



Cultivating diversity for resilient and inclusive communities

Press Release

Volos, 24/05/2024

Traditional Seed and Ecological Gardening Festival, took place in **Stagiates village (Volos, Greece)**, on **18th and 19th of May, 2024** and was dedicated to "**The anthropogeography of people, seeds and ideas**". War, economic, environmental and recently climatic crisis, force people to migrate in order to survive or seek a better quality of life. People, as they become immigrants, move and carry, along with their seeds, all their other "cultural seeds" to their new homeland: memories, knowledge, ideas and personal stories. Therefore, the anthropogeography formed in the new global context, due to global systemic crises, is characterized by a new modern relationship between mankind and environment and between people within communities. This festival through DIVERSEEDPATHS project offered opportunities for sharing experiences and knowledge not only about seeds and agrobiodiversity conservation, but also useful practices and skills of survival in rural areas, - like seeds carried by immigrants do in the new land or field - among seed organizations and social movements as well as migrants and citizens of the region.

On the first day of the festival (Saturday, 18th) a storytelling workshop took place, giving the opportunity for sharing personal stories of migration, seeds and human solidarity. Earlier, this day, an ecological garden design workshop was held in order, together children and adults, could share point of views, ideas, gardening knowledge, colors and all together design, and then plant, the garden of their dreams in the garden-yard of the villages' museum.



On the second day of the festival (Sunday, 19th) seed savers from Greece (AEGILOPS, SITO) and Europe (ECLLD, RSP) exchanged experiences and useful practices on seed saving and conservation with migrants, farmers, gardeners and local citizens or visitors, which was followed by a seed exchange. The main thematic discussion of the day took place in the central square of village, after seed swap, entitled "The anthropogeography of peoples, seeds and ideas". The discussion let migrant-refugee organizations interact with diverse community movements dedicated on common goods (seeds, water, degrowth, environment, quality of life) and other social actors. The interaction contributed to the development of active, resilient and inclusive communities towards counteracting with any cause of migration .



The event gave also opportunities for participants to get nursery plants of traditional vegetable varieties and also organic products or products from traditional varieties from local growers . Visitors tasted diverse quality local food and the event ended up with traditional music, dancing and plenty of enthusiasm and fun.

We especially thank the local village group APO.Drasis of Pelion and the citizens of Stagiates village for their hospitality and welcoming. Also, the Volos immigrants' Center, the French organization EKO (Projets positifs pour les humains et la nature) and all the political, economic and environmental immigrants for their participation and contribution by sharing with us their own stories and experiences.

Partner organizations:



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