

# How to protect our seeds?

**Follow Up** International Meeting of European Seed Saving NGOs

On the EU legislation on Seed and Plant Propagating Material

22-24 November 2013

Wolkersdorf (Vienna)

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# Armenia, Rep. of

## Green Lane Agricultural Assistance NGO

Legal form	Non-governmental organization
Address	Heratsi 24, Yerevan , Armenia
Phone Number	+374 10 57 59 95
Fax number	-
email	office@greenlane.am
Website	www.greenlane.am
Manager	Dr. Nune Sarukhanyan
Foundingyear	2004
Numberof Members	More than 500
Type of members	Individuals (locals, diasporans, foreigners), farmers, farmer co-ops, specialists, researchers, students

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

Green Lane Agricultural Assistance NGO was established to assist famers and support farmer cooperation and development of commercial farming in Armenia.

### **The focus of our mission is...**

Green Lane is a group of people with a passion and motivation aimed at creating changes that will improve the Armenian agriculture. It is one of the leaders promoting the development of organic agriculture. We have developed good relations with many domestic and international organizations as well as with farmers and farmer groups.

Green Lane assists farmers in the production and marketing of high quality, competitive agricultural products via formation given out to farmer groups and cooperatives (farmer field schools, local extension research groups, cooperatives) thus improving the income of member farmers, their families, people cooperative with them, and processors that are buying from the member farmers.

### **These are our ongoing Projects...**

- Cooperating with local and international private and governmental organizations to combine efforts in reviving and sustaining the rural life and agriculture in Armenia.
- Increasing cooperation with partner organizations - Avalon, The Armenian State Agrarian University, The Agribusiness Teaching Center, Shen Foundation, Action Against Hunger, World Vision, and others - to be able to assist farmers in a more effective way.
- Strengthening organic farming and marketing opportunities & helping farmers and farmer groups enter into the organic certification process.
- Encouraging development and the strengthening of farmer groups and cooperatives.
- Seeking memberships from all farmer as it is a mutually beneficial partnership.
- Strengthening our consulting services to farmers, farmer groups, fruit and milk collection centers and other farm businesses.
- Increasing Green Lane's activities in all regions/marzes of Armenia; to implement more round tables, seminars and conferences.
- Continually seeking institutional development opportunities.
- Continually offering farmers new technologies and opportunities.
- Encouraging the exporting of Armenian agricultural products.

- Always looking toward the protection of farmer rights and interests.

**We have the following staff:**

Approximately 12

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Membership fees, donations, project salaries

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

Green Lane participated in public discussions/hearings before the adoptions of laws pertaining to organic agriculture, land codes, forest protection and seed laws.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

We have launched a project on Berry Production which is financed by the EU, and we have launched a project with the Social Ecological Institute on agriculture and rural development financed by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Poland. We are also successfully implementing an integrated waste management educational project with our partners financed by the Norwegian embassy.

**We have some difficulties with...**

Funds when there are limited projects. Membership fees and donations are often just enough to keep the organization afloat. We need to focus on steady/consistent funding sources.

# Austria

## ARCHE NOAH

Legal form	Not-for-profit association
Address	Obere Straße 40 3553 Schiltern
Phone Number	
Fax number	
email	info@arche-noah.at
Website	www.arche-noah.at
Manager	Beate Koller
Founding year	1990
Number of Members	Around 10.000
Type of members	gardeners, small farmers, individuals, donors

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

....to protect agro-biodiversity. We do this in the field (literally!), but also with the means of information, education and advocacy.

### **The focus of our mission is...**

... to preserve and cultivate endangered vegetable, fruit and grain diversity. We work on bringing traditional and rare varieties into gardens and on the market again.

### **These are our on-going Projects...**

- The ARCHE NOAH Seed Bank is one of Europe's biggest private collections of cultural plants, maintaining over 6.000 accessions of rare vegetables and grains – many of them are not to be found in any other places any more.
- The Organic Visitor's Garden: ARCHE NOAH's garden attracts about 30.000 visitors a year.
- The ARCHE NOAH Seeds-Handbook is an annual inventory of all varieties provided by the ARCHE NOAH members and the ARCHE NOAH seed bank – containing thousands of rare vegetables, fruits, crops and berries.
- ARCHE NOAH supports its members in the choice of special varieties, answers technical questions concerning seed-breeding und preservation of rare varieties, and provides useful addresses.
- The Seed Network: Hundreds of members of ARCHE NOAH act as private "seed savers" by cultivating endangered varieties in their home gardens and taking permanent care of them. They provide seeds to other seed savers, and study and develop their varieties carefully.
- Event Program: We have an event calendar with information where you can meet like-minded people, enjoy diversity, recreate in the garden and travel home with new ideas...
- Our education Programme includes various offers.

### **We have the following staff:**

About 30

### **This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Membership fees, donations, project fees, sponsoring from private companies

### **We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

ARCHE NOAH monitors the revision of the EU seed law and does advocacy work for a biodiversity-friendly revision that also takes into account the needs of small and micro stakeholders and seed savers.

Also, we monitor the patents on seeds topics. We are especially concerned about the increasing number of patents on plants, seeds and farm animals and their impact on farmers, breeders, innovation and biodiversity.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Last year, we won two awards for our educational programmes. We try to see every step forward as a small success

**We have some difficulties with...**

We are a well-known organisation in Austria, but still we would wish more endorsement for our activities from the public sector, as our activities aim at common welfare.

Further, Arche Noah might need some professionalization and standardisation of our daily work processes.

# Belgium

## Work Group 'Seeds' of ReSAP (Réseau de Soutien à l'Agriculture Paysanne)

Legal form	Work Group
Address	Maison de la Paix (gathering place) Rue Van Elewijck 35 1050 Brussels
Phone Number	+32 (0)475 29 93 53
Fax number	/
email	<a href="mailto:corrinne.denecker@gmail.com">corrinne.denecker@gmail.com</a> + our email distribution list <a href="mailto:semences@sdu.collectis.net">semences@sdu.collectis.net</a> <a href="mailto:rsap-diffusion@sdu.collectifs.net">rsap-diffusion@sdu.collectifs.net</a>
Website	<a href="https://seeds.owlswatch.net/">https://seeds.owlswatch.net/</a>
Manager	/
Founding year	Spring 2013
Number of Members	Approx 30
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	Members are individuals or representants of associations of farmers, seed savers, and others, like e.g. BioForum, Nature & Progrès, Kokopelli Belgium, Le Début des Haricots, CEO, Via Campesina, Credal...

### Our organisation's goals are...

The work group's goals are to centralise all information, knowledge and actions about seeds (regulation, actions, production...) and to communicate about and be an information relay.

### The focus of our mission is...

- [1] monitoring and decrypting what's happening with the EU regulation
- [2] develop a simplified document of the regulation that will explicit the positions of the interested groups (farmers, seed savers,...) and the way this regulation project will impact them [document could result in a common statement]
- [3] collective learning
- [4] facilitate/prepare future actions

### These are our ongoing Projects...

- Letter of inquiry to Agriculture Minister Di Antonio
- Via Campesina to organise big action in January (info to follow)
- Construction of informative website/platform about seed regulation (IHECS students), to be used as from January
- Following up 6 days of training on seeds production (with Natpro & Semailles), many dynamics are formed around seed swaps and small scale production amongst market-gardeners, knowledge exchanges, creation of seeds houses
- More trainings on seeds production planned in January



**We have the following staff:**

No staff, this is voluntary based. Two people administrate the email distribution list. One person manages the website.

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

No funding.

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

Members know-how such as CEO, Via Campesina, Kokopelli, Field Liberation Movement,...

