

## ***European Coordination Let's Liberate Diversity!***



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**Annual Report**

**2020**

**General Assembly**

**May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



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## 1. Association

This report shows the main activities that have been carried out by the Association *European Coordination Let's Liberate Diversity!* during the year **2020**. They have been divided into small chapters to give an overview of the single **activities** and a summary of the economic situation. In Annex the **complete account was created** with the accounting software "Banana 8" (<https://www.banana.ch/en>).

### a. Secretariat

Since April 2019, the Association has the possibility to use a **workstation** inside the office of the member Rete Semi Rurali. The headquarters, called **Casa dell'Agrobiodiversità**, has a workspace, a meeting room, a library and the "Community Seed Bank" area. The Secretary uses the space together with RSR Staff on Monday - Friday from 09:00 to 17:00. No costs are currently charged to EC-LLD for the use of the office.

### b. Board meetings

During the year 2020, the EC-LLD board organised **9 virtual meetings**: January 20th, March 12th, March 25th, June 24th, July 14th, 29th September, 5th November, 11th December, 21st December. There was also one meeting between EC-LLD board and those from Arche Noah (1st July) and another one with the RSP board (Oct 8, 2020).

### c. General Assembly 2019

The Ordinary Assembly was called for the day **May 20th, 2020** from 15:00 to 17:00. In view of the COVID-19 circumstances and on the advice of the accountant based in Belgium, it was decided to hold a virtual meeting to carry out the administrative procedures. The assembly was held via ZOOM virtual platform.

The activity of discussion, organization and new membership was convening an extraordinary assembly in October 2020.

*Participants*: Koutis Kostas (Aegilops), Maria Carrascosa (RDS), Maria Vazquez (RDS), Bob Brac (BEDE), Béla Barta (PSR), Corentin Hecquet (RMRM), Emilie Lapprand, Cyrille Pacteau (RSP), Stefano Mori, Maria Paola Boselli, (Crocevia), Jennifer McConnell (ISSA), Riccardo Bocci (RSR), Andreas Riekeberg, Susanne Gura (DKNV), Matthias Lorimer (ECLLD)

*Absent*: Maria Scholten (SCF), Frank Adams (SEED)



Below the agenda of the Assembly, the **minutes** was share within the members.

Agenda		
15:00 - 15:20	<b>Welcome to the GA</b>	
	With the <b>camera on</b> (if possible) a short <b>presentation</b> by the participants. After that, to facilitate the connection of the meeting, the cameras will be deactivated.	
15:20 - 15:50	1. Presenting and voting the report and accounting 2019	Matthias
15:50 - 16:50	2. Presentation of 2020 EC-LLD activities (Divaction )	
16:50 - 17:00	3. Discussion about new memberships	
17:00 - 17:10	4. AOB	

#### **d. Elections of Board Members**

Every **two years** the board is re-elected, and the last election was in 2019. So at the GA 2020, there wasn't a need to **vote for the** Board of Directors.

#### **e. Members situation**

As of December 31st 2020 all the associations have paid the annual membership fee for the year 2020, except for Red de Semillas and Réseau Meuse-Rhin-Moselle.



## f. Extraordinary Assembly

The *Extraordinary Assembly* was called for **October, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020** from 09:30 to 13:00 (*on-line meeting*) and had the task of voting on the new entries and defining the contents of the next activities.

Agenda	
9:30 - 09:45	<p><b>Welcome to the <i>Extraordinary Assembly</i></b></p> <p>With the <b>camera on</b> (if possible) a short <b>presentation</b> by the participants. After that, to facilitate the connection of the meeting, the cameras will be deactivated.</p>
09:45 - 10:30	<p>Presentation of the organisations that have applied for EC-LLD membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● KVANN (Norway) <i>Andrew Mc Million</i></li> <li>● Arche Noah (Austria) <i>Katherine Dolan &amp; Dagmar Urban</i></li> <li>● Heritage Seed Library (UK) <i>Catrina Fenton</i></li> </ul> <p>The assembly votes the entrance</p>
10:30 - 11:00	<p>Internal update on projects and activities <b>2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presentation of the new draft website</li> <li>● Seed Policy Labs</li> <li>● Salvia</li> <li>● GenRes Bridge</li> </ul>
<b>Coffee break 15 min</b>	
11:15 - 13:00	<p>Proposals and members needs for year <b>2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seed Policy Project proposal “ United for Diversity : Inclusive Seed Policies for Resilient Food Systems” 2021-2022</li> <li>● Divaction</li> <li>● New calls</li> </ul>

