Slow Food®

Introduction to Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGSs) in the "Slow Food Presidia" project

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SUMMARY

The subject of the following document is Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) as a tool used and usable to consolidate and officialize recognition and certification–in the ambit of agrifood products–of producers that are small but extremely interesting for the local, environmental, cultural and social heritage that they protect, represent and hand down. The first part addresses the subject from a scientific point of view, developing a systematic review using the standard Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Statement (PRISMA) methodology.

The second part addresses the question of why so many producers, especially in Latin America, have turned to Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGSs) to the detriment of other forms of certification of agricultural products. The third part develops the Slow Food Association's interest in Participatory Guarantee Systems and, specifically, the pertinence of this kind of tool in the growth and evolution of the Slow Food Presidia project.

The fourth part introduces the organizational procedure set out by Slow Food to implement Participatory Guarantees, starting from internal discussion on the subject.

The document concludes with an experimental section, which includes a Guarantee Sheet for vegetable products, its validation through a number of field visits and the processing of the results. Using and evaluating the tool, it will be possible to start planning and validating guarantee sheets for the other supply chains involved in the Slow Food Presidia project.

PART I – Systematic Review

For an academic and scientific approach, a systematic review of scientific literature was carried on the most recent scientific reports on the topic and contexts of application of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). The systematic review was carried out following the standard Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic review and Meta-Analysis statement (PRISMA) guidelines. The scientific literature search was performed in October 2020 using Scopus and Web of Science database while the grey literature was searched through Google Scholar in retroactive mode (10 years for the scientific literature); the first 10 pages of Google scholar were evaluated for the grey literature. The analysis of web documents was made using Auto-Proxy service from the Disafa University of Turin library.

The initial identification of the records included the following keywords with the

booleane operator "AND" :

• *participatory guarantee system*

• *participatory food certification*

• *alternative food certification*

• *PGS initiative*

Although the consultation covered the decade 2010-2020, preliminary results were recorded as far as 1978 in the Scopus database and from 1991 in the Web of Science database.

Following the exclusion and inclusion criteria considered, the total number of publications shifted from 335 to 282 for Scopus and from 330 to 308 for Web of Science.

We have identified the following ambits of interest in line with our research targets:

1. Evaluation of social enterprises, organized or otherwise, in the local area in question, potentially interested for whatever reason in the method under discussion, with special reference to differences in gender, skill, age, language and culture;

2. Attention to the protection of the agrifood heritage, made up of various forms of knowledge and flavors, in order to halt the extinction process;

3. Evaluation of quality criteria with regard to production, products and social relations;

4. Building of alternative production models through "good practices";

5. Acquisition of new tools to discuss, reflect on, subvert and break free from the grip of neoliberalism and globalization, thereby asserting the principle of Food Autonomy.

For the time of consultation (2010-2020), the distribution of the 85 publications evaluated for the systematic review (fig. 1) highlights how the topic achieved an increasing relevance in the national and international scientific community.

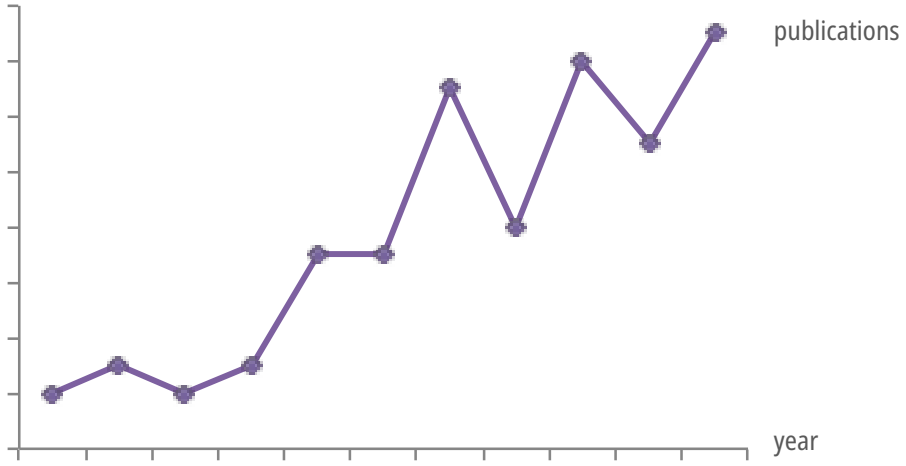

Fig.1- Examined publications' (N°= 85) distribution over the last 10 years for the systematic review [y= publications; x= years]

Among the 85 publications included in the evaluation process, 50% consist in scientific works in which the topic of organic production is discussed and the term "organic" is included in the title or in the keywords; the other publications investigates multidisciplinary issues.

Out of the total, 30 publications examined cover the topic of the Participatory Guarantee Systems in association with the topic of organic certification, an high percentage refers to the experiences of Latin America (15), with Brazil (7) and Mexico (4), followed by Europe (6) and Asia (2). The remaining 7 publications refer in general to the topic of Participatory Guarantee Systems used for organic production.

The qualitative analysis process was therefore carried out on a total of 63 studies which nevertheless maintained an equal subdivision between the two macro topics previously mentioned.

• Some participatory systems

Over the last 15 years, PGSs have become increasingly important in the ambit of organic agriculture as an alternative to impartial third-party certification (TPC) (Katto-Andrighetto et al., 2019). In this case, PGSs have been conceived as 'bottom-up' procedures in which organic certification is obtained through co-governance by the different subjects concerned and relative social dynamics (Bouagnimbeck et al., 2014). This active participation and connected continuous learning processes promote the empowerment of local actors (IFOAM, 2007), better resource management, and more sustainable means of subsistence (Bouagnimbeck et al., 2014). PGSs thus have the potential to permit transformation towards sustainability and to promote transition towards more sustainable food systems (Anderson et al., 2019). From the article selection, it also emerged that the use of participatory systems is active in territorial planning contexts. In actual fact, the concept of the participation of the interested parties appeared for the first time in the ambit of international development in the 1960s and 1970s. From the 1980s onwards, the principal donors progressively began to adopt participatory processes, that is to say approaches that aim to place the beneficiaries of projects at the center (Chambers et al., 1994). As a consequence of the participation programs pursued by multilateral organizations in the Global South (Ander Egg et al., 2016), participation was subsequently also adopted as an important concept for the effective implementation of social and political programs, in the countries of Latin America, for example. The mechanisms of participación ciudadana (citizen participation) have also been increasingly incorporated in laws and regulations and, for example, have included citizen monitoring (Observatorios ciudadanos) (López Ahumada et al., 2018), community councils of civil society (Consejos Comunales de la Sociedad Civil) (Muñoz et al., 2018) and participatory budgeting (presupuestos participativos) (Buele et al., 2020), to cite only a few.

In addition to the field of development work, the participation concept has also gained momentum in northern countries. In recent years, it has been recognized as a fundamental concept in various areas, such as resource management and resource governance (Gurney, 2016). As a result of recognition of the limited commitment of citizens in democratic processes, mechanisms to improve citizen participation have been adopted more and more by local and regional governments in countries such as Germany. These different forms of Bürgerbeteiligung (citizen participation) have been outlined by a number of scholars, especially Böhm in 2016.

Likewise, in France mechanisms promoting participation citoyenne (citizen participation), such as neighborhood councils (conseils de quartier) and public debates (débats publiques) (Albertini, 2014), have been instituted and adopted more and more, often at municipal level. As well summed up by Bednarska-Olejniczak et al. (2020), citizen participation has drawn further momentum from the setting of sustainable development targets.