## Bulgaria

### AGROLINK Association

Legal form	Registered non-governmental organisation and the public to carry out its work
Address	50, Yanko Sakazov 50Sofia, Bulgaria,
Phone Number	+ 359 2 8431511
Fax number	+ 359 2 8431511
email	agrolink@agrolink.org
Website	www.agrolink.org
Manager	Svetla Nikolova, PhD
Founding year	1999
Number of Members	64 members, volunteers
Type of members	Individuals and farmers

**Our organisation's goals are...**

- Advocacy for organic farming in Bulgaria and European level
- Promoting organic farmers as well as their products,
- Promoting agro-biodiveristy and sustainable rural development
- To support farmers through training, education and information
- To raise awareness of consumers about organic farming, sustainable consumption, green living livelihood
- To protect Bulgarian old plant variety and rear animal bread

**The focus of our mission is...**

Organic farming

Anti GMO

Seed saving

**These are our ongoing Projects...**

- *With children in the organic garden* funded by Mtel – Bulgarian mobile operator
- *Elaboration of the best practice models of the knowledge transfer from science to practice in the organic farming sector* – funded by Leonardo da Vinci programme

**We have the following staff:**

Svetla Nikolova

Dragomir Zahariev

2 full staf, 6 partly – depend of the projects,

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.):** donors

We have the following experience with advocacy activities:

GMO – the most successful campaign of civil society in Bulgaria

Organic farming

Small farmers support

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Anti GMO campaign

To build the Hrancoop – an informal group of consumers and small farmers as a type CSA

**We have some difficulties with...** Funding

# Croatia

## ZMAG

Legal form	NGO
Address	Vukomeric 23/4, 10418 Dubranec, Croatia
Phone Number	+385 1 562 0794
Fax number	+385 1/4667-629
email	zmag@zmag.hr
Website	www.zmag.hr
Manager	Drazen Simlesa, secretary
Founding year	2002
Number of Members	14
Type of members	individuals

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

Zelena mreža aktivističkih grupa (eng. Green network of activist groups) promotes implementation of different practice technics on sustainable living. Our main long term project is Recycled estate formed as permaculture education centre, situated in village Vukomerić near Zagreb. ZMAG is also dissemination organization for several formal or informal groups and organizations such as Balkan ecovillage network, informal network of ecological producers, informal group of permaculture designers or first CSA groups in Croatia (as we call them - groups of solidarity exchange).

### **The focus of our mission is...**

Developing and promoting ecological technologies.

### **These are our ongoing Projects...**

- Centre of knowledge – education activities on Recycled estate, workshops, lectures, library... Part of that project is also work on food sovereignty (workshops of gardening and seed saving, organizing CSA gathering and food sovereignty forum)
- Learning Opportunities for Consumer and Agricultural Communities Around CSA – International gatherings of CSA groups
- Education programs in schools (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung)
- maintaining the garden and seed collection

### **We have the following staff: 5**

### **This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

donations, project fees

### **We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

As the organization we don't have any experience with advocacy but some of our members have some experience from work in other partner organizations.

### **Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

- This year our organization is recognized and supported by Croatian National Foundation for Civil Society Development as partner and education centre for permaculture among biggest organizations in Croatia
- In 2012. we started a project called "Fine treads of local development" aimed to promote ecological agriculture and implement the model of CSA in Croatia as well as to promote seed saving and exchange

**We have some difficulties with...**

- Lack of experience in advocacy
- lack in capacity for seed saving in our organization (storage for seeds, green house...) and number of other seed savers organizations

**Gredica**

Legal form	Not-for-profit association
Address	Krešimira Filića 106, 42000 Varaždin
Phone Number	00385915911476
Fax number	-
email	ghanzek@gmail.com
Website	<a href="http://gredica.wordpress.com/">http://gredica.wordpress.com/</a>
Manager	Goran Hanzek
Founding year	2012
Number of Members	10
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	Individuals, gardeners

**Our organisation's goals are...**

...the promotion of sustainable living through lectures, workshops and practical examples.

**The focus of our mission is...**

... sustainable city (local community) in areas of food and energy.

**These are our ongoing Projects...**

Last year we started 1<sup>st</sup> grassroots initiated urban garden in Croatia in cooperation with city government. Ongoing education of gardeners and citizens in general.

**We have the following staff:**

10 active volunteers, around 100 gardeners in urban garden project

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Membership fees, donations...

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

We're working with city officials on implementation of urban gardens as a new zone in future city planning which could be used as a model for other cities in Croatia. Also we're actively involving city officials in our educational programmes considering sustainable development of the city.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

We created urban gardens project through which we involved more than 100 gardeners, each on their own 50m2 plot, and along with that we managed to create active local food scene with workshops, seed exchanges, garden festivals etc.

**We have some difficulties with...**

Time management since everything is done on voluntarily basis and it's sometimes pretty exhausting for people who are actively involved.

# Finland

## Maatiainen ry

Legal form	Registered non-profit organisation
Address	Stenbäckinkatu 8, 00250 Helsinki
Phone Number	0358-9-477 5331
Fax number	
email	toimisto@maatiainen.fi
Website	www.maatiainen.fi
Manager	Maija Manninen
Founding year	1989
Number of Members	2000
Type of members	heritage plant cultivators, keepers of landrace animals, subsistence farmers, people who grow their own food, cottage owners, researchers, seed collectors, professional and hobby gardeners, supporters of our mission

Name comes from the Finnish word maa "earth", maatiainen = landrace

### **Our organisation's goals are.../mission is...**

To conserve in a living form traditional and local varieties of ornamental and useful plants, original landraces of domestic animals and rural landscapes **and to promote their active utilisation.**

### **Our activities**

- Selling seeds in shop/via post.
- Garden Fairs: Seed selling, Awareness raising, Acquiring new members Maatiainen Magazine 4 Times a year
- Annual Catalogue of Seeds, seeds come from the Gardens of members, as like from nature areas, normally ca. 500 entries.
- Organizing twice a year a Day of Plant Exchange including expert gardening advising
- Annual trips (2): in Finland and Abroad: Getting to know local gardens, culture and cultivation, nature and landscapes, traditional farming destinations
- Choosing a landrace plant, animal and traditional landscape to raise awareness and draw the public attention to these topics: This year: Rye landrace varieties (Seceale sereale) and eastern Finland landrace cattle, Kyyttö, forms with horns
- Presentations, talks, Courses

### **We have the following staff:**

12 persons Council.(or Board), Manager of Seed Office/Shop, Seeds group of 2 persons (packaging and writing the seed catalogue), Bulletin editor, Graphic artist, Tour manager, Web page designer. All staff is part time, voluntaries come in addition to that.

### **We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

Presenting Gmo-position paper against Gmos. Participating 1) board of genetic resources, 2) board of plant varieties together with state administration, research institutes etc.

### **This is how we get our funding**

Membership fees, Sales of seeds and Plants

# FRANCE

## Réseau Semences Paysannes (The French Farmers' Seed Network)



Legal form	Non governmental organization
Address	3 avenue de la Gare – 47190 Aiguillon- France
Phone Number	+33 (0)5 53 84 44 05
Fax number	+33 (0)5 53 84 69 48
email	<a href="mailto:contact@semencespaysannes.org">contact@semencespaysannes.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.semencespaysannes.org">www.semencespaysannes.org</a>
Manager	
Founding year	2003
Number of Members	72
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	Associations for the development of organic or biodynamic farming, smallholder unions, small seed producers, associations which maintain and collect plants (cereals, fruits, vegetables), Regional Natural Park, NGOs working on North/South relations, environmental NGO's. They are national, regional or local organizations.

### Our organisation's goals are...

All those organizations decided to put together their resources and to create a network to

- Link together thousands of farmers in France and Europe around the issue of the handling and renewal of crop biodiversity, multiply initiatives to save biodiversity in fields and gardens, create "farmers' seed banks" managed by farmers' communities ;
- Coordinate and facilitate trainings and exchanges of know-how, re appropriation of farmers' knowledge on seeds
- Participate to the legal and scientific recognition of the farmers' seeds and the farmers' knowledge and participate to the legal debate on seed issues ;
- Organize campaigns to preserve agrobiodiversity and farmers ' rights at national level
- Promote participatory research projects as participatory plant breeding between researchers and farmers to create new varieties adapted to smallholders, organic or biodynamic agriculture ;
- Help the development of agro-biodiversity in fields and gardens and *on-farm* conservation ;
- Disseminate information on crop biodiversity and contribute to the emerging public debate on the importance of crop biodiversity and risks related to GMOs and others patentable biotechnologies.

**The focus of our mission is...**to promote the legal and scientific recognitions of Farmers' Seeds by carrying out advocacy with the competent authorities based on the actual use of knowledge and farmers' seeds (through community seed systems) and by legal watching activities regarding farmers' rights on seeds.

### These are our ongoing Projects...

Our work is organized

- through thematic working groups by major species of crops : wheat, corn, vegetable, fruit, fodder

- or transversal issues : seed regulation, participatory plant breeding, farmers' rights.

Through meetings, training and publications, it creates different spaces for exchanges between farmers and gardeners but also with consumers.

