REPORT FROM OSTRAVA 3rd EUROPEAN MEETING OF CSA MOVEMENTS

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Content

| After Ostrava: Guidelines for | r the Futu | re | | |
|--|------------|--------|------|------|
| of the European Declaration on CSA / 4 | | | | |
| A post-industrial transition r | novement | t / | /8 | |
| Healing social wounds | / 8 | | | |
| How to breathe on-going life | e into | | | |
| the European Declaration? | | | /9 | |
| Towards a European CSA De | claration! | | / 11 | |
| European CSA Declaration | | / 14 | | |
| WORKING GROUP REPOR | TS | | / 21 | |
| Training and Experience Sharing | / 23 | | | |
| Advocacy / 29 | | | | |
| Movement Building / 32 | | | | |
| Social Outreach, Mass Mobilizati | on / 38 | | | |
| CSA Research Group meeting / 40 | C | | | |
| Be part of CSA! Project activ | ities in O | strava | | / 45 |
| Kernel and structure of the N | Vetwork | | / 49 | |
| Gardening in city: action fee | dback | | / 51 | |
| Posters from Poster Galery | | / 53 | | |
| Workings Groups | / 62 | | | |
| Chart of Participating Netw | vork | | / 63 | |
| European allies | / 64 | | | |
| Supporting organizations | | / 64 | | |

After Ostrava: Guidelines for the Future of the European Declaration on CSA

By Jocelyn Parot, General Secretary of the international network Urgenci

Bayer bought out Monsanto for 66 billion dollars. The game of Monopoly continues with a small number of agro-industrial giants sharing out their control of living organisms. The reaction of millions of people to this is one of urgency: they share **the feeling of a need to act, to take back control of their**

food systems. Their slogans are the independence of peasants, consumers right to choose and the collective right to decide what model of food system we want. Their collective actions cover a broad scope. But one of the most highly developed and demanding approaches is that of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

The terms covers AMAPs, the French Associations for "Maintaining Peasant Agriculture", as well as its historical precursors, Teikei in Japan and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) in North America. It encompasses a system of direct contractualised sales based on the direct relationship between producers and consumers. All exchange is based on human relationships, shared risks and responsibilities, and the fruits of farming, and everything is based on a long-term commitment.

Over 600 000 people involved in Europe!

The movement is growing in many different contexts, from England, where the food systems have been globalised for centuries to Romania, where there are still millions of subsistence farmers. Yet the same questions are recurrent everywhere, to a greater or lesser extent: the environmental issue, with conventional agriculture causing high levels of greenhouse gas and the high use of fossil fuels; health and safety, and the recurrence of health scandals in the agri-food sector. And finally the disappearance of the peasants, with an average age close to 60, and the corresponding rural exodus.

According to the *European census carried out in 2015* in 22 European countries, **there are between 600,000 and one million people involved in partnerships of this kind in Europe**. The variation in these figures is based on the diversity of the movement itself, its spontaneity and creativity. It is difficult to keep track of what is exponential growth in some places, and more moderate development in others. And time frames also vary. Germany is currently undergoing an explosion of CSAs, similar to what happened in France ten years ago.





A post-industrial transition movement

150 peasants and eaters from 26 countries stretching from Ireland in the West to Georgia in the East and Norway in the North to Greece in the South of Europe came together from 16th to 18th September 2016 in the framework of the 3rd European Meeting of Community Supported Agriculture movements in Ostrava in the Czech part of Silesia in a venue that perfectly illustrates the post-industrial transition.

The Dul Hlubina site includes the remains of a coal mine, that can be seen from miles away, a coking plant and a steel plant with three blast furnaces. This exceptional site has been transformed into a conference centre, a cultural centre and recreational space and symbolises the transition from one model to another.

In the initial call to action, *Urgenci*, the international CSA network presented these partnerships as a way to heal the wounds inflicted to our societies. The ancient Greek word, pharmakon also meant poison. We know that one and the same substance, used differently, can kill or cure. The CSA movement thus needs to examine the question of its impact. There is a risk that CSA could also aggravate social issues if it is based on a closed, introverted community, or where localism blinkers members to cross-border solidarity. Can it not also aggravate economic difficulties if it is merely a front for words and ideas for financialised.

Healing social wounds

On the contrary, CSA provides an antidote when it is anchored in adequate training and supports a critical approach, and when the success are evaluated in a critical manner together with the world of research. CSA is an antidote wen its development is accompanied by the education of youth on the possibilities of new ways to consume or when those involved reach beyond social cultural divisions to influence public policies. The strength of CSA lies in the day-to-day approach of direct relationships that are on a person-to-person basis. Nevertheless the network needs to include measures so that the benefits of socially responsible food systems that are also economically viable and ecologically sustainable can be shared. It is this feeling of solidarity and responsibility that led to the collective work of the *Declaration* that was adopted Saturday December 17th in Ostrava. There were already several founding texts: the principles of Teikei written by Teruo Ichiraku (1978), the revised Charte des Amap drafted by the Mouvement interrégional des Amap in 2014, the UK CSA Charter. But there was no joint European text. This Declaration is the fruit of fifteen months of work, three European workshops and fifteen national drafting workshops, as well as hundreds of individual and collective contributions.

How to breathe on-going life into the European Declaration?

A declaration should be part of a shared strategy. Its first and foremost importance is to inspire isolated initiatives and proclaim the social movement character of CSA and show how all European actors are speaking as one.

This Declaration is the movement's identity card. The Declaration also aims to limit capture of CSA, by clearly stating its objectives. We don't live in the world of Teletubbies! Even in California, **local actors were obliged to include the definition of** **CSA in the Farm Bill**, the California State's agricultural law. It had become necessary to stop the way in which platforms were selling up to 30 000 "boxes" through a wholesale-retail scheme. In Europe there are also an increasing number of commercial capture schemes and commodification of the principles. We need to clarify our specificity in order to protect ourselves against this kind of copycat theft.

Our third mission is to provide a reference text for advocacy. CSA partnerships represent an increasingly visible and recognised social connection. We need to dialogue with institutions, especially those that are trying to build concrete solutions. But we need to do so in a way that remains coherent with the Declaration. CSA is not a global solution. It is a context-sensitive approach. This is why it is so vital for the actors involved to have a keen awareness of **being part of the wider Food Sovereignty movement**. Food Sovereignty means protecting the future of our food and protecting it from the limitations that multinationals would like to impose. The Ostrava Declaration should be considered in the context of the open-mindedness of future possibilities. It provides us with a compass, a roadmap we can use before we set out on our journey. It is not an end in itself, but a collective path and process.

