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# Urgenci

The International Network of Community Supported Agriculture  
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## **Place your bid!**

***By Jocelyn Parot, General Secretary***

Following the decision taken during URGNCI's last General Assembly in November 2018, our membership fee scheme has been amended. For our 2019 membership campaign, URGNCI has therefore gone ahead with the new bidding model adopted by the International Committee. Each member organisation, each individual member, decides the amount they can afford to contribute to URGNCI. All member organisations are also free to decide how they choose to collect the membership fee within their own national network, if applicable. Some member organizations charge an additional dedicated fee for URGNCI on each individual share. Some members choose to earmark 1% per share sold through CSA/LSPA to networking. Some members charge a percentage of the CSA farms sales' volumes. The contributions may thus vary from one year to the next.

Until now, members' fees collected have amounted to a limited share of URGNCI's budget; this means that URGNCI's financial sustainability relies solely on funding from external projects. URGNCI is currently a project-based organisation, instead of acting as the global branch supported by national and regional networks. The objective of redesigning this scheme is not simply budgetary. It aims to ensure that URGNCI, as the international secretariat of the Community Supported Agriculture movements worldwide, is centred on services to members, pooling and sharing resources between networks rather than multiplying projects. Everything about the bid: <http://urgenci.net/membership/>



## **URGENCI Part of the Struggle for an Alternative Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**

**By Judith Hitchman & Jocelyn Parot**

Judith Hitchman, President of the International Committee of URGENCI, represented the network during an action in front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on the 22nd of October. The event was organized by the Platform for Another CAP. URGENCI has been increasingly involved in advocacy and awareness raising campaigns at the European level. Several recent signals from the EU institutions have shown a potential turning point in the way the proposals from the social movements have been considered. This appetite for change should now translate into concrete steps forward, including the implementation of a Common Food Policy Plan that several of our members worked on over a three year period with Olivier De Schutter, ex-UN Special Rapporteur for the Right to Food and IPES-Food, with whom we also continue to work with various MEPs. In Strasbourg she was supported by her regional MEP from Ireland, Grace O'Sullivan.



## **Last Clap for CSAct!**

**By Jocelyn Parot, General Secretary**

In July, the closing meeting of the project called "CSAct!, a Community -Supported Agriculture collaborative training programme" was held in Vitoria-Gasteiz, in the Basque Country. The overall goal of the project was to extend the offer of CSA training programmes to European CSA members and farmers. This included developing new materials, with a wide range of training opportunities and activities.

The core European CSA training program has been updated, and training materials have now been tailored to Italian, Spanish, Greek and Polish contexts. Additionally, a farmer-to-farmer booklet and a new training module on the Financial Sustainability of CSA have been created.

Anna Morera, from Deafal stresses: *"Thanks to this project, we could organize national meetings and prepare some useful training materials that will help the*

*dissemination of CSAs in Italy"*.

This project has enabled a new generation of "CSA multipliers" to be successfully trained and equipped with the right tools, including a "knowledge transfer kit". The outreach has also been expanded through the use of digital tools that comprise the first ever international series of webinars on CSA and the creation of a Hub, an e-learning platform offering a diversity of pedagogical contents (tutorials, webinar recordings, booklets, modules...).

The CSAct! partners also met their agreed objectives in terms of awareness raising through social media and mainstream communication channels (national TV and radio broadcasts). 1,257,724 citizens were reached by the project's communication campaigns, well beyond the initial target of 274,000...

The link to the Hub, where all the new training materials can be downloaded: <https://hub.urgenci.net/>



## All Change in Rome

**By Judith Hitchman, President of the International Committee of URGENCI**

The Committee on Food Security and Nutrition was reformed following the pressure from civil society during the world food crisis in 2008-9. It includes a unique body: the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism. It contributes to developing policy on food-related issues on an equal footing with States, and apart from voting, which is the responsibility of States, plays a vital role in shaping global food policy issues. It includes both geographical and sectorial constituencies that represent all the rightsholders at global level.



Executive Director of Just Food in New York, and Urgenci IC member.

And to add to this honour for our network, Veikko Heinz of Solawi, also IC member has taken on the responsibility for the Western European constituency.

In both cases, there was an open selection process as well as substantial coaching from Isa and Judith and others. But neither Isa nor Judith have abandoned the work in Rome. Isa will be continuing as co-moderator for the CSM working group on the Voluntary Guidelines for Nutrition and Sustainable

Food Systems, and Judith also continues her engagement in various other processes including agroecology.

So our strength has grown from

The first mandate of the consumer constituency was held by Judith Hitchman. This mandate is a 2-year one, renewable once. And four years ago, she handed over to Isa Alvarez, who has continued the good work until this autumn, when her mandate was complete. She has now handed over to Qiana Mickie,



one to four in less than ten years. Definitely something to celebrate!

*Photo courtesy: Marcia Ishii-Eiterman.*



## Farmers' Corner: Joseba Koskorrotza

**Excerpts from an interview by Isabel Alvarez, Vice-President of URGENCI**

*"In our case we found out about CSA in a rather curious way. We started our farm in 2007 when we thought about setting up an agrotourism project, doing organic livestock production and a garden. Then, we realized that the issue of animals did not fit with our vision. For livestock, we needed investments and a lot of land we didn't have. So little by little we opted for the garden. At the same time, the local farmers' union, Ehne, a founding member of La Via Campesina, was starting a CSA network. We were fortunate to be trained as producers from the beginning in this CSA model. That was a lucky match!*

*Stability over time is one of the strongest parts of this system. That's why I used to believe that it was potentially the best in the world: everything you produce is already "sold." Yet, once talking to someone who was selling at the market, he told me that it was just the other way around, that our system was much more complicated. He said that if he had a product he went to*



*market and if he did not have it, he would just not go. In our case, we have to provide a full share every single week! Then, I realized the degree of commitment that CSA implies.*

*But once we had created our group, little by little we developed our capacity and the group increased. I don't know if there is any other system that allows this.*

*The big difference with other models, from a personal point of view, is that you are removed from the market economy. Philosophically, what CSA implies is that what you do well does not have a better price: it will be a satisfaction for you and the group. You move away from marketing. I am not against markets per se, but against Marketing.*

*For me it has been an opportunity to do things in harmony with my own ideas. It was the first time that this has happened to me in my life. The very first time I could work without being in conflict with my ideas. In that sense, the discovery of CSA has been a life changer for me".*

# Urgenci

# TEIKEI 提携

### **The International Network of Community Supported Agriculture !**

URGENCI brings citizens, farmers, consumers, activists and concerned political actors together at global level through an alternative economic approach called Local Solidarity Partnerships between Producers and Consumers. [www.urgenci.net](http://www.urgenci.net), @urgenci1 // Canopé, 21, rue Moulin au Roy 14000 CAEN FRANCE // +33 684685282// Mail : [contact@urgenci.net](mailto:contact@urgenci.net)

Urgenci's newsletter has been named *TEIKEI*, «cooperation» in Japanese, as a tribute to the pioneering role of the Japanese organic agriculture movement in setting up the first Community -supported Agriculture models. It is also a tribute to the victims of the March 2011 Earthquake and Fukushima nuclear disaster, which hit Japanese so cruelly, just one year after Urgenci IVth International Symposium had been hosted in Hyogo prefecture.

The International Network of Community Supported Agriculture

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