Our members act concretely in :

- collecting, saving old varieties of wheat and breeding for organic farming, bread baking, pasta making ...
- collecting, saving and breeding different kind of cereals, fodder, leguminous and maize populations for smallholders and organic farming.
- testing traditional varieties of vegetables for family and organic farming and for their nutritional and gustatory interests and the sale on local market,
- saving and added value (fruits juice, canned food...) of traditional or local varieties of fruit,
- helping the organization to disseminate farmers' seeds,
- collecting and sharing knowledge, know-how, trainees for farmers and gardeners,

One project regarding those activities is the « Maisons de la semence paysanne » or on farm seed banks managed by farmers. Several groups of farmers and gardeners have created on farm seed banks called « maisons de la semence paysanne » to manage seeds collectively, but also to be independent and autonomous from the seed industry, to re appropriate their peasants' knowledge and, more specifically, about on farm plant breeding. They try to develop varieties locally adapted and adapted to organic farming.

Concerning legal watching, the hot topics in France are currently

- law proposal on counterfeiting
- law proposal on the Unitary patent protection and the Unified Patent Court
- national law about agriculture
- European legislation with the Better regulation process
- the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

**We have the following staff:**

6 employees ([http://www.semencespaysannes.org/l\\_equipe\\_salariee\\_340.php](http://www.semencespaysannes.org/l_equipe_salariee_340.php))

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Membership fees, donations, project fees.

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

The *Réseau Semences Paysannes* (RSP) collects legal informations about the evolutions on seed laws to allow the civil society and citizens to defend their own rights. With 20 national organisations, RSP is leading a campaign called “semons la biodiversité” (sow biodiversity). Our main objective is to introduce into actual legal texts and law projects, amendements so as to preserve and to recognize the rights of farmers, gardeners and traditional seed producers on their seeds and to allow them to reuse freely, to exchange and to sell their local varieties. That means for instance :

- to abrogate the law on plant breeder's rights voted in november 2011
- to ban all patents on plants and to implement effectively the Treaty ITPRGFA on seeds, and more specifically, the articles 5, 6 and 9.

To achieve those goals, this campaign is encouraging everybody to contribute to the future of local seeds, in meeting their elected representative, in organizing local events as conferences, civil disobedience actions of planting...

See : <http://www.semonslabiodiversite.com/>

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

In June 2013, thanks to our legal watching and campaign mobilization we avoided that the ratification of the Unitary patent protection and the Unified Patent Court happened without any public debate through another law proposal dealing with higher education.

**We have some difficulties with...**

The issues around seeds are complex and spread into several law proposals (eg patent, counterfeiting, marketing etc ...) so it is not easy to make a campaign which is coherent and understandable for the public and the elected representatives.



# Germany

## Dachverband Kulturpflanzen- und Nutztiervielfalt (Umbrella Association on Agricultural Biodiversity)

Legal form	Association
Address	Burghofstr. 116, 53229 Bonn, Germany
Phone Number	0049 228 9480670
email	<a href="mailto:gura@dinse.net">gura@dinse.net</a>
Website	<a href="http://kulturpflanzen-nutztiervielfalt.org/">http://kulturpflanzen-nutztiervielfalt.org/</a>
Manager	Susanne Gura
Founding year	2009
Number of Members	14 associations
Type of members	Seed and breed savers associations in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Luxemburg

### Our organisation's goals are...

The diversity of crops and livestock represents our live cultural heritage. It does not only assure the fundament of humanity's food supply, but also the ecological equilibrium of our cultural landscapes. Due mainly to the uniformity of industrial agriculture, this agrobiodiversity, as well as the knowledge and skills required for its maintenance and use, have largely been lost.

The umbrella organisation for crop and livestock diversity aims to counteract the progressive loss of biodiversity in agriculture.

Crop varieties and livestock breeds need to be conserved and used in the context of agriculture and home gardens. Gene banks only constitute a useful backup system in case of emergencies, as they do not allow for the continuous adaptation of plants and animals to climatic changes and to pests and diseases present in our gardens, fields, pastures and meadows.

Accordingly, the knowledge and skills needed to cultivate these crop varieties and rear these animal breeds, to take advantage of their special properties and to handle their products correctly can only be maintained and shared by practical experience.

### The focus of our mission is...

The umbrella organisation was created at the end of 2009 by non-governmental organizations active at national and regional levels. By using the umbrella organization as a common platform, the member organisations aim at uniting their forces and improve the framework for their conservation activities.

The member organisations cooperate by sharing technical knowledge and experience relevant to their conservation work, in the areas of public relations and education, as well as fundraising and realisation of projects. They jointly represent their interests vis-à-vis policy decision makers.

Pertinent issues are discussed at workshops and symposia.

Member organisations are active in German-speaking countries at the national as well as the regional level. Individuals can also support the work of the umbrella organization by affiliating as member, making a donation or by active participation. The umbrella organization is of common public interest and has been granted charity status.

### These are our ongoing Projects...

Advocacy on EU seed legislation

UNESCO status for public and private collections

**We have the following staff:** none

### **This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

donors

### **We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

German government and government related decision makers  
EU Parliament and Commission

### **Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

In the German fruit variety registration legislation, to establish a list of varieties with no further bureaucratic activity.

### **We have some difficulties with... Funding**

## **Save Our Seeds**

Legal form	Initiative of the Foundation on Future Farming
Address	Marienstr. 10-20, 10117 Berlin
Phone Number	+49-30-24047146
Fax number	+49-30-27590312
email	<a href="mailto:info@saveourseeds.org">info@saveourseeds.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.saveourseeds.org">www.saveourseeds.org</a>
Manager	Benedikt Haerlin
Founding year	2002

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

... to protect seeds from genetic contamination and promote sustainable agriculture.

### **The focus of our mission is...**

Apart from the petition about seed purity Save Our Seeds coordinates more projects dealing with the issues of genetic engineering, sustainable agriculture, food sovereignty and the CAP reform. With its campaigns and initiatives, SOS links organisations, companies, politicians, scientists, farmers and interested citizens, and wishes to lead a productive debate towards sustainable change.

### **These are our ongoing Projects...**

- **GMO-free Europe Conference**  
Save Our Seeds organizes the yearly GMO Free Regions conference, where farmers, politicians, companies, representatives of civil society, scientists, and GMO activists exchange experiences and debate on common strategies.
- **Informationsdienst Gentechnik**  
The Informationsdienst Gentechnik (GMO Info Service), which is published by Save Our Seeds on behalf of the "Round Table on Genetic Engineering" daily releases the latest developments in the field of agro-biotechnology. The service recently created teacher and student pages on the subject of genetic engineering.
- **Meine Landwirtschaft**  
"Meine Landwirtschaft"(My Agriculture) is an initiative of farmer, environment, consumer, development, and animal protection organizations. Together they want to bring agricultural reform and social responsibility to the forefront of EU discussions about the CAP 2013.
- **Aktion Bantam**  
In defense against the cultivation of GM maize on the ground and with intentions to set an example for the free exchange of non-GM seeds, more than 60.000 gardeners, farmers, and balcony botanists are growing the traditional sweet corn variety Golden Bantam and save the

seeds for distribution or replanting. As seed savers, they have the right to know exactly who grows GM-maize in their neighbourhood. Meanwhile, not only Bantam maize is blooming, but a colorful variety of non hybrid seeds are reproducing all over Germany.

- Good Food March  
The Good Food March demands a Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) that delivers good food and good farming, it is the biggest civil society action ever seen in the history of the EU's CAP.
- Weltagrarbericht / Globalagriculture  
The IAASTD is the most comprehensive analysis of the history and future of global agriculture. Save Our Seeds was involved in the creation of the World Agriculture Report and has shared its findings all over Germany. We summarized the results of the 2000-page work in a booklet and on the Internet for the public.

**We have the following staff:**

3 fulltime employees and about 8-10 freelancer

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Donations, project fees and sponsoring from other foundations

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

Since 2002 Save Our Seeds is advocating zero tolerance for the contamination of seeds by GMO at German and European level.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

7<sup>th</sup> GMO-free Europe Conference  
Speakerstour Fatal Soy with Sofia Gatica and Maria Godoy  
Launch of [www.globalagriculture.org](http://www.globalagriculture.org)  
Good Food March to Brussels

**We have some difficulties with...**

... the communication between our different projects to optimize synergies and impacts.