Towards a European CSA Declaration!

The steps of the Declaration writing-process during 2015/2016.

BACKGROUND

In February 2007, in Nyeleni (Mali) social movements, farmers and activists, gathered during the Forum for Food Sovereignty and draw the first definition of the food sovereignty concept as a political tool to restore peoples' control of their food. Four years later, in August 2011, the first European Forum on Food Sovereignty was organised in Krems (Austria), with the aim to create a solid vision of food sovereignty for Europe. Urgenci took there the lead on the food distribution axis. In October 2012, the First European meeting on CSA and Emerging Distribution Systems for Food Sovereignty took place in Milan (Italy) to connect CSA initiatives right across Europe, so that mutual support can be provided, CSA knowledge and stories can be shared in a decentralized and open way.

In February 2014, during the second European CSA meeting in Villarceaux (France), the need for a European declaration is addressed.

WRITING-PROCESS

In 2015, the « Common Ground for Community-Supported Agriculture in Europe » project was launched by Urgenci, to build up a shared vision-process among the CSA community in Europe. It provided means to 15 local and national CSA networks to facilitate "Charter writing workshops", going back and forth with the European kernel which launched the call *"Let's write a European Declaration on Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) !"*

On June 6-7, 2015, during the 1st European Charter-writing workshop, in Milan (Italy, during the Expo dei Popoli event), 19 participants from 16 countries met to acknowledge the need for a Common Declaration, one that would state what we stood for and how we would share it widely for purposes of advocacy, dissemination and mass-mobilization! Participants also felt this work would help facilitate links between the European CSA platform and the specificities of the local and national networks to which they belong. Some participants from « experienced CSA networks » shared their experience of Charter-writing processes they'd led and on the benefits and the pitfalls to avoid.

Then on September 10-12, 23 participants from 15 countries attended the 2nd European Declaration-writing workshop, in Berlin (Germany, during the Solikon Forum). They first decided what would be the structure of the Declaration, then split into small working groups to discuss intensively on the content and phrasing of our Declaration draft. They set an agenda and guidelines for the organization of the upcoming "National consultations", talked about the final editing process and how to amendment the Declaration during the Ostrava 3rd CSA meeting.

From September to December 2015 (Common Ground was a one-year CONCORD project, in the framework of the European Year for Development 2015), "National Consultations" have been organized in 13 participating countries – with more than 400 CSA activists involved in discussing and commenting the Declaration draft.

The guidelines set in Berlin were:

• To translate the declaration draft into each national language, and send it to the future participants of the national workshop beforehand

• To agree that, at national level, different methodologies could be used according to each country's preferences.

• To organize the feedback we would limit the number of modifications to 5 maximum per country, but to accept endless comments!

During the preparatory meeting to get organized for the 3rd European CSA Meeting in Ostrava, on April, 19-21, 2016, the Steering committee decided it was time to finalize the draft. The editing Committee from the <charter.urgenci-eu> list participants worked in June (making 5 calls with up to 10 people) on finding the way to insert the "major/minor changes" formulated by national groups. This involved composing the Declaration, balancing the propositions and the very final editing, which was realised by M.C. Oliver Moore, Editor in Chief!

On September 17, 2016, the Declaration was adopted by the 3rd European CSA Meeting participants in Plenary in Ostrava, Czech Republic.



13

European CSA Declaration



Preamble

All over Europe, people are coming together to take control of our food systems, from production to distribution to consumption. We are building systems centered on our local communities. We are joining forces to achieve food sovereignty, by claiming our right to define our own food and agricultural systems.

The time is ripe to address the disastrous effects of the industrial food system. Food is too important to merely treat it as a commodity. The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement generates practical, inclusive solutions to the food crises. We are many, varied and united. We are stepping up in solidarity– taking responsibility – to create socially inclusive, economically viable and environmentally sustainable food systems. Hundreds of thousands of people in Europe have already proven that CSA works, by creating a variety of practices, initiatives and networks based on common values.

Building upon the existing charters and experiences, this declaration aims to lay down the common ground for this CSA movement to flourish.

DEFINITION

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a direct partnership based on the human relationship between people and one or several producer(s), whereby the risks, responsibilities and rewards of farming are shared, through a long-term, binding agreement.

CSA Guiding PRINCIPLES

CSA is not a static model. Like a garden it is dynamic: it evolves and grows through daily care. Each CSA partnership has autonomy.

We also agree on these basic principles as our common ground to grow the CSA movement.

- Responsible care for the soil, water, seeds and the other commons through the agroecological principles and practices as found in this declaration and the Nyeleni Declaration 2015
- Food as a common good not a commodity.
- Human scale production rooted in local realities and knowledges.
- Fair working conditions and decent income for all involved.
- Respect for the environment and animal welfare.
- Fresh, local, seasonal, healthy and diverse food accessible to all.
- Community building through direct and long term relationships with shared responsibility, risks and rewards.
- Active participation based on trust, understanding, respect, transparency and cooperation.
- Mutual support and solidarity beyond borders.

Build - Develop – EMPOWER

We want to build a strong coalition of CSAs and CSA networks across Europe to:

- Strengthen the CSA movement and help new CSAs to flourish.
- Enable sharing of knowledge and skills between CSAs in different countries.
- Conduct and promote participatory research on our farms and in our networks.
- Empower and educate people to act for and develop the movement
- Show the benefits of CSA for the whole of society.
- Advocate for CSA communities at international, European and local level to implement our principles.
- Engage in local food governance.

• Work together with the food sovereignty movement and strengthen our alliance with social and solidarity economy movements.

We are a grassroots movement: we believe that the power of CSA is in pragmatic, everyday action and face-to-face relationships. We are connecting with each other, with the producers in our communities, and with the living soil beneath our feet.

This is our Common Ground.





WORKING GROUP REPORTS





Training and Experience Sharing

Informal training on CSA

Facilitating: Zsófia Perényi (TVE, Hungary) zsofi@tve.hu Reporting: Barbara Mayer (TVE, Hungary) mayerbarbara.tve@gmail.com

This participatory workshop was designed for those active in the field of non-formal or informal education, or interested in carrying out educational activities in their countries in connection with CSA.

