

The Cider house

- a proposal for a combined food-incubator/nature-school/cold storage/eco tourism center in the Moravian village Bouzov Svojanov



-A midterm assignment for the diploma study of Human Ecology at Aalborg University, Denmark

***By
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Synopsis for the midterm assignment by Max Vittrup Jensen, for the diploma study of Human Ecology at Aalborg University.

Working questions:

- ***How would the establishment of a combined food-incubator/nature-school/cold storage/eco tourism center aid in solving the problems facing the Moravian village Bouzov Svojanov?***
- ***How will it aid in solving some of the concerns of the global sustainability presented by Agenda 21?***
- ***How does it relate to the requirements of the European Union for the East European accession countries?***

The object of the assignment is to present a practical model for such a center in order to re-establish local sustainability. It's intended that the assignment can serve as a platform for a later application to the local officials in order to apply for financial support through the Sapard program offered by EU. In the assignment both the environmental as well as the social and global impact of the production/service center will be viewed in accordance with the local conditions and various research on the subject, as well as in the relation to LA21

The assignment is composed as follows:

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Relating the proposal to the global issues of Agenda 21 and E.U.s Support program for the East European accession countries

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Description of the location, the depopulation, the development after the velvet revolution, the present agricultural/environmental state: Analysis of the present agricultural techniques with a focus on the biological and social issues

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Presentation of PermaLot's proposal, to solve the above-mentioned dilemma of Bouzov Svojanov, comparing how it corresponds with the United Nations proclamation of a Global Agenda 21 and the aims of the Sapard plan

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Relating the principles of the proposal to those of the Sapard program as well as Agenda 21. Pointing out the shortcoming of the assignment and the steps ahead for completion of the proposal.

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Introduction:

June 6, 2001 WASHINGTON:-

"We know that greenhouse gases are accumulating in Earth's atmosphere, causing surface temperatures to rise," said committee chair Ralph Cicerone, chancellor, University of California at Irvine. "We don't know precisely how much of this rise to date is from human activities, but based on physical principles and highly sophisticated computer models, we expect the warming to continue because of greenhouse gas emissions."¹

Around the world there's a surge towards the urban centers which intensifies the production of green house gas emissions as the low-impact rural life gets abandoned in quest for a more materialistic lifestyle. This immediately points out a dilemma: Who's left to feed all the people in the urban centers? Who's left to maintain the countryside?

The answer through the past generation has been the intensive approach of industrialised agriculture, which consumes more energy than it produces, as it is made possible only by heavy dependence on expensive outside energy, heavy machinery, monoculture planting, chemical interference and large-scale units. This situation has taken its toll as seen through the many declining rural communities, the state of the wildlife, animal husbandry, farm food, and of course; the landscape.

In 1992 The United Nations agreed on the declaration of 'Agenda 21', an outline of incentives to combat the environmental and developmental problems of the world. It was internationally agreed that the future development of mankind has to be in harmony with nature.

The scope of the following assignment is to outline an economically viable *and* ecologically, socially sound way of community development, which can serve as a model for similar initiatives around the Czech Republic as well as other rural areas experiencing depopulation and lack of economic growth. It's intended to demonstrate that through living in harmony with the natural systems it's possible to sustain economic growth and recreate an attractive quality of life in a small village suffering from de-population.

This assignment is made by one single person, however it describes the effort and intentions of the Czech grass root organization "PermaLot", which was incorporated as an official Czech civic organization in 2000. PermaLot now owns and manages 10,5 hectares in and around Bouzov Svojanov and 8,5 of the hectares are being maintained in accordance to the national guidelines for organic agriculture. The land is in the process of being accredited as a national land trust in accordance with the Czech guidelines for this. On the property there's also a large derelict building, which PermaLot intends to purchase and renovate as outlined in chapter 2.

As a tool of reference the assignment will use the "Agriculture and Rural Development Plan of the Czech Republic 2000-2006" also titled the 'SAPARD Plan' as well as the declaration of

¹ Substract of a report ordered by George W Bush from the climate commision of the National Academy of Sciences

Agenda 21. The Sapard plan has been chosen, as it is built upon the following mission, which corresponds well with the intentions of Agenda 21:

“The dimensions of permanently sustainable development as one of the initiating preconditions of the environmentally acceptable development trajectories must form an inseparable and integral part of the SAPARD Program.”²

The term sustainable agriculture has been defined in many ways. However, most definitions seem to agree in defining sustainability as a characteristic of performance of agricultural systems as a whole, rather than attempting to define sustainable agricultural practices, methods, or enterprises. In general, it can be argued, a sustainable agriculture must be ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible.³

PermaLot goes a step further and defines the sustainability term as following the guidelines for Permaculture, which involves;

- *Creating systems that produce more than they use*
- *Work with nature rather than against it*
- *The problem is the solution*
- *Make the least change for the greatest possible effect*
- *The yield of a system is theoretically unlimited*
- *Create Cooperation rather than competition.*⁴

This again corresponds with the International Foundation for Organic Agriculture (IFOAM), which includes „all organic agriculture systems which promotes environmental, social and economically sound production of food products, under due respect of the local soils fertility and the natural sustainability level for plants, animals and landscape“⁵

It's intended that the assignment can double as a platform for a later application to the local politicians and the responsible persons distributing the Sapard funds, to gain economic support for the outlined incentives through the Sapard program.

² Sapard Plan: page 98

³ Ikerd, J. 1994. "Assessing the health of agroecosystems from a socioeconomic perspective,"

⁴ Permaculture –A designers manual, Bill Mollison.

⁵ Quote from IFOAM, presented in “Structure development and environment in Danish agriculture” Jan Holm Ingemann, '01

1.

"To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies"

Principle 8, Agenda 21⁶

1. Description of the location, the depopulation, the development after the velvet revolution of the present agricultural/environmental state:

The village of Bouzov Svojanov dates back to the 14th century, where the area was given to one of the knights from the nearby Bouzov castle. Svojanov is a small idyllic Moravian village, nestled in the foothills of the Jesenicky mountains at a 400 meter elevation. It is situated at the end of a dead end road surrounded by a few fields, orchards and vast mixed forests. Throughout the past 100 years the amount of inhabitants has been declining (see fig. 1.1), to the extent that it now has become uninteresting for the town council to provide or support the village or infrastructure, as the village already seems doomed in the eyes of the local politicians. No public funding has been allocated to Bouzov Svojanov since the velvet revolution in 1989, except for keeping up the basic amenities.⁷

Table 1.1: Demographics of Bouzov Svojanov for the past 150 years:

The Svojanov Evolution:						
Year	1790	1834	1890	1900	1991	2002
Inhabitants by year	119	159	153	128	28	16
Occupied houses all year	16	21	-	22	22	6
Average number of inhabitants per house	7,4	7,5	-	5,8	1,3	2,7

The figures up to 1991 are taken from the Urban study made for Bouzov in 2001. The 2002 figures are made by personal observations. Please note that the official number of occupied houses may be higher than reality due to bureaucratic reasons.⁸

Svojanov is, together with 13 other villages, under the auspices of the Bouzov town council. In total the 13 villages and Bouzov has 1490 inhabitants with 846 of them in the productive age. Bouzov is one of 24 such 'central' villages which makes out the local authority of Litovel. The entire district of Olomouc again constitutes 93 such local authorities. Olomouc is the official seat of the Hana micro region, with a total of 110.293 inhabitants.⁹ /68.000 of them in the productive age

The system of micro-regions has been described as grouping of adjacent municipalities, which come together to deal with common problems and to prepare a common development strategy. Currently there are some 200 micro-regions throughout the Czech Republic, many of which were established for the national Rural Renewal Program. The Czech government favors this approach and micro-regions are gradually being incorporated into regional development planning.¹⁰

⁶ Rio declaration on Environment and Development.

