

Social Benefits: Inclusion, sense of place, engagement and jobs

Dr Clare Twigger-Ross

Collingwood Environmental Planning



#naturehealth
#naturefit4all



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Collingwood
Environmental
Planning

I.C.L.E.I
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Luke
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
FOR SUSTAINABILITY

milieu



Committee of the Regions



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

Defining the scope

- Two interrelated aspects to this session:
- Social cohesion benefits:
 - Social inclusion, social order and reductions in inequalities; and,
 - Bonds of trust, shared social and cultural norms, social networks, social capital, social solidarity, place identity and attachment.
- Opportunities for engagement and employment
- Emphasis on benefits at the community, network, group level



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Collingwood
Environmental
Planning

I.C.L.E.I.
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Luke
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
FOR SUSTAINABILITY

milieu




Committee of the Regions



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

What are the issues?

- Increased urbanisation across Europe, diverse communities, challenge of high unemployment
- Issues of social exclusion including unequal access to shared green space, lack of social cohesion
- Need for new means of individual and community engagement, reconnecting people with each other and their environments
- Role for nature?

Can nature help?

- Some evidence that
- having access to and using shared, green public spaces and wider green infrastructure can contribute to increased social cohesion and reduced social tension
- Important factor in community identity, and can strengthen people's attachment to their communities.
- Spaces for formal and informal social interaction
- Green public spaces as “green hubs” for communities

Neighbourhood gardens, Vienna, Austria



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Collingwood
Environmental
Planning

ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Luke
LIFE
INTEGRATED
ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY

milieu



Committee of the Regions



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

Postzegelparken “Stamp parks” Amsterdam, NL



Challenges

- Unequal access to green spaces adds to social exclusion
- Proximity is only one factor amongst other social factors: e.g. gender, age, relative income, and education,
- Physical access to green space in itself does not necessarily imply that social benefits will be realised by all sectors of society / communities
- Design and quality of green spaces matters

Can nature help?

- Volunteering in the natural environment can lead to social and community benefits e.g.
 - strengthen existing and develop new social relationships
 - build a sense of community
 - learn new skills, increase self-esteem
- Opportunities for employment
 - Use of traditional knowledge
 - Maintenance of cultural identities
 - Creative projects