Zsófi Perényi introduced the Be a part of CSA! Erasmus+ project and the training modules which have been organized in Hungary, Czech Republic and Romania. The participants formed two groups and the Romanian and Hungarian team, which participated in the training (organisers, farmers, coordinators), shared their experiences with the rest of the group and answered their questions.

The keywords emerging during the discussions were training, experience sharing, farm visit, cooperation, translation, dissemination.

The workshop participants agreed on the following actions:

- As soon as materials, documents and tools of the training will be finalised and available in English, they will be shared with the workshop participants;
- 2. These materials are free to be translated into other languages and could be used by anyone. For example the short film Be Part of CSA! has already been translated into Spanish;
- 3. An email group will be launched for the participants interested in having a platform to discuss further ideas and possibilities for cooperation.

Farmer-to-Farmer Exchanges

Convening and reporting: Stephan Pabst (Austrian CSA Network) stephan.pabst@unkontrollierbar.org

You might think that small farmers are a thing of the past, but many new small farm businesses make a start in today's world. Some of them succeed, while others struggle. The main practical questions that came up during this workshop were:

- How to make a living as a CSA-farmer ?
- Do the maths divide the number of members by the total amount of costs (highest cost factors: labour, set-up) and look for breaking up;
- Think a lot about mutual support and synergies with other CSAs;
- Don't neglect communication, advertising, and the relationship to the nearest large cities.

What is the ideal Size for a CSA?

If the CSA groups are too big, that will result in problems with:

- administration;
- communication;
- production (mechanisation);
- members' commitment (which will decrease);
- loss of trust and comprehension if members don't know each other any more, and don't know their farmer neither.

Some solutions to these challenges have been identified:

- consult the consumers on what kind of agriculture they want;
- more cooperation between producers is often a way to combine skills and overcome some obstacles;
- including consumers from the very beginning will guarantee more support to the farmer all along the relationship.

What training should be provided for young CSA farmers?

First, the already existing training programmes have been mapped:

- Formal trainings at regional or national level are often only theoretical, too short and non-organic;
- University specialisations are quite uncommon and are often too theoretically focused;
- Grower Schools in the United Kingdom;

- Paysamap in France is a peer-to-peer learning network of "Advising CSA farmers";
- in Romania, there are informal exchanges between farmers in the CSA network e.g. in ASAT, but they are only optional;
- Through their "Espace test agricole", some local authorities in France encourage and give land to practice on to new farmers for 2-3 years.

Second, a list of training programmes that should be provided to young CSA farmers was established:

- longer hands-on experience at organic farms for new farmers (e.g. 2-3 years);
- "CSA modules" in existing organic farming trainings;
- push from CSA groups and networks to improve access to land;
- political statement towards organic, solidarity farming: strong message to the world;
- European exchanges between farmers: CSA-platform, Urgenci could attract funds for it;
- platform (Hofb.rse) to connect people who want to give up farms to new farmers.

Finally, the discussion also focused on how to improve information exchange between farmers Europe-wide. The group worked out a 3-step action plan. 1st step : A mailing list will be created for Farmer exchanges, starting with the farmer participants from Ostrava Meeting; 2nd step : Mila and Stephan collect existing knowledge and share links and contacts via mailinglist; 3rd step : Looking for volunteers to start a farmer-to-farmer working group to make further steps !

Participants will be invited via email to join the working group and invited to a working group Skype meeting.

Collective Mentorship

Convening and reporting: Tina Wintersteiger (Austrian CSA Network), tina.wintersteiger@gmx.at

Experience transfer is vital for social movements! This workshop was conducted to collectively map abundance and absence of knowledge and skills within our projects, in order to provide a basis for long-term mentoring contacts. The aims of the workshop were to pass on experience, become aware of expertise and need for support, establish long term mentoring relationships, strengthen mentors, mentees and the European network.

The methodology used was collective experience sharing and mentoring. Topics brought up by participants were consumer consciousness, "education", involvement and mobilization.

2 stories have been shared: "The CSA with no consumers", by Giuseppe Pellegino, Italy; "100 members in 2 years, 200 members in 3 years" by Magda Bozdan, Poland.

During the workshop, the following wisdoms were captured: -"Successful stories start with an initiative of consumers, not just farmers and activists";

-"The way to a human's heart is through the stomach";

-"Start with practical arguments like money savings, introduce the ideology step by step!";

-"Learn the consumer's language!";

-"Offer rarities, 4 week-trial-shares...etc...";

-"Start in urban areas!".

The whole group decided to stay in touch and to establish a longterm mentoring program.

Access to Land and CSA

Convening and reporting: Véronique Rioufol (Terre de Liens) v.rioufol@terredeliens.org and Peter Volz (CSA Research Group), peter.volz@agronauten.net

This workshop dealt with the link between access to land and CSA. The facilitators first introduced the issues related to access to land for agroecological farmers in Europe, as well as the *access to land network*. After this introduction, several contributors provided case studies from their countries.

First, Hana Becherovska, Nadace pro Pudo, a Foundation for Soil, started in the Czech Republic largely at the initiative of the CSA movement and to address the needs of CSA and agroecological farmers.

Second, Véronique Rioufol presented Terre de liens, a French organisation focused on securing land for organic and peasant farmers, through public mobilisation and direct land acquisition.

Third, Tobias Hartkemeyer, Hof Pente, Germany, shared the story of his family farm with a very strong and active CSA, where the farmers,

together with CSA members, started a Foundation to hold part of the land in perpetuity.

Brindusa Birharla presented the 11-year-experience of a Romanian ASAT (CSA) farmer, with strong connections and solidarity with his consumers. The ASAT members offered advanced payment and help to support equipment and infrastructure development.

After these presentations, the facilitators opened the floor so that workshop participants could tell their own experiences. Several more case studies were added from Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Romania. Through these examples, participants raised important questions such as : how to enable CSA to become landowner or tenant where it is legally not possible? Can CSA be a way towards better farm viability, thereby ensuring that some family farmers remain on the land (e.g. Romania/ASAT)?

The facilitators also reminded all participants that the film **The land for our food** focuses on land and CSA and is freely available at: *http://www.accesstoland.eu/film-Land-for-our-food* The film depicts the story of a CSA grower in the United Kingdom, whose CSA has just lost their tenancy, who visits several European acess to land initiatives to get inspiration about ways to secure land for agroecology and CSA. The film is available in English, Spanish, Catalan, Italian, Romanian, German, French, and Czech.