⁷ Local information obtained through private observation and conversations

⁸ Urban Study conducted for Bouzov town hall, 2001

⁹ www.tourist-centrum.cz

¹⁰ Sapard plan, page 17

The Sapard plan specifies the reasons behind the current situation as follows, which serves to briefly explain the psychological/social obstacles towards new initiatives, as well as explains the decline of the populations in the rural areas:

“Many rural micro-regions are in a great need of renewal of their technical infrastructure, renovation of premises and provision of services. Until some of these basic needs are met it will be difficult to reduce the present rates of rural depopulation and the consequent drift to the cities and expect economic regeneration at the same time. In the past decades, agricultural functions in rural settlements were separated and placed in large agricultural establishments. Farm buildings inside settlements remained unused. Under the former totalitarian regime, nationalization of land and the development of large-scale collective farming reached the greatest dimensions in the former Czechoslovakia compared within the entire Eastern bloc. Farmers became accustomed to 8-hour working days and an employee-type regime. As a result, ownership relations were broken and thus the relationship to the land changed. The jobs available in agricultural enterprises could not cover the demand for employment in villages. As a result, at present many workers commute to towns and rural population suffers more from unemployment.”¹¹

It's further outlined that as a consequence of the above mentioned large-scale land cultivation, the field roads, natural line elements and other landscape features have been destroyed. The ecological stability of the landscape was disturbed, agricultural land resources were devastated by water and wind erosion, biodiversity was reduced and the overall scenery was affected.¹²

This provides a further hindrance for organic agriculture, as the safe corridors for natural predators (insects, birds, and animals) are non-existing. There are programs in place to reestablish them, however this process takes time. As pointed out, the lack of wildlife corridors also spoils some of the natural beauty, which is essential for eco-tourism. However for the vicinity of Bouzov Svojanov this is not a great concern, as the natural element as gulleys, forests and hills has prevented the extremes of the large-scale farming.



Fig 1.:Photo of Bouzov Svojanov and surroundings. May 2001

Svojanov is part of the former 'Sudetenland' an area along the German/Polish border, which used to belong to Germany until the end of WWII. Especially in this area the Sapard plan specifies that: “The rapid transition in the agriculture sector (the change of ownership from the state farms.) has created problems of adjustment, which has seen an increase in the levels of long-term unemployment, including hidden unemployment and social and economic marginalization. These regions are further disadvantaged by a lack of entrepreneurial tradition, often reinforced by patterns of employment and agricultural activity from the past. Subsistence family-based economies can sometimes serve to accentuate the process of marginalization and exclusion. It

¹¹ Sapard plan, page 17

¹²Sapard plan, page 31

will be necessary to develop where possible the skills and the opportunities for greater economic market-based self-reliance.”¹³

1.1. Analysis of the present agricultural techniques with a focus on the biological and social issues.

In Bouzov Svojanov and the vicinity, the change over from the previous socialist rule seems to have made little change in the management of the surrounding landscape. During the start of the 90'ies property was returned to the original owners and their heirs. However a majority of the new land owners have chosen to continue having the land managed by the (now privatized) co-operative farms, which in the case of Bouzov Svojanov means that the land remains used for monoculture commercial orchards; a total of 67 hectares of apples, 43 ha of black currants and a total of 12,5 ha of other berries are being managed by the local Co-op. ¹⁴

As an example of the management we can refer to the history of the 10,5 hectares, which PermaLot now owns. Following the velvet revolution and the restitution of property, the property was rented to the Co-op for a yearly payment of 800 czk (200 dkr). At the end of the year the owner was often asked if she would accept to receive payment in products, as the Co-op had failed to make a profit.¹⁵



Fig. 2: The orchard owned by PermaLot, May 2001, while managed by the Coop.

1.2. About the present agricultural methods:

The apples are being managed in accordance with an “Integrated Fruit Cultivation System” as defined by Monsanto, the producer of the pesticides used in the system.¹⁶ It is often mentioned that the former east block countries spray less than the Western counter parts, however from personal observation it appears that the workers tend to have much less conscience in the application of spray as it gets applied when it’s scheduled, with no regards to the weather conditions. Copper is still a preferred product (Not legal in DK for neither commercial, nor organic growers¹⁷), This corresponds well with the above explanation about alienation to the land, that the gardeners and workers don’t seem to be connected to the land, which also is apparent in the amount of trash being left in the orchards every year. The Co-op provides 3 seasonal jobs to the people in Svojanov, and no other return from their income goes to Svojanov.

It’s claimed by the E.U. that “The stabilization of rural development in the Czech Republic rests on the diversification of agricultural activities within as well as outside agricultural enterprises and, in particular, on the development of small- and medium-sized non-agricultural enterprises with a connection to agriculture and local residents. There is a great challenge for local and culturally-specific production and services.”¹⁸ Which is further elaborated in the following: “Given the available labor, relatively good natural conditions for agriculture and the area of

¹³ Sapard plan, page 48

¹⁴ Facts from a brochure published by the Co-Op: Bouzovska Zamedelska Spolecnost: Sady Kozov

¹⁵ Excerpt from conversation with previous owner, as well as the rental contract

¹⁶ Facts from a brochure published by the Co-Op: Bouzovska Zamedelska Spolecnost: Sady Kozov

¹⁷ Private conversation with J.Vittrup Christensen, former manager of the DK research station in fruit and berries

¹⁸ Sapard plan 18

agricultural land, it could be stated that the Czech Republic has good conditions for the development of agriculture in the form of multifunctional agriculture; organic farming; landscape management and the growing of domestic species of crops and livestock; the production of biomass and raw material for the production of textiles and paper as well as other commodities, for which sufficient outlets exists in the CR and in Europe”¹⁹

With the above viewpoints presented it’s interesting to look at the current national development of organic farming. It’s a field which has been blossoming in the last few years as the below table illustrates:

Fig 3 Development of Organic Farming in the Czech Republic. The certifiable organic farming started to develop in the Czech Republic in 1990.²⁰

Table 25: Organic farming development in the Czech Republic

Year	Number of organic operators	Area of agricultural land (ha)	% of farmed land
1990	3	480	
1991	132	17,507	0.41
1992	135	15,371	0.36
1993	141	15,667	0.37
1994	187	15,818	0.37
1995	181	14,982	0.35
1996	182	17,022	0.40
1997	211	20,238	0.47
1998	339	71,600	1.67
1999 April	about 500	about 110,000	2.57
2001		160.000	3.9

*) The visible increase in the area and interest in organic farming reflects the support to organic farming provided by the Ministry of Agriculture in the form of non-returnable aid in 1998 and 1999 Source: MoA, 2000

The organically farmed area accounting for 2.57 % of agricultural land is comparable with developed countries (e.g. Germany 1.8 %, Netherlands 0.8 %,Sweden3.3%, Finland 1.2 %,France 0.3 %,Denmark1.5%, Italy 1.2 %, Austria 10.9 %,Ireland0.2%).

Even though the figures look positive, it’s my personal observation that very few people knows about organic agriculture, and the acceptance of it is very low, as a matter of fact it’s often ridiculed. It’s also striking that it’s virtually impossible to find fresh organic products on the market in the C.R. Most of the organic produce gets processed and sold as finished products and/or exported. It should be noted that much of the area, which is certified, is pasture land which would not have been sprayed any way; It’s mainly a means to get subsidized for land which has always been organic.

At present there exists no available research on the biological situation of Bouzov Svojanov, (however PermaLot has recently instigated a 5 year research involving a bird count and ringing of birds, as well as research of the various plants and insect species in cooperation with students from the Ecological faculty from University of Olomouc). The following is based on private observations, as well as conversations with the locals.

Biologically the Svojanov watershed is still flourishing, and there are still quite a few wild pigs, badgers and deer, even the occasional ram. However the population of birds of prey and

¹⁹ Sapard plan, page 23

²⁰ Sapard plan, page 24

predatory animals seems to be too low for the area, presumably due to the accumulation of toxins throughout the food chain. The available agrarian area is dominated by monocultures with subsequent heavy spraying, excepting for the village greens which for the past 3 years have been grazed by the Co-Ops cattle, after the last berries were removed. The greens are very compacted and lack nitrogen, after decades of intensive use. There is a relatively high hunting pressure as much of the hunting is sold of to wealthy hunters (often from Germany). The old windbreaks have all been cut, and only a few traces remain, which makes the area more attractive to the hunters who usually only hunts from 'hoch-sitz', near places where the game gets fed.

