

HARVEST CONVERSATIONAL WEBINAR

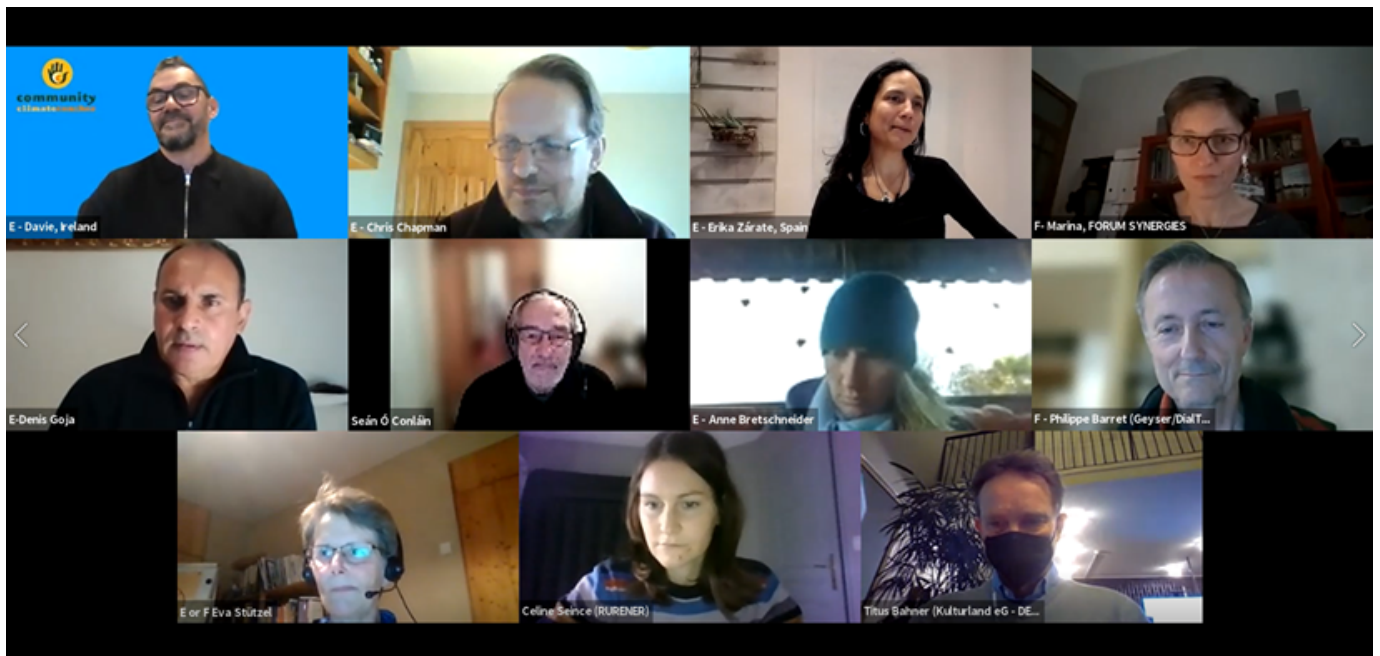
What is the potential for new
dialogue approaches to help
local communities face
current challenges ?

forum-synergies.eu



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WEDNESDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2021
16.30 - 18.00 CET



Check-in: What do you appreciate about dialogue when it is working well?

What I appreciate most is the connection, exploring common ground across all differences in perspective. This, for me, is the basis for taking action.

I appreciate dialogue when it opens a respectful approach to exploring different points of view

I appreciate communication when it is REAL, meaning parties are talking and LISTENING to the other, the subject evolving with the contribution of all participants.

I value dialogue when it is a shared search for the best solution.

Talking and making connection beyond positions, humble and really hear other people's perspectives

Right thought -> right speech -> right action, so skilful dialogue can turn good ideas into good work.

Dialogue works when people start seeing each other as people instead as positions only. And therefore understand each other more in what's their position/perspective. It is a process that is humanising the topic too.

New ideas/solutions that appear from a fruitful dialogue (and that no one considered before/imagined)

Conversation between Chris Chapman, Erika Zarate & Philippe Barret

Concepts of dialogue

Regenerative approach ([spiral](#) from the bottom to the top):
→ sustain
→ restore (to previous levels that have more integrity in terms of social relations and ecology)
→reconciliate (how can we to pull from all of these sides and tensions to build something new)
→ regenerate (adding complexity and energy to the system) : final level

Approach of dialogue on two dimensions:
- to solve a problem, a conflict or to improve a situation
- to improve relationships.