### ZOOM Invitation

Topic: [ECLLD] Extraordinary Assembly

Time: Oct 15, 2020 09:30 AM Rome

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88044412028>

Meeting ID: 880 4441 2028

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88044412028>

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*Participants:* Andrew McMillion (KVANN), Béla Bartha (ProSpecieRara), Bob Brac (BEDE), Catrina Fenton (HSL), Corentin Hecquet (RMRM), Madeline Carlin, Cyrille Pacteau (RSP), Frank Adams (SEED), Fulya Batur (Consultant seed policy lab), Jennifer McConnell (ISSA), Katherine Dolan (Arche Noah), Kostas Koutis (Aegilops), Maria Scholten (SCF), Maria Carrascosa (RDS), Riccardo Bocci, Riccardo Franciolini (RSR), Stefano Mori (Crocevia), Matthias Lorimer (ECLLD)

*Absent:* Susanne Gura (DKNV)

#### **g. New Members**

During the extraordinary assembly it was voted for the entrance of 3 associations. **Arche Noah** (Austria), **Heritage Seed Library** (UK), **KVANN** (Norway) made the request during the year 2020. The 3 associations were unanimously voted on.

#### **h. Accountant**

In March 2018, we started a collaboration with an accountant -Didier Verelst- to follow all EC-LLD bureaucratic procedures - e.g. TVA, statute, personnel, budgeting - according to the Belgian laws. The collaboration continued throughout the year 2020.



## 2. Activities

The year 2020 was a very complicated and difficult year for all. For EC-LLD the difficulties were at the heart of its action, in fact it was not possible to organize all the activities and physical LLD and LCD forums that were planned. That's why the Secretariat has been reinventing EC-LLD's tasks by trying to "occupy" the digital and on-line space through webinars and labs.

In fact, the arrival of the pandemic in March 2020 has blocked all the huge work done for the organization of the 11th *Let's Liberate Diversity!* scheduled in Scandicci in May. For this reason it was decided to maintain a connection with the people involved and organize a series of online meetings called *LLD On Air* during the same days.

### a. 11<sup>th</sup> Let's Liberate Diversity!

Initially scheduled for May 22nd - 24th, 2020 it was then moved to October 15th - 17th, 2020, and then to April 2021 DYNAVERSITY project end date. Since also in April there were not the sanitary conditions the event was cancelled altogether, and the prefixed costs reallocated to other activities to improve the EC-LLD's exchange.

### b. 5<sup>th</sup> Let's Cultivate Diversity!

The meeting was calendared for October 2020 along with the Irish Seed Savers 30th birthday. It was planned to be a meeting on the diversity and production of organic vegetable varieties (so not only cereals as so far) with various actors.

### c. 1<sup>st</sup> LLD On Air

*LLD OnAir* was designed to stay in touch with some of the people involved in the 11<sup>th</sup> LLD. Only in a second step, the strong advantage of going online was seen, i.e., smaller realities were able to participate and get involved (without the expense of travel or time). For this reason during the 4 webinars organized (program below) were involved more than 80 people from many different countries, among them also many Eastern European countries



## LLD On Air

- Different perspectives, same theme, seeds
- Follow the Seed Policy Labs, a training on policy and legislation

**WHY?** Since our annual *11th Let's Liberate Diversity!* meeting has been postponed, let's start with a series of **"On Air"** webinars. **Here we go, Diversity!**



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	WHEN?	WHO?	WHAT?
1.	<b>Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup></b> 16:00 - 17:30	  <b>Riccardo Bocci</b> <i>Rete Semi Rurali</i> Managing Director	Updates from the FAO Treaty about the Art. 6 (sustainable use) and 9 (Farmers' Rights).
2.	<b>Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup></b> 16:00 - 17:30	  <b>Fulya Batur</b> <i>Seed Policy Lab PSR</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Francois Meienberg</i> <i>Pro Specie Rara</i>	Presentation of the Seed Policy Labs.
3.	<b>Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup></b> 16:00 - 17:30	  <b>Emil Platzer</b> <i>Arche Noah</i> <b>Luc Cresciutti</b> <i>Arche Noah</i>	Business model canvas as a tool for CSB development
4.	<b>Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup></b> 16:00 - 17:30	  <b>Ivana Petrović</b> <i>CSB- Coordinator</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Yasemin Ceylan Risse,</i> <i>CSB Academy Project</i>	The Serbian experience regarding the establishment of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Community Seed Bank: challenges and advances