Another example is the starting of structured experiences in participatory cartography-mapping, especially those for the evaluation and management of resources by rural communities–in developing countries in particular–in order to bring to the fore elements and values of local areas invisible to the eyes of "outside" experts (Boella et al., 2017).

The tool of participatory mapping in more urbanized contexts enables the community to participate more purposefully in the occupation of urban spaces to make them more usable. According to this logic, the action improves aesthetic perception of suburban neighborhoods and allows the citizenry to participate in an active relationship with public administrations and, at the same time, may hypothetically lead to an economic saving as result of the delegation of public maintenance works (Boella et al., 2017). At the global level, an important representative example of an experience of possible public participation in a context of management of sites that express the tradition and culture of local area is the collective UNESCO heritage site logo. The aim of the report by Aydin et al.,2019, is to open a conversation on this important aspect of public participation. It focuses on understanding of public participation in the conservation of the local area's heritage, outlining the way in which knowledge of public participation is transferred from focus groups to management plans by considering the actors, actions and outputs involved in the process. Other experiences of territorial mapping are tied to different ecosystems and have the aim of maintaining ecosystemic biodiversity, thus ensuring the protection of living species from processes of environmental erosion. The marine habitat is one of these. Compared to the terrestrial environment the marine one, made up by definition of water, seabeds, coastlines, marine or coastal flora and fauna, and also authorized human works, is an environment in which it is harder to control environmental risk. Among the studies analyzed in this context was the case reported by Al Amin et al., 2020. Here the primary objective was to ensure the repopulation of fish stocks in Jor Bay in Indonesia, a source of nourishment and economic livelihood for the local population. The combination of a community participatory approach and a scientific technological approach has proved, in fact, to be an excellent support for the attainment of sustainability in this protected maritime-coastal area.

The development of an ecosystemic approach to fishing management envisaging participatory collaboration between stakeholders in general, together with the co-creation of management policy between the interested parties, was also the guiding thread in the MareFrame project in Europe (Golumbeanu et al., 2014).

Animal welfare is another subject much discussed in the context of the industrialized producer nations. Fraser (2014) has studied how animal welfare may be the vocational focus of many operators in the sector. Pursued by people employed in the productive sector, the valorization, promotion and knowledge of these principles may be an advantage for the improvement of the sector itself, supporting food safety and promoting important social objectives. Public participation in decision-making and certification processes makes it possible to establish a bond of trust between the productive sector and the population by ensuring adherence to ethical production standards and supplying alternative production and farming models in the maintenance of animal welfare.

Lastly, direct organized contact between citizens and farmers underpins the philosophy that regulates the thinking and action of the food teikei that originated in Japan in the middle of the last century (Kondoh, 2015). These consist of self-organized groups of citizens (but also of large cooperatives, some on a regional scale) that practice forms of direct relations with farmers: the groups discuss types of produce to cultivate and participate in the business risk by collecting money among consumers in order to pre-fund the farmer or pre-purchase the whole production or a portion thereof.

PART II: WHY PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE IN SMALLHOLDERS AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS?

PGSs were born of the evolution of the "world of organics" between the 1970s and the present day, but, as summarized in the first part of the report, participation goes beyond this sector.

In the last 20 years, the rapid growth of the organic sector has been accompanied by changes in certification systems. With the increased production and consumption of organic food, the first party-style (voluntary and self-regulated) certification processes of the 1970s and 1980s have become less practicable. The most interesting aspect of first party certification–which worked effectively when the organic community was relatively small and tended to be characterized by short supply chains and the involvement of producers and consumers deeply committed to the ideals of organics–is that it combined control procedures with education about the subject and the training of producers (Seppänen et al., 2004; González et al., 2005). Since the 1990s, the widening gap between producer and consumer and the growing importance of economic motivations for organic production, such as the increased scale of the organic sector, meant that the certification systems adopted were no longer a valid means for maintaining consumer confidence in organic products. Hence the third-party certification model, that is to say certification by bodies that have become responsible both for the development of organic standards and for producer compliance verification (González et al., 2005; Mutersbaugh 2005).

The definition of organics created for regulatory purposes (e.g., Council Regulation (EC) no. 834/2007) tends to break down the organic paradigm into its component parts and, as Rigby and Bown (2003) are right to point out, **"standards are far more able to refer to prohibited inputs than to deal with precise criteria for the assessment of whether producers are acting in a manner which is socially just or ecologically responsible."** In practice, the standards associated with regulation propose more a model of substitution of the production factors of organic agriculture insofar as they fail to take into account aspects such as the protection of small family-run farms, equal terms of employment, limits on monoculture and incentives for local production and consumption networks. In practice, the outstanding trend in recent years has been the appearance of "industrial organics," tied to the rules of the international market and remote from the ecological and social principles of the early organic movement. More specifically, this presents itself as a typical top-down process in which, everywhere in the world, the harmonization of organic standards and verification procedures based on ISO requirements has reduced the independence of local networks of organic actors by creating non-negotiable systems.

Lastly, the greatest criticism that has been leveled is that, for small-scale and low-income producers, accessing organic certification is well-nigh impossible (Raynolds 2000, 2005; IFAD 2003) due to the high costs and red tape involved. As a consequence, many small low-income producers are able to cultivate organically without official recognition, drawing the ecological benefits but few of the social and/or economic ones (IFAD 2003).

It is these considerations that have given life to the PGS movement, which coordinates its actions towards the creation of a collective dimension based on shared comprehension of the principles of production and distribution and on a common responsibility agreement. PGSs incorporate elements of environmental and social education in relation to quality improvement for both producers and consumers.

The common core elements in every PGS initiative around the world are:

• Participatory approach;

• Social control;

• Shared vision and responsibility among stakeholders about quality, transparency, building trust and re-enforcing mechanisms;

PART III: WHAT IS SLOW FOOD'S ROLE IN THIS CONTEXT?

The International Federation for Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM- Organics International) defines PGS as: 'locally focused quality assurance systems. They verify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange' (IFOAM 2007). In particular, inside IFOAM's PGS framework , participation is defined as: *'producers, consumers as well as other stakeholders, such as NGO staff, are engaged in the initial design, and in the activities of the PGS. All stakeholders (including producers) take part in decision-making processes related to certification and to the operation of the PGS itself'.*

It is thus important to consider the active participation of actors as a precondition for a PGS to work and produce the benefits expected of it.

Horizontality is a key principle in the PGS process and is characterized by, for example, equal sharing of powers and responsibilities, adequate principles of rotation and collective implementation of the certification process (IFOAM 2007, 2014). The horizontal structure, based mainly on the voluntary donation of time, is the basis for cutting the direct costs of certification for producers, one of the reasons why PGSs are promoted specifically to fit the needs of small farmers (IFOAM 2014). Other elements and characteristics associated with participation include transparency, the building of trust, the development of a strong common vision and a permanent learning process, for example through the involvement of all interested parties in the finalization, implementation and verification of standards and rules (IFOAM 2014).

The horizontal structure is also the system that characterizes the Slow Food association, where all the subjects involved have as their priority the sharing of a common vision of the productive and distribution system and work to promote it and improve it. More specifically, within the Slow Food philosophy, subjects such as ecology, agroecology, sharing, knowledge exchanges, local areas and shorts supply chains have always been fundamental bases for "good, clean and fair" food systems. These are important points of departure for understanding how Slow Food might promote and implement its own **Participatory Guarantee Systems** (PGSs) for the certification of the total quality of local products.

