

UMinho (Portugal) in Transition: starting with 3 campus gardens

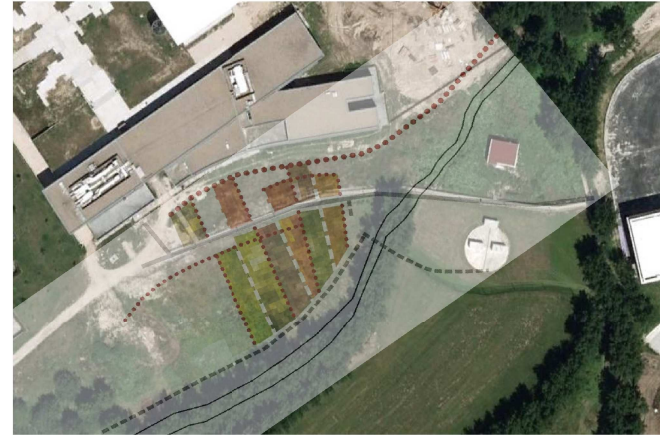
Following a presentation of Jacqi Hodgson (Totnes transition initiative), the 22.10.2010, in Paredes, a pioneering transition initiative spark has started at the University of Minho (northern Portugal).

As a first step, a land request has been issued and welcomed by the Rector. A call for candidates on 25 m² sectors raised 49 interested hands among teachers, researchers, other employees and (a few) under-graduate students. The founding team includes a variety of people from the areas of engineering, nursing, architecture, education and biology.

The architects elaborated a set of studies for the implantation of orchards at the three sites, corresponding to the 3 campi of this university : Gualtar (GPS 41°33'43.00"N, 8°23'58.48"W) and Congregados (GPS 41°33'1.80"N, 8°25'16.79"W) in Braga, and Azurém (GPS 41°27'8.24"N, 8°17'19.93"W) in Guimarães.

We expect to raise the interest among students, after an initial not so enthusiastic reception. Films presentations (Home, End of suburbia, Inconvenient Truth, Crude Awakening, Power of Community, Food inc., etc...) and the actual starting of the orchards activities will help raising interest. Economic crisis will do its part...

The UMinTransition initiative should also provide a research multidisciplinary platform with emphasis on the scientific areas of Energy, Engineering, Economics, Environment, Agronomy, Nursing, Health and Medicine (stress / burn-out studies).



Next steps:

- ✓ fully implement the 3 communitary-gardens
- ✓ films&documentary projections
- ✓ further improve & promote car poll system "Kyoto & Eu" (since 2004),
- ✓ water purification system, according to inventor plans (Inventuminho - 2005)
- ✓ air-fan generators energy student competition
- ✓ garden product fairs and lunch
- ✓ spring-time party: music, magic & performance
- ✓ bind to the national/international transition network, particularly university initiatives

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For People and Planet: Not Profit and Self-Destruction - Can Universities make the move towards, or even lead 'transition'?, Winchester univ. 5-6Feb, 2011