



Discover
natural
fibres
2009

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"ATELIER - Laines d'Europe"

International meeting within the framework of the international year of natural fibres, 15 to 17 may 2009 in Cernier (Switzerland)

Laines d'ici et d'ailleurs

All across Europe and mainly in mountain regions, new associations and cooperatives to promote local wools have been initiated in recent years. Of various backgrounds, these projects cover both educational, cultural and social aspects as well as economical and ecological issues. There is a strong need for information exchange between these projects and for raising awareness in a larger public for local wool initiatives, all part of a European network. For 20 years, the association "ATELIER - Laines d'Europe" provides assistance to such projects, initiates new ones and establishes connections between the people involved. The main objective of the meeting, co-organized by "ATELIER" and "Laines d'ici", is to strengthen the links between small local projects all across Europe, provide an opportunity to exchange experiences and to create guidelines which will facilitate the development of similar projects.

Sheep wool has largely contributed in the past to cultural richness in the whole of Europe. All across the centuries, a large diversity of different kinds of wool has been developed with specific properties according to different sheep breeds and regions. Today, wool as a locally produced renewable resource is threatened to fall into oblivion. Treated solely as "international commodity", the diversity in European wool is at risk to disappear since main emphasis is placed on commercial values and on industrial wool transformation, often far away from the producing regions. In the area of origin of particular kinds of wool however, women and men have the capacity to invent and develop various applications, taking into account the specific quality of each individual type of wool. This can both create interesting activities and fulfilling employments.

Friday 15 May: arrival of participants
(Expositions, stands and workshops can be set up from 16h 30 onwards)

18h00 Official opening ceremony, followed by an aperitif

20h00 Dinner (subscription required)

Saturday 16 May:

09h00 Local wools - how to create new dynamics and regional networks to reevaluate wool? (Plenary session)

Presentation of four different approaches in Europe, including "Laines d'ici", a Swiss initiative.
Discussion

(Morning sessions are restricted to registered participants)

12h30 Lunch

14h30 – 18h00 " Wool in all forms"

Expositions by participants in the horticulture of Neuchâtel: greenhouses on the site of Evologia

Workshops

Wool workshops – all participants are invited to prepare a workshop to present their wool related activities – or at least one of particular interest and/or originality. (For instance: I've got two fleeces but no idea what to do with; wool washing; sorting and grading of fleeces, mattress or carpet manufacturing; to felt with a handmade machine; practical use of wool insulation; manufacturing of objects, of toys, of clothes;)

Expositions of wool producing animals (sheep, goats, rabbits, yaks; ...)

Parallel sessions:

15h00 Wool, a good health indicator in sheep by **Bruno Giboudeau**
(veterinary, homeopath)

16h30 Fineness and quality in wool determined by fibre measurement technology:
by **Herbert Hornik** (Hornik Fibertech)

18h30 Diner

20h00 Wool fashion show by **Christina Zofall, Maya Stenz, Mireille Finger**

21h30 Concert and dance

(Afternoon sessions and Saturday evening are open to the public/everybody)

Sunday 17 May

09h00 International year of natural fibres – where do we stand today? by **Marie-Thérèse Chaupin (ATELIER)**

09h30 Local initiatives and networks (4 speakers, yet to be appointed)
A need for coordination and links between local initiatives
Complementary / Supplementary actions
Technical equipment adapted to transformation of small wool quantities
Potential cooperation with people involved in the processing of other textile fibres

Discussion

12h30 Lunch

14h30 – 18h00 " Wool in all forms"

Expositions by participants in the horticulture of Neuchâtel: greenhouses on the site of Evologia
Workshops (see above)
Expositions of wool producing animals (sheep, goats, rabbits, yaks; ...)

Parallel sessions:

15h00 The importance of sheep grazing in landscape management, by **Alain Perrenoud (bureau du Foyard)**

16h30 Wool and natural fibres: the clothing of tomorrow? by **Barbara Steudler** (Nicefutur)

19h00 Diner

20h00 Round table discussion: summary and outlook