

S T U D I O

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CONNECTIVE EUROPE

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**EUROPE
DIRECT**

CATANIA



Connective Europe

Executive summary:

Aim of the project and main definitions;

Contents and implications;

Risks and opportunities;

Ways and reasons to implement.





Aim of this presentation is to produce a link between two ideas: the first is about how to communicate **common European values in culture** and the second is about how to **transform** this kind of communication in something which is **effective experience**. The link between these two is the **connective instrument** as medium of **social intelligence**.





Simplified and synthetic Definitions

**common European values in culture =
sharing of cultural heritage**

connective instrument = technologies

internet based

**effective experience = integrated relational
tourism, organic farming, ethnodramatics**

Social intelligence = connective experience





**The process of definition of terms as
“CONNECTIVISM” here purposing is
an autonomous development of
something that was provided during the
Online conference on Connectivism**

The event was virtually shared by Manitoba University in internet within 2-9 February 2007.

Among the relations: [George Siemens](#), [Stephen Downes](#) and [Terry Anderson](#).

Connective knowledge requires an interaction. More to the point,
connective knowledge is knowledge *of the connection*.



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From the Manitoba University online conference:

Physicality provides us with a substrate on which to hang our **interpretations**, as Kant would say, a necessary condition for the possibility of **perception**. Physicality moreover offers us a means of sorting between what might be called 'correct' interpretations and 'misperceptions', between reality and a mirage.

conspiracy theories - the postulation of a complex and inter-related set of people and events leading to the conclusion that someone is out to get you. Such theories, notoriously, **have no basis in the physical world**.

a complex **process of selecting** what might be called the most 'salient' data.

some connections are more salient than others.

Inference is the observation of salient similarities among thoughts and perceptions

The central idea of **associationism** is this: two things that are relevantly similar become connected in the mind.

Two neurons fire at the same time



Principles of Connective and Sharing Knowledge

- The respect of diversity of opinions in learning and knowledge
- Learning as a process of connecting specialized and special nodes or information sources
- Connections have to be nurtured and maintained to facilitate continual learning
- To be connectors means to be opened to not only human appliances, to be curious to know more
- Connectivism is aimed at looking for connections between fields, ideas, and concepts that are not always already connected and immediately connectable





The Meditheatre experience

“Historically, ETHNODRAMATICS is emerging when knowledge is being increased about other cultures, other world views, other life styles; when Westerners, endeavoring to trap non-Western philosophies, dramatics, and poetics in the corrals of their own cognitive constructions, find that they have caught sublime monsters, Eastern dragons who are lords of fructile chaos, whose wisdom makes our cognitive look somehow shrunken, shabby, and inadequate to our new apprehension of the human condition”

– Victor Turner in Performing Arts Journal, 1982.

The Meditheatre experience” is published in [EUROCULT21](#), another network of European Union - click on “stories” - the Meditheatre Experience is on page 100.



Risks and opportunities:

Difficult to understand the contents, undisposability to meet innovation in cultural field, problems to govern an international partnership, difficult to get financial lines to realize the project.

Results: extension of the meaning of local tradition and attitudes, growth of the sustainable tourism, improving of international relationship, possibility to get mobilization in private funding on project to improve the European cultural identity through mobilities experience.





Two simple steps

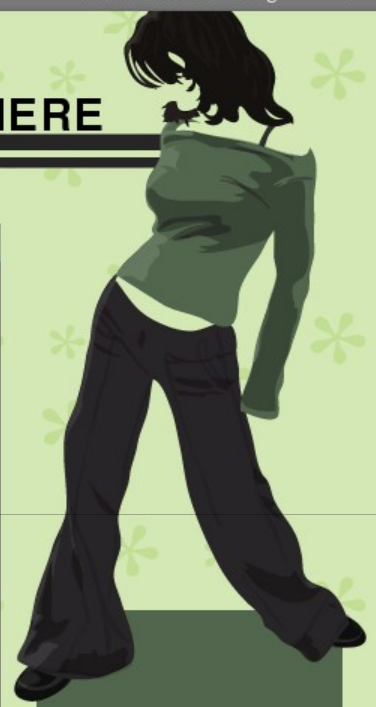
(implementation preliminary model):

- integrated paper about the theme of common shares values, using **ethnodramatics** and **anthropological instruments** related to sustainable organic farming (*as formerly developed during Interreg Italia-Malta programme*) and a modern conception of integrated relational tourism;
- Integrated relational experience with an **international meeting** and realization of a documentary audio/video about modern art, culture, archeological or/and natural sites or/and performing arts related to the main argument focused.