Creates the conditions so that that people can talk to each other and solve common problems together.

We thought we were working on issues an problems (environemt, economy, inclusion) but we are finding out that we are working on emotions and energy.
How to combine emotions and energy to all come together.?

It is important to give space to people so they can express their inner feelings and motivation.

Through connection – which happens at all levels, including emotional – you start with a sense of community.

As a change facilitator, you look after the space energetically and also bring up the spirit and sense of hope.

You can feel the energy in a room, how people are being engaged and it is important to sustain this energy field to ensure people are rallying and feeling that collective spirit.

Importance of the balance of the practical (concrete actions on the short term) with all the other components to keep things moving.

Example: farmer's pride to contribute to feed his neighbours as a greater motivation than the economic one.
When he says that to the assembly, it contributes to create community spirit, to build bridges and understanding.

How do we bridge from a discussion about something to actually doing things (and changing how the economy works)?

What is important in Philipe's work is to start understanding what motivates everyone.

What doesn't work is an intellectual and catastrophic discourse.

How does the connection to youngest generations and emotions come up in your work?

Rising of social and solidarity economy projects co-created with dialogue at a local level in past 5 years : they support people's livelihoods and serve community purpose.

We try to engage younger generations deeply, at an emotional level with a discourse rooted in HOPE, with co-creative and participatory approaches.

Growing aspiration among youngest generations to take into account the different dimensions of our humankind (not only mind bt perceptions, feelings and needs)

What is important is not whether we agree or disagree with the other, but whether we are able to understand the other in his or her difference.

Philippe: In France, shift from paradigm of debate to new forms of dialogue.

Regenerative approach is led by indigineous and rural communities with very strong sense of place that are beyond sustainable development (which keeps our level/ resources but do not improve).

Erika: inspired by reconciliation processes in indigenous communities from armed-conflict regions, that are going beyond conflict mediation

What are you learning, what is changing - is new and fresh - in your work?

DIALOGUE IN

accompanying new generation tu better dialogue

bringing together the many voices and talents in our communities

building community through dialogue

Local community open dialogue

from local dialogue to a global perspective

Helping shift from sustainability to regeneration

CONNECTIONS BEYOND

le lien humain

emotional connection

feeding... further than body and mind!

connecting to place, to ourselves (and our bodies!) and to other living beings. So holistic approach to what we are as a human being

get outside - dialogue in nature

Can a sense of ancestral belonging and affinity to nature be rekindled, and how?

How to engage local communities in dialogs they haven't chosen themselves; coming back to Philippe's comment on tangible issues.

How to give local communities the power they need for the transformation needed

how to enable local people to take on the lead in further dialogues

ENGAGEMENT & INCLUSIVITY

How to create meaningful dialogues with people that are not used to it.

how to create these spaces for dialogue and imagining together - so they are inclusive

how to involve esp. the young generation

How to bridge among the different groups in the population? Across language and cultural barriers

How to make connections across cultures and languages

What interests you most?
Qu'est-ce qui vous intéresse le plus?

co-creation

what about the follow up processes?

building perspectives to act

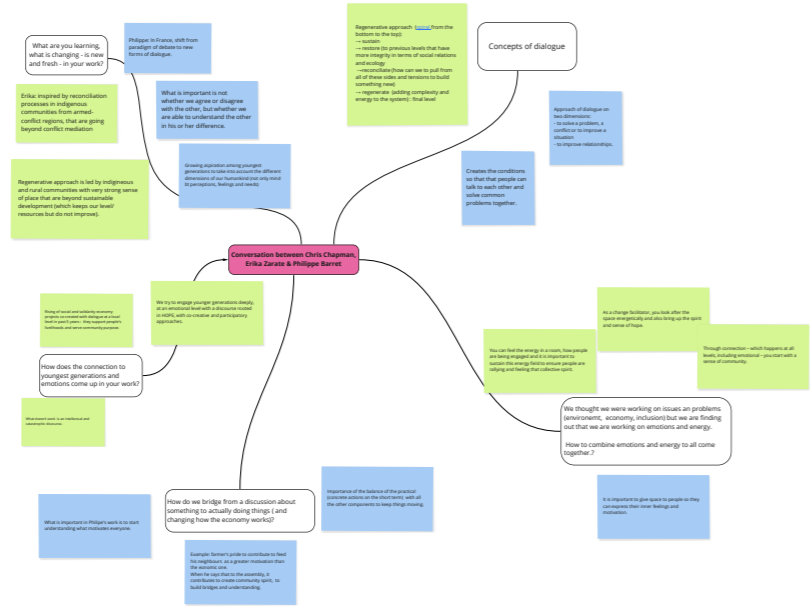
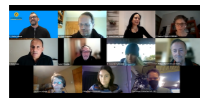
Approcher un sujet pour le (co)construire et non le déconstruire