In the Slow Food "world," a given product or producer may be certified in toto thanks to the active participation of the actors involved, certification being founded on a basis of trust, interdependence and knowledge sharing, seen as tools for monitoring standards agreed upon by participants in the process (e.g., production protocols) without there being necessarily a correlation with organics, as pointed out by Home et al. (2017) referring to other contexts.

What is interesting about the link between Participatory Guarantee Systems on the various continents and Slow Food is that they restore attention to the **local level** as a center of importance for the provisioning of food. In fact, their aim is to develop a community of people around a given product, which is precisely the case of the Slow Food presidia project. This community is made up of actors who are keen to build personal relations and enhance their socio-ecological knowledge through face-to-face relationships between buyers and producers (Nelson et al., 2009).

Participatory Guarantee Systems enable producers to take part in the process of creation of their own certification standards and generate in local areas whatever "sustainability" may mean there. In this way, since they are masters of the choice, producers are also more prepared to participate in and respect the systems themselves (Dufeu et al., 2020).

The Presidia Project

The Slow Food Presidia project began in 1999.

After cataloguing the first hundred products at risk of extinction (with the Ark of Taste Project), Slow Food took a step further, entering the world of the production process, to learn about the areas of origin, meet producers, promote their products, skills and knowledge. Over the years the Slow Food Presidia project has become one of the most effective instruments to put Slow Food's politics on agriculture and biodiversity into practice. In 2008, nine years after the creation of the project, Slow Food Italy took on board the producer's request and established the Slow Food Presidia label to accompany, identify, protect and promote Italian Slow Food Presidia products.

What does a Slow Food Presidium protect?

A Slow Food Presidium protects:

-A traditional product at risk of extinction (an Ark of Taste Product);

-A traditional processing method at risk of extinction (in fishing, animal husbandry, food processing and farming);

-A rural landscape or ecosystem at risk of extinction.

To set up a Slow Food Presidium, it is necessary to verify two elements:

Environmental sustainability (the "clean" element -alongside "good and fair"- which means respecting the fertility of the land and of hydrographic ecosystems, excluding the use of synthetic chemical substances, maintaining traditional farming and land management practices, ...)

Social sustainability (the "fair" element: producers must have an active role and total autonomy in the management of their activity, they must collaborate and together define the rules of production and forms of product promotion, possibly joining together to form collectives).

What does the Slow Food Presidium do?

- Organizes training activities: to improve the quality of the product and the sustainability of the production chain, to sharpen the producer's sensory capabilities, help create associations between the producers involved and develop eco-compatible packaging.

- Promotes and supports their products and their local areas, showcasing them during events (such as the Salone del Gusto and Terra Madre, Cheese and Slow Fish, in Italy, and AsioGusto in South Korea) making them known to chefs (through the Slow Food Chef's Alliance project) and fostering direct retail (through community-supported agriculture initiatives or Earth Markets).

- Communicates: telling the story of the products, producers and their lands through all of the Slow Food Foundation of Biodiversity's means of communication: websites, e-newsletters, publications, videos, photographic exhibitions, press office, etc.

- Creates a platform for Slow Food Presidia producers to interact with producers in other regions or parts of the world, with chefs and retailers, experts (agronomists, veterinarians...), universities, journalists and simple consumers.

1 From the page Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity Onlus: https://www.fondazioneslowfood.com/en/what-we-do/slow-food-presidia/ (visited 4/11/20)

Presidia established their rules of production with two documents: the Guidelines (for every production) and the Production Protocols (for every product). In these two documents can be found the rules chosen together with the territories for everything that concerns the Slow Food philosophy about environmental, social and economic sustainability and about the organoleptic and traditional components of the products. In order to take part to the project, the producers commit to follow the Production protocol and to receive support from the Slow Food staff together with the referral experts (agronomists, vets). The current process of certification is then a self-certification through the signature of a certificate: the Production Protocol.

2 From the page Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity Onlus: https://www.fondazioneslowfood.com/en/what-we-do/slow-food-presidia/ (visited 4/11/20)

The first Slow Food experience with PGS (2018-2019)

The project « Empowering Indigenous Youth and their Communities to Defend and Promote their Food Heritage»

During the project in partnership with IFAD « Empowering Indigenous Youth and their Communities to Defend and Promote their Food Heritage», that Slow Food carried out from 2017 to 2020, it was decided to test a PGS initiative on two indigenous Presidia: the Oaxaca Mixteca Agave in Mexico and the Ogiek Honey in Kenya. The two Presidia were chosen after they had shown their interest during the Terra Madre 2018 event and following a geographical evaluation of the territories were the Presidia operate. At the time of the pilot, the Ogiek Honey Presidium had been active 4 years, while the Agave Preisidum was just being created. The initiative took place in consecutive phases. During the preparation phase, prior to the field missions, the PGS concept was presented to the Slow Food actors involved in the pilots through meetings in person and on-line, starting at TM2018. During the field activity, specific attention was devoted to make available accurate translation in local languages to avoid misunderstandings and misinterpretations. During the field missions ample time and opportunities were provided to enable discussions, open to all members, around the main concepts of PGS and on the Slow Food approach to PGS. After the field activities, follow up through emails and virtual meetings was also provided, to facilitate additional discussion on technical aspects, to gather feedback and identify weaknesses or difficulties emerged after the first field visits.

The available evidence indicated that in both Ogiek Honey and Oaxaca Maguey Presidia, by August 2020, the PGS had been solidly established and were operational through the following activities:

-Information, awareness-raising and capacity development events that had been conducted with high levels of members' participation along the entire process;

-the governing bodies had been elected and operated according to their respective mandates;

-the first round of verification of production practices of a small number of members had been carried out in each Presidium in the last quarter of 2019;

-marketing labels had been developed and used, together with appropriate containers to testify the origin and quality-assurance of the produce through the PGS, although this step was only incipient in the Oaxaca Maguey Presidium.

Lesson learned from the PGS pilot initiative in the context of the project "Empowering Indigenous Youth and their Communities to Defend and Promote their Food Heritage"

The case-study identified the following key lessons-learned, that should be taken into account in the future whenever integrating PGS to existing or new Presidia.

1.The introduction of the PGS in an already existing Presidium does not differ significantly – in terms of resources and time required - from the inclusion of the PGS in a Presidium that is just starting its activity. In both cases, external support and monitoring appear necessary for a period sufficiently long to ensure the full ownership of the process and the capacity to independently manage it; this will highly contextual, although a new Presidium will likely need longer support considering that the group still has to consolidate its internal dynamics, independently from the PGS element;

2.The structure of any Slow Food Presidium automatically builds on an existing spirit of collaboration and mutual learning among members. The PGS clarifies and makes more visible and tangible how the contribution of each and all members is a necessary condition for the success of the group as a whole. Thus the PGS helps groups to reflect on the technical processes for the Presidium protocol, for the group formation and for its cohesion; and contributes to strengthening the sense of belonging to the group as well as the sense of ownership for the process and the final product;

3.The presence and support of external organizations that are technically familiar with the concepts of control, certification and PGS, and who understand the producers' cultural context and can speak their language, facilitate the knowledge sharing, the dissemination of best practices and the identification of technical solutions to overcome specific critical aspects;

4.The systematic interaction with external partners, through meetings and discussions where respect for the group's and individuals' views underpins all exchange, helps strengthening the sense of pride and of purpose of a group, in addition to raising attention and commitment to improved overall performance and quality;

5.The first round of verification field-visits is highly useful in view of improving the format of the Guarantee Sheet and the efficiency and effectiveness of the approach. Interesting specific lessons emerged and are likely to emerge at each round; the PGS mechanism should thus include formal feed-back sessions as part of the verification process, to enable the integration of lessons learned and subsequent adaptations in the following cycle;

6.For ease of testing, the percentage of producers assessed by the Control Groups during the project was set at 10%; this however emerged as being too low to ensure an adequate coverage; Slow Food PGS Protocols should thus aim at an annual coverage rate of 35% of members, that enables including in the assessment all members over three years.

