

Catalysing Communities

*A European Gathering
for Building Connections
& Capacity*

Brussels, 19th and 20th of September 2023

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



PURPOSE:

To weave connections and support capacity building, so that collectively practitioners, organisations, communities and policy makers across Europe can catalyse the community-led transition of bioregions towards a regenerative future.

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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. **Part A, 19 September 9.00-13.00 CET @ Mundo Matongé (Mundo B building) in Brussels & online:** To share the successes of community-led initiatives and the latest resources and approaches about catalysing communities through regenerative practices, socially inclusive interventions and place-based demonstration centres.
2. **Part B: 19 September 14.00-17.00 CET @ Mundo Matongé (Mundo B building) in Brussels & online:** To discuss the roadblocks that practitioners meet recurrently when catalysing community transitions and co-create regenerative responses to these challenges.
3. **Part C, 20 September, 08.30-12.30 CET @ European Parliament & online:** To scope how community-led initiatives, the emerging catalysing professions, and the European Green Deal could advance each other's objectives.

What are Community-Led Initiatives? (CLIs)

*CLIs are self-organised initiatives of people working together on an ongoing basis towards some defined set of environmental and/or social goals, usually within defined localities or communities of place
(Penha-Lopes & Henfrey, 2019: pp. 11–12)*

What is a bioregion?

A bioregion re-connects us with living systems, and each other, through the places where we live. It acknowledges that we live among watersheds, foodsheds, fibersheds, and food systems – not just in cities, towns, or ‘the countryside’. A bioregion, in this sense, is culturally dynamic because it is literally and etymologically a ‘life-place’, that is definable by natural rather than political or economic boundaries.

- Robert Thayer, 2015