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2022

“LET’S LIBERATE DIVERSITY!”
11th FORUM
// BUDAPEST
2022

Final report

#LLDBUDAPEST2022



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INTRODUCTION

The European Coordination Let's Liberate Diversity! (EC-LLD) draws its origins and foundation from the annual gatherings on agricultural biodiversity known as the Let's Liberate Diversity! Forum.

The **first edition** of the forum took place in 2005 in Poitiers, France, and since then **11 editions** have been organised in different European countries. Rotation is essential for broad and diverse involvement of citizens and communities.

In 2022 the 11th Let's Liberate Diversity! Forum took place in **Budapest, Hungary**. The forum was co-organised together with **Magház**, the Hungarian seed savers organisation established in 2012, with the main aim to work for the participatory management and awareness-raising of agrobiodiversity in Hungary.



Who we are

Let's Liberate Diversity! is a European non-profit organisation, headquartered in Belgium/Italy, established in 2005 and formally founded in 2012.

The three pillars of activities are:

- 1) capacity building on issues regarding seed policy and legislation
- 2) trainings on Community Seed Banks management
- 3) being an exchange platform that facilitates exchanges of practices and information between farmers, seed savers, NGOs, researchers, policy-makers, members and new small realities.

It is composed of 20 members representing 19 different European countries. All members share the same concern: our food systems are too uniform and the promotion of biodiversity is the key to achieving food sovereignty and security for future generations. Diversification of seed systems and diets can be achieved by linking the work of the different actors involved, supporting and promoting their knowledge and actions associated with cultivated biodiversity. The existence of a platform that promotes the exchange and sharing of experiences, traditional knowledge, strategies and policies at European level is therefore essential!

Over the years EC-LLD members have seen that, in order to connect and network different actors, it is fundamental to organise an horizontal exchange (peer to peer) of knowledge and for this reason has developed 2 types of meetings:

- *Let's Liberate Diversity!* They are European meetings targeted to experts, institutions, general public and citizens, promoting exchange across countries and raising awareness within citizens. Usually, it is organised in different European cities.
- *Let's Cultivate Diversity!* They are practical meetings targeted to farmers, processors and practitioners with the aim of sharing their knowledge around crops and processing. Usually, it is organised in a



INTRODUCTION

Participating in the Forum in Budapest were **68 different organisations and 28 different countries for a total of 120 registrations.**

Within this framework and involving the main national associations, it is possible to involve rural communities and local formal and informal groups in a European conversation. It is within these communities that knowledge about growing, preserving and using local varieties is preserved. This is of crucial importance when we consider the strong genetic erosion and the use of uniform varieties within food production systems.

Seeds design the agricultural systems in which they will be grown, and their quality is essential to ensure good production for farmers.

At the same time, however, seeds have a social imaginary that moves them out of being just a means

of production in agriculture. Indeed, the names of varieties, their characteristics are linked to our history, they once defined our symbolic horizons, tastes and flavours are linked to our tradition and cuisine.

But there is more. Those who control the seeds control the food system and what we put on our plates. That is why talking about seeds is not easy and touches emotional chords that are not normally considered by the technicalities with which we usually deal with agricultural matters. Without understanding all these threads that link seeds to society, serious seed policies cannot be made that can meet all the expectations of the many and varied stakeholders.



Involvement of social actors dealing with agrobiodiversity: an EU on-farm network

The involvement of social actors is essential for the development of a dynamic and collective management and use of agrobiodiversity!

It has been seen how there are many more realities than expected that collectively manage seeds and genetic resources, and these must become central again to the management of genetic resources and minimise genetic erosion. During the DIVERSITY project

During the **DYNAVERSITY** project, EC-LLD in collaboration with the CIRAD partner, conducted a Let's Liberate Diversity! (LLD) and Let's Cultivate Diversity! (LCD) events-based analysis. This analysis made it possible to study past events and therefore understand how to **involve social actors** more closely in future events with the aim to **promote socio-environmental practices** and ensure **food security** for future generations.

During the Budapest forum it was presented the results of the study

as the interactive online-map obtained by conducting an LLD and LCD events-based analysis and the wordcloud results.

The main goal is to increase capacities for *in-situ* and **on-farm conservation of plant genetic resources** by mapping and bringing together stakeholders involved in the dynamic management of plant genetic resources.

During the study, participant data and event programmes of the LLD and LCD from 2005 to 2019 (total of 14 events), were collected. The study methodology involved collecting



and summarising data using the participant lists and the programs of the forums for a wordcloud graphic . A total of 1709 records were collected and documented with the organisation name, the type of organisation, the gender of the participant, the country of origin and the scale of action of their organisation for the 10 LLD meetings and the 4 LCD events. The wordcloud analysis, on the other hand, shows the main themes discussed during the forums (central and larger words repeated more in programs).

Note how holding a European forum brings the main and most structured European actors to the different countries, and there is a strong involvement of national actors.

Thanks to 10 Let's Liberate Diversity Forums and 4 Let's Cultivate Diversity! meetings, it is possible to better understand the historical

On-line story map

At this link you can find the online map with all the results obtained, from content and outputs of forums to statistical analysis on participants and word analysis of workshop programs.

<https://liberatediversity.org/european-forums/>

At the following link is possible to give a look to the full project deliverable:

https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/DYNAVERSITY-D1_4-DEF_ML-5.pdf

context and the way of networking of actors involved in the PGRFA conservation and use across countries and years. Nowadays, these types of meetings would be considered as real Living Labs, where the exchange of knowledge is multi-actor, horizontal and taking into account real-life situations of actors.



Workshops contents over time: the Word Cloud analyses and the evolution of the different thematics

It is interesting to note the evolution of the words used in the LLD programs within the workshops over the years. Here are some examples with the text the bold words are the ones extracted from the word cloud analysis.



LLD 2005, Poitiers, France

The 150 participants (e.g farmers, associations scientists) have exchanged on the **rights of farmers** linked to the production, exchange and conservation of seeds. The forum was followed by a strategy session on **participatory research, GMOs and GMO-free regions** in the European Parliament in February 2006.

In 2005 EC-LLD network was talking about **research** and **farmers** and their **rights and seeds**, starting a discussion also on biodiversity loss and the worries about a **future situation**.



2006 LLD 2 - Bullas, Spain

The main point of discussion on the agenda of this meeting was the new proposal of the European Directive on **conservation varieties**. Forum participants asked in a joint letter sent to the European Commission for a seed legislation more adapted to the **needs of farmers** and more open to **agrobiodiversity**.

In 2006 on the proposal of the **European Directive on conservation varieties** and there is still talk of **conservation, GMOs and a need for action**.

Over the years the word conservation will then disappear to make way for dynamic management.



2011 LLD 6 Szeged, Hungary

The forum's central theme was the question of **Farmers' Rights** related to the **conservation, sustainable use and development of agricultural biodiversity**.

The event was attended by **280** farmers, gardeners, seed artisans, bakers and processors of products derived from agricultural biodiversity, civil society organizations, researchers, breeders and representatives of gene banks as well as local communities implementing initiatives on agricultural biodiversity in Europe. The Secretary of the Treaty Dr. Shakeel Bhatti participated in the last days of the meeting and to the closing plenary.

In 2011 **biodiversity, agricultural, policy strategy, anti-gmo seed, local, legislation, farmers' rights, food systems** (for the first time). **networks and exchange.**

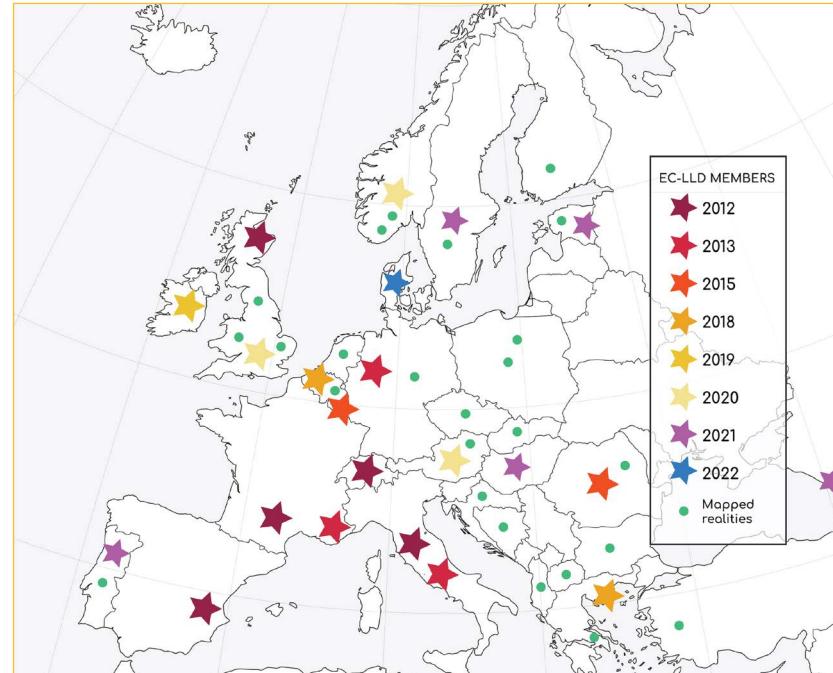


Map of social actors working with agrobiodiversity and EC-LLD membership pathway

In proposing new models of governance, we consider that it is central and fundamental to the social role in the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. For this reason, it is considered important to develop and strengthen national realities and a European network.

