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Project Report: Development of Integral Ecological Centres for Electrosensitive Individuals

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Introduction

Even if I think like Emmanuel Kant that “there is nothing more practical than a good theory“, I already felt at the beginning of my working with Spiral Dynamics integral the urge to grasp the comprehensive theory through concretion. This strong need to move words from abstractions of the world of thoughts into the world of forms, to shape them as material reality, may arise from my work as a dancer and choreographer. And how could this process be better carried out than by a long-term project that I would develop and support from the outset? “It is not enough to know—one must also apply. It is not enough to want—one must also act“. In accordance with these thoughts of Goethe’s, I saw in the objective “development of integral ecological centres for receiving Electrosensitive Individuals Research” a possibility to transform my wish into meaningful action. This project was initiated by the French association *L’EcoSource* and in search for cooperation partners, the centre for Human Emergence, Germany, on account of its orientation, turned out to be an adequate associate. In the complex interdisciplinary and multifactor context in which this project is embedded, the Meta perspective Spiral Dynamics integral offers is a sensible basis for thinking and doing. Furthermore, I have a special interest in the subject as I have been supporting a relative during the past 6 years who is afflicted with electrosensitive syndrome. Therefore I could gain a deep insight and extensive knowledge about this explosive and multi-layered topic. I personally bear upon the subject: with the support of an electrohypersensitive relative during the last 6 years, I could gain a deep insight and extensive knowledge about this explosive and multi-layered topic.

How Did the Project Originate?

From the individual ...

The history of Andre (names have been changed by the editor): 52 years old, formerly a teacher at a French agriculture school who can finally name his suffering after several years of his own intensive research: Electro- hypersensitivity. For Andre, like for most electrosensitive people, this allergy has tragic consequences on their lives: job loss, precarious financial situations, including indignity, problems in

the family, breakup with one's life partner, social isolation, no juridical and medical recognition, psychiatric branding, threats and attacks by the industrial lobbies...

The drama of this affliction is aggravated by the omnipresence of wireless technologies whose presence is nearly nationwide; it becomes almost impossible for the affected persons to avoid its effects. Yet the avoidance strategy, which is also valid for other allergy forms, would be the most effective protection.

To the collective ...

Because of his illness and the present situation in France and Western Europe where radiation-free zones are practically no longer existent, Andre decided to found an association, *l'EcoSource*. Within this framework he wants to make use of his history, of his far-reaching knowledge and his experience and begin a project that searches in southern regions, like Morocco, after dead spots and areas that are free from any chemical-electromagnetic pollution. His aim is to create living spaces and to build up infrastructures that enable those with allergies, specially electrosensitive persons, to ensure their survival and to recover.

Project Status and Integral Thinking

The project is in the start phase: contacting the authorities, searching for cooperation partners and choosing a suitable location.

According to the principles of SDI we first draw our attention to the context of the project and analyse the present paradigms in Western Europe and in the target country Morocco. Thereby we consider stakeholders and their priorities. The insight we gain from this observation helps us better understand the relationships and dynamic forces that underlie human behaviour. Then we set up the project in this bigger frame. Another basic statement of SDi is related to goal formulation: our own preferences and opinions should not be decisive, but they should be based on the natural needs and sensible growth steps of individuals and the collective. Here we deduce the project aims and the location choice from the identified needs of directly affected persons, the electrohypersensitives. Finally, dealing with the prevailing value systems in Morocco should make an adequate communication with the government authorities and the locals at the site easier. Our approach, according to the SDi model, aims at finding sustainable solutions by designing natural processes and bundling all available human and technical resources.

The Socio-political, Economical Context

We live in a dangerous age. The human being controls the nature, before he has learnt to control himself.

Albert Schweitzer

If we want to understand things even a little, it is necessary to look at the big picture. Spiral Dynamics integral is one of a few theories of development that have explored and systematised the interactions of stages of development with living conditions. One of the first questions we should ask ourselves concerns the context that is shaping the stakeholders: under which conditions do they live; that is, to what age, at which geographic places, under which social circumstances?

