

associació
COL·LECTIUS PEL

decreixement

“The significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them.”

Albert Einstein

PRESENTATION

The Association Collectives for Degrowth is a group created in the Berguedà-Ripollés region, determined to act in order to change things.

Humanity has already thrown 50 years out of the window ignoring the warnings of the publication of the Club of Rom in 1972: "The Limits to Growth", in which Dennis and Donella Meadows and 15 other scientists warned that the planet had limits and little time to face the shock against them.

The current climate crisis is caused by a neoliberal system, whose ideology and purpose is to produce and grow infinitely until it leads us to a permanent crisis that could end in total collapse. It has almost succeeded, and it is for this reason that we have organized ourselves to try to achieve a more sustainable and livable world.

We know that we will not be able to change things all at once, but if we change some of our habits and ways of thinking, it will improve our lives and also the Earth. It is a way of caring and taking care of ourselves: sharing and living simply so that others can simply live.

The theory of degrowth for us is probably the only answer to the crisis of the neoliberal system and to the climate change caused by this system. A degrowth society is a project of a voluntary limitation which is consciously chosen and democratically organized.

**Decreasing does not mean living worse,
on the contrary: it means to grow in order to live**

OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSAL

The Collectives for the Degrowth of Berguedà and Ripollès, inspired by the film "Tomorrow" (by Cyril Dion and Melanie Laurent), we have decided to make a documentary that wants to show the many initiatives and small businesses that already work according to a regenerative and respectful concept with people and the environment.

In the counties and villages they are already being organized: cooperatives, private, family, social initiatives, including other areas such as health, education, economic and social policy. In short, a new model of sustainable life.

This documentary wants to make visible in a real and concrete way some alternatives through visits and interviews, showing those models that make possible a different economy.

Using as a metaphor the curiosity and open-mindedness of a small group of children, free of preconceived ideas and fixed opinions, we will enter a world of questions that teach us the way of living the current system and the possibilities of change; so then the common thread that gives way to each thematic block will be the doubts and questions of these children.

From simple questions about different topics we will look for open and alternative answers in a collective way. This means that in each topic we will try to have as wide a spectrum of experiences and points of view as possible.

We will take into account the presence of different voices by selecting different types of entrepreneurial, personal and cooperative projects that would have to meet some of the following criteria (see*)

The concepts to be dealt with in the documentary will be:

- The documentary has to transmit simplicity, spontaneity and freshness.
- How changes can be made to raise social awareness.
- How local and regional institutions can make the project their own and incorporate it into their own policies.

For this documentary we would like to count on the help of specialists in the theory of degrowth. Especially from different university circles in Barcelona (Research&Degrowth) (see**).

With the awareness that the topics to be covered are complex and with the will to show them in the most dynamic and fluid way possible, the documentary will have an interactive menu so that you can quickly access the topic you want to discover. In this way the video has a linear structure that can be viewed in parts, thus facilitating its dissemination as a support tool in networks, proceedings, pedagogical conferences, etc.

To move around the counties to conduct the interviews we will use the bicycle as an alternative symbol of mobility.

The documentary should be the beginning and impulse of a general and long term public debate about the dilemma DEGROWTH versus GROWTH or how we want to live, what alternatives we can develop, involving the more people the better.

Apart from the support of the people, another objective for the future is to get the support of public institutions, among others, to help and encourage new individual or collective initiatives.

The documentary, as well as the following debates (which will follow) will connect us with a sense of similar projects around the world, which will surely stimulate the existing environment in the regions.

A dignified life for our children and grandchildren as well as for the children and grandchildren of the whole world obliges us to act and change our current way of living.

"Life on earth can recover from major climate change by evolving into new species and creating new ecosystems. Humanity will not."

(IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

"We can make a change"; the transformation has to start with the people, in the municipalities, at the base of society, involving the people. The possibility that remains is a "degrowth by design", i.e. a methodical and concerted transformation, or a "degrowth by disaster", i.e. a cascade of chaotic crises with a completely open exit.

*Desirable and indicative criteria of the projects and people interviewed:
the 15 criteria are from the Pam a Pam initiative, managed by the Solidarity Economy
Network (XES).

Internal democracy.
Personal development.
Feminist perspective.
Working conditions.
Suppliers.
Inter-Cooperation
Free and open licenses.
Transparency.
Financial management.
Social Cohesion.
Social transformation.
Territorial rooting.
Environmental sustainability.
Waste management.
Energy consumption.

**We would also like to connect with scientists and disseminators: Yayo Herrero, Antonio
Turiel, Carlos Taibo, Sergi Cutillas, Josep Manel Busqueta, Futuro 2, who are a reference
in these fields.

A LITTLE FABLE

"Alas", said the mouse, "the whole world is growing smaller every day. At the beginning it was so big that I was afraid, I kept running and running, and I was glad when I saw walls far away to the right and left, but these long walls have narrowed so quickly that I am in the last chamber already, and there in the corner stands the trap that I am running into."

"You only need to change your direction," said the cat, and ate it up.

FRANZ KAFKA 'A Little Fable'