Organizations as seed savers, seed networks NGOs related to on-farm management and use of PGRFA were mapped. Some of the mapped organizations are historical realities that have been working for years on the national territory, others are new initiatives that are emerging thanks to the agro-ecological impulse of recent years. During the last years some organisations joined the EC-LLD network:

Today the EC-LLD is composed of 20 members, among which seed-savers' organisations, seed networks, NGOs, national organic associations representing 19 different European countries.



At the opening of the forum during the first day, an interactive session was organised with the aim to get to know each of the EC-LLD members. Each member occupied a space, so participants were able to find out and go and ask for more information from the organizations/countries of greatest interest.



BUILDING AN EUROPEAN NETWORK

General Assembly 2018

- Aegilops (Greece)
- Réseau Moïse Rhin Moselle (Benelux)

General Assembly 2019

- Irish Seed Savers (Ireland)

General Assembly 2020

- Arche Noah (Austria)
- Heritage Seed Library - Garden Organic (UK)
- KVANN - Norwegian Seed Savers (Norway)

General Assembly 2021

- Maghaz (Hungary)
- Quinta da Águas (Portugal)
- Maadjas (Estonia)
- ELKANA - Organic Farmers Association(Georgia)

General Assembly 2022

- Danish Seed Savers (Denmark)



The Extraordinary assembly European Coordination Let's Liberate Diversity! Summary and main points

Let's Liberate Diversity! is an European network and therefore forums or meetings are important moments for members to get together and organise activities. As is often the case, before or after LLD meetings there is an Assembly.

This assembly had several relevant items on the agenda. First of all, the family has grown and we have the Danish Seed Savers as new members. Their entry is very pleasing as they are very active and organised, and complete the involvement of the Scandinavian countries in a European narrative. What a pity, however, for the absence of ProSpecieRara Germany, which applied for entry but failed to attend the meeting, postponing its entry until 2023.

An important goal achieved during the assembly was the closing of the new statute. In fact, started during the Barcelona 2021 assembly, throughout the year a Working Group met and during the assembly the new statute was voted on and closed. The new statute, therefore, represents the new foundation for future activities, defining the goals and identity of EC-LLD in a shared approach. Also presented was the work of the Seed Law Working Group, which has developed a document as a mandate for action to follow up on all activities pertaining to the topic.

During the afternoon, the work of the Ethics Working Groups was presented and the creation of a Working Group to search for new funds and stimulate planning between members and if necessary with the Coordination.



The activities of the two current projects, namely SEEDING EUROPE - Erasmus+ and LIVESEEDING - HORIZON Europe, were presented. In conclusion, before the Forum's inauguration, **GOSSI- Global Coalition of Open Source Seed Initiatives** presented its activities to all members.

Next assembly will be in May 2023, and the venue for the 12th LLD Forum is still not decided.



Workshops

summaries and main
outcomes

POLICIES

PRACTICES



1_Potential deregulation of New GMOs: what are the implications for the seed sector and what are the possibilities to remain GMO-free?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The workshop aimed to **explore the implications a potential deregulation of new GMOs at EU level could have on the seed sector** and to see how to **preserve the integrity and diversity of our genetic resources from new GMOs**.

After a presentation of the timeline and the issues at stake, the workshop focussed on the **key stakeholders involved** in the negotiations and on **how to shift the debate** to prevent the deregulation from happening.

Participants discussed **potential actions** to stop the deregulation process, such as reaching out to influencers, targeting consumers or calling out on national ministers. There was a lively discussion to determine the type of action that has the most impact.

The **different policy scenarios** envisioned so far by the European Commission were also presented and discussed. Most scenarios raised many questions and seemed quite problematic. The participants debated the potential impact each scenario would have on the seed sector to decide how to influence the upcoming negotiations.

Speakers:

CLARA BEHR - Head of Policy and Public relations at Biodynamic Federation Demeter International

Main outcomes of the workshop

The European Commission aims to publish the **new legislative proposal before the summer 2023**. This means that there are still a couple of months left to prevent the deregulation from happening.

It is up to us now to join our efforts and undertake everything possible to shift the debate. It can be through a public event, letters to relevant ministries or MEPs, campaigns, or even just by raising awareness. **Everything is possible as long as it contributes to making our voice heard!**

Presentations, publications or any other material shared by the workshop organiser:

https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/LLDForum_NewGMOs_221028.pdf



2_SEEDING EUROPE: seed marketing legislation

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The workshop showed **which laws affect diversity actors and in which way**, followed by an **introduction into the EU seed marketing legislation and its ongoing reform**.

Furthermore, the workshop presented activities foreseen in the framework of the **ERASMUS+ project called SEEDING_EU** and identified knowledge gaps amongst participants on the policy-making processes related to seeds, assessing the capacity and willingness to participate in the different activities.

Afterwards, the participants discussed in groups how their work for cultivated plant diversity is affected and how the needed changes in the seeds marketing legislation can be communicated to the broader public.

Hot topics were **plant health and seed marketing legislation**, as well as **intellectual property rights**.

Speakers:

MAGDALENA PRIELER - Seed Policy Officer at Arche Noah

MATTHIAS LORIMER - Secretary and coordinator of European Coordination Liberate Diversity!

FULYA BATUR - Consultant, facilitator and trainer

CHRISTOPHE GOLAY - Senior Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy

Main outcomes of the workshop

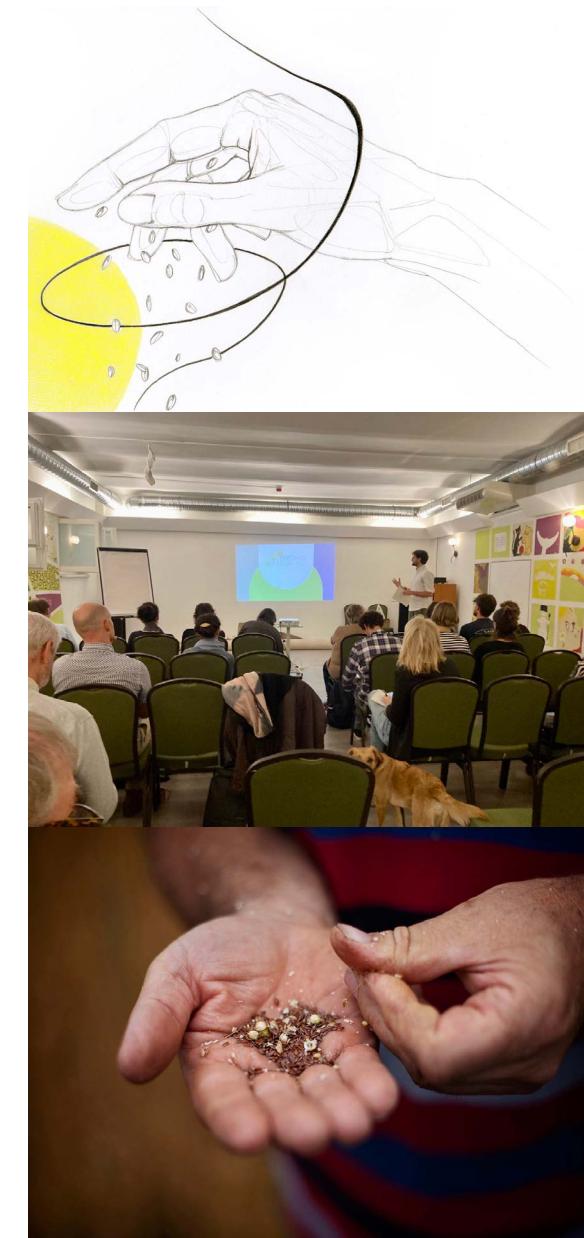
The workshop reinforced the capacity of associations and individuals working to conserve and increase seed diversity to **understand and monitor the public policies that impact the conservation and use of seeds**, and work for an enabling legislative environment both at European and national levels.