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy

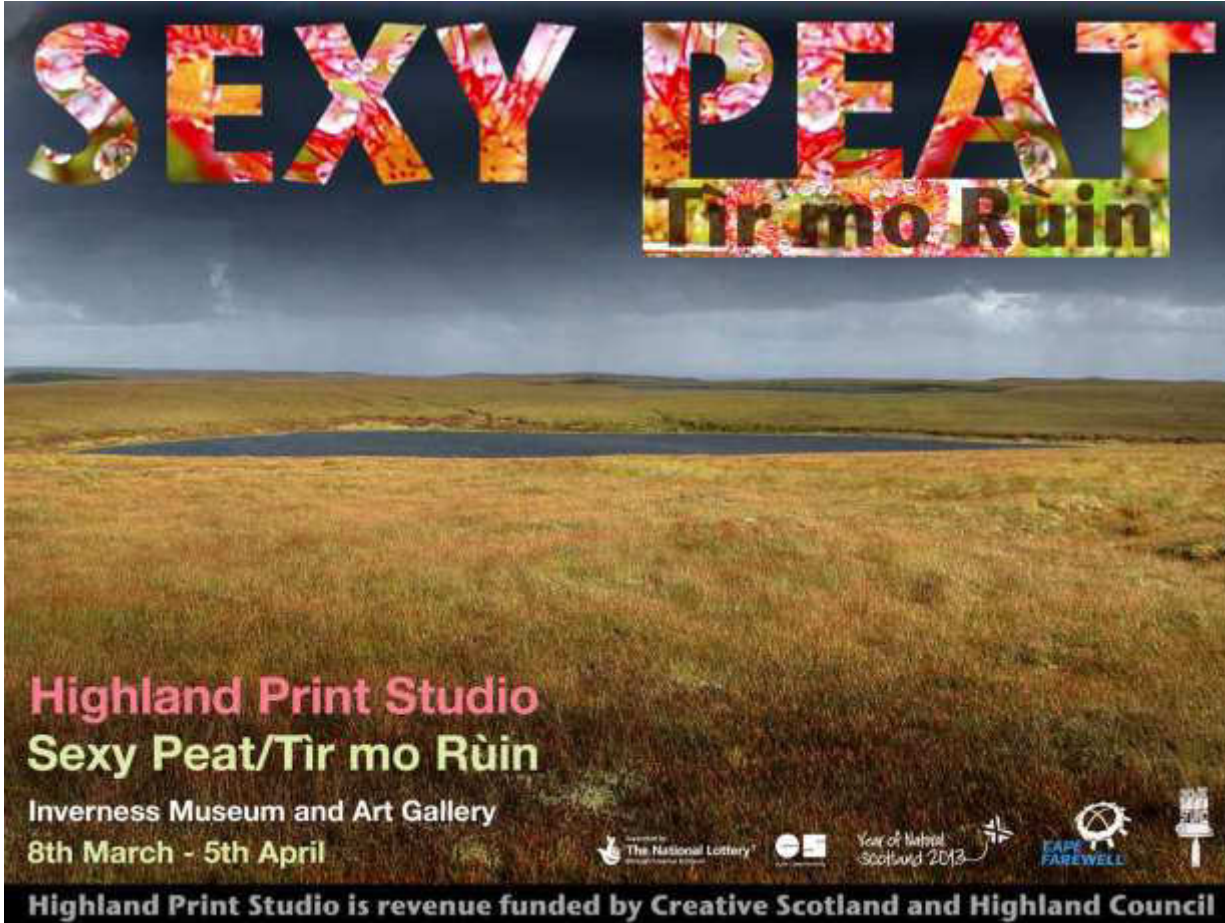


I.C.L.E.I
Local
Governments
for Sustainability



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

Sexy Peat/Tir mo Ruin, Scotland



SEXY PEAT
Tir mo Ruin

Highland Print Studio
Sexy Peat/Tir mo Ruin

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery
8th March - 5th April

Highland Print Studio is revenue funded by Creative Scotland and Highland Council

Logos at the bottom of the poster include: The National Lottery, Creative Scotland, Year of Natural Scotland 2013, EARTH FAREWELL, and a small tower icon.



A project funded by the European Commission (ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by the Committee of the Regions

Challenges

- Diversity of volunteers is often limited.
- Wider social cohesion benefits such as social inclusion, reducing inequalities, and building bonds of trust or shared cultural norms between different socio-economic or ethnic groups require **active facilitation** to encourage diverse participation.



In conclusion

- Evidence for benefits to social cohesion but more research needed to understand the relationships between green spaces and improved social relations
- Volunteering can lead to social and community benefits but diversity of volunteers can be limited
- Role to provide employment, learning and skills but needs to be targeted to involve specific groups



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Collingwood
Environmental
Planning

I.C.L.E.I.
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Luke
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
FOR SUSTAINABILITY

milieu



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

Clare Twigger-Ross

Collingwood Environmental Planning

www.cep.co.uk



#naturehealth



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Collingwood
Environmental
Planning

ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Luke
LIFE
NATURE
POLICY
INSTITUTE

milieu



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

SECOVLJE SALINA NATURE PARK, SLOVENIA

Restoring traditional salt-making process for the
benefits of Man and Nature

Andrej Sovinc, Head of the Park, Deputy director, Soline
d.o.o.



#naturehealth
#naturefit4all

Key considerations...



- Maintenance of traditional salt production essential for biodiversity conservation
- Situation on the European salt-market after the WWII
- Situation in Secovlje Salina at the end of 20th Century
- Private-Public Partnership agreement
- Visionary decision



Why did a mobile-phone company choose to invest in Sečovlje Salina Nature Park?

