

# **PROGETTO MODELAND**

## **Provincia di Terni**

### **“LANDSCAPE, TERRITORIAL MARK OF IDENTITY AND DRIVING FORCE FOR A NEW MODEL OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE IN MEDITERRANEAN RURAL AREAS”**

*By the Coordinators*

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#### **Preliminary**

Our research has been developed in two thematic lines, as we have announced in the last February.

On one hand we have followed your criteria and we can send all of the results achieved according your instructions: surveys and landscape interpretations.

On the other hand we have followed our *already proposed methodological approach* . This approach is based on the participative social perception and landscaping surveying interpretation obtained throughout a direct involvement of local communities which became able to recognize significant and shared landscapes by an experimental *Participative Research-Action*. Such a research can develop a specific interaction **among** groups of participants, experts and public bodies to achieve a *social landscaping action* directly focused on their local contexts.

Our methodology is coherently able to develop and implement the principles of **the** European Convention of Landscape according **to** specific procedures as we explain in this report.

In this sense the next meeting in Terni will be a very profitable opportunity for a reciprocal comparison and discussion both of the results and of the perspectives of this kind of approach.

*For these reasons we have developed two groups of elaborations*

#### ***1. The survey's outcomes as you required and listed***

*By arch. Rossella Amato, arch. Chiara Bagnetti, Dott. Federico Botti, arch. M. Paola la Pegna*

## 2. *Methodological procedures and Research Action reports*

### 2a –*The Landscape Context*

#### *The selected territories*

Among the territories of the Province of Terni the ones we have selected for this research are closely related to Terni town and to its river valley –an alluvial swamp, shaped as a wide punch bowl. At the rims of this punch bowl we can recognize two geographic systems

- 1) the **Martani and Amerini** mountain chains and the saddle high **plain** between them,
- 2) the *gorges* where the Nera River runs. Beyond the gorges the river is dammed just near its confluence into the Tevere River.

These two geographic systems are characterized by different types of environment on which various landscapes – as very socio-cultural life environments - originated **since prehistory**.

#### *The landscape of waters*

These varieties of *Landscapes-Life environments* range from original ancient forests on the Karstic mountains, to rural hilly landscapes, urban -suburban spaces, and two opposite (rare or rich) *landscapes of the waters*. Actually these arid Karstic mountains on one hand harbour a lot of caves and originate many mineral springs, together with the typical landscapes of hidden rare fresh waters, typical of Mediterranean mountain system. On the other hand these Karstic **conditions** can generate rich in water resurgences and impressive fluvial landscapes, as it is the one of the Nera River.

#### *The socio-cultural landscapes*

A lot of small human settlements with their inhabitants propagated on these landscapes since the remotest prehistory times. Palaeolithic and Neolithic communities settled their small shelters on the rims of the punch bowl, Umbrian peoples, roman and medieval civilizations occupied the **hilly or dry plain areas**, building their villages, castles and towns and encircled the hilly places around the swampy punch bowl, which was progressively dried, cultivated and occupied by industrial economy activities and infrastructures (ranging from roman roads, medieval itineraries, mills to the modern industrialization and urban sprawl of the two last centuries). In the recent times the river valley has been over exploited **by lots of** industrial settlements which have been built along the Nera river between Terni and the dam **where the Nera flows into the Tevere**.

A the present **time** these landscapes manifest a profound crisis which concerns **not** only the separate **-sometimes exasperated-** transformations (overexploitations, poisoning activities, **neglect/abandon**) but menaces even the evolutionary process which has been at the base of the characterization of all historically shaped landscapes. Such a process–like every living phenomenon- had been developed **in the course of** history step by step **and had been** achieved throughout different conditions of socio-cultural equilibrium. Actually, **nowadays** the crisis has hit the very evolutionary modalities (natural, social, economic and cultural )of this process as we can easily recognize on the landscapes.

All of the characters and problems above described could be diffused among Mediterranean landscapes, which are equally involved in contemporary globalizing phenomena but, at the same time, **are seeking after** appropriated perspectives towards their future.

The development of this European research can be a strategic opportunity to deal with the common problems through a participative/operative methodology in an evolutionary perspective.

For these reasons we would like to discuss this matter with the European partners, starting from the following methodological proposal.

