



## **Vacancy: Research and Policy Internship**

**Organisation:** Agroecology Europe

**Duration:** 2-3 Months, Spring 2024 (to be discussed)

**Conditions:** full-time, paid internship

**Location:** online, the candidate must have a registered address in Belgium

**Application Deadline:** 7 April 2024

**About Us:** Agroecology Europe is an international non-profit organisation founded in 2016 in Belgium, that in a short time has created a rich membership of over 200 individuals and organisations including farmers, NGOs, students (including PhD students), and individuals. It aims to analyse, design, develop, and promote the transition towards agroecology-based farming and food systems in Europe and throughout the world. It intends to place agroecology high on the European agenda of sustainable farming and food systems development. One of our most important goals is to foster interactions between actors in science, practice, and social movements by facilitating knowledge sharing and action. It also aims to create an inclusive European community of professionals, practitioners, and citizens engaged in agroecology.

**Context:** The European Union is facing a decline in agricultural employment each year. In 2016, only 11% of farms in the European Union were run by farmers under the age of 40, more than half of farm managers in the European Union are 55 years old or older, and nearly a third are 65 years old or older (Eurostat, 2019). Thus, paving the way and ensuring generational renewal in the agricultural sector is a central issue to work on for the maintenance of family farming in Europe and foster the agroecological transition. Over the past years, Agroecology Europe and its members have organised participatory workshops on youth and agroecology, creating a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among young farmers, students and the Agroecology Europe Youth Network. In conjunction with these workshops, our organisation has collaborated with the "Clinique du Droit" [Program on Environmental Law and Ecological Transition](#) at Sciences Po Paris to conduct a comprehensive study on access to land for the youth in the farming sector in Europe.

**Internship Overview:** We are seeking a highly motivated, proactive, and research-oriented individual to join our team as a Research and Policy Intern. The successful candidate will play a crucial role in synthesising the findings from

[participatory workshops held in 2022, 2023, and 2024](#), and linking them with the outcomes of the study conducted in collaboration to be released in May 2024. The primary objective is to draft a position paper with policy recommendations aimed at facilitating generational renewal in the agriculture sector.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

1. **Review and Synthesis:** Collate and analyse the outcomes of participatory workshops held in 2022, 2023, and 2024, identifying key themes and challenges related to youth and agroecology.
2. **Study Linkage:** Connect the findings from the workshops with the results of the study conducted by law students on access to land for the youth in the farming sector in the EU, identifying areas of intersection and divergence.
3. **Position Paper Drafting:** Work closely with our team to draft a comprehensive position paper that includes policy recommendations for fostering generational renewal in agriculture, based on the synthesised workshop and study outcomes.
4. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and youth organisations, to gather insights and perspectives for inclusion in the position paper.
5. **Communication support:** create content for social media posts and newsletter, draft cross-posts from partner organisations on pressing policy issues to assist with AEEU's strategic communications. Assist with other duties as assigned.

### **Qualifications:**

- Relevant master's degree (agronomy, agroecology, sociology, political science, etc.)
- Strong research and analytical skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and French
- Ability to work autonomously and collaboratively and take initiative
- Passion for agroecology and youth empowerment

**How to apply:** Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and a non-academic writing sample (research paper, policy brief, or similar) to Elena Ambühl [elena.ambuhl@agroecology-europe.org](mailto:elena.ambuhl@agroecology-europe.org) by **Sunday 7 April 2024, 23:59 CEST**. Please include "Research and Policy Intern Application—Firstname SURNAME" in the subject line.

Agroecology Europe is dedicated to achieving workplace diversity in all its forms, including in gender, race, sexual orientation, class, age, physical ability, culture and ethno-religious affiliation. We encourage female and non-binary applicants, as well as underrepresented members to become part of our team.