

# For an internationalist territorial autonomy



Making a country within a country

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This notebook consists of two chapters, "Make the country" and "Make tools".

In each of these chapters, you will find a number of fact sheets describing practices, methods and political intentions. They were drafted and discussed during the 6 stages of work that this proposal has undergone since a working group was set up in the evening of Sainte-Soline 2. Some of them are accompanied by so-called "inspiration" sheets, which take up ideas, Achievements or practices experimented elsewhere, in other groups and situations, and which have accompanied us during our reflections.

# Foreword

In 2023, the need to exchange ideas and draw up a internationalist roadmap for building resilient and protective territorial basins emerged in the wake of the tragic demonstration in Sainte-Soline, which left over 200 people injured. A mandate was given to a small working group to put forward concrete proposals.

In 2024, we met, in the heart of the Village de l'eau in Melle, with guests from all over the world, to discover and understand each other, and to give each other common operational perspectives. We concluded that we should work on three areas: informing, supporting and protecting ourselves collectively and mutually.

In all, we've met seven times since Sainte-Soline 2 to Les Résistantes 2025 in Normandy, we've taken the time to work in small and large assemblies, taking care not to reinvent the wheel and not repeat what's already being done elsewhere.

We're now approaching the dry end of summer 2025, and we've come up with two types of concrete proposals.

The first concerns territorial organization.

The second is mutual protection.

Territorial organization? Creating zones of social and environmental solidarity, countries within the country.

Mutual protection? Protect those who protect. Protect what protects.

All the while being connected, i.e. informed and taught by each other.

Now is the time.

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# Why create countries and tools?

During our work at the Village de l'eau in Melle, in July 2024, we wrote this unfinished text, which destiny is to never be finished, to be constantly corrected and modified. Representatives of Brazilian, Colombian, French, Mexican, Kurdish, Belgian, Chilean, Senegalese and German and other socio-environmental Associations and groups took part in the collective writing of this text. On the big stage, we made a commitment to work on this proposal, based on this joint political declaration, and to meet again at Les Résistantes in 2025.

## Call from Melle

\*We are people, from the countryside and the cities, workers of all kinds and slackers, peasants, workers, artists, the unemployed, daughters and sons of the earth and water, the living men and women. We are groups and organizations, associations, movements and peoples.

*We denounce capitalism, productivism, extractivism, colonialism, patriarchy, all mixtures of these complicit terms, all authoritarian political regimes, whether affirmed as racist or disguised as democratic residues. We fight them because they rob us of our commons, destroy biodiversity and ecosystems, life and the planet, because they shatter our equalities and hinder our freedoms, including our spiritual freedoms, because they attack the irreducible diversity of our multiple identities, our ways of inhabiting the territories, because they break down local services and links.*

*We are in the business of defending, building and conquering our autonomies of all kinds, in search of radical political, social, food and energy democracies. We distrust institutionalization and verticality. We demand rotation and sharing in decision-making between all people of all ages, all genders, all origins, and also between the old and the new in organizations, and between those with cultural capital and those who are deprived of it.*

*We are a plural but singular organization, without order or summit, made up of small composed of small cooperatives, large movements, self-managed experiments, planetary mutual aid, individuals, resource agencies, small countries rooted in the interstices official countries. We are lasting friendships and occasional alliances, formal structures and, above all, informal interactions.*

*We're calling on you to work together on these vague and shifting foundations, to build our new world on a small scale or on a large one, by producing differently, inventing new horizontal relationships, financing resistance funds, taking care of each other, joining the struggles that enchant you.*

\*Let's join this movement because there is no other way to save our mutual freedoms, to save ourselves, to save us, humans and non-humans, our planet.

To do this, we propose:

- to act, because it's only through action that solidarity can be built,
- to ally ourselves, to support each other, to protect each other,
- to share our life experiences, our struggles and our processes,
- to act simultaneously on our targets because they are often everywhere, multinationals and all the others, ...
- to identify the battles we need to support, and to communicate with each other by all possible means - computerized, visual, etc.
- to build our mutual political trust through encounters between our people, our lifestyles and our cultures,
- to continue to produce and develop shared data and information through technology, science and all available channels,
- to create or strengthen existing funds to build events, help and protect each other, reach out, meet...
- to build or consolidate territorial daring areas as well as social and environmental solidarities.
- to develop our collectively-built action agendas where everyone can mention and call for their own struggles.

By creating countries and tools, we are responding to these commitments.

# **Chapitre I**

## **Make Country**

Our first proposal is to create countries within the country, to create or consolidate territorial daring areas as well as social and environmental solidarities.

The idea is to organize on a small scale based on what already exists (a struggle, an occupation, a social issue, a third place, ...) or On a share desire to live and make something else live locally other than the ravages of the capitalist machine and its consequences on life and its future.

To create a country is to draw inspiration from the sensitive living world around us and organizing ourselves around the watersheds of rivers and streams. Of course, there are many more possible basins than just hydrological ones, but we're mentioning them here because the watershed also indicates the need for solidarity solidarity between those at the top and those at the bottom.

Nor do we need to be very numerous in a country. If true democracy is to be achievable, the fewer people there are, the better it will be in order to try self-organization and horizontality. The key is to ensure that these countries don't become self-sufficient, but rather that they seek out the most remote local otherness.

Creating countries within the country means putting in place, in a connected way, proposals for socio-political organizations, and creating another form of legitimacy over time opposite of existing legality.



## **Not reinventing the wheel**

Many initiatives already exist that give life to the idea of a necessary territorial recovery and horizontal democratic organization.

Farms, third places, rural cafés, grocery stores, grocery stores, zads, social food security, occupations, shared housing, struggles, cooperatives - the list is long of proposals that aim to thwart fatalism and defeat the mastery of a certain form of socio-political organization.

The country proposes that these initiatives be part of a *territorial* logic of social connection and defense of the living.

The idea of the "country" is not, therefore, an invention, It has to do with many other types of proposals (bioregions, communalism, etc.) and intends to cooperate with them. What sets it apart is its willingness to start from what's *already there*, whether among seasoned activists or local populations whose solidarity practices are often invisibilized.

## **Point of attention**

Ecological practices are often perceived as being far removed from local populations, whether in villages, towns, towers or fields. It's important to reduce this distance, which only benefits the right-wing tendency of behaviors and practices.

To constitution a country, the focus on the emotional attachment to the territory, to the human and non-human living beings, is a very important lever. Enabling a neighborhood to get to know and recognize each other; learning how looking at the landscape and the living creatures that inhabit and cross it; Reading the water flow and understanding its causes and consequences; Discovering and learning to appreciate new arrivals-es ; Going downstream (to the sea?)... These are all examples of gestures that induce emotional attachment. This attachment will then be a powerful lever for collective action for the future.

# I./ Making the country Composing your country

## Time registration

Long-term

## Definition

The *composition* of a country depends, among other things, on knowledge of its inhabitants, both human and non-human, and the alliances that can be made. For this, the notion of "reaching out" will undoubtedly be useful, even if today it seems so complicated that the segmentation of the population seems to be accelerating. However, "reaching out" is essential to broaden the popularity and population of the "country". The *composition* of a country is at this price: a country is not a reserve.

## Objective

Define the country's geographic and demographic perimeter. For this, see also the survey worksheet.

Socially broaden participation in the construction, maintenance and decisions-making country.

Avoid preaching to the choir. Knowing each other is A advantage when starting a process, but networks of acquaintances and affinities should not prevent the search for territorial otherness, however improbable.

## Issues

The idea of *composition* doesn't concern everyone. There's no point to waste your time arguing with people who are known to be opposed to any consideration of social and ecological issues. We'll see about that later. On the other hand, identifying areas of social and environmental fragility in the region will enable to move towards fairer encounters: neglect and isolation are realities with which we can come to terms.

## Ideas

**Door-to-door.** Introduce yourself, invite to a meeting, ask for news, inform about local events - there are a thousand reasons for knocking on doors. When it comes to the technicalities involved and on the ways of mobilizing people, the Community Organizing has a lot to say.

**Bri-co (Bureau de recherches et d'investigation sur le commun** - Office of Research and Investigations on Commons - or **Brigades de réparation immédiates et collectives** - Collective Emergency Repair Brigades -, as you like). It is a nomadic and ephemeral device, proposing spaces for debates and meetings based on "communal luxury", i.e. the provision of tasty, well-cared-for meals in everyday places (a barn, a closed shop, a space for rent ...) where care has been taken to ensure the a warm welcome (tablecloths, flowers, etc.). Here, for example, the preparations and repairs to be carried out in the country are discussed.

**Collecting the message.** A classic feature of local diagnostics, this mechanism for gathering and the process of classifying individual interviews takes place outdoors, in a public area, based on a central question put to everyone, the answer to which is also communicated collectively through the progressive display of the results of the discussions.

**Collective questionnaire/ Non-directive interview.** If a few residents are gathered together, for example at a Bri-Co, the collective exercise of a "country" questionnaire is interesting to rally participants around an initial issue. Take, for example, this questionnaire inspired by the bioregional quiz: it contains only closed-ended questions, offers no interpretative bias (except for two, deliberately), and sets the stage for an initial debate. It is intended for collective discussion in order to allow "a sense of place" to emerge. There are no right or wrong answer, but rather an aggregate of sensations, memories sensations, knowledge, doubts, etc. The debates are often very lively.

