

ECOMUSEUMS: WHAT'S NEXT?

**WORKSHOP/06 (BERGSLAGEN-SWEDEN)
SUMMARY REPORT**

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Before the Swedish meeting: the Long network project.

The general purpose of the Long network project was to create an effective environment for good practices exchange among European ecomuseums. The idea was that ecomuseums could play the role of a bridge, connecting the many sustainable development best practices experienced in Europe, support the growth of local districts based on a strong sense of place, and concur in local leadership building.

Therefore, the trail we have followed is based on the networks, both locally and at a larger scale. Networks are not only mere organisational schemes. At a certain scale they produce new opportunities and ideas and make collective knowledge growth and evolve. To be observers *in the processes* and not merely *of the processes* is crucial in order to understand this kind of cultural phenomena.

The steps:

- 2004: harmonisation of our approaches and goals in the Sardinia-Trento workshop/04
- 2004/05: task-forces to try to make ideas circulate (fine tuning of ideas). Learning journeys set up at a national level (in Sweden, Italy, Poland) and internationally, between Italy and Sweden.
- 2005: report on 2004/05 activities and making of new working groups in the Argenta workshop/05. Once agreed methods and goals, the new aim is to produce something together (main fields: training, travelling exhibition, communication, evaluation schemes, database).
- 2005/06: good job for training and exhibition groups, less for communication and evaluation schemes. A scheme for a database is produced and is presently on a trial period. A question arises about a possible more formal organisation for the network. National workshops held in Italy and Poland before the one in Sweden.



What happened in Bergslagen meeting.

Tuesday 10th

Participants coming from abroad (Italy, Poland, Great Britain, Turkey, Japan) arrived, between 12.15 up to 18.10, to the Stockholm-Arlanda airport. The first comers took advantage of the time to visit the downtown. At 19.00 the

bus managed by the Bergslagen ecomuseum took all to Brunnsvik, Ludvika. Arrival Brunnsvik at 22.00 where, in the meanwhile, the Czech delegation had arrived by car.

Wednesday 11th

At 08.30 Bus to Ludvika and Gammelgården, the Ekomuseum Bergslagen coming Visitor Center. At 9-10 Welcome of the director, Christina Lindeqvist and Leif Pettersson, president of the Ludvika municipal council. Maurizio Maggi had a short speech about how to proceed with the Long Networks.

At 10-14 Lecture: "Living History" with Britt-Marie Borgström from Jamtli, county museum in Jämtland (www.jamtli.se). A very rich and articulate educational initiative was shown and discussed. Break for coffee and lunch.



At 14 Living history activities, with Britt-Marie Borgström and Gun Sörbring, were experienced by the participants. Tour around the museum. Coffeebreak. At 17 Bus to the open mine Stollberg. Meeting with volunteers. Walking tour around the mine. It was dark when a barbecue-dinner served in a suggestive stone cottage welcomed the group. Living local music with traditional instruments inside. A late suggestive walk around the mine at the only light of the torches closed the day. Bus to Brunnsvik and arrival at about 22.00.

Once back to the Brunnsvik residence, the most part of the foreign participants (from Italy, Poland, Czech republic, Turkey and Brazil) decided to meet in order to talk about the organisational hypothesis. The international debate passionately endures after midnight and some issues are agreed:

- work seems to be more effective at a national level while sharing of knowledge and comparison of practices needs also an international level; hence it is important to develop a national organisation with a sort of European "umbrella" for a larger sharing of experiences;
- we do not need a very formal organisation, because we do not aim to be a representative organisation (we are not a sort of Icom of the ecomuseums);
- in order to be better organised in any single national level a European umbrella can be useful and must have at least a name, a website, some e-mail contacts, a set of rules to decide who is in and who is not.

This latter issues is the most debated, of course, and the final opinion of the group is that being our network a “community of practices”, what is crucial is to join new active members, able and willing to share good practices. From this point of view, to be active members and willing to achieve similar goals is the only important criterion for inclusion. It is also decided that we do not include “ecomuseums” as formal organisations, but rather people providing useful and quality experience based on the activity of one or more ecomuseums (because practices matter more than institutions). As a consequence, the group decides to prepare a proposal for a detailed guidelines document, in order to better define the goals of the European network. Each single national group of ecomuseums will use the document, once a unique version will be agreed, according to their specific context.