For the seed marketing reform, it became clear that we need to **work together closely** to achieve that the new legislation will **promote**, rather than hinder, **cultivated plant diversity**.

Presentations, publications or any other material shared by the workshop organiser:

https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SEEDING-EUROPE_presentation-during-the-workshop_Lorimer.pdf

<https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Seed-Marketing-Reform-LLD-Budapest-Meeting.pdf>



3_Agrobiodiversity: a burden or relief?



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Agrobiodiversity is often hard to integrate into farming businesses, as most farmers focus on a few crops for maximal profit and efficiency. While in alternative farming systems such as permaculture, the aim is to maximise biodiversity and also agrobiodiversity.

The question is **how can we fit in agrobiodiversity to market gardening and other profitable farming businesses?**

What are the cons and pros, practical considerations of farmers?

The three main topics were:

- **cultivar choice** (e.g. modern hybrid vs. traditional varieties)
- **farm management** (irrigation, soil management, crop protection etc.)
- **business perspective** (marketing, sale opportunities, niche markets etc.)

Speakers:

ALFRÉD SZILÁGYI - Hungarian Permaculture Association

Main outcomes of the workshop

The workshop started with a quick presentation by the organiser, Alfréd Szilágyi, member of the Hungarian Permaculture Association and a small scale CSA vegetable grower. He introduced their farm in Kóspallag and the practical considerations around how to integrate agrobiodiversity into farming businesses.

The participants discussed in small groups **main obstacles and practical considerations** of farmers about making decisions **to which extent they are capable of integrating agrobiodiversity to their farming business.**

As for cultivar choice modern varieties offer uniformity in quality and can be resistant to specific problems, but this uniformity can also pose threats to resilience. The main obstacle with them was their price and availability, as contrary to **traditional varieties** which offer higher levels of independence of farmers.



3_Agrobiodiversity: a burden or relief?

As summarised by the groups, traditional varieties also offer better or more complex taste, perform better under extensive circumstances and can cater to specific niche markets.

However, these varieties can sometimes have lower yields in the short term, **require specific knowledge and local adaptation** and can be problematic for market gardeners due to their heterogeneity.

As for **economic performance** the traditional varieties also pose specific considerations to the farmers. They offer a wider variety to choose from than the modern seed catalogues, but seeds can be hard to come by in larger quantities.

If the farmer decides to do their own seed saving, this requires allocating labour hours to planning, planting, seed saving; as well as special tools and excessive knowledge on botanical characteristics. For marketing purposes, they can be advantageous when serving local niche markets or gastronomy partners with on demand production; but are less competitive in larger scale markets.



4_Alternative grains economies – pathways to outscaling

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This training workshop, funded by the **COACH project** on collaborative agrifood chains, aimed at **demonstrating how alternative grain networks and value chains can build on consumer-driven opportunities and thus help to rebalance farmers' position in the value chain.**

Alternative grain networks and value chains using local, heritage, and landrace cereal varieties respond to new consumer demands around **health, nutrition, and ecological footprint.**

In the recent decade, we recorded an increased acknowledgement of these value chains supplying food products derived from local agricultural biodiversity.

This training workshop grew out of the insight that SFSC actors need to understand better how consumer lifestyles affect the food they purchase so that this can inform product development and marketing. We asked alternative grain value chain actors to **exchange their personal experiences (successes and failures) on the latest consumer trends and market developments.**

Contributions centred around three questions:

- 1) **What are the current consumer preferences and trends** (e.g., changing habits due to multiple crises, the rise of veganism, shift to low-carbon, health and nutrition trends, digital lives)
- 2) **How to relate these consumer preferences to distribution models, collaborative management, product development, branding and adding value?** What are the unique selling points (reduced ecological footprint, nutritional quality)?
- 3) **In what way can we improve farmers' incomes?**

More than 45 participants gathered to discuss how various stakeholders can support the promotion of **fair pricing, risk sharing, closer collaboration between all the food systems' actors, the role of advanced technologies in the transformation of food systems, and possibilities for alternative grain economies.**



Speakers:

LUCAS VAN DEN ABEELE - *Brouwerij3Fonteinen (Belgium)*

ÁDÁM FÜLÖP - *Pipacs Bakery (Hungary)*

FRUZSINA SZIRA - *ÖMKi (Hungary)*

MARIAM JORJADZE - *Elkana (Georgia)*

JANOS-ISTVAN PETRUSAN - *DIL German Institute of Food Technologies (Germany)*

Online discussants:

DAVID FANFANI - *Gran Prato (Italy)*

CHRIS MAUGHAM - *CAWR (UK)*



4_Alternative grains economies – pathways to outscaling

Main outcomes of the workshop

The session started with brief presentations of good practices coming from different parts of Europe.

Lucas Van den Abeele explained how the model run by **3 Fonteinen** not only creates and sustains a network of farmers who chose to sow **ancient types of wheat and barley** in an organic way but how it also supports all the network members amid the climate crisis. To protect farmers from bankruptcy caused by climate change, the brewery decided to pay farmers for hectares used to sow the requested grain, and on top of that, also pays for the grain per ton to incentivise a high-quality production process. The example of 3 Fonteinen work proves that through **collaboration** and **mutual recognition and support**, businesses can not only **benefit from organic and agroecological products**, but they can also **boost economic growth and education in the region by inviting farmers to the dialogue and sharing risks with them**.



Adám Fülöp agreed with Lucas VdA and added that for the **Hungarian Farmer-Baker-Miller network**, the collaboration between all the stakeholders was crucial for the success. The initiative was a result of a **bottom-to-top initiative** run by bakers who decided to promote the production of **natural sourdough bread** in the region and support each other amid local administrative constraints. Experienced bakers decided to

share their knowledge to boost the **food systems transformation** even though it meant that they were helping their competitors to become more successful in a very limited market.

Fruzsina Szira shared that the **Research Institute of Organic Agriculture** has also established a network of farms where **ancient seeds types** are being cultivated, while **János-István**



4_Alternative grains economies – pathways to outscaling

Petrusán showed that **3d printing** can support bakers with bread production and mentioned that the **Reiner Stolzenberger bakery** is now focusing on **new raw materials** like chickpeas, peas, fungi, and coffee silverskin.

Mariam Jorjadze, who presented **Elkana's** work, explained how the country had to have successfully shifted from Soviet politics relying on the massive production of selected grains and fruits to the **biodiverse approach to food production**. Elkana promotes **sustainable and organic processes** and introduces quality schemes all over Georgia. Together with donors, they support small- and medium-scale farmers with initiatives promoting the **conservation of agricultural biodiversity**. Elkana's work is nicely summarised during public events like the **bread festival**, which slowly become a new tradition in the region.

After learning about good practices presented by the speakers, participants were highly interested in insights on convincing customers to buy the end product that often can be more expen-

sive than the industrial option. Guests asked how institutions chose the seed variant for their bread or beer and how they invited farmers to collaborate and encouraged them to sow ancient seed types. The answer to their questions was **education and genuine collaboration**, which is being improved on a regular basis as a **result of systematic evaluation of all the stakeholders' needs**.

Eventually, participants discussed **marketing methods** and **how they can contribute to the transformation of food systems on a bigger scale**.

There is no perfect solution to this issue yet, however, the speakers agreed that **consumers' education is the first step to take**. Through the explanation of agroecological principles to the consumers and through encouraging farmers to take pride in the end product as their own work, the word will be spread, and more and more people will appreciate and choose organic and agroecological solutions over industrial ones.

In conclusion, **alternative grains are gaining**

momentum in the discussion around the food system's transformation.

Not only food producers but also consumers recognize the value of biodiverse, organic, and agroecological produce and are keen to support grass-roots movements in outscaling and improving the quality of food. As agreed by the participants, in order to grow and improve territorial food systems, **more education and collaboration are needed**.