1.3. To summarize the present situation in Bouzov Svojanov:

During the past 10 years almost all of the skilled workforce have left the area, typically to the cities. Only one family with children is still present, and the father commutes to work 30 km each way, as well as the 2 teenage children. The mother works for the Co-op as a seasonal worker. One other family of 3 individuals can best be described as very traditional farmers and they subsidize their living through seasonal work from the Co-op, while their orchard is managed by the Co-op.

Left in the village are 3 older couples who are more or less retired, as well as 2 new-comers; The present inhabitants of PermaLot. Apart from the last 2 residents the entrepreneurial spirit seems to be lacking, which again corresponds to the Sapard plan concerning the area. There seems to be no common interest to revitalize the area.

Many of old people from Svojanov have gradually died off, and their heirs are now using their estates as weekend or vacation homes. A couple of houses are inhabited throughout the summer only. On a national level this has been described as follows:

“In rural regions, especially in small villages, some unfavorable trends could be observed such as the declining birth rate, an ageing population and negative migration. The population decline in rural regions came to a halt in the 1990s, with the trend moving to the predominantly urban regions.”²¹

²¹ Sapard plan, page 11

2.

“It is possible for an ecological farm to be self- sustaining, diversified, economically viable, high net yielding, with socially, ethically and aesthetically acceptable agriculture causing no long-term or irreversible environmental changes”.

Dr. Kiley-Worthington, Little Ash Eco-Farm in Devon²²

Presentation of PermaLot’s proposal to solve the above-mentioned dilemma of Bouzov Svojanov, comparing how it corresponds with the United Nations proclamation of a Global Agenda 21 and the aims of the Sapard plan:

It’s the purpose of the Czech civic association, PermaLot, to demonstrate that, through creativity and utilizing various alternative resources for small-scale production possibilities as well as through education and eco-tourism, the local area of Bouzov Svojanov provides ample opportunities for growth. A prerequisite of this development is that it does not harm the natural intrinsic values of the area, and that it does not create conflict with the present use of the village.

This chapter seek to demonstrate how such a development is in accordance with the principles of Agenda 21, as outlined in the documents resulting from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992²³.

In short the agenda outlines that a global effort that includes local environmental movements, private citizens and states is needed to aid the world environmental and development crisis: “The global environment is no longer a matter solely for the heads of state and government. Agenda 21 challenges people worldwide to cooperate on local Agenda 21: local action plans and initiatives to promote sustainable development. - ... Many global problems are based on people’s habits and lifestyles. Solving modern environmental problems requires integrating environment into our everyday lives. The public authorities have an important role in creating sustainable development, but they need help from the general public. Sustainable development can only result from a democratic process with public participation. Each individual person must therefore take responsibility for global problems by starting to solve them where he or she lives and works. People should not be motivated by laws but should feel personal and moral responsibility for carrying out the principles of Agenda 21.”²⁴

In executing Agenda 21 on a local level (‘Local Agenda 21’/LA21), it’s especially important to bear in mind the following principles:

- Human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. (Principle 1)
- The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations. (Principle 3)
- Anyone can initiate change (Core of Principle 5 and 10)²⁵)

It’s been highlighted by the Danish Ministry of Environment that this change of implementation of changes from a governmental level to a citizen level supported by the government introduces

²² Dr. Kiley-Worthington, Little Ash Eco-Farm in Devon, The New Way Forward

²³ Rio declaration on Environment and Development

²⁴ Excerpt from The Danish Ministry of Environment’s Local Agenda 21 committee

²⁵ Excerpt from The Danish Ministry of Environment’s Local Agenda 21 committee

new ideas and different way of doing things which require a transparent decision-making process: “Dialogue and the willingness to cooperate across traditional disciplines and sectors are required to develop and implement ideas. Transparency, dialogue and cooperation across disciplines and sectors comprise one of the key cornerstones of Agenda 21. One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making. Furthermore, in the more specific context of environment and development, the need for new forms of participation has emerged.”²⁶

PermaLot’s project for a combined food-incubator/ nature-school/cold storage/eco-tourism center is one example of such a new development

2.1. Vision:

It is envisioned that this development can be achieved through a combination of different small-scale industries, all working in harmony with each other, and none of them exploiting the resources. It’s also intended that this development can function as a model for other villages to follow, and that it will have a large outreach through education of both children and adults.



Bringing Profit Back to the Farm

The proposed development can be outlined as being in 3 stages:

Stage one has partly been achieved or is well under way:

- The purchase and managing of the village greens as certified organic, as well as in accordance with permaculture guidelines²⁷
- Having the area certified as a land trust, with educational trails to aid in building up a public interest as well as making the base for eco tourism and education.²⁸
- Landscaping the area to make it attractive for ecotourism, as well as providing a continual diverse crop for a staggered income.
- Generating a positive interest among the existing users in the village for the project. This can partly be achieved by aiding in the restoring of the village common facilities, providing new services and means of income, as well as restoring and supporting old village traditions.²⁹
- Generate an initial national and international interest for the project, to establish the necessary support network and initialize the search for future inhabitants.^{30, 31}

Stage two, which this report will focus on; purchasing an existing large building in the village and convert it to fill the following needs:

1. **Food incubator**
2. **Nature school**
3. **Cold storage**
4. **Eco-tourism**

(Explained in detail below)

Stage Three will be to establish the contracts with the surrounding counties to supply the pupils for the nature school, and general political support for the project. A continuous task is to rent out the food-incubator facilities, find the right entrepreneurs, gardeners, teachers, cooks, and

²⁶ Excerpt from The Danish Ministry of Environment’s Local Agenda 21 committee

²⁷ ‘Outline of the property’ by PermaLot

²⁸ ‘Land trust application’ by PermaLot

²⁹ ‘PermaLot Village application’ for Nadace VIA

³⁰ ‘Letters of support from GEN’

³¹ ‘Letter of support from LOS’

other employees, necessary for the project. This third stage is already in process and is expected to develop gradually throughout the growth of the entire project. Naturally it's closely connected with establishing housing, employment and atmosphere.

2.2. Explanation of the envisioned elements in stage 2:

2.2.1. Food incubator:

Food incubators are most commonly developed in USA. It's a way to facilitate the upstart of small and medium sized enterprises (SME's) within the food production industry, usually in regards to specialty products. It's been defined as follows: *A shared-use commercial kitchen is a type of business incubator where farmers, and producers of specialty/ gourmet food items can prepare their food products in a fully licensed and certified kitchen. The kitchens, often sponsored by an umbrella nonprofit organization or existing business incubator, provide start-up businesses the opportunity to explore food production without the high cost of buying their own equipment or constructing their own building. Kitchen incubators usually offer technical assistance in food production as well as general business management skills, networking opportunities among entrepreneurs, and the opportunity to form shared services cooperatives for marketing, distribution, and supply purchasing*³².



It's often been proven that SME's statistically accounts for the highest number of employment throughout the world. By supplying the initial production facilities for a prospective entrepreneur to launch a new product, history has proven that it often works to test the market, establish outlets and the public demand. In case the product has success the producer will have the necessary experience and proven track record to be able to invest in a private production facility.³³

In the case of Bouzov Svojanov it's clear that the demands for such an incubator will vary with the amount of potential entrepreneurs and the seasonal crops, which partly defines the size of the kitchen, but also the need to diversify the crops, the storage capacities and the product range. As the adjacent land is getting converted from a monoculture orchard in accordance with permaculture techniques, it will not only provide a fresh crop of apples from August to February, but also numerous other kinds of fruits, berries, herbs and specialty plants. It's not possible to list the possibilities of products here, but as examples the following could be made: Fruit-leather made from pureed fruit and berries, home made wood free paper with herb seeds to plant an instant herb patch, herbal cosmetics, apple cider, jams, juice and syrups and much more. Everything harvested on the PermaLot land trust can get certified as organic.