## ***2B- A synthetic methodological proposal***

European -Mediterranean Landscapes suffer the uniformity of globalization with a progressive loss of their original characters. In this way their complex historic *intertexture*-becomes a sort of *schizophrenic landscape fragmentation*, where different – often opposite - realities are forced to coexist.

This fragmentation of landscapes reflects many analogous fragmentations which **express** themselves both in social life and in relationships between people and life-environment. We think that it is no longer possible to deal with these phenomena by traditional –often simplified- methods and rules. A new way can be found, beyond the classic hierarchical or individualistic ones.

All that can be carried out taking into consideration the relationships between local communities and their life environment by means of relational dynamics and eco-social approaches.

*The European Convention of Landscape constitutes a fundamental theoretical and concrete reference for this perspective.*

In this sense the Province of Terni has been working to develop these principles by the following procedures..:

- 1 *Social perception of landscape and friendly learning in Life Environment* : (experiences within **scanned** territories, mountain communities, urban peripheries, rural settlements )-
- 2 *Landscaping actions* - especially friendly projecting promenades; *Project Research* -
- 3 *The Participated Landscapes* : the relationships between communities and their Life Environments become a new consciousness and a new project based on *social environmental management* and *landscape guarantee*.

Finally, in the case of positive verification of the three mentioned issues, we could go on with the following experience-proposal:

- 4 *A new Alliance among* Civil society, Scientific Groups and Public Bodies towards their Landscapes (*common life environments*). Such an Alliance is conceived as a new relational evolutionary configuration (a *relational field* within which economic, ecological, cultural

landscaping experiences interact in a continuous dynamic process). In this way this new *Alliance* could be ratified as a **LANDSCAPE PARTICIPATIVE CONTRACT**.<sup>1</sup>

*In general this Landscape Contract can be described by the following specific characteristics*

- a the process **develops** as a *relational approach*, which encourages and promotes the suitable conditions to constitute a very new *eco social subject*
- b the process is conceivable as an *intrinsic participative experience* and only in this way it can achieve the status of Landscape Contract.
- c Every Contract must be referred to a specific territorial condition such as a Valley, or a River, or a chosen definite Landscape, according to their vital potentialities (Bioregions and so on)
- d In this way a lot of perspectives are open both to rebuilt unexpected territorial features and to constitute new social communities, towards an ethic economy of contemporary holistic Landscapes

This *landscape participative process* develops the following experimental criteria and in this way it can represent a complete, radical improvement both for Landscape and for People

The Province of Terni is concretely practicing some local *pilot experiences* of *Landscape Participative Contract* towards a small River Valley and Rural Territorial Contexts.

The experiences **we have tested up to now** concern the items 1, 2, 3, above listed. These procedures have been successfully implemented in three different local experiences and developed with enthusiastic and sympathetic participation by various diversified social groups (see the reports on local workshops).

### ***The three Research Action Experiences***

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<sup>1</sup> This idea has been already verified and fruitfully practiced in Europe. See the Article by F. Rossillon "Management of Valley Landscapes of the River Semois Contract" in Proceedings of the Second meeting for the implementation of E L C. In Italy we have already practiced these participative contracts in Emilia Romagna Region, Province of Modena, on the Middle Panaro River, where a Contract-promoted by the local Municipalities facing this River - has been successfully developed by these procedures. At the present this Contract has been ratified by four Municipalities (Vignola, Savignano, Spilamberto San Cesario,). The Province and the Region are going to ratify it by this month.

*1-The Rural Hilly Landscape on the high plain of Montecastrilli- Avigliano Municipalities by Rossella Amato*

*The territory : the Municipalities of Montecastrilli and Avigliano Umbro*

The saddle territory between the two mountain chains (from east-Amerini mountains to west Martani mountains) has been selected for this landscape experience. Chestnuts and oak forests, wide cultivated areas, small villages, peaceful atmosphere tell a story of stones, green and silence. This part of the wide **high plain** has been crossed by the ancient itineraries (the Byzantine Corridor) between Roma and Ravenna, during the post roman age.

This impressing landscape keeps a lot of significant remote memories which range from the three million years old sequoia forest of Dunarobba, to the Fortress of Sismano, a medieval palace in the *Terre Arnolfe* territories.