approach a subject for co-construction rather than de-construction

ELEMENTS OF DIALOGUE

What is a sensible time/lenght of a dialogue process? Its ongoing, but what is a speed, frequency, that makes sense to keep in touch and build more togetherness?

Two different approaches as facilitators : neutral one (create the space between people) and a more intentional one trying to change the model (regerative)



FINAL COMMENTS

There is a tension in the mainframe that made me think "but the officials to be more present and if they cannot, they find another job". I found it great because it is one of the concerns we need to address in the future of dialogue. It is not the only one but it is one of the most important ones on the importance and possibility to mobilize all the aspects of our territories. It is clear by attending to the beginning of the webinar, it is a tension between what we are doing and what we have feelings, perceptions, needs, etc. And this is probably most difficult for the officials to share these other dimensions of their territories. And it can make things harder in a process of dialogue as we may have the frustration we have been talking about. What I would like to see central is we have shared that touches on: to make collective problems, we can use all these dimensions of our territories! But how do we do it and do we establish it as an important culture?'

And I would add another element that we have not discussed. A sentence says "to strengthen the facilitator role" partially open with "for dialogue is an essential part of our territories. And of course we need specialist facilitators at some points but I think that as professional mediators or facilitators, we have to spread our knowledge as widely as possible. And give you an example: the work I am doing on this small town in northern France on local self-sufficiency will target in a lot of the question that support the process during years - I'm doing because of the cost, so what I propose to the municipality is to start the process of dialogue and at the same time, to train local people to take over facilitation, so they will be able to play a role of local facilitators for their own community. This is an increasingly important issue for me, to be part when necessary, but also to ensure that I share part of my know-how locally.

It is interesting to see how things can most easily spread in different places across Europe, interesting to see how they can be captured and used to help and stimulate other activities in other places in the conversation today we want to open to talk about these particular themes, learn, ways of working that - even if the main context is quite different - we want to have a common and what we can adapt to our local contexts.

- RESOURCES**
- Here are some resources that may be of your interest:
- Websites where you can download free resources:
- <https://www.housingpartnership.eu/>
 - <https://www.territorydialogue.org/>
 - <https://www.territorydialogue.org/en/>
 - <https://www.csmtds.org/> (experiences and resources on territorial dialogue- FRENCH)
- Websites that offer upcoming courses:
- <https://www.eds.org/course/ub-leading-from-the-emerging-future> (FREE)
 - <https://www.galaxeducation.org/> (COST)
 - <https://www.regeneratix.org/> (COST)
- Other references:
- Initiative Inner Development Goals (an initiative of the capabilities, qualities and skills we need in order to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): <https://www.innerdevelopmentgoals.org/>
 - Culture Hack ran a webinar called, The Future is a Territory We Must Defend. It featured several indigenous activists. Recording here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eCvLr5t8U>

PRACTICE CULTURE OF DIALOGUE IN COMMUNITIES

regular exchange and conversations on very diverse levels including sharing food, cultural events, music art because a territory is about that

It would be helpful to establish tradition to meet regularly in a welcoming space - local library (neutral - preferably not church, nor municipality) to build a forum on the matters that exist within community but do not have a space to come surface

Regular exchange and connection among our community to facilitate co-learning.

Espaces d'apprentissage et pratique de la citoyennité... explicits

make dialogue a fix element of communities - not only when there is a problem to solve..

SUPPORT PROCESSES OF DIALOGUE

resourced facilitation on the ground for broader effective dialogue

maintaining the growth in community participation

strengthen the role of local activists

simplicité volontaire: viser moins mais en coherence avec ses valeurs... de venir exemple individuel et collectivement

Be positive, practical, persevere, and remember, the freight should be proportioned to the groove!