The facility could be equipped and rented out much the same as the food incubator in Arcata, California, with adjustment for Czech prices and standard of living:

³² Margaret M. Bau, and Greg Lawless Cooperative Development Specialist, USDA/Rural Development

³³ Margaret M. Bau, and Greg Lawless Cooperative Development Specialist, USDA/Rural Development

- Commercial 6 Burner Range and Oven
- Convection Oven
- Steam Jacketed Kettle
- 32 Quart Mixer
- Large Commercial Stainless Steel Sink
- Refrigerator and Freezer
- Stainless Steel Work Tables
- Multivac (vacuum seal) Machine
- Storage Lockers

Hourly Rate \$9 per hour

Scheduled & paid for 7 days in advance \$6 per hour

Other services:

Take advantage of our other reasonably priced services: Shipping and Receiving, Warehouse Storage, Clerical and Bookkeeping Services, Fax and Copy Machines

As the facilities in Svojanov will be owned and managed collectively (by PermaLot), it will be possible to use it throughout the year for various community events. Possibly the place could also serve to provide the retired locals with meals, especially for the locals who's family has moved away. In connection with the kitchen, a shared office needs to be installed to enable food producers to do the necessary marketing and wholesale delivery of products.

In deciding for such an endeavor it's worth noting the recommendations from the Sapard research and recommendations for the Czech Republic's compliance with the *Acquis*, in regards to the market in organic products in the Czech Republic:

"The final segment, i.e. the marketing activity of producers and processors and the low public awareness of the products of organic farming is the greatest weakness of the entire system of organic farming. Development of a stable market in the products of organic farming is a current priority. Producers have to learn to respond flexibly to consumer demands through adjustments in the structure of sown areas."³⁴

It's believed that a local small scale specialty food production will always be able to adapt more swiftly to the marked demands, than a big specialized factory, and as the main base of the production, the organic certified land, is managed as a poly-culture, it further more enables the possibility of a more diversified production. The definition of a specialty food is somewhat vague according to the National American Association for Specialty Food Trade. Typically, specialty foods are low-volume manufactured from the highest quality ingredients to produce a uniquely marketable product commanding a high price.³⁵

Simon Wisberg, who recently wrote a doctor thesis about the production of organic cider in Denmark, looked into the potential market for such a product. As the Czech Republic has rich potential for exports to the wealthy neighboring countries of Austria and Germany, even further North to Scandinavia, I find it's worth mentioning his arguments for why consumers presently purchase organic products: "Organic products are bought because they are experienced as having a better quality and thereby have an increased value in relation to alternatives. The parameters creating the increased value are health and environment. However it's not health in a traditional perspective, which is being focused on. It's about everything that is *not* in the product, i.e: It's only a fraction of the additives that are being used in conventional produce which are allowed in organic produce. Taste, product quality and packaging are also significant causes for purchase of organic products³⁶. In using the term product quality the immaterial quality parameters are of

³⁴ Sapard plan, page 34

³⁵ Ikerd, J. 1994. "Assessing the health of agroecosystems from a socioeconomic perspective"

³⁶ Simon Wisberg, organic cider production in Denmark, chapter 4.2.1. KVL.Frederiksberg, 2001

significant importance, which is why it's important in marketing of the cider products to emphasize the craftsmanship used in the manufacturing.

Immaterial Quality parameters: The Immaterial Quality parameters will in the future become increasingly more importance for the sale of products. In the future society, called the dream society, the histories, which are attached to the products, will be of more importance to the sale than the quality of the product³⁷. This means that not only health and environment will be important parameters, but for example also the history of the cider and the products expression in the landscape³⁸

In relating to these arguments it's worth pointing out that when PermaLot is ready to produce organic products (PermaLot will first be certified in 2004) will be a well-established institution in the Czech Republic. Currently there's a monthly update in the national paper focused on ecological issues, and over 100 people have visited and worked during the first half year of public existence. During the summers we'll have more events and we anticipate to gradually receive more media coverage.

To facilitate the conversion and furnishing of the food incubator it's believed that it will be supported 100% under the following Sapard measures:

- **Support to regional products**

Support will be given to the processing and marketing of regional agricultural products (non-agricultural products are covered by measure 2.2. "Development and diversification of economic activities, providing for multiple activities and alternative income"), which build on the traditional production of local specialties and products of organic origin³⁹

- **Objectives**

The objective of this measure is to increase the competitiveness of Czech agriculture and food industries as well as to comply with the *Acquis*. Under this measure, investments, which serve as a basis for other state supports* will be financed so that the support is channeled as a priority for:

- The establishment and modernization of technologies with a higher degree of product processing leading to compliance with EU standards and adaptation to the *acquis*, strengthening of competitiveness and to a greater potential to find outlets
- The establishment and modernization of technologies for the manufacture of regional and organic products

The fulfillment of the above objectives will result in providing the beneficiaries a strengthened market position, improved waste management, greater sales potential, improved product quality and safety and through the support of regional activities also to the support of employment.

(„Support for the establishment and operation of producer marketing organizations in the first three years of their operation” and the “Support for the operation of marketing organizations” focusing on the support for marketing agricultural commodities and effective marketing strategies, “Support to marketing organizations” – loan guarantees and interest subsidies and other forms of direct and indirect export support)

³⁷ Simon Wrisberg, organic cider production in Denmark, chapter 4.2.1. KVL.Frederiksberg , 2001

³⁸ Simon Wrisberg, organic cider production in Denmark, chapter 4.2.1. KVL.Frederiksberg , 2001

³⁹ Sapard plan, volume II, page 14

2.2.2. Nature school:

It's envisioned that adjacent to the food incubator a large room can be established, through eco-renovating an old barn. This room can function as a large classroom during the daytime, and during the evenings and weekends the community can utilize the room for lectures and leisure activities.

The term 'Nature School' is here defined as the type of nature schools developed by the Danish Ministry of Environment, which has been tried and tested for the past 20 years.



The purpose is to get school children out into the natural environment and become introduced to the seasonal changes that are occurring. The nature school usually staffed by a person who is specialized within the local area (typically a forester or a biologist), and often there's an assistant aiding with management of the children and the facility, possibly through work rehabilitation program, or by as a conscientious objector.

One or two counties usually run the school, and the children come from all the primary schools in the counties. The children will typically come only once a year for a full day excursion with one or 2 classes from the same school. The amount of schools and classes in the county (-ies), ensures that the nature school is booked year round.

Research has been conducted on the effect of a close relation between children and nature, and it shows clearly that: *"Kindergarten children with a daily nature contact demonstrates significant differences when compared to similar groups of children without frequent nature contact: double as good concentration abilities, significant lower frustration level (6 times as low), they feel much less restless (11 times less) besides the fact that they are more helpful towards other children."*⁴⁰ **A fact worth noting is that it also has the effect that the children grow up with a more respectful relationship towards nature, which they'll carry with them throughout their life.**

The geography of Bouzov Svojanov is ideally suited for such a school as there is access to many different habitats; various types of forests, wetlands (including the fire reservoir being renovated by PermaLot in accordance with Permaculture techniques), meadows and orchard. Bouzov Svojanov is situated at the perimeter of 3 different counties, which all could share the facility and the expense. As the PermaLot property is being developed as a demonstration area, and accredited as a national land trust, there'll also be an interactive educational trail, which enables visitors to learn about the benefit of natural farming.

It's believed that the nature school can be implemented under the following Sapard measures:

Measure: 2.1.a) Renovation and development of villages

The whole measure 2.1 constitutes an important basis for the creation of job opportunities for a social program of associated villages through business development, including rural tourism and the improvement of housing, etc.

- I. Restoration and the subsequent utilization of residential and farm buildings, including objects of monumental and historical interest; modernization of flats, always with the

⁴⁰ Researcher, landscape architect and biologist Patrick Grahn, "Ute på dagis" referred to in a brochure 'Smaakravl', by the Danish Outdoor Council.

- rural tradition preserved, restoration or building of schools, health care (social, cultural, sports and other) facilities.
- II. Establishment of new municipality facilities to promote business start-ups – structures and areas earmarked for entrepreneurial activities, training and education facilities, public market places – non-revenue/non-profit-generating municipality help.