5_Stop patents on seeds – How to make our campaign a success together

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Most participants attended the workshop to get an update about the current political and legal situation in regards to patents on seeds and to learn more about the ongoing campaign by No patents on seeds!

Thus, with the help of an interactive quiz with some basic questions about patents we engaged in a lively discussion about the **current practice of the European Patent Organisation (EPO) to grant patents on conventional breeding**, even though this is actually excluded from patentability.

Possible solutions to close the legal loopholes, such as amending the legal provisions (Implementing Regulation, EPO), were discussed.

To achieve that No patents on seeds! has a petition going that asks for a Conference of Ministers of the Contracting States of the EPO. The petition already gathered over 240.000 signatures and is supported by over 60 organisations.

Speakers:

JOHANNA ECKHARDT - Project coordination at No patents on seeds!

Main outcomes of the workshop

There was a unanimous agreement that patents on conventional breeding should be stopped. In addition, we discussed that patents on new breeding techniques are equally worrying and that there is as well a connection to the current debate about the deregulation of new GMO. Whereas different organisations focus on specific aspects and goals, it is very helpful to **keep the greater pictures in mind and try to cooperate with other initiatives**.

An easy step to be taken at the moment is to **sign the petition as an individual or an organisation until mid-December 2022** (<https://www.no-patents-on-seeds.org/en/petition>) or to contact national ministries, representatives of the Administrative Council of the EPO, MEPs, etc. and ask them to take action.

Presentations, publications or any other material shared by the workshop organiser:

<https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022-10-NPOS-LLD.pdf>

<https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Patents-Quiz.pdf>

The petition that can still be signed until mid-December 2022:
<https://www.no-patents-on-seeds.org/en/petition>



6_Everything you always wanted to know about the FAO Treaty and UNDROP, but were afraid to ask

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The workshop, facilitated by Riccardo Bocci and Christophe Golay, presented the history of the **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)**, its main provisions (art. 5, 6, 9), its Multilateral System (MLS), the negotiation at the last session of the Governing Body in New Delhi (India - September 2022), the history of the **UNDROP**, its legal basis and its implementation in Europe.

Participants were very active and there was a good discussion, based on their questions.

Speakers:

CHRISTOPHE GOLAY - Senior Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy
RICCARDO BOCCI - Manager Director of Rete Semi Rurali

Main outcomes of the workshop

The main outcome of the workshops has been increasing the awareness of the participants on the two international agreements, giving them an overall overview of their rationale. Moreover, during the discussion, participants had the

possibility to analyse concrete ways for the implementation of both agreements in their countries.

At the end of the workshop, it was shared the timeline of the **next event within the Treaty**: the Global Symposium on Farmers' rights in India during the summer and the next session of the Governing Body in Italy at the end of 2023. It was also suggested to organise some activity during the GB10 in Rome on behalf of ECLLD. RSR gave its availability to help ECLLD's members to participate to the GB10.

Presentations, publications or any other material shared by the workshop organiser:

https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/bocci-FAO_Budapest.pdf

Most recent publications of Christophe Golay: [Guide on the Right to Land and UNDROP](#) / [Manual on ESCR and SDGs](#) / [2022 Research and Teaching Activities](#)

Christophe Golay co-authored publications on the right to seeds in Europe with Fulya Batur. Last year, we published a [practical manual in English](#) and a summary in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). This year, they sent [contributions to the EU Commission on the need to include UNDROP in the reform of EU rules on seed marketing](#).

This [Briefing Paper on Implementing the FAO Treaty in light of UNDROP](#) published by the Geneva Academy and APBRE-BES.



7_Scaling up biodiversity: how to make sustainable diets mainstream

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Collective efforts to upscale the effects of climate-friendly diets can't indulge in niche markets and local initiatives only, but should rather engage in dialogue with mainstream channels and big political and economic players in (global) food systems.

In this workshop, we discussed **current trends and loopholes in European food policies**, with a specific focus on their **effect on consumers' behaviours and the role of civil society in addressing the reality of economic, social and educational barriers that low income citizens face to choose a "sustainable" and "biodiverse" diet.**



Speakers:

OTTAVIA PIERETTO - Activist from Food Wave – ACRA

VIRGINIA PIGNATA - Activist from Food Wave – ACRA

Main outcomes of the workshop

With this workshop we dug deep on the **contradictions of mainstream narratives within the strategies to upscale biodiversity and sustainability in diets**. We discussed the shared responsibility and challenges for civil society organisations to renegotiate priorities and build larger alliances with policy-makers and economic stakeholders.



8_Reintroducing small-scale grain-growing in the highlands of scotland

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Central activities of this workshop were:

- Presenting an overview of remaining Scottish landraces on the islands and recent work on **reintroducing small-scale grain growing** in the Highlands, where it has disappeared often more than 150 years ago and with it the knowledge, the seeds and the equipment.
- **New value chains** have to be developed to create markets. We showed results of a research project into adding value to the Hebridean rye landrace by testing its suitability for bread, beer and whisky
- Addressing a **major bottleneck** for small-scale grain growers in Scotland and Wales: **adequate machinery for grain processing**. We showed progress in the development of a dehuller for oats, a project funded by the **Seed Sovereignty Programme**, the Small Oat Collider, developed by Adam Veitch with version 2.0 launched on the 29th of October in Wales. This dehuller has a dehulling rate of 96%, costs around 600 euros in materials and is as **Open Source design** available on-line on the Seed Sovereignty Programme website
- **Sharing grains**, flour types and a heritage oat product, oat cakes, with the participants

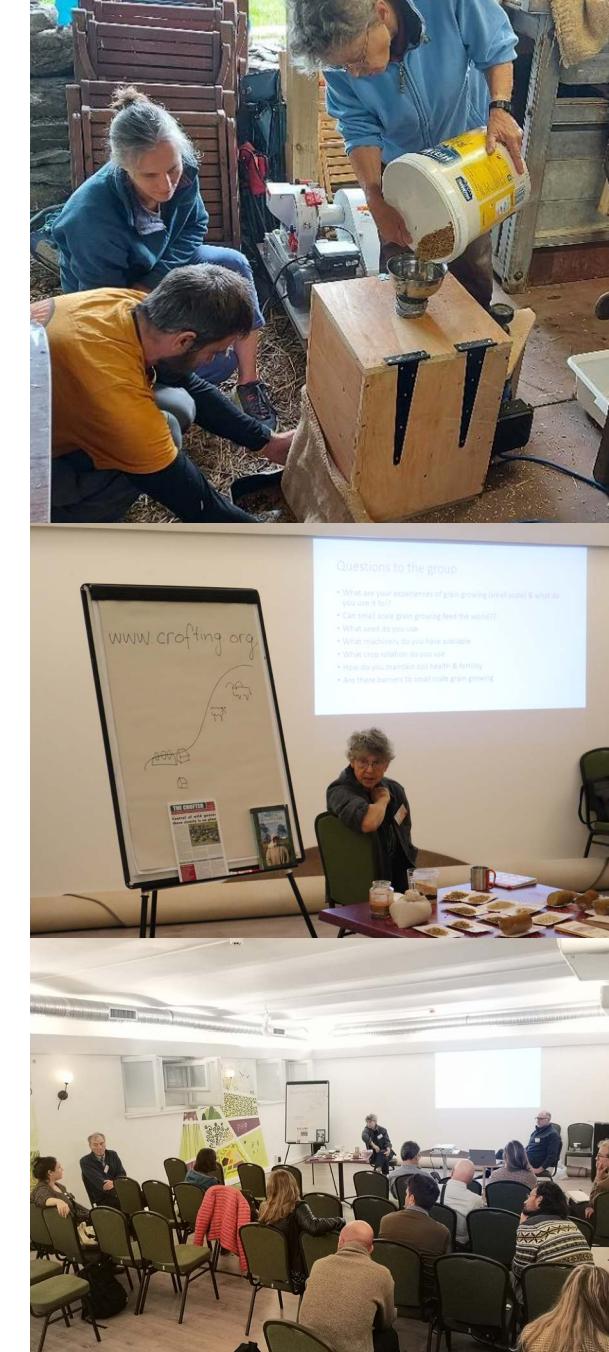
Speakers:

MARIA SCHOLTEN - Scottish Crofting Federation

MIKE HYATT - Crofter on the small island of Lismore in the west of Scotland

Main outcomes of the workshop

- Interest in the **small-scale machinery**, possibly sharing small scale equipment still being used across Europe and **raising awareness** about the new equipment
- **Swapping seeds** to experiment with and to add to the collection of winter rye varieties in the experimental rye nursery in Scotland and for trialling in other countries
- **Sharing information** about advantages and disadvantages of summer versus winter rye growing.