Direct benefits:

- growth of income from salt sale (not mass-production due to high production costs but based on promotion of a “green product”)
- increase in visitor numbers and income
- new tourist infrastructure in the surroundings of the park area (spa resort)

Indirect benefits:

- better corporate reputation
- using the park as means of promotion

Intrinsic value:

- preservation of natural and cultural heritage
- link between man and nature

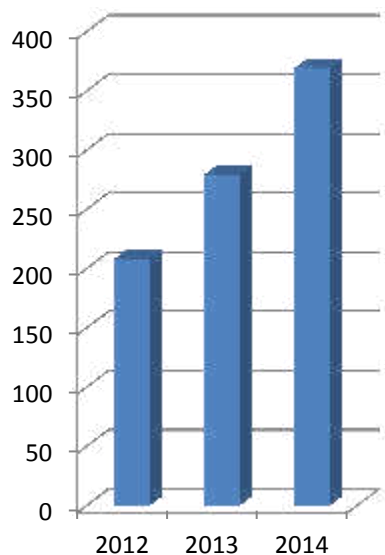
Things have changed...



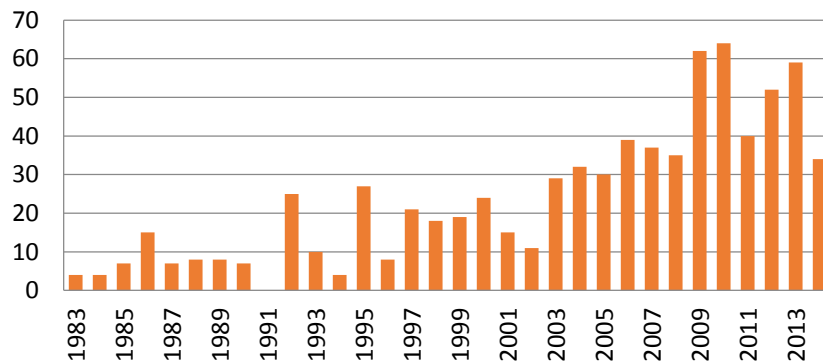
Things have changed...



Growth of sales of salt



Increase of breeding birds





Private company – park manager?

- + innovative financing source... --yes, but don't sleep on this!
- + company thinking in a park... -yes, but where is the limit for nature?
- + experiences in financial mgmt... -yes, but we need transparency!
- + care for economic growth... -yes, but what about “not-profitable” activities, essential for conservation?
- + market approach... -yes, but all conservation cannot be treated as “market approach”
- + managers of the company like birds and plants... -yes, but the ownership of the company can change
- + \$ contribution of the state is low -yes, but because of that public interest in nature conservation should still be defended
- + being a company is an advantage... -yes, but an obstacle for application to particular funding programmes



Institute for European Environmental Policy



Collingwood Environmental Planning

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

Luke

milieu



Andrej Sovinc

Secovlje Salina Nature Park

Andrej.sovinc@soline.si



#naturehealth



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Collingwood
Environmental
Planning

ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Luke
Institute for
Environmental
Research

milieu



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions



Slow Food®

THE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF SLOW FOOD PRESIDIA

Marta Messa

Director of the Brussels Office of Slow Food



#naturehealth
#naturefit4all



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Collingwood
Environmental
Planning

I.C.L.E.I
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Luke
LIFE
PROJECT
POLYVALENT

milieu



Committee of the Regions



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

Slow Food



A global grassroots association
with supporters in over 160 countries
who are linking the pleasure of good food
with a commitment to their community
and the environment



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

Slow Food Presidia



Small scale projects
to help artisan food producers
protect unique regions and ecosystems,
recover traditional processing methods,
safeguard native breeds
and local plant varieties