The next workshop will be the right moment and occasion to assess the effectiveness of this instrument. Guidelines will be used, by each national group of members, to help willing people to join the network or to dissuade them. The simple signature of the Declaration of Sardagna will not be any longer a sufficient element to decide the membership. The guidelines document (to be provided before the end of 2006) could also be followed by more sophisticated tools at a national level such as specific training documents (handbooks will probably be produced in 2007 in Italy and Poland) and direct assistance (targeted field trips and learning-journeys) depending from the resources of the members. A document about the ecomuseum project of Husammettindere village, in Turkey, was shown as well. At 00.15 the meeting ends.

Thursday 12th

At 8.30 Bus to the site: Red Earth in the forest outside Riddarhyttan. Meeting with volunteers. Most part of the day was devoted to ironmaking. This involved digging in the red earth deposits (iron oxides) and the material was put into a primitive blast furnace. After some hours of blasted heating, a heavy lump of forgeable iron was produced. The process showed the first iron production technique 2400 years ago on this site. The activities are built upon archaeological excavations during 1965-70.

C14-dating of charcoal remaining in ironlumps pointed towards a very early iron production, the oldest site found in Sweden so far. The iron-making was made with the volunteers' assistance. Lunch outdoors in the wood.

At 15 Bus to the nice "Lokstallet" coffeeshop, once a filling station for steam locomotives. The owner Karl-Åke Nordebring is also a volunteer at the Red Earth and a member of the eco-association board.



At 16 Bus to "Kopparverket", an old copper production-site and meeting with the representative Monika Eliasson from the Viking-association Tuhundra Naempdinne, that have recently bought the lands and the site from the municipality of Skinnskatteberg with the ambition to run the site as an enterprise with bed & breakfast, ecological farming, coffee-shop and crafts. Then visit to the blast furnace Lienshyttan, a modern pig iron production furnace 26 meter high, which closed down in 1959. After that, a walk to the nearby situated craft shop Utgård owned by Tuhundra Naempdinne.



At 19 a continued walk down to the lake Lien and the Viking market-place, that was inspected in the dark in the light of burning torches. Dinner was served in the long-house, still under construction, close to the lake. Songs from all countries and some Viking-shouting. At 22 bus back to Brunnsvik, arrival at 23.

Friday 13th

At 9-17 Miniconference, Brunnsvik "Ecomuseums matter, reasons & opportunities". A day for sharing ideas and experiences. Chairman: Magnus Bohlin, ass. professor at University of Dalarna. Cultural Geography Speakers are: Christina Lindeqvist (Ekomuseum Bergslagen), Örjan Hamrin (County Museum of Dalarna), Maria Björkroth, (County Museum of Dalarna), Ewa Bergdahl (National Heritage Board), Torsten Nilsson (Museum of Work), Peter Davis (Guest professor, Museion, Gothenburg University), Barbara Kazior (Polish Environmental Partnership Foundation), Donatella Murtas (Ecomuseo dei Terrazzamenti), Maurizio Maggi (IRES Piemonte), Kazouki Ohara (Guest

professor KTH Architecture in Stockholm), Robert Dulfner (Rozmberk Ecomuseum), Paula Assunção dos Santos (ABREMC).

The conference, in a friendly and quiet room, reports about different initiatives (in Sweden, Poland, Italy, Great Britain, Czech Republic, Japan and Brazil) and provides many interesting points of view, supporting the reflection on the future development of the Bergslagen ecomuseum.



Some speakers show their first proposals about the organisation perspectives of the network, as well.

At 17 Bus to the church village Grangärde after a tour around the lake Bysjön to see the landscape and remaining of a blasted furnace from 18th century. A walking tour in the village with Örjan Hamrin. Dinner at the Old Inn "Café Gamla Gästis", a lovely old building, where the participants were pleased by the traditional songs and the voice and the guitar of Björn Jadling, a local singer of the poems of the beloved poet Dan Andersson from the Finnish lands close to the village. At 22 Bus back to Brunnsvik.