Measure 2.2 “Development and diversification of economic activities, providing for multiple activities and alternative income”

The main objective of this measure is to contribute significantly, together with measure 2.1, to creating new jobs and stabilizing existing ones by the development of business activities, thus raising the economic stability of rural areas and stemming rural depopulation.

Specifically, the measure will support investments contributing to the achievement of the following objectives:

- By the establishment and development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to create new jobs and reduce the rate of unemployment.
- By a diversification of activities to improve the income base of local farmers’ families and reduce land abandonment.
- By the renewal and utilization of neglected farm buildings to valorize real estate in villages and improve the environment in settlements.
- By information services focusing on businesses and on new jobs for women and young people to improve the demographic trends in rural micro-regions.

2.2.3. Cold storage:

An existing garage/barn adjacent to the PermaLot orchard can be renovated into a naturally cooled cold storage for apples and other fruits. This increases the sale potential, as it is possible to release the products at a later time than the peak season. Further more it provides the possibility to extend the productivity period for the above mentioned food incubator.



The Sapard research supports the creation of food storage facilities for fruit, especially when the fruit is organic, as outlined out in the following measure:

Measure 1.1 Investments in agricultural holdings, Storage capacities reconstruction

In the area of fruit and vegetables production, efforts need to be focused on the improvement of storage, the introduction of hygienic standards in storage and the selection of storage technologies that are environmentally friendly. The objectives are to improve the resulting quality of fruit and vegetables, to increase the added value of the produce, to increase the share of primary producers in the fruit and vegetable market and in their sales revenues.

Additionally, measure 1.2 will allow support for processing of local vegetable and organic fruit production.⁴¹

⁴¹ Sapard plan, page 22

2.2.4. Eco tourism

During the socialist era the farm on the PermaLot land was extended to house the socialist farm workers. It presently has 34 beds in 8 rooms and a large dining room with a vaulted ceiling. The building needs a to be renovated, insulated, equipped with central heating and a new kitchen, and it can be expanded to 50 beds, and an apartment without big effort. The Sapard program could support this renovation as it serves the purpose of diversifying the income base of the region, as well as renovating old existing buildings and constructing housing.



It's been stated: "The development of tourism is known to provide a high number of jobs and also enables the employment of unqualified labor. About 80 % of the Czech Republic's territory has a potential for the further development of tourism. Rural tourism and especially its specific part agritourism, closely connected with agriculture and farming, have the highest development opportunity in the traditionally agricultural areas with attractive landscape and cultural heritage, especially in the border areas Many of the rural spaces in Czech Republic conserve beautiful landscape or a rich and dynamic culture and tradition - both as a national asset and as an attraction for the wider world through tourism, which are representing a substantial base for future development. The 'National Program for the Restoration of Villages' from 1991 and the 'National Program for the Regeneration of Protected Urban Heritage Districts and Zones' from 1992 have had considerable success over the last years in mobilizing local communities for the renovation and exploitation of the physical structure of the rural and urban patrimony. Both programs have been particularly valuable in providing lessons for policy makers and managers in mobilizing local stakeholders for the improvements of their villages and local spaces. Much of this will provide a better understanding of the dynamics of gaining and maintaining local participation in strategies for local economic development in the countryside. SAPARD will provide opportunities for involving local social and economic actors in the defining and implementing such strategies.

According to recent estimates (there are no official statistics), the capacity of accommodation for rural tourism amounts to approximately 31,000 beds. These are especially beds in private homes or individual accommodation, which account for 9 % of the total accommodation capacity in the Czech Republic."⁴²

It is also a statistical fact that the tourism industry accounts for 9% of total employment, which is twice as much as agriculture.⁴³

It's again expected that this initiative will be supported by

Measure: 2.1.a) Renovation and development of villages

The whole measure 2.1 constitutes an important basis for the creation of job opportunities for a social program of associated villages through business development, including rural tourism and the improvement of housing, etc. It contributes to the solution of measures 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, and 2.3, by creating better living conditions for farmers and entrepreneurs in rural areas and by improving the infrastructure for their activities.

⁴² Sapard plan, page 22 (1.1.6.1 Rural Tourism)

⁴³ Sapard plan, page 22 (1.1.6.1 Rural Tourism)

2.3. Summary of chapter 2:

The above presentations outline how it's possible to create a wide range of services and SME's with a minimal of investment, through integration of seemingly very different enterprises; agriculture, education, tourism, production and community services. It's evident that as all of the above is built upon public funding for the initial investment, it will not qualify as a sustainable project before it's well implemented, in fact it first will have proven itself when the various enterprises have generated the same amount of profit as the initial SAPARD investment.

The alternative however, is to witness another village turn into a ghost town used only during weekends and vacations, apart from the people willing to commute 1-1,5 hours every day. This alternative incurs increased costs in pollution due to transport and from a centralized food production of less nutritional value⁴⁴, in substituting urban unemployment. And most importantly ignoring an opportunity to support a local agenda 21 which is interested in supporting the rural and agricultural development as outlined by the Ministry of Agriculture, E.U.'s Sapard plan, Agenda 21, as well as the wish by President Vaclav Havel:

“Organic agriculture has a natural place in our country. It will help heal our environment, increase the diversity of products on the market and should form an integral part of a truly sustainable development of agriculture. With government support and expert advice, organic agriculture is becoming part of the complex mosaic that is our new democratic society.”

Vaclav Havel, 1993⁴⁵

⁴⁴Nutritional Quality of Organic Versus Conventional Fruits, Vegetables, and Grains “Organic crops contained significantly more vitamin C, iron, magnesium, and phosphorus and significantly less nitrates than conventional crops. There were non-significant trends showing less protein but of a better quality and a higher content of nutritionally significant minerals with lower amounts of some heavy metals in organic crops compared to conventional ones. Conclusions: There appear to be genuine differences in the nutrient content of organic and conventional crops.” The results of the Ph.D by Doctor Virginia Worthington M.S., Sc.D., C.N.S., 2001,

⁴⁵ President of the Czech Republic, Mr. Vaclav Havel, 1993

3.

“Human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Principle 1, Agenda 21⁴⁶

An outline of expected possibility for success, timeframe and effect of establishing the center in Bouzov Svojanov

Throughout the Czech Republic the abandoning of land (estimated at 300,000 ha as of 1999) is expected to rise annually with approx. 25,000–30,000 ha of agricultural land. Land abandonment is specially a problem in mountainous and marginal, less favorable areas like Bouzov Svojanov. The abandonment typically happens as the owners move to the urban areas and the Sapard plan has identified the improvement of living conditions in rural areas and diversifying activities, as one of the means to stop this negative population flow.

It's been shown internationally that an organic farm (and other conscientious community oriented enterprises) can restore the heart to rural areas by generating local work both on the land and in associated small businesses in and around the villages. In the previous chapter it was outlined how it's theoretically possible to recreate rural sustainability in Bouzov Svojanov. This chapter will, through referring to a few successful existing examples- try to outline the real time possibilities of establishing the center and give an estimate of the social impact on the local area, both in terms of quality of life as well as employment.

3.1. Examples of sustainable rural communities

It's a well-proven fact that modern farming consumes more energy than it produces. It's also been proven that a committed diversified small scale farm can produce its own energy through energy from wind, solar power and a central bio mass heating plant burning woodchips which can be retrieved from hedges and woodland. Plants such as sunflowers and rape can supply bio-fuel, and animals provide biogas. Water can be recycled and rain water harvested from farm buildings. Horses can also be used for ploughing. Manure and composts from the farm feed the land with nutrients, trace elements and minerals, which will build long- term fertility. Nitrogen levels can be raised organically through green manure etc. Diversification is a key element, so that if disaster strikes, risks will be spread and some produce or animals should survive. A range of ecosystems will support different species and should include woodland, orchards containing local varieties of fruit trees and grazing, fishponds, water courses, land for a wide range of arable and vegetable crops, and pasture for hardy stock suited to local conditions.

