Urgenci confirms its interest **to be part of the CSM as member of the Coordination Committee** and **asks to be nominated as the second consumers constituency**, delegating **Judith Hitchman** as representative for Urgenci, together with Andrea Calori, President of Urgenci, who continues to personally follow the CSM activities.

Andrea Calori

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## Note about the main networking activities that have been done recently by Urgenci among groups of consumers

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- Dissemination of CSA approaches in 12 countries of Eastern Europe through a direct assistance to local groups of small farmers and organized consumers.
- Contact activities with associations connected to Consumers International and to BEUC (the European Consumers' Organisation).  
Within Consumers International, there are some local and national associations that work on food and there are also global activities but, in general, food issues are not connected with the issues of farmers, production, rural world, land use, etc. but more on problems generated by food at the end of the chain and, especially related to health issues (e.g. obesity).  
With associations connected to BEUC there are contacts at EU level also in relation to the perspective of the organization of the World Consumers Meeting during Expo 2015 in Milan, dedicated to "Feed the World".
- Co-organization of the Nyeleni Europe Meeting in Krems (Austria) last august. Urgenci was part of the Steering Committee of the meeting (Jocelyn Parot is the contact person of Urgenci International for the Nyeleni process). Preparing that event we did communication/networking activities in Western and Eastern Europe.
- Participation to the FoodSovCAP process, a space of dialogue between EU Commission and food sovereignty movements, now connected to the Nyeleni process after the Krems meeting.
- Participation to the IFOAM World Congress in Korea where we were asked to be the "consumers constituency" of IFOAM. In that context Urgenci organized 3 WS.
  - *"Providing Access to Local, Organic Food to Low Income Families through Community Supported Agriculture"*
  - *"PGS meet Teikei(CSA)-do direct sales farms need certification?"*
  - *"Building the community aspect in Community Supported Agriculture, Teikei, AMAP, ASC..."*, to organize the connection of CSA groups in Asia (China, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc.)
- Participation to the activities of the board of IRIS (Inter-Reseau Europeenne des Initiatives Ethiques et Solidaires). IRIS connects European networks representing different families of responsible economy initiatives: responsible finance (FEBEA, INAISE), Fair Trade (IFAT), responsible consumption (ASECO), local partnerships between farmers and consumers (URGENCI) and Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE), with the participation and support of the Council of Europe (COE).
- Organization of aids for the Japanese small organic farmers after the tsunami+Fukushima disaster through our organized groups of consumers
- Organization of meetings with north-african networks of consumers+producers (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt) in the context of RIPESS EU ([www.ripesseu.net](http://www.ripesseu.net)), the european component of RIPESS, the world solidarity-based economy network founded in Lima in 1997.
- Organization of the first USA-CSA meeting with EcoFarm and other american CSA networks and consumers organizations (to be held in California in January 2012)

Then you'll find other recent activities and projects carried on in many parts of the world on by Urgenci visiting our website and blog.

[www.urgenci.net](http://www.urgenci.net)

<http://blog.urgenci.net>