1. What is the highest point from which you can observe the country's territory?
2. Do you have any memories of social and/or political struggles, either near or far, that took place on the country's territory?
3. In the last 20 years, what environmental issues generated by urban planning, real estate, economic activities, etc., have affected your memory of the country's (soil artificialisation, creation of zoning areas, cutting down of forests or trees, privatization of public areas or passages, etc.)?
4. When was the last fire or flood in the country?
5. From where you are, where is the north?
6. Name five of the most common native or migratory bird species in the country.
7. Can you make a list of the businesses located in the country that have closed in the last 5 years? What about those that have opened in the last 5 years?
8. Who is the country's largest employer?
9. What is the first flower to bloom in the country?
10. Is there a place (or places) in the country where you like to reenergize and spend time for yourself or with others?
11. What is the journey of your tap water? Where does water come from?
12. What is the largest non-domestic mammal on the territory?
13. Do you know a song, a painting, a film, a book that talks about the country's territory and what happened there?
14. We call "negative common" that will have to be managed by the whole community, whatever happens in the future. For example: nuclear waste, polluted soil, abandoned industries, etc. In your opinion, do any of these exist in the country, and if so, can you identify at least one?
15. What makes you happy when you think of the area in which you live ?

**Participatory inventory.** This is a large sheet of paper, posted on the wall, on which each participant - at a Bri-Co or a meeting to present the goals, for example - writes down the names and contact details of people they know personally, who live in the country's basin, who might be able to join the process and whom they commit to contact.

## **Modalities**

An initial core team is needed, and a strategy must be devised to ensure that these first steps are not left without follow-up. Unfortunately, this is often the case. Note-taking, contact details, recontact, diary - all this needs to be planned.

The presence of a map is always helpful. We know the seductive power of a map, but in this case, it can really help to make visible the approaches to territories, their challenges, their weaknesses, ...

## **External resources**

### **Community Organizing**

<https://organisez-vous.org/principes-community-organizing/>

### **Bri-Co**

[https://www.fdss.be/wp-content/uploads/Depliant\\_BRI-Co\\_EN.pdf](https://www.fdss.be/wp-content/uploads/Depliant_BRI-Co_EN.pdf)

### **Porteur.se de paroles**

<https://www.diagnostic-territoire.org/uploads/documents/e3cb18235ed29f1a63b0b162a663ed0d5128e253.pdf>

# **I.2 Making the country Surveying the terrain**

## **Time registration**

Punctually

## **Issues**

A basin is made up of numerous human and non-human components, often in connection with other basins (fluid flow, winds, human and non-human migrations, economic links, etc.).

Knowing our basin, both formally (maps) and in a sensitive way (lived experience), quickly becomes a necessity if we want to anchor initiatives and struggles firmly within it.

## **Objectives**

Get to know the basin, its human and non-human inhabitants, its strengths and weaknesses, the alliances that can be forged ...

Define the contours and perimeter of the country by walking it. Agree on the area covered by the country.

## **Operational procedures**

### **Locate/survey physical spaces.**

It is interesting to get to know and recognize, in conjunction with the nearest inhabitants, what is already there:

- places
- the human and non-human inhabitants of these places
- the needs of concerned inhabitants,
- areas of tension,
- communication routes (flows),
- where the opposing forces are and where the allied forces are,
- links with other basins, even very distant ones (migrations, long-distance flows),
- places where struggles can converge.

Looking ahead, it's always interesting to have identified land, buildings and premises whose socialization would be conceivable and useful (as long as you have the means to do so).

### **Make yourself known**

Make the intentions of the struggle known (up to a certain level), to allow information and people to come to your struggle.

### **Welcome fellow travelers**

Talking to "comrade travelers" about your country can reveal information that is already known, but which may not have been previously highlighted.

### **Obvious links with other workshop sheets**

- places
- refuge networks
- network of skills and knowledge
- Legalteam
- public events
- supporting initiatives and struggles
- know your allies

### **Annexes**

#### Identifying "fragile" and/or valuable spaces

- natural areas, wetlands, ...
- sociologically tense areas
- squats, places of self-organization, unions, associations
- extra-territorial interconnections and interdependencies

#### Identifying flows

Roads, back country roads, waterways, energy and fluid networks, financial flows... on a map or not. Gradually, starting where it makes sense.

#### Survey - Definition

- synonym: to explore / discover / learn / understand
- building up collective knowledge

# **1.3 Making the country Getting tired together**

## **Time registration**

Punctually

## **Definition**

Doing a workcamp, working in a group, allows to "Get tired together", i.e. to carry out a task together that is useful to the local community or to one of its components requiring safeguarding or maintenance work.

## **Objectives**

Form a community, bind participants together through gestures, create a "hand crafted" economy. Broaden the core group. Build up collective knowledge and enable it to be appropriated and passed on. Lay the foundations for a local collective that can be mobilized in the event of a disaster (water, fire, storm...).

## **Challenges**

In addition to serving as a cement (...) between those who take part, these workcamps enable to integrate people who are more reluctant to join other schemes, and also to identify each person's experience and knowledge.

In addition, these workcamps enable us to support and help people who are invisibilized and less inclined to collective practices. Politically, it' could be interesting to offer this support to people who feel feel neglected or abandoned.

## **Ideas**

- renovation/rehab of a third place
- support for a farmer
- cleaning/restoring riverbanks, rivers, etc.
- plantations, wasteland, abandonned land
- exploratory walks



- helping out individuals or groups in need.

## **Details**

If the workcamp proposal does not directly concern existing country assembly (e.g. setting up a third-place, meeting room, equipment storage, etc.), a proactive approach will often be required to identify and propose the idea of a collective workcamp to people or groups unfamiliar with these practices.

It's a good idea to build up a library of tools in order to ensure the autonomy of the workcamp. It's also a good idea to plan means of repairing and maintaining equipment.

Don't forget to end the workcamp with a shared meal.

In some cases, these workcamps can help create a local micro-economy by contributing to the communalist fund (see communalist fund fact sheet).

## **Obvious links with other workshop sheets**

- communalist funds
- Knowledge and makers network
- food storage
- explore, survey
- places

## **External resources**

Brigades d'actions paysannes

<https://brigadesactions paysannes.be>

Beavers self-build movement

<https://www.colibris-lemouvement.org/magazine/ils-construisaient-leurs-maisons-tous-ensemble-puis-tiraient-sort-lhistoire-castors>

# **1.4 Building the country**

## **Knowing your allies**

### **Goals**

Mesh the basin, link struggles and initiatives together, broaden the human and non-human population concerned by the mode of organisation we seek to develop.

### **Issues**

Identifying potential allies should be a natural reflex. Together we reinforce each other.

It is therefore of the utmost importance to make links with existing collectives, places of welcome and organization, and even with allied institutions.

### **Modalities**

The aim is to identify, locate and make contact with groups, associations collectives, unions and even institutions which, at one stage or another in the process, can hasten and support the idea of "making country".

Identifying and broadening the community(.ies) concerned by what's happening on the territory can be a way of anchoring the country and building alliances.

The following list of themes can help you explore the local associations in the basin.

- feminism
- anti-racism
- ecology
- anti-fascism
- culture
- social diversity
- social issue
- etc.

As soon as possible, link these allies to physical locations.

### **Organizations and related**

- exiled people rights
- feminism
- human rights
- naturalists/ecologists
- sports clubs (committed, such as mixed sports, rollerderby, popular soccer, etc.)
- etc.

## Unions

- unions of social transformation, revolutionary, anarcho-libertarian ...
- examples in France: CNT, Solidaires, CGT, FSU ...

## "Sustainability" initiatives

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • market gardeners              | • bakeries                    |
| • farmers                       | • restaurants                 |
| • mills                         | • cafés/bars                  |
| • granaries                     | • printing works, independent |
| • food markets (short circuits) | bookshops                     |
| • seed companies                | • etc.                        |

## Stand-alone groups

- |           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| • squats  | • Earth Uprising committees |
| • antifas | • etc.                      |

## Public institutions

Public institutions are double-edged targets that must be handled with care, consideration and intelligence. They can be crucial points of support, while also being the first to fail as a result of the tensions they themselves are undergoing (elections, prefecture, population, etc.). That doesn't make them any less essential to our strategies for developing our means of resistance.

## **Obvious links with other workshops**

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • public events    | • network of shelters    |
| • communalist fund | • supporting initiatives |
| • popular culture  | • scienceteam            |
| • legalteam        | • etc.                   |

# **I.4.I Country inspiration**

## **Cantines populaires**

### **Definition**

The term "canteens" refers to systems for cooking raw materials for collective use, more or less massively, whether mobile (ideally) or not, whether deployed for everyday needs or as a means of organizing and enabling struggles.

### **Objectives**

Feeding is a fully political objective. For the struggles and the country, it goes without saying. It's also a way of forging links with local populations, however remote they may be. The table offers the prospect of creating social links and collective organization, as well as a lively approach to the circuits and conditions of food.

### **Issues**

While canteens are an essential part of the general logistics of militant organizations, they are also a central point of attraction for a variety of audiences at local festive events. As such, they can also bring a bit of cash. But they can also shed light on the politics of commodity bidding, international free-trade agreements or peasant defense actions.

### **Ideas**

- Soup kitchens
- Activist canteens
- Mobile bakery

### **Modalities.**

Thinking about what we eat: an inclusive diet, potentially rather vegetarian or vegan, at least with such options, will simplify the inclusion of all people, whatever their diets or beliefs. What's more, it will help produce food that's water and energy efficient.