Although labor costs may be higher on the eco-farm, the exorbitant prices of energy, fertilizers, pesticides, and high protein animal foods are avoided and eco-farms are able to provide a livelihood for the farmer and his workers. The lure of the eco-farm is so strong that unpaid labor often appears. During the upstart of PermaLot we have often experienced how people with a high level of education; architects, programmers and engineers are attracted to come and work as volunteers, making new friends and feeling enormous satisfaction with their backbreaking work.

The following are two English examples, where the local organic initiative has turned out to be supporting the sustainability of the micro region:

⁴⁶ Rio declaration on Environment and Development.

- Tablehurst Farm, U.K., is owned and run by the local community and a band of other interested people. It now forms a thriving part of the village. The farm buildings house fifteen people including three adults with learning difficulties who, whilst performing valuable jobs on the farm, have also developed their confidence and skills. With this number of workers, ideas and problems can be shared and the outside ‘partners’ are able to add their own expertise to help the success of the farm.
- Little Ash Eco-Farm, Devon, U.K., has facilities for a leather worker, woodsman and rough furniture maker, basket and reed worker, spinners, weavers and knitters to run their own small businesses. Clusters of workshops generate more trade as visitors see a wide range of beautiful products in an attractive setting. The farm shop includes a café where customers can linger. By selling direct to the public the eco-community is able to sell at more competitive prices. Country markets are already making a comeback throughout the industrialized world.⁴⁷

The Sapard plan seem to be in favor of this development as it directly stipulates that: “The support for the manufacture and marketing of specific regional products will stimulate the strengthening of regional economic networks in connection with tourism and all its positive effects (increasing the attractiveness of the area, creation of new jobs, new sources of finance). It will also ensure outlets for small, family farm-type producers.”⁴⁸

3. 2. Expected time frame of the center proposed by PermaLot:

It’s envisioned that a local natural builder will obtain the general contract, and that the project will be carried out under the auspices of the town council in Bouzov. It’s intended that the process of building the center will be part of introducing the project throughout the Czech Republic, as it will involve several of the newest international trends in natural building. This focus will later aid in the marketing of the products made in the food incubator.

During the building phase the renovation will involve several local subcontractors as well as generate interest and income to the locals through various natural building elements; dividing walls can be made from rammed earth, wattle and daub as well as straw-bales, in accordance to qualities required. The buildings will be designed to generate passive as well as active solar energy, be well insulated and demonstrate the best use of natural materials, often materials obtained locally. This will enable the building process to be part of the ongoing building courses, which PermaLot already is arranging together with Ekodum, the national Czech organization for natural building.

Currently the time horizon for the actual construction, i.e. after the approval of the Sapard application, the preliminary funding secured, architect plans drawn up and permission granted by the appropriate institutions looks as follows:

Renovation of the barn into a food incubator, apartment and class room:	1 year.
The fruit storage facility:	2 months
Constructing a central office	6 months
Renovation of the accommodation: First phase: Installing a central wood chip heating incl. new plumbing, establishing certified kitchen and bathrooms, asbestos renovation of rooms, new windows, renovation of	9 months

⁴⁷ The New Way Forward, By Michael Littlewood

⁴⁸ Sapard plan, Page 37

the courtyard	
Second phase: Exterior insulation, utilizing the attic space for dormitory and apartment, establishing a reed bed system, new roof	9 months

As some of the above projects can be carried out simultaneously, it's expected that the entire project could be up and running between 2 and 2,5 years from the acceptance by the Sapard committee. The nature school could be functioning less than 1 year after the acceptance, and soon after the food incubator and office can be finished.

PermaLot envision that once established the center will be able to generate the following paid positions:

- 2 positions related to the nature school.
- 1 position as a part time manager of the incubator combined with management of the tourist accommodation.
- 1 secretary, interpreter to be utilized by everyone on an hourly base.
- 3 activity managers for the eco-tourism
- 2 maintenance/cleaning staff for the accommodation and center
- 1, 5 position as a cook for the eco-tourism.
- 1 minibus driver for school classes as well as tourists.
- + The possibility to start several individual SME through use of the food incubator.

Many of the positions can be carried out in accordance with the typical Czech system of having independent companies while working together. Some of the positions can be carried out by the existing population of Bouzov Svojanov, others by future inhabitants, who will be attracted to this initiative as well as the other initiatives carried out by PermaLot.

3.2. Possible social impact on the local area:

A key element in the general plan is to respect the desire of the locals as outlined in chapter 1. They live here because they enjoy the serenity of the area, and many have a sentimental attachment to the place. It is believed that the plan outlined in chapter 2 will manage to balance this element as it is mainly focused on non-disturbing activities, and aimed at generating a user base, which has a low impact upon the village. In addition many of the activities will be in the vast forests or at the far end of the orchard maintained by PermaLot.

Presently the accommodation facility in question is being used as a weekend facility for parties. The owners are never present and the parties constitute a disturbing factor in the village life, and the limited income of this activity is taken away from the local area.

The visitors attracted to the ecotourism activities arranged by PermaLot, have already proven to be of a different target group, as they come here to connect with nature and the courses taught, indeed one group is interested in coming here annually for a 2 weeks silent meditation retreat! The village will gain a very diverse local source of income, have influence on the management through membership of PermaLot, eliminate the traditional pollution of the watershed, and gain a much needed increase in population (people who'll relocate because of interest in this sustainable development). The new citizens may even help the local citizens as they are aging and soon will need help to carry out various tasks, a situation which used to be handled by the younger generation which now is absent from Svojanov.

This development corresponds well with the comments by the official evaluators of the Sapard plan who especially appreciate that in the task of improving the living conditions and business activity in rural regions and thereby orientating towards the local development potential, the plan will serve to “contribute to a strengthening of the local identity and community effort and a decrease in the ratio of the population leaving rural regions. In addition, other potential exist in the form of social capital.”⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Sapard plan, page 99, Brief Summary

4.

“Indigenous people and their communities, and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable participation”

Principle 22, Agenda 21⁵⁰

Summary

It almost appears conspicuous how the Sapard plan and the PermaLot proposal seems to be in complete agreement, however when comparing the mission of PermaLot⁵¹ to recreate the sustainability of a rural area with the following key principals⁵² of the Sapard plan, it becomes apparent that the intentions corresponds very well:

The key principals of the permanently sustainable conception of the development are represented by the following within the SAPARD Program:

- Principal of preliminary caution
- Principal of prevention
- Principal of decreasing the risk at source
- Principal of economic responsibility of the originators
- Principal of shared and differentiated responsibility of all involved subjects
- Principal of subsidiary, transferring the decision-making powers and competencies closest to the specific issue and the citizens
- Principal of integration of the environmental dimension into all decision-making on development activities
- Principal of the best available technology (BAT)
- Principal of substitution of dangerous and harmful substances

Indeed the Sapard plan seems to be relying on civic associations such as PermaLot, as the plan’s brief summary directly stipulates that: “The support of activities of communities in the countryside area and of other non-governmental organizations (NGO) might also help the support of local employment if those organizations would be voluntarily engaged in various activities of the development of localities, for which they would also require professional work that could be provided by local professionals”⁵³

In relating this to the aims of the United nations Agenda 21, it seems to be almost a copy of the principle 21, as quoted in the start of this chapter. It may be added that the inhabitants do not fall into the category of indigenous people, indeed most of the people here have a higher education, however it refers to the knowledge which still is present due to the past political factors and the age level of most of the inhabitants; as most Czechs they have a clear understanding of what it means to be sustainable, to produce locally the majority of what they consume. Currently this way of life is being repressed by the consumer society as represented by the majority of the media,

⁵⁰ Rio declaration on Environment and Development.

⁵¹ PermaLot’s mission statement, see attached

⁵² Sapard plan, page 99; Brief Summary

⁵³ Sapard plan, page 99; Brief Summary

however if recognized and supported it could constitute a vital step towards fulfilling the requirements of the Agenda 21 as well as the Sapard plan.

