

Talking about things that matter to L'Aquila

Invitation to a discussion about the future of L'Aquila (world café)

6 July 2012, School Dante Alighieri, L'Aquila

Summary of the world café

Context

The OECD -University of Groningen study “Abruzzo towards 2030: on the wings of L'Aquila” (which will be completed in December 2012), aims to identify a long-term development strategy for the Abruzzo region, facing growth difficulties for many years and hit by the shock of the 2009 earthquake.

The study aims to build a development strategy as a *collective good* that reflects and integrates the multiple points of view for the long-term wellbeing. For this reason, the strategic design of regional development can only be a participatory process. To this end, several methods are being used, that combine the knowledge of experts and that of citizens (*expert knowledge* and *experience knowledge*).

The world café event

On 6 July 2012, eighty people accepted the invitation of the OECD-University of Groningen research team to take part in the discussions of a *world café* meeting. The objectives of the meeting were to provide an open space for citizens to express, working together, a vision on the future of L'Aquila, identify existing resources to be leveraged for the development of the area and outline some priorities for action. In the final phase of the meeting, they discussed the actions and stakeholders needed to implement the priorities identified.



Following the worldcafé methodology (www.theworldcafe.com), citizens worked at tables of 6-8 people, on the basis of the following questions:

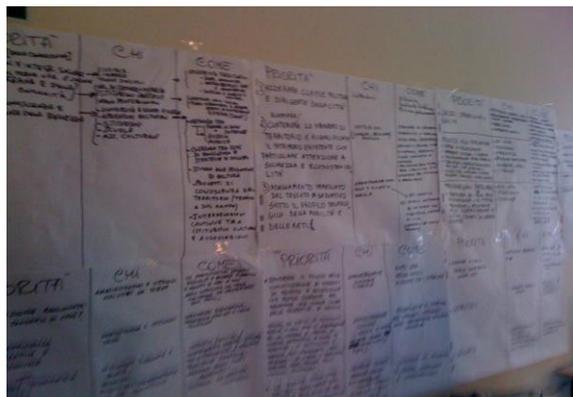
1. Thinking about the future, from your perspective, what would make L'Aquila an outstanding place to live, work and study?
2. Thinking of the assets of L'Aquila today, what possibilities do you see to build on these strengths and improve the quality of life in your city?
3. What are in your opinion the three most urgent things to do to improve your quality of life in L'Aquila?

The meeting of July 6 is a further step in the process of dialogue launched with the public consultation meeting of 16 March 2012 at the Teatro Ridotto, which was attended by over 300 people, and the survey on “Personal and Professional Prospects for the Citizens of L’Aquila and Scenarios for the Economic Development of the Crater Area” carried out in May and June.

The participants in the world café have generated many proposals while discussing the first two questions and, through a deliberative dialogue arising from the third question, have identified a profusion of concrete and implementable propositions, which were then translated into five priorities for lines of action. The participants then indicated lines of action for each of the five priorities identified as well as all the appropriate public and private stakeholders for their implementation.

The five priorities, in the order set up by the participants at the end of the meeting, are:

1. Quality of work; system of knowledge, education and innovation.
2. Reviving the historical centre: inhabitants, cultural and economic activities. Culture of beauty.
3. Sustainable mobility; integrated transport networks; contain urban sprawl; polycentric and eco-sustainable city.
4. Transparency; rule of law; improved administrative efficiency; participatory reconstruction.
5. Social integration and building a collective identity; create spaces of aggregation, quality of public spaces; quality of services to families and the elderly; active participation of young people.



Dissemination of results

This summary, along with the complete list of proposals that came out during the world café, is distributed to participants and available at www.oecd.org/regional/L'Aquila

The summary is also sent to the institutional stakeholders that participants in the world café have indicated as crucial for the implementation of the priorities identified.

The priorities, stakeholders and lines of action discussed during the meeting will be processed and integrated in the final report by the OECD-University of Groningen (December 2012).

Annex: List of proposals made by participants in the *worldcafé*

Question 1: Thinking about the future, from your perspective, what would make L’Aquila an outstanding place to live, work and study?
Borgo 2.0: open and integrated city-region
<i>Socializing spaces: reading and study rooms</i>
<i>Parks</i>
<i>Sports facilities</i>
<i>Urban Transport</i>
<i>Bicycle paths</i>
<i>Public offices in the centre</i>
<i>Benches, shelters, squares, green spaces</i>
Integrated planning
Project for the development of natural and cultural assets
Historical centre: one third to historical residents and two thirds for new forms of culture and development
Transforming the city into a laboratory that will attract talent from abroad
Evaluating the needs and structure the funds accordingly
Regain possession of the city through cultural activities
Sociality: meeting and theater venues
Sustainable quality of life and mobility
Zero emissions, broader city
Creating ways to share this city with foreigners who come to study
Rebuilding the social fabric
Reconstructing the industrial infrastructure using advanced technology capable of attracting businesses that operate in key sectors (ICT, tourism, pharmaceuticals)
Strengthening the university training offer by taking into account the industrial and social fabric of the area
Nature, landscape and history
Installation of technological democracy
Changing from the land pattern to triggering the community pattern
Sense of community: shared values, sense of belonging to a community, participation
Growth beyond the horizon of the “Provincia”, quality of institutions, training and businesses
Creating ways for an active participation aiming at cohesion so that planning be a shared process

