

**The 10th EUROPEAN PERMACULTURE CONVERGENCE
EUPC10**

17 – 19 August 2010

Nethen, Belgium



graines de vie garden, Nethen

We thank the host, the organising team, the helping hands of EUPC10 n 2010 in Grez Doiceau, Nethen, Belgium for their hospitality and the work for the organization.

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Introduction

This report will give you a glimpse of the 10th European Permaculture Convergence, held in the village of Nethen, in Brabant in the center of Belgium, in August 2010.

The place of Grez Doiceau (the municipality from which Nethen is part of) had started a Transition town process – which is one of the reason it was chosen for the associated permaculture events.

The Convergence took place within the event of the Permaculture Festival – the Permafest' "Living and taking care of life" - which offered a good mix of discussions, workshops, practical works, presentations, music and dancing through a network of allied associations, permaculture groups and projects, both local and from different regions of Europe, and welcomed around 1000 participants from Belgium and all over Europe.

The idea was to group the two events – the local and the european – the creative, thinking and hands on activities linking up people in a joyous design !

For the first time the European Convergence took place in a latin language region – actually at the edge between frenchspeaking and flemishspeaking communities - which was a strategic location as it enhanced the encounter of permaculturists from both communities in Belgium. It also facilitated the integration of the frenchspeaking permaculture network within the european permaculture world.

The three first days were specific for the the Convergence, the next three days were for the Festival.

History of the European Convergence

The European Institute of Permaculture was originally based in Steyerberg, Germany and managed by Declan Kennedy. In 1996 it moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, to the office of Tony Andersen. In 2006 the Institute was converted into The Permaculture Council for Europe.

The European Permaculture Convergences and conferences have taken place every two years :

Year	Location	#
1992	Germany	EuPC1
1994	England	EuPC2
1996	Germany, Prinzhöfte	EuPC3
1998	Slovenia	EuPC4
2000	Czech Republic	EuPC5
2002	Slovakia	EuPC6
2004	Czech Republic	EuPC7
2006	Czech Republic, Brno	EuPC8
2008	Czech Republic, Hostetin	EuPC9
2010	Belgium, Nethen	EuPC10



Googlemaps, left/centre area of EUPC and right the "grains de vie" garden

List of participants

The convergence was a success with about 55 participants – not everybody could participate completely to the event.

Margarethe Holzer	Austria – Alpine Region
Bert “berrie bosboer”	Belgium
Carla Willemaers	Belgium
Danielle Blancke	Belgium
Geoffroy Goddeau	Belgium – busy with the festival
Greet De Wandel	Belgium
Greet Luypaerts	Belgium
Guy Cotemans	Belgium
Kali De Keyser	Belgium
Laurent Brasseur	Belgium – busy with the festival
Sabine Jaucot	Belgium - busy with the festival
Sarah Bulckens	Belgium
Sylvia Boller	Belgium
Toma Frank	Belgium – busy with the festival
Bernard Alonso	Canada
Jo Morandin	Denmark
Tony Andersen	Denmark
Tycho Holcomb	Denmark
Antonio Scotti	Espana - Catalunya
Nele Toniste	Estonia
Anne Derouet	France
Aurelie Caton	France
Claire Uzan	France
Pascal Depiene	France
Franck Nathié	France
Gaëtan Cailleau	France
Jacques Mathon	France
Kris French	France
Moilamain	France
Steve Read	France
Veronique Pelle	France
Christina Buschmann	Germany
Petra Krubeck	Germany
Petra Meyer	Germany
Ulrike Meissner	Germany
Angus Soutar	Great Britain
George Sobol	Great Britain
Joe Atkinson	Great Britain
Laura Rival	Great Britain
Patsy Garrard	Great Britain
Zoe Rozar	Great Britain
Houssa Jacobi	Marocco
Steve Hart	New Zealand
Maurice Levy	Portugal – Algarve
Fransje de Waard	The Netherlands
Irma Abelskamp	The Netherlands
Leo Bakx	The Netherlands
Mireille Hollaar	The Netherlands
Mirjam Bruijn	The Netherlands
Beat Roelli	Switzerland
Gaetan Moraro	Switzerland
Hubert de Kalbermatten	Switzerland
Laurent Schlup	Switzerland
Tilla Künzli	Switzerland
Pavla Sedlackova	Tchequia

