Dear Members of Agroecology Europe,

We are only one month out from the 2023 Agroecology Europe Forum in Hungary! On 16-18 November, we will gather to meet in dialogue and discuss some of the most pressing issues for the European agroecology community and present solutions for today’s food systems.

We have prepared and outstanding agenda to bring together agroecological thought leaders of Central Eastern Europe and beyond and push the envelope on the future of the agroecological transition. Read on to see what awaits you!

On day 1 of the Forum, the next AEEU General Assembly will take place in person. We hope to see all of you there.

In the meantime, we invite you participate in the next exclusive monthly member meeting to exchange ideas, network with other members, and engage with the latest hot topic: new genomic techniques. See the details below.

Sincerely,

Agroecology Europe Secretariat

UPCOMING EVENTS
Agroecology Europe Forum 2023

16-18 November
Gyöngyös, Hungary

Registration for the 2023 Agroecology Europe Forum in Hungary is open until 31 October... or until tickets sell out!

You are still in time to grab yours!

The 2023 Agroecology Europe Forum is a 3-day in-person event convening 200-300 people from all over Europe for dynamic and interactive dialogues around key European policy issues. By bringing together a variety of stakeholders from various movements and territories, we create synergies that set an exemplary model for facilitating the agroecological transition in Europe while acknowledging the global reach of the movement.

Co-organized by the Hungarian Agroecological Network Association in Gyöngyös, Hungary, this year’s Agroecology Europe Forum shines a light to the agroecological richness of Central Eastern Europe and creates stronger alliances in a more rural context.

We promise to bring you
- A rich and inspiring programme
- An amazing speaker lineup of renowned experts, on-the-ground pioneers, young advocates, and outstanding thinkers
- Field visits of local agroecological initiatives
- Locally, ecologically sourced meals and wine tasting
- Cultural immersion, concerts, and Hungarian folk dance hall in the evenings
- Support to find the best transportation and accommodation option for you in Gyöngyös

Don't wait any longer, register now!

Learn more
On the 5 July 2023, the EU Commission published its proposal for the future EU regulation of plants obtained from NGTs (New Genomic Techniques).

This legislation has significant implications regarding the transparency, traceability of breeds obtained through these new genomic techniques, their labeling, and risk assessment for health or environmental impact.

Agroecology Europe invites all its members to an information and discussion session in the presence of two European experts, Dr. Sarah Zanon Agapito and Mr. Riccardo Bocci to identify and discuss the technical aspects of NGTs, the Commission's current proposal, and the implications it may have for the agroecological transition.

This open discussion with the members aims to outline the positions and future actions of the Agroecology Europe association concerning this legislation that is crucial for the future of our food systems.

Speakers:
- **Sarah Zanon Agapito, Research Professor at NORCE, Norway.**
  Her research experience includes plant breeding, plant genetic diversity and conservation, and risk assessment of genetically modified organisms.
- **Riccardo Bocci, Technical Director Rete Semi Rurali, Italy**
  He has edited several publications on agrobiodiversity and the impact of GMOs on agricultural systems.

**Register here!**
In November, the working group meeting will be facilitated by a very interesting group from Wageningen University called SWIFT.

SWIFT: SUPPORTING WOMEN-LED INNOVATION IN FARMING TERRITORIES

There is no agroecology without feminism.

This understanding is at the core of the SWIFT project. SWIFT is a multi-actor, 4 year EU funded research project that will foster transitions towards sustainable, balanced, and inclusive development of rural areas in Europe by favouring the deployment of women-led innovations (WLI) acting for change in agriculture.

This deeply transdisciplinary project engages with applied feminist innovation studies research to co-develop intersectional methodologies and tools to analyse women-led innovations in agriculture and food systems and strengthen co-learning across initiatives to amplify women-led innovations and empower diverse groups of actors to act for change.

In this interactive online session, we will present the project and discuss key issues at the core of agroecological transition from an intersectional feminist perspective.

Everyone is welcome.

Please RSVP to Jesse Donham at j.donham@unisg.it to receive the Zoom information.
The HuMUS Project invites you to its first local soil health webinar! This event will convene representatives of European municipalities and regions, EU policymakers, and soil health advocates to discuss soil health regeneration focusing on participatory methods. For HuMUS, participation means that the stakeholders and citizens take part in decision-making processes and their final products. To document and foster local participation, the project will publish a catalogue of best practices in citizen and stakeholder engagement on soil health at the municipal and regional levels, including the implementation of participatory methods, tools, and approaches for stakeholder engagement in action research on soil use and land management. Further, in regional and territorial case studies, HuMUS develops participatory activities and creates spaces of dialogue.

The webinar will share preliminary research results from these lines of work. Join to learn about an open call coming up at the end of the year to fund initiatives and organisations across Europe to develop and implement participatory processes that stimulate dialogue on soil and land use and increase awareness of soil health at the regional and municipal levels.

Register here!

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**Hot off the press**

EU Member States did not reach a qualified majority to re-approve the license for glyphosate in the SCoPAFF meeting on 13 October 2023.