For small-scale canteens, consider a nutritional information system information (via recipe ideas) and a shared cooking area where culinary skills can be exchanged. For

large-scale canteens, think about proposing "how to create a canteen in your local area" docs to spread the energy.

Making food is also a way of "getting tired together" (see worksheet), useful for "building as collective". Eating together also means forging or strengthening links: don't overlook the fact that a meal together can often be the starting point for a joint action. For collectives, doing things together also involves a full stomach.

Making food also means sharing tasks and roles. However, some tasks are easier to collectivize than others, and not everyone is a cook. Peeling food together is always an interesting encounter. Of course, cooking also means sharing culinary cultures and exchanging techniques, practices and ways of doing things.

It is also possible to mobilize the "canteen" for and by workers of the products that are cooked... This is an opportunity to cultivate the collective, to talk about the use of the land and the contradictions that everyone faces with its dependence on capitalist production. The decor of a canteen is also important. the aesthetic aspect of a meal is all too often overlook. A tablecloth, a vase, flowers make all the difference.

A canteen is also a source of financing for those who can contribute to the meal. Cash payment are preferable (enables financing outside formal networks, making contributions accessible even to people without bank accounts, illegal immigrants...).

## **External resources**

Cantines, précis d'organisation de cuisine collective, 160p., Editions Stoo Noblogs, 2024

*Cantines en lutte : vers de nouvelles solidarités alimentaires*

<https://www.socialter.fr/article/cantine-lutte-solidarite-alimentaire-agriculteur>

<https://www.commune1871.org/la-commune-de-paris/histoire-de-la-commune/dossier-thematique/democratie-laicite-oeuvre-sociale/685-la-marmite-une-societe-civile-d-alimentation>

*Partisan Gardens - Deep Food - Agroecology & Cooking*

<https://www.partisangardens.org/deepfood/>

# **1.4.2 Country Inspiration**

## **Food Granaries & Union landholdings**

### **Time registration**

Long time

### **Definition**

By "food granaries" or "union landholding" we mean systems that allow food to be collected through solidarity or recovery networks, but also and above all those that enable food to be produce directly "from seed to plate".

We're also thinking of ways to store this food in a socialized way, or even to transform it (e.g. wheat grains ⇒ flour, canning, salting or smoking...)

**"The best time to plant an apple tree was 7 years ago".**

### **Issues**

Most of the human lives in our living areas are intimately linked to capitalist modes of production, especially when it comes to the basic needs of food, housing basic needs such as food, housing, energy, health and clothing. In this list, food is a recurring, lifelong need, but one that can be at least partially removed from the capitalist model is relatively easy, as long as adequate means of production can be mobilized.

Food is an effective and operational means of going beyond the satisfaction of a primary need (feeding oneself). Where food is produced or distributed, we strengthen our social ties in a virtuous way. Efficient logistics facilitate mobilization. With a canteen that can be mobilized at the right time, we can respond to food emergencies.

### **Objective**

Reduce our overall dependence on the capitalist production system when it comes to food issues, particularly for individuals and collectives :

- on a daily basis (feeding comrades, the neighborhood, the country)

- for one-off events on a small or large scale

## **Ideas**

- A "union landholding" financed by workers' dues and free time, socializing land and work, and making it possible to feed families, the disenfranchised, picket lines and temporary resistance villages... and enabling to no longer depend on the market economy for their food
- Socialized worker/community gardens (not plots for individual use)
- approved food recovery organizations (supermarkets, local markets, farmers...)
- cooperative processing and canning laboratories
- mobile bread oven on trailer
- storage warehouse.
- agricultural and road vehicles for logistics.

## **Operational procedures**

### Define a collective organization

Organizing together is essential, by the people for the people.

Train farmers via test areas, training ⇒ Belgian MAP, Farmers-Bakers Union -SIAP- (in Vendée, France), Terre De Liens (in France) ...

Giving ourselves the administrative means to monitor, organize and respond.

Set up an approved organization to legally collect food at collection points ...

Have comrades with "capacité agricole (Agricultural Capability)" (the French legal term for being able to apply for authorization to farm land ...)

Have one or more productive areas at your disposal.

Land, land, land... primarily for the production of calories (e.g. cereals), proteins (e.g. legumes) and other nutrients (e.g. onions), via open-field cultivation as a priority, or in the form of garden forests using the hardiest plants (market gardening would be for pleasure / in addition)

When the size of the productive space is large enough, think about decoupling the lives of motivated comrades a little more from capitalism, by providing them with means of subsistence, thus freeing up paid work time (e.g. 1 day/week/comrade). If things continue to grow, think about the means to be mobilized to be able to pay a peasant to manage production, delegated mainly to the comrades mentioned above.

Seek alliances with peasant comrades, but also beyond... which allows to "prime the pump".

### Create groups to collect food surpluses

Organize (approved organization?) to collect and concentrate food surpluses, even if this sector too is under great strain.

### Processing and preserving

In the short term, processing facilities (processing workshops) and preservation facilities (canneries) will be useful for the timely reprocessing of fresh produce from food surpluses or from the granary's own production. It will be necessary to find and work with existing facilities and to set up new ones.

### Having one or more warehouses

Warehouses in the broadest sense of the term are needed to store the tons of food produced or harvested:

- production sheds
- storage sheds
- silos
- cold-storage rooms
- etc.

### Cultivating neglected spaces

Neglected spaces are either places that are owned but not used (typically and classically a vegetable garden that its owner has neglected for a variety of reasons and for which we could imagine a shared use) or areas that are interesting from an agricultural point of view but unused, such as uncultivated municipal land and whose use for market gardening could be pirate and lightweight (planting climbing beans, berries or even fruit trees...).



Provide additional logistical resources

"Zbeulinettes", trucks, vans, mobile bakery, trailers ... will be needed to transport food to places of solidarity, struggle or life.

### **Obvious links with other workshop sheets**

- Network of skills and knowledge
- Supporting initiatives and struggles
- Know your allies
- Surveying and getting to know the terrain
- Communalist fund
- Canteens
- Public events

### **External resources**

Call for attics of the Uprisings <https://lessoulevementsdelaterre.org/blog/appe-a-constituer-des-greniers-des-soulevements>

Les Initiatives Foncières Agricoles Citoyennes (IFAC), Terres de Liens:  
<https://ressources.terredeliens.org/les-ressources/les-initiatives-foncieres-agricoles-citoyennes-ifac>

Cultiver les communs, une sortie du capitalisme par la terre, Ed. Syllepse, 2023, ISBN: 979-10-399-0135-2 : <https://www.syllepse.net/cultiver-les-communs-r64i1042.html>

# **1.4.3 Country inspiration**

## **"Places": FabLab, hackerSpace, tiers-lieux, ateliers paysans...**

### **Definition**

A place with a specific function that serves as a reference for the entire community linked to it.

### **Issues**

Create and maintain participative spaces for information, exchange, mutual aid, sharing and creation.

To ensure the sustainability of :

- the systems set up in the country
- the health (mental and physical) in the broadest sense of the term of the people who make it up

And to open up the possibility of :

- a general increase in individual and collective capacity for action
- transmission of skills, practices and knowledge

### **Ideas**

Supporting each other - Mutual sharing of resources and equipment

- management and maintenance of shared equipment (or not), etc.

Get informed - self-managed, decolonial internationalist library

- documentation base on the history of struggles.
- collect information (to win militant positions)
- organize (public) meetings and share information, etc.

## Supporting each other -- Social centers

- **accommodation: people** in temporary need of shelter ; residents' cooperatives with integrated spaces for collective organization and mobilizable spare housing for emergency situations
- **health and care center:** infirmary, health info, social and psychological mediation
- **toddler center / pedagogy / instruction:** space for children during events or special needs ... Why not go as far as self-managed schools? Etc.

## Information and support - Workshops

- **FabLab:** making, repairing, increasing material autonomy from capitalism
- **mechanical garage** for vehicles (transport, haulage, "zbeulinettes", trailers, tractors, etc.)
- **farmer's workshop:** custom-built agricultural tools (e.g. for granaries)
- **hackerspace:** repair digital tools, harden militant workstations, recondition devices, study opponents, train in digital practices (self-defense)...

## Operational details

- Identify existing places and groups, formal or informal, that already existing or with potential.
- Strengthen or enable the emergence of these social spaces.
- Promote the activities carried out in these spaces.

## Obvious links with other workshop sheets

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| • Hinterland cadastre             | • Supporting initiatives and struggles |
| • Network of skills and knowledge | • etc.                                 |
| • Knowing your allies             |  |

## External resources

Free documentation on third places, Movilab: <https://movilab.org/>

# Chapter 2 Making tools

This catalog of proposals, this "toolbox", aims to describe in black and white and to disseminate a range of resources, information and services to be implemented in our living spaces to contribute to our struggles and initiatives, to network them and enable solidarity through information, support and mutual and collective protection.

This catalog of examples, which is not a summary of models, has other purpose than to be an artifact in continuous movement, enabling to save time in the self-organization of territories and their networking, arousing desire and providing the means to get involved.

The purpose of this box is to prepare the territory for action (locally or elsewhere), to enable it, and then to return to it so as to be better able to return to it.

The aim of these tools is to support struggles, put them in touch, create spaces for solidarity, expand and contribute to our mutual and collective protection. Inform, support and protect each other.

Deploying the tools in this box necessarily means anchoring ourselves in localities, in the watershed we live in, and starting from the political and social roots of the territory.

It's because they call for genuine consultation, appropriation and interpretation that we've called them "workshop sheets".

