

DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

# ALTER

Towards a Sustainable Future

# NATIVES

A documentary film by  
**Agustí Corominas** and **Juan del Río**



[www.alternativasdocumental.info](http://www.alternativasdocumental.info)



# What is ALTER NATIVES?

“Alternatives”, from latin **Alter (other)** y **Nativus (born)**, refers to the search for new realities, new origins. This is the starting point for this documentary project: showing innovative initiatives of socio-ecological transition. Diverse experiences that provide responses to the world-wide systemic crisis (energetic, economical, ecological, social, cultural and epistemic) that we are suffering.

**ALTER NATIVES** is a collaborative film that seeks to address certain questions from a proactive approach.

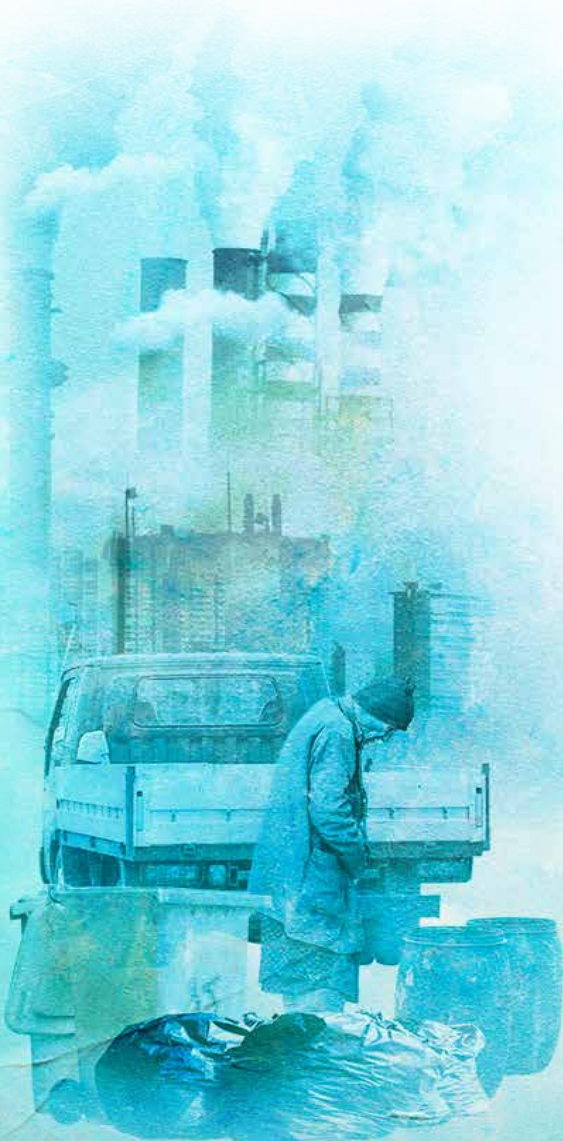
How can we cope with this situation and adapt to a changing reality?

What individual and collective alternatives are being put in place in order to transition towards resilient communities and more sustainable lifestyles?

What new stories and experiences can shape the future of our neighbourhoods, towns and cities?

How can we start walking towards a new economy that promotes social justice and harmony towards our planet and amongst ourselves?

This documentary feature aims to give answers to all of these questions by showing initiatives from diverse fields that can inspire people to take action.



# Why do we need a documentary like this?

We live in times of economic, social and ecological uncertainty. Multiple planetary systems that are essential to life — such as the climate, soils and oceans — are being severely altered. At the same time, socioeconomic inequality rates continue to grow, generating more poverty and exclusion. Humanity, who is primarily responsible of this situation, is facing its biggest threat ever. This great transition is taking place: there is no way back and no time to waste.

In this context, multiple initiatives and projects are emerging, searching for ways of living that are more equitable and caring, in tune with planetary limits. Working at different levels and in different fields, they seek to transform this systemic crisis into an opportunity to redesign our culture.

More than ever, we need to give visibility to these stories whose main characters are ordinary people like you and me. The critical mass of transformative initiatives has to grow in order to achieve an impactful process of socio-ecological transition. We need to connect, to learn from one another, and to inspire a significant part of the population.

Audiovisual language has nowadays the greatest impact. However, there is hardly any quality documentary addressing this issue from a systemic perspective. We need more of these materials in order to reach more people.

For these reasons, we believe that it makes sense to develop a project like this documentary film.





# What are the contents?

The documentary aims to show:

- Socioecological transition initiatives as they are widely understood. Initiatives that are transformative and innovative, that foster a regenerative culture.
- Change processes at ecological, economic, social and cultural levels.
- Different interrelated areas where the transition process is key:
  - Energy (including housing and mobility).
  - Economy.
  - Food (production and consumption).
  - Education (formal and informal).
  - Governance (community, municipalism, etc).
- Transition processes, both at the collective and individual levels.
- What drives participants to develop their projects.
- The itinerary undertaken by the initiative: starting point, how they evolve, conflicts (internal and external) that arise and how they overcome them.





# What aspects do we want to highlight?

Some of the key ideas we want to highlight are:

- Showing the initiatives as an ensemble, favouring their sense of interdependence and unity through the transition process.
- The importance of the environment in which the project is developed, and how they interact.
- Giving as much visibility to the external transition (social and ecological change) as to the internal transition (emotional) of the people involved.
- Highlighting the ecofeminist vision: the caring economy, attention to people, to the earth.
- Reflecting a vision of possibility that integrates the importance of celebration and learning.
- The importance of mutual support between projects, favouring and highlighting the need to weave networks.
- Showing how alive change processes are, and their interdependence.
- Reflecting as wide a range of initiatives as possible, with differences in terms of scale, scope and location.
- Showing the linguistic diversity of each territory, allowing each initiative to be presented using their own language.
- Taking into account aspects such as gender, age and urban/rural contexts.



# What initiatives will be shown in the documentary?

The initiatives included in the documentary will be those developed by the people and towns of the Spanish state, with the possibility to add some initiatives from Portugal and other European or Latin American countries. This choice responds to the fact that most existing documentaries about this topic are presented from an Anglo-Saxon perspective. This is a realistic territorial scope for the documentary's purpose.



The initiatives shown will be local in scale but with a universal interest, “glocal” initiatives. Below is a description of these types of initiatives:

## ENERGY

Public and community-driven initiatives towards the energy transition.

Projects that aim to decarbonise our economy, fight climate change and reduce their use of fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources.

Initiatives that stand out because of their “commitment” and “conscience” energy-wise, both for groups and individuals.

Aspects directly related to energy, such as mobility or housing.





Some examples of experiences that could be shown:

- Green energy production and distribution cooperatives.
- Sustainable mobility projects.
- Energy transition in a big city.
- Energy self-production initiatives.
- Projects that fight energetic poverty.
- Natural / Green building projects.

## FOOD

The importance of small producers, connected to the earth as a form of resistance and an alternative to agribusiness.



The initiatives' commitment to food sovereignty and to the conservation of seed diversity and its availability.

The struggle to access land, both in cities and in rural areas.

Agroecology as a scientific discipline, a productive model and a social movement, connected to the social economy.

The importance of preserving the knowledge of previous generations.

Permaculture as a design system that creates resilient ecosystems, in harmony with living environments.

The need to work in networks and to become conscious consumers.

Some examples of these initiatives could be:

- Networks of urban gardens.
- Networks of land banks.
- Experiences of land defence and agroecological production.
- Initiatives of small producers and their networks.
- Permaculture initiatives.
- Green consumption initiatives.

# ECONOMY

More ecological production and consumption models, that promote wellbeing instead of wealth accumulation.

Issues like the role of money, trade and technology.

Social currencies as a transition tool to promote an alternative economic model based on essential needs.

Our current dependency on big companies and global markets.

Initiatives of different economic organisations that put people (instead of profit) at the center.

Alternatives that show ways towards a social and solidarity economy.

Economic models aligned with degrowth, Good Living (“Buen Vivir”), the Economy for the Common Good and relocalisation, leading to a balance with our planet.

Some possible examples of experiences like this are:

- Exchange networks and social currencies in neighbourhoods and towns.
- Social and solidarity economy networks.
- Community production models.
- Credit unions.
- Mutual support networks.
- Transition businesses.
- Integral cooperatives.
- Community-based repair and recycling projects.





# EDUCATION

We consider education to be one of the main pillars for the transition towards a fairer world, more connected to life.



The importance of building a new conceptual framework for education, both in formal and informal education. This framework is already beginning to develop specific experiences.

Initiatives that establish a new relationship with nature based on the interdependence between living beings, and a creative and committed relationship with the community.

Each person's education and training, an assessment of their inner world, learning to act with one's head, heart and hands.

Initiatives that show the importance of establishing a healthy emotional and affective environment, as a key aspect for the happiness of people and groups.

New values such as ecofeminism, resilience, interdependency and alterity. New ways to communicate about the transition processes, to involve new people and create new possibilities.

Some possibilities of experiences that will be shown are:

- Education seminars for transition: networks of schools with vegetable gardens.
- Students' cooperatives.
- Universities in transition.
- New transition curricula for schools.
- Organic school canteens networks.
- Self-sufficiency schools.
- Education for transition.
- Transition audiovisual and written communication projects.





# GOVERNANCE

How we relate to each other and organise our projects. We need to learn how to live and work in a more collective way in a society where individualism and competition is widely encouraged.



Understanding how different community initiatives are born and evolve. How these organisations can be efficient and resilient, promoting the inclusion of all voices and opinions. Creating trust and empowering people.

Which are the main challenges of community initiatives. How to make decisions and deal with conflicts.

The importance of facilitators in group processes, also in terms of internal transition.

How can we work hand in hand with different stakeholders, such as public administrations, local projects and businesses.

Some of the examples that may be included in this part are:

- Ecovillages.
- Transition towns.
- Sociocracy.
- Community initiatives networks.
- Self-managed projects.
- Transition initiatives.
- Facilitation for group processes.





# Which will be the treatment of the contents?

## NARRATIVE ASPECTS




The project is shaped as collaborative documentary, where the intervention of its protagonists and their experiences pushes the story forward. Rather than a set of initiatives presented in a sequence, more or less accurately, it is a single



story — the story of Transition — seen from different interlaced perspectives (food, energy, education...) that move forward with achievements, difficulties, conflicts... woven together in a discursive framework that is yet to be determined.

We will try to present the contents through the experiences of the protagonists themselves, unless where otherwise needed. The interventions by protagonists will intertwine and advance together, supporting the idea that they participate in the same project from different sides.

Metaphorically, the three dimensions of the transition process will be covered. The three parts will be interwoven throughout the story:

-  **Head** = Short introduction to the crisis of civilisation.
-  **Hands** = Ongoing transition initiatives. Main part of the documentary.
-  **Heart** = Working on human relationships (Inner Transition).

## VISUAL ASPECTS

The documentary will be filmed in the same place where the initiatives take place, taking into account external aspects (space, time of the year...) and relational, personal or internal





aspects (people that intervene, environment of the initiative...). Close-ups of the protagonists will be used, in a direct film style.

We will also put a great deal of attention to lighting, image composition and framing, so as to favour and reinforce the contents of the documentary.

The documentary will be filmed in FULL HD (High Definition) or 4K, ensuring that we get a high quality image. A professional edition software, such as Final Cut Pro or Premiere C 10, will be used.

The possibility of using animations to provide more graphic explanations is not excluded.

## SOUND ASPECTS

Sound treatment will be made in a way that allows to make the most of direct and natural sound, giving realism to the initiative pictured. We will be attentive to ambient noise as well, to better reflect the everyday reality of them people and their initiatives.



If needed, we might use some external musical fragments, but in a way that doesn't alienate the audience from the initiatives. A studio voice-over might be used in a similar way, only if necessary.

The standard recording will be made with 2-track lavalier microphones. When recording group conversations, shotgun microphones will be used.

## FORMAT

The recording will be made in a 16:9 panoramic format. We plan to film a 90' feature, with the possibility to make a shorter, 50-60' version for TV broadcasting.



# Team

**ALTER NATIVES** is a documentary directed and coordinated by Agustí Corominas and Juan del Río. Mario Chaparro, Quim Muntané and Llorenç Torrades conform the rest of the team.



## Agustí Corominas

Documentary director for institutions, cinema and TV with over 20 years of experience. He has worked for different organizations.



## Juan del Río

Biologist and educator for sustainability. Coordinator of **Red de Transición (Transition Spain)** and member of **Municipalities in Transition**. Activist and writer. Author of “**Guía del movimiento de transición**” (Guide to the Transition Movement).

More information: [www.juandelrio.net](http://www.juandelrio.net)





## Mario Chaparro

Graduate in Audiovisual Communication and web designer. Vocational illustrator and painter. Committed to **Red de Transición**, a project of which he is member.



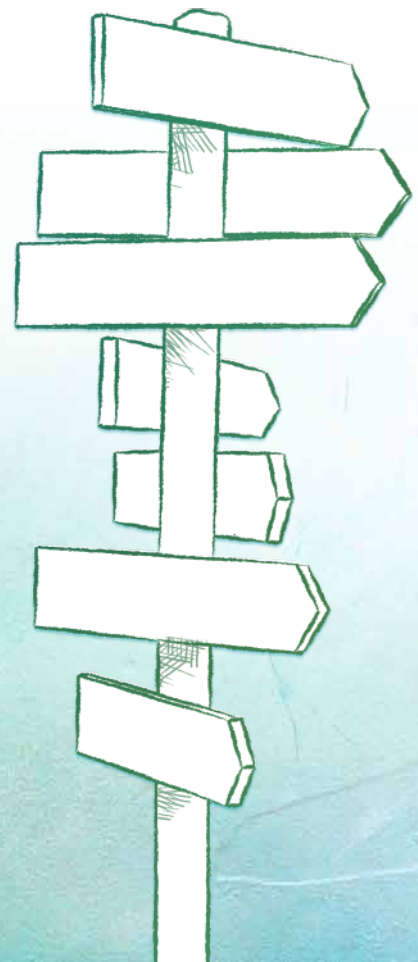
## Quim Muntané

Environmental scientist and geographer. He works as a freelance environmental consultant and project manager. He takes part in cultural and environmental activism in different organisations.



## Llorenç Torrades

Director of **Babuin Media**, an audiovisual production company. He has been collaborator of several televisions and private companies (TVE-TV3-NG) in audiovisual projects.



# Calendar and work plan

## January 2016 - August 2019

Pre-production tasks: defining the project, getting to know the experiences, fundraising, screenplay and shooting plan.

## November 2019 - October 2020

Post-production tasks: final screenplay, editing, mixing, creation of masters and copies.

## August 2019 - May 2020

Documentary shooting.

## From October 2020 onwards

Documentary promotion and shows.

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## Organisations and people who support the project

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**ALTER NATIVES** is a project with an important collective dimension. Many people and organisations are supporting and helping to develop it, and many others are yet to come. Without their support, this project would not be possible.

The team behind the project hopes that these initiatives will consider the documentary as their own, and that they make use of it as a tool to show the need of a transition towards a sustainable way of life.

Red de Transición holds a significant involvement in the project, and so do different related projects and networks.

Below is a list of some of these initiatives that have openly show their support.

Many thanks to all of them and to all those that will join.



## PEOPLE

- Rob Hopkins
- Gustavo Duch
- Marga Mediavilla
- Pilar Sampietro
- Robert Hall
- Filipa Pimentel
- Luís González Reyes
- Diego Isabel de la Moneda
- Ana Huertas
- Daniel Wahl
- Toni Lodeiro
- Yayo Herrero
- Antonio Turiel
- Manuel Casal Lodeiro
- Ángeles Santos
- Fernando “Topo Sudaka”
- Ricard Jornet
- Pablo Cotarelo
- Pep Puig
- Emilio Mula
- Jorge Carrasco
- Juan Bordera
- Members of local initiatives, working groups, educational seminars...

## ORGANISATIONS

- International Transition Network
- Red de Transición (Spain)
- Transition Network Portugal
- “Soberanía Alimentaria, Biodiversidad y Culturas” magazine
- Ecologistas en acción
- Ecologistes en acció Catalunya
- Plataforma Rural
- Som Mobilitat
- Fuhem Ecosocial
- The Oil Crash Observatory
- The Urban Resilience Research Network
- ECOLISE
- DESEEEA
- 15/15\15
- NESI
- Phoenicurus
- All the initiatives and projects presented in the documentary



New  
Economy &  
Social  
Innovation



**DESEEEA**  
DIPLOMA DE ESPECIALIZACIÓN EN  
SOSTENIBILIDAD ÉTICA ECOLÓGICA  
Y EDUCACIÓN AMBIENTAL



**Plataforma  
RURAL**  
Alianzas por un Mundo Rural Vivo



# ANNEX I: Key concepts

## Transition Movement

The International Transition Movement is one of the biggest eco-social experiments currently under way. It is happening in more than 50 countries. In only 13 years of existence it has been able to create an increasing impact in the development of more sustainable lifestyles. Transition initiatives are towns, cities, neighbourhoods or collectives that, faced with the inevitable decrease of energy consumption, economic contraction and climate change, organise themselves to collectively respond to these realities and creatively transition to a more local and self-sufficient future: a future with a better quality of life that recognises the biophysical limits of the planet.

## Red de Transición (RedT)

Is the Spanish national hub of the Transition Movement. It is a non-profit project comprised of a diverse group of people that works to make the Transition Movement more visible and dynamic throughout Spain. Red de Transición also works to support local initiatives and connect them to each other in addition to the **International Transition**

**Network** (comprising the [Transition Network](#) and more than 20 [national and regional networks](#)).

## Socioecological Transition

Social, economic and ecological transformation processes, understood in a wide sense. It includes many movements and initiatives, including the transition movement, ecovillages, degrowth, permaculture or ecofeminism. It is an attempt at creating an enriching, healthy and supportive context in order to create resilient societies, less dependant on fuel and other non-renewable resources, and more in tune with the planet's biophysical limits.

## Resilience

Inherent ability in any system (personal, social, natural or planetary) to absorb shocks and reorganise itself when change occurs. This way, the system maintains its essential functions, structure and identity. In reference to social communities, a resilient community would have the capacity to adapt to the scarcity of energy resources or food, climatic catastrophes, etc.



## ANNEX II: Useful links

### Red de Transición (RedT)

[www.reddetransicion.org](http://www.reddetransicion.org)

### Revista Soberanía Alimentaria

[soberaniaalimentaria.info](http://soberaniaalimentaria.info)

### Transition Network

[transitionnetwork.org](http://transitionnetwork.org)

### ECOLISE

[www.ecolise.eu](http://www.ecolise.eu)

### Municipalities in Transition

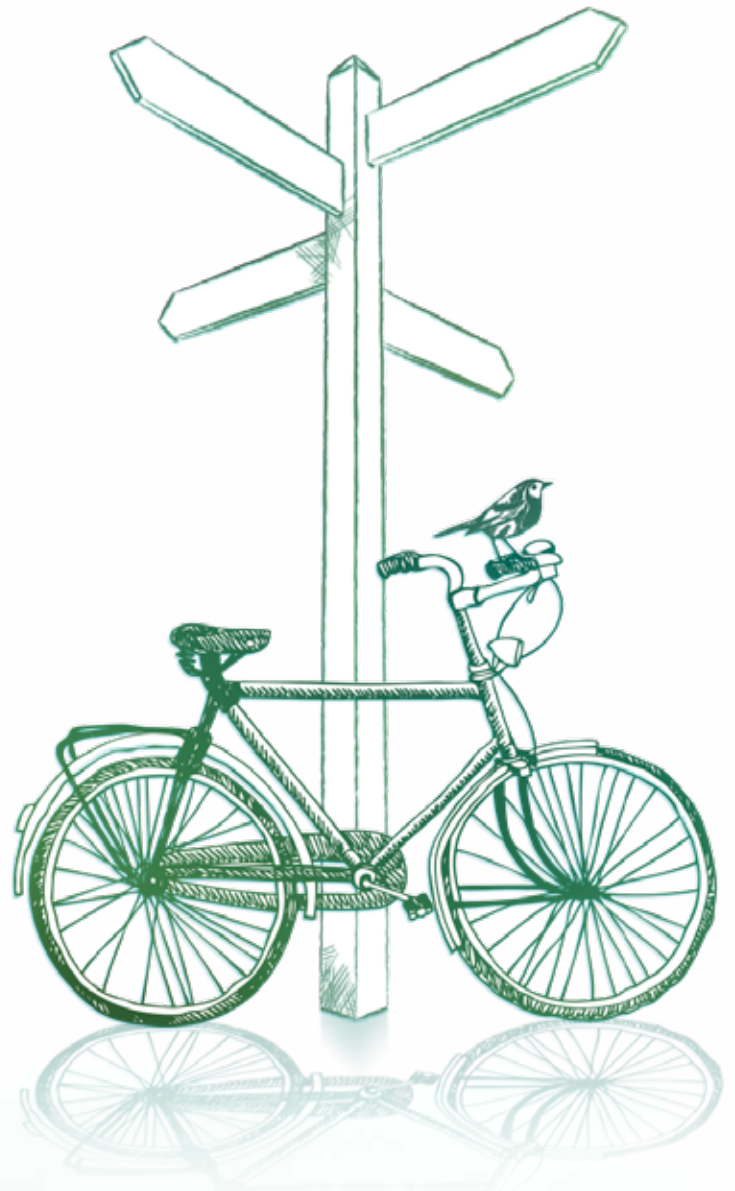
[municipalitiesintransition.org](http://municipalitiesintransition.org)

### Guía del Movimiento de Transición

[juandelrio.net/guia-del-movimiento-de-transicion](http://juandelrio.net/guia-del-movimiento-de-transicion)

### Guía del Esencial para hacer la Transición

[transitionnetwork.org/resources/la-guia-esencial-para-hacer-la-transicion](http://transitionnetwork.org/resources/la-guia-esencial-para-hacer-la-transicion)





Contact  
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More information  
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