**The link to participate in webinars will be on [www.liberatediversity.org](http://www.liberatediversity.org)**



#### d. Seed Policy Labs

The “Seed Policy Labs”, presented at the LLD On Air meeting, were a fully bottom-up concept to build policy and advocacy capacity in the European seed diversity movement, developed in the context of a project funded by the member Pro Specie Rara, executed by Fulya BATUR (Kybele) and the EC-LLD Secretariat.



*First slide of the Seed Policy Labs (MODULE 1A).*

It was a “regulatory impact assessment” tool that starts from the specificities, values, actions, capacity, concrete needs and future hopes of a specific dynamic crop biodiversity conservation initiative. It contextualised different policies within the concrete realities of a specific crop biodiversity initiative; and aimed to measure the impact of different policies on ongoing and planned activities. As a bottom-up and tailored tool, it is designed to support different initiatives to determine which adjustments to the legal framework would create the most benefits for their own realities.

It was in English and French language.



## CALENDAR 2020 of the EC-LLD SEED POLICY LAB WEBINARS

Mon, Aug 24 04:00 PM - ECLLD Seed Policy Labs Module 2A - Intro European Institutions
Tue, Aug 25 10:00 AM - ECLLD Seed Policy Labs Module 2A FRANCAIS- Intro Institutions Européennes
Thu, Sep 3 10:00 AM -ECLLD Seed Policy Labs Module 1A FRANCAIS- Législation Commercialisation Semences
Mon, Sep 7 04:00 PM - ECLLD Seed Policy Labs Module 1A - Seed Marketing Rules
Thu, Sep 10 04:00 PM - ECLLD Seed Policy Labs Module 1A - Seed Marketing Rules
Tue, Sep 29 10:00 AM - ECLLD Seed Policy Labs Module 1B FRANCAIS - Règlement Bio
Tue, Sep 29 04:00 PM - ECLLD Seed Policy Labs Module 1B - Organic Regulation
Thu, Oct 1 04:00 PM - ECLLD Seed Policy Labs Module 1B - Organic Regulation

### e. Main meetings / events / gathering list

Below is a list of the main **physical** meetings in which EC-LLD Secretariat has participated:

1. 21st January - Meeting at ARSIAL, Rome “Conserving cultivated biodiversity into the Parks: experiences and challenges”
2. 25th January - Participation at Rete Semi Rurali meeting “Seed systems and agrobiodiversity”
3. 24-25 02/20 - Participation at RSR school on Plant Breeding techniques by Salvatore Ceccarelli and Stefania Grando.



Below is a list of the main **on-line** meetings in which EC-LLD Secretariat has participated:

1. From 22nd to 24th May - LLD On Air
2. 26 October 2020 GenRes Bridge - webinar on EU Green Deal and strategies with Anne Teller
3. 26th november - GenResBridge Workshop on the Biodiversity Strategy - EUROPEAN GENETIC RESOURCES STRATEGY Draft version 3.1
4. 30/11/20 to 04/12/2020 "PPB and resilient food systems school" organized by DYNAVERSITY, LIVESEED and Wageningen.
5. 16 December Building up a Balkan Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Organic Breeding Network with Aegilops

#### **f. Synergies with other organizations**

During the year, new exchanges were made with other organizations that have an action of interest to EC-LLD.

##### **Gaia Foundation**

Since inviting GaiaFoundation to the LLD Méze 2019 meeting, there have been synergies in exchanging and disseminating each other's activities. They had formally asked to become members of EC-LLD, but since it is a very large and structured entity, the board felt it was more useful for the time being to collaborate and not join directly. In the coming years we will see which formula is the best to strengthen the respective actions.

##### **Seed4All**

EC-LLD helped spread and promote in October the Seed4all initiative. A platform to connect the different actors working with biodiversity. <https://www.seeds4all.eu/>

### 3. Projects

#### a. DYNAVERSITY ( 2017 to 2021 )

The project activities of the tasks *1.3 Mapping actors, stakeholders and sites* and *5.3 Capacity building and face to face events (5.3.3 LLD events and 5.3.4 Seed exchanges events)*, have been influenced, as said, by covid-19 circumstances.