## **Governing democratically with a openmind**

From the outset, thinking about the management of tools (and in particular a possible communalist fund) in line with all the tools available in the area, to reduce complexity as far as possible, while avoiding privileges and power grabs. This management must also be appropriate to the customs and habits of the place where these tools are set up.

Members contributing in different ways (sharing time: network of skills and knowledge; or a spaces: hinterland cadastre; or in means: communalist fund) may be drawn by lot from among the volunteer contributors to form a management commission, which could also include members of the organization (non-profit, collective, etc. ) legally initiating the fund. Limited decision-making veto and limited decision-making powers could be envisaged depending on the case: this would have to be defined by and for each fund. The number and proportion of people drawn by

lot among contributors and initiators will also be left to the discretion of each constituent assembly.

## **Don't reinvent the wheel**

Let's be clear from the outset: no two watersheds are alike, and all struggles are unique. Our aim is not to homogenize practices, but rather to open up a catalog from which to draw.

What we wanted to do here was to sketch out a kind of mechanics of an ideal watershed, a watershed where rivers and life flow. We didn't want to reinvent what others have already done so well. What we've tried to keep the workshop sheets simple and readable, in a package that's as easy to grab as possible .

So, at the bottom of most of the workshop sheets, we've tried to reference external resources.

## **Cartographers in every watershed**

In each basin, there are bound to be people who are knowledgeable about the terrain (how this is achieved depends on the each territory). The task will be to identify among them (according to the methods specific to each basin), the people who, knowing their own territory, are ready to make links with neighboring watersheds, and those who are ready to make links further afield. We'll call them "cartographers" here. It won't always be necessary to name them, as this sometimes happens naturally, but we must at least identify them and insure that they are not alone in enabling crucial links.

## **Reading and implementing these workshop sheets**

The workshops presented here, this toolbox, may seem to have been designed "in silos". At some point, we had to thematize, organize and segment them, in order to remain synthetic and avoid forgetting anything. The future will undoubtedly bring us together to reorganize, rewrite and rethink things. But the present is already here.

Each workshop is often, by its very nature, intimately linked to the others, with one feeding into or being fed by the others.

In an attempt to implement some of the ideas developed here, we have been led to take them transversally, to twist them, to merge them. We invite you to do the same, to demonstrate your operational and strategic creativity.

So there's no linear reading possible. Each collective, each basin, may have to take it in its own order, in its own direction according to its own means, affinities and priorities.

## **One example among many**

To illustrate this proposal, here's an approach that has been considered in one basin:

Here, the militant fabric is very thin and fragile.

Here, in popular culture, the "guinguettes artisanales" are all the rage.

Guinguettes (time-spaces where you can have a drink with friends in a natural setting, potentially with one or more events such as concerts, theater...) would be organized by a group of motivated individuals, inviting established organizations. These guinguettes could then create a space for contact between activists and less committed people. The guinguette's signage should imply its militant intention, but without overshadowing into the desire simply to meet up with friends.

These "guinguettes" can then fulfill the role, in the same gesture, of several tools in the box that we're going to detail, for example, among other and in order:

1. Create a common/shared culture
2. Surveying and getting to know the area, meeting local people
3. Discovering local skills, knowledge and know-how
4. Mobilizing food production, harvesting and food storage area ("attics"/granaries)
5. Experiment with / Mobilize a canteen that can be used on other occasions
6. Know your allies
7. Communicate
8. Training/selftraining
9. Generate saving through public events

This example is intended to illustrate the transversality of the workshops, and may have given you some perspective on how to read this catalog.

## **Call for contributions**

If you feel that this catalog is not sufficient, not correct, not optimal, you are invited to contribute with your screwdriver, your pliers, your cutter... The toolbox has to remain open at all times if it is to remain effective.



## **2.1 Making tools A network of skills and knowledge**

Our first tool is for those who are willing to invest time in knowledge, experience and expertise, enabling them to intervene technically or intellectually wherever their knowledge and practices are needed: in struggles, neighborhoods, countries. We've called this a cadastre of skills and knowledge.

### **Definition**

Empowering basins and giving them the capacity for actions and initiatives are commitments that require us to densify our networks and diversify the knowledge and skills that can be mobilize.

Opening a squat, repairing a heating system, caring for a sick or injured person, writing a leaflet, repairing a vehicle, preparing a vegetable garden, creating networks, winning a court case... all activities that work much better when people with dedicated knowledge and skills can be mobilized.

The idea is to make time, skills and knowledge available to whoever and whatever is offering or requesting protection.

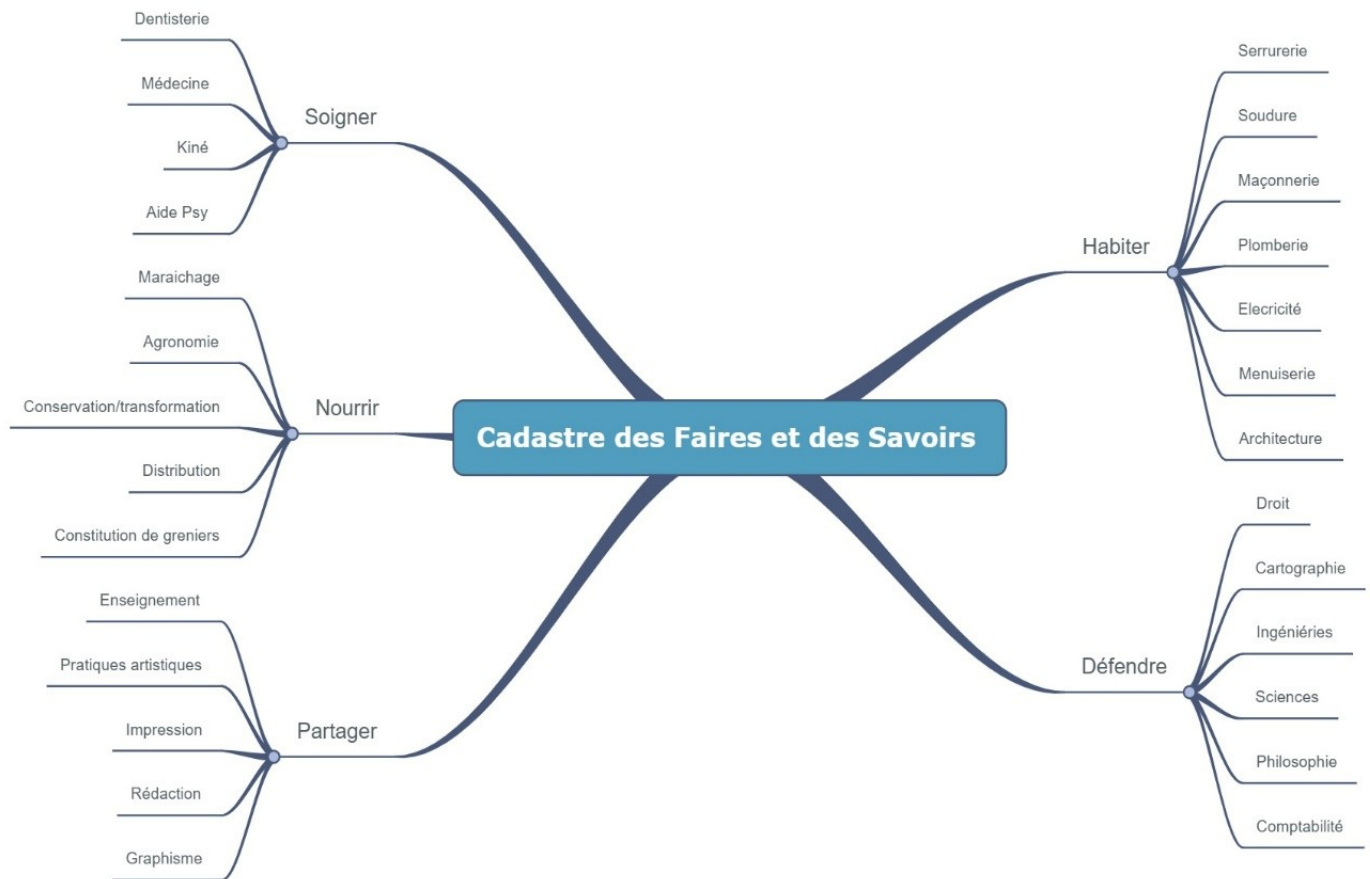
We have identified some thirty professions, skills and experiences that could support struggles, situations and places and divided them into major themes: Living, Caring, Feeding, Sharing, Defending (see box). It's by no means exhaustive, but it does provide some initial pointers.

This mindmap enables us to reach out, both inside and outside our usual circles of acquaintances, to people who don't want to get involved in struggles or countries on a long-term basis, but who don't see themselves as soled from the challenges of protection and the need for solidarity. All the more so if what they are offered to share their "professional time", which is often easier to share than involvement in other initiatives where they may feel less at ease.

This formula also helps to build mutual trust and to determine, as we go along, who the right people are for the right actions.

Don't overlook retired people who may have more time available for occasional or longer-term activities.





## Points of attention

*A basin, especially a river basin, is vast.* Certain skills and know-how can be developed in smaller basins (max. 40 minutes' transport). On the other hand, certain specialities can be thought of on a (bio)regional scale (e.g.: 3h transport max), such as certain medical specialties, a certain type of plumbing (for example, to set up an ephemeral activist village), artists, performers...

*It's all part of a pool.* This pooling of resources and equipment needs to be considered in relation to the skills mobilized, the frequency with which they are called upon, the scarcity of skills, etc.