Program of activities

Monday 16/08/10

Arrival of the participants

evening : discussion on the program

Tuesday 17/08/10

morning : Welcome, presentation of the program and the participants
Report from and future of the European Permaculture Council

lunch time

afternoon : Visit of the garden Seeds of life / Herman Pirmez

afternoon : présentation Brin de paille – Moilamain/Pascal Depienne/Steve Read
presentation UPP – Moilamain/Pascal Depienne/Steve Read
presentation Nodo Espiral and Chaordic Institute – *videos from Stella – finally not possible technically*
presentation projects in Netherlands / Mireille Hollaar

afternoon :

workshop : Future of european permaculture	preparatory meeting before the conference around transition towns
facilitators : George Sobol/Steve Read	<i>for people already involved in a transition process in their community to meet and exchange experience</i>
	facilitators : Danielle Blancke/Veronika

evening :

conference Transition towns par Danielle Grundberg <i>(open to all transitionners from the area and elsewhere and all people interested by the transition process)</i>
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Wednesday 18/08/10

am : trip to Voedselbos – a forest garden in Nokere, Belgium

pic-nic

pm : visit to the garden of the Fraternités ouvrières in Mouscron, Belgium

evening : presentation : Strategies of the 10.000 trees/less than 1 tonne CO2 – Tony Andersen

Thursday Jeudi 19/08/10

morning : workshops

workshop transition towns / Danielle Grunberg	workshop on diploma process – Chaordic/UPP.. . facilitator : Steve Read	designer's workshop	10.000 trees / Tony Andersen	frenchspeaking network
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lunch time

afternoon : workshops

workshop teachers training/éducation facilitator : Joe Atkinson		workshop on edition, publication of pc books, documents, dvd's... facilitator : Kali De Keyser
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report from the working groups