Regarding task *3.4 Community Seed Banks and databases*, during the 2020 year, 2 manuals on CSBs were written in EN, FR, IT. The third manual was written in 2021.



#### b. GenRes bridge Project ( 2019 to 2021 )

The Secretary participated at the “The GenRes Bridge workshop”. Here more information regarding the drafting of the Strategy Document worked during the workshop.

<http://www.genresbridge.eu/about-us/events/event/feedback-workshop-on-the-european-genetic-resources-strategy/>



### **c. “Strengthen and Enlarging the European Coordination - LLD network” ( 2020 - 2023 )**

The project was designed to allow the exchange between Members within the network, but also the participation and invitation of new organisations that could contribute to the movement, also by becoming EC-LLD Members. The sars-cov-19 health crisis which started in March 2020, month 3 of the project, has effectively blocked all planned tasks such as participation in meetings and travel expenses.

This is why no money was spent during the first year of the project, and the board proposed to lengthen the project for 1 year, and it will last until 2023.

### **d. New Project proposal during the year**

#### **DIVACTION - Lost**

The organization of DIVACTION partnership -H2020 - began in December 2019 and continued until August 2020. Unfortunately, the project was rejected at the last stage after passing Step 1, although the consortium did request to the REA for the review of the evaluators given the inconsistencies in judgment. A final evaluation must still be awaited.

#### **ECOSCALING - not submitted**

A consortium with Coventry University has been proposed for calls on the Farm2Fork strategy. The consortium was not able to write a project in time, so nothing was submitted.

#### **United for Diversity - approved by members but not submitted yet**

At the extraordinary meeting, the project aimed at continuing the seed policy lab with Fulya Batur was presented. After collecting comments the board, together with the secretariat, will present it to different foundations during the year 2021.

#### **Community Seed Bank Academy - pending**

In December 2020, the three ECLLD organizations (Arche Noah, ProSpecieRara and Rete Semi Rurali) who have written the CSB Academy project with the Salvia Foundation, proposed to spend the final year of the project under the EC-LLD portfolio. Meetings have begun with the foundation to figure out how to present the project to their next board in May 2021

## 4. Communication and Media

### a. Website

The website has been **updated** with events of the members and with articles shared by members on a weekly basis. In collaboration with RSP, it is included in a box called “*Legal Watch*”.

In May 2020, the process of moving from the **Joomla** platform to **Wordpress** began. The Secretariat learned how to use Wordpress to update the site with news and an update calendar. In **October 2020** the new site was officially launched.



*The new home page of the website*

### b. EC-LLD / News!

During the year 6 newsletters were produced in English, at the following links the archive:

- Newsletter 9 - December 2020 [EN Version](#)
- Newsletter 8 - November 2020 [EN Version](#)
- Newsletter 7 - June 2020 [EN Version](#)
- Newsletter 6 - May 2020 [EN Version](#)
- Newsletter - 5 April 2020 [EN Version](#)
- Newsletter - 4 February 2020 [EN Version](#)

News and activities from EC-LLD members to share in the newsletter is **always welcome**.



### **c. Social media**

The Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/eclld/> “@eclld” tag, has been updated weekly with information from members. There are 305 like (previous year **189**) and 355 (**212** previous year) followers. Also the Twitter account <https://twitter.com/ECLLD>- was increasingly used, at today EC-LLD is following 130 accounts and has 119 followers.

Exchange and sharing of mutual posts of members is welcome.

### **d. Office supplies**

On 28th June 2018 a telephone contract with the company ILIAD at 5,99 € per month was registered. Is still ongoing.

A monitor was purchased for the office and a microphone to do the online meetings.



## 5. Accounting

In the figure below the economic balance sheet with the accounts at 31/12/2020.

The Banque Triodos is the account of the association based in Belgium, Paypal account is used for the transport tickets, Soldo as a debit card for traveling and Paypal card for phone fees:

### ESTATE

	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
BANQUE TRIODOS	87.481,89	77.105,79
PAYPAL	1.113,53	1.249,77
SOLDO	515,46	892,40
CASH	230,20	230,20
PAYPAL CARD	139,45	1,14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89.480,53</b>	<b>79.479,30</b>

At 31/12/2020 the value of net assets of the association is **€ 89.480,53**

Below are reported the costs and the incomes (balance) of individual projects. On DYNAVERSITY have been spent 25.956,82 €, and Salvia Foundation paid the first of 3 tranches of the project. CSB Academy paid for the report and survey we did.