9_Food sovereignty and peasant autonomy: what kind of reality?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The workshop, which was attended by about 15 participants, provided an opportunity to reflect in small groups and then collectively on the **links between food sovereignty and peasant autonomy**.

The different realities and ways of conceiving these two concepts have revealed that they only partially overlap. In particular, the different scales at which sovereignty and autonomy can be envisaged were discussed, raising the need for the union of peasants.

The need for farmers to **control the processing tools and distribution chains** was validated by all. Various concrete **examples** were then shared by the participants, notably on the supply of school canteens or a land cooperative.

Speakers:

AÏCHA BOURAD - Economic issues facilitator at Réseau Semences Paysannes

AMÉLIE HALLOT-CHARMASSON - Legal facilitator at the Réseau semences Paysannes

CYRILLE PACTEAU - Farmer and ECLLD's board member on behalf of Réseau Semences Paysannes



Main outcomes of the workshop

The main results of this workshop are first and foremost **exchanges and meetings between members**. Two other elements of reflection and vigilance were raised:

- the importance of thinking about **energy independence**
- the importance of being mindful of the types of computer sharing tools, particularly with regard to the **ownership of agricultural data** provided by peasants.



10_Supporting Resilience: Building Self-Reliance into Network Structures

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The workshop was an opportunity for organisations that support networks of smaller groups to discuss structures that have worked – and possibly some that haven't – in the aim to develop **self-reliant, independent networks** in the future.

Several key themes came out of the discussion about challenges these groups face:

- **Funding** is always an issue – even if you work out a solid, replicable structure, there will always be a need for some budget. This ties into the next point that:
- **You can't rely on volunteers completely** – people burn out, have other commitments, need to make a living, and so it's not sustainable to expect volunteers to always be able to give their time and energy freely (not to mention the accessibility issues around using volunteer labour).
- **Volunteers need support** – through training, feeling 'a part' of something, opportunities etc

• **'Mushrooming' organisations can be an issue**
– try to avoid multiple organisations or networks popping up that essentially fulfil the same function or overlap a great deal. The reality of the complexity of managing human relations and that the mushrooming often comes out of an inability to work together causing a fracturing of one group into multiples



Speakers:

SINÉAD FORTUNE - Manager, Seed Sovereignty Programme, The Gaia Foundation

ROBYN MINOGUE - Southwest England Coordinator for the Seed Sovereignty Programme, The Gaia Foundation

LILI BALOGH - President of Agroecology Europe & Hungarian Agroecology Network Association

ANGELICA MARCHETTI - Agroecologist - Agroecology Europe Youth Network

IVANA RADOVIĆ - Balkan Seed Network

Main outcomes of the workshop

Main outcome was to meet networks in similar positions, to **share best practices** and possibly spark some new ideas to bring home. It was reassuring that networks across the countries are facing some very similar challenges, even if some of them don't have any obvious solutions! It always helps build **solidarity** to know others are having the same experiences.



10_Supporting Resilience: Building Self-Reliance into Network Structures

With regard to follow-up workshops, in the future it would be great to **dissect funding structures as this is a crucial issue in the sustainability of groups.** Engaging with **new-generation funders** who want to break out of stale funding structures in order to create new models, and/or self-funding options (eg membership fees, percentage of profits from product sales going back to the group etc) to address the unavoidable issue that not everything can be done perpetually for free would be valuable. Best practices for resilient group structures (e.g. positions of power only being held for a limited number of years, with a handover phase worked into that) would also be very interesting as well as communication and conflict resolution training.

Presentations, publications or any other material shared by the workshop organiser:

https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Pres-for-LLD-Oct-22_Gaia-foundation.pdf



https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/AEEUYN-presentation_LLD-1.pdf

https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Balkan-Seed-Network_LLDforum.pptx.pdf



11_How to improve and reuse forgotten crops and cultivars. From (gene bank) freezer to fork

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

There is a vast, but non-utilised diversity kept in gene banks, while the available diversity of marketed seeds and crops has still not improved significantly. This is especially true when it comes to climate robust, drought tolerant cultivars in combination with a higher demand for locally sourced vegetarian diets. In the frame of this workshop, we were looking at **several success stories** and investigated how **we can adapt and upscale them in different regions**. We also discussed the main bottlenecks encountered along the way and how to overcome them by **participatory and inclusive approaches**.

Speakers:

ORSOLYA PAPP - ÖMKi

HELENE MAIERHOFER - Arche Noah

MARTA W. VASCONCELOS - Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Porto

BÉLA BARTHA - Pro Specie Rara



Main outcomes of the workshop

In the frame of a **world-café** we collected the participants' answers to the following questions:

1. How to navigate among gene bank accessions?

Sharing best practices on which accessions to try, means of selection, number of accessions selected for trials? Number of trial locations and years to achieve robust data.

Facilitator: ATTILA KRÁLL - Agri Kulti

1.1. Pre-selection of accessions

- Based on 'good/interesting' names. Cultivars with exciting, good-sounding names have greater marketing value (if they also perform well in cultivation).
- How old are the seeds? Seeds tend to 'remember' the agro-ecological conditions in which they have grown. Seeds that have been in storage for a longer period and planted somewhere may not



11_How to improve and reuse forgotten crops and cultivars. From (gene bank) freezer to fork



develop properly, not only because they lost their germination capacity, but also because of the different conditions.

- Available information. Many of the cultivars stored in gene repositories **lack sufficient information on physiognomy**, sensitivity, etc. It's worth selecting from the known ones, but of course this way the info-deficient varieties remain so.

1.2. Number of years, locations

- **1st year is a year of decision** – The impressions and experiences of the cultivation year are decisive, even if the differences between years can be large

- **2-3 subsequent years of cultivation experiments** with the same cultivars are sufficient for scientific publication purposes.
- **More growing years are needed to make decisions on varieties** and selecting them: at least 4 years for cereals, and even more for tomatoes, legumes.

- **1.3. Means of selection/score – depends highly on the goal of selection (food, feed, etc.)**
- Cultural perspective – Rediscovering traditional

and/or marginalised foods and their ingredients, varieties linked to a particular area or region.

- Performance/adaptability - one of the most important factors affecting production in market volume
- Taste – the 2nd most important factor, as consumers will put taste first.
- Processing possibilities – how suitable the variety is for processing - how well it retains its beneficial characteristics.
- Nutrition - an important selection criterion in case of high nutrient content or dangerous levels of antinutrients

General thoughts for working with gene bank accessions:

- Think about creation of **mixed populations**, that are more resilient to environmental and agro-ecological conditions and thus more adaptable.
- Think about **creating 'new varieties'** (i.e., mixed populations) adapted to local conditions - these take many years.
- **Get rid of paradigms, 'traditional's!** - In the face of changing environmental and cultural conditions, it makes sense to be flexible with tradi-

tional approaches: not to be afraid of introducing unknown species and varieties, trying new methods.

2. How to organise and fund participatory selection and/or centralised breeding?

Climate adaptation of species/cultivars in combination with selection based on quality traits (nutrient content, protein content/quality, etc). Facilitator: JUDIT FEHÉR - ÖMKi

- **Fee for cultivar use:** in this model farmers get a starter seed lot and pay an annual fee or an amount of money based on the area they cultivate a specific cultivar. This money is used to fund breeding projects within the organisation to further improve existing or create new cultivars/ evolutionary populations (E.g. Maadjes, Finland).
- **Bulk money model:** the 'seed money' can be collected from sponsors, but farmers also pay a small amount to establish a fund which can be used for the development of new cultivars. Additionally in case of vis major this bulk money can be used to compensate farmers for their loss (**Pro Specie Rara**, Switzerland).



11_How to improve and reuse forgotten crops and cultivars. From (gene bank) freezer to fork

• **EU funds, public funding programs:** with the Green Deal and Farm to Fork strategy more and more projects are expected on the topic of agrobiodiversity and climate robust crop improvement. Via the EC-LLD network we can keep in touch to share such initiatives/developing consortia and to facilitate collaboration via e.g. Horizon projects.