The keywords used during the discussion were access to land, land tenure, land security, land tenancy, land acquisition, public mobilisation, crowdfunding and farm viability.

The group made the decision to follow up with new case studies. Moreover, the results of this and other workshops will be used for a small publication on access to land and CSA.

PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) meets CSA

Facilitating: Zsófia Perényi (TVE, Hungary) zsofi@tve.hu Reporting: Barbara Mayer (TVE, Hungary) mayerbarbara.tve@gmail.com

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) can be described from one perspective as locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange. But how can PGS be perceived as legitimate to external stakeholders? And how can credibility be preserved for members? How can the community-based operation of CSAs have an impact on these issues?

The session starting with a showing of an introductory video about PGS from IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb1hfRswKMg&feature=youtu.be

Then, we had exchanges about different PGS systems and discussed about the differences between the 3 systems and the learnings from them.

The overall agreement was that PGS is an important topic and that we need to deal with it actively within the CSA network.

Seeds for CSA

Reporting: Philipp Weckenbrock (CSA Research Group) weckenbrock@gmail.com Convening: Cathy Bouffartigue (CSA Research Group) cathy.bouffartigue@gmail.com

This self-organized workshop was planned in order to discuss the issue of seeds and seed-related practices in CSA farms and groups. Several leading questions were asked to foster exchange on the topic: How often do you discuss which seeds are used in your CSA? What percentage of open-pollinated seeds are used in your CSA? Do you produce some of them? Are you part of a network related to seed saving (local, regional or national seed saving network, cooperation between CSA on seeds or/and seedlings)? How can CSA groups help farmer use more open-pollinated seeds ?

Discussions rolled around keywords like hybrids, open-pollinated, peasant seeds, Bayer, Monsanto, autonomy, seedlings, networks, adaptation to local environnement, collaboration, seeds banks, on-farm experiment, on-farm seed production.

Cathy signed up as a participant of the Research Group and will collect infos on existing initiatives around open-pollinated seeds within the CSA farms.This initial overview will help identify needs. If a research project on the social and environmental impacts of CSA takes off, a section on seeds should be included.

Advocacy

Advocacy for CSA and other

emerging alternative food systems

Convening and reporting: Isa Alvarez & Judith Hitchman (Urgenci's advocacy officer and president) isa.urgenci@gmail.com; hitchman@club-internet.fr.

The aim of this workshop was to define what advocacy is, and how Urgenci, as a network, should advocate through different channels and at different levels in Europe.

First, an explanation was given about the work being done by Urgenci Advocacy group at different levels: United Nations' level, through RIPESS (Intercontinental Network for Promoting Social and Solidarity -based Economy), FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), Committee on World Food Security (**CFS**), Habitat III. It was also revealed that, during the Beijing CSA conference, committed people joined an advocacy team within Urgenci.

The question to be addressed by the Advocacy team is how to work collectively on our topics within the network and how to participate in the different processes in progress in Rome, Brussels, etc.

The various interventions pointed out the need to address the new CAP negotiations within the network, participating in the process to be carried out by 2020, as it is important to highlight the need and importance of small-scale and peasant farming, as well as create critical mass and raise awareness about the responsibility and key role of consumers in these processes, to move towards another food system.

In this sense, we propose to carry out training processes on this specific issue both:

- to empower committed CSA people to participate in advocacy work at different levels (European, international),
- to give grassroots groups the tools and information they need to understand the extent to which their decisions can affect the policies that are decided in the negotiations arena, seemingly too far away from their realities.

This Advocacy Training Programme should make visible the different spaces for action and explain the various strategies, in order to be able to address them, as well as the alliances we need to forge to be successful.

It is necessary to create and share communication channels and advocacy tools for this specific work at different levels. It is vital to take advantage of the already existing cooperation spaces with allied movements to deepen our expertise and effectiveness.

Agroecology is political

Convening and reporting: Judith Hitchman (President of Urgenci) hitchman@club-internet.fr; Gaelle Bigler (FRACP, French Speaking Swiss CSA Network) gaellebiglersengage@gmail.com.

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<u>Movement</u> Building

Networks experience sharing

Convening and reporting: Gaelle Bigler (FRACP, French Speaking Swiss CSA Network) gaellebiglersengage@gmail.com.

After a short presentation of the existing networks, the participants were invited to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of existing local, regional and national networks.

If we take a basic definition networks are groups of people or organisations that are closely connected and that work with each other. They can therefore come in any size and type, and tend to evolve in time. Within the Urgenci network, many different networks co-exist. We took the opportunity of having members of two heavyweight networks in attendence - the German national network, Solawi (Solidarische Landwirtschaft) and the Miramap (Mouvement interrégional des Amap) from France - to ask them to share their experiences with participants.

To balance these two presentations, Thomas Snellman introduced the Reko system that is being implemented in Finland, a lightweight light-structured model that challenges the usual perception of a successful CSA network model.

www.solidarische-landwirtschaft.org/de/startseite/ http://miramap.org/

http://urgenci.net/reko-a-winning-concept-in-finland/

The networks represented at this workshop decided both to keep on the hands-on experience sharing, and to share articles and stories on the respective networks within Urgenci.

Communication within the CSA Movement

Convening and reporting: Agnez Bewer (Gasap, Brussels CSA Network) agnez@gasap.be.

The purpose of this workshop was twofold: to find out the best appropriated tools and process to enhance communication and information sharing between CSAs; to review current tools development initiatives to facilitate or improve CSA internal management (users, products and purchasing management, recipes, communication with farmer etc.).

The focus was on Urgenci's website, the social media, and other tools. An emphasis was put by all participants on the need for classification, for strategies, for **visibility of actions going on**, who is in charge, how to join.

The workshop ended highlighting a priority: to increase information available on the website. Working groups, CSA maps, farmers' contacts, some tools for different contexts, newsletter archives should be available on the webpage.

Structuring the European Network

Convening and reporting: Morgane Iserte (Urgenci Network Coordinator) morgane.iserte@urgenci.net.

How to make our European network simpler, more readable? How to guide actors into our movement? The workshop aimed to identify the actions to be taken, in order to improve communication within our movement.

To pursue our movement-building process, Urgenci needs to rely upon a clear articulation of who the CSA community is, how it is structured and how it will be involved. Setting up a coordination structure among the CSA actors and networks in Europe will facilitate the understanding of how we operate together, and among others feed the bottom-up advocacy process on CSA-related issues at European level. This structuring process will reinforce both the European CSA platform and local and national networks. Moreover, a clear membership strategy is needed.