The present zeitgeist in Western Europe is rooted in the paradigm shift that began about 1700 in the "Aufklärung", the age of Enlightenment. The European wanted to separate himself from the omnipotent control of

the Fathers of the Church and the authoritarian imperious systems, and to turn toward the apparently infinite possibilities of the era of reason and the beginnings of the (natural) sciences. It was a thrilling time full of optimism, trust in the abilities of the individuals, and striving for personal freedom and autonomy. Kant conceived of the Aufklärung as an "exit of the human from its self-inflicted immaturity" and he called this immaturity the "incapacity to use one's mind without guidance through another". For the first time the human being perceived himself as empowered and entitled in the name of progress to consciously intervene in nature, to exploit it, to shape it and to subject it to his exploratory urge. Are the achievements that we owe to this new consciousness not a wonderful expression of human creativity? Should we not perceive them as a natural, meaningful development in an evolutionary context?

This age was characterized by the sentence "Reason brings truth to light". Where there is light, there is also shade. What we can observe in the industrialized countries is an over-technologization which has not been checked in its long-term effects, and which, powered by greed and striving for profit maximisation regardless of people and nature, progresses at tremendous speed. With this mindset the orange value system (see p.10) betrays its core leitmotif: reason. Technological progress has brought in the field of telecommunication's the still young and fantastic achievement of the wireless technologies that developed as one of its products the "magic" cell phone for everybody. What can turn out very helpful in emergency situations, has become a "must" in a globalized link up around the world and we cannot imagine it as not existing. For a whole population group, namely our youth, mobile phoning has fast grown to a status symbol. Those who do not join this technology are looked at as pitiful losers and outsiders. This luxury, being accessible everywhere and at any time or to be able to communicate with everybody at any time, claims a high price: our health. Indeed, with this "enchanted" technology a new worldwide increase in suffering is emerging for those with the electrohypersensitive syndrome, EHS. It impacts currently 5% to 15% of the population (estimate: 50% of the population by 2017 * Hallberg Ö, Oberfeld G (2006): werden wir alle elektrosensitiv? Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine, 25 S. 189-191). Since 2004 EHS has been officially recognised as a health problem by the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as Great Britain and Sweden. (www.amazinghealth.co.uk/electrosensitivity.htm Electrosensitivity—A new recognised condition)

The Stakeholders Involved in the Process

To understand the value systems and the priorities of the stakeholders in this context, it is necessary to define the involved persons or groups. We distinguish those who are directly involved in the project: the electrosensitive, the project initiator "L'EcoSource", the CHE (centre for Humanly Emergence) Germany, and cooperating partners in Morocco. The peripheral stakeholders are the social environment of the EHS (family, friends, colleagues, general public), the EHS associations, the wireless industry, the state, legislation, sciences, health politics/medicine and the media. With the differentiation of the stakeholders we can also identify more exactly the power arenas and spheres of influence in the whole system. We can estimate realistically where limits can be set for our own action. As an example, we will focus on some lobbyists.

The Priorities of the Peripheral Stakeholders in the Present Orange Context

The social environment is fascinated by the State-of-the-Art technology, enjoys the feeling of getting more autonomy, thanks to wireless phoning and values the comfort that it brings. A steadfast faith in progress and science rules here. Hedonistically, as an expression of this existence level, Orange deals reluctantly with disagreeable, annoying side effects of this technology on health. Also, it brings optimism that "this cannot be so bad, and we will surely find solutions in due course. The experts assure us that ...". This contributes to the

fact that hardly any sympathy and interest are shown for those with EHS. Sometimes they show even open rejection. Illness is perceived as a personal weakness that is an individual problem and nobody else's business.

