



ACCESSTOLAND

A European network of civic organisations securing land for agroecological farming.

Our network

Preserving land for local, agroecological farming is a growing issue in many parts of Europe. Agricultural land is declining, as a result of urban and infrastructure development. Competition is also growing, between farmers and between food and other uses (timber, agrofuels, fibres). As a result, farmland is ever more concentrated on large, intensive farms while small farms, which are the cornerstone of European food security and lively rural areas, and are best placed to provide local quality food and preserve the environment, are disappearing. At the same time, the retirement of a majority of farmers, and increasing difficulties to replace them, may result in further rural abandonment.

The Access to land network brings together grassroots organisations from across Europe to share experiences and promote the significance of access to land for agroecological transition and generational renewal. Established in 2012, it functions as an informal network of about 15 organisations.

Our aims:

- Share experiences, ideas and practical tools to support farmers in having access to land and engaging in a good land stewardship
- Connect grassroots initiatives and support the emergence of new ones
- Raise awareness of land issues, land as commons and grassroots initiatives among citizens, consumers, farmers' organisations, civil society organisations and policy-makers
- Network with and support other civil society organisations and social movements working on these issues

Member organisations:

Our members are field-based organisations from a range of Western and Eastern European countries. Some are focused on land while others have a broader scope. All are directly working with farmers and communities, and consider land as a common good. To pursue their goals, they have various approaches:

- Advising and supporting farmers and future farmers in their search for land
- Acquiring land, based on public and private investments and donations, and renting it to farmers via community farmland trusts and similar initiatives
- Making agreements with landowners in order to provide land on favourable terms to farmers,
- Preserving farmland and their ecosystems
- Advocating and fostering policy change
- Offering educational activities to citizens and other civil society organisations

Our impact:

Our network has already been successful in a number of ways:

- Consolidating existing organisations, through field visits (15) and experience-sharing activities, involving about 120 people from our organisations and partner organisations
- Fostering the development of new initiatives, such as Terra Franca (Catalonia), De Landgenoten (Flanders), CoolAND (Czech Republic) or the Scottish Farmland Trust (Scotland)



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- Producing practical resources and communication materials about access to land in Europe, most of which are available on this website: directory of 60 organisations, country analysis, case studies, mapping of 30 good practices, video (upcoming), quiz game, etc.
- Raising awareness about access to land issues and experiences in Europe, through public presentations (over 50 reaching about 4000 people), and networking meetings with other civil society organisations
- Presenting a petition to European members of Parliament, together with Via Campesina Europe, calling attention to access to land, land concentration and land preservation in Europe. 70 national and European organisations signed the petition.



Members:

AIAB Lazio - Associazione Italiana per l'Agricoltura Biologica del Lazio

A grassroots network of organic farmers and consumers with the aim of representing and advocating for the world of organic and peasant farming.



Biodynamic Land Trust

The BDLT aims to secure farmland in trust for affordable access for biodynamic farmers, for conservation, public access, sustainable and community connected farming and education.



Campi aperti - Accesso alla terra

An association questioning the private ownership of land, in order to build a community aware of and involved in land management and land use; to facilitate the free exchange of goods, services and knowledge; and to create ecological and social wealth.



De Landgenoten

Fostering sustainable access to farmland for organic farmers





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Eco Ruralis

Supporting traditional organic farming in Romania. Eco Ruralis envisions a society that is environmentally sustainable, economically fair and socially just where peasants are the central component of our food system.



Real Farming Trust

The Real Farming Trust (RFT) is a charity concerned with food sovereignty and sustainable farming (in particular, the practice of agroecology).



Regionalwert AG

Regionalwert AG is a citizen shareholder company that channels citizens' money to build up regional sustainable structures along the value-added chain, from agricultural production to processing, retailing and further services.



Rurbans - School of Shepherds

An association to rejuvenate Pyrenean mountainous areas and foster a new generation of shepherds



Soil Association

The Soil Association is the UK's leading organisation campaigning for healthy, humane and sustainable food, farming and land use. Its Land Trust exists to protect the countryside by acquiring and managing farmland sustainably; and to connect the public with the stewardship of the land.



Terra franca

Terra franca promotes the establishment of fair and long-lasting relationships between owners and tenant farmers, to ensure that both their expectations are met through a mutual commitment to land use.



Terre de liens

Terre de Liens is a civic organisation which promotes land preservation and facilitates access to farmland for local, organic, peasant farmers in France.



Terre-en-vue

Facilitating access to land for sustainable agriculture



Viva Sol

An association of cheese producers and eaters which promotes autonomous peasant farming and supports new entrants to farming



Xarxa de Custòdia del Territori

Promoting land stewardship in Catalonia and in Europe