The core objective is now to widely disseminate and implement the Declaration. We have to be proactive to build our legitimacy and consistency. The Declaration is the starting point to launch our initiatives.

• We should improve our articulation with national and local CSA networks: campaigns should be designed and conducted jointly at the national level and at the European level. The Kernel should better organise the going back and forth of the information to nurture the advocacy and communication processes. The formalisation of national focal points is a necessity. • **Consolidate Advocacy Work and build alliances:** this is a priority, especially regarding the soon coming debate on CAP post-2020.

How to build a solid political framework?

- There is a need to inform and enhance decision-making processes: what prerogatives should be devoted to the Kernel, which was initially established as a temporary coordination body? The creation of a Strategic Council with networks representatives, experts and allies, is proposed, in order to enrich discussions on Urgenci's long-term orientation. This could also be a way to maintain farmer-consumer balance, as farmers would be a component of the Strategic Council.
- Membership is a key issue and should be clarified shortly. Who is part of Urgenci and not? Workshop participants identified a need to be clearer on members' commitments, not only for fees, but most of all, regarding the strength of their connection to Urgenci.

For the moment, every national CSA network in Europe is part of Urgenci. What about CSA local groups? We need to build up a campaign to explain the benefits of membership. How can Urgenci help?



Financial Sustainability of the Network

Facilitating and reporting: Jocelyn Parot (Urgenci) jocelyn.parot@urgenci.net

Let's put the key questions for our network(s) on the table : how to diversify the sources of funding? How to increase self-funding? How to break even? Experienced CSA network administrators and facilitators shared their tips on the topic of finance.

There were three sub-themes to be addressed by the participants.

- **The membership scheme:** the German national CSA network (Solawi) example was presented, as a system that enables the network to be fully independent from public or private subsides. The founding members of the network decided to go for a model where each group collects contributions for the national level from each CSA member. This model has been discussed in Urgenci in recent years, with no real success. Yet, it could be a good idea to have this model tried in several national networks as soon as 2017.
- **The crowdfunding model:** Urgenci had its first experience previous to Ostrava, but only around 2,500 euros were collected out of an objective of 6,000 euros. All participants agree crowdfunding cannot be considered as a structural funding, but just the equivalent of a small grant for a very precise purpose. Any crowdfunding campaign should really try to build on concrete emotional stories, strong life experiences.
- **Structural fundings:** Urgenci is looking for a structural funding, that would enable its staff to focus on their primary mission, the consolidation and animation of the European network of CSA movements. Currently, Urgenci's fundings are pulling its staff into too many different directions. Some private foundations might be able to donate a massive, structural grant. But European Union fundings (Erasmus+, Life, Horizon 2020...) should remain a priority.

Two prominent actions were decided.

A crowdfunding campaign should be launched as a kind of book pre-ordering system, in order to print 1,000 hard copies of the census on CSA, called Overview of Community Supported Agriculture in Europe.

The "each CSA member pays her contribution to the international network when paying her membership fee each year" - membership scheme should be launched with volunteering national and regional networks.

Project Factory Session

Facilitating: Zsófia Perényi (TVE, Hungary) zsofi@tve.hu Reporting: Barbara Mayer (TVE, Hungary) mayerbarbara.tve@gmail.com

The first and the second European CSA meetings gave birth to several successful European, regional and local projects. The third European meeting, by bringing CSA activists from all Europe, offered a new opportunity to form new cooperation and projects.

4 different project ideas has been identified and discussed in smaller groups.

- Mediterranean Erasmus+ Project: some of the partners have applied for an Erasmus+ project but didn't succeed. They would like to improve it and try it again. They are looking for partners and others for experience sharing. The focus of the project is to involve different generations and schools in the training and show them the beauty of farming. Contact: Anna Morera and Alberto Graglia.
- **Exchange of farmers in Europe:** the aim is to discover fund and possibilities for farmer-to-farmer exchange. Contact: Stephan Pabst and Mila Hilgertova, Farmer working group.
- **Business planning:** small scale farmers often lack the business knowledge to run their CSA. A dedicated training could help them to improve their knowledge and abilities to run their business. Contact: Zsófi Perényi.
- **CSA Software:** Alwin Egger is looking for partners to test their CSA management software. It is an open source program recently developed, which could be translated and further developed in other countries as well. Contact: Alwin Egger.

At the end of the session, everyone agreed that notes should be shared so participants can discuss further the possibilities of cooperation.

Information and Communication

Technology Tools for CSA

Convening and reporting: Jan Valeška (Association of Local Food Initiatives) honza@ biospotrebitel.cz; Agnez Bewer (Gasap, Brussels CSA network) agnez@gasap.be.

Workshop participants gathered to talk about the existing ICT tools for CSA, to share experience with their use and possibilities of spreading them in other countries.

The key questions asked during this workshop were: what are the already existing information and communication technology (ICT) tools that might be beneficial for CSAs daily operation? What are their features and availability for ordinary CSAs? How these tools might be adapted to serve better different needs of different CSAs? How the ICT community might more efficiently cooperate internationally to join forces in the future development of those tools? The working tools presented during the workshop are:

- http://app.kpzinfo.cz/login
- www.openolitor.org
- www.github.org/OpenOlitor
- http://amapj.fr/download.html
- www.sunu.eu, info@sunu.eu

Presentation of those tools should be made available online on *www.urgenci.net*.

Discussions were held regarding cooperation among geeks, needs and wishes of CSAs, basic features (share and payment management), advanced features (recipes database, nutrition facts).

The group planned 2 main actions for the future:

- 1. Collect the existing ICT tools and contacts on their creators, licenses and links on URGENCI website and spread it out;
- 2. Form a group of geeks that already work on the topic and exchange information on their work 's development.

Social Outreach, Mass Mobilization

CSA & Community-supported practical skill education

Convening and reporting: Tobias Hartkemeyer (CSA Hofpente, Germany) tobias@hartkemeyer.de.

The leading question during this workshop was: how to bring CSA into the heart of our learning culture?

As a result of the discussions, it is was deemed important to establish a small Network for the exchange of experience and knowledge for projects focusing on turning CSAs into intergenerational learning environments with community supported practical skill education (Handlungspädagogik), enabling especially the participation of children.