## Verein zur Erhaltung der Nutzpflanzenvielfalt (Seed Savers Association)

Legal form	Association
Address	c/o Barbara Féret, Mondrianplatz 11, 36041 Fulda, Germany
Phone Number	0049 228 9480670
email	<a href="mailto:gura@dinse.net">gura@dinse.net</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.nutzpflanzenvielfalt.de/">http://www.nutzpflanzenvielfalt.de/</a>
Manager	Susanne Gura
Founding year	1986
Number of Members	700
Type of members	Individuals

**Our organisation's goals are...**

To manage a large diversity of agricultural plant varieties which have evolved by traditional breeding and selection. To support their cultivation and use in ecological ways.

**The focus of our mission is...**

finding traditional varieties and taking care of them  
public education on seed production

encourage members to cultivate organically  
support initiatives to improve the legislation framework  
cooperate with organisations with similar objectives

**These are our ongoing Projects...**

Common catalogue with 5000 varieties of 800 species  
200 caretakers of varieties  
Seminars to educate on seed production  
Vegetable of the year, with flyers, presentations  
Seed festival

**We have the following staff:** none

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Membership fees, donors

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:** Seed legislation

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...** Increasing numbers of people participate in all our activities

**We have some difficulties with...** Funding

# Greece

## AEGILOPS

Legal form	Not for profit Organization
Address	Ano Lehonia, Volos 37300, Greece
Phone Number	++0302428094558
Fax number	++0302428094558
email	info@aegilops.gr
Website	<a href="http://www.aegilops.gr">www.aegilops.gr</a> , <a href="http://www.greekseedschool.gr">www.greekseedschool.gr</a>
Manager	Kostas Koutis
Founding year	2004
Number of Members	50 active and 200 supporters
Type of members	Organic farmers and gardeners

### Our organisation's goals are...

- To conserve heritage varieties and traditional agricultural knowledge and to restore landrace varieties into contemporary agricultural practice in ways that benefit community.
- to develop plant varieties adapted to local organic production which utilize the benefits of locally adapted genetic resources for ecological agriculture, and
- to strengthen the role of the farmers in the conservation of genetic resources as well as to protect their rights in taking part in the management and benefits of agrobiodiversity.

**The focus of our mission is...** to preserve agrobiodiversity and enhance organic agriculture .

### These are our ongoing Projects...

- Restoration of local varieties. Wheat consists the main part of seed collection which includes also other cereals, pulses, vegetables and fruit varieties, totally counting about 500 greek varieties and populations
- Organic breeding. A number of wheat varieties have been evaluated, selected and regenerated to be reintroduced to cultivation, under participatory procedures.
- Seeds of Liberty : Strengthening the local seed supply systems to ensure seed security and food self-sufficiency at community level.
- Seed Schools : Enhancing farmers ability and capacity to utilize and manage agrobiodiversity by training and experience exchange

**We have the following staff:** We have no staff. We are only volunteers..

**This is how we get our funding:** Membership fees and donations

### We have the following experience with advocacy activities:

AEGILOPS was for some years an NGO representative in a consultative group for Plant Genetic Resources, coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture. Several proposals and recommendations were made under the ongoing review and implementation procedures of EU legislation, to guarantee farmer rights particularly related to farm saved seed and free use of biodiversity . Secondly we proposed a Greek Platform for Seeds and Farmers' Rights consisted from various NGOs working on agrobiodiversity which is still under development.

### Our recent year's biggest successes are...

The last September we coordinated the 1<sup>st</sup> Greek Seed School in Edessa focusing on empowering community on sovereignty and heritage seed benefit sharing. The target participant group consisted from seed group operators and experienced farmers who took a high level training and skills for

successful seed management. We considered Seed School as a bridge between seed movement and academic or scientific sector.

**We have some difficulties with...**

Although AEGILOPS is a well known and experienced organization we have to empower our operational ability and overcome obstacles related with recent economic crisis.

**PELITI**

Legal form	Non profit Organisation
Address	P/R Paranesti, Paranesti T.K. 66035, GREECE
Phone Number	+30 2524022059
Fax number	+30 2524022059
email	info@peliti.gr
Website	www.peliti.gr
Manager	Panagiotis Sainatoudis
Founding year	Actions of Peliti started in 1995, 8 years later in 2003, Peliti became a legal entity
Number of Members	We have no members in the typical sense of the word - Peliti has established a network of cultivators (farmers and individuals) all over Greece that cultivate local varieties, keep their own seeds and distribute those seeds on behalf of Peliti. This network counts today 300 cultivators. - Peliti has 12 local teams all over Greece that disseminate the seeds and the knowledge of saving seeds -we have 3000 subscriptions to our annual publication -we have many volunteers who work for Peliti, giving speeches all over Greece, and supporting advocacy work
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	Farmers (professional and amateurs), students, teachers, academics, concerned citizens

**Our organisation's goals are...**

- The collection, conservation distribution and protection of local varieties and indigenous farm animal breeds
- The exchange of goods and services without the mediation of money.

**The focus of our mission is...**

The main objective of "Peliti" is the collection, preservation distribution and protection of local varieties

**These are our ongoing Projects...**

- **Information, awareness and education about the importance of local varieties to students in all grades as well as to adults (teachers, farmers, consumers...)**
- **Renewing various seed samples of our collection-**
- **The organisation of our seed bank of 2000 samples**
- **All the 12 local teams of Peliti, are trying to create local seed collections and to disseminate the seed saving knowledge as well as the seeds**

Advocacy work about

- a. Laws on seeds and other plant reproductive material- campaign started
- b. Patents on seeds – preparation of a campaign

- c. Organisation of a Caravan in April 2014, together with Dr. Vandana Shiva starting from Peliti offices in northern Greece right after our annual seed festival and arriving to the south of France at the Kokopelli annual festival
- d. Preparation of a campaign on Land grabbing

**We have the following staff (volunteer work):**

Panagiotis SAINATOUDIS coordinator, responsible for the central office and responsible for education in schools  
 Sofia GIDA also responsible for the central office and for school education  
 Pashalia BOSCOU secretariat  
 Paschalia BOSKOU and Panagiotis KARAGIANIDIS, Seed Bank  
 Vasso KANELLOPOULOU, seed law advocacy officer and international relations, also making speeches on traditional seeds  
 Antonis BRESCAS, also in international relations  
 Elena GOGOU, no patents on seeds advocacy officer  
 Twelve coordinators of local chapters (one person per local Peliti team)  
 Nicos DOBAZIS (Komotini local chapter)  
 Dimitris COUFAKIS, (Thessaloniki local chapter)  
 Anna TOSOUNOGLOU (island of Lemnos )  
 Nicos LOFTSALIS, grigoris TSOUFOLIDIS (Kozani)  
 Haris MELA (Ioannina)  
 Antonis PAPALEXANDRIS (Volos)  
 Akis ANTONIADIS ( Evia)  
 Costas TSINGOS, Hara SAITI (Peratia in Aitolokarnania)  
 Aris PAVLOS (island of Aigina)  
 Costas MANTAS (Ancient Olympia)  
 Costas SYMEONIDIS (island of Milos)  
 Manolis VARDAKIS (Herakleion on the island of Crete)

The letters asking for seeds (3000 mail requests during the period Oct 2012-March 2013) are taken care by volunteers of the village where Peliti is located

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

The income of "Peliti" comes from donations by its supporters and from the sale of its publications. Seed distribution is free.

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

- we supported Dr. Vandana Shiva's campaign "seed freedom"
- Since 2002, we have dedicated the April 7 to local varieties seeds, organizing different kind of actions all over Greece
- In 2013 (May) we organized in our place the International Seed Days in Greece, a three day event with participants from 13 countries in order to exchange experiences, information and trying to see how we can collaborate.  
[http://www.peliti.gr/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=65&catid=50&Itemid=51&lang=el](http://www.peliti.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=65&catid=50&Itemid=51&lang=el)
- In February 2013 we co-organised with AEGILOPS an event about the seed law at the premises of the Lawyers Association, Pierre Sultana of Arche Noah was one of the main speakers
- Since then we have organised local lectures about the seed laws and the value of landraces in general. One of the events was organised by the ministry of agriculture and we had the opportunity to explain our views to the minister and the staff of the ministry
- In October 2013 we organised together with the municipality of Athens and the ministry of the Environment a full day of events about supporting local biodiversity. The main speakers, Dr.

Vandana Shiva from Navdanya, India and Mrs. Iga Niznik from Arche Noah Austria, focused mainly on the revision of the European plant Reproductive Material Law.

