

From Slovenia, Spain, France, Austria, Belgium, Germany, UK and Hungary we had made our way to Wieserhoisl. It was an incredibly nice sunny weekend in late autumn when we met. About thirty people, many familiar faces, many new ones as well. All of us involved in a variety of collective farms, collective gardens,.... To get to know each other better and to get a grasp of what initiatives make up the RTF constellation, some of the initiatives were shortly presented during the meeting:

Potager collectif des Lentillères, Dijon. Since March 2010, a mix of people re-appropriated abandoned agricultural land in the city of Dijon. The cultivation of this land, adjacent to the existing squad “la Villa”, has generated a lot of energy and new dynamics between associations and collectives of Dijon. (info/contact: tierraylibertad@potager.org)

Grow Heathrow, Heathrow. During spring 2010, Transition Heathrow members transformed an abandoned market garden near London into a collective garden. Their aim is to return the site to its original use, allowing it to provide the community with locally produced organic fruit and veggies. The site is also a meeting place to share transition knowledge and practical transition skills. (info/contact: www.transitionheathrow.com , info@transitionheathrow.com)

Wieserhoisl, Deutschlandsberg. Since almost 4 years people have been living again at the Wieserhoil farm and turned it into a collective farm. Its apples are eaten again, its soil is providing food for the collective, its visitors and neighbours. Street theater initiatives are born at the farm, jungle conventions and critical film screenings are organized, and the collective fosters and hosts a number of stimulating encounters. (info/contact: wieserhoisl@riseup.net)

Le Début des Haricots, Brussels. Since 2005, the activities of this non-profit organization focus on linking up food producers and consumers locally. Setting up and supporting collective gardens, food box schemes, an urban farm, providing food and environmental education are different ways of involvement to move closer to an environmentally and socially just food system. (info/contact: www.haricots.org; timothee@haricots.org)

Common Ground & SOAS Food Coop, London. Meeting places are created at a derelict piece of land that has been transformed into a community garden and a food coop in the centre of London. With students and the community, space is reclaimed, veggies are grown and shared, and quality food is distributed at whole sale prices to students and community members. (info/contact: goodfood.soasunion.org ; beccaberrycrumble@gmail.com)

Casa Calabaza, Alpujarras. This small collective farm (10 adults and 5 children) seeks to create conditions for autonomy and self-management, sustainability and community-life, respect for nature and personal development. Selling organic sourdough bread on local markets and organic shops in the nearby town Orgiva forms the farm’s main source of income. The collective also organizes, as well as makes space available for, courses

and workshops that share their ideas of life. (info/contact : calabaza.alpujarra@gmail.com 0034646527527).

Earth rise garden, Budapest: The Earth Rise gardeners organised a hot and great regional RTF summer camp in the mountains of Bakony in July 2010. Practical workshops and inspirational plenary sessions were all pointing towards re-establishing a direct relationship with the earth. The Earth Rise group also created a permanent meeting place at their collective garden. (info/contact : carnica375@gmail.com)

Longo Mai. The cooperative farms of the Longo Mai network share a basic grassroots philosophy of collective life and autonomy. The cooperatives are all based on agriculture, cattle breeding, crafts and the transformation of raw material and direct sales. The income the collective farms generate is collectively managed to guarantee a future in solidarity for the cooperative and its members . The farms are also meeting places where skills and knowledge are shared.

...and this is just a glimpse of the ideas and projects that were (re-)presented at Wieserhoisl. More collective gardens, farms and food co-ops have been discussed while cooking, while doing some work at the farm, or sitting around the campfire; all of them sharing desires and ideas to reassume control over our life and food production.