Member States will be invited to vote again on the Commission’s proposal on the re-authorization in the upcoming weeks in the Appeal Committee. The Commission is expected to adapt the proposal. If again no qualified majority is reached it will be up to the Commission to decide on its own.

A recent [IPSOS poll](#) spanning six EU countries shows that only a mere 14% of citizens express support for the prolonged use of glyphosate. In stark contrast, almost two-thirds (62%) of respondents advocate for a ban of glyphosate.

Read the press release

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**Workshops, webinars, events**

Agroecology Europe hosts and co-organises events, webinars, and participatory workshops to foster connections, build capacities, and place agroecology high on the European agenda. Here are the highlights from the past months!
ALL-Ready x AE4EU
Final Conference
How Living Labs and Research Infrastructures can support the Agroecology Transition in Europe—Insights from two European projects, ALL-Ready and AE4EU

The European Committee of the Regions hosted the joint final conference of the two EU funded projects ALL-Ready and AE4EU in Brussels on 27 September 2023. The one-day conference shed light on how the two projects paved the way for a European Network of Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures. Both projects featured stories from the field, pilot network, and local stakeholders. Experiences from involved Living Labs and Research Infrastructures gave practical insights on the agroecology transition in Europe.

Read the press release

Participatory workshop in Athens, Greece

A successful workshop on How to start an agroecological farm, co-organised by the Greek Agroecological Network and Agroecology Europe, took place in Athens on September 30, with more than 20 young agronomists and farmers participating!

Follow Agroecology Greece
Participatory workshop in Zsámbok, Hungary

Farmers, food advocates, students and community members interested in agroecology gathered on 24 September at Zsámboki Biokert to exchange experiences about the challenges and opportunities in pursuing agroecology in practice within the context of an organic market garden and associated local food communities. The workshop included discussions with the farm team, interactive exchanges with local food advocates, a tour of the organic farm, and a lunch cooked with ingredients from the garden.

More info

Publications

Agroecology Europe contributes to fact sheets, open letters and press releases, and policy briefs elevating the evidence base on the benefits of agroecological practices. For a full picture beyond the highlights below, be sure to follow the Horizon projects that AEEU is part of.

Joint Statement for an ambitious pesticides regulation that protects people, biodiversity, and ecosystems

Securing robust and coherent provisions in the SUR is urgent and essential to protecting farmers’, farmworkers’ and citizens’ health, tackle the biodiversity crisis, the pollution of aquatic and other ecosystems, and support the much-needed transformation towards resilient food systems.

On 5 October, AEEU together with 45 organisations, representing environment, health and consumers organizations, drinking water suppliers, farmers and agricultural workers, called upon all EU Member States and Members of the European Parliament to support and adopt a strong Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) without further delays.

Read the joint statement
Fact sheet on the Nature restoration and agroecology

Check out our new fact sheet "Reconciling nature and agriculture: Restoring nature and improving biodiversity through agroecological farming practices."

In our commitment to supporting the development of public policies that align with scientific evidences and the common good, we want to emphasise the utmost importance and urgent necessity of adopting an ambitious law for nature restoration, as the window of opportunity to improve ecosystem resilience, restore biodiversity, and fight against climate change—three cornerstones for EU and global food security—narrows.

Read the fact sheet

Open letter to Polish Agri Minister Robert Telus: the importance of restoring nature and improving biodiversity through agroecology

Agroecology Europe is publishing this open-letter in the attention of Mr. Robert Telus, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland, reacting to the document 'The impact of the draft Regulation on Nature Restoration for Agriculture' that the Polish delegation disseminated and presented in the AGRIFISH Council on 18 September 2023.

Read the open letter
Youth Manifesto
"Affordable Sustainable Food at the Heart of our Future": The Importance of Making Sustainable Food Accessible to Youth

On the 11 September 2023, the Agroecology Europe Youth Network together with 12 European youth organisations urge the EU to make sustainable and healthy food the most affordable option in this Manifesto.

“We are united in the vision of a secure and sustainable future which is not possible without radically changing our food system. This is why we ask the European Commission to present an ambitious proposal for a strong SFS Law by September and the Parliament and the EU Member States to support the process for the transformation of our food systems” concludes the Manifesto.

Read the Manifesto

Open letter: call for publication of updated animal welfare legislative proposal within current political term

Animal health and welfare is one of the key agroecology principles defined by the HLPE. On 6 September 2023, Agroecology Europe, together with the undersigned stakeholders, jointly call on the European Commission to stay true to the commitments taken in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy to publish the draft proposal of the revision of the animal welfare legislation during the current political term. The co-signatories wish to express their expectation and full support for the swift publication of a future-focussed and comprehensive legislative proposal within this political term.

Read the open letter
Featuring YOU

Do you have news to share? Tell us about your project, research, exchange, or experience that has made an impact for the agroecology transition!

We will feature it in the next newsletter.

Send your stories to Boglarka Bozsogi boglarka.bozsogi@agroecology-europe.org by December 1 with the subject line "AEEU Member story"!

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