- We have personally contacted some Greek members of parliament about the seed law and in November 2013 we sent them a detailed letter asking for amendments. We also cooperate with scientists who protect local varieties urging them to send their proposal for amendments to the MEPs along with their scientific arguments, this was recently done.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

- Since 1999, we organize the Pan-Hellenic Festival for the Exchange of Local Varieties. This is an annual event organised by Peliti every year. Farmers, activists, researchers, students and thousands of visitors from all over the world come to share their experiences on the cultivation of local varieties. The Festival includes speeches, seminars, workshops, distribution of local seeds, eating, dancing, music, money-free barter of goods etc.

At our recent festival in May 2013 we had 4000 visitors.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqC1sMpGHDM&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PLIS7wiwl7yw2Dnyl1fUad4gtUIDWmfs1P>

- Our presentation about the value of landraces at the ministry of agriculture conference, April 2013
- Also the October 2013 events, mainly about seed laws, with Vandana Shiva and Iga Niznik have been very successful

**We have some difficulties with...**

Our main difficulties are: a. to satisfy the increased demand for seeds which is a phenomenon which became more intense with the financial crisis, and b. to face the reality of the dramatic reaction of donations and of subscriptions to our publications, which is also due to the current financial crisis in Greece. Currently all the work of Peliti is carried out by volunteers as there is no possibility of paying a salary.



# Hungary

## ESSRG Ltd.

Legal form	ESSRG Ltd.
Address	H-1024 Budapest, Rómer Flóris u. 38.
Phone Number	+36/305139455
email	<a href="mailto:bela.gyorgyi@essrg.hu">bela.gyorgyi@essrg.hu</a> , <a href="mailto:kiss.dorottya@essrg.hu">kiss.dorottya@essrg.hu</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.essrg.hu">www.essrg.hu</a>
Manager	Bálint Balázs
Founding year	2008
Number of staff	4

### Our organisation's goals are...

ESSRG Ltd. is a small research and development enterprise (R&D SME), a company working on the boundaries of environmental and social sciences practiced in a transdisciplinary approach. Members of ESSRG have their professional roots in various disciplines ranging from agri-environmental engineering through ecological economics to rural and environmental sociology.

### The focus of our mission is...

ESSRG aims to develop social science research methods in connection with environmental sciences. ESSRG aims to develop a special expertise on the agro- biodiversity science-policy interface, conducting policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, and participatory planning and valuation.

### We have the following staff:

**Dr. György Pataki** has an MSc in Economics and a PhD in Management and Organisation Science. His research and teaching experience includes biodiversity policy, the social and cultural value of ES, and applying participatory action research techniques.

**Bálint Balázs** obtained his masters' degree in Sociology in 2000 and in History in 2001, and is currently conducting research for his PhD at the Environmental Science Doctoral School, SZIU. His research experience includes project based teaching techniques, qualitative research, organising science cafes, and facilitating stakeholder dialogues.

**Györgyi Bela** has an Msc in Economic. Her research area includes agrobiodiversity, policy analysis, social and cultural value of biodiversity.

**Dorotty Kiss** has an MSC in Biology. Her research experience includes ecology and agrobiodiversity.

### These are our ongoing Projects...

#### Relevant current activities in European Framework Programme projects

**CLIMSAVE FP7 project** (2009-2013, contract number: 244031) Climate Change Integrated Assessment Methodology for Cross-Sectoral Adaptation and Vulnerability in Europe. CLIMSAVE is a pan- European project that is developing a user-friendly, interactive web-based tool that will allow stakeholders to assess climate change impacts and vulnerabilities for a range of sectors, including agriculture, forests, biodiversity, coasts, water resources and urban development.

The linking of models for the different sectors will enable stakeholders to see how their interactions could affect European landscape change. ESSRG is responsible for the policy analysis of European climate change adaptation policy as co-leader of workpackage 1.

The Public Engagement with Research and Research Engagement with Society - **PERARES FP7 project** (2010-2014, contract number: FP7-sis-266244) strengthens interaction between researchers and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and citizens in Europe. The partners will jointly organise transnational debates on scientific research, in addition to many local dialogues. The partners will

actively involve researchers and CSOs, and help both CSOs and general public in all dialogues to articulate research questions. These will then be put on the research agendas of the partnering research bodies. The results of the requested research will be fed back into a next phase of the dialogues, ultimately showing that civil society does have an influence on research agendas. ESSRG leads the workpackage on Local Human Rights.

**OpenNESS FP7 project** (2012-2016, contract number: 308428) Operationalisation of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services: From Concepts to Real-world Applications. OpenNESS has been designed to deliver operational ways of applying the concepts of NC and ES in land, water and urban management in Europe and to examine how they link to, and support, wider EU economic, social and environmental policy initiatives. OpenNESS will develop a coordinated case study programme, which will be used to analyse the application of the ES and NC concepts in concrete management and decision-making situations, such as integrated river basin management, coastal zone management, and urban and regional planning, covering a range of social-ecological systems. ESSRG will lead the task on non-monetary valuation methods for ecosystem services.

**Farmseed:** As a subcontractor ESSRG Ltd. participates in „Good practices in sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty: developing an inclusive approach in fighting against poverty” project (contract number: EuropeAid/127765/C/ACT/Multi/1-165). The project aims at mobilizing a multi-stakeholder operative network for a proper implementation in Europe and Africa of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA,) by promoting small-scale agricultural and agro-ecological models.

**QUESSA FP7 project** (2012-2015, contract number: 311879) Quantification of ecological services for sustainable agriculture. The project aims to identify the key semi-natural habitats (SNH), outside and within crops, providing essential ecological services (ES). Vegetation traits will be linked to potential ES provision, case studies will measure actual ES levels and inform models which will show unused opportunities and trade-offs among ES by SNH from habitat to landscape scale. This will be achieved for a range of representative cropping systems and farming intensities in regions dominated by agriculture and matched to the requirements of local and national stakeholders. Surveys will identify key SNH and existing literature will be used to link their vegetation traits to ES provision. ES provision will be measured in existing habitat types (SNH to crop) across economically important cropping systems, farming intensities and four European agro-climatic zones using simple techniques in 16 case studies.

**HELICON LIFE project** (Conservation of imperial eagles by managing human-eagle conflicts in Hungary: LIFE10 NAT/HU/000019): ESSRG Ltd. participates as a subcontractor in Action A7, the Preparation of Management Plan for Jászság Special Protection Area (HUHN10005). The preparation of the management plan is a participatory planning process with the involvement of local stakeholders. ESSRG Ltd. is responsible for conducting a stakeholder analysis based on interviews with main local land users, preparing a communication plan and organising forums for local stakeholders to discuss possible conservation measures included in the management plan.

**SUSTAINABLE SOUTH-BORSOD project** The project (2012-2016) focuses on practical developments of agrobiodiversity in South-Borsod region of Hungary. The aims of this project to establish a local agro-ecological consultancy and coordination center with a strong focus on education, proliferation of knowledge. The subproject ‘Fruit Orchard Initiative’ encompasses the collection of old/local/traditional fruit tree varieties and ensures their professional conservation in a nursery. The concrete target is to reintroduce to the region the community based traditional process methods affecting the cultural landscape and biodiversity in a direct and an indirect way.

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**  
application for research funds (FP7, Tempus, etc.)

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**  
Organising “Let’s liberate diversity” in 2011, Szeged.

Taking part in formulation of National Biodiversity Strategy in Hungary.  
Reviewing national legislation on agrobiodiversity.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Organising of Parliamentary Open Day about “Landraces and Genetic Diversity”,  
Organising “Let’s liberate diversity” in 2011

# International

## Campaign for Seed Sovereignty (A, B, CH, D, F, HE, P)

Legal form	No legal form
Address	<a href="mailto:info@seed-sovereignty.org">info@seed-sovereignty.org</a>
email	<a href="mailto:info@seed-sovereignty.org">info@seed-sovereignty.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.seed-sovereignty.org">www.seed-sovereignty.org</a>
Manager	Team
Founding year	2009
Number of Members	15 members in the European team of the Campaign
Type of members	Individuals, among them farmers, mountain farmers, seed savers, political activists

### Our organisation's goals are...

„Our demands are:

- open access to fertile and diverse seeds free of any form of legal protection or patenting;
- the right for farmers and gardeners to obtain seeds from their harvest, to re-sow, distribute and sell them;
- a new model of agriculture based on local, small-scale food webs rather than monocultures requiring high inputs;
- new agricultural and trade policies promoting production for local needs and not global “free” trade, dominated by transnational corporations;
- policies that favour the needs of farmers and consumers, health and the environment instead of profits for big business.” (<http://www.seed-sovereignty.org/EN/index.html>)

### The focus of our mission is...

„We need seed sovereignty to be able to achieve food sovereignty!”