NB. Interestingly, many similarities emerged from the feedback provided by stakeholders in the three countries. This aspect provides additional strength to the model of PGS designed by SF, as it is recognized to be a very flexible instrument that can be adopted in very diverse environments, while still fully respecting the overarching SF principles.

PART IV: GROUPS, DOCUMENTATION AND FUNCTIONING OF A PGS INITIATIVE IN SLOW FOOD

The PGS initiatives vary the actors according to the context, but they maintain some fundamental pillars:

- 1. A set of common standards and norms defined together by participants;
- 2. A set of common procedures;
- 3. A common seal/trademark;
- 4. Defined consequences for rules breaking.

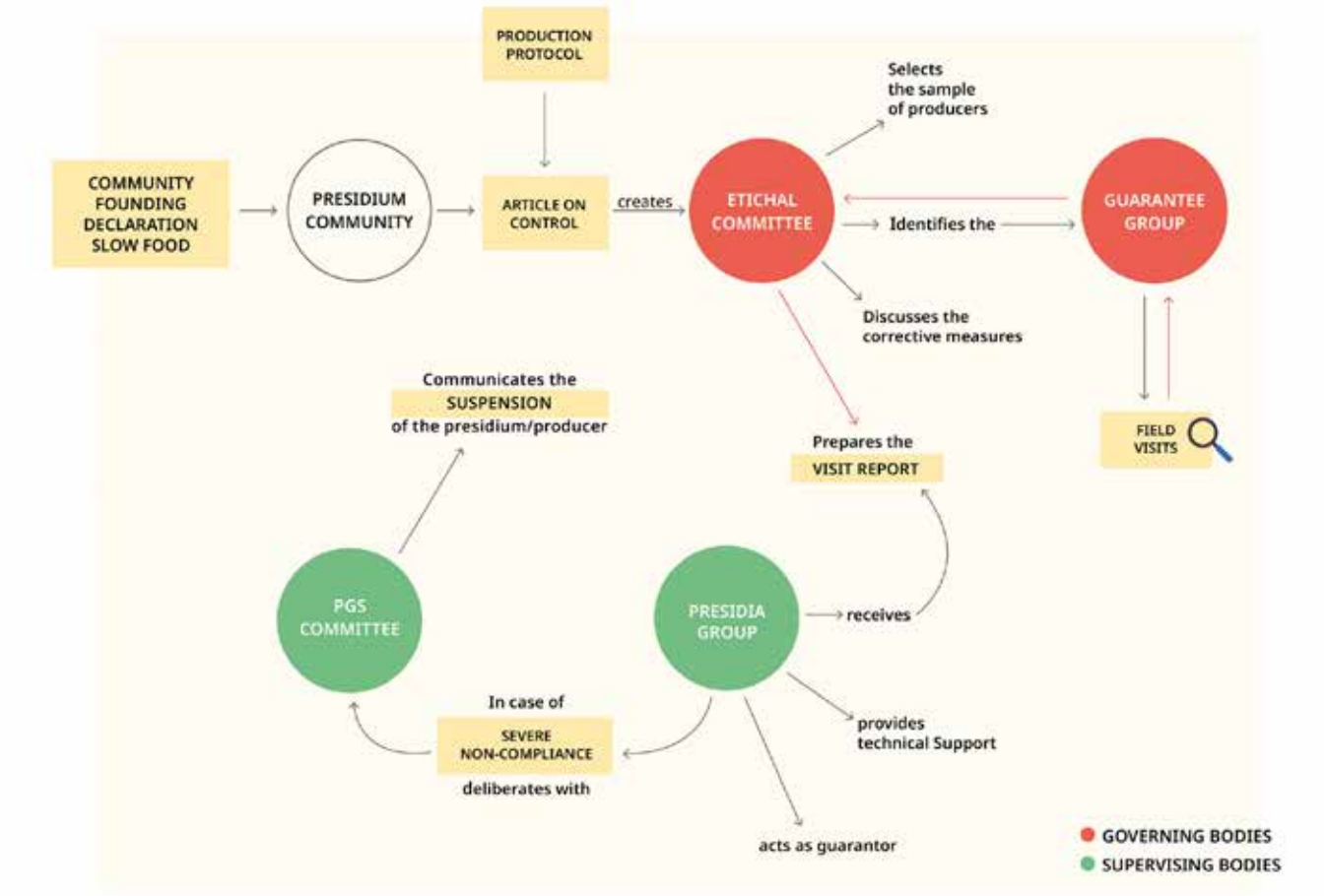

Diagram 1. Groups , roles and functioning of the Slow Food PGS.

The following is an explanation of the operating and support groups and the documentation necessary for a PGS initiative for the Slow Food Presidia project.

Participatory Guarantee Systems generally comprise at least two operating/organizational groups whose first task is to deal with the certification process. In some cases, such as this one, they also include other groups with different functions, organizing workshops, training activities, events and so on (Kaufmann et al., 2020).

The procedure devised by Slow Food involves four main subjects: two management bodies (the Ethical Committee and the Guarantee Group) and two supervision bodies (the Slow Food Presidia group and the PGS Committee).

The Ethical Committee

The Ethical Committee is the body that defines and manages the PGS of a specific Presidium. It corresponds to the Presidium community that signed the Slow Food Community Founding Declaration and it is made up of the following actors: a) a group of producers, from which a leader will be identified; b) the Slow Food Presidium Coordinator; and finally, c) other actors, such as cooks, consumers, representatives of NGOs or institutions, experts or technicians.

It is advisable that the group a) and b) always maintain a certain balance, in order to guarantee the heterogeneity of the actors taking part to the process.

As one of the two main PGS bodies, the Ethical Committee has important functions. It meets at least twice a year: generally before field visits, to select the sample of producers to be visited, and after field visits, to discuss the results. It oversees the Presidium's PGS, identifies the Guarantee Group and receives its results. It also discusses the possible application of sanctions or corrective measures and also prepares the Visit Report, which will be then sent to the Presidia office.

The Guarantee Group

The Guarantee Group is responsible for conducting field visits. Entirely identified and chosen by the Ethical Committee, its composition will be defined in the Presidium production protocol, in the section on controls, following these guidelines:

The Guarantee Group is formed by a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 11

individuals, including:

• producer representatives: at least 2, or 3 if they represent between 31 and 60 producers, or a maximum of 5, if they represent between 61 and 100 producers.

• 2 consumer representatives.

• 1 cook.

• a maximum of 3 representatives from policy areas, civil society and public or private actors.

The Guarantee Group organizes and performs the field visits in accordance with the Ethical Committee and the producers being assessed. During the field visits, it collects data and could provide technical support when needed.