PROJECT'S WEBSITE

EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPEN SPHERE



{September 14, 2008} Connective Europe



SHARING ENLIGHTENMENT THROUGH CONNECTIVE EXPERIENCES IN ARTS

CONNECTIVE EUROPE is a project conceived in a full open source approach. Here we are talking about **OPEN SOURCE** not just in its technical implications, but in a more comprehensive meaning, which is also aesthetical, artistical and philosophical.

CONNECTIVE CONCEPTION requires to recognize the effectiveness of the links: so, nevertheless aware of the complex nature of the universe, the connective approach doesn't give up the idea of the clear understanding of the connective address of the communication. Looking for the causes a communication goes from A to B, so it is possible a better understanding and awareness of the common and shared values between individuals, and also among people, seeing the stars of common roots in **European** and **Mediterranean** cultures. This is the aim of the **CONNECTIVE EUROPE** project, and to contribute to its diffusion and expansion is to contribute to give people chance to mobility through Europe and Mediterranean, chance to explore and compare, chance to get hospitality, **chance to travel** not as a tourist but as someone who is doing a real initiatic experience, knowing the world through the nature of his (her) own desires of knowledge, sharing with people linked by a relational network founded over these **European common roots**.

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{September 13, 2008} Connective Open Source Europe

THE CONNECTIVE APPROACH, considered as aesthetical current, it express a strong criticism on post-modernism, which is considered as a reactionary conception.

This evaluation of the post-modernism is founded on the acknowledgement that the post-modern *theory of chaos* (the famous "butterfly effect", from the Edward Lorenz formula, according that the wings of a butterfly in Brazil, through several related events, can be considered the cause of a hurricane in Texas) is a way to renounce to understand the effective reasons why things happen. If we look better, we can find that post-modernism was buildt as aesthetical doctrine during the '80-'90s, when the needs of the establishment in Western countries was to cover the effects of '68 generational contestation.

And if we go backward, we can also easily discover that, before the long and desperated years of the two world wars (enlightened just by *avant-garde* movement as expressionism, dadaism and surrealism), the most important aesthetic conception, at the beginning of the XX century, was properly the **MODERNISM**.

Modernism (inter-related with the *art-nouveau* and *liberty* movements) was an aesthetic doctrine which was finding, in each of its expression, freedom from the mistakes of the past, and a new technological form of emancipation that was feeled by the people through the radio and the new world of the communication and transports.

Fascism and nazism were the awful tombs of the modernism as social and individual emancipation movement, so the current (nevertheless the quoted relvant experience through the *avant-garde* movements during the first half of the century) had to wait for the end of the world war two to re-flourish, and this happened with the psychedelic revolution during the '70s.

As Aldous Huxley prophetically foresaws, the new reactionary wave this time was not a repressive movements like fascism or nazism (as the Orwell's paradygmatic dictator of "1984"), but a soft-control through *propaganda* and voluntary addiction of drugs, as fundamental elements of the normalization of the opposition, done by the control of the star-system (here you find also the explanation of the reason why national policies preferes to maintain drugs as illegal tools).

The transformation of the emancipation movement in a show business and a nichilistic (or, at least) narcissistic choice of life was edified by the icons of *post-modernism, with its renouance to inquire, to research*, to understand (which instead was the spirit of the '70s). Everything was reduced to an edonistic meaning of life, just sex & drugs & rock'n'roll, without no social and political implication. Money, television, individual success were encouraged by the communication system, and the post-modernism was the polar star of this massification (as nullification of the dissident) process.



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{September 13, 2008} CONNECTIVISM, II

CONNECTIVISM is the aesthetical current which overcomes the reactionary wave of post-modernism. The refuse of the "butterfly effect" requires **for the connective social intelligence a next formulation of the Chaos' Theory** (refusing the Lorenz formulation "everything can generate everything") which will be able to receive the complexity but not to undergo to the impossibility of explanation.