### These are our ongoing Projects...

- distribution of our booklet „Resilient Seed” (on the seed industry, EU seed laws and the engagement for seed-sovereignty) <http://www.seed-sovereignty.org/film.html>
- distribution of the documentay film „Resilient Seed”  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unsC2SGdMBU>
- follow up of the action day on 16/10/2012 <http://www.seed-sovereignty.org/16-10-2012.html>
- 

**We have the following staff:** only volunteers

**This is how we get our funding:** mainly foundations

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

petition „Sowing the future, harvesting diversity”, 2009-2011

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Action days on seed sovereignty in Brussels on 17&18/11/2011

<http://www.seed-sovereignty.org/EN/17and18-04-2011.html>

**We have some difficulties with...**

Multilinguality

## Greens/EFA (Europe)

Legal form	Political Group in the European Parliament
Address	Rue Wiertz Brussels 1047
Phone Number	0032 2 283 25 76
Fax number	
email	Nelly.baltide@europarl.europa.eu
Website	<a href="http://www.eat-better.eu">www.eat-better.eu</a> ; <a href="http://www.food-revolution.eu">www.food-revolution.eu</a>
Manager	
Founding year	1989
Number of Members	58 (MEPs)

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

Greens/EFA Group is the 4th political Group represented in the European Parliament with 58 elected members. Action is required across the full scope of European policy and law-making to achieve an ambitious commitment to climate protection and a radical transformation of the economy to deliver millions of green jobs. Greens also remain at the vanguard of efforts to promote respect for civil and human rights within and outside Europe, a responsible role for Europe on the world stage, as well as better democracy and accountability of the EU institutions.

Regarding agriculture and fisheries, Europe's enormously diverse food culture is under threat. An industrialized and heavily subsidized model of food production, has polluted our environment as well as our food, eliminated many traditional varieties of crops and livestock, and depleted our seas. Green food policies would respect environmental limits on food production by banning GMOs altogether, eliminating subsidies for harmful agricultural practices and reducing the size of EU fishing fleets.

### **The focus of our mission is...**

Our Group runs a specific Food Campaign informing on green priority for sustainable and healthy food. The campaign makes the link with the legislative activities on the European agenda. The objective of this campaign is to provoke public debate, increase awareness and local activism, and thereby raising public pressure on governments and the EU institutions. This is achieved by reaching out to civil society organisations, green movements and the general public, providing information on food related issues and facilitating contacts and information flow within the broader movement.

### **These are our ongoing Projects...**

[www.eat-better.eu](http://www.eat-better.eu)

[www.seedfreedom.eu](http://www.seedfreedom.eu)

[www.food-revolution.eu](http://www.food-revolution.eu)

### **We have the following staff:**

On Food related issues

Food Campaigner Nelly BALTIDE

AGRI advisers: Andrzej Nowakowski and Hannes Lorenzen

Fisheries adviser: Michael Earle

GMO Adviser: Arnaud Apoteker

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.):** public

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

The political Group exists since 1989 and work on European legislative dossiers relating to agriculture and food since then. The food information campaign exists since 2003 and has been recently reloaded with new projects since 2013

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

CFP reform  
Ban on neonicotinoid pesticides harmful to bees

**We have some difficulties with...**

The CAP reform and current new proposal for seed regulation

## Longo maï (Austria and other European countries)

Legal form	Association
Address	Heike Schiebeck, Lobnik 16, A-9135 Eisenkappel
Phone Number	++43 4238 8705
Fax number	++43 4238 87054
email	Heike.schiebeck@gmx.at
Website	www.prolongomai.ch
Manager	No manager, horizontal structure
Founding year	1973
Number of Members	Ca. 200
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	Longo maï is a network of collective farms in Austria, Switzerland, France, Germany and Ukraine

**Our organisation's goals are...**

Self organised and self-sufficient live on community farms in the mountain areas and disadvantaged regions; transborder solidarity.

**These are our ongoing Projects:** An educational film on how to produce seeds. The film is made in France and will be translated in several languages.

**We have the following staff:** No staff; no salaries

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Donors and private persons, e. g. in Switzerland

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:** we are part of the campaign for seed sovereignty

**Our recent year's biggest successes are:**

In March 2013 we organised together with the Eco-Center Thurauen in eastern Switzerland a seed-swap with practical and political workshops on seeds with participants from several countries

**We have some difficulties with...**

The European seed legislation

# The Netherlands

## Bifurcated Carrots

Legal form	Blog
Address	2e Anjeliersdwstr 7 1015NS Amsterdam
Phone Number	+31 6 40109417
email	pwiebe@patnsteph.net
Website	<a href="http://bifurcatedcarrots.eu">http://bifurcatedcarrots.eu</a>
Manager	Patrick Wiebe
Founding year	2005
Number of Members	Per day about 500 unique visitors Per month about 10.000 unique visitors Per year about 100.000 unique visitors Several hundred of these are regular and returning visitors
Type of members	Almost everything you can imagine. Includes scientists, farmers, plant breeders, politicians, home gardeners, Monsanto employees, activists and so on. Mostly from English speaking countries.

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

Independent and non-commercial presentation of information and open discussion, particularly relating to food and agricultural biodiversity. Promotion of small farmers and independent plant breeders. Building networks of communication and cooperation.

### **The focus of our mission is...**

To ensure a clear explanation is available to everyone for such basic things as what is an OP seed, what is agricultural biodiversity, basic natural gardening and plant breeding techniques, as well as more advanced topics like seed legislation and marketing, politics and current news topics.

### **These are our ongoing Projects...**

- . Seed Swaps
- . Public presentations and workshops
- . Plant Breeding
- . Writing blog articles
- . Gardening
- . Writing for mainstream media
- . Social Networking

### **We have the following staff:**

1, sometimes 2

### **This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Nearly 100% self funded

### **We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

Write sometimes on seed law, intellectual property rights and so on. Professional background in computers and startup companies, with particular emphasis on open source and free software (Linux and so on).

I expect most organizations meeting in Vienna will have much more advocacy experience than me, and hope to learn a lot.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are.**

Probably the biggest seed swap Amsterdam has ever seen, with hundreds of participants.

**We have some difficulties with.**

A blog, as well as computer and Internet technologies are always evolving, and it can be difficult to stay current and relevant. For example in recent years Facebook and Twitter have become popular, and are a sort of competition. It can be hard to have a clear vision for the future.

It's also easy to get 'writers block' and go through long periods without knowing what to write about.

## Reclaim the Seeds – ASEED

Legal form	RTS is an ASEED project, ASEED is a NGO foundation
Address	Plantage Doklaan 12A
Phone Number	00 31 20 6682236
Fax number	
email	<a href="mailto:reclaimtheseeds@aseed.net">reclaimtheseeds@aseed.net</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.reclaimtheseeds.nl">www.reclaimtheseeds.nl</a> and <a href="http://www.aseed.net">www.aseed.net</a>
Manager	
Founding year	2012 (ASEED 1993)
Number of Members	7 volunteers, two permanent
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	Gardener, farm hand, cook, coop, campaigner, activists

**Our organisation's goals are...**

sustainable agriculture and seed sovereignty. (Re-) creating free seed exchange in different parts of the country.

**The focus of our mission is...**

creating access to free seeds, a seed network and a platform for change in the Netherlands. Connecting with the international seed sov movement fighting restrictive legislation

**These are our ongoing Projects...**

Organising annual seed weekend each year on different location. Weekend includes seed fair with independent seeds from all over the Netherlands and neighbouring countries (about 25 participating orgs.) A plenary debate, and more than a dozen workshops for sharing skills and knowledge, connecting to local initiatives and alternatives to big ag. Hosting website, creating seed brochure.