The Group then sends the field visit reports to the Ethical Committee. As the two PGS governing bodies, the Ethical Committee and the Guarantee Group should be two separate groups, composed of different members (no overlapping). This might change if the number of actors involved in the Community is six or less. In such a case, the Guarantee Group could coincide with the Ethical Committee. Conversely, if the Presidium is particularly large, it is recommended that two or more Guarantee Groups are created within the same Community.

The Slow Food Presidia Group

The Slow Food Presidia Group is composed of staff members at the Slow Food headquarters (Bra, Italy) who deal with the development and monitoring of the Presidia projects.

It receives the field visit reports and then submits the results to the PGS Committee in case of severe non-compliance. With its expertise on PGS issues, the Slow Food Presidia Group runs thematic courses on PGS for the Ethical Committee and the Guarantee Group. Lastly, it acts as a guarantor of the uniformity and validity of the process, settling possible conflicts of interest . In such a case, the Slow Food Presidia Group takes on the role of a third party, with the specific function of preventing conflicts while ensuring the uniformity and validity of the process. Conflicts of interest can be minimized in various ways, particularly by allowing a rotation of roles and responsibilities among the stakeholders involved.

3 Such option might occur if the Slow Food Community does not reach a reasonable number of stakeholders. In that case, the members of the Ethical Committee and the Guarantee Group may be the same, leading to possible conflicts of interest. This is particularly true for European Presidia, where the number of producers involved is quite low, while indigenous ones usually have a high number of producers.

The PGS Committee

The PGS Committee has the role of guarantor. It is an impartial body with control functions and it is composed of three people selected from Slow Food staff, as well as three external experts, who may be technicians, agronomists, etc.

It meets at least once a year, or more as circumstances require. In cases of severe non-compliance, it confers with the Slow Food Presidia Group. Lastly, it communicates decisions regarding suspension (or other sanctions) for producers or for the entire Presidium when agreed with the Ethical Committee and in case of repeated severe non-compliance over time.

A. Slow Food Communities Founding Declaration

Having a shared vision is the basis for any PGS initiative. It does not mean just orally agreeing on the same issues, but also having them written in a pledge. Once the actors decide to participate in a PGS initiative promoted by Slow Food, signing a Community Founding Declaration is the first and most important act that all participants must undertake, as it reflects the basic principles that guide the Slow Food movement globally. Having the participants (producers and non-producers) signing the same pledge also means creating a bond and setting a record for future reference.

B. Slow Food Trademark Code Of Use

The trademark code of use is the document that sets out the rules for the Presidia project and the use of the Slow Food logo (a red snail) on products. Once the PGS is fully implemented as a tool in a Slow Food Presidium, this document will also contain a clause in which the producers

agree to ensure Presidium rules are being respected through a system of participatory certification in accordance with these guidelines.

C. Production Protocol

The production protocol is the document producers use to decide the production rules for their Presidium. Each production chain has specific guidelines set by Slow Food to ensure production is good, clean and fair. Once the PGS has been fully implemented as a required tool, this document will include a section in which the Presidium will define the details of its own PGS initiative, in other words the composition of the governing bodies (Ethical Committee and Guarantee Group), when the field visits take place, how often and how many producers are checked, when the members of the PGS meet and how often and so on.

D. The Guarantee sheet

The Guarantee Sheet is the checklist used by the Guarantee Group during field visits. It is used not only for the report on the specific producer's production, but it also contributes to building up the story of the Presidium for future reference. The Guarantee Group task is to check the adherence to Presidium principles and rules, which consist in the respect of the Production Protocol, as well as socio-cultural factors and organoleptic quality. Each Guarantee Sheet is named and must be signed by every participant on a visit.

E. Visit Report

The Visit Report is a document written by the Ethical Committee that provides a summary of what has come up during the field visits, meaning any possible problem or discrepancy with the guidelines, but also suggestions made while filing the checklist, problems solved and feedback. It also serves as a vital link between local areas and Slow Food staff, since the report is sent to the Presidia office, where the information is analyzed and, if no additional actions are needed, filed.

Some other recommended auxiliary documents that could help especially in the moments following the launch of a PGS initiative, which will then exhaust their utility once the process is assimilated from all the participants:

A. Field document

A summarizing document given to the Guarantee Group in advance in order to assist its work. Its includes date and time of the visit, decided together with the producers, the list of the participants (that will be signed by all of the presents) and the evaluation part, as to say the Guarantee Sheet. This document will be drafted in the Ethical Committee meeting and distributed by a representative of the Guarantee Group. The way for the diffusion of the document can be decided by the Community (eg. Paper, digital)

B. Annual report

Of the Presidium PGS: the final report that the Ethical Committee drafts when the Presidium's PGS activities end. It can highlight complications, proposals, doubts and improvements for the following year. Once it is finished, it is sent to the Presidia Group.

Of Slow Food's PGS: the summarizing document for the status of the PGS in all the active groups in the Presidia project. It is useful to define the status of the PGS activities and to give indications about potential changes relative to the mechanisms of the Slow Food's PGS.

C. Capacity-building kit

It is a set of information for the Guarantee Group, that explains how to read the Guarantee Sheet and the methodology for its filing. It can also contain useful information about behavior during the field visits, according to the different productions (eg. To wear adequate shoes, not to approach the animals etc.) and other indications from the Slow Food's staff. This document can be created also to help the Slow Food staff at the moment of conducting the capacity-building workshops on PGS in the Presidia's territories, in order to have referral documentation for each production chain.

PART V: THE GUARANTEE SHEET FOR THE VEGETAL PRODUCTION AND ITS VALIDATION

The development of the Guarantee Sheet for the vegetal production started from the pillars of Slow Food and the Presidia project's philosophy ("Good, Clean and Fair").

The proposed Guarantee Sheet is articulated in: one part regarding general information and four sections (Good, Clean, Fair and Presidium characterization).

The first three sections regard the principles of Slow Food's philosophy and how they reflect the Production Guidelines and the Production protocols established with and for the Presidia. Specifically, they examine the safeguard of oganoleptic quality ("good"), of environmental sustainability and biodiversity ("clean") and social and economic sustainability ("fair"). The fourth part is the one that is declined more freely by the specific Presidium starting from a range of proposals (ANNEX 1).

"Good" is composed of 3 indicators, "clean" is 12 and "fair" is 6, while the Presidium will choose 4 indicators out of 11 given from the free-choice part.

Good	3 indicators
Clean	12 indicators
Fair	6 indicators
Free-choice	4 indicators (out of 11)

SCORING

For every indicator the minimum scoring is 0 while the maximum is 3.

The compliance range span is given by the average of the scoring obtained for each indicator (the sum of the scoring for 25 indicators/25).

From 0 to 1	Non-compliance
From 1.1 to 2	Non-severe non-compliance (second visit necessary)
From 2.1 to 3	Compliance

In particular

Scoring 0- 1 severe non-compliance. This means that there are too many indicators where the scoring was insufficient. In that case, the Presidia Group, together with the PGS Committee, will evaluate whether it is necessary to suspend the producer or the entire Presidium.

Scoring 1.1-2 non-severe non-compliance / second visit necessary. This means that on some indicators the scoring was insufficient. It will be the Ethical Committee's responsibility, together with the producers, to evaluate the reason of that scoring and to ask for the corrective measures, following whom a second visit will be necessary. If the non-compliance persists during the second visits, the Ethical Committee can ask the Presidia Group's assistance in the decision to suspend the producer and/or the Presidium. On the contrary, in case the non-compliance does not persist, the process for the guarantee can continue.