*The process approach*

Within these wide life environments different settlements, groups and features coexist in a sort of latent tension whose dynamics are at risk of being progressively toned down. The recent separation of the original community in two Municipalities has been the consequence of their ancient rival contrapositions. This landscape experience has allowed them to recompose their previous tensions through the progressive acknowledge of the wholeness of their original life environments.

In this way, after a first cycle of separate workshops, the two groups with their different social features (Avigliano, rich in brightness, Montecastrilli rich in operative concreteness) met to implement their experience having decided **to work** together. So, the ancient contrasts which constituted **the** main obstacle for their reciprocal collaboration became a very opportunity for the success of the entire experience. Then the two groups participated in the same workshops, promenades, recognitions of their *common life environment*. The tale of their experiential discoveries and the descriptions of their perceptions became a 'golden book' of this *new community*.

*The renaissance of a whole community*

The new idea of reciprocal collaboration turned out as an effective strategy to potentiate their initiatives.

Actually the new group of persons –inhabitants, frequenters, workers, scholars – related to these places for different reasons (young artisans, entrepreneurs, artists, archaeologists, designers, students, old and young farmers, technicians) experienced a *landscaping perception* of this life environment.

They participated in various workshop activities (perception surveys, scientific explorations, feasts, celebrations) with in mind a shared desire: the research of new opportunities to develop their participative action on their life environment that they would like to consider a renewed *common worth*. A combined interpretation of the ancient landscapes with the traditional foods (pork and olive oil) challenged them to discover the very basic roots of the prehistoric settlements and historic civilizations in these territories (original *Umbrian* people, forests, agriculture, medieval towns, prehistoric itineraries and historic roads). By these interpretations, concretely practiced by surveys

exploration-promenades, these groups -with the experts participation - brought to light the *quintessence of their life environment, a still living Genius Loci*, harbored into the Landscape.

*Performances and explorations throughout landscape experiences*

The exploration of the *Beautiful Cavern* (Grottabella)- In this place ancient small bronzes and **pig**'s bones were found in abundance. These religious devotion symbols -left in prehistory within the sacred place by the original populations- have been rediscovered and enjoyed as a new symbol of contemporary landscaping actions.

The hilly landscape of olive trees and the excellent olive oil have been celebrated as new expressions of an integrated economy which can originate from the rural landscape. The rural culture, still harbored among the young and ancient participants, represents an essential resource to promote the local landscape.

These celebrations have **kept pace** with the formation of a *new social community* raised from the original group of participants. In this new community the role of young people has been considered as a *natural way to approach a sustainable development*.

The role of young people and artists has been also essential for the successful activation of a renewed participative process towards *new integrated jobs* where culture, artistic capabilities and real craft abilities can be promoted together.

*The group played many creative /concrete roles during the first phase of this process by:*

- Their contribution during the feasts as cultural promoters and directly involved artisans. The success of the initiatives has been assured both by the promotion of contemporary communication technologies and by the revitalization of ancient rural abilities which are at risk of disappearing.
- The assumption of a concrete responsibility in relation to their Common -together with their secular statutes- by a contemporaneous combined interpretation of the ancient principles and of the contemporary perspectives.
- The promotion and the cultural propagation of these new perspectives towards the rural territories and their relationships between agriculture and towns.
- The promotion of new *Relational Market* which is a new kind of market where merchandises, culture and information are *equally put on the field* and valorized beyond the mere economical exchanges.

This *Relational Market* can be considered as a Keystone to found a sustainable economy, whose stones are connected by a whole solidarity structure, able to consolidate the separated activities already in course or in project. These single *stones* can't constitute a structure without reciprocal new interrelations which are both immaterial (the relational network which becomes an invisible structure) and material (the concrete reciprocal contacts among **people**).

*In this way an unexpected landscape economy -within which the local young people are concretely experiencing their proposals- can be created.*

The base of these landscaping actions has been actually constituted by a creative play which has attracted all participants. This creative experience is leading the group to the constitution of a *Landscape Presidium*, the very guarantor of a durable process.