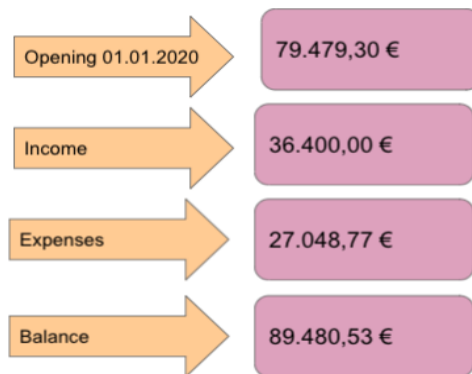
### Segments

	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
DYNAVERSITY	-25.956,82	-67.205,85
GENRESBRIDGE	--	-73,90
General expenses	-676,96	-1.791,58
SALVIA	34.585,01	--
CSB Academy	1.400,00	--

General expenses were **676,96 €** for as bank commission, general taxes and mobile phone contract.



The below figure takes into account all expenses, and inputs between all the accounts.



On the following tables there is the summary of the costs items of expenses compared with 2019.

## OPERATING RESULT

	2020	2019
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Travel expenses	-907,44	-2.546,14
Secretariat Travel (without LCD and LLD)	--	-2.113,27
LLD Meetings	--	-10.161,25
LCD Meeting	--	-4.081,64
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-907,44</b>	<b>-18.902,30</b>
Other expenses	-116,36	--
Software licences	-160,15	--
Bank account expenses(Triodos)	-36,00	-36,00
Soldo Commission / fee	-36,00	-12,10
Office supplies	-218,48	-50,00
Telephone	-86,88	-95,89
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-653,87</b>	<b>-193,99</b>
Secretary - Consultant	-22.727,30	-27.272,76
Accountant	-508,08	-726,00
Consultant - IT	-1.200,00	-600,00
Other consultant	-1.042,08	--
<b>TOTAL STAFF</b>	<b>-25.477,46</b>	<b>-28.598,76</b>
Tax	-10,00	-17,00
Paypalcard commision / costs	--	-1,00
<b>TOTAL TAXES</b>	<b>-10,00</b>	<b>-18,00</b>
Printing material	--	-102,38
<b>TOTAL COMUNICATION</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>-102,38</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership fees	600,00	500,00

The cost of travel of the Secretariat, has been of **€ 907,44**.

There were no costs for organizing LLDs and LCDs.

Secretary annual cost **€ 22.727,30**, was less than the € 25,000 per year agreed, since the two months of the start of the project (November-December 2017) were paid in 2019 (**27.272,76 €**)

The total of EC-LLD consultants (Secretary, accountant, webmaster and graphic design for the CSB manuals) was **€ 25.477,46**

The total contribution of membership fees from members was **600€**. At 31/12/2020 was missing the fee of RMRM.

In the table below, the costs of the individual Associations considering that the entrance from members is the annual Membership fee (€ 50). Since there was no travel, there are no costs borne by the individual organizations, only their annual fee. DKNV has settled the old missing fees. Missing annual fee of RDS and RMRM.

#### COST AND PROFIT CENTERS

	2020	2019
ProSpecieRara	100,00	-336,20
Rete Semi Rurali	50,00	50,00
Red de Semillas	--	-904,85
Centro Internazionale Crocevia	50,00	50,00
Reseau Semences Paysannes	50,00	-1.744,93
Scottish Crofting Federation	50,00	-279,02
BEDE	50,00	50,00
DKND	150,00	--
Irish Seed Savers Ass	50,00	-835,58
SEED	50,00	50,00
Aegilops	50,00	-514,77
Réseau Meuse-Rhin-Moselle	--	-122,60
Secretariat	-26.996,69	-34.699,27
Cumulative LLD Members expenses	--	-3.680,42
Invited EU Association	--	-4.385,79
<b>Total</b>	<b>-26.346,69</b>	<b>-47.303,43</b>
LLD Meeting FRANCE	--	-10.161,25
LCD Meeting DENMARK	--	-4.081,64
Other EU Meetings	--	-1.283,27



## Europe, General Assembly 2020



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