The aim of this assignment has been to make an academic introduction to the PermaLot proposal. Much more research is needed before the project can be implemented, however it has been beyond the capacity of this assignment to prepare and conduct:

- a SWAT analysis of the market potentials for products produced in the food incubator
 - a market research to establish the potential and needed activities to maintain the necessary flow of eco-tourists
 - Make a detailed estimate of the costs of renovation of the center and accommodation facilities
 - Conduct interviews with the relevant authorities to establish the level of interest and need for a nature school
 - Conduct specific interviews with the locals in the village demonstrating the response of the plan
 - Have completed research on the amount of (and possibility of producing) agricultural products which minimally have to be produced to carry the proposed development
- ...as well as the many other elements constituting a reliable business plan.

It is the hope of PermaLot that some of this research can be carried out to serve as further application material for the upcoming Sapard application. However, it is hoped that this could be funded by the relevant programs.

The proposal outlined in this assignment could be merely viewed as an interesting University study. PermaLot has created most of phase 1 (as outlined in chapter 2) by private funding and without official recognition. Any further research, as well as the implementation of the entire vision, now relies on the official acceptance and financial support.

Max Vittrup Jensen

Chairman of PermaLot, Instructor and consultant in appropriate technologies, part time diploma student of Human Ecology, Aalborg University, Denmark

“SAPARD support for solving priority problems for the sustainable adaptation of rural areas in the Czech Republic will provide a valuable opportunity for the administration (at national, regional and local levels) to develop a sustainable and integrated rural development strategy capable of meeting the challenge of membership as well as a preparation for the effective use of EU Structural Funds for the future. In developing measures for integrated economic development, program managers will be aware of the critical need for effective business support services if the culture and practice of enterprise is to be promoted. Equally, there is a strong belief in the importance of developing and promoting participation and partnership in the design and management of

initiatives, which create a context for 'win-win' sustainable solutions.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ Sapard plan, page 53

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- 3) Ikerd, J. 1994. "Assessing the health of agroecosystems from a socioeconomic perspective," paper presented at 1st International Symposium on Ecosystem Health and Medicine, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, June 19-23, 1994.
- 4) Permaculture–A designers manual, Bill Mollison, Tagari press 1988 /1996 edition
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- 6) Rio declaration on Environment and Development. United nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3/14 June 1992, Principle 8, Agenda 21
- 7) Local information obtained through private observation and conversations
- 8) The figures up to 1991 are taken from the Urban study made for Bouzov in 2001. The 2002 figures are made by personal observations. Please note that the official number of occupied houses may be higher than reality due to bureaucratic reasons.
- 9) Facts and statistics obtained from the information center in Olomouc www.tourist-centrum.cz
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- 11) Sapard plan, page 17
- 12) Sapard plan, page 31
- 13) Sapard plan, page 48
- 14) Facts from a brochure published by the Bouzovska Zamedelska Spolecnost: Sady Kozov
- 15) Excerpt from conversation with previous owner, as well as the rental contract.
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- 17) J. Vittrup Christensen, former manager of the DK research station in fruit and berries.
- 18) Sapard plan, page 23
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- 20) Sapard plan, page 46
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- 22) Dr. Kiley-Worthington, Little Ash Eco-Farm in Devon, The New Way Forward, By Michael Littlewood, Article first published in 'Permaculture Magazine' No. 28
- 23) Environment and Development (the Earth Summit), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.
- 24) Excerpt from The Danish Ministry of Environment's Local Agenda 21 committee
- 25) Excerpt from The Danish Ministry of Environment's Local Agenda 21 committee
- 26) Excerpt from The Danish Ministry of Environment's Local Agenda 21 committee
- 27) See attachment: 'Outline of the property' by PermaLot
- 28) See attachment 'Land trust application' by PermaLot
- 29) See attachment 'PermaLot Village application' for Nadace VIA
- 30) See attachment 'Letters of support from GEN'
- 31) See attachment 'Letter of support from LOS'
- 32) An informal directory of community commercial kitchen incubators, Revised July 2001 compiled by: Margaret M. Bau, Cooperative Development Specialist USDA/Rural Development and Greg Lawless University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW Extension <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/agmarkets/kitchdir.html>

- 33) Same as above.
- 34) Sapard plan, page 34
- 35) Ikerd, J. 1994. "Assessing the health of agroecosystems from a socioeconomic perspective," paper presented at 1st International Symposium on Ecosystem Health and Medicine, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, June 19-23, 1994
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- 42) Sapard plan, page 22
- 43) Sapard plan, page 22 (1.1.6.1 Rural Tourism)
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- 46) Rio declaration on Environment and Development. United nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3/14 June 1992,
- 47) The New Way Forward, By Michael Littlewood, Article first published in 'Permaculture Magazine' No. 28
- 48) Sapard plan, page 37
- 49) Sapard plan, page 99; Brief Summary
- 50) Rio declaration on Environment and Development. United nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3/14 June 1992,
- 51) PermaLot's mission statement, see attached
- 52) Sapard plan, page 99; Brief Summary
- 53) Sapard plan, page 99; Brief Summary
- 54) Sapard plan, page 53

Attachments:

1. 'Outline of the property'
2. 'Land trust application'
3. 'PermaLot Village application' for Nadace VIA
4. 'Letters of support from GEN'
5. 'Letter of support from LOS'
6. PermaLot's mission statement

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Overview of the present idea of the use of the land managed by PermaLot.

PermaLot owns 22 pieces of land in and around Bouzov Svojanov, all together 10,5 hectares. Many of the parcels are very small and insignificant, the main emphasis of this overview is to specify the expected use of the large areas, especially those considered of public interest:

- A)136, 137/1, 137/7, 140: The Orchard
- B)14: Ubytovna
- C)6/4: The games court
- D)43 and 44/1: The birches and garden.
- E)58/2 and 58/3: The cow field
- F)59/7: The field
- G)242: The Marsh
- H)139, 147, 146/1, 146/2, 232: North forest plots and valley log site.
- I)217, 218, 220, 227: Forest

A), E) and F) is currently in the conversion process to be certified organic. G) will follow. These areas will be managed according to the KEZ stipulations, which includes cutting the grass min. 2 times a year. PermaLot voluntarily follow a series of more natural management (than the methods allowed by KEZ): We don't spray with heavy metals (Copper), and we refuse to plant monocultures, even if we lose the possibility for state funding. We are looking in to the possibility of using natural predator insects, but aim to simply establish the right balance

Nearly all of the PermaLot will be submitted for accreditation as a national landtrust.

A) The Orchard:

We currently operate with 4 different zones of this allotment, as shown on the map. This outlines a 10 year perspective :

A1) Currently we are in the process of changing the previous monoculture to organic polyculture managed according to permaculture principles. This includes extensive signing and trails, explaining about the principles, plant guilds and varieties. The initial process of changing the orchard will last 3 years. After this period large areas will be used to grow grains or fibrous plants for paper/textile/oil production. Possibly also bulb flowers. The main entrance to the allotment will be moved 60 meter North of the village sign. Part of the permaculture approach is to minimize the compaction of the earth, which means we'll harvest and maintain the area with a minimum of machinery, and when needed we'll use a very light tractor.

A2) This area is set aside for retreat uses, including facilities for a summer camp (See appendix). The camp facilities will demonstrate a series of natural building and gardening techniques. The camp area is as far from the village as possible and the activities will strive to disturb the village least possible will The area will also function as a place for small scale

seed saving, preserving the old Czech varieties.

A3) We are currently working on changing the zoning of this area to be a field of cabins, and we hope gradually to build between 4-6 cabins here. The cabins will be build of natural materials, and the design will respect the surroundings. Maximum size of the cabins will be between 25- 35 m² ground surface and 4,5 m high. The cabins will not be connected to the public services. The cabin area is situated on the least obstructive area for the village.

A4) This North slope will gradually be converted into a natural sewage system, supplying nutrients to an energy forest, which again will supply wood for heating of the cabins.

We have contacts to a graduate student from the faculty of ecology in Olomouc, Martin Paclik, who will instigate a bird and insect count in the orchard, enabling us to gradually follow the effect of the organic approach in a scientific manner. It is very likely that the property will be used for field studies by the same faculty.