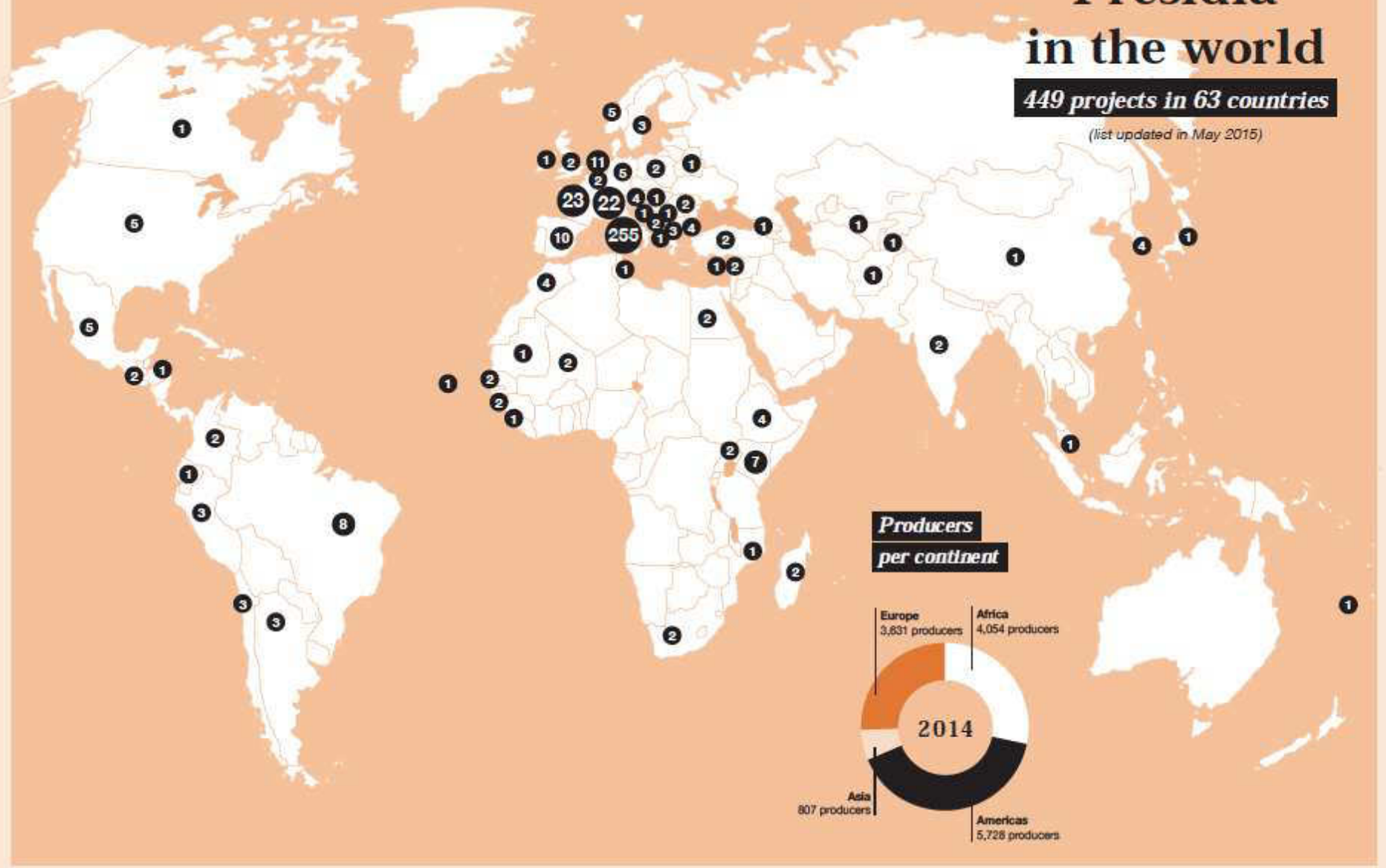


A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

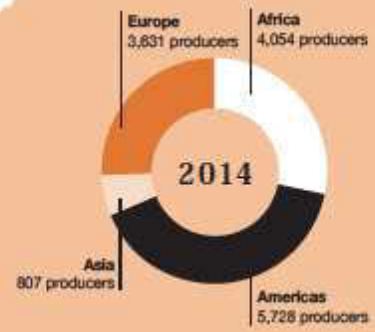
Presidia in the world

449 projects in 63 countries

(list updated in May 2015)



Producers per continent



A project funded by the European Commission (ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by the Committee of the Regions

Objectives



- Environmental** > biodiversity, sustainability of food production
- Economic** > producer income, locally driven activities, employment
- Social** > social role of producers, organisation and self-esteem
- Cultural** > producers' cultural identity and production areas





Sambucano Lamb Italy



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Collingwood
Environmental
Planning

ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Luke
LIFE
PROJECT
POLYVALENT

milieu

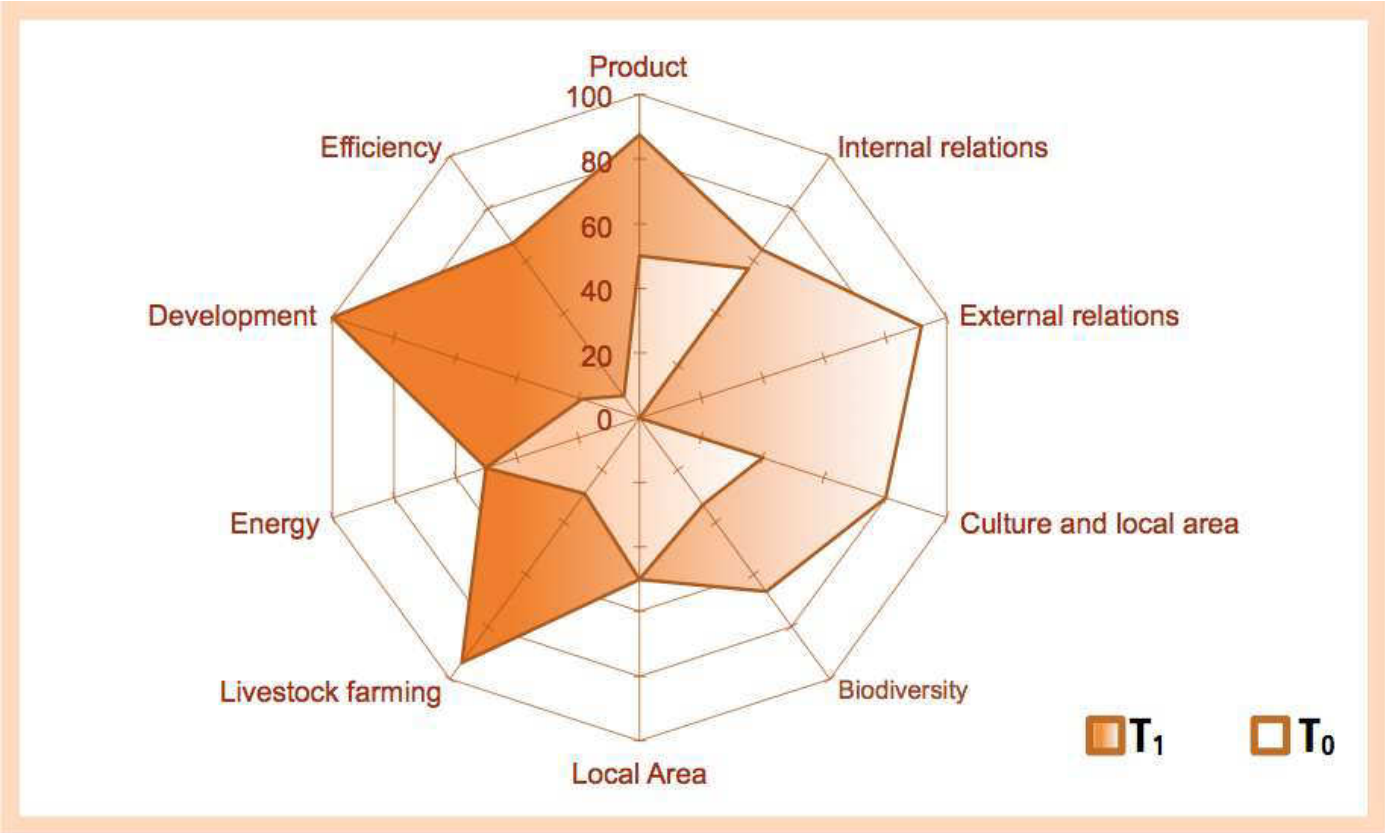


Committee of the Regions



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions

Sambucano Lamb

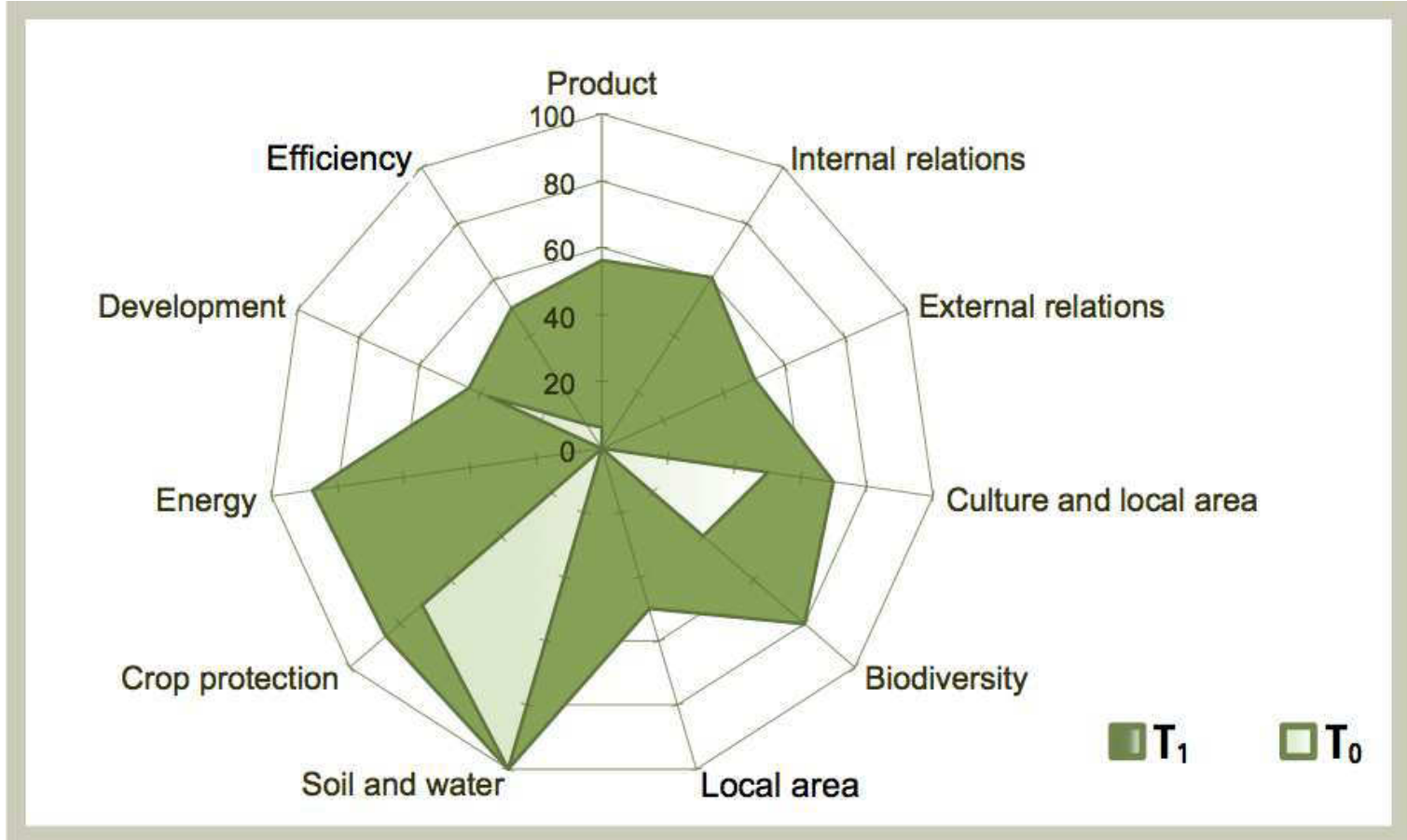


A project funded by the European Commission (ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by the Committee of the Regions

Lungau Tauern Rye Austria



Lungau Tauern Rye



A project funded by the European Commission (ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by the Committee of the Regions



Slow Food®

Thank you for your attention

Marta Messa

m.messa@slowfood.it

www.slowfood.com



#naturehealth



Institute for
European
Environmental
Policy



Collingwood
Environmental
Planning

ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Luke
LIFE
POLYMER
RECYCLING

milieu



A project funded by the European Commission
(ENV.B.3/ETU/2014/0039) and workshop hosted by
the Committee of the Regions