



**AGROECOLOGY EUROPE  
FORUM 2023 IN HUNGARY**  
CONVERGING MOVEMENTS  
FOR **RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS**  
16-18 November 2023  
Gyöngyös, Hungary

## Commons, Commoners & Food Sovereignty

### Exploring Land Governance Models for Agroecology



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**ECO RURALIS**  
**Access to Land WG**

ORGANISED BY:



### WORKSHOP 5

**#AEEUForum2023**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:







# WHAT IS LAND?

## MEANINGS & USES

TAKE **3 MIN** TO WRITE DOWN AS MANY USES AND MEANINGS THAT YOU ASSOCIATE WITH LAND



# AGENDA

**Commons & commoning**

**Land Commons in Romania**

**(Land) Commons for  
Agroecology**

**More-than-research Game**

**GOAL:**

**UNLEASH CREATIVITY &  
EXPAND OUR SENSE OF  
POSSIBILITY**

**PLAY!**



# Commons & commoning

- **Collectively** owned, managed, cared, for resources.
- A **community makes and shares** a Commons
- No commons without **community**
- From commons as Noun “the Commons” to “Commoning” as verb – for the **collective action** of creating, negotiating, maintaining, and caring for commons.

Take BACK the Economy, Gibson & Grahm, 2009)





# How we could think about commons

- Much more than resources or property
- Social Relations
- Social movements
- Feminist practices of care
- More-than-human assemblages
- Emergent practices and possibilities
- Shift in focus from commons as THING to PRACTICE of commoning
- Opening up commons to new, imperfect, and emerging commons

# Land commons in Romania

## Institutions (Manteescu, 2009)

Commons type	Property rights	Use rights	Administration	Main distribution
<i>Composesorat</i>	Private property of the local community	Can be restricted to members (although not always); membership usually inherited	Elected members	(Hungarian speaking) Transylvania and Northern Romania
<i>Obște</i>	Private property of the local community	Restricted to members; membership sometimes inherited, sometimes through residence	Elected members	Regions of Wallachia and Moldavia
<i>Izlaz</i>	Public property of the local community	Any inhabitant of the municipality	Mayor and elected pastoral committee	Throughout Romania

**ALPA THE NEW COMMONS**



# Land commons in Romania

## Challenges

- ❑ Land/ green grabbing
- ❑ Rent-seeking (CAP subsidies)  
=> internal conflicts
- ❑ Mismanagement of finances
- ❑ Overgrazing, under-grazing
- ❑ 'Modern' techniques  
(seeding, chemical  
fertilization)
- ❑ Regulatory complexity
- ❑ Generation renewal





# Land commons/ commoning for agroecology

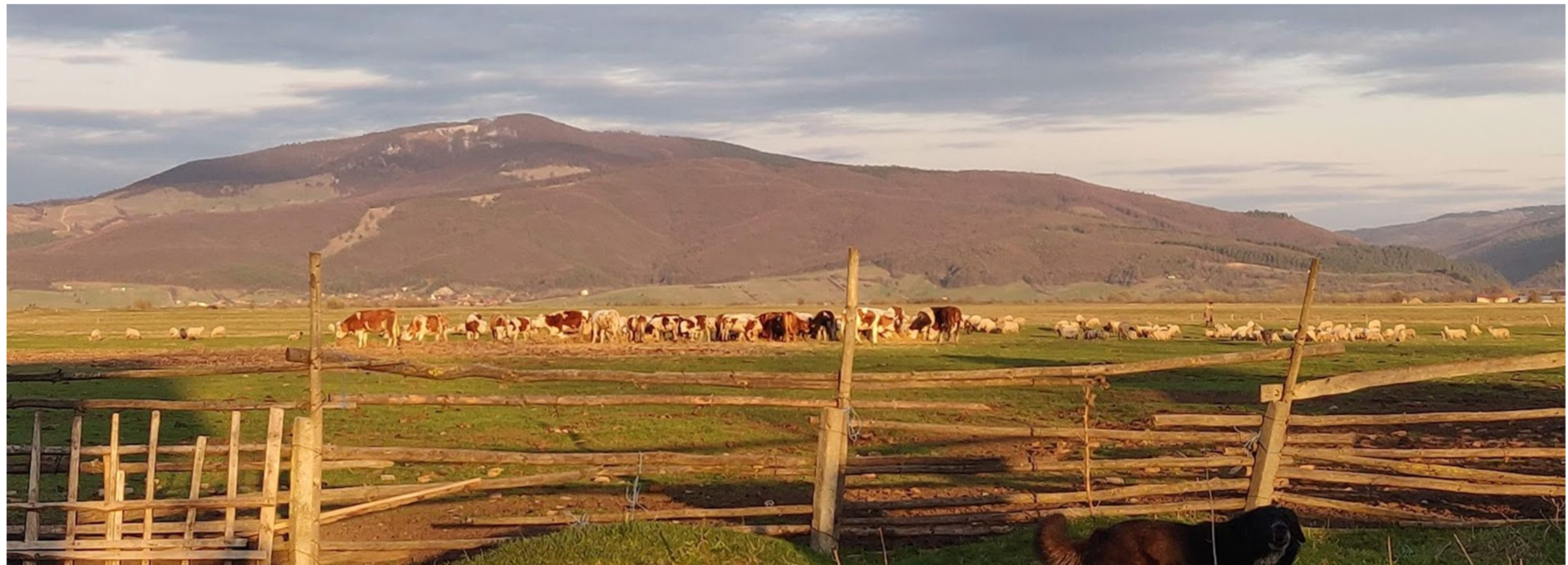
## Possibilities - reform & renewal

- ❑ agroecological territories (Wezel et al, 2015 )
- ❑ community-based economies ( Community Economies Institute)
- ❑ social (un)learning
- ❑ ???