dinner

evening : election of the council
evaluation of the event

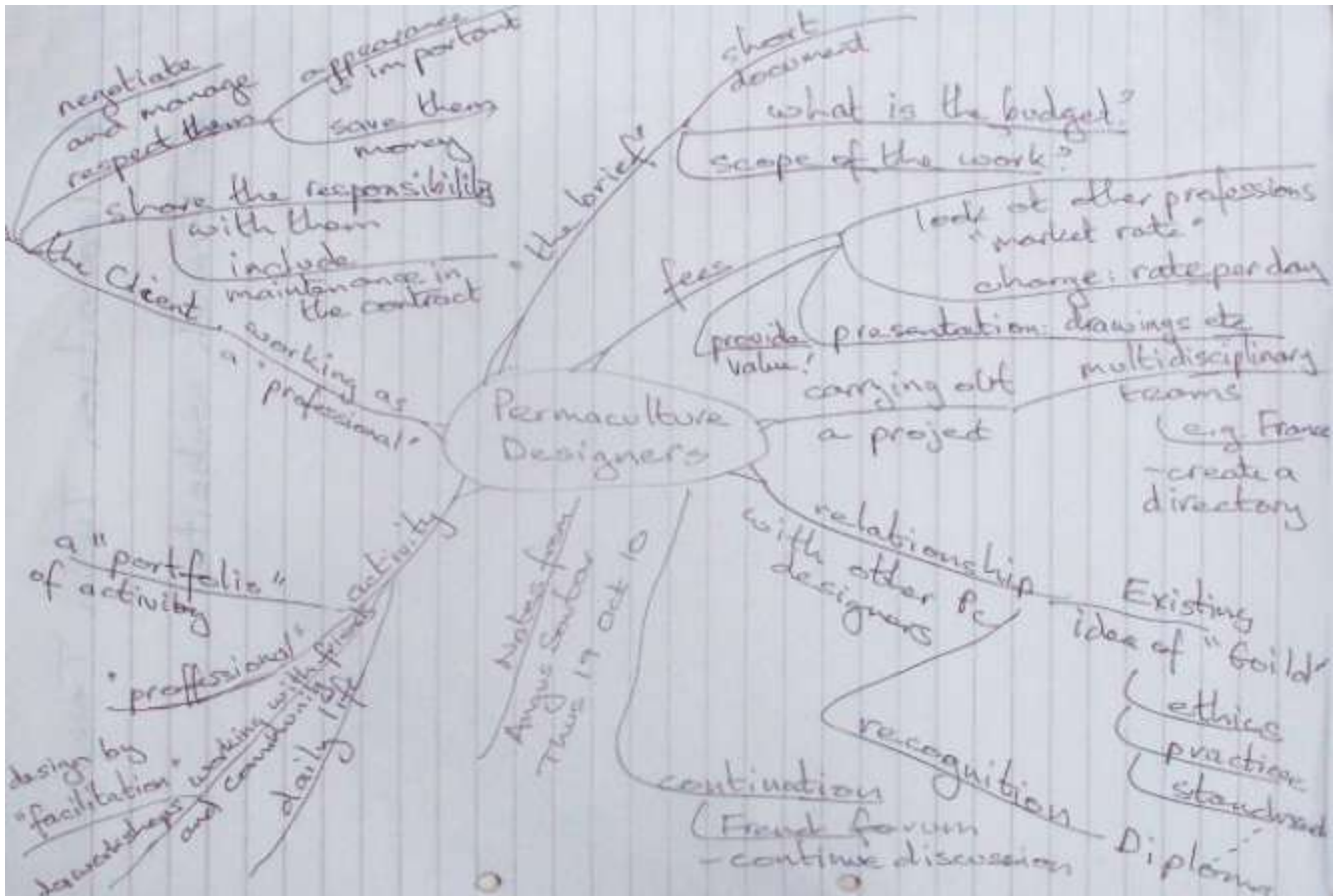


site of the festival

NOTES FROM WORKSHOP

Workshop: Permaculture Designer

Mind map of the workshop showing the results of the discussion



Diploma and education workshop :

- roundtable about the diploma situation in the different countries : Great Britain and Germany being quite structured, Denmark also within the scandinavian network, France with the Université Populaire de Permaculture (UPP) developing its own process, Switzerland, Belgium and The Netherlands not being structured yet;
- discussion on the change of situation in Australia with the Pc Institute not recognising diplomas anymore and G Lawton's controversial initiative – versus the internationally approved protocole with diploma holders organising an Academy and accrediting new diploma candidates;
- discussion about the financing of diploma tutoring – situations in the different countries : in Germany, UK and Austria, tutors get some payment from the apprentices, in France and Tchequia tutoring is free of charges – its a question of balance and flexibility to every individual situation – exchange can be other than monetary with giving help on the tutor's project;
- how to help connecting projects looking fo financing and sources of financing;
- agreement on the diploma content reflecting all the aspects of permaculture even if focusing on one category;
- discussion about the harmonisation of the syllabus – the process and principles – respecting the diversity of the methods and ways of teaching which can be culturally different;
- discussion about permaculture teaching being included in the formal educational system or not, about the pertinence of a legal aknowledgement of permaculture education;
- 2nd part of the workshop about the teachers's meeting which could be held in the ecovillage of Sieben Linden in Germany in june 2011. The following subjects will be discussed :
- there will be practical sessions for teachers to show their methods and modules – how to teach the fundamentals/principles – what inspiration from « Teaching Pc creatively » and other teaching methods;
- deep discussion on the syllabus content in the different countries – starting from the Pc Manual : what is not taught and why ? what has been added ? the world has changed, so how to adjust the teaching and staying truthful to the original idea;
- discussion on apprenticeship, tutoring and diploma process in the different Academies and UPP;
- how to promote courses and share Pc values with the world;
- how to continue the exchanges and discussions and develop the teacher's network;

10.000 trees workshop by Tony Andersen:

- working on setting up examples all over the world : India, Brasil, El Salvador, Denmark...
- and collecting list of projects working with this strategy
- work with schools
- look for funding for tree projects
- in Western world : work on the less than 1 tonne CO2 part
- working group : Christina Buschmann, Fransje de Waard, George Sobol, Kali De Keyser, Maurice Levy, Patsy Garard, Tony Andersen



garden of the Fraternités ouvrières, Mouscron

Publication workshop :

