Questionnaire on Structures of Permaculture Education, Oct.2012

Questions in purple = qualitative questions

S P A I N

Institution (people and places)

1) **Do you have a legal entity (association, institute, trust, private company) in your country which offers a pathway to the permaculture diploma?**

X YES ☐ NO

NODO ESPIRAL in the Canary Islands, http://www.nodoespiral.net/

There is only one entity which delivers the diploma, but more people who offer permaculture education. T5his questionnaire was filled out by Antonio Scotti from the association **CAMBIUM:**

Do you have trainers/designers/tutors who offer education on a private basis?
X YES ☐ NO

There is quite a few people doing that :

Antonio Scotti (myself) antonio@permacultura-es.org,
Alfred Decker alfred@permacultura-bcn.org
Richard Wade wade@permacultura-montsant.org
among others.

If it is not possible to achieve the Diploma in your country, what do you suggest to people interested in the diploma?

Sometimes some people need or want to take a diploma pathway abroad, so I indicate possible foreign educational centers that are offering the diploma pathway

2) **Which kind of general PC education/training do you offer?** Please note how many/year.
   5   introductory courses to PC
   2   Courses on specific topics
   1   Online-courses for students
   2   Practicals/hands-on workshops

3)   Which kind of ADMINISTRATION back-up does your institution provide?
X   Private office/ not open to public
X   Online office tools
X   website
X   reachable by telephone
X   online-library (ebooks, scans, pdfs)
X   unpaid staff; how many and how many working hours/week:
       1 person, when necessary
X   volunteers; how many: NONE

4)   Which kind of ORGANISATIONAL back-up does your institution provide?
X   regular newsletter, how often/year: 2-3
X   lists of   ☐ designers
                        X students
                        ☐ tutors
                        ☐ members

If you think of patterns, which one would you choose to describe the internal organisation of your institution? (spiderweb, open net structure, branching, circle, spiral, other)

other: Not sure, on one hand we have a quite broad network of contacts all over Spain and are collaborating actively with other local organizations in order to deliver permaculture education. But the organization per se, is quite a closed one (right now).

5)   On a scale from 0 to 5, where would you place the degree of self-organization in the events mentionned above:

X   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐   ☐
0   1   2   3   4   5

NOTE: as I said, Cambium has only 3 members right now, of which only one is active so <u>*in a way is "totally" self-organized, but as you see there is no one else really interested in sharing the load of decision making, but this may change in the future*</u>

Please describe the experiences you made with self-organizing structures, open agendas, open space events:

I have worked with several other groups using self-organizing structures, like urban permacultures groups, transition town groups, food coops, run open space events, community gardens. In many of these instances the work load has been quite big because in many case there is an initial refusal of creating an effective (self) organized structure, and activities are often done on the go, according to the interest of the moment. The task of creating a shared vision (mission, objectives, internal rules, etc) is usually quite a difficult one to carry forward, especially when most of the people in the group have not undergone a training (permaculture or else), and is seen as not really useful. And this has had in many cases (to my experience at least) led to difficulties and even conflicts.

6) **How do you evaluate your institution/organisation as a whole? What kind of feed back mechanisms do you use on a regular basis?**

Cambium has done a lot to increase awareness of permaculture in Spain since 2002, and could have done a lot more if more people would have gotten involved at different stages. We have lacked the strength and the capital (economic & and human) to reinforce important areas like our website, and outreach or even create a demonstration site.

We have a very loose mechanism, to be honest, where we accept spontaneous comments by people that are in our mailing lists and in our courses. Of course we know that this is not enough and are willing to learn about more specific and effective ways of doing that. But we also know that while there is only one active member putting that in place could be hard, but not unfeasible.

People

7) **Which kind of PERSONAL back-up does your institution or your national network provide?** (Not 100% sure what do you mean here. Are you meaning "what kind of support for other teachers/consultants/etc. do we provide?")

Please note in brackets how many.
- X   PC teachers (Cambium 1 teacher, Spain wide 10+)
- ☐   co-teachers/apprentice teachers (xx)
- X   consultants (= designers who go out to clients) (3 nationally that I know of))
- ☐   specialists, in what: _____ (xx)
- ☐   tutors for students on the Diploma pathway (xx)

Note that some people can have several "roles". Please count them in all suitable categories.

What does the interaction between you as an institution and the teacher/tutor etc. look like?

Right now there is only one teacher in Cambium so…no problems here

How do you manage to create win-win-situations for both?

Same as above

Places

8) **What kind of real, physical places to learn about PC are-there in your country?**
Please note in brackets how many.
☐ research centres with staff (xx)
X farms, homesteads, gardens which take on volunteers/apprentices (xx)
☐ enterprises, businesses which take on volunteers/apprentices (xx)
☐ other: _____ (xx)
Feel free to explain further:
_____

In which way do you as an institution support their work? (for ex. on your website, certification/labeling, handing out lists to students etc):

We publish leaflets about their activities on our website when requested to do so. Also many people that have trained in an introduction to permaculture course, have done later a PDC in the other institutions that offer it.

Students and their pathway-to-diploma

9) **What are the minimum requirements to enroll for the pathway to diploma?**

We do not offer a diploma pathway so we have no requirements right now

So questions 10 to 17 need no answer on our part.

10) **How is the pathway to Diploma organised financially?**

☐ fixed fees monthly or yearly: _____
☐ individual arrangements with tutors

☐ free of charge

☐ other: _____

11) **On a scale from 0 to 5, where would you place the grade of self-organisation of your students?**

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
0 1 2 3 4 5

explanation:
0 = least self-org. = they don´t have to be very self-organized because the institution provides everything like at school: curriculum, teachers, tests...

5 = highly self organised; there is no structure or fixed tools for their pathway (apart from tutors); everything is up to the student to organise: their learning, making contacts, org. of the accreditation event etc

If you like, describe how you encourage your students to more self-organisation:

_____

_____

12) **On a scale from 0 to 5, where would you place the input of your organisation/institution regarding the diploma pathway?**

     ⬚   ⬚   ⬚   ⬚   ⬚   ⬚

     0   1   2   3   4   5

<u>explanation:</u>

0 = no input = t. The institution only hands out the diploma.

5 = the institution provides a lot of tools (tutorials, events, handouts, online-courses, office back-up etc) for the student.

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Accreditation

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13) **Did you develop tools to evaluate the design capacities of students? Which ones? Which experiences?**

_____

14) **What are the minimum requirements to go for accreditation?**

     ☐   proposals from 2 tutors
     ☐   2 years of experience in PC design

     ☐   10 designs

     ☐   documentation of the designs

     ☐   documentation of the learning pathway

     ☐   other: _____

please feel free to describe in more detail:

_____

15) **Follow-up after the accreditation: Did you develop tools to stay in touch with the new designers? Which ones? How do they work?**

_____

     How do you integrate new designers in your system/institution?

_____

16) **Do you offer training to become a tutor?**

     ⬚ YES   ⬚ NO

17) **What support does your institution/network give to tutors?**