It's also a good idea to take note of the dependencies associated (dependence on particular places or resources, such as a mechanic and his/her garage) and to consider the cost of the materials and expenses incurred.

It will be useful to identify what information is needed about each job, each person: areas of expertise, schedules, logistical requirements...

As elsewhere in the country (part.1) and in the tools (part.2), the question of centralization of information, and therefore of power and risk, will need to be considered.

It may be necessary to define a minimum level of commitment if participation in this network gives certain rights to decisions.

Linking people by profession, if they are not already linked, can help them in sharing their experiences and documenting each other's work.

If equipment is required for certain professions, a "tool library" can be set up to provide access to them when needed.

### **Obvious links with other workshop sheets**

- communalist fund
- legalteam
- scienceteam
- canteens
- food granaries / union landholdings
- digital self-defense

### **External resources**

L'esprit Castor, sociologie d'un groupe d'auto-constructeurs, l'exemple de la cité de Paimpol, Michel Messu, Presse Universitaires de Rennes

*Les bâtisseureuses des terres* : <https://www.reprisesdesavoirs.org/batisseureuses-des-terres-recit-dun-chantier-en-lutte-melle-2024>



# **2.1.1 Inspiration tools**

## **A network of specialized collectives**

### **Time registration**

Mainly one-off events, sometimes in emergency situations

### **Definition**

There are many collectives, orgas or associations that take charge of entire logistics sectors.

### **Objective**

Facilitate events, occupations and mobilizations by saving logistical organization time; secure events...

### **Challenges**

Save time, energy... facilitate and accelerate the possible.

Consider creating "knowledge / skills / resources packages".

### **Practical details**

Ideas for "packages"

- Event technology (marquees, stage, lighting, sound, electricity...)
- Event management
- Plumbing (plumbing, pumps...)
- Toddler care (welcoming children at meetings, events...)
- Telecommunications (computers, radiotelecom, telephony...)

- Canteens
- Event communications
- Fundraising associations
- Action groups
- Care and reception (psychological and medical care, reception of new arrivals, VSS watch, antifa self-defense, material security...)
- Legalteams
- Dry toilets

## Refer collectives

Encourage specialized to get organized (workshops/workgroups or better: structured organization) to facilitate the implementation their resources and practices.

This mutualization should be considered on territorial scales ranging from small countries to large watersheds, depending on the needs, the degree of specialization and the financial resources required to implement it.

## Obvious links with other workshops

- Network of skills and knowledge
- Supporting initiatives and struggles
- Know your allies
- Canteens
- Communalist fund
- Public events
- Legalteam
- "Getting tired together"

## External references

- MutMat (Rennes): <https://mutmat.alwaysdata.net/>
- Auto-Mat (Nantes) : <https://automat44.wordpress.com/>
- Bassines Non Merci dry toilets

# **2.1.2 Inspiration tool Organizing activist events and mass actions**

## **Time registration**

Punctual and/or recurrent

## **Definition**

The terms "militant event" and "mass action" refer to open to the public time-spaces, that any interested individual or affinity group can join in.

In general, these events are organized with a self-management logic and means.

## **Issues**

- Meet up again
- Count ourself in
- Internal empowerment
- Influence the external balance of power
- Serve as a point of support in the diversity of tactics (comrads protection, legal proceedings, etc.)

Particular attention will be paid to the event-related communication of these gatherings. This is almost always pivotal to the balance of power, but also of the massification of the movement... especially in a context where the facts are often distorted by the dominant powers to serve their own interests (in which case, it's important to ensure that militant communication is neither emphatic nor misleading towards the general public).

These gatherings are time-spaces where people can move from the status of supporter to that of activist; where affinity groups can be formed, shaped and strengthened.

## **Ideas**

Insofar as one must always count one's "actions" and thus ensure the meaning they give to the struggle in progress.

- Demonstration-Mass action
- Setting up a camp-village
- Armada at sea

## **Operational details**

Set up a tightly-knit operational "general management" team, supported and organized to coordinate all the "commissions" that will be working on different jobs.

## **Obvious links with other workshop sheets**

- "Getting tired together"
- Knowing your allies
- Canteens
- Granaries
- Network of specialized groups
- Legal Team
- Communalist fund
- Activities to finance the means of our struggles

## **External resources**

Organizing a rally, luttelocales.fr

<https://luttelocales.fr/se-mobiliser/organiser-un-rassemblement/>

Mémo pour organiser une manifestation ou une action publique, Occupons le terrain

<http://web.archive.org/web/20211024124417/http://occuponsleterrain.be/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/fiche-1-manifester-1.pdf>

Organizing for Power, Organizing for Change (multiple resources behind this link)

<https://www.organizingforpower.org/resources-3/>

Ruckus Society, actions speak louder than words

<https://ruckus.org/>

## **2.1.3 Inspiration tools Training**

### **Time registration**

Training courses are one-off events

The training program should be systematic, with regular sessions.

### **Definition**

To train is to learn, from others and by oneself, and to ensure the transferability of knowledge and know-how; it means working on our humanities... because humanity has only been able to progress thanks to the transmission between communities and generations.

### **Challenges**

We come into the world in a system that is repressive, oppressive and full of dominance, and as the time passes on, less and less able to agree on facts (even if the means to be mobilized be radically different from one political philosophy to another).

In this context, militant training is crucial.

Whether it's learning to weld or to defend oneself collectively against repression, the transmission of knowledge and know-how is indispensable.

### **Objective**

- Encapacitate members of our neighborhoods and collectives
- Work on our collective strengths
- Protect ourselves together through a common culture, a source of cohesion and robustness

### **Operational procedures**

- Listen to comrades' needs
- Find resource people (popular education methods, specialists...)



- Draw up a catalog (formal or informal) and a training schedule according to each person's availability.ies
- Find places to hold training sessions
- Find ways to facilitate participation and inclusion in training courses

## **Ideas**

### of training topics

- Welcoming comrades and neighbors (getting to know your pool, its capabilities, the tools deployed, etc.).
- Collective protection: digital self-defense, confidentiality of information, defense of premises and people
- Inclusion: anti-sexism, devalidism, anti-racism...
- Craft trades
- Critical thinking & collective self-criticism practices
- Means of investigation and counter-espionage
- Protection of sources (of information)
- Defense of the tools of recuperation by fascists, capitalism and the state
- Management of internal conflicts (VSS, racism, mediation...)
- etc.

### Examples of ways to facilitate participation and inclusion

Trade union training (in France, every employee·e is entitled to 12 days a year of trade union training leave; unions are often already organized to train their members; and already have a training catalog that meets some of the needs of collectives)

Popular education associations / Neighborhood centers / Social centers

## **Obvious links with other workshop sheets**

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Legal Team                     | • Activities to finance the means of |
| • Digital self-defense           | our struggles                        |
| • Science Team                   | • Places                             |
| • Network of facts and knowledge |                                      |

## **External resources**

Fiche pratique de la formation syndicale, Solidaires (France):

<https://solidaires.org/connaitre-ses-droits/fiche-droits/fiche-n49-la-formation-syndicale/>

Trade union training catalog, Solidaires (France):

<https://solidaires.org/se-former/catalogue-des-formations/>

Culture de sécurité : kezako, Infokiosques :

[https://www.infokiosques.net/spip.php?page=lire&id\\_article=2017](https://www.infokiosques.net/spip.php?page=lire&id_article=2017)

How to protect ourselves and our struggles:

<https://infokiosques.net/spip.php?article2017>



# **2.1.4 Inspiration tools**

## **Legal Team**

Equip yourself to deal with police and judicial repression and adversity. High-intensity activity for protest-action situations. Long-term activity for exiles, to win new rights or defend existing ones.

### **Time registration**

Long-term

For specific needs

### **Goals**

Intervene / protect :

- during one-off struggle events (picket lines, disarmament actions, factory or workshop occupations, etc.)
- during one-off events in everyday life (obligation to leave the country for irregular status, evacuation of a squat, unannounced search of activists' homes, recovery of social rights, etc.).
- for the reception of migrants
- to win and defend our rights / take legal action

Get ready, get trained

Establish remedies to consolidate existing rights (eg: establish case law on drone regulations in France)

### **Issues**

In our world, the rule of law is sliding towards the rule of the state. Nonetheless, there are still shreds that must not be let go. As the saying goes "A right wears out if you don't use it".

We still have rights to assert.

Many struggles have been won by a combination of strength in the field and strength in the courts. Many comrades have escaped from detention centers or won housing thanks to collective action under the windows of a public authority and legal action.

With a trained legal team, we can get comrades out of police custody with a better chance of defending ourselves, with less information leaked to the authorities about our organizational methods...

In short, a legal team means gaining points in our collective lives.

## **Definition**

A "legalteam" is a team made up of trained comrades and supporting lawyers.

Trained comrades serve as first-level advisers, articulating politics and law, and are an integral part of struggles.

Supporting lawyers are often unionized court officers in unions with objectively allied positions, charging prices reflecting their commitment elsewhere. When these lawyers aren't "in robes" (or on assignment for an event), it's common to find them in the halls of our public meetings, or in the street/fields alongside us.

## **Operational details**

Direct anti-repression: *\*defensive \*justice*

Set aside a share of the communalist fund for direct repression.

Maintain a long-term structure (not an evanescent legalteam)

Set up a dedicated team a few days before and after major mobilizations.

Ensure that the legateam is a place where trust & confidence are possible, including for facts that fall outside the law.

Have lawyers on the team specializing in criminal law.