***2-The saddle rural landscape among severe mountains, historic settlements and precious mineral springs – The Municipalities of Acquasparta and San Gemini***

*by Chiara Bagnetti*

***The process approach :History and characters of the places and the local communities***

***1) The Municipality of Acquasparta***

***1a -The areas of Martani Mountains***

The severe mountains and their territories are the *frontier areas* between the provinces of Terni and Perugia (Acquasparta, a small Town toward Terni; Spoleto and Todi, two small towns toward Perugia). Within these mountain places some small communities coexist on these isolated contexts. Throughout these places many historical itineraries crossed the territories along the centuries, starting from the devotional pagan pilgrimages, **the ancient Roman road** the “*via Flaminia*”, medieval mule tracks, transhumance of flocks, till the contemporary roads. These ancient itineraries have been progressively neglected. The local communities feel relegated within their small villages.

The local communities tend to maintain their original characters, and the ancient relationships between the small groups of inhabitants and their territories, like the domestic cultivations, or the management of their Commons, where they maintain the traditional activities (forests, wild pigs, truffles). A diffused desire of going beyond their present isolated condition (cultural, and economic) attracted these populations to participate in this landscape process by which started a renewed discovery of the local life environment.

*The Martani mountains workshops in progress*

*–First step* : The municipality of Acquasparta – the small communities of Firenzuola and Messenano

Rediscovering the **Landscape** with its memories: throughout a lot of Friendly Survey Promenades, Stories, historical archaeological scientific researches, comparisons of different conditions have been developed and led the groups to re-appreciate the network of historic and contemporary itineraries as intrinsic parts of their landscapes. In the past times these itineraries had allowed all inter exchanges and all communications between the communities and the significant ancient settlements (towns, villages, sacred places, fountains, forests). This landscape experience has

brought to light the forgotten potentialities of these territories and has contributed to revive the reciprocal confidence among the participants. This renewed confidence has been fundamental for the further steps of the process, which has been articulated in various shared perspectives. In this perspective many collaborations between the groups and the villages have been promoted. At the present the activities are in progress.

- *Second step:* A further involvement of the mountain villages (Casteldelmonte, Macerino, Scoppio, Portaria,) provoked positive reactions of the local inhabitants in spite of the persisting difficult for their social cohesion. In particular they have been interested in a reinterpretation of their Commons. Actually by this reinterpretation they can promote renewed modalities of the Commons management by **young** local people.

### ***1b The hilly villages (Casigliano; Rosaro, Selvarelle; Configni)***

- In this area all of the villages were strongly referred to **an** historic Farm Palace (Casigliano castle) and they constituted its rural pertinences. These territories have maintained their traditional connections along the centuries, till nowadays. Nevertheless they need to be reconnected in a contemporary economy by appropriate landscape actions in a socially managed perspective.
- Further information, inter exchanges, professional contributions and social experiences are in course.. .

### ***The results of these processes***

#### **The social perception emerged from the experiential population/landscape activities**

A diffused appreciation of their beautiful and peaceful landscapes has been manifested by the different groups, together with a sense of disease due to the recent marginalization of the small villages towards Acquasparta and the progressive social decline with the risk of abandon or pendular quality.

.. In any case all of the landscape experiences and the consequent description of the territory have been appreciated by the groups as an exciting opportunity to express and exchange their ideas about their wide but often fragmented environments.

#### ***The concrete achievements***

##### *Promotion and consciousness towards the life environments*

- -Landscape day : july 2010
- Water, bread and magic stories– Firenzuola – Messenano (Montagna- Acquasparta)



- Landscape -Projecting exploration Portaria-Macerino april 2011 (Montagna- Acquasparta)
- Landscape discovering promenade (Acquasparta – Castello di Casigliano) and (Colline- Acquasparta) 2011, april
- Landscape promenade from the lake’s dam to Marroggia small river (Proloco; Bonifica; Provincia) 2011, april (Montagna- Acquasparta)

### ***Perception’s maps***

- Map of the itineraries, resources and proposals about mountain landscape of Acquasparta and surroundings (Casteldelmonte; Firenzuola-Messenano; Scoppio; Macerino; Portaria) *in itinere*
- Map of itineraries,resources and landscape proposals on hilly areas - Acquasparta (Configni; Selvarelle; Rosaro, Casigliano) *in itinere*

### **The involved participants**

#### *Acquasparta small town :*

- Primary and middle schools
- Proloco Rosaro
- Municipality of Acquasparta

#### *Hilly areas*

- Proloco Casigliano
- Proloco Selvarelle
- Resort Castello di Casigliano
- Proloco Configni
- Local historian
- Persons among citizens