# More-than-research Game

How to use agroecological ways for commoning/ how to common agroecological ways?





# More-than-research Game

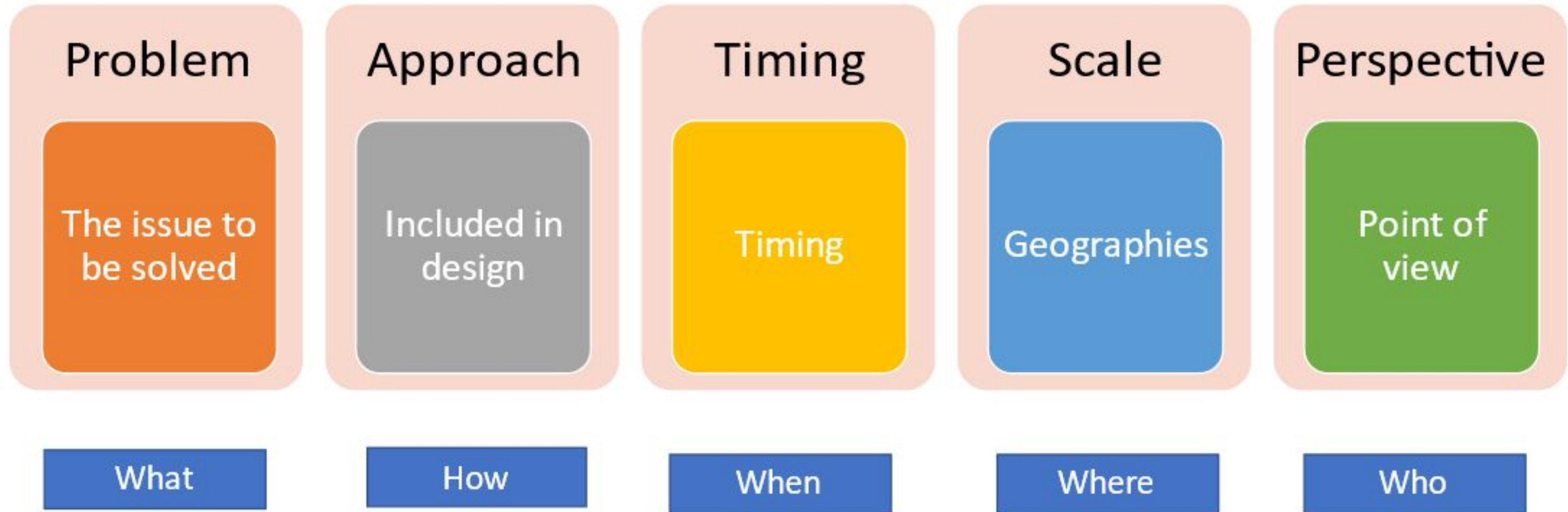
## Design a commoning intervention

- Discuss/ Explore possible interventions (research, campaign, story, commoning project) for how to common land or something (inter)connected : soil, water, seeds, labor, markets, etc.
- Use the cards provided as prompts to help you guide the discussion.
- You have 30 minutes to discuss & and document your ideas.



# More-than-research Game

## The prompt cards explained & Guiding Steps





# More-than-research Game

## Rules

- **Very** short round of introduction (name, organization, common interest)
- Identify a note taker(s): individual or collective

## Advice:

- Be brief to ensure others can engage
- Ensure everyone who wants to can speak



**See you in 30 minutes!**





# More-than-research Game

## Harvest

- **Summarize the outcomes into a title, possibly a sub-title**
- **Chose a person to present the title in the plenary**
- **5 min**
  
- **Optional: Consolidate your discussion/ idea in a poster**



# More-than-research Game

## Harvest Cafe -

→ **Pitch your Title**

◆ **Ball it!**



# Thoughts, Feelings, Opinions?







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**THANK YOU!**

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# More-than-research Game

## Guiding Steps

- Define your socio-ecologic context
- Explore the parameters of your case: natural resources, knowledge systems, social processes. What do you want to common?
- Explore a problem that you most often associate with this issue and how could you interpret from different perspectives ( add more-than-human perspectives).

*When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.*

- You can use the scale and timing card to narrow down your discussion.
- Think of how you would like to approach the topic in a more engaged way -research, campaign, storytelling, policy, action-project, etc – no need to craft tangible solutions, just play!