**We have the following staff:**

Two permanent members of organisation, linking to local groups like Transition Towns, organic farmers, food coops, urban garden projects



**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Private funds, donations,

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

email list, newsletter, website, press work, letters to MP's, street actions and events like guerilla gardening, organising debates and info nights with film, food, PP presentation, petition pushing

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Large turnout on seed fair 2013 and overcrowded workshops

**We have some difficulties with...**

public ignorance of subject, limited access to funds,

# Poland

## The Green Institute

Dorota Metera, Member of Board, Expert in ecological agriculture

Zielony Instytut (The Green Institute) is the foundation dealing with the implementation of green ideas into political and social life and with the promotion of Green movement in Europe and worldwide. It works for the benefit of democracy, protection of common goods, human rights, civil society, freedom of every individual and self-determination of communities, cooperation and international solidarity, peace, sustainable development and responsible business. The foundation conducts its activities by means of publications, debates, conferences and workshops. The Green Institute cooperates with Greens 2004, the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions, Spaces for Dialogue Foundation, Research Centre on Future at Collegium Civitas and other green think-tanks from European countries.

# Portugal

## GAIA

Legal form	Environmental NGO (association)
Address	Rua da Regueira, nº 40, 1100—0437 Lisbon
Phone Number	+351 910 631 664 (Lanka)
Fax number	+351 218 873 482
email	<a href="mailto:lanka@gaia.org.pt">lanka@gaia.org.pt</a> / <a href="mailto:lisboa@gaia.org.pt">lisboa@gaia.org.pt</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.gaia.org.pt">www.gaia.org.pt</a> / <a href="http://www.sementeslivres.gaia.org.pt">www.sementeslivres.gaia.org.pt</a>
Manager	Management and project coordination is non-hierarchical, divided between active members. Seed Sovereignty campaign coordinated by Lanka Horstink. Administrative issues managed by Mara Sé.
Founding year	1996
Number of Members	400 (of which about 40 active)
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	individuals

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

GAIA - Grupo de Acção e Intervenção Ambiental - is a Portuguese nongovernmental environmental organisation (ONGA). It was founded in 1996 by young environmentalists in Lisbon and currently has 3 nodes: Lisbon (headquarters), Oporto and the Alentejo, and about 400 volunteer members. GAIA cooperates with several national movements and associations, is a member of international networks such as YEE and EYFA and one of Portugal's leading environmental associations. GAIA is the initiator and main partner of the Portuguese chapter of the European Seed Sovereignty Campaign. With the aim of creating workable alternatives for a sustainable and just society, GAIA supports a sociological and political bottom-up approach to environmental issues. We defend a critical analysis of today's society, the testing of social, economic and cultural alternatives, the stimulation of citizen autonomy, self-training and participation and finally creative and non-violent direct action to further our causes.

### **The focus of our mission is...**

Creating workable alternatives for a sustainable and just society, within a radical democracy framework, through learning by doing, learning by sharing and learning together.

### **These are our ongoing Projects...**

Portuguese Seed Sovereignty campaign  
Seeds for the Future, a Grundtvig financed project to empower seed guardians and defenders  
member of Stop GMO Platform  
member of Stop the Electricity dams Platform  
People's dinners  
Healing and using brown land in cities  
D-I-Y workshops to transform consumers into producers  
Open Space style conferences / People's Assemblies  
Rural sustainable village project in the Alentejo (Aldeia das Amoreiras), promoting communitarianism

### **We have the following staff:**

No staff, only volunteers that divide tasks:

Mara Sé: administrative issues and coordinating Lisbon node, assisting Seed Sovereignty campaign  
Bruno Caracol: Garden networking and energising Lisbon node  
André Vizinho: coordinating the Aldeia das Amoreiras project with a team of volunteers  
Lanka Horstink: coordinating the Seed Sovereignty Campaign and the Seeds for the Future project, representing GAIA at the Stop GMO Platform  
Cloé Sire: co-coordinating Lisbon node, assisting Seed Sovereignty campaign  
André Studer: representing GAIA at the Platform for ENGO's and Platform Stop the Electricity Dams  
...

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

Mostly no budget :-P, some occasional donations from individuals or other environmental organisations, occasionally European funding for specific projects

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

Stop GMO campaign  
Seed Sovereignty campaign  
Stop the Electricity Dams campaign  
Anti-capitalist and anti-austerity movements

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Together with the partners from the Stop Electricity Dams Platform, temporarily halting construction at the Tua dam.  
Getting the Seed Campaign in the news: several interviews and a televised debate on the new Seed Law, a debate at a Socialist Forum, many presentations at events and festivals.  
Meeting with secretary of state for Food, transmitting our concerns about the Seed Law and detail the information we demand on the localisation of GMO test and production fields.  
Fixing up our new headquarters, in D-I-Y mode.  
Winning the Terre de Femmes prize with the Seed Campaign.  
Organising an International Meeting on Food and Seed Sovereignty with 50 participants, including farmers, scientists, activists and community organisers.  
Successfully concluding a Grundtvig project on urban sustainability, ranked as "very good" in the final classification.  
Winning a new Grundtvig project, "Seeds for the Future".

**We have some difficulties with...**

Reaching farmers  
Traditional media (sometimes boycott our communications, depending on their own agendas)  
Dependent on very small, very overworked, team of coordinating volunteers

# Romania

## Eco Ruralis – in support of ecological and traditional farmers

Legal form	NGO
Address	David Ferenc St. No. 10/5, Cluj Napoca, Cluj, Romania
Phone Number	0040264599204
Fax number	0040264599204
email	<a href="mailto:ecoruralis@gmail.com">ecoruralis@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.ecoruralis.ro">Www.ecoruralis.ro</a>
Manager	Attila Szocs
Founding year	2009
Number of Members	Aprox. 200 peasant families and 100 supporting members (urban gardeners, activists, artists, journalists and academics)
Type of members	Peasants, gardeners, activists, artists, journalists, academics, farming cooperatives

### Our organisation's goals are...

Eco Ruralis stands for farmers' right to practice environmentally friendly agriculture. This includes the right to use, multiply and distribute traditional seeds, the pursuit of strict biosafety regulations (without genetically modified organisms); the preservation of food sovereignty in Romania; and respect for consumer health.

### The focus of our mission is...

The Eco Ruralis Association was founded to deal with the problems which confront small scale organic and traditional farmers in social, economic, and political contexts, such as:

- A lack of transparency and support from Romanian authorities regarding the new legislative framework imposed by European integration
- A lack of information and access to funds for organic and traditional agriculture projects.
- Measures and policies which favorize biotechnology companies (producers of chemicals and seeds which are used to practice intensive agriculture), industrial agriculture and biofuels.
- Weak policies regarding the protection of traditional seeds.
- Policies which are favorable towards genetically modified organisms, weak standards regarding biosecurity in the organic agriculture sector.

### These are our ongoing Projects...

1. Peasant seeds – Conservation and distribution of traditional seeds
2. Landgrabbing in Romania – Exposing landgrabbing cases and advocacy for small scale farmers
3. The new CAP – Representing peasants rights in the EU discussions on CAP

### We have the following staff:

Willy Schuster – co-president  
Dan Cismas – co-president  
Luiza Boldizsar – co-president  
Eugen David – co-president  
Attila Szocs – Administrator  
Ramona Duminicioiu – member of staff  
Bogdan Buta – member of staff  
Raluca Dan – member of staff

Nicolae Lalu – member of staff

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

International foundations, donations.

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

Participation in the GoMAD action initiated by the ARC2020 platform of NGOs, contacting the Romanian MEPs, regarding their voting on the CAP reform. Their lack of reaction and lack of response was disappointing.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Large scale distribution of traditional seeds amongst Romanian peasants and gardeners and the creation of a complex monitoring tool, to follow up on the current distributions.

Controlled cultivation and multiplication of various rare traditional varieties of vegetables by the Eco Ruralis staff in partnership with the University for Agricultural Sciences of Cluj.

**We have some difficulties with...**

Discussions with authorities (empty promises, influenced by the corporate lobby and interest).

# Slovakia

## EKOTREND Slovakia

Legal form	NGO
Address	Michala Hlaváčka 21, 054 01 Levoča
Phone Number	00421 907 460 004
Fax number	
Email	<a href="mailto:homola@ecotrend.sk">homola@ecotrend.sk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.ecotrend.sk">www.ecotrend.sk</a>
Manager	Zuzana Homolova
Founding year	1997
Number of Members	84
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	Organic farmers, small family farms, schools, NGOs, individuals

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

Promote organic farming.

Our goal is to protect the environment, nature and its resources by a sustainable organic agriculture and also to produce quality organic food and co-create a harmonious cultural landscape, take care of the diversity of life, create decent living conditions for human and animal rearing and thereby maintain agriculture as a traditional branch of human activity .