Scoring 2,1-3 compliance. There is no need for additional action and the process for that solar year's guarantee can continue.

The ALERTS

In addition to the scoring, for every section "good", "clean", and "fair" there are some alerts (weak points) that if present must be taken into consideration by the Guarantee Group and adequately monitored. In total there are 5 alerts.

In the **section "good"** is pointed out **1 alert** on an indicator considered particularly important (**taste**). If the scoring on this indicator is 0, it represents a severe non-compliance, while the scoring [1] represents, regardless of the rest of the scoring, the need for a second visit.

In the **section "clean"** are pointed out **3 alerts** on indicators considered particularly important (**soil management, defense and soil fertility**). If the scoring on this indicator is 0, it represents a severe non-compliance, while the scoring 1 represents, regardless of the rest of the scoring, the need for a second visit.

In the **section "fair"** is pointed out **1 alert** on an indicator considered particularly important (**participation in the Presidium's activities**). If the scoring on this indicator is 0, it represents a severe non-compliance, while the scoring 1 represents, regardless of the rest of the scoring, the need for a second visit.

The ALERTS

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In the **section "fair"** is pointed out **1 alert** on an indicator considered particularly important (participation in the Presidium's activities). If the scoring on this indicator is 0, it represents a severe non-compliance, while the scoring 1 represents, regardless of the rest of the scoring, the need for a second visit.

RESULTS SHEET

The Guarantee group after the field visit fills the checklist, giving the points to every indicator. A the end of the visits, the checklists will be given to the Ethical Committee, that will upload the results on the given Google Form, in order to make the results easily available for the Presidia Group.

The graphic representation for every single farm will be a dashboard that shows the scoring relative to conformity and a traffic light representation for what it concerns the alerts.

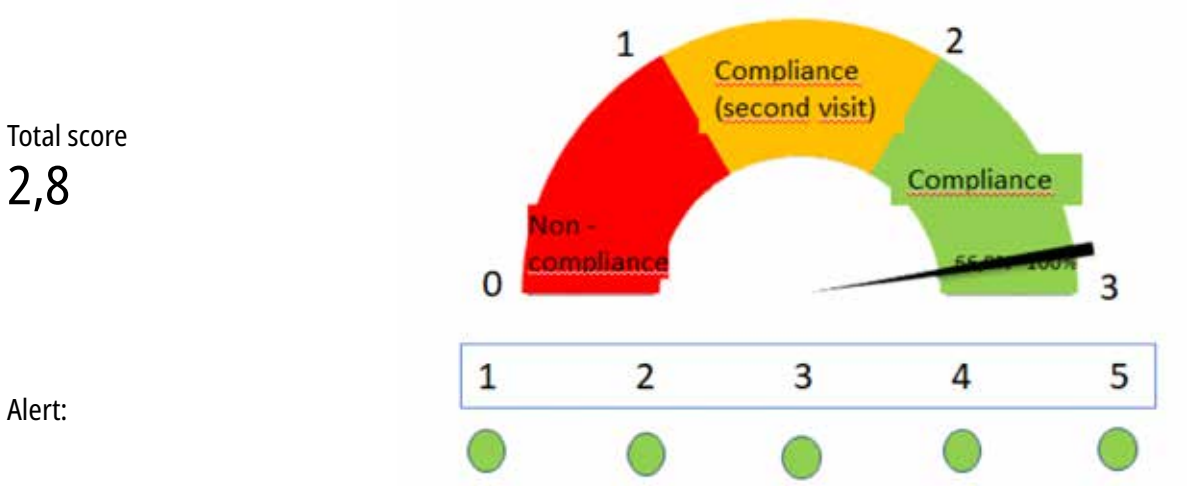

Fig. 2 – Example of graphic representation of the Guarantee Sheet's results.

FIELD VISITS AND GUARANTEE SHEET VALIDATION

According to the procedure created for the Slow Food Presidia PGS, the field visits are carried out by the Guarantee Group. The sample of producers that are visited is picked by the Ethical Committee randomly and has to represent at least 10% of the total, with a minimum of three producers visited. However, once the PGS will be fully implemented, the percentage sample will need to be 35% in order to be more representative. In particular there is the need to visit every producer in a reasonable time span from the start of the initiative. The visits will always be announced beforehand, in order to give the producers enough time to prepare for the visit and answer to the questions. It will be highly recommended for the producers and all the members of the Guarantee Group to have a thorough knowledge of the Guarantee Sheet before the visit, in order to optimize the time dedicated to each field visit. It is the Ethical Committee's responsibility to choose the most recommended time of the year according to the production and to contact the selected producers to announce the visits. Each producers will need to be visited at least once every three years.

In the last trimester of the 2020, a simulation of the field visit was carried out in order to validate the Guarantee sheet for the vegetal production. In particular, 5 Presidia were visited: 4 in Piedmont and 1 in Tuscany. In every case, the percentage of farmers interviewed is close or over 40% the percentage of participants to the Presidium, for a total of 17 farmers interviewed. The group that carried out the visits was made of: an agronomist, a Presidium coordinator and a representative of consumers.

The Presidia are:

LUCCA RED BEAN

https://www.fondazioneslowfood.com/en/slow-food-presidia/lucca-red-bean/

Farms and/or producers adherent to the Presidium	14
Interviewees	5
Percentage of producers interviewed	36%

MONCALIERI CAULIFLOWER

https://www.fondazioneslowfood.com/en/slow-food-presidia/moncalieri-cauliflower/

Farms and/or producers adherent to the Presidium	5 + 3 nursery
Interviewees	3
Percentage of producers interviewed	37,5%

CARAGLIO HEIRLOOM GARLIC

https://www.fondazioneslowfood.com/en/slow-food-presidia/heritage-caraglio-garlic/

Farms and/or producers adherent to the Presidium	5
Interviewees	2
Percentage of producers interviewed	40%

CAPRIGLIO PEPPER

https://www.fondazioneslowfood.com/en/slow-food-presidia/capriglio-pepper/

Farms and/or producers adherent to the Presidium	7
Interviewees	3
Percentage of producers interviewed	43%

NIZZA MONFERRATO HUNCHBACK CARDOON

https://www.fondazioneslowfood.com/en/slow-food-presidia/nizza-monferrato-hunchback-cardoon/

Farms and/or producers adherent to the Presidium	11
Interviewees	4
Percentage of producers interviewed	36%

RESULTS

The groups of producers selected in the Presidia were different from Presidium to Presidium, but also different amongst each Presidium. A strength of the Presidia project itself, but that can also represent a weakness in the application of the PGS. In particular, it is going to be important to pay attention to the fact that the Checklists and the process in its integrity will be applicable to the great diversity of the contexts and of the actors that take part in it. The part of the Guarantee Sheet with the free-choice indicators goes exactly in that direction.

In the case of the 5 Presidia interviewed for the validation, the choice regarded the following indicators:

- Commercialization;
- Price composition;
- Sharing means of production
- Historical relevance
- Food security.

As it is possible to see in table 1, all the producers visited, except one, comply with standards (a score of more than 2) and have no problems to report as alerts. Only one, in the Moncalieri Cauliflower Presidium, shows a situation of slight non-conformity, due to the fact that the Presidium was only set up recently. (Non-conformity results from low scores in the "fair" section, specifically of indicators of participation in the Presidium's activities and exchanges between producers.)