Indirect anti-repression: *preventive justice*

To be able to mobilize lawyers and comrades specializing in the prohibition of demonstrations, meetings, debates...

Have lawyers on the team who specialize in administrative law.

## Legal action: *justice* offensive

Build up a network of organizations with the right to take legal action On social, environmental or economic grounds...

Among the most vulnerable people in our exploitative society are the poorest and foreigners. This will also be useful for extra-national comrades who may want to join you in mobilizations and to be able to shelter threatened extra-national comrades at home.

Have on your team lawyers specialized in foreigner's rights.

## **Strategic modalities**

### Existing groups

Get in touch with existing teams and, where appropriate, advocacy associations (depending on the field concerned).

### Existing documentation

Collect existing documentation and organize training courses.

### Build the team

Enable motivated comrades to form a dedicated team, with privileged access to an anti-repression fund and a fund for offensive legal action.

The legal team should be set up outside of any emergency and should continue after the emergency, so as to be better able to react then.

### Legal professionals: lawyers

Get in touch with fellow lawyers and start organizing a social space dedicated to legal issues (e.g. meetings, messaging loop...). Train as many people as possible in the basin on basic topics in criminal law, labor law, civil law...

### Recommended militant defense policy

When it comes to militant defense, the best defense is to assert your right to silence.

## Spread the word about the legalteam

Publicize the existence of the legalteam... and its capacity for action, support and protection, including on issues less related to police repression (e.g. gender violence). The country's communications must relay this information.

## Set aside funds for the legalteam

The legalteam should think about the financial means of its operation, and solicit resources from the various areas in which it operates (global support funds, positive economic results of the groups and events concerned, communalist basin funds...).

## Obvious links with other workshops

- public events
- communalist fund
- training
- hinterland

## External resources

RAJCOL, the collective legal self-defense network: <https://rajcollective.noblogs.org/>

Antirep, Bassines Non Merci: <https://www.bassinesnonmerci.fr/antirep/>

Legal Team Collective: <https://legalteamcollective.org/>

# **2.1.5 Inspiration tools**

## **Get closer to scientists**

### **Time registration**

for specific needs.

### **Goals**

Join forces with scientists from different fields (eg: naturalists, social scientists, earth scientists, etc.) so as to be able to :

- compile knowledge files for legal or field actions
- publish works that shed light on our struggles and initiatives, and put them into perspective
- disseminate knowledge through conferences, public meetings, roundtables, discussion forums, press conferences...

### **Issues**

We have entered a world of obscurantism where beliefs are placed on an equal footing with scientific knowledge. Our legal actions are gaining in strength with strong, direct, proven, scientific arguments.

This makes science community a necessary ally for our struggles and initiatives.

From research into "genetic cul-de-sac" in living world, to the social sciences on gender and "racial" minorities, via hydrogeology economics, history, ethology, ecology, we need knowledge, to know ourselves and our world.

### **Modalities**

Actively seek out scientists, if possible from your own basin, but also from all over the world, who are working on your subjects. Don't wait until you need them to create these networks of trust, and spend time and energy maintaining them.

To find qualified scientists, you can try to get in touch with local organizations (e.g. in France: France Nature Environnement, Naturalistes Déters, Collectif des économistes atterrés, Scientifiques en rébellion...), but also with well-known personalities (e.g.



renowned climatologists sociologists of the proletariat or the super-rich...), with trade/branch unions (one example among many in France: Sud-Recherche)

### **Obvious links with other workshops**

- communalist fund
- legalteam
- surveying and getting to know the terrain
- know your allies

# **2.1.6 Inspiration outils**

## **Militant digital self-defense**

### **Time registration**

Every day.

### **Issues**

As society is highly digitized, so are our struggles, so we must collectively strengthen ourselves in this area. The weakest link of a chain determines the strength of the whole, so digital self-defense is a collective issue by its very nature.

### **Threats**

We face four types of threat:

- Police / justice (always)
- Bosses (especially in the case of workers)
- Political opponents (especially fascists, masculinists, industrialists...)
- Paranoia and/or dropping out (burn out)

### **Objective**

Digital self-defense must serve to perpetuate struggles. It should not be a brake for action, but rather a means of mitigating the risk to the groups involved, relative to their level of commitment and the associated risks.

### **Modalities**

#### **Collective training**

Training in digital self-defense is a necessary collective step towards greater freedom. It should not be limited to the first circle of comrades, but should include a wider group, depending on the respective commitments of each.

## Principle of realism

Digital self-defense should always seek to cover real vulnerabilities in the face of tangible threats.

Digital technology must remain a means of organization among others. Centralized of information is by definition a vulnerability.

Avoid the "tunnel effect" at all costs, which leads non-experts astray.

Constant attention must be paid to avoiding technical tunnels, self-indulgence and the search for the ultimate word. This usually only serves to lose comrades, or even to fill spaces of dominance.

Anyone with even the slightest knowledge of these subjects can enter this "tunnel effect", without a care in the world. It's abysmal and totally counter-productive. Pragmatism is an axiom of this form. A realistic balance needs to be struck between communication and safety.

Remember to give your colleagues the opportunity to stop thinking when it produces that famous "tunnel effect".

## Obvious links with other workshops

- network of skills and knowledge
- legalteam
- get trained
- places (hackerspace)

## Resources

Digital self-defense guide, Infokiosques (fr)

<https://infokiosques.net/spip.php?article792>

Surveillance Self-Defense by the EFF/Electronic Frontier Foundation (en)

<https://ssd.eff.org/>

# **2.1.7 Inspiration outil**

## **Militant security and confidentiality**

### **Time registration**

Every day.

### **Issues**

Beyond the digital aspects of information, our meetings, our socializing discussions (in cafés, at demonstrations, at sports events...) are all times and places where we exchange and share. This is essential.

The questions we need to ask ourselves are: - what am I talking about? - what is the pitch of my voice? - who am I speaking with? - who is or may be around me as I speak?

Here too, it's a question of collective self-defense... because here too, it's the strength of the weakest link determines the overall strength of a chain of resistance.

### **Threats**

Here too, we face four types of threat:

- Police / justice (always)
- Bosses (especially in the case of workers)
- Political opponents (especially fascists, masculinists, industrialists...)
- Paranoia and/or dropping out (burn out)

### **Objective**

Our collective self-defense when it comes to communicating militant must serve to perpetuate struggles. It should not be a brake for action, but rather a means of mitigating the risk to the groups and individuals involved, relative to their level of commitment and the associated risks.

### **Modalities**

Basic principles of self-defense in information confidentiality

- Swallowing your ego: don't boast
- Confide sensitive information only to those who need to know (without neglecting personal psychological care either), who can be trusted (including the ability to keep a secret)

- Consider the environment in which you are communicating information:
  - who might accidentally overhear the information?
  - what level of confidence in the location is possible to avoid (for example) illegitimate eavesdropping?
- Consider that one day your premises/home could be inspected by adversaries: avoid keeping useless notes/photos, provide a small guide so that family or friends can come and remove "sensitive" items from the premises when the situation calls for it, seriously encrypt digital storage spaces (USB keys, hard drives, etc.).
- Think about what shouldn't be in your bag before going to a demonstration event (or other), which could be of interest to illegitimate persons in the event of loss or seizure.
- etc.

## Read practical information on the subject

See external references

## Collective training

Collective training can be a useful tool for embedding deeply the practices you've learned through reading or informal exchanges.

## The *fifth column*, authoritarian forces' best friend

Revolutionary social movements have always been confronted with the vicious fear: "what if the adversary is hiding in our midst?". In fact, this is precisely what has been used to instigate doubt, suspicion and fear (and even disorganization) in the Spanish revolutionary ranks in 1936 by the man who would become a leading francoist general (reference: [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinqui%C3%A8me\\_colonne](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinqui%C3%A8me_colonne)).

## Obvious links with other workshops

- Activist digital self-defense
- legalteam
- get trained

## Resources

A safety guide for activists: <https://cale.noblogs.org/guide-securite/>

Culture de sécurité : kezako, Infokiosques : [https://www.infokiosques.net/spip.php?page=lire&id\\_article=2017](https://www.infokiosques.net/spip.php?page=lire&id_article=2017)

Comment se protéger et protéger nos luttes : <https://infokiosques.net/spip.php?article2017>

# **2.2 Making tools**

## **A hinterland cadastre**

### **Time registration**

Occasional for people passing through ;

Semi-durable for people in danger/excluded.

### **Issues**

Protecting those who protect by welcoming and providing shelter. Struggles are increasingly demanding on people (physically, morally, legally). They may therefore need a place to rest to be able to get back into the fight or to insure their physical safety. The work of care and attention, whether in social work, healthcare, culture or organic farming, is also subject to harassment and difficulties, leading to discouragement. Spaces and times of "in-between" are thus useful to set up for very diverse and highly variable situations.

### **Objective**

Be able to protect people from areas other than our own.

### **Definition**

A refuge is a retreat from the world, within the world, outside the world, to provide a space and a time for comfort, reassurance, reconstruction and relaxation, in complete discretion from the refugee's world of origin.

For people who are threatened, tired, vulnerable or just passing through, we prepare, set up and refer (informally) networks of refuges, making networks of refuges, acting as "hinterlands" for those at risk and for the struggle.

A network of refuges, to welcome people in danger or overflowing, to enable comrades to take a rest from their daily grind, to allow tensions to descend into other pools. A refuge is also a temporary home for people passing through or traveling to another destination.