Sure, there's not a phenomenon in the real world which is determined by just a cause. But, if I take a train that carry me from Rome to Paris, this will happen because of I take this train and not because of what I had for breakfast, or the colour of the clothes I choose that day. **The internet technologies and instruments, with the concept of link as relation to a place with another**, is a perfect metaphora of what we have to mean while we are searching for something whiche is related to something else. the way to reach are quite infinitive, but the reason is always done.

CONNECTIVISM wants and needs to understand the relation between light and material world, recognizing that the intermediate world between this narrow is the **world of colours and beauty**. Connectivism requires a social intelligence, that we can express imagining the individual as each neuron into the brain. When two neurons are well (harmonically) connected, they appear elightened. So it is for people: when they are well connected (because of intellective common interests, music, arts, and so on) they are enlightened.

This was very clearly expressed by classic thinkers passionated to the EUROPA idea, because we can find this concept in the words of philosophers and artists as Montesquieu, Voltaire, Blake, Picasso, Moureau, etc. as **EUROPA as Respublique des Lettres, as spiritual society**, as place of communication to build for each person a life who will means possibility for each one to improve himself in material, intellective and spiritual paths.

The last statement to make clear is that **CONNECTIVISM** feels the enlightenment diffusion process as something that is for all. Nevertheless the way to feel enlightenment shaping this concept like the predestination theory does (as something given just to some people, even before their birth in this world), the social intelligence of **CONNECTIVISM** feels enlightenment as a process that is for everyone. Instead, the problem is that there are still too much people that are not in condition (materially, psychologically, spiritually) to receive this light. For these reasons, **CONNECTIVE INTELLIGENCE** is to cooperate to produce a more equilibrate world through sharing knowledge and resources in a sustainable way.

Contribute to the building of this **CONNECTIVE SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE** is something that always starts from the real earth, from the territory where citizens lives (therefore it is very important the openness of local governance to this connective mentality), and the cooperation to make this process working at world wide level, through cooperative networks.

to be continued...



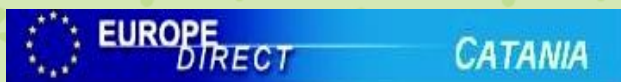
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EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPEN SPHERE

{September 13, 2008} CONNECTIVISM, III

We can look at this model of this diffusion process as something like the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) highest-energy particle accelerator complex, intended to collide opposing beams of protons (one of several types of hadrons) with very high kinetic energy, buildt by the **European Organization for Nuclear Research** (CERN), with a cooperation process which involves over eight thousand physicists from over eighty-five countries as well as hundreds of universities and laboratories. More social and less scientist, the aim is *quite* the same.

The idea is to set up a more strong communication between European partners at local level, building a two-ways communication about common culturale values, with a going-local approach, and cross-border mobility exchanges, which means to set up an **EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPEN SPHERE**.

This will be public because local government ought to allow people to have connectivity and public space where assist to exhibitions, films, politics, education, academy, with the involvement of schools, universities, organizations of the civil society and non-governmental organisation, **improving information and freedom of expression, empowering citizens through education and connectivity**, involving media and technology and the European public opinion, making inter-institutional agreements among the national, regionals and really local territories.

We desire to make culture something for everybody, something to share, building a plural idea of identity, with sociological and anthropological relation with **theater, music, plastic and perfoming arts**, to realize **unity in diversity** according to the real **European Spirit of reciprocal understanding and discovery**.

THE **CONNECTIVE EUROPE** project shows a way to cooperate between citizens and local governance (in an European framework), cuilding a network which desire to study and reasearch common roots in Europe values and cultures thorgh agreements and reciprocal hospitality, creating events, meetings and exhibition in culture and arts, transforming (with cooperation of Universities, Schools, Local Governments, Studies Centers, etc) travels into experience, retrieving the initiatic meaning the travel had during the romantic age of XIX century, and transposing in something no more reserved to some restrict *élites*, but **an experience for everyone who desire to know, to share, to get experience**.

References:

Communicating Europe in Partnership, COM(2007) 568 final;

Permanent dialogue between EU and citizens, SI(2007) 500;

Action Plan SEC(2005) 985;



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