Annual meetings for this small working group will take place at Hof Pente in Germany *www.hofpente.de.*

Food Sovereignty and Refugees

Jenny Gkiougki (Urgenci Kernel) kikkerjen@gmail.com and Christabel Buchanan (Coventry University) buchanac@coventry.ac.uk.

In the Food Sovereignty movement we believe Food is a Human Right. The recent, continuous influx of refugees presents many challenges. How can we ensure access to healthy, fair, nutritious and culturally appropriate food for refugees? What can we do about it?

Among the topics raised during the workshop, one can find the issue of food waste in the camps, the reality of camp food and solidarity actions for food provisioning for refugees. Videos of the situation were shown, questions were asked and answers were given. Workshop participants were burning to take action. They agreed to start designing a campaign in order to expose corruption and conditions in camps, to inform about the realities of camp food, the living conditions. The situations are different across Europe, but it seems there are also some common features. Another action to be taken collectively is the harvest of case studies of farmers or other growing self-organized projects already involving refugees (plus asylum seekers, and other displaced people). A reflection should be conducted in common about the barriers to self-organisation and to any CSA set up. Case studies and ideas for solutions to food provisioning should be investigated on two scales: camps and shelters (large scale) on the one hand, hostels (small scale) on the other hand.

The group plans to work on a document which would outline how CSA and Food sovereignty networks can provide outreach to marginalised groups, including refugees (as well as low income families).

Low Income Consumers

Facilitating and reporting: Sini Forssell (Ruokaosuuskunta, Helsinki Food Coop, Finland) sini.forssell@gmail.com.

Sini Forssel started by sharing her experience of testing a solidarity share initiative in her CSA, the Urban Co-operative Farm in Helsinki. After this introduction, the following issues were discussed:

- Covering the true cost of food vs. affordability;
- Different models in use in Europe for better inclusion of low-income consumers in CSAs, pros and cons;
- Challenges to be considered when considering initiatives for social inclusion, from the very practical questions to the more complex of reaching the right people, sensitivity, skill building, possible negative feelings, consideration of other barriers than money and how to make sense of the issues on a more political level (eg. the role of civil society-based food aid in a Nordic welfare state).

The collective brainstorming evolved around a debate on the true cost of food, social inclusion, food poverty, food aid, socio-economic issues, cultural barriers, social class and food skills.

Keep talking about the issue! Some email addresses were exchanged and there is some appetite for new projects. The Helsinki project is continuing and seeking grants to run a larger, more organised pilot of the model, as well as doing far-reaching advocacy work eg. through the media.

CSA Research Group meeting

Presentation of the Research Group

One of the aims of Urgenci-Europe is to strengthen the action of the Research group, which was created during the First European Meeting of CSA Movements in Milan in 2012. A crucial step was recently taken with the European CSA Census conducted in 2015. Research is a key activity for Urgenci: it is necessary in order to develop and improve action both in the training and exchange working group, and in the advocacy working group.

Update on the CSA Research group activities

The Overview of CSA in Europe census, with contributions from 22 researchers represents a starting point for further research.

This work is already available on Urgenci's website and totals a high amount of downloads. However, there is not yet enough demand for the hard copy version of the "CSA overview". Thus the message was sent to participants to try to find 20-50 orders each in order to be able to print 1000 copies.

A concept note has been sent to an international institution for a "Comparative study of Food Loss and Waste between CSA and Regular consumers who buy their food in hypermarket retail outlets" by URGENCI, die Agronauten and the Association of Conscious Consumers in Hungary.

Presentation of "Cities for Agroecology

European Network

The City of de Zaragoza (500,000 inhab., Spain) is carrying out a LIFE project on conversion to organic farming for new farmers settling on municipal agricultural land. Within this LIFE project, there is an action to create a network of cities involved in promoting comprehensive programmes for improving sustainability of local food systems. This network will hold a kick off meeting next December (2016) in Zaragoza. The aim of the network is to create a practical tool for information and experiences sharing between people. This includes social movements and civic organizations which are mentoring or helping the city government staff to develop sustainable food policies.

Daniel López, as part of Fundación Entretantos (Spain), carrying out the technical advisory for the city of Zaragoza in the frame of this project. The City of Zaragoza encourages us to put them in contact with the cities we are working with. Anybody interested? Please write to daniel.lopez.ga@gmail.com.

This network of cities for Agroecology could be an opportunity to strengthen our network and the work we are doing with the support from local authorities. The project of the network creation includes participatory action-oriented research on the topic of CSA.

What to do now on the research front?

- Brainstorming on ideas for projects and topics:
- A research project is being led by Victorien Barbet (PhD student) in Provence Alpes-Côte-d'Azur on success indicators for local CSA (Amap);
- Another theme to be researched is the social and environmental impact of CSA;
- Workshop participants raised a concern: there are many students who come to our groups in order to study CSA, but this knowledge is almost never fed back to the CSAs. Moreover, this knowledge is not sufficiently translated into practical language;

It is difficult to **access pre-existing research on CSA**. Urgenci could make a call to collect papers and research on CSA. Each country census representative should collect CSA papers, thesis, research and send it to Urgenci;

The **Balkan Ecology Project** (BALKEP): impact of organic farming on biodiversity on permacultural farms (Bulgaria). This could be spread within a comparative approach to CSA in other countries.

There are discussions in Spain on two topics related to CSA: Municipality and territorial democratization processes; and alternative economics linked with Food Sovereignty. These topics could be linked to the social impacts of CSA, and to their factors of success and failure.

Other research topics have been suggested: agroforestry and CSA, CSA pricing, access to land for CSA in Austria, overlaps and challenges on access to land and CSA.

As a conclusion, Peter Volz, as the Research Group coordinator, asked participants to send half a page with one's own ideas on projects (and funding) before the end of November. Peter will collect all ideas and try to launch a common idea of project to discuss, perhaps online.

- The workshop participants agreed on preparing a single project on impacts of CSA in a broad approach, useful for advocacy (with empirical data from a wide basis of cases) and for training and exchange activities, if we address some success/failure factors.
- There was an agreement on the commitment of all national coordinators of the group to collect all scientific documents (papers, congress papers, master or doctoral thesis) on CSA, make a list with whole references and links, and then to send the list to Peter, in order to make them available hang them on the Urgenci website.

