

**EVENT REPORT**  
PARTICIPATORY  
WORKSHOP



## ***Co-Creating a Collective Vision for the Agroecology Youth Movement***

**DATE: 3.11.2025**

**LOCATION: AGROECOLOGY EUROPE FORUM 2025 – MALMÖ,  
SWEDEN**



# Introduction

When we gathered that afternoon in Malmö, the room already carried a quiet sense of anticipation — a mix of curiosity, restlessness, and hope. We were there not only to talk about agroecology but to **reclaim it** as a living, breathing movement: one that belongs to people, communities, and the Earth.

The participatory workshop, facilitated by **Irene Katsaros** (University of Coimbra, AEYN), co-facilitated by **Marcello Maggioli** and **Anoushka Carter**, invited 21 participants from 10 European countries — **Ireland, Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Germany** — to engage in a **co-creative process** to collectively envision the future of the agroecology youth movement. The participants included young farmers, MSc and PhD students, community organizers, facilitators, and early-career researchers.

Everyone was invited to close their eyes, take a deep breath, and imagine their **own dream for agroecology** — not as an abstract goal, but as something they could feel with their hands, taste in the soil, or hear in the laughter of a community.

This was our entry into the **Dragon Dreaming journey** — a methodology that teaches us that dreams are not distractions, but beginnings. One by one, participants wrote their dreams on small cards: *“To build real community.” “To connect people between islands of farmers.” “To shift my farm into an inspiring agroecological hub.”*

The air filled with words of care, imagination, and purpose. Someone whispered, *“Care and listening are central,”* and that became our first collective truth.

Through dialogue, creative exercises, and reflection, the group co-created the following collective statement:

**“We are a global movement grounded in bottom-up agroecological approaches that are led by sociocratic principles to create a culture of eco-social care, where design processes are building networks that enable us to access land, livelihoods, and community rooted in justice.”**

# Collective Dream



Figure 1 - Collective Dream Board - The board is alive, and you can add your dream [here](#)

A young food sovereignty activist from Ireland said:

“Being from Ireland, it can feel like being on the edge of Europe, which can be isolating. But connecting with this network reassures me.”

Another voice followed:

“It’s not just about redistributing land ownership, but about reviving old ways of land stewardship... it’s about relationships.”

Together, we began to sense a rhythm — a pulse that was more than a set of ideas. It was a **collective dream** being born, one that spoke of shared roots and planetary care.

# Key Phases of the Workshop

## Phase 1: Dreaming and Visioning (Dragon Dreaming Methodology)

Participants began by individually reflecting on their personal dreams for the agroecology movement, expressed through post-its and storytelling. These dreams included aspirations such as “*practicing agroecology to support ecosystems at the farm level,*” “*to build real community,*” and “*to connect people between islands of farmers and learners.*”

These individual visions were clustered into collective themes: **land access, education, community well-being, solidarity, freedom, dialogue, and justice.** The process emphasized that dreams are not individual escapes but **collective doorways** to transformation.

## Phase 2: Network as Thread

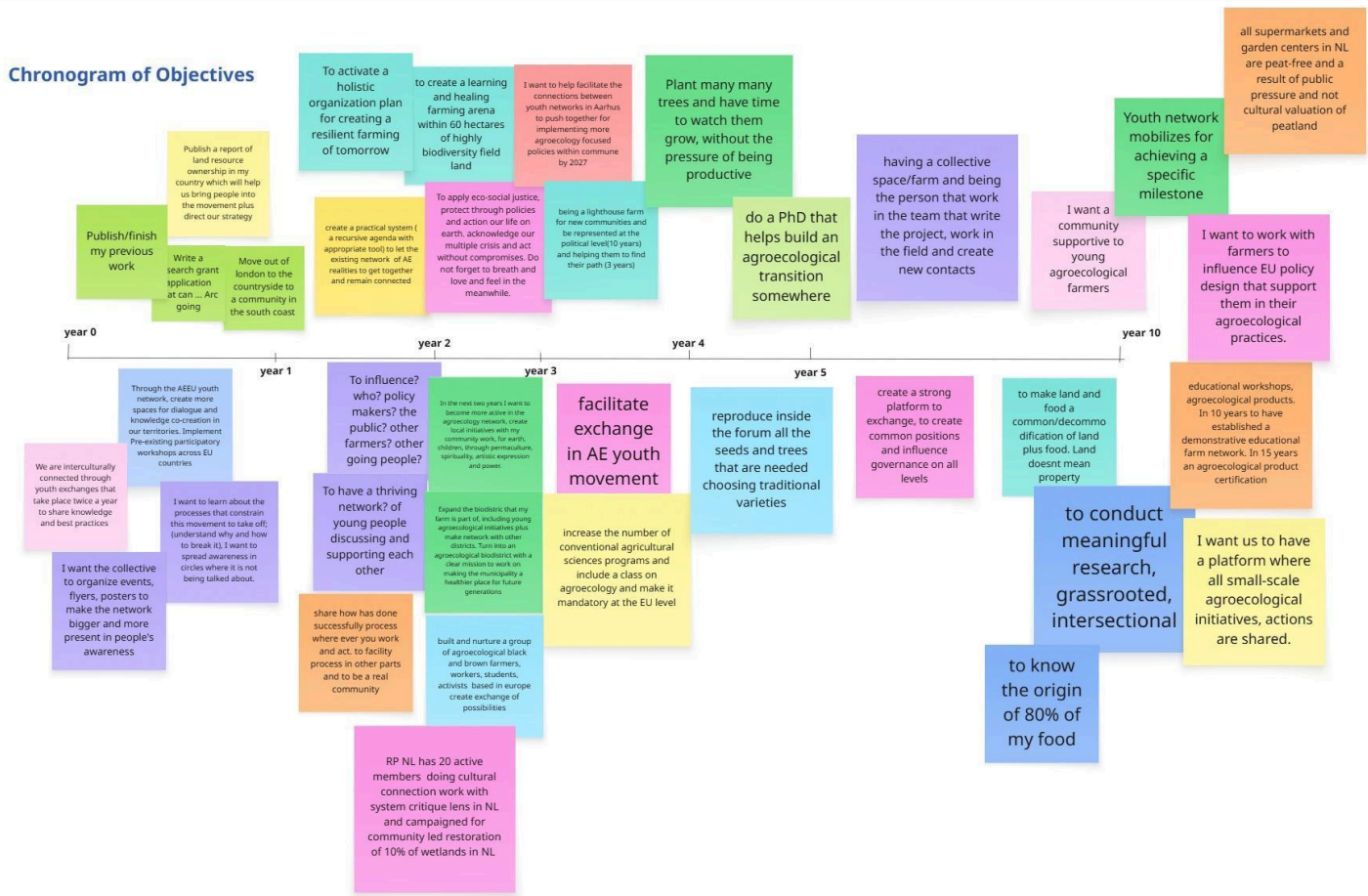
A symbolic exercise using yarn visualized interdependence within the movement. Participants passed a thread among each other, forming a web that represented the **strength of collective action.** When someone loosened their grip, the web weakened — a living metaphor of how collaboration sustains the network.