It would be good to change the „position“of municipalities - from local authorities to normal public services. This is a matter of how democracy is understood and practiced (usually as majority rule, that by the way becomes close to authoritarian)

push officials to be more personal...and find a better job if not possible ;-)

What advice would you give to people seeking to develop dialogue in our local areas / territories ? / Quel(s) conseil(s) donneriez-vous aux personnes qui cherchent à développer le dialogue dans nos territoires locaux ?

Share new processes

Create a real community story sharing platform outside the grasp of Multinationals...

SHARE NEW APPROACHES & LEARNINGS

Sharing across borders and boundaries

Are there enjoyable processes...integrating the arts and creative resources

BE CREATIVE

use more artists in the process

preparatory techniques are rational (cultural, traditinal elements)

learning from specific questions / cases what can be done, instead of generalised talks

applying the principles of age-friendly and inclusive volunteering to help people rediscover their confidence

Learn and practice these new approaches to dialogue.

Starting from cultural pillar of Sustainable Development, encompassing the other pillars, moderated in the atmosphere of regenerative approach, introducing the new vocabulary, also on sociocracy.

Involving body and emotions in the dialogue

To remember that we are all humans and humans are skilled with communication so even though some may resist, opening up the dialogue is always possible!

APPLY PRINCIPLES OF DIALOGUE

Acknowledging, involving and evolving diversity

Mindfulness

Go through tensions /conflicts (and do not fear them) before starting to co-construct

Working with conflict as a nourishing force, moving us towards reconciliation and co-creation

There is a sentence in the mentimeter that made me smile "Push the officials to be more personal and if they cannot, they find another job". I found it great because it is one of the concerns we meet in our processes of territorial dialogue. It is not the only one but it relates to what we mention before on **the importance and possibility to mobilise all the aspects of our humankind**. It draw my attention at the beginning of the webinar, it resonated between us that we are not only brain, that **we have feelings, perceptions, needs** etc. And this is probably more difficult for the officials to liberate these other dimensions of their humankind. And it can make things harder in a process of dialogue as we stay here (the brain) when we have to go below in the body. **What I would keep is this central idea we have shared that touches me: to solve collective problems, we can use all these dimensions of our humankind! But how do we do it and do we establish it as an important culture ?"**

And I would add another element that we have not discussed. A sentence says: "to strengthen the facilitators' role". I partially agree with it : for me, dialogue is an essential part of our humankind. And **of course we need specialists/ facilitators at some point**. But I think that **as professional mediators or facilitators, we have to spread our know-how as widely as possible**. I give you an example: the work I am doing on this small town in Northern France on Food self-sufficiency will last years. It is out of the question that I support this process during years – if only because of the cost. So what I proposed to the municipality is to start the process of dialogue and at the same time, **to train local people to take over facilitation. So they will be able to play a role of local facilitators for their own community**. This is an increasingly important issue for me, to take part when necessary but also to ensure that I share part of my know-how locally



FINAL COMMENTS

Dialogue is a central part of governance, and it is what we are moving towards in territorial dialogue. I consider that how we govern our communities is the make-or-break of where we are going. And there are two things we need for this collective governance:

- the importance of **diversity** : ensure that all the voices of the community are present, that's powering the process of dialogue ; and also have that diversity in all the other phases that require in implementation, evaluation and co-creation

- the importance of **acknowledging and nourishing conflict**: for example, Indigenous communities really celebrate both diverse opinions as well as tensions. Because they say that those are the building-blocks that were able to reconcile the tensions of the new futures. They are going to the next step, when we are working towards where our community is going and how to live and be as a community. **It is important to not push away nor ignore those tensions** but use that as something that feeds the future. Because **they are important flags that are telling us key-information about how the community**



I am interested in how things can most usefully spread. In different places across Europe, interesting stories are going on. **How can these stories be captured and used to inspire and stimulate other activities in other places?** In the conversations today we've just started to pick out there are particular themes, issues, ways of working that – even if the stories can look quite different - we've to see **what we have in common and what we can adapt to our local contexts**.



RESOURCES

Here are some resources that may be of your interest :

Websites where you can download free resources:

- <https://www.hostingtransformation.eu/>
- <https://www.catalysts.community/>
- <https://resilience.earth/recursos/>
- <https://www.comedie.org/> (experiences and resources on territorial dialogue- FRENCH)

Websites that offer upcoming courses:

- <https://www.edx.org/course/ulab-leading-from-the-emerging-future> (FREE)
- <https://www.gaiaeducation.org/> (COST)
- <https://www.regenerat.es/> (COST)

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