

Discussion of the new Portuguese sustainability experiences

The work aims to present the general aspects of a recently started postdoctoral research project at the Research Centre in Sociological and Organizational Sociology (SOCIUS) and the Centre for Social Studies (CES), Portugal. Some empirical data is from the research project Communication and Political Engagement with Environmental Issues - COMPOLIS (I am part of the project research team).

The main objective is to observe the recently sustainability experiences created in Portugal that uses mainly the transition, permaculture and ecovillages principles, discourse and practice. Degrowth is another discourse and praxis that I would like to explore through these projects, but I conclude that degrowth is an absent topic so far, which is an interesting point for discussion.

The main objective of the research is to explore what are the different discourses and how they support and structure the experiences that emerged mainly in the last 10 years all over the country in terms of their history, their approach in regard of "toxic culture" , the social, environmental and political stakes towards a new society organization.

The projects are based in local aspects, in fostering familiar relationships and collective organization, less consumerism and renewable energy sources and are materialized in eco villages, gardens, permaculture experiments, farms and alternative ways of dealing with the production and consumption model and structuring alternative systems in or out of the mainstream one.

I found that each experience is built almost in isolation from the others and is implemented by a closed group that doesn't share much their results with society nor develops any effort in building another way of thinking, acting and living in a really sustainable world.