Presidium's name	Producer	scoring	compliance	Alert 1	Alert 2	Alert 3	Alert 4	Alert 5
Cavolfiore di Moncalieri	Carlo Giacomasso, Il Tasso	1,8		no	no	no	no	no
Cavolfiore di Moncalieri	Filippo Laguzzi, R.A.M.	2,2		no	no	no	no	no
Cavolfiore di Moncalieri	Giuseppe Piovano	2,2		no	no	no	no	no
Cardo Gobbo	Walter e Lorena Roggero	2,2		no	no	no	no	no
Cardo Gobbo	Lorenzo Agatiello	2,5		no	no	no	no	no
Cardo Gobbo	Vittorio Quaglia	2,4		no	no	no	no	no
Cardo Gobbo	Pierlorenzo Pavese	2,2		no	no	no	no	no
Fagiolo Rosso di Lucca	Paolo Giuli, Al podere di Rosa	2,5		no	no	no	no	no
Fagiolo Rosso di Lucca	Giovanni Giovannoni	2,4		no	no	no	no	no
Fagiolo Rosso di Lucca	Renzo Del Prete	2,5		no	no	no	no	no
Fagiolo Rosso di Lucca	Federico Martinelli, NicoBio	2,6		no	no	no	no	no
Fagiolo Rosso di Lucca	Alessandro Rossi	2,3		no	no	no	no	no
Peperone di Capriglio	Luca	2,4		no	no	no	no	no
Peperone di Capriglio	Raffaella Firpo	2,8		no	no	no	no	no
Peperone di Capriglio	Daniela Peira	2,1		no	no	no	no	no
Aglio di Caraglio	Aurelio Agnese, la fattoria dell'aglio	2,6		no	no	no	no	no
Aglio di Caraglio	Massimo Morre	2,6		no	no	no	no	no

Table 1: Score, compliance, and alerts of the 17 companies visited (data compared).

Producer's checklist
Raffaella Firpo

Total score:
2,8

Alert:

Fig.3- Example of the checklist for the single producer

It is also possible to envisage a fact sheet for each single producer, to be sent on completion of the PGS process.

Some of the producers interviewed already have third party certification, mostly for organics, but in two cases (in the Lucca Red Bean Presidium) also for biodynamics.

The producers of the various Presidia also differed greatly in terms of length of membership in the Presidium itself: though respect for the rules of production and production protocols was more or less constant among groups, producers who had been members for longest showed they had assimilated the social side of belonging to the project better (the "fair" section in the Guarantee Sheet). The latter had thus had the opportunity to take a more active part in activities organized at Slow Food events, but also in internal activities among Presidium members.

In three cases in particular–the Capriglio Pepper, Caraglio Historic Garlic and the Lucca Red Bean–knowledge sharing among Presidium members was very marked. In the second case, producers were even carrying out self-checks amongst themselves (through exchange visits and rigorously numbered and signed labels) to ensure product "purity."

Without being asked the question directly, two producers (one in the Lucca Red Bean Presidium and one in the Capriglio Pepper Presidium), who for years have had their products certified as organic by a Certifying Body, showed growing skepticism towards this certification method, which among other things, they found of little use for selling purposes, since their most loyal clients are already aware of the characteristics of their products. In one of the two cases, the producer was deciding whether to abandon certification until the following year.

In general, for all the producers interviewed, the idea of taking part in the Participatory Guarantee system and receiving visits to speak about their products (within the time available to them from their work) was seen not as disagreeable but as a chance for exchange to reduce the information asymmetry between consumer and producer.

The people who carried out the visits saw the process as a learning experience vis-à-vis the agronomic techniques used to produce the above-mentioned products and as a chance to see a cross-section of rural life, which is very often completely unfamiliar to city dwellers, who have few if any opportunities to meet the producers of the food that they find on their tables.

In the case of the Lucca Red Bean Presidium, it was also possible to compare the 2020 experience (validation of the vegetable Guarantee Sheet) with the analogous experience of Presidium producers in activities parallel to the project co-funded by IFAD.

From talks with producers (on both occasions) it emerged that any PGS initiative undertaken by Slow Food needs to dwell on sociality and the involvement of producers in the network A certification guaranteeing this aspect–not only good agricultural practices–is important, above all, to keep at bay the opportunism of producers who adhere to the Presidia project only in the hope of improved economic returns. What also emerged was the great importance of the knowledge sharing that begins with field visits.

The general feeling towards the application of a PGS as a method for certifying the Slow Food Presidia project was positive. More specifically, all participants in the field emphasized the effectiveness of the PGS as an efficient training tool for improving the credibility of the project and maintaining its high standards of quality intact.

PART VI: DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES OF PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS

The major challenges for the PGS initiatives are: awareness; resilience; time; and internal conflicts.

One of the greatest difficulties of PGS initiatives is their recognition. In Europe and the other countries in which they are not formally recognized by governments, there is little awareness of their existence, which may translate into low credibility towards them (Binder et al., 2018; Nelson et al., 2015).

This is why it is fundamental to establish widespread online communication, first inwards for the actors to be involved directly, then outwards for recognition and dissemination across public opinion.

Another challenge facing these initiatives is resilience over time, following the period of training by outside experts (Binder et al., 2018; Home et al., 2017). One of the risks is that the project might be abandoned without the creation of a strong network of actors and the development of suitable competences and knowledge. This risk is particularly great in situations in which the decision to apply a system like this is more "political" and not properly shared with the local areas and subjects involved (Home et al., 2017).

A final challenge is that of time (Kaufmann et al., 2018). Though a certification system like the participatory guarantee one requires lighter economic burdens, it also requires the participants' time, both for field visits once or twice a year and for organizational meetings. For actors who are busy in full-time agricultural work, this may not be an immediate sacrifice, especially in view of the uncertainty of the results (e.g., little public recognition of the certification system, little or no improved economic returns from the process etc.).

As far as conflict management is concerned, it is fundamental to bear in mind the preferences of the actors taking part, and likewise the legitimization of institutional decisions (Kauffmann et al., 2018). Wherever they can play a role in the legitimization of decisions and the supervision of the certification process itself, external actors may prove fundamental for this purpose. These are two of the reasons why the proposed organization chart for the Slow Food participatory system comprises two bodies that are external to the working certification process, which act as a back-up in training but also in decision-making, in the event of cases of non-compliance.

Considering that this survey has served to reconfirm that the PGS certification method implemented would appear to be the most suitable for the configuration and principles of the Slow Food Presidium project, the conclusions are as follows.

In the light of this realization and of the validation work undertaken in the field with the producers involved, in the immediate future our recommendation is to proceed with the drawing up and validation of the Guarantee Sheets of the other supply chains of the Slow Food Presidia in order to go on to proper testing of the system in Presidia that show an interest in taking part. The final aim is eventually to have a well-structured, assimilated process that can work in semi-autonomy and that, on the one hand, increases the credibility of the Presidia project and make producers and consumers feel more involved and, on the other, contributed to the process of advocacy for recognition of this type of alternative certification system, more suited to small-scale productions and short supply chains.