Preceded by many small debates in small groups along the day, a new "after midnight" meeting took place, taking advantage of the comfortable library of Brunnsvik as a location. The participants decided to charge Maurizio Maggi and the Italian delegation to prepare a draft proposition for the guidelines in not more than two months. The draft will then be debated by e-mail and through local meetings, when possible, in order to approve it before the end of 2006. The Italian delegation will provide a proposal for an official name of the network as well. At 00.30 the meeting ends.

Saturday 14th

At 9 Bus to Falun, old town and coppermine listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2001.

The World Heritage belongs to an important part of Bergslagen and is connected in many ways to Ecomuseum Bergslagen. In the future the total area of Bergslagen will be promoted as a whole.

At 10.30 Meeting with staff from the World Heritage, curator Gunilla Hedenblad and coordinator of public relations Christina Staberg. Visit to the mine with the guide Olle Wallén.

At 11.30 Coffeebreak and presentation of a 3D-film about the mine.

At 12.30 After visiting the World Heritage-centre, the tour in bus continued around the town. Christina Staberg and Örjan Hamrin joined the bus and did presentations and guiding together.

At 13 Lunch at the old Staberg “bergsmann” estate from 17th century outside the town with a restored baroque-garden. The tour went on to Sweden farm and the old intact house where Carl von Linné married 1739.



After the tour around the old parts of Falun town, where the miners used to live, the bus stopped at Falun railway-station to leave participants for the train 17.26 to Uppsala-Arlanda-Stockholm. The workshop/06 had come to its end.

Some final remarks. From IRES.

The Swedish meeting was excellently prepared by the staff and the volunteers of the ecomuseum. The participants had the opportunity to meet many local groups and to experience their work and their points of view on the local heritage they deal with (also thanking the very large knowledge of the English language at any social level, which very much helped the meeting).

The opportunity to exchange ideas with other people of the European network was relevant as well. Not only in the official conferences but also by mean of conversations during the field trips and all informal collective moments like the breakfast, the many coffee breaks and the other meals. This is usual in this kind of meeting, but here took place in a very friendly and “learning environment”, which very much helped our work.

Last but not least, the “after midnight” meetings were and excellent arena for a passionate and effective debate. As a final result, the workshop was a success and the agreements achieved will soon allow the ecomuseum network to make a qualitative leap.

All of us will cherish a wonderful memory of these days, this country and its people.

Some final remarks. From Ekomuseum Bergslagen.

Ekomuseum Bergslagen was very happy to receive so many participants not only from Europe but also from Japan and Brazil. Our first and most important aim was to give everyone a “sense of our place” (to use the expression of Peter Davis). We are also happy over the cooperation with IRES Piemonte, who generously made it possible for many participants to make the journey up to Sweden and Bergslagen.

Ekomuseum Bergslagen arranged the Workshop 2006 within the Italian Long Network-idea to promote the needs for cooperation between ecomuseums on an international level in the first place. We see first of all upon the network as a “window” towards Europe, an opening to explore possibilities on the other side of our borders - a world that can bring to us wider perspectives and creative ideas of how to develop our work by sharing experiences with others on a practical level. It is on practical work and activities we depend.



We think that it is what we do, that matters. The idea to meet, talk, experience and learn is therefore essential. To build a strong, healthy, free network upon mutual interest and strong relations is crucial. We must move on into a world of more practical exchanges of good ideas and perhaps also lucrative ideas - which means networking over the borders and physical meetings.

The Workshop 2006 is from our horizon regarded as a very important meeting with openings towards innovations of activities and above all - connections with interested people from abroad. Our associations were also proud of having been selected as visiting-sites for the Workshop.

Ekomuseum Bergslagen is already a member in many museum organisations like the Swedish ICOM-committee, European Museum Forum, Swedish Ass. For Industrial Heritage, Swedish Cultural Heritage, Swedish Museum Ass. and we are also connected to the Workinglife Museums organisation “Arbetsam” (Laborious). So - we prefer that the planned International Ecomuseum Network will have a more informal structure based upon mutual interest and with a common website showing where we all are and with contact details. We think this would be the most effective way of developing the ecomuseum-idea.

The title given to the Workshop: “What’s next?” meant to be a signal that the ecomuseum is not a static organisation - instead it’s open for changes. It stands and falls with its people.