• **Built in the price model:** consumers pay a little surplus for each product they buy to fund the breeding of new cultivars (e.g. Dottenfelderhof, Germany)

• **Membership fees and participatory selection networks** can be also used to facilitate cultivar selection/adaptation for specific regions and specific use (**Reseau Semences Paisannes**, France, **Magház**, Hungary)

• **Citizen science** has great potentials to enable on a broader level the application of participatory selection methods, e.g. **SeedLinked** and the Increase Horizon project. Training materials are also produced and shared within citizen science projects.

3. What ways of upscaling do we foresee (in Europe)?

Facilitator: BÁLINT BALÁZS - ESSRG

3.1. Barriers:

- Regulations
- Access to market
- Matching supply and demand
- Inflexibility of value chain actors
- Loss of know-how
- Food/seed illiteracy

3.2. Opportunities

- Consumer education
- Transferring to farmers
- Short value chains
- Young farmers
- Seed multipliers/seed guardians
- Collaboration of value chain actors□ product culture
- Community supported agriculture as intermediary

We need both bottom-up and top-down approaches as well as market and non-market influence for upscaling diversity use.

Presentations, publications or any other material shared by the workshop organiser:

The following presentations were inspiring the participants to share their own experiences and good practices during the interactive part of the workshop:

Organic tomato landrace seedlings on the Hungarian market, as a result of on-farm research of ÖMKi, Orsolya Papp (ÖMKi) https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/OMKi_tomato_landrace_story.pdf

Participatory breeding in Austria, Helene Meierhofer (Arche Noah) https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Presentation_HeleneMaierhofer_ECLLD_Budapest_2022.pdf

From freezer to fork, Béla Bartha (Pro Specie Rara) https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/PSR_COOP_ECLLD_28_10_2022.pdf

Underutilised Crop Cluster for growing, processing, and commercialising Ucs, Marta Vasconcelos (UCP) https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Underutilised-Crop-Cluster_UCP.pdf



12_Open source strategies for seed as a commons - challenges and opportunities

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The **Global Coalition of Open Source Seed Initiatives (GOSSI)** is an international network that envisions a world in which agricultural seeds are free to be used, saved, shared and bred by anyone. Members are developing or promoting **open-source strategies** to protect seeds as commons in a global context characterised by increasing intellectual property rights (such as patents and plant breeder rights) and other legal restrictions on seeds (such as certification, registration, etc.). The presenters are members of the GOSSI network and represent a variety of international open source seed and participatory breeding initiatives that share the objective of increasing the diversity of both cultivated seed and breeders.

The workshop included 6 short keynote presentations, followed by a final Discussion - World Café Session.

NOTE: Attendees were able to register for GOSSI updates. If you were not able to attend this workshop and wish to sign up for GOSSI updates, please email: info@seed-commons.net

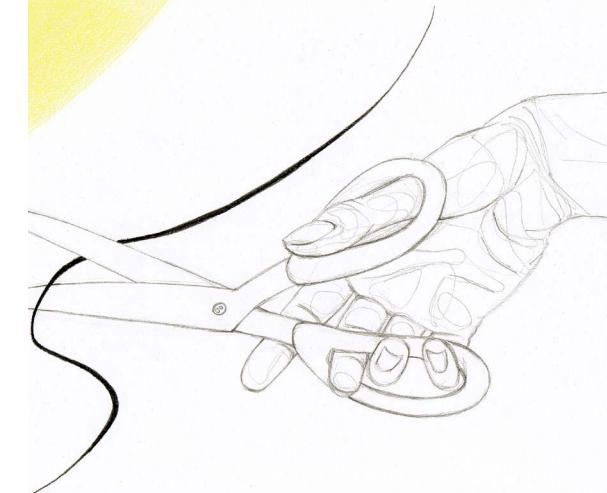
Speakers & Main outcomes of the workshop

1. Keynote: ALMENDRA CREMASCHI, Bioleft, Argentina // Linking stakeholder capabilities to strengthen seeds as commons in Argentina

Bioleft is an Argentinean initiative that is experimenting with an **open-source, collaborative approach to seed breeding**. The presentation described how Bioleft is seeking to link farmers and farmer-breeders, who are marginal to mainstream seed innovation processes, with public sector plant breeders in order to develop germplasm suitable for the needs of family farmers, and others working with low external input farming practices.

2. Keynote: JOHANNES KOTSCHI, OpenSource-Seeds - Agrecol, Germany // Financing organic plant breeding with an open source strategy

Royalties from plant variety protection or from patents provide little or nothing to finance organic plant breeding. Therefore, we searched for **new financing strategies** based on the concept of seed as commons and by use of an open-source seed licence. As a result, the alternatives found offer promising potential for organic plant breeding and an alternative to IPR-based funding.



Think Global – Act Local

Global Coalition of Open Source Seed Initiatives (GOSSI)



12_Open source strategies for seed as a commons - challenges and opportunities

3. Keynote *TOM MICHAELS and ANDREW STILL, OSSI, USA // Freeing the seed and freeing the breeder with open source tools*

The Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI) in the US operates in a regulatory context with relatively few barriers to commercialising new crop varieties and where small and medium sized independent seed companies are common. **OSSI certification** can be sought by breeders of unique and previously unreleased varieties who accept a copyleft-oriented pledge allowing others freedom of use of the variety and its derivatives. Currently, there are 529 OSSI pledged varieties contributed by 50 breeders and sold by 77 seed company partners.

4. Keynote: *RICCARDO BOCCI, Rete Semi Rurali, Italy // The experience of Rete Semi Rurali on open source populations in Italy*

In Italy, RSR started working on wheat composite cross populations 12 years ago during the EU research project SOLIBAM. The presentation outlined the seed label developed for those populations (now organic heterogeneous materials), based on the open source pledge developed by OSSI in the US.

5. Keynote: *DANIEL WANJAMA, Seed Savers Network Kenya // Open source, and Farmers' Rights - the case of Kenya*

In Kenya, Farmers' Rights to ownership of local genetic resources is protected by the constitution. However, seed laws have loop-holes that the private sector uses to obtain IPRs on farmers' varieties. As a strategy to prevent practise, a **participatory process for describing and securing farmers varieties** is being undertaken.

Farmers' seed systems have been assessed, descriptors for farmer cultivars are being developed and open-source licence will be applied.

6. Keynote: *RAQUEL AJATES, UNED, Spain // Digital Sequence Information, Cultivated Biodiversity and the Movement for Open Source Seed*

Attempts to privatise, enclose and appropriate seeds have entered the digital arena through the reproduction of seeds' DNA in virtual format, generating the unstoppable growth of big data on **Digital Sequence Information (DSI)**. The rise of DSI constitutes a critical juncture for the seed sovereignty movement. DSI has triggered a legal vacuum, fuelled the dematerialisation of seed,



and increased the distance between traditional seed struggles, new technological developments and farmers' realities.

This increasing dematerialisation and fragmentation is transforming seeds from a common good into a private good easier to control under legal, technological, social and logistical enclosures. In her presentation, Raquel discussed the **case for the open source seed concept and movement as an emerging governance mechanism for seed sovereignty across both in physical and digital spheres**.

Discussion - World Café Session:

Table 1 - Starting an open source seed initiative in your country

Table 2 - How can the open source seed model contribute to seed sovereignty in countries where small independent breeders are rare, and where many traditional varieties exist?

Table 3 - How can we make open source seed financially work? Exploring alternative financing concepts



13_Cultivated biodiversity in urban food systems with MUFPP

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

The objective of the workshop was to inform participants of the potential offered by the collaboration between CSOs (Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)) and Local Authorities under the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP). Moreover, María Carrascosa presented the Liveseeding project, followed by Giuseppe Desantis presentation on the role of cities and the MUFPP in developing policies in sustainable and healthy food systems.