### **The focus of our mission is...**

- a) providing advice, information and raise public awareness in the field of organic farming
- b) organizing training courses and seminars in the field of organic farming
- c) the establishment and updating of the database organic farming
- d) technical cooperation in the development and amendment of the relevant legislative standards organic farming
- e) publishing manuals and promotional materials on organic farming
- f) mediation of expert domestic and international internships and excursions
- g) all-round cooperation with organizations and joinder of organic farmers, universities, research and government bodies, but also with other organizations of consumers, processors of organic products
- h) work together to create a uniform standard inspection and control system in the Slovak Republic
- i) Ekotrend defends the interests of union members

### **These are our ongoing Projects...**

the internatiopnal year of family farming  
organic farm of the year  
farm shops

### **We have the following staff:**

activities of volumteers supporters (12)

### **This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

membership fee  
payment from projects

### **We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

promote family farms and farm shops

continual support of organic agriculture

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Close cooperation with NSRV (LEADER)  
active cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture  
constant pressure on the Ministry of Agriculture  
long-term cooperation with Bioacademy Lednice  
Days of organic farming from 2005 (workshops, seminars, tastings, lectures)

**We have some difficulties with...**

funding  
finalization of food on farms  
definition of family enterprise

## Utopia o.z.

Legal form	NGO
Address	Lipského 2, 84101 Bratislava-Dúbravka
Phone Number	
Fax number	
email	
Website	<a href="https://utopia.sk/liferay/web/guest">https://utopia.sk/liferay/web/guest</a>
Manager	Peter Vittek
Foundingyear	2010
Numberof Members	9
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	individuals

**Our organisation's goals are...**

- development of social inclusion: enabling citizens to fully participate in society and dissolving barriers that prevent social inclusion.
- Enable state and public administration based on opendata approach and opensource technologies.
- Setting up and implementation of prefigurative institutions which are helpful in transformative periods.
- Support of cooperativism: theoretical (research and advocacy) practical (setting up an incubator and functioning cooperatives)

**The focus of our mission is...**

To create participative structures and communities that can subsequently work on their own. Building up networks of similarly oriented initiatives and provide models that can be replicated further. We support cooperation and currently focus on developing sustainable local economies.

**These are our ongoing Projects...** Participative budgeting (in several cities), open data project, Transeuropa Festival, organization of public assemblies and forums, workshops realization, public presentations, Visegrád project on cooperativism and inclusive economies.



**We have the following staff:**

Peter Vittek, Peter Nedoroščík, Eva Riečanská, Erich Sasinka, Gabriel Lachman, Lukáš Bulko, Andrej Ďumbala, Martin Jankovič, Silvia Ruppeldtová

**This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

fundraising (grants) and donors

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

Developing PR strategies, organization of workshops and direct involvement of interested public. Issuing press releases and managing informational and news website.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Developing and implementing functional foundation of participative budgeting (it was our main agenda). Recently, we have focused on cooperativism and longterm sustainability.

**We have some difficulties with...**

Funding, political environment, limited citizen participation

# Slovenia

## Seed Guradians – The Association for Preservation of Biodiversity of Cultural Plants

Legal form	Non profit association
Address	Valvasorjeva ulica 42 2000 Maribor Slovenia
Phone Number	+386 40 304 211
Fax number	/
email	varuhi.semen@semenska.org
Website	www.semenska.org
Manager	Mateja Koler
Founding year	2011
Number of Members	56
Type of members (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.)	Individuals (farmers, gardeners, students, supporters, etc.), association, social enterprises.

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

- to rise awareness about the importance of biodiversity with the emphasis on cultural plants (especially on landraces);
- to educate people about self production of seeds (through workshops, handbooks, guidelines, lectures, etc.);
- to preserve the diversity of old and endangered varieties of cultural plants through the system of seed library;

### **The focus of our mission is...**

- to preserve the diversity of cultural plants.

### **These are our ongoing Projects...**

Projects that are currently supported by public found:

- Seed library (the project will not be financed any more through European capital of Culture);
- Workshops for children named Kalinčkove workshops
- other activities: public events, workshops, preparing seed saving handbooks, collecting seeds on the field, work in the seed laboratory, etc.

### **We have the following staff:**

Three person working full time, volunteers, external experts.

### **This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

- membership fee, donations, sponsorship, public founds, etc.

### **We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

Unfortunately we do not have many experience on advocacy activities.

### **Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

We are a young association that has already developed two big projects and two small ones in just two year and we are proud on every activity we do or have done.

**We have some difficulties with...**

To little staff, very low support from public institutions working on the field of preservation of plant genetic resources or the government, inconstancy in founding.

# Spain

## Red Andaluza de Semillas “Cultivando Biodiversidad” (RAS)

Legal form: Non-profit Association

Address: CES Germinal. Caracola del CIR parque de San Jerónimo s/n

Phone Number: 0034 650102339

Email: [ras@redandaluzadesemillas.org](mailto:ras@redandaluzadesemillas.org)

Website: [www.redandaluzadesemillas.org](http://www.redandaluzadesemillas.org)

Manager: Alonso Navarro

Founding year: 2003

Number of Members: 180 members

Type of member:s (e.g. individuals, farmers, enterprises etc.): farmers, gardeners, consumers, technicians, researchers and different kinds of organizations (organic farmers, ecologists, organic consumers, rural development associations, etc.).

### **Our organisation's goals are...**

To support and facilitate conservation and use activities carried out by farmers.

- To facilitate and support the access, production and exchange of seeds among farmers.
- To raise public awareness about the importance of agricultural biodiversity in the agri-food system.
- To promote local and traditional varieties among consumers.
- To create employment in rural areas through seed production and trading at a local level.
- To reclaim the development of public policies intended to facilitate the farmers' rights to conserve, use, exchange and sell their own seeds.
- To ban GMO crops from the Spanish agri-food system.

### **The focus of our mission is...**

to reintroduce local, traditional and farmers' varieties in the agri-food system in the framework of agroecology, food autonomy and family farming systems.

### **These are our ongoing Projects...**

Our main project is the Seed Exchange Networks:

Farmers used to exchange seeds of local varieties with their neighbours but nowadays this practice is on the decline. In general, farmers don't save seeds any more. The Seed Exchange Network is mechanisms that help farmers to obtain seeds of local and traditional varieties through a revival of exchange practices. The principle is: interested farmers give seeds to the Exchange Network that are pooled in a collection, just like a seed library, and farmers who have shared seeds can obtain seeds from the collection in return. In Andalusia, we have built an exchange network that in 2013 has more than 400 members and more than 500 varieties available. The exchanges can be done by letter and also directly through exchange activities that the network organizes.

### **We have the following staff:**

One person working part time and a little group of volunteers working very hard.

### **This is how we get our funding (e.g. membership fee, public, donors etc.)**

We get funding from the small membership fee, some public donors (not these last years due to the economical crisis) and some private foundations. Our current budget is very small.

**We have the following experience with advocacy activities:**

For the last 3 years our advocacy work is done at the national level in the framework of the political Campaign: "Cultivate diversity. Sow your rights."

The campaign claims a change in the public policies related to the conservation and use of local varieties and seed production. "Cultivate diversity. Sow your rights" is focused on:

- To demand a legal framework that allows farmers to produce and sell their own seeds. This means to respect the Farmers' Right to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds and propagating material.
- To demand a strong support of public administrations to the task of the recovery of our cultivated heritage.
- To visualize the importance of small farming and organic production systems, the use of local varieties, the recovery of traditional knowledge and local culture.
- To fight against an agriculture of patents and GMOs.

**Our recent year's biggest successes are...**

Our biggest success is to have built solid alliances at the national and international level.

We have strongly helped in the construction of the Spanish Seed Network (Red de Semillas "Resembrando e Intercambiando"). This National Network started working 14 years ago and today is formed by 25 local networks of different regions of Spain.

**We have some difficulties with...**

Getting fundings to develop more activities

# United Kingdom

## Garden Organic

- Garden Organic, the UK's leading organic growing charity, has been at the forefront of the organic horticulture movement for 50 years. Dedicated to promoting organic gardening in homes, communities and schools, it uses innovation and inspiration to get more people growing in the most sustainable way.
- Garden Organic's charitable work delivers the organic growing message through renowned projects such as the Food For Life Partnership, the Master Composter and Master Gardener schemes and the work of The Heritage Seed Library.