Figure 2 - The Human Thread

## Phase 3: From Vision to Objectives

Once the dream was spoken, we shifted from the visionary to the practical. Through a **Chronogram of Objectives**, we looked ten years ahead — asking what steps could make this dream tangible.



**Figure 3 - Chronogram of objectives - This is also alive: Add [yours!](#)**

Sticky notes mapped our hopes and commitments:

- “To facilitate exchange within the youth movement.”
- “To create learning and healing farming areas.”
- “To do research that is meaningful, intersectional, and grassroots.”
- “To make land and food a commons again.”

We placed each action on the timeline — from year one to year ten — transforming imagination into a **living roadmap**.

## Phase 4: Defining Roles (Social Change Ecosystem Mapping)

In small groups, participants explored their identities within the **Social Change Ecosystem Map**, identifying themselves or others as *Weavers*, *Experimenters*, *Frontline Responders*,



## Aim of the participatory workshop

The aim of the participatory workshop “was to bring together young agroecologists from across Europe to collectively imagine and design the future of the agroecology youth movement. Through creative and participatory methodologies — such as **Dragon Dreaming** and the **Social Change Ecosystem Map** — the workshop sought to:

- Facilitate a **collective visioning process**, enabling participants to articulate shared dreams, values, and long-term objectives for agroecology in Europe.
- Foster a sense of **connection and solidarity** among youth networks, recognizing interdependence and diversity of roles within the movement.
- Transform individual aspirations into **collective strategies for action**, outlining concrete steps, working groups, and collaboration pathways.
- Empower participants to **reclaim agency** in shaping the agroecological transition by grounding their work in care, justice, and reciprocity.

In essence, the workshop aimed to nurture both the **imaginative and practical foundations** of a living, youth-led movement for agroecology — rooted in collaboration, creativity, and systemic change.



**Figure 5 - Steps to turn dreams into action**

## Outcome

The workshop successfully generated a **shared vision and sense of collective purpose** among young agroecologists from across Europe. Through co-creative dialogue, reflection, and embodied exercises, participants articulated a **Collective Dream Statement** that captures the essence of their aspirations for the agroecology youth movement:

*“We are a global movement grounded in bottom-up agroecological approaches that are led by sociocratic principles to create a culture of eco-social care, where design processes are building networks that enable us to access land, livelihoods, and community rooted in justice.”*

Key outcomes included:

- The **creation of a 10-year collective roadmap** (Chronogram of Objectives) identifying priorities such as land access, education, healing and learning spaces, and policy advocacy.
- The **mapping of participants’ roles** within the *Social Change Ecosystem*, helping to clarify strengths, complementarities, and possible collaborations within the network.
- The **formation of thematic and territorial working groups** to continue collaboration beyond the forum — focusing on areas like policy, education, and local action.
- A strengthened **transnational youth network** with renewed motivation to co-organize activities, seek funding, and build long-term alliances for agroecological transformation.

In essence, the workshop’s main outcome was the emergence of a **living collective vision** — one that binds imagination and action, and sets the foundation for sustained collaboration toward a more just and caring agroecological future.



**Figure 6 - Transformation into action**

## Policy recommendations

Young agroecologists across Europe call for policies that secure equitable access to land, dignified livelihoods, and strong community-based support systems that enable a just agroecological transition. They urge governments and EU institutions to establish land access funds, strengthen youth-led cooperatives, and embed agroecology across all levels of education while recognising farms as spaces of healing, learning, and civic participation. To ensure long-term resilience, they advocate for simplified access to public funding, multi-year support for youth networks, and governance models rooted in sociocracy and eco-social care. Finally, they highlight the need for justice-centred approaches addressing structural inequalities, alongside transnational collaboration platforms that empower young people to co-create sustainable food systems across Europe.

## About Agroecology Europe

Agroecology Europe, is a non-profit European association intending to place agroecology high on the European agenda of sustainable development of farming and food systems. The association fosters interactions between actors in sciences, practices and social movements, by facilitating knowledge sharing action. It aims at the creation of an inclusive European community of professionals, practitioners, and more generally societal stakeholders in agroecology.



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