### **Details**

Locally identified social spaces with strong allies (politically or personally). Ask the people who make them up to help you find a second or even third circle of comrades, perhaps infinitely less involved in the struggle than your group may be.

You'll need places and people you can trust, living a perfectly integrated and discreet life, isolated or not, geographically remote or not.

## **Idea - Create a network of refuges**

- There are already existing networks (of great confidence, or of relative confidence), which can be activated or called upon depending on the situation.
- There are networks to be built and woven, by creating social links, taking into account local institutional realities.
- There are networks of refuges that formally exist for this purpose.
- There are also networks of shelters that exist in spite of themselves (e.g. DNT cabins in Norway, where a simple associative membership is all you need to access to a key).

These networks require discretion, tact, responsiveness, creativity and inventiveness. Don't compromise your flexibility in handling these concepts.

### **Points to bear in mind**

- Take care to limit the number of people informed of the existence of these places, or even better, never refer to them: trust in the collective intelligence. If no one masters a database, there's no bank of secrets to be discovered.
- If you happen to have to take in a person in danger, make sure that their actual destination is known only to a very small number of people. Depending on the threat to your basin area, be sure to relocate the person as soon as necessary.
- Situations vary, and so do backcountry homes. City, countryside, length of time (duration), language spoken... will all help to determine the most suitable location.
- Conditions need to be clarified before hosting: contribution to expenses, work, duration, etc.
- The people we welcome have sometimes experienced difficult things, and getting along is not always easy when sharing space. Linking up with networks of people qualified to deal with conflicts or psychological difficulties can prove useful.
- Make sure you always have a procedure or a plan B in case of difficulty or problem.

### **Obvious links with other workshops**

- locations
- legalteam
- know your allies
- confidentiality / security

# **2.3 Making tools**

## **A communalist fund**

### **Objectives**

Set up a communalist fund, pooling economic resources (even modest) from all supporters in our area on a recurring basis, open to the outside world and federated with other politically aligned initiatives, within and beyond our own basin.

Enable people who are less "in the action" and prefer to remain in the second or third line, to join, at least in this way mutual protection practices.

### **Issues**

Billionaires laugh. While they shower the media, training centers, lobbies and influencers with money, most of the time we can only oppose them with our best will and greatest conviction while they destroy democracy and the planet. Collectives are penniless and associations are broke. Our financial resources limit our capacity to respond and act. And even resourcefulness has to be financed.

And yet, acquiring financial resources may not be all that complex. Why, then, do we rarely take the step scale-up in order to obtain recurring and (relatively) substantial resources?

It's time to build up our own coffers. And to think big.

For while a communalist fund is form by basin (see Surveying the terrain sheet), the stakes of our struggles are rarely limited to our own basin alone. Because we're connected not only from upstream to downstream, but also from the mountains to the oceans, via the oceans... and because our designated adversaries are often deployed on broad geographic scales, not to say worldwide, we need to integrate a an extra-local dimension into this proposal.

Alongside the network of skills and knowledge, and the cadastre of the hinterland, the communalist fund is the 3rd tool in our toolbox, and represents its active pivot.

To set up such a fund, you would need to define :

1. The terms and conditions (explain why such a fund is needed, its raison d'être).
2. Anchor the initiative in your area, leaving it open-ended.
3. Affirm your openness
4. From the outset, set a concrete goal for the use of this fund

### **How to set up a fund ?**

The easiest way is to build up a fund step by step. For example, friends in Belgium have set up a C.A.S.S.E (Commun d'Avoirs, de Savoirs, de Services et d'Engagements) which works like this: in the area where they live, 1 person first gathers 20 people in his circle, who in turn contact 10



other people they trust, who in turn contact 1 person each. All in all, Starting with a single person, that are 400 contacts where, even if not everyone knows each other, each is validated by another.

Each person is asked to pay a recurring monthly contribution of an amount of their choice. Each person contributing to the communalist fund is likely, if he or she agrees, to be called upon to manage it via corrective drawing of lots that takes inequalities into account.

Of course, monetary contributions are not the only way to take part in decision-making process: Those who share their time and knowledge (see "network of skills and knowledge" page) or their reception areas (see "Hinterland") are also involved in the management. If this principle is repeated a dozen times per basin (river basins are by nature very extensive, this is more than possible), the sum that can be used annually quickly becomes significant, and makes it possible to initiate truly generative policy proposals, based on the other tools in the box, and emanating directly from the territories and the field.

It's still nothing compared to billionaires, but at least it's clear.

## **Where's the money in the till?**

The money in our fund can be held:

- in a bank account (at least for monthly payments),
- in cash (as soon as possible),
- in local currency (if locally relevant),
- in cryptocurrencies (only for long-distance transfers or for high confidentiality requirements; to be used with the utmost caution, as it is often a highly energy-intensive, speculative, populated by libertarians...)
- in original spaces allowing a certain invisibility

This allocation will be discussed and decided by the governing body, which must remember that certain operations require discretion.

As for a choice of banking institution, it should be chosen with care (not too much paperwork / efficiency; as ethical as possible if possible, with a local counter).

## **Points of attention**

- If the fund expands, many struggles and allies will want to use it. Decision-making methods and certain criteria need to be determined upstream to avoid the risk of conflicts over what the fund will or will not finance.
- Communication is needed to let those who contribute to the fund know what is being supported with the money.
- Multiplying the types of accommodation for the money makes the system more robust.

# 2.3./ Inspiration tools

## Supporting initiatives

### Time registration

Long term.

### Issues

Our struggles cannot be dissociated from practical initiatives that cultivate a breeding ground favorable to their development. By "initiatives", we mean any action that is not directly part of the struggle, but could be deployed in the real economy, the cultivation of the territory, the development of valuable resources for resistance, means of subsistence and organization.

An artisanal seed plant, a processing workshop, a fablab, a hackerspace, a consumer cooperative, a third place, an associative café, a silkscreen workshop, the creation of a union sector, a self-managed garage, an environmental protection association, a social center, a labor exchange, a self-managed school, canteens for the people and the struggle, a granary or a union landholding, a peasant beaker, the restoration of a waterway, a equipment mutual, an inclusive health center, a space for artistic creation and expression, collective production of firewood and/or timber, a textile workshop, a tauto-school (self-managed driving school), shared gardens... so many initiatives that contribute to the hinterland of our struggles.

Note that an initiative may pre-exist or emerge from the struggles.

### Goals

Enabling the development of all the means that can strengthen our means of protection, resistance and struggle, which can consolidate our socialized resistance.

Increasing a basin's resilience, forging bonds of mutual protection.

### Modalities

To facilitate the deployment and development of initiatives, we will organize ourselves to mobilize means from the struggles, to support them.

- setting up and participating in collective workcamps ;
- mobilization of economic resources (cf. communalist fund) ;
- networking ;
- communication ;
- citizen mobilizations to open up rights or public recognition for these initiatives... all modalities that only our imagination and capacities can limit.

We'll also start by identifying what the territory and its inhabitants, human and non-human, need.

### **Obvious links with other workshops**

- network of skills and knowledge
- communalist fund
- know your allies
- network of refuges (shelters)

# **2.3.2 Inspiration tools**

## **Multiplying farmers' markets**

### **Time registration**

The long time

### **Definition**

Market spaces where producers and consumers come together to sell and buy food products (mainly) and handicrafts (secondarily) in a short supply chain.

### **Issues**

Create and nurture spaces that support potential alliances in the food and DIY ("do it yourself") sectors. Weaving links that may prove useful for other initiatives to strengthen countries/basins, and perpetuate activities of social transformation.

Certain cultures, in France for example, have managed to maintain or create such economic spaces/activities, which are also resource spaces... But this is not the case everywhere on the planet. Their existence can enrich the means of disseminating information, coalescing existing forces, inventing new alliances.

### **Operational modalities**

- "Recruit" producers who are able to offer quality local products, promoting the region/country and its occupations/skills.
- Identify spaces where such markets can be set up (farm, public space, third-place, garage... depending on the size, and interested populations (politically aware, and/or whose traditions call for this kind of practice, for example following migratory events...).
- Create a collective, lead it, and enable the development of the initiative, with or without links to existing public institutions.

### **Obvious links with other workshop sheets**

- Places
- Attics
- Canteens
- Network of skills and knowledge
- Supporting initiatives and struggles
- Know your allies
- etc.

## External resources

"How to create an organic and local farmers' market", Ekopedia :

<https://www.ekopedia.fr/wiki/Commentcr%C3%A9erunmarch%C3%A9deproducteursbioetlocaux>

"POUR FAIRE DES MARCHÉS DE PLEIN VENT UN LEVIER DE RELOCALISATION", Confédération Paysanne :

<https://www.confederationpaysanne.fr/sites/1/articles/documents/GuideElusmarch%C3%A9s.pdf>

"Méthodologie pour la création de marchés paysans", Forum Synergie:

<https://www.forum-synergies.eu/docs/guide-creation-de-marche-paysan.pdf>

# **2.3.3 Inspiration tools**

## **Activities to finance our means of fighting**

### **Time registration**

One-off & long-term events.

### **Objectives**

Produce economy from our struggles and practices, feed the communalist fund, to contribute to our means of struggle, to finance our struggles and future victories.

### **Issues**

Too often, we think of our struggles as "poor". Yet they are capable of producing economic value. This fact sheet aims to make this collective capacity visible.

However, we must remain consistent between the robustness of the économie and the "raison for being" of the struggle. It's a fragile balance.