Project: "Importance of the Solidarity economy for the development of organic farming in europe, past and present"

Bettina Scharrer (University of Bern) explains briefly her research project: organic farming and solidary economy share many principles and values. The research project's goals are to analyse the potential of a combination of solidary economy and organic farming, to point out to the importance of solidarity economy in the first stages of the organic farming movement. More info at:

http://www.cde.unibe.ch/research/governance_of_land_and_natural_resources/ research_themes_and_projects/solidarity_economy_for_developing_organic_farming/index_eng.html





BE PART OF CSA! PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN OSTRAVA

By Zsofia Perenyi, Special Envoy on Education and Training issues for the International Committee of Urgenci. Education is a really important tool for strengthening the CSA movement. This is what came out of the exchanges between about 25 CSA actors who participated on the "Be part of CSA!" session in Ostrava. There are several local educational initiatives which were created based on specific needs, but getting to know a European educational programme and its experiences was an inspiration to everybody.

In order to have a participatory session, experience sharing was the key activity in Ostrava. After a short presentation of the "Be part of CSA!" training project, the Hungarian and Romanian training participants got the chance to share their experiences and personal stories in two big groups. Farmers and consumers explained how motivating it was to participate in a 4 days long training programme, meet others who has the same interests and doubts and learn from experienced CSA farmers and coordinators. As they explained the training programme changed their lives completely as for them CSA is the only way of living from now on.

And probably this is the main strength of the "Be part of CSA!" training programme. It does not only serve knowledge sharing, but it also has an important role in empowerment. Thanks to the training events, participants got to know each other and built cooperation which strengthened the national CSA networks too. These relationships did not break even after the end of the training programme.

It seems that this approach was interesting for other CSA organisations too. So we agreed that as the educational materials will be finalised in English (training guide, booklet, short film, crop planner etc.), they will be shared for new language adaptations. Also an e-mail group was suggested for those who are interested in educational activities on CSA.

The project team made sure that all of the feedbacks are is collected: the evaluation of the session was an important point of their management meeting which was held just after the European meeting. On the event the overall evaluation of the project was planned and the final dissemination activities were listed in order to ensure the smooth closing of the project.



KERNEL AND STRUCTURE OF THE NETWORK The Kernel was initially created during the 1st European meeting of CSA Movements in Milan in October 2012, with the mission of "setting up a permanent structure. Its mandate, received from all the participants of the meeting in Milan, should expire when another meeting takes place, with the objective of finalising the creation of this structure, already named Urgenci-Europe".

The name Kernel was chosen for its 2 meanings. First, corn kernels are seeds that can be pulled out and can then grow and evolve into more corn plants. Second, a kernel is a computer programme that constitutes the central core of a computer operation system. The kernel has complete control over everything that occurs in the system.

The Kernel within Urgenci has an outstanding record of achievements, from successfully organizing 3 European CSA Meetings in less than 4 years to monitoring three or four ambitious European projects at the same time. To sum it up, Urgenci has no institutional character, it is not entitled to take political decisions until a permanent Kernel is established, but is instead a working group dedicated to specific tasks.

As Urgenci is facing growing solicitations and invitations to take position on various topics in the public sphere, there is a need to formalise the Kernel. During this Third European meeting, mandate has explicitly been given to the Kernel to conduct a formalization process, leading to the clarification of the roles and functioning schemes of the different components of Urgenci-Europe, including the Kernel:

- A Kernel Member mission statement should be written and agreed by the current Kernel member.
- Geographical representation should be ensured: existing national CSA networks should all be invited to send a representatives to the Kernel.
- The consumer-producer balance should be maintained. One of the current limits of the way the Kernel currently functions is the domination of network staff over voluntary consumers or farmers.

A map explaining the articulation between the Kernel, the working groups and the regional networks should be drawn in order to provide newcomers with some orientation tools, instead of leaving them alone with no point of reference.

Gardening in city: action feedback

The Third European Meeting of CSAs was striving to not only use the city of Ostrava as a simple stop on its way to food sovereignty but also to leave some real foot-print of the struggle for better food systems in the city itself. Therefore the meeting's participants joint forces with a local group and established together a small guerilla-gardening edible garden right in the hearth of the steel city of Ostrava.

The symbolic edible garden was dug in the concrete of one of the streets and the newly created beds were sown with traditional local varieties of wheat and salad by few dozens of CSA activists hand-in-hand with few dozens of local citizens. This plot is supposed to serve as a symbol of transforming the formerly steel city into the community-based edible garden as a whole. The maintenance of the garden is now in the hands of beautification society Okrašlovací spolek Za krásnou Ostravu: *www.krasnaostrava.cz*.



POSTERS FROM POSTER GALLERY









GASAP = peasant agriculture solidarity buying groups

Core principles :

- (1) Supporting peasant agriculture
- (2) Facilitating direct selling
- (3) Enhancing solidarity between producers and eaters

(4) Promoting self-organization and strong interpersonal relationships in the groups

Current projects :

- Setting up a PGS for the network, in link with other initiatives (contact : Christophe Nothomb spg@gasap.be)

- Researching ways to improve logistics and collaboration between producers (contact : Florian Delespesse contact-producteurs@gasap.be)

 New website launching, rethinking governance, training in collective intelligence, member of local food council, Nyeleni, Agroecology In Action (Brussels), advocacy,...

More info : here in Ostrava, meet Agnez Bewer agnez@bruxxel.org and Nicolas Cressot nicolas.cressot@free.fr or go to www.gasap.be

Brussels - BELGIUM





The importance of solidarity economy for the development of organic farming in Europe, past and present

Organic farming is widely recognized as a promising way of oreening our currently unsustainable food systems. But it is still falling far short of its potential in terms of its share in overall production. Its combination with the solidarity economy has come to be regarded as one possible strategy to foster the emergence of a new, sustainable path of deve lopment in the food sector. A research project of the University of Bern aims for a better understanding of the connection between organic farming and the solidarity econoin order to identify limitations, opportunities, and synergies.



Goals

Focusing on Switzerland and its neighbouring countrie France, Germany, Autma, and Ruly, this project analysis the potential loof of argicultural initiatives based on the solidarity economy as a new, forward-looking model. Their sustainability will be analysed by means of basic research, cute studies in all free countries, and direct cooperations with potners in a transmittonil network long pattorm. Based on the findings, the project will develop and put op for discussion a set of political, economics, social, and financial measures for promoting organic initiatives based on the solidarity economy.