#### *Mountain areas*

- Proloco S.Maria in Rupis (Firenzuola- Messenano)
- Proloco Portaria
- Casteldelmonte association
- Coop. L’eco
- “Arcus” farm holidays Macerino
- Umbrian land-reclamation syndacate
- Comune di Spoleto
- Record Office of Spoleto

- Record Office of Terni
- Historian
- Citizens

## **2- The municipality of Sangemini**

### *The Territory of the saddle at the rim of the Terni punch bowl*

This territory has been characterized by:

- the beautiful small town of Sangemini, from the medieval age to the recent expansion
- the impressive Thermal Park created within the *Sangemini* springs place
- the ancient roman town of Carsulae along the Via Flaminia and its archaeological open air Museum
- a constellation of very small rural Villages

This strategic area of the saddle keeps a significant potentiality and a strong landscape appeal. At the present the whole area appears underestimated and neglected in conflict with its fragmented and separated exploitations.

### *The social communities*

All of the social communities both of the villages and of Sangemini are well rooted in their territories even if in different ways. At the same time the population of Sangemini is strongly linked to the Terni's economy (industries and other activities). Actually Sangemini constitutes a sort of residential periphery of Terni.

By a first approach of social perception we learned that:

The peaceful and beautiful town is very appreciated by the citizens

Nowadays the fountains park and the archaeological areas are underestimated.

A lot of cultural associations coexist within the town and they develop their own initiatives in an individualistic manner without a mutual communication.

In answer to this condition we promoted two Landscape Processes .

### *A -Sangemini town*

This process, which started with the involvement of the local groups of students- allowed a first concrete approach to the town surroundings and the promotion of the landscape survey promenades.

This experience provoked a chain of positive reactions by the local groups and stimulated further interests towards the abandoned resources of this territory. The local territorial infrastructures (Regional Railways, Thermal SPA, Ancient Roads, Springs, Parks, Archeological Heritage) have been reconsidered under a new perspective and they became a

profitable opportunity to inspire new forthcoming social manifestations which could be developed starting from the ancient via Flaminia Itinerary. These manifestations

### *B- The small Villages Constellation*

An experience of reinterpretation of the life environment condition of the villages which constitute the significant places (like the knots) of a diffused landscape texture.

The local groups who spontaneously live this condition are going to perceive their territories and the relational potentiality of themselves. They are at the moment working to organize appropriate events to improve these potentialities also in connection with the adjacent parts of the saddle.(Montecastrilli)

### ***The concrete achievements***

Knowledge and promotion of landscapes -

Survey promenades

Perception maps

Project proposals about exploration learning itineraries –renewed landscape interconnections

The involved groups and social actors

- Sangemini
- Primary and Middle schools;
- Municipal Counselors (town councilors)
- Proloco Association
- Acquamiele Association
- Canova 91 Association
- Calori Foundation
- Museums Management system
- Local Historian
- Citizens

### *Next objectives of this process*

- Strengthening and implementation of the two ATELIERS in the perspective of their collaboration (Genius Loci, itineraries, inter exchanges, social information, consciousness).Involvement of local professionals, researchers, entrepreneurs.

- Reworking of the thematic achievements about the waters (from past times to the recent years and the present situation). The landscapes of the secret, precious springs as Thematic Projects related to Acquasparta (Amerino springs) and Sangemini (Thermal Park), in the perspective of a renewed culture and social responsibility about the Water as a Common.
- The forthcoming event (may 2011) is being prepared by the local groups (experts, citizens, museums, entrepreneurs, in collaboration with Sangemini Municipality) under the auspices of the Province of Terni. This event will constitute a very strategic step to assure an appropriate further development of the landscape process.

### ***3-The fluvial Landscape of the NERA River: an artificial lake became a naturalistic Oasis. The Municipality of Narni, by M.Paola La Pegna***

#### ***The territorial context***

We have chosen a length of the Nera river situated between the town of Narni and the energy power's dam built at its confluence into the Tevere River. This area has been considerate in relation to the surrounding landscapes : the wide swamp which originated the Terni's punch bowl, the gorges with their complex geomorphology, and the hilly areas facing the river.

The contemporary condition of these impressive landscapes are at present very critical.