Participants were then invited, through a facilitated “Words Café”, to identify and propose concrete specific actions that municipalities can implement to include cultivated biodiversity at the urban level, within each of the MUFPP Categories and examples of municipal actions:

- Governance (participation):
 - Food council
 - Food department in the City Council
- Sustainable diets and nutrition
 - PFP at school cantines /hospitals
 - Raise awareness campaigns to consumers

- Social and economic equity
 - Food banks
 - Vouchers to vulnerable groups
- Food production
 - Agro Park (agriculture into periurban areas
 - Local labels
- Food supply and distribution
 - Farmers Market, non-sedentary market
 - Updated online maps of local agro-ecological food supply chain actors, including producers, processing units and distribution points.
- Food waste (and loss)
 - Raising awareness campaigns in non food waste cooking
 - Glean action



Speakers:

MARIA CARRASCOSA - Agronomist
GIUSEPPE DESANTIS - Agro-ecologist, Innovation Broker and Community Builder

Main outcomes of the workshop

Results from the group discussion on How to integrate cultivated biodiversity in local food policies:

1.Governance (participation)- how to include agricultural biodiversity (AB)

- To enable space in which federating the things where AB will make a difference- e.g., actors, producers, health etc
- To have recognition that AB is important in



13_Cultivated biodiversity in urban food systems with MUFPP



Cities

- Local organic farmers participate within the food council via a coordinator or representative
- Identify broadly who the stakeholders are
- The representation model needs to change – it should not just include the usual known players, but all stakeholders including citizens. E.g., model from Budapest re traffic
Important to have a good mapping of the situation to identify all the stakeholders.
- Insert the Right to Food in the Constitution

2. Sustainable diets and nutrition

- To raise awareness for those involved in processing e.g., cooks, staff.
- Educate staff that process food in municipality institutions. Have didactical programmes.
- Decentralise food canteens, have local suppliers,
- Procurement based on the triple bottom line approach in economics i.e., decisions not just based on financial consideration, but environmental and social costs are factored in too.
- Children and food – starting with kindergarten, and programmes for parents to broaden exposure to a wide range of health foods
- Choice- children can bring food from home

3. Social and economic equity

- The problem is the big actors currently involved. Need to shift the focus to small initiatives. Suggestion that during the harvest period where there are large quantities of vegetables and the prices are lower – use this to insert AB into food banks and the voucher system
 - Food banks and vouchers – these are problematic as they remove dignity from people. One suggestion is to bring education when distributing food through these outlets - focus on fresh and local to improve health and biodiversity of diet.
 - Focus on vouchers making them available for small scale and local producers, recognising that people need choices

4. Food Production

- Provide seeds from local varieties to local programmes and urban agriculture e.g., community gardens etc. Help young farmers with local varieties. Hold competitions to draw attention to community gardens and allotments
- Support intermediate actors e.g., farmers unions.
- Labels- we need a category for AB – reclaim

from the big actors who are using this for green-washing.

- Education needed for local producers – not all local production is organic and there is pressure on local producers to gain maximum yield from their land.
- Establishing participatory guarantee schemes to bring a level of guarantee of good AB practices and diversity of crops in the system.
- Workers' rights must be central – AB is labour intensive and exploitation can occur even through legal frameworks.
- Making land available for local growing

5. Food supply

- Food cooperatives for distribution and coops for the communication of AB.
- Different systems of food distribution. Support cooperatives via coop supermarkets
- Mapping is important and should connect to the governance (e.g., stakeholder mapping)
- While cities can't always control supermarkets and shops, they can make it easier for farmers and farmers markets by subsidies and other incentives. These could be the center of local sustainable food systems and act as a tourist attraction too.



13_Cultivated biodiversity in urban food systems with MUFPP

6. Food waste

- Composting, use locally composted food for local producers
- Using local ingredients that have a longer shelf life
- Supermarkets accepting all shapes and sizes of fruit and vegetables
- This is more of a problem for supermarkets and long value chains – we need to change the model of food distribution

The recommendations raised from the groups can be helpful to build one or more scenarios for local authorities to promote sustainable local food systems through actions based on food policies.

Presentations, publications or any other material shared by the workshop organiser:

<https://liberatediversity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/MUFPP-presentation.pptx.pdf>



Seeds and agrobiodiversity in hungary



Diversity cafe: participants discussing with the days presenters



Varieties of corn in the 2nd international seed swap

On Saturday, October 29th, the Buda campus of the Hungarian University of Agricultural and Life Sciences hosted us for a Hungarian professional day.

Alex Czeglédi from **ESSRG** started the day off with the speakers of the day at the **“Diversity Cafe”** event over a mug of coffee.

The following presentations covered the topic of agricultural diversity:

- “Small garden seed preservation” (Dorottya Kiss, Magház Egyesület)
- “Which tomato is better, does the content matter?” (László Csambalik, MATE)
- “Diverse orchard production” (Balázs Kulcsár, MAPER)
- “Weeds from the perspective of farmers and researchers” (Izóra Gál, Alfréd Szilágyi, MAPER/MATE)

After the presentations, the second act of the **international seed exchange** was organized with a picnic lunch and coffee, which was attended by many Hungarian and international participants.

During the afternoon **Attila Králl** from **Agri Kulti** held a **roundtable discussion** with the actors of the value chain titled **“Challenges: Diversity vs. “profitability in market-oriented production”**.



International seed swaps

During the 11th LLD forum two seed swaps took place.

Seed swaps are one of the most important moments of our meetings, where we concretely share agrobiodiversity.



The open source strategy of
<https://www.opensourceseeds.org/>



Irish seed savers seed swap table
<https://irishseedssavers.ie/>



Seed sharing of a member of Réseau Semences Paysannes




Seeds from Adaptive Seeds Partner with the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI)
<https://www.adaptiveseeds.com/>
<https://irishseedssavers.ie/>



Rete Semi Rurali sharing
italian variety of wheat
<https://rsr.bio/>

International seed swaps

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Seed sharing from Scottish Crofting Federation
<https://www.crofting.org/>



Tasting varieties of chilli peppers with Réseau Semences Paysannes



Elkana seed swap
<http://www.elkana.org.ge/>



"Semear o futuro" book and seeds from Quinta Das Águias
<https://quintadasaguias.org/pt/>



Seed exchange second part in Mate university

Tasting agrobiodiversity products



Brouwerij 3 Fonteinen is a traditional lambic brewery and geuze blender situated close to Brussels, Belgium. The beer is made from spontaneous fermentation and rests for up to 3 years in wooden barrels before it is bottled.

<https://granen.3fonteinen.be/en/>

Pipacs Bakery is an artisan organic bakery. It was founded in early 2014 after a few years of professional experience in France.
<https://pipacspekseg.com/>



Bread made with ancient grain from Georgia.



Art and Music

Art is an extremely important vector of communication and exchange, and have always been able to highlight the strongest themes of our contemporaneity.

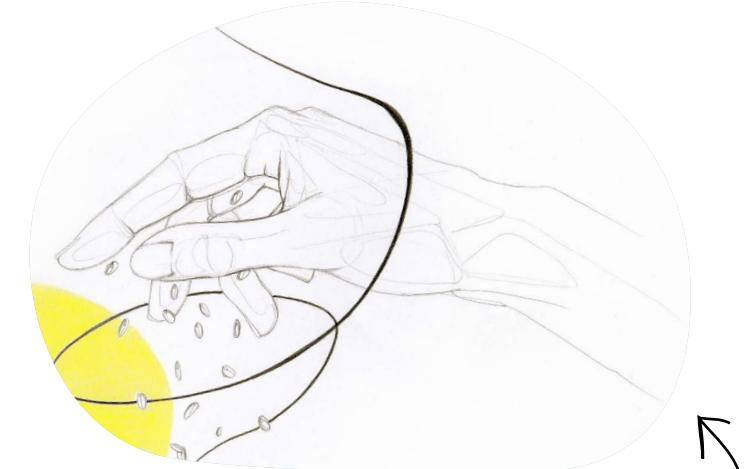
This is why we decided, for the first time, to open a space dedicated to art exhibitions. Anyone had the opportunity to propose an artistic exhibition that was aligned and in theme with the topics discussed during the forum.

Our warmest thanks again to Lucas and Fiona for responding to our call. We will certainly continue to propose this in the future.

On the second evening, a Hungarian music group, QPICA, was invited to play and teach us some traditional dances.



You could see other pictures from this project throughout the report. To know more about the project and what the pictures represent check the website page: <https://raicesdesoberania.com/>
Follow #raices.soberania on instagram



The 12 drawings by Fiona Guillemant assemble as a mosaic that shows different facets of the actions carried around cultivated biodiversity. To express its tensions, a thread drawn with black stone crosses all the drawings, thus linking the different visible figures. You could see other pictures from Fiona throughout the report.