Surpluses (or at least part of them) generated by our own economy can be transferred to the communalist fund...

### **Details**

You'll find some (non-exhaustive) ideas for ways to finance our struggles (generated saving) in the appendix linked to this sheet.

### **Obvious links with other workshops**

- Network of skills and knowledge
- Supporting initiatives and struggles
- Know your allies
- Communalist fund
- Public events

### **External resources**

Organize money, Organize yourself: <https://organisez-vous.org/organiser-largent/>



# **2.4 Making tools**

## **Internationalism**

Work in progress... Available in the next version.

Keep up-to-date on <https://www.bassinesnonmerci.fr/alliances/>



# **2.4./ Inspiration tools For transnational actions**

Work in progress... Available in the next version.

Keep up-to-date on <https://www.bassinesnonmerci.fr/alliances/>

# Cross-cultural glossary

## Evolutionary cul-de-sac (evolutionary dead end)

*Reproduction by self-fertilization is relatively common among and hermaphroditic animals. Although it has short-term advantages over cross-fertilization, it has long been suggested that this is an "evolutionary dead end". An article published in late 2016 in Current Biology by researchers from the Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive (CEFE, CNRS / Université de Montpellier / Université Paul Valéry Montpellier / EPHE) and the Institut des Sciences de l'Evolution (ISEM / Université de Montpellier / CNRS/ IRD/ EPHE) today reinforce this hypothesis. Their work, based on lines of of hermaphroditic freshwater snails reveal that molluscs that favour self-fertilization react less quickly to selection pressure than those that reproduce by cross-fertilization. This study is thus the first to demonstrate experimentally the negative effect of self-fertilization on the adaptive potential of species.*

Source: CNRS, 2017 <https://www.inee.cnrs.fr/fr/cnrsinfo/limpasse-evolutive-de-lautofecondation-se-precise>

This situation also applies to "pure" varieties and species, i.e. they have too little (genetic) diversity to be qualified as qualify as "populations", more akin to the cloning of individuals, so similar are they. Industrial breeding and the cultivation of plants are the strongest implementations of these evolutionary dead-ends. Our food supply and survival depend, especially in a bio-climatic context in the grip of chaos, on the adaptability of varieties that make up our environment and our diet, which can only be possible in heterogeneous populations, full of diversity.

## Composition

"Composition" is the alter-ego in the social world of the diversity of tactics on the terrain of concrete struggles.

Rather than "convergence of struggles", we tend to speak of "composition of struggles", indicating that not all struggles are destined to "converge" towards the same point, but that they can nevertheless agree on shared objectives.

When we speak of "country composition", we mean the way in which the territory / country is arranged, between physical and social spaces. This term is developed in §1.1 "Composing your country".

## **Tunnel effect**

The "tunnel effect" is understood here as a subject which, through the intermediary of a minority, absorbs the attention of the group as a whole, without the group understanding of the subject, let alone an interest in it.

This generally has the following effects, among others:

- people who didn't enter the "tunnel" dropping out,
- wasting the group's time on subjects of no interest to them,
- play on the domination mechanisms of a "knowing" minority (even though the group doesn't understand what the minority "knows") over a majority that who are subjected to this phenomenon.

## **Ethology**

Science that studies the behavior of animal species.

# Annexe 2.3

## Communalist fund Examples

Here are some examples of how to implement a communalist fund, by paragraph, that you can plagiarize, modify, transform and break at will:

### Terms

Rationale ("reason of being") for a communalist fund

For example (from French Brittany):

*To defend ourselves against fascism, racism, sexism and obscurantism; to organize ourselves here and now in post-capitalist societies; to co-evolve and make living species the allies of our common future; we need the means.*

Or:

*Living conditions on the planet are getting worse and worse, and life, including daily life, is becoming increasingly difficult and precarious. Yet we're getting used to hearing and living the litany of disasters, as if it were normal. This way of getting used to it stifles our capacity for mobilization and action. In the weeks and months ahead, the social and environmental destruction might be intense, not to mention the political and geopolitical damages.*

### Anchor the initiative on your territory, leaving it open

For example (from French Brittany):

*It's from our local area, in close touch with our daily lives, that we're setting up a communalist fund. We invite you to join us by making a monthly contribution to the fund, and by getting involved.*

Or :

*To do this, we first need to set up a common fund, a mutual fund. So that we can pool our resources to intervene very concretely and very quickly. And because most of the collectives or associations behind the fund were first brought together in Sainte-Soline, France, around the issue of water as a common good, we propose that these funds be linked and set up in river basins such as the river basins such as the Thames, Clyde, Klamath , Clark Forks , Flint or Aravaipa Creek. This will foster the existence of networks of proximity, trust and mutual support, and will help to create territories of solidarity actions and common practices.*

### Asserting openness

For example (in French Brittany):

*If 5,000 of us (2% of South Finistère) make a recurring contribution of an economic amount of our choice, we could, for example, contribute each year:*

...

*- regular support for far-flung groups in the Global South, enabling them to carry out local actions and multiply their impact elsewhere on the planet, with an international dimension (5 to 15% of the fund will be set aside for contributions outside our region).*

## **From the outset, set a concrete goal for the use of the fund.**

For example (in French Brittany):

*If 5,000 of us (2% of the subregion) make a recurring contribution of an economic amount of our choice, we could, for example, contribute each year:*

- *the socialized acquisition of 30 hectares of food-growing land, enabling popular food production to be distributed according to need and struggle;*
- *the evolution of ten varieties of cereals, legumes and vegetables, opening up possible futures;*
- *support for two major militant gatherings;*
- *co-financing a research program on genetic erosion, climate chaos, class and gender inequalities, etc. ;*
- *to help venues, associations, collectives and festivals that are struggling to exist, to welcome ;*
- *to support those who manifest themselves, and thus take risks;*
- *to legally defend those who occupy houses with unpayable rents, to pay electricity bills, to support renovation work, to ensure the viability of our ways of living, to feed ourselves ;*
- *to provide more distant collectives and those in the Global South with regular support to enable them to carry out local actions and multiply their impact elsewhere on the planet, with an international dimension (5 to 15% of the fund's resources will be set aside for contributions outside our own region).*

# **Annexe 2.3.3**

## **Activities to finance the means to fight**

### **Examples of financing methods**

In addition to, or complementary to, the establishment of a communalist fund, other initiatives may be needed to finance more specific actions.

#### **Product sales**

- Screen-printed T-shirts
- Stickers, posters, badges
- Activist bar
- Struggle stores

#### **Militant bookshop**

From the provision of a activist bookshop (enabling us to find reference work for our struggles, creating a common culture and promoting allied authors and publishing houses) to publishing books of our own, book sales enable alliances with independent bookstores, allowing for a discounts on sales.

#### **Food (free price)**

Whether on a large or small scale, at an event in our struggle such as a May 1st demonstration, or to fuel an artistic evening in a local café, canteens are useful tools in many dimensions (cultural, shared pleasures, spending time together, making money) and very strategic.

To illustrate the economic aspect, in France it is possible to produce a meal for 2 to 3€, and the *average* free-price contribution contribution is around 4€. For 50 meals served, that's around 75€ of possible net profit. For 400 meals, that's 600€.

#### **Bar**

At any event (in Western Europe at least), the bar is one of the most lucrative jobs. When people get together around the same theme, especially in the context of an action, they like to share a drink. It's easy to make 250% profit between buying and selling, which is relatively modest compared to trade practices.

So, for example, for an event attended by 3,000 people over one day and evening, with no excessive alcohol consumption, you could expect to generate €6,000 net profit.

## Donations

Because we don't want the financing of our struggles to rely solely on the bar's activity alone, it's extremely important to remind those present, and to open up a space for free donations.

These donation areas could be "physical" (a metal piggy bank regularly checked and emptied, where people can put their contribution in presence), but also "digital" (online kitty).

For an event attended by 3,000 people, it's possible to raise between €1,500 and €5,000 in physical donations, depending on the context.

## Helping hand exchange

Very often, when we receive volunteer support from neighbors or relatives for a thankless task (moving house, clearing debris, etc.), the compensation can be a thank-you or a drink. We could also imagine each "helping hand" giving rise to a small one-off payment to the communalist fund. In this way volunteer support does not become monetized or change its nature, but the collective fund is increased.

We can also imagine this type of operation for family or friend events or celebrations. It could also be considered simply because we had a good day out....

## Terms of payment for contributors

Cash contributions should be widely preferred, and explained. :

- allows for the inclusion of anyone without a bank account (people who are "irregular", poor or excluded)
- prevent authorities from suppressing the untraceable money to impose the "sans contact" (contactless-creditcard)
- create economic spaces beyond the control of our repressive forces

How can we extend social and territorial struggles to build sustainable and robust zones of boldness and solidarity? How can we start from a deserted territory to set up actions to defend against the attacks on human and non-human life? And how can we link the struggles waged with neighboring, and sometimes very distant areas, with those struggles in the South, with which we have every interest (mutual) to link up with?

Protecting ourselves collectively and mutually by creating countries within the country and using tools to articulate and multiply our forces: that's our proposal.

However, this practical guide doesn't propose anything original in detail : it sets up the good ideas and incredible initiatives we've already come across here and there. It proposes to think of these initiatives as a new "layer" on traditional geographical maps. A layer that superimposes on administrative divisions or economic locations. A map on the map.

The aim of this guide is to help put into opened practices, mutually supportive territorial autonomies based on watersheds and catchment areas. It summarizes the first steps in creating "a country within a country".

Over to you!



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