- the participants being french speaking and dutch speaking the discussion went around the publication situation and projects in these two languages
- the ressources :
 - existing and possible publishers (in french) : Passerelles Eco, Richard Wallner, Etopia, Nature & Progrès, permaculture groups by themselves
 - existing newsletters (in french) : Passerelles Eco, Graines d'abondance (net)
 - existing publication (in french) : Permaculture 1 & 2, Graines de Pc, studentwork R. Magnaca, « Essence of Pc » D. Holmgren
 - publications on their way (in french) : « Permaculture » S. Holzer, « How to make a forest garden » P. Whitefield, « Guide pratique Pc » L. Schulp, « Ecosystèmes comestibles » Franck Nathié
 - how to organize the network of translators, publishers, writers...
 - using translation tools, lexicum english-french
 - existing publications (in dutch) : « Tuinen van Overvloed »
 - existing translations (in dutch) : « Voedselbos » R. Hart; « Essence of Pc » D. Holmgren (net)
 - publication projects (in dutch) : PC Magazine (translation + new articles), 2 different textbooks for Pc courses by Ishi and Leo Backx
- the projects :
 - translation projects in french : « Tuinen van Overvloed », Pc Manual
 - publishing projects : « le sol dans Pc » by Gaëtan, studentwork by Moilamain, « permaculture végétale » by collective + Hubert

Excursions

In the middle of the convergence, we had set up the day with visits to two wonderful gardens in our regions – this day off allowed participants to meet each others.

In the morning we went to see the forest garden het Voedselbos van Bert D'Hondt « berrie bosboer » in Nokere in de Flemish Ardennen. This forest garden started in 2001 show a beautiful diversity of fruit trees, bushes, edible plants, mushrooms...



Voedselbos, Nokere

We had some picnic over there in the garden.

Then we went off to Mouscron to the garden of the Fraternités Ouvrières where we were hosted by Josine and Gilbert Cardon. This urban edible jungle on 2000 m² has the most astounding diversity and abundance of fruit trees, berries, edible plants and vegetables. The association proposes also a huge choice of seeds to its members.

Election of the Council

As decided at the European Permaculture Convergence 8, in Brno, Czech Republic 2006, the participants of the European Permaculture Convergence have the authority to elect the individual members of the Permaculture Council for Europe for the next 2 years term. To run from one European Permaculture Convergence to the next.

At the EuPC10, the Permaculture Council for Europe Election results were as below :

Members of the previous term of council to stand down :

Hannah Thorogood Britain

Pavla Sedláčková Czech Republic & Slovakia

Margaret Holzer Austria and the Alpine region

None represented.

New candidates presented for the election :

Leo Backx Holland

Mireille Hollar Holland

Sylvia Boller Belgium

Petra Krubek Germany

Zoe Rozar Great Britain

All were unanimously elected to be the Permaculture Council For Europe 2010-2012.

The main duties of the council are :

EuPC11: to ensure the European Permaculture Convergence 11 happens in 2012. They will decide where it happens and who it is hosted by and will support the organisers of the convergence

Funding: to attempt to gain funding for the Permaculture Council for Europe.

More Members: to co-opt more members to the council if they see fit.

Website: to attempt to have some internet representation of the Council.

Proposals of hosting group/place for EUPC11:

- in Turkey / Steve Read
- in Germany / Petra for Karsten Winnemuth
- in Switzerland / Hubert de Kalbermatten (came after EUPC by email)

Evaluation :

Summary of feed back

Pos/neg.	Topic	number	%
Everyone	Thank you	all	100
+	Venue, place	7	13
+	Visits to seed bank and forest garden	7	13
+	organization, logistics	5	9
+	Food	5	9
+	Stay with local people home	2	4
+	Inspiring discussion groups	2	4
+	Many young people	1	2
+	Improvisation, spontaneity	1	2
-	Time keeping	5	9
-	Not enough compost loos	1	2
-	All spaces a bit closer together	1	2
-	Hygienic situation of dishes, wash hands before after lunch	1	2
-	Noisy camp site at night and in the morning	1	2
-	Unclear programme specification	1	2
Wish	Permanent space for tea and coffee	1	2
Wish	Groups for each language	1	2
Wish	Smaller groups for discussions	1	2
Missing	Planned moments for reflection	1	2
Missing	Spontaneity in organization	1	2
Missing	Flip chart; white board etc.	1	2
Missing	Clear meeting point	2	4

