



AGROECOLOGY EUROPE

FORUM 2023 IN HUNGARY
CONVERGING MOVEMENTS

FOR RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS
16-18 November 2023

Gyöngyös, Hungary

NETWORK MOBILISATION IN

ADVOCACY ISSUES

How to activate the grassroots network on
advocacy campaigns



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WORKSHOP 1: 2024 European elections

ORGANISED BY:



#AEEUForum2023

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:





SLOW FOOD

Slow Food is a global movement acting together to ensure good, clean and fair food for all.

OUR MISSION

We cultivate a worldwide network of local communities and activists who defend cultural and biological diversity, promote food education as well as the transfer of traditional knowledge and skills, and influence policies in public and private sectors.

**CAN WE CHANGE THE WORLD THROUGH FOOD?
WE BELIEVE WE CAN!**

Slow Food Grassroots Network

Slow Food is active around the world thanks to an extensive and varied network of volunteers and close collaboration with other associations and institutions.

HOW DO WE INVOLVE THE GRASSROOT NETWORK IN ADVOCATING FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD POLICIES?





SAVE BEES AND FARMERS!

A bee-friendly agriculture for a healthy environment

THE OVERVIEW

- Save Bees and Farmers is a «European Citizens Initiative»
- The campaign for the signatures was run by PAN Europe and over 200 small and large civil society organisations
- 3 demands:
 - reduce the use and risk of synthetic pesticides by 80% by 2030
 - measures to restore biodiversity
 - support to farmers to transition to agroecology



STOP
PESTICIDES



**Communication channels: social media, newsletter
and podcast**

Country
Hungary

Select at least one out of 24 SELECT ALL

- Anikó FRAISZ
State secretary for environmental issues and circular economy,
Technology and Industry Ministry
- Istvan NAGY
Minister for Agriculture
- Peter TAKÁCS
State Secretary for Health, Ministry for home affairs
- Attila ARA-KOVÁCS
Demokratikus Koalíció
- Andrea BOCSKOR

WHAT FOOD WILL WE HAVE?

WITH BEES



WITHOUT BEES



DROP

A FLOWER

BOMB

AND SIGN THE ECI
#SAVEBEESANDFARMERS





Engagement tools: mailing actions and flower balls challenge

International and local events



THE SAVE THE BEES AND FARMERS CAMPAIGN

THE IMPACT

- Over 1 million signatures all over Europe collected
- Civil society mobilization helped putting a lot of pressure on the Commission who set a binding target of 50% by 2030
- Pesticide proposal is still being discussed in the EU Parliament and in the Council of ministers : the campaign is continuing to put pressure on national politicians #SayGoodbyeToToxics #PesticideFreeEu



THE ROLE OF POLICY EXPERTS, SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS

How did they support the campaign?

- In designing and backing the campaign and the demands
- In strengthening the narrative:
 - Regarding the URGENCY
 - Against the risk of “food insecurity”
- In building capacities of the local group of activists

WE BRING THE VOICE OF THE FARMERS

EXPERTS FROM THE FIELDS

- We invite farmers and fisherfolk to speak in conference and events organised by EU politicians on various topics, often dominated by the conventional agriculture voices
- Agroecological farmers and fisherfolk can demonstrate that:
 - there are alternatives in agroecology and they work
 - that they are financially viable, but that the EU needs to do a better job to support this type of food system.

GOOD FOOD GOOD FARMING



◦ A campaign with many other civil society organisations, acting at the national level, but on European policy to mobilize citizens

◦ We encourage our slow food network to organise events (conference, farm visit, social media campaign, etc.), to raise awareness about European food policies that affect us all in each EU member State

◦ Connect the local level to the EU decision makers, showing them that people pay attention to the decisions they are making in Brussels



A COLLECTIVE EFFORT IN FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

The media and many policy makers try to make it look like it is «environmental groups vs. Farmers & scientists»

This is completely false, and it helps the industrial food industry claiming that they have the scientific world with them

We must work together to counteract this narrative and bring the knowledge that supports the need to transition to agroecology.