The participants: people and associations

SE Associations:

	Ludvika Hembygdsförening (Ludvika Gammelgård & Minemuseum)	
	Väster Silfbergs Vänner (Stollberg open mine)	
	Riddarhyttans Hembygds- & Intresseförening (Red Earth & Lienshyttan furnace)	
	Tuhundra Naempdinne Historiska förening (Kopparverket & craftcenter Utgård)	
	Grangärde Intresseförening (Café Gamla Gästis, owner Elisabet Olsson)	
SE	Christina Lindeqvist	Ekomuseum Bergslagen
SE	Örjan Hamrin	Dalarna County Museum
SE	Maria Björkroth	Dalarna County Museum
SE	Ewa Bergdahl	National Heritage Board
SE	Torsten Nilsson	Museum of Work
SE	Magnus Bohlin	Dalarna University
SE	Britt-Marie Borgström	Jamtli museum
SE	Gun Sörbring	Smedjebacken Municipality
SE	Lars Nylén	Smedjebacken Municipality
SE	Leif Pettersson	Ludvika Municipality
SE	Birgitta Karlestedt	Ludvika Municipality
SE	Inger Orre	Mälardalen University
SE	Bertil Andersson	Association Gravendal
SE	Inger Meyer	Association Gravendal
SE	Anna-Karin Andersson	Ecoassociation board, Grangärde
SE	Gunnar Ahl	Ecoassociation board, Karmansbo
SE	Ulla Carlsson	Ecoassociation board, Malingsbo
SE	Sven Åhl	Ass. Ludvika Gammelgård
SE	Tina Frejd	Ass. Ludvika Gammelgård
SE	Bengt Grundmark	Ass. Ludvika Gammelgård
SE	Eva Eriksson	Ass. Stollberg
SE	Lea Eriksson	Ass. Stollberg
SE	Bengt Lönnqvist	Ass. Stollberg
SE	Karl-Erik Nohrstedt	Ass. Stollberg
SE	Ulla Fredriksson	Ass. Red Earth & Lienshyttan furnace
SE	Karl-Åke Nordebring	Ass. Red Earth & Lokstallet coffeshop
SE	Monika Eliasson	Ass. Kopparverket & Utgård crafts
SE	Kjell-Eric Eliasson	Ass. Kopparverket & Utgård crafts
SE	Vanja Leneklint	Skinnskatteberg Municipality
SE	Eva Turén	Skinnskatteberg Municipality
SE	Christer Turén	Skinnskatteberg Municipality
PL	Barbara Kazior	Polish Environmental Partnership Consortium
BR	Paola dos Santos	Ass Brasileira Ecomuseus Museus Comunitarios
TK	Esin Kabas	Husamettindere Village Ecomuseum
TK	Tunca Bokesoy	Husamettindere Village Ecomuseum
CZ	Robert Dulfer	Rozmberk Society Ecomuseum
CZ	Olga Cerna	Rozmberk Society Ecomuseum
CZ	Jakub Cerny	Rozmberk Society Ecomuseum
UK	Peter Davis	Museum, Göteborg University
UK	Sally Rogers	Nat. Coastal & Marine Team, Natural England
JP	Kazouki Ohara	KTH Architecture, Stockholm
JP	Atsushi Yanagida	Miura Ecomuseum
JP	Hidehiko Shigemura	Yokohama Univ, Architecture
JP	Misa Iwasaki	Yokohama Univ, Architecture
JP	Asumi Kanno	Yokohama Univ, Architecture
IT	Maurizio Maggi	IRER, Torino, Piemonte
IT	Roberto Cagliero	IRUR, Torino, Piemonte
IT	Stefania Tron	IRUR, Torino, Piemonte
IT	Andrea Rossi	Ecomuseo del Casentino, Toscana
IT	Angelo Valerio	Ecomuseo Agro Pontino, Lazio
IT	Cristian Caserotti	Ecomuseo Val di Pejo, Trento
IT	Donatella Murtas	Ecomuseo dei Terrazzamenti, Piemonte
IT	Elena Carena	Ecomuseo dell'Argilla, Piemonte
IT	Fiorenza Bortolotti	Ecomuseo del Paesaggio Orvietano, Umbria
IT	Giuseppe Pidello	Ecomuseo Valle Elvo, Piemonte
IT	Massimo Coa	Ecomuseo Alto Flumendosa, Sardegna
IT	Sandra Becucci	Museo Etnografico del Bosco, Toscana