Topics collected

Topics collected by the attendees (55) that are of interest	number	%
How to become professional designer - evolve	12	22
Improved communication between different countries and within different countries – contact page	9	16
Do we want to harmonize the PC education / PC diploma in Europe?	8	15
More practical PC-projects – learning by doing	7	13
More books in other EU-languages for different regions and practical	5	9
European PC-teachers	5	9
European permaculture council – a role in responding to EU / Govt / local Govt. strategies etc.	5	9
Quick contact through internet to use it as a pressure for political issues	2	4
More wikis	2	4
Design new administrative structure for the European Union	1	2
Interested in everything	1	2

Feedback in detail as written on the flip chart

Inspiring connectionsw great feeling
Just want to say thank you it was a great event
Thank you for the great organization
It was a great job you have fulfilled with great success. Thanks a lot.
Inspiring connections, great feeling
Thank you it is very good
Merci à tout organisation, plein succès pour les prochaines
It was my first convergence and a great experience I am grateful thank you for organization . also the great tour and visit.
Thanks for all ! My first convergence was a successful experience.
Je n'ai pas tout compris mais beaucoup aimé !!! Beaucoup de travail, beaucoup d'ambiance, merci pour ce magnifique lieu pour cette magnifique démonstration de design.
It was really great the fluid and the organizers as much as the volunteers add a lot of their enthusiastic spirit, all light and pleasant.
Very lovely and had a good time, thanks for everything and looking after me and being a smiley person and the food was good and my working very bad.
I am so glad to have met so many permaculture people. I enjoyed very much the visits thank you all.
A perfect introduction to my new permaculture life in Europe. Thank you for all the heard work organizing this fantastic convergence of ideas, creataive minds and positive energies.
Many covered their interests. Our concerns pulled from the same theme into many directions. The convergence well represented the complexities need for harmonized diversity. I hope the work initiated develops and our ideas translate to reality. I would mention though that instinct was never mentioned. I feel that some of these should only be observed and not manipulated per workshops in education + networking. I would have liked to talk about processual + diffusionist systems more. Looking forward to the next one.
Thanks to the convergence organizing team. Great event, would have been stricter with time keeping.
Thanks for organizing! Good the possibility to stay in home of local people, I really liked it. I disliked the hygienic situation, but the plates and food was good. I missed water to wash my hands after toilet on the festival space. It would be nice to have a signal for starting sessions and to organize that the room is open when the session should start. ... only little things ... I really loved the garden visits! Well done Merci,
Thank you for your great organization and contact with local people, working together for with each other. Merci beaucoup des compliment The super great kitchen people! Great taking ware of us with food tres bon.
Thank you! Visits (I would do them at the end); Hospitality in local houses; food and translation; venue; organization; dish washing; time table not always respected; flipchart – white board missing; initial meeting points not clear.
Thank you for your hard work. You chose the right place for a gathering. Next time I would enjoy more group meetings, with less people, small groups Thank you.
Rich connections, great food, unforgettable seed bank, beautiful people, thanks a lot.
It was a great time. I hope I can get the Belgium spirit with me to Germany, Thank you
Thank you for taking us to Paradise on Wednesday, Its very good to really connect to nature.
Trip was great, discussion groups were inspiring
Je ne comprends rien quand Steve Read parle en anglais.
Good convergence, good socializing, noisy campsite late at night and early in the morning, unforgettable ground.
Things I particularly liked: good spaces; All the new young people involved – great to have attracted them. things I would have done differently: more compost loos; have everything closer together on the site if possible.
Thanks for everything it was great. Maybe a bit more spontaneity in organization first day planning the convergence for example.
Thank you for creating a great permie meeting. Time + place wonderful; first experience for me; I liked the improvisation and spontaneity permaculture style. It would have been nice to have some flow and planned moments of reflection and sharing of feelings. I sensed some tensions between people sometimes which might have been solved by just talking feelings. Other than that super grand, merci
Good grassroots job; a bit shaky in time keeping and program specification, but open space did work out. You did a good job holding space and people handled it ok.
Thank you for your hard work : Positive: Venue; programme; organisation/logistics; transport information Negative: lack of coffee on Wednesday ; would have been great to have somewhere permanent for tea coffee ; Hope to see you again.
Que des compliments! Un petite Remarque: peut être aurions nous du parler moins anglais, Quelqu'un a suggéré d'organiser des groups par langues pour facilite la communication.