On one hand intensive agricultural productions, industries, gravel pit areas, energy power stations, infrastructures and urban sprawl have been disseminated along the river by a diffused over exploitation of its resources started since the century 19<sup>th</sup>.

On the other hand the previous historic settlements, the ancient infrastructures (the roman Via Flaminia with the Augustus' Bridge), with their complex technological systems, the ancient natural springs, the archaeological places, have been steeped and forced to coexist with these recent infrastructures. The tangle formed by these contrasting realities constitutes the contemporary river landscape which is characterized by a tangle of contrasting presences reciprocally close but at the same time completely disconnected, in a sort environmental schizophrenia.

Such a strong devastation is provoking an increasing civil reaction in particular by cultural/environmental associations, citizens, groups of students, local experts and professionals who have been involved in the participative landscape process.

#### ***The process approach***

This Participative Project started in the year 2010 through a preliminary contact with the local experts. Successively the process has been approached as a participative experience with the involvement of the local groups, associations, public bodies (politicians and technicians)schools, local Museums and local entrepreneurs (tourism, culture, agriculture).

The participative experience has been developed by several Landscape Surveys (as friendly meetings)throughout the **most** significant places along the river. All the above mentioned groups participated in these activities, discussed and exchanged their ideas, rediscovering the ecological

relationships “*society /environment*” on which their landscape had been shaped **over the** centuries .

### *The workshops*

The experiences have **been** developed and successfully propagated through a chain of workshops where small groups of participants could manifest their opinions, doubts, and proposals. The participants have suggested a wide range of thematic proposals and project ideas, all focused on the river environment. A lot of archaeological, environmental, cultural, didactic programs have risen from the discussions. A description of these discussions/reflections activities has been necessary to deepen further interdisciplinary and participative contributions, so that some thematic/ knowledge maps have been prepared as new working bases.

At the same time new workshops, meetings and unexpected relationships have been realized and they implemented complex procedures. Itinerant workshops, interactive meetings with official bodies, scientists, experts and citizens are in progress, as well as new specific thematic surveys on the most significant project -places.

### *The Process Balances*

The balances of these activities turned out very positive. The increasing complexity of these procedures and the successful results have encouraged the groups to implement their activities which are at the moment in progress.

The forthcoming activities will be dedicated to develop the phase of *landscaping action*, a very strategic step, which could be practiced by the participants and finally developed as a RIVER LANDSCAPE CONTRACT

### *The outcomes of the process*

#### *The acknowledgement of the territory-*

This has been tackled by contemporaneous direct and indirect approaches. The surveys, and the interpretations of the official maps and projects have addressed the group to discuss the critical conditions and the contradictions of their life environment toward new project proposals.

#### *The Community*

In the course of this process the group of participants increased, as a new developmental community which is able to manifest through it the belonging and fondness to the common life environments and its desire of **cooperation** about shared thematic projects oriented to the protection or management of the fluvial landscapes.

#### *Relationships and Communications*

The relationships play a fundamental role in this process, where, by a non hierarchical friendly atmosphere, a lot of unpredictable meetings and experiential interchanges among participants created new opportunities for the whole context (landscape jobs, creative management, environmental transformations). In this way the process can assure its continuity.

## ***A General Balance of the first Cycle of the Process***

*by the Scientific Coordinators*

***A final consideration about these three different process experiences suggests that:***

- The concrete perspective of ***renewed relationships*** among the local communities and their life environments ***is practicable***
- ***New communities*** can arise in the course of the processes **as from** the apparently chaotic contemporary situation, beyond the condition of the original inhabitants
- The ***Landscape*** can really constitute the base for a ***renewed self , with its context diversities, manageable life Environment which will be*** rich in aesthetical social appeal and in creative opportunities.
- The ***Landscape Contracts*** can effectively constitute a new modality of a sustainable participative collaboration for the ***Governance of the complex Mediterranean territories***, toward a ***real participative democracy***.
- This first cycle of our activities can be useful to:
  - a) *discuss and compare* these three different experiences of ***Landscaping Action*** in relation to their concrete feasibility and effectiveness, and to their real innovative proposals which are focused to the respective contexts (territories, cultures, social and political governments)
  - b) ***implement the European Landscape Convention*** throughout concrete cyclical verifications of its ***evolutionary opportunities***.