B) The Ubytovna

We believe we will be able to reach an agreement with the owner of the Ubytovna to buy it, and we are preparing an application for support form the Sapard program to renovate the buildings and create a combined food processing facility, apple storage, nature school and eco-tourism facility. This development is currently depending on the application and subsequent approval of the Sapard support.

C) The Games Court

As all the other PermaLot property the games court will become a national land trust, open for everyone, with the hope that it will be maintained by all the users. We are currently applying for support from Nadace VIA for renovation of the facilities, new net and hockey goals, benches etc. and it's very regrettable to notice the complete lack of support from Obecni Urad, Bouzov.

D) The birches and garden.

This part of the property has partly already been illegally taken as a private garden by one of the villagers. We are currently in process of selling it to the villager without profit.

E) The Cow Field

As the field road cuts across this area and makes fencing difficult, as well as the fact that the water for the cows are on our property, we have currently decided not to make use of this allotment, in order to maintain good relations with our neighbor. However the field can not be sprayed.

F) The Field.

This field will rest for the next couple of years in order to build up the micro climate and avoid further compression. It will be cut 2-3 times a year, and we plan to plant a natural hedge around it to serve as a wildlife corridor. In due time this will be used for changing crops, likely for grains, fiber or oil (to run our tractor).

G) The Marsh

We will apply to have it certified as organic, and hopefully we are able to use some of the current herbs there for tea production for export. As this area is a sensitive wetland we will focus on a gentle approach of hand harvesting the herbs and maintain the area as a wetland. We are also interested in planting some willows there for cobbicing

H) Small forest areas.

We are awaiting a new bill to be passed in the parliament, which should allow us to trade the small pieces for one larger piece of forest surrounded by our orchard (A1, A2 and A3)

I) The forest.

The forest will gradually be changed to an example of natural Czech forest with old varieties and we will follow the Pro Silva guidelines for sustainable forest practices. We expect to use the area for activities related to eco tourism. If /when we thin the forest we focus on removing the invasive non-czech species, and focus as well on creating shelter for the animals in the forest. We will not use mechanised tools or herbicides in the forest. We hope the faculty of ecology will use the forest for research, and possibly make a management plan.

Please note that the above is an outline of how we at present believe we will use the property. As times change and more people with different interest come, some uses may change, for instance if someone with goats or horses wants to live here, someone who wants a pottery etc.

Sincerely,

Max Vittrup Jensen

Excerpt from PermaLot's application to CSOP to be accredited as a national land trust.

Part of the intentions of PermaLot is to preserve nature as an example for a sustainable national development, which includes a high degree of educational effort, and the promotion of alternative ecological techniques. We believe that having the property accredited as a national landtrust will serve this goal.

-Please refer to our mission statement (attached)

In doing so we will need to make an information campaign which entails:

- Target the local villagers who are (naturally) sceptical towards the unknown,
- Negotiate with the local city council who does support our intentions, however they are also interested in buying part of the PermaLot property (The sportsfield).
- Throughout the summer we would like to publicize information about the intended development of PermaLot, both as a leaflet and in a display case on the border of the property, for interested parties to read.

The concentrate from PermaLot's application to Nadace Via for support of items relating to public space

Grant description: Projects to improve physical, cultural a social environment of villages and towns:

Restoring and using public space. Restoring public space for commercial and social activity self restoration of cultural heritage :

D: Interactive trail, benches and tables, material for renovation, rejuvenation of ball court, and chapel

From this summer and onwards the central location of many of our activities will be the orchard where we are in the process of constructing a camp which includes shelters, and outdoor kitchen and teaching facilities. All parts of the construction will demonstrate natural building techniques, and the camps will facilitate lectures and seminars in permaculture gardening, natural building, healthy diets and rural development.

The camp is being build in one of the most scenic parts of the country, with a n unobscured castle view, and out of respect of the environment and the existing village we strive to make it as esthetic as possible. The land will be accredited as ' a place for nature' and we expect to generate a broad interest and to receive many participants and curious souls, as the PermaLot land will be an accredited land trust and thereby a public space.

PermaLot has also applied to have the central ball court in the village accredited as a land trust. It is the central place for the youth of the village and visitors and serves as a badminton court, volleyball field, basketball court...even as a skate rink in the winter.

Adjacent to the ball court is the central square. In reality it is privaeely owned, however the owner has no interest in keeping it private. The square is the place where the mobile shop stops twice a week, and the central place in case of cultural celebrations. This is where PermaLot arranged a yearly Majka celebration for villagers and members.

In the center of Bouzov Svojanov is a small idyllic chapel built in 1868. Around the village is a couple of crusifixes, one which PermaLot currently is in the process of renovating, as it fell over.

- To accomodate visitors we intend to have an interactive trail in the orchard, telling about the plant varieties as well as the reasons for the particular design of the garden and the Permaculture techniques applied. In addition we would like to construct a few benches to make the visit more relaxing. We seek funding to purchase woodchips from the nearby mill to make the trail stand out, for grafical design work in relation to the signs and for materials for the benches.
- The ball court is in need of a general shine up, and the village is interested in doing it as a community action, however we are looking for money for paint for the fence, as well as renewal of the badminton/volley ball net, an the basketball hoop. Some hockey goals would also be very appreciated.
- In order to aid assemblies of many people, we are in need of foldable benches and tables for 40 people.
- The chapel is in need of having the roof rinsed from algae, and getting another limewash, The crucifix's need to be tended by a carpenter.

(-The application was not approved by Nadace Via)

Letter of support from the Global Ecovillage Network

To whom it may concern,

GEN-Europe is the European regional secretariat of the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN), an accredited NGO with Special Consultative Status at the UN-ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council), and a partner of UNITAR (United Nation Institute for Training And Research).

By promoting the concept of ecovillages through information exchange, partnerships, education and networking, it supports environmental protection, Earth restoration and the creation of harmonious communities.

GEN-Europe was founded as a membership organisation in 1996 to assist the development of ecovillages and national ecovillage networks. Membership of the organisation is open to a wide range of projects in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, regardless of political, religious or cultural background. Networks are currently active in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Poland, Russia, Hungary and Senegal, and more are in the process of being founded. Research and demonstration centres, which attract thousands of visitors each year, are also part of the network.

GEN-Europe has received the financial support of the European Commission DG-Environment for 2001/2002.

We are happy to endorse PermaLot as we find the focus of the activities is well managed and in accordance with the overall mission of GEN-Europe. Their work is centered on re-creating local sustainability as a model for a viable solution of the world's environmental and social crises. In doing so PermaLot has support from the network of all ecovillages gathered under the auspices of GEN-Europe. PermaLot has, in its relatively short period of existence, shown relevant results and much enthusiasm, and we are actively following their future development.

It is our experience internationally that such projects serve a significant role on regional and national levels in demonstrating modern ecological sustainable livelihood, and as such play the role which was defined at the world summit in Rio in '92, where Ecovillages were presented as a role model for achieving the goal of planetary sustainability within the next century.

Sincerely,
Lucilla Borio
GEN-Europe Secretary

Letter of support from The Danish association of Ecovillages,

To everyone with interest in PermaLot,

The Danish association of Ecovillages knows Max Vittrup Jensen from his ceaseless engagement in this exciting Czech project.

Max Jensen has travelled around the world to many projects to gain the necessary experience to the work, which he now carries out in the Czech Republic, where they are involved in recreating the sustainability of a village dying from de-population.

In the short time the project has been existing, it has managed to manifest many events and alliances, also internal in the country where they have gained support by several ministries. The interest is concentrating on the mission of PermaLot; to create a viable alternative to the problem which many villages, also in the Czech Republic, suffers from; the migration to the urban centers. In short the mission entails creating an alternative with social and environmental sustainability.

In this aspect PermaLot constitutes a natural cooperation partner for us and many other people in this world who is committed towards creating local communities of people who cooperates with the environment and each other.

On behalf of The Danish association of Ecovillages,

Troels Dilling Hansen
Secretary