Follow #fiona.guillemant on instagram



Field visits

- / Field visit 1 - Centre for Plant Diversity (NÖDIK), Tápiószele
- / Field visit 2 - Therapy Garden Krisztina Szilágyi's „Terápiás kert“



Field visit 1 - Centre for Plant Diversity (NÖDIK), Tápiószele

NÖDIK is the institute for the **conservation of plant genetic resources in Hungary**, coordinating national ex situ and in situ (on farm) gene conservation activities – with the leadership of the control authorities and the professional support of the Plant Genebank Council – besides maintaining and developing its own genetic resource collections, based on the relevant international treaties and Hungarian and EU regulations.

The major duties of NÖDIK include the **development of the national arable crop and vegetable genetic material collections**, their **agro-botanical analysis and assessment, documentation and dissemination** besides their medium and long term preservation



Cooled seed storage room ↑



Arable crop genetic material collection in NÖDIK. ↑

in cooled seed storage rooms or in some cases through in vitro cultures. Further tasks include organisation and coordination related to the conservation of Hungarian landraces, ecotypes and populations – well adapted to the local conditions – at their original production sites (in situ or on farm).



Field visit 2 - Therapy Garden Krisztina Szilágyi's „Terápiás kert“

Krisztina graduated as an ecologist, then worked in the pharmaceutical industry. Gardening had a therapeutic effect on her, it was her own therapy. This is the meaning behind the farm's name.

After several years of experience, she can see that it can also be true for other people. She believes this type of work, creating something with our hands, has a therapeutic effect on us.

.
She's been first introduced to **community farming as a business type** by an organic farming course. Later, she delved more into it, and completed another course specifically in community farming, which helped her to make a decision, and Therapy Garden has become the end result.

Krisztina showing the solar dryer where she dries her officinal herbs

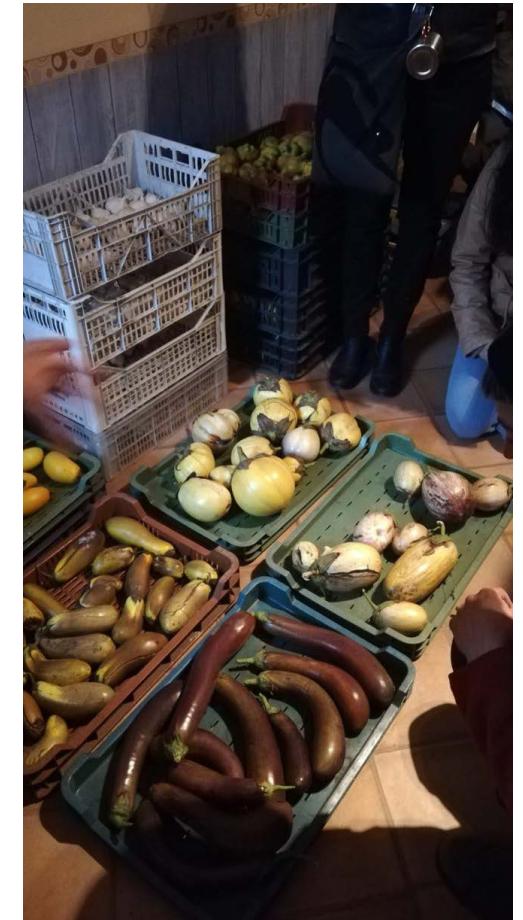
The Garden, a community farm, was founded in Sződ, Pest County, in 2021, then the production began in the spring of 2022. The community farm acts as a vegetable supplier for several families in its neighborhood. In addition to the usual pepper-tomato-squash offer, members can find very special crops in their "carts". The garden also has orach, landrace spinach, cucamelon, white eggplant, Armenian cucumber, okra and tree onion. The garden covers an area of 3,000 m², where approximately 50 types of vegetables are grown,



but considering the range of varieties, the number is nearly 150. The methods used in the area are organic and permaculture practices, soil renewal, composting, mulching, foil hothouse, seedling greenhouse, with a solar food dryer.

Therapy Garden operates with one cart size, with weekly or bi-weekly subscription types during the season lasting from the beginning of April until the end of November.

Besides the many special and landrace vegetables here, it's also a place for Krisztina's personal experiments too. For example: can a plant be propagated and maintained for community farming; can it yield well?



Showing the seed-bank room where vegetables, beans and grains are stored for self-production of seeds



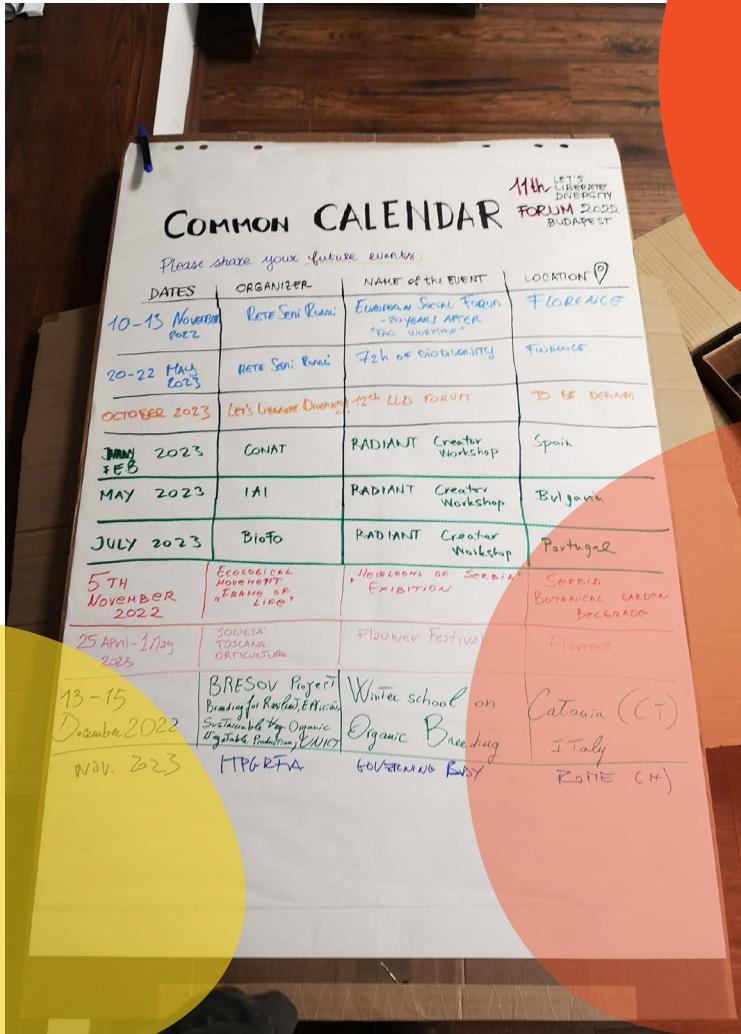
Common calendar

A common calendar where participants could add their own organisation's events.

The events will be added in the LLD website on the calendar session:

<https://liberatediversity.org/>

Where is possible to submit more events as well.



COMMON CALENDAR			
Please share your future events!			
DATES	ORGANIZER	NAME OF THE EVENT	LOCATION (?)
10-13 November 2022	Pete Seni Rumi	European Social Forum "20 years after "The Uncertainty"	FLORENCE
20-22 May 2023	Pete Seni; Rumi	7th of BIOLOGICALITY	FLORENCE
OCTOBER 2023	Let's Liberate Diversity	12th LLD FORUM	TO BE DEFINED
JAN 2023	CONAT	RADIANT Creator Workshop	Spain
FEB 2023	IAI	RADIANT Creator Workshop	Bulgaria
MAY 2023	BioTo	RADIANT Creator Workshop	Portugal
5 TH NOVEMBER 2022	EcoDevelo Movement "FRAME OF LIFE"	Horizons of Serbia EXHIBITION	SERBIA BOTANICAL GARDEN BELGRADE
25 APRIL - 1 May 2023	SOCIETÀ TOSCANA ORTICULTURA	Flower Festival	Florence
13-15 December 2022	BRESOV Project Breeding for Resistant, Efficient Sustainable Organic Organic Production, 2010	Winter school on Organic Breeding	Catania (CT) Italy
NOV. 2023	HTGRFA	GROWING BODY	ROME (CH)



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS //

*The list includes only who who agreed to share their information

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