L'Aquila = naturalistic and artistic excellence, university
Creating a city of art and culture more open to young people
Developing a network to identify all the social initiatives from the past 3 years and use them in a planning process to regenerate social commitment in the city
Overcoming fragmentation between institutions
Creating new job opportunities, consolidating existing activities
Re-creating a livable urban space and functional for exchanges
Safeguarding land, sustainable tourism, sustainable mobility, greenways
Efficient government and better services for citizens
Using university students in the reconstruction activities
Enhancing the beauty of the site
Vocations: land, art and environment, university and culture, historical and cultural traditions, beauty, and involvement
Effective training offer: student housing, services, hospitality (not just beer bars)
Working: Research in Higher Education, high tech industries, quality tourism services, quality agriculture, enhancement of cultural activities
Beautiful environment: clean, sustainable, engaging, on a human scale, pleasant
Transport: local railways and connection to Rome
Health
No fragmentation
Yes participation
Sports, environment, tourism, business
Do not be afraid to improve
Not as it was and where it was: renewal
New places in the present city where to live also in the future
No sterile opposition
Opening opportunities in international markets
Integrated and networked services
Looking at European cities to draw inspiration
The city of L'Aquila should provide students with the opportunity to put into practice theories they studied on social networks and yard sites
Reconstruction process with opportunities: access to real credit, anti-seismic safety, quality of life and services, knowledge transfer from the university to the civil society, investment in excellence
City high tech and high touch
Micro projects

European cultural yard
Education research business university
Construction
Job Guarantees
Rental controls
Building opportunities
Security
District EU cultural sustainability
Welcoming and intercultural environment
Jobs and job quality
Transparency, legality
Youth entrepreneurship
Credit
Quality of life
Improving the links between university and the area

Thinking of the assets of L'Aquila today, what possibilities do you see to build on these strengths and improve the quality of life in your city?
Culture: Cultural institutions and businesses
Stepping up the reconstruction work in the fields of environment, culture, reconstruction/innovation, business, social and third sector activities
Reconstruction: Employment growth, services, attractiveness
Memory paths that enhance culture and tradition, starting from schools
University: Connecting reconstruction, research centre, cluster, knowledge transfer and multicultural integration
District for sustainability and innovation
Natural and artistic-architectural environment: tourism, investment in infrastructures and creating thematic trails
Reviving the old town with inhabitants, economic and institutional activities
Avoid further densification of suburbs
City of science, knowledge and innovation
Aterno river project: the riverside as a new gathering place
L'Aquila innovation yard to experiment new technologies and aesthetics
Aterno river project: urban railway to connect the new towns developed under the CASE program with the more sparsely developed areas of the city

Polycentric city region
International centre for restoration: the great construction site of the historical centre
Red Zone: red light district
Aiming at tourism linked to nature
Community centres in the newly built houses (“M.A.P.”)
Building with eco-architecture
Do not miss the transition from work shops
L’Aquila cultural centre, permanent laboratories = creative hub
Aiming at increasing sustainability (less speculation and higher quality)
City region that should cultivate its diversity and offer many opportunities to share life with others through common themes like art, nature etc, places with identity
Enhancement of the “sexsanio” recipe (tourism project of Santo Stefano di Sessanio)
Access to finance for young entrepreneurs
Bank: money for the area
Make the historical centre pedestrians only and integrated mobility plan
Facilitate participation with real effects by institutions better listening to citizens’ needs
Creating synergies in the city area
Strengths: culture, nature, social and affordable tourism, innovation and use of European resources
Construction: new job opportunities for the city
Schools and renewal of places, schools and transmission of history and culture
Historical and natural aspects of the environment (urban parks)
Culture nature
Proximity to the capital
Poles of solidarity
Improving and upgrading public transport with low gas emissions
Promoting tourism while enhancing culture and environment
Thinking of a wide area project that creates a network of enhancement and usability on a large scale
Thinking urban development aimed to integrating environmental and land quality
Yard of the reconstruction as an opportunity for exchange and growth
University: a contribution towards the smart city
Attracting young talents
Knowledge economy used for the reconstruction
University involvement in the reconstruction process to benefit the training of students
Cooperation + human capital = services for the person

Tourism and environment
Research and business
City region → effective transports
L'Aquila assets: architectural heritage, environment, university
Recovering former wealth
Participation
Integration of skills
Small- and Medium-Size Enterprises
Urban green spaces, urban transports, libraries, citizens' house, centres for children, mothers, senior citizens and university students
SMEs
Promotion, marketing, institutional improvement, advanced training
Geographical position: L'Aquila-Rome axis
Cultural institutions = education + tourism
Mobility: bicycle paths, sustainable development
Sustainable tourism: enhancing the area with a network of trails and using green areas around the city walls
Protect the wealth represented by small-scale participative initiatives and create the conditions to improve the sense of civic responsibility and make active participation a constant and diffuse habit
Rebuilding with attention to basic details such as energy saving
Improving valuable contribution of older people by implementing ICT use
Creating conditions so that the incomes of economic agents involved in the reconstruction remain in the territory
Creating conditions for the widespread laboratory of restoration and architectural recovery activities to give culture back to the city
Seizing the opportunity of reconstruction to improve the networks of sub services and eliminate the polluting effects of existing networks
Mobility, bicycle paths, sustainable development, increasing public transport
Sustainable civic rules
More meeting places for citizens (squares, venues, events such as neighbourhood parties)
Making of L'Aquila a unique and attractive place: University, knowledge economy used for reconstruction