



The distribution of olive oil from both cooperatives „Modousa“ and „Greenland“ from Lesbos resp. from the Peloponnese to more than 700 solidary Berlin citizens was completed. It was a lot of work but also great fun! There are many interesting people, who are participating. And the whole action was concluded by celebrating a party in the rooms of the host of this year „Werketage“(working floor) with the most beautiful Greek music.

It was the third Direct-Marketing of olives and olive oil from Greece. With it two cooperatives shall be supported in order to be able to overcome the times of crisis and unemployment. Because the attempt to start anew the cultivation of two olive groves together with the neighbours in order to generate new income is formidable and very impressive. After innumerable meetings and thousands of Emails the moment had come. More than 700 Berlin citizens had ordered Oil and payed it. And in Greece pallets with oil cans were packed, the additional cargo organized. But it stayed exciting till the end. Because first there was another strike in Greece, by the way quite rightly so. That is why the oil respectively the truck did not leave. Then our seven highly loaded pallets got stuck in Potsdam. Oh dear! The three days of delivery were already communicated to those who were participating since quite a while! But then a new SMS arrived, and Klaus and Heidi got up at 5 o'clock in order to finally receive the truck at 6 a.m.!

But then „SoliOli“ was real fun. Klaus was sitting behind his list and checked the list. Britta, Ursula, Ulrich, Elisabeth and and and, the others opened the boxes and carried the cans and bottles to those who were picking up the ordered goods. Three Greek sunny and hot days in the fourth floor of the „Werketage“ in the old factory building of the Saarbrucker Strae in the Center of Berlin. More than 700 Berlin citizens were looking for the „SoliOli“-Team in order to pick up their already payed orders. People came one after the other and took seriously and carefully their bottles with olive oil or 5 liter cans. Many thanked the team, that they had undertaken all organizing work in order to enable this act of solidarity economy! Some even picked up half a dozen cans and many bottles as well as dozens of bags with shrink-wrapped olives or olive paste for half a street respectively for their people. One person from Potsdam packed her car with goods for various families of friends. Those who were helping were very active and those who did not have anything for the moment to help were chatting with those who looked for their goods. Or they were talking with the representatives of groups with whom they were friends, who represented similar models of solidarity economy. You could feel solidarity economy is something for heart and soul, there are many interesting people and projects participating and you can learn a lot.

Elisabeth Meyer-Renschhausen

Some down to earth facts.

Even 2018 the results have clearly become better compared to the year before (Numbers of the year ahead in brackets: There were overall 832 (585) orders, of which 754 came from Berlin. At the end we have delivered 6.300 (3.750) liter of olive oil plus olives etc. for nearly 65.000 (37.000 Euro). Again 25 % of the producer price was sent to social and political projects in Greece.

Our cooperation partner DOCK–Social Solidarity Economy Zone received 6.100 Euro (15% of the producer price). The non-profit organization has used the money amongst others to develop and publish an information bulletin and conduct advanced training seminars about the new cooperative law in Greece.

2.000 Euro each (on the whole 4000, that is 10 % of the producer price) went to two social projects to support refugees on Lesbos: to [Lesvos Solidarity](#) and to [Volunteers for Lesbos](#), a project of the Berlin Initiative „Respect for Greece“(Respekt fur Griechenland).