Dear Members of Agroecology Europe,

We hope that this letter finds you in good health and good spirits as the days turn ever warmer here in Europe.

There are plenty of news in Agroecology Europe. In addition to ongoing project work, AEEU has been involved in Civil Dialogue Groups with the European Commission and continued to respond to emerging policy issues to promote agroecology at the European level.

As members of the Association, you know well how we foster interaction and knowledge sharing to create an inclusive European community of professionals, practitioners, and societal stakeholders in agroecology. To strengthen the membership network, we invite you to participate in exclusive monthly member meetings to exchange ideas, network with other members, engage with current developments in the agroecology landscape, and shape the position of AEEU on policy issues. The first member meeting will take place on Thursday, June 29, 18:00-20:00 CET via Zoom.

Next up on the horizon is 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 and present solutions for today’s food systems. Keep an eye out on the latest news about the Forum! We will be in touch.

Sincerely,

Agroecology Europe Secretariat

Upcoming activities
Members meeting
Thursday, June 29, 18:00-20:00 CET
Zoom

Agroecology Europe is pleased to invite you to the first of a new monthly member meeting series! The Agroecology Europe Board and Secretariat value your membership and support for the Association’s mission to place agroecology high on the European agenda. These monthly meetings will be an occasion for members to exchange ideas, network with other members, engage with current developments in the agroecology landscape, and shape the position of AEEU on policy issues.

Register here!

Agroecology Europe Forum 2023
16-18 November
Győngyös, Hungary

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.

With a rich and inspiring agenda, the 2023 Forum will focus on:
- Soil health and One Health
- Strategic alliances, commonalities, and true inclusivity in agroecology
- Challenges and opportunities for policy and local governance
- Pathways for the transition to agroecological food systems combining technology and traditional knowledge

Watch this space as registration opens soon! We look forward to meeting you all there.

Learn more

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**Workshops, webinars, events**

_This spring, Agroecology Europe hosted and co-organised various events to foster connections, build capacities, and place agroecology high on the European agenda. Here are the highlights!_

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**Agromix carbon farming policy workshop**

On 7 June, Agroecology Europe hosted a policy workshop in Brussels to discuss the opportunities and risks of carbon farming for European agroforestry and agroecology. After presentations from the Agromix Horizon project, the European Agroforestry Federation, European Coordination La Via Campesina, and the European Environmental Bureau, participants debated the European Commissions current proposal for carbon removal certification.

The afternoon concluded with a sunny field visit to Bezenbos, an agroecological system of trees, shrubs, and perennials, serving customers as a self-picking berry farm near Ghent.

Watch the video
Launch webinar for the Young European's Manifesto for Agroecology

On 22 May, on the International Day for Biological Diversity, the Agroecology Europe Youth Network organised the Launch Webinar of the Young European's Manifesto for Agroecology. The event featured presentations of the Manifesto and a roundtable discussion with the Slow Food Youth Network and the Global Biodiversity Youth Network (Europe).

The Manifesto was the result of discussions among young people from all across Europe and expresses the will of youth to unite, build alliances, and bring solutions to the complex challenges of our food and farming systems.

Read the Manifesto here!

Watch the recording

Participatory workshop

On 12-13 May, the first participatory workshop organised by AEEU member organisation SEAE (Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica y Agroecología) discussed how to support family farming and generational renewal in a context of climate change and vulnerability of small and medium-size entreprises. The workshop was organised under the XXX technical days of SEAE at the University of Malaga.

Learn more

Agroecological farm visit with policymakers

On 21 March, Agroecology Europe organised an agroecological farm visit to explore how agroecology can help reduce pesticides use and improve farm viability and resilience. Members of the European Parliament and members of the AGRI and ENVI Committees from Renew, the EPP, and the Greens took part.
In the fields of the Warelles Farm in Petit-Enghien, thirty participants had the opportunity to exchange with the farmer Etienne Allard.

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**Online press conference**

On 23 February, IFOAM Organics Europe, GLOBAL 2000, the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA), and AEEU presented a scientific paper: *Call for strong EU pesticide reduction in a new light*. The online conference compared and debated pesticide active substances approved for conventional and organic agriculture.

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**Publications**

*Agroecology Europe* contributes to scientific reports, policy papers, press releases, and open letters 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.

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**Mapping the Development of Agroecology in Europe**

The first volume of the *Agroecology for Europe (AE4EU)* Horizon project’s mapping effort was published in March 2023. The book series illustrates the art of agroecology in Europe by synthesizing and providing key information on the common understanding of agroecology and its development at the European level. Documenting the development of agroecology in 13 European countries (Albania, Austria, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Romania), this volume describes 112 initiatives, examples, cases, and programmes linked to agroecology.
Joint Open Letter—Input on the Proposed Regulation on Carbon Removal Certification

On 17 May, 27 EU NGOs, members of the EU Food Policy Coalition, sent a joint letter to Members of the European Parliament and the Council. The policy recommendations emphasise key concerns and priorities for land-based activities in the draft Regulation for a EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF) proposed by the European Commission in November 2022.

Read the open letter


In February, the EU Food Policy Coalition published a joint report laying out policy recommendations for the EU’s Sustainable Food Systems Legislative Framework proposal. AEEU supports the recommendations to ensure a meaningful transition to sustainable food systems across the European Union.

Read the report

EP Elections Manifesto—Our Food, Our Health, Our Planet

This Manifesto, published in March 2023, reflects the common demands of 26 EU Food Policy Coalition participants for better food systems in the EU. In 2024, when over 400 million elect their representatives in the European Parliament to shape the agenda for the rest of the decade, we need to build a stronger, fairer and more resilient European Union is clearer than ever.
Joint Press Release on synthetic pesticides

The European Green Deal's targets of expanding organic agriculture to 25%, halving pesticide use and risk, and protecting sensitive areas from negative pesticide impacts by 2030 are increasingly making natural pesticides permitted in organic farming the subject of political interest. This press release by IFOAM Organics Europe, GLOBAL 2000, the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA), and AEEU highlights the dangers of synthetic pesticides compared to natural ones.

Read the press release

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