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Attachment 1. The guarantee card for the vegetal production

CHECKLIST FOR SLOW FOOD'S PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM – VEGETABLES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Producer's name:

Date of birth:

Farm's name:

Phone:

E-mail:

Type of farm:

☐ Family farm

☐ Business

Type of business:

☐ Conventional ☐ Certified organic

☐ Organic in conversion ☐ Biodynamic

Adherent to:

☐ Cooperative ☐ Association

☐ Consortium ☐ Farmers' movement

Name of the Presidium:

Year of adhesion to the Presidium:

Details on the product:

Processed products: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which ones (if the answers is yes):

Workers: ☐ Hired ☐ Seasonal ☐ None

Presidium production: kg on ha

Total production of other crops (if present):

Farm's map: ☐ Yes ☐ Yes, with production details ☐ No

GOOD					
	ø				
Taste	It doesn't reflect the typical characteristics of the product	1-2 (panel test results)	3-4	5	
Seasonality	Greenhouse	Tunnel	Hydroponic/ aeroponic	Soil	
Nutritional value	There's no awareness about the nutritional value	The nutritional value is known	The nutritional value is known and communicated in fairs and events	The nutritional value is known and communicated in fairs and events and widely known within the community	

CLEAN					
	ø				
Weed management	Chemical herbicides/ tillage (deeper than 30cm)	Manual removal during the competition period. Superficial . Flame/heath weeding	Manual weed removal during competition period and/or partial grassing. Superficial weeding. Natural herbicides (macerated or made on farm)	Partial or total grassing. Superficial weeding. Mulch (with bioplastics / vegetal material)	
Management of the Presidium plot	Monoculture cropping systems	Polyculture and/ or crop rotation	Polyculture and crop rotation	Polyculture and crop rotation. Agroecological corridors and plants to attract pollinators	
Biodiversity on farm	Monoculture cropping systems	Polyculture and crop rotation	Polyculture and crop rotation, saving seeds. Open-pollinated seed whenever possible	Polyculture and crop rotation, saving seeds. Open-pollinated seed whenever possible. Planting multiple varieties of same crop	
Water use	No interest in conserving water	Flood irrigation	Localized irrigation (sprinklers, emergency irrigation)	No irrigation	
Soil fertility	Chemical fertilizers	Natural mineral fertilizers applied regularly	Natural mineral fertilizers applied when necessary	Natural mineral fertilizers applied when necessary and/or no application	

Defence	Chemical herbicides and pesticides	Chemical products used when necessary	Chemical products used when necessary and organic approaches to pest and diseases control	Use of non-synthetic chemicals and organic approaches to pest and diseases control based on observation (species specific)	
Organic matter	No interest in enhancing soil organic matter	100% external organic matter. Known origin	Organic matter partly coming from outside, partly produced on farm. Origin and ingredients known	Organic matter (vegetal and animal) produced entirely on farm	
Seeds origin	-	Seed company	Certified nursery/ research centre	Production on farm and exchange with other Presidium producers	
Waste management	What is required by the law	What is required by the law + recycling	What is required by the law + recycling + organic waste used in the field	What is required by the law + recycling + organic waste, animal and vegetal waste used in the field	
Plastics use (field)	Yes	Yes, but it is reused year after year	Yes, but it is bioplastic material	No	
Plastics use (packaging)	Yes	Yes, but it is reused year after year (plastic boxes, bins ecc.)	Yes, but it is bioplastic material	No (carboard, glass, wood, deposit scheme ecc.)	
Energy	No interest in the reduction of fossil fuel energy	-	Effort in reducing fossil fuels dependence (solar panels, biogas, electric tools, animal work ecc.)	No use of fossil fuels in the farm	

FAIR					
	ø				
Transmission of knowledge (inside)	There's no transmission	Happens because people work together	Structured, such as internships	Exchange of knowledge between members of the Presidium with exchanges and visits	
Transmission of knowledge (outside)	There's no transmission	Guided tours/ meetings with schools/ participation in conferences	-	Guided tours/ meetings with schools and workshops	
Capacity building (of the farmer)	No training	Outside training	Varied Slow Food capacity building workshops	Outside trainings + Slow Food capacity building	
Participation in Presidium's activities	No participation	Presidium's meetings	Presidium's meetings + Slow Food events (Terra Madre, Cheese, Earth markets etc.)	Presidium's meetings + Slow Food events + external events (in which they go as SF members)	
Youth (>40)	There are no youth	There are youth working	There are youth working and that take part to the decisional process (decisions on field aspects, marketing etc.)	The owner or one of the owners is young	
Women	There are no women	There are women working	There are women working and that take part to the decisional pro-cess (decisions on field aspects, marketing etc.)	The owner or one of the owners is a woman	

PRESIDIUM'S CHOICE:					
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Environmental hazards close to the Presidium's plot	The plot is adjacent to an area with high risk of contamination (dump, contaminated streams of water, factory, etc.)	The plot is not directly adjacent to an area with high risk of contamination, but there are threats in a 10km radius.	The plot is not in an area with risk of contamination. At least 30km safety radius	The plot is not in an area with risk of contamination, on the contrary it is surrounded but farms that apply the same agroecological principles	
Employment after the Presidium's creation (the adhesion to the Presidium's project made possible the creation of new jobs)	Less than before	Same as before	Increased <10%	Increased >10%	
Commercialization (following the Presidium's creation)	Less than before	Same as before	Increased locally	Increased and crossed the regional borders	
Price composition	Of the final price, the percentage for the producer decreased	Of the final price, the percentage for the producer stayed the same	Of the final price, the percentage for the producer increased (<50%)	Of the final price, the percentage for the producer increased (>50%)	
Healing properties of the product	None	Healing properties without known, but without evidence	Healing properties without traditionally transmitted in popular culture, but without evidence	Healing properties without traditionally transmitted in popular culture, with scientific evidence in support	
Safeguard of the landscape	There's no interest in safeguarding the landscape	The safeguard of the landscape didn't increase compared to prior the Presidium creation	The safeguard of the landscape has increased compared to prior the Presidium creation	The safeguard of the landscape has definitely increased compared to prior the Presidium creation	

Increase of family income following the creation of the Presidium	Income is decreased	There was no increase in comparison with before	Increase between 0,1% and 10%	Increase between 10% and 50% (or more)	
Sharing means of production	No sharing	Willingness to do it, but it is not done frequently	Means of production bought keeping in mind the other producers and exchanged frequently	Means completely shared, communal space for strage, means bought together as an association	
Historical relevance of the product	The product has been known in the territory for less than 25 years	The product has been known in the territory for at least 25 years	The product has been known in the territory for at least 100 years	The product has been known in the territory for more than 100 years	
Minors working in the family farm **(Presidium included)**	Children (less than 14 years) work in the farm	Children (less than 14 years) work in the farm, but they also attend school	Children (less than 14 years) work in the farm. They also attend school, but help during seasonal peaks	The farm, even being a family business, doesn't involve children less than 14 year old	
Food safety	The product doesn't help in the safeguard of the territory's food safety	The product is consumed in the territory, but it is not fundamental for the food safety	The product is consumed in the territory and partially influences the territory's food safety together with other traditional foods	The product is consumed in the territory and it is fundamental for the territory's food safety together with other traditional foods	

from 0 to 1: insufficient (severe non-compliance)

from 1.1 to 2: sufficient, but weak (non-severe non-compliance, second visit necessary)

from 2.1 to 3: optimal (official certification)

Tot.* (*number of points divided for the numbers of the indicators)

Notes and comments:

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