On the side of **the politics and industry**, economic interests are in the foreground: "holy" expansion, growth, competition and assertion in the world scene. The fact that a (still) small percentage of the population falls ill, plays hardly a role in consideration of the political-economic interests at the closed orange level. Business crime is a pathological form of orange. That is reflected through the intimidation and threats by lobbyists against those who want to provide information about the dangers of the wireless technology.

Science, which represent the core code of orange in its essence—that is "autonomy and reason"—gets more and more dependent on industry and their priorities because of financial constraints. The whole discussion about EHS, whether concerns are justified or not, is due to the fact that the experts do not agree with another. As soon as results are presented that point unambiguously to the danger of wireless technology, they are quickly disproved by other scientific studies financed by industry. One of the features of the orange level is the ability to manipulate results (and people) for own purposes. With this strategy the wireless industry together with the support of some scientific allies achieves uncertainty and delay.

Medicine, as a special section of the natural sciences, plays a central role in our case. It still relies on a Newtonian world view that is based on a mechanistic cause and effect concept as a basis for diagnostics and therapy. It is, therefore, content with a symptom treatment. It has clearly reached its limits as the continuously rising number of diseases worldwide gives evidence. Many fields of alternative medicine that rely on a comprehensive view of the person and try to do justice to the huge complexity of the human organism and its processes enjoy no recognition in an orange system. This is reflected in the fact that the health insurance funds bear the expenses for alternative methods in most west-European countries only hesitantly. Electrohypersensitivity belongs unambiguously in the section of environmental medicine. Yet this is a young sector. The electrosensitive as a special issue still represents no official research and application field of medicine. It does not appear in the curriculum of medical education. This leads to the fact that the majority of physicians do not know the clinical picture of EHS and therefore do not accredit it. Because they cannot recognize the described symptoms of their patients unequivocally to known classifications, EHS patients often are "psychiatrized". All their symptoms are interpreted as depressive, psychotic and paranoid elements. Treatment consists in the prescription of psychotropic drugs up to psychiatric internment.

Life Conditions, Priorities and Needs of the Persons Directly Involved in the Project

The emergence of this allergy with its set of problems is an outcome of the spirit of the age (*Zeitgeist*), which is anchored in the orange value system. The difficulties for those with EHS to be heard and to enforce their rights are to be viewed in this social orange context. Their living conditions are extremely precarious. From a geographic point of view, the EHS are condemned to be on the run, if they want to safeguard their health. Because the wireless operating companies want to remain competitive and strive to enable almost everybody any time and everywhere to phone, the wireless transmission antenna towers are located all over the country. For the EHS that means specifically they must look for dead spots by exploring new living spaces in deserted regions. They may leave their country and immigrate, e.g., to Africa. Population density plays a major role for the EHS, because most people have a cell phone today or are equipped with WLAN. That's why electrosensitive people search for areas with low population. The atmospheric conditions exert influence on the EHS. A damp climate transfers the electromagnetic waves easier than does a dry climate. This can play a measurable role for sensitive people and we will take it into consideration by choosing a suitable location for the project.

Regarding Social Environment. After the outbreak of their illness and depending on severity, the EHS suffer job and financial loss as well as any legal protection. This leads to social decline for most of them. Many EHS see their marriages or partnerships going to pieces; friends withdraw due to lack of understanding. A time of isolation begins. Because some EHS depend on protective clothing in the form of veils and sometimes protective suits, as soon as they want to participate in social life, their appearance often produces rejection, sneer and exclusion. A picture comes to mind here: the “outlaws of Postmodernism“.

The fact that their illness is not taken seriously by those who pledge, “The health of my patient should be the highest command of my action” (see the „Geneva declaration of the world doctor’s alliance), the physicians, squashes hopes for recovery. The psychiatrization seals their debasement.

Thus it comes as no surprise that the EHS express the following needs in a survey (Survey in 2009, meeting of EHS, France): To find ways of survival, to recover, to find radiation-free zones and refuges, to get out of isolation, to demonstrate, to exchange experiences, to create “healthy villages”. They name as priorities: to prevent health degradation and decrease of quality of life as well as a severe health disaster, to get out of the pathology of the system and its technological exaggerations, to enable the establishment of secured living spaces for the EHS.

The Project Initiator L’EcoSource and the Center for Human Emergence, Germany, Austria, Switzerland. These organizations share common values and priorities that place an integral approach in the center of their thinking and acting. L’EcoSource commits itself to tourism and sustainable local development. This means support of the human patrimony cultural heritage and the resources of the territories, the participation and emancipation of local players, cooperation with local initiatives and projects, support for and development of cultural minorities, and appreciation of know-how in all its forms of expression. In this frame a special place is assigned to the topic of the EHS. The CHE, Germany Austria, Switzerland aims at finding regional and global answers for some urgent themes of our society and targets supporting and monitoring systems change and transformation in individuals, organisations and in whole cultures.

The Project: Design and Development of Ecological Centres for Electrosensitive and Environmentally Allergic Subjects in the South of Morocco.

The partners cooperated in formulating **superordinate goals**:

- To transform, globally, the handling of noxious wireless phoning and of minimizing the importance of pollution in general.
- To draw attention to the situation of the Electrosensitive through communication and public work, to raise dismay and critical voices regarding wireless technology in order to exert pressure on governmental policy-makers.
- To assert the right to maintain of healthy living spaces as one of the most basic human rights.
- To support North-South exchange.

The short-term aims are deduced from the needs of the EHS that were collected within the scope of surveys and investigations.

- To create spaces and time for Electrosensitive recovery and vital positioning.
- To increase life quality during their stay.
- In particular to offer them an effective therapeutic environment at the bio-psycho-social and spiritual levels in a holistic approach:

Location choice: South of Morocco

The choice of the location is also derived from the living conditions and needs of the EHS and from what, in terms of “Natural Design” is natural, already given and manageable without artificial strains.

- The possibility to live in a place where the closest antenna tower is at least 5 km away.
- Existence of (deserted) villages without electricity.
- Sunny, dry and warm weather all year round.
- An area low in allergens (seashore, mountains).
- Steady high-pressure weather.
- A peaceful social rhythm.
- On account of the relatively low cost of living, an affordable stay can be offered, also over months; this has a great importance for the target group.
- Medical infrastructure with European standards available.
- Within two to three hours flight accessible from Europe, but also accessible over land.
- Openness of the local authorities: in this area the Moroccan government promotes ecotourism as against mass tourism on the coast.

The south of Morocco fulfils the ecological, climatic and geographic conditions. This is the external, physical dimension. Yet, do the internal worlds and the project fit? An analysis of the existing levels in the country and in the regions is a prerequisite: which living conditions prevail, which value systems exist, how do they fit to the priorities of the EHS and to the goals of the co-operation partners? The failure of several projects that are supported with much money and good will by some NGOs can be traced back to missing the importance of these dynamics.

Context in Morocco

The value systems in Morocco range over three main centers of gravity that vary depending on the geographic locations. In towns and in the Arabic-influenced zones, the center of gravity is based on the blue existence level, such as political guidance through the king. In the areas populated by Berbers, the center of gravity is based on purple. The red level exists as a transition, so that we can see the south of Morocco with a PURPLE-red center of gravity and the north with a red-BLUE one. This range is attributable to the different living conditions. The economic and technical development is further advanced in towns than in the countryside. We also observe the emergence of orange due to the governmental efforts to develop the country economically and technically. An analysis of the spreading of the centers of gravity gives us valuable information to understand the needs of our fellow human beings, to perceive their priorities and “to speak their language” when we get in touch with them.

Purple Level (Kinspirits, Mystical Ethnic Belief), *Collective Pole*

In a purple context the interests of the tribe are in the foreground. Nothing and nobody should threaten the safety of family bonds. The project will look for contact opportunities, while valuing the traditions of the clan, its folk culture, respecting the ritual ways and rhythms of the group as well as its social order. The contact person is the tribal chief and his closest peers. Because the meaning of magic is central, the suffering of the EHS is interpreted in this context. Cell phones and wireless telecommunication do not exist in most of the villages, and if they do, they are looked upon as an enchantment. The fact that a cell phone can make people sick by invisible, inaudible, odorless waves, will probably find more acceptance and understanding here than

from the orange system. Doubts are not expressed, questions are not asked, but rather the matter is accepted as something “natural” in an animistic world populated by mysterious powers and spirits. For the EHS this means to move in a normal way again. The EHS community will be perceived by the purple level as a big family, as a clan which shares similar values, and provided that they do not threaten the cohesion of the tribe, they can live peacefully in coexistence.

Red Level (Egocentric, Impulsiveness), *Individual Pole*

The emergence of the red system is reflected in the improvement of the living conditions of some villagers, for example by the implementation of successful women’s cooperatives. With the extraction of the valuable Argan oil tribal members find a way to earn their living independently and to contribute with pride to the improvement of the family income. The project can support this development and create alternatives for positive expressions of the red level as individuals stand out through a personal contribution from the tribe (group). They can bring in specific skills and experiences within the project as well as assume certain functions and activities. It is important that the project managers clearly describe how they personally benefit from the project in the short term.

Blue Level (Meaning and Order), *Collective Pole*

The project should make the higher purpose and the deep meaning clear: to help suffering people to recover. The contribution of local partners to this higher goal should be emphasized. Local authorities must be consulted in everything, their rules observed and hierarchical structures respected, even if bureaucracy slows down the processes. It is important for them to have everything under control. The project managers should very clearly describe the concept and the proposals with a comprehensible, manageable schedule. It is advisable to award titles, to assign unambiguously defined functions and duties.

Orange Level (Autonomy and Reason), *Individual Pole*

At the local level this value system is hardly visible. Therefore, all functions and jobs that require an orange consciousness should be carried out by the project employees who feel comfortable with this system. Because the Moroccan government is anxious to speed technological progress and economic growth, the issue of wireless technology, as a token of modernity, is promoted. An open fight against wireless technology has no chance. Nevertheless, the project can address orange values by introducing fresh ideas or content in this context. For example, there would be an opportunity for Morocco to be active in a new lucrative business segment in the tourism sector. Due to the forecast increase of the EHS worldwide who will look for protected zones, the demand for ecological villages is likely to increase accordingly. The project should suggest win-win solutions and protect itself from potential rip-off of ideas and risks of manipulation with clear contracts.

This first analysis will help the project managers address their stakeholders in a sophisticated way, to understand their needs and their potentials as well as to be aware of the limits and dangers at each level. The task at this stage of the feasibility study will be to check in terms of Natural Design, whether the intended concept of the project will blend and fit in nature and culture, in both internal and external worlds, individually and collectively.

Conclusion

We think that this project has the chance to connect the past and the future through the present. Our hope is that this venture will draw attention to an urgent ecological and sanitary issue and can prevent possible dramatic economic outcomes, like an emergency driven north-to-south immigration.

And here the circle closes. If we take the initial bird's-eye view again, we can gain an additional perspective on this topic. Inseparably from our existence as human beings are diseases that we have to cope with in the course of our individual and collective history over and over again. No sooner is a suffering overcome than it is replaced with a new one. It seems that every age develops its own disease patterns. If like Aristotle and Hegel we sense a Telos, that is a purposeful power, in our evolutionary development, then we are aware of a deeper meaning in all that occurs to us. Could the meaning of illness be alluding to our collective blind spots in our potential to thrive and in the ways we shape our life on this planet? Could our bodies be a reflection of our global psychic ailments? Do our symptoms offer us metaphors that show us which healing our soul is crying for? Then our fellow human beings, who suffer from EHS, would be the involuntary messengers of valuable hints that could transform our consciousness, if we know how to decipher them beyond ignorance and fear.

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