Transnational and transdisciplinary networking platform by creating a transnational and transdisciplinary networking platform, the project imms at integrating in an interactive way the expense of practinoner, policymatern, and researchers. At the same time, the networking platform is interded to itserghten dialogue and the exchange of expensions across national, linguistic, and cultural bordem, enabling praactive knowledge transfer between the organic aming and the solidarity agriculture committee. A total of 28 organizations are participating in the networking platform.

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CSA veggie-bags delivery by bicycle



A platform for collective and fossil-fuel free transport for the city of Berne (CH)

The Swiss CSA radiesli delivers monthly



40-45 veggie-bags (≈ 230kg) over 200-300m altitude difference and 30 km with 5-10 bicycles



We are more than one hundred people. We have been carrying out our activities since 2010. Community is at the core of what we are about. We conduct our mission mainly in Grochów (a district of Warsaw), with invaluable support from Local Activities Center (CAL). We supply our members with the highest quality products sourced from suppliers that we know and fully trust. We achieve our goals on our own, relating directly, without any go-betweens, managing our performance through equal duties distribution. We hold our meetings weekly, at Paca 40.

cal.

Our activity is aimed at supporting local small-scale food producers and brands, engaged in sustainable development concepts. Since last two years, we have been involved in the Community Supported Agriculture movement (CSA). We cooperate with the Dobrzyń nad Wisłą vegetable farm.

In 2014. we started to collaborate on the urban garden project, as we believe that big city is also a place of friendly encounters green scenery, and pleasant environtoreate the perfect space for people to gather, have funous subjects, among them on unusual vegetables. herbs, and other edible plants

Also in 2014, we established the Kooperatywa Grochowska Foundation, to enhance involvement and development of the local community.

KOOPERATYWA KOO GROCHOWSKA

Ruta Špiewak, Anna Zarębska-Urbańska kooperatywa.grochowska@gmail.com http://kooperatywagrochowska.pl

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Workings Groups

| WORKING GROUPS | CONTACT PERSONS | PARTICIPANTS |
|--|---|---|
| Advocacy | Isabel Alvarez, isa.urgen- ci@gmail.com Judith Hitchman, hitchman@club-internet. fr | Gaelle Bigler, Jenny Gki- ougki, Veikko Heintz |
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| Declaration | Morgane Iserte, mor- gane.iserte@urgenci.net | Brandusa, Jenny |
| Communication/ Outreach | | Ollie Moore, Judith, Jenny, Gaelle, Brandusa |
| Social Inclusion/ Refugees | Christabel Buchanan, bu- chanac@coventry.ac.uk Tom, Jenny Gkiougki, kikkerjen@gmail.com | Carolin Gruber, Gaelle, Bettina Scharrer, Jenny |

Chart of Participating

Network

| ORGANISATION | COUN- TRY | CONTACT (WEBSITE) |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| ASAT Network | Romania | http://asatromania.ro |
| Association of Local Food Initiatives | Czech Rep. | http://www.asociaceampi.cz |
| CSA Ireland | Ireland | http://www.communitysupportedagricul- ture.ie/ |
| Ecologists in Action, Ecologistas en accion | Spain | http://www.ecologistasenaccion.org/ |
| FRACP French Speak- ing Swiss Federation of contract -based local agricultur | Switzer- land | http://www.acpch.ch/websites/acp/index. php.accueil |
| Gasap Bruxelles Soli- darity -based Purchase Groups for a peasant Agriculture | Belgium | http://www.gasap.be/ |
| Miramap, Interregional Movement of Amap Initiatives | France | http://miramap.org/ |
| Nekasarea-Ehne Biscaye | Basque Country, Spain | http://www.ehnebizkaia.org/ |
| Ochsenherz GeLa | Austria | http://www.ochsenherz.at/ |
| ΟΤΤ | Estonia | https://www.facebook.com/EES- TI-OTT-344841799030495/ |
| Ruokaosuuskunta, Hel- sinki Food Coop | Finland | http://ruokaosuuskunta.fi/ |
| SOLAWI Österreich, Self-Organized CSA Net- work for Austria | Austria | solawi@ernaehrungssouveraenitaet.at |
| SOLAWI Netzwerk Soli- darische Landwirtschaft | Germany | https://www.solidarische-landwirtschaft. org/de/startseite/ |
| Tavola RES | Italy | http://www.economiasolidale.net/tavolo-res |
| TVE Association of Con- scious Consumers/TVE | Hungary | http://tudatosvasarlo.hu/english |

| Voedselteams, Food Teams | Belgium | http://www.voedselteams.be/ |
|---|---------|-----------------------------|
| ZMAG Green Network of Activists Groups | Croatia | http://www.zmag.hr/ |

European allies

| Access to Land European project | Europe | http://www.accesstoland.eu/ |
|--|--------|-----------------------------|
| European Coordination Via Campesina | Europe | http://www.eurovia.org/ |
| IFOAM International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements | World | http://www.ifoam.org/ |
| Nyeleni Europe Com- mittee | Europe | http://nyelenieurope.net/ |
| RIPESS Europe, Inter- continental Social and Solidarity -based Econo- my Network - Europe | Europe | http://www.ripess.org/ |

Supporting organizations

| Die Agronauten | Germany | http://www.agronauten.net/ |
|---|------------|-------------------------------------|
| CEPTA, Center for sus- tainble activities | Slovakia | www.cepta.sk |
| COATI, Colectivo para la autogestion de tecnolo- gias para la interpreta- cion | Spain | http://coati.pimienta.org/ |
| Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture | Czech Rep. | http://www.ctpez.cz/en/english |
| DEAFAL | Italy | http://www.agricolturaorganica.org/ |
| Ekumenická Akademie | Czech Rep. | http://www.ekumakad.cz/ |

| Entretantos | Spain | http://www.entretantos.org/ |
|--|------------|--|
| IGO Institute for Global Responsibility | Poland | http://igo.org.pl/ |
| OIKOS | Norway | http://www.oikos.no/english |
| PRO-BIO LIGA | Czech Rep. | http://www.biospotrebitel.cz/ |
| REKO | Finland | https://www.facebook.com/ groups/438733569549296/?fref=ts |
| Terre de Liens | France | https://www.terredeliens.org/ |





Organizations and donors

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Visegrad Fund

The European Union

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Ministerstvo životního prostředí

The Czech Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of the Environment through their support for NGOs.

And many CSA networks, initiatives and individuals